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Friday, April 16, 2021

BVT's Certified Nursing Assistants help at Uxbridge vaccine clinic



Courtesy

The 15 nursing assistant students, seniors in the Health Services program at BVT, who assisted at the vaccination clinic: Emery Amtmann, Northbridge; Melanie Bisbee, Northbridge; Jessica Brown, Douglas; Isabella Caccavelli, Uxbridge; Owen Cunningham, Sutton (not photographed); Abby Kelly, Hopedale; Camryn Krusz, Bellingham; Victoria Lemieux, Blackstone; Kaitlyn Manzi, Milford; Kristin Ouellette, Uxbridge; Hannah Parath, Millbury; Khushi Patel, Uxbridge; Nicole Rannikko, Millbury; Lauren Testa, Mendon; and Abigail Weagle, Millbury stand with their Health Services Instructors Amy Ferrandino-Bedard, Georgette LeMay, and Justine Naper.



Health Services seniors Jessica Brown of Douglas, Hannah Parath of Millbury, and Kaitlyn Manzi of Milford observe Melissa Blodgett, Captain/Paramedic-Uxbridge Fire Department, draw the vaccine up into a syringe.

UPTON – Translating classroom knowledge into real-world experiences is an essential step for high school students. For 15 seniors in the Health Services program at Blackstone Valley Tech, an opportunity to assist at a regional collaborative vaccination

clinic held at the former McCloskey Middle School, 62 Capron St., Uxbridge, on March 31 fulfilled a need beyond a valuable life experience.

“Our nursing assistant students are eager to assist their community in the fight against

COVID-19,” said Justine Naper, MSN, RN, Health Services Instructor, and Team Leader at BVT. “With most of our seniors already vaccinated, we were interested in working at a clinic. When I heard about the vaccination clinics starting in Uxbridge, I reached out

to the clinic coordinator, expressing our interest and offering assistance.”

“The vaccine rollout is still relatively new, and the undertaking is enormous. Being a part of a project of this magnitude has required a lot of planning,” said Shane Keville-Wagner, the Clinic Coordinator of the Uxbridge site. “We have been coordinating what

everybody can bring to the table. Having BVT Health Services staff and their group of certified nursing assistants volunteer to help is fantastic. It is exciting to collaborate with our regional vocational technical high school and others to increase community involvement and volunteerism.”

Instructor Amy Ferrandino-Bedard worked closely with this group of seniors to prepare for this clinic, reviewing coursework connected to their curriculum.

She said, “They learned how to store, prepare, and draw up the vaccine into syringes, reviewing

BVT Health Services

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Northbridge schools to undergo review in May

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

NORTHBRIDGE — To monitor compliance with federal and state regulations, the Northbridge Public Schools will undergo a review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Language Acquisition in May.

School officials announced recently that the review will be a “Tiered Focused

Monitoring Review” of the schools. The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district's and charter school's ELE program every six years to monitor compliance with federal and state English learner education laws and regulations.

The review will take place during the week of May 3, school officials released.

Areas of review will include: English learn-

ers' student assessments, identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in, parent and community involvement, curriculum and instruction, student support services, licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration, program plans, and evaluation and recordkeeping.

In addition to the on-site visit, parent outreach is an important

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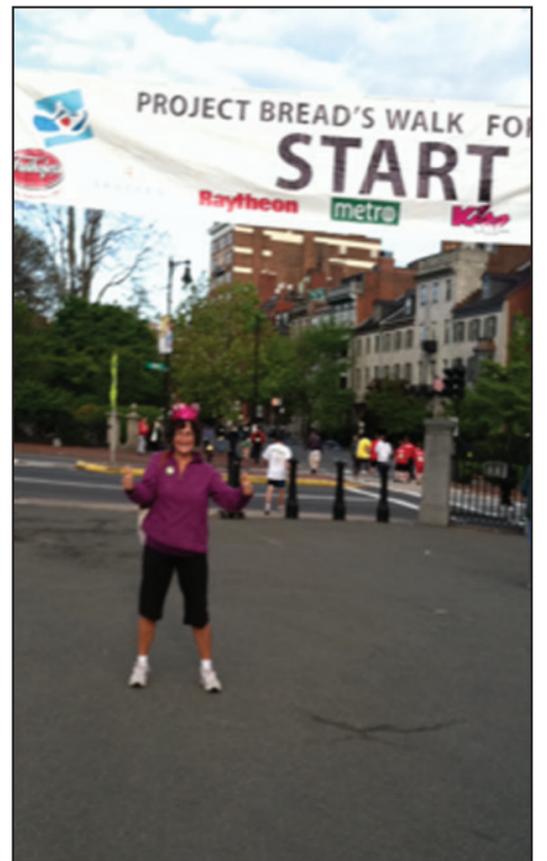
Uxbridge's Anita Hagspiel hits the pavement to fight hunger

UXBRIDGE — On May 2, Anita Hagspiel, of Uxbridge, will lace up for Project Bread's 53rd annual Walk for Hunger. She will be among thousands of virtual participants to walk in their own neighborhoods to raise more than \$1 million to help get food to kids and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

Historically, the Walk for Hunger, the nation's oldest continual pledge walk, takes place the first Sunday of May on the Boston Common. The 2021 fundraiser will be the second event to be done virtually.

“As the pandemic continues to take a financial toll on people and entire communities, we must do everything we can to help the 1 in 6 households struggling to afford food,” says Erin McAleer, CEO of Project Bread. “Participating in Project Bread's Walk for Hunger is one way we can all do something real to make sure our neighbors can get food to meet their most basic need. Our community has shown we have the power to create meaningful change. This year it is especially important.”

While Hagspiel has 35 years of experience participating in Project Bread's Walk for Hunger, this year's event is extra special as she will be celebrating her 70th birthday on Walk day alongside her daughter. She has spent her past 34 birthdays lacing up for the cause. She walks under the umbrella “Team National Grid,” a corporate team of 30 par-



Courtesy

On May 2, Anita Hagspiel, of Uxbridge, will lace up for Project Bread's 53rd annual Walk for Hunger.

participants that the retired program manager for the company helped to create in the early 1990's. In lieu of a traditional birthday party and gifts this year, Hagspiel has mailed 50 invitations to friends and family members to join her along their own virtual neighborhood routes on May 2 at 10 a.m. and to make a donation to her Walk for Hunger fundraising campaign. She will break up walking her traditional 20-mile route in five-mile segments over the course of four days, starting the

route on her birthday. Her goal is to raise \$2,000, matching the amount she raised last year by posting a self-made video of herself walking to raise awareness for the cause on her personal Facebook page that year. To date, she has raised a collective \$35,000 to support Project Bread's statewide anti-hunger efforts.

“My mother was very poor growing up and always stressed to my siblings and I to clean our plates and appreciate
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Uxbridge High School receives fourth designation for 'Innovation Pathway' program

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge High School was one of the 18 high schools across the Commonwealth to

receive designations from the Baker-Polito administration for “Innovation Pathway” programs that will help students gain college and career experience.

Innovation Pathways connect students' learning to a career pathway by “providing work-based learning experiences with rigorous technical

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coursework," according to an Uxbridge High School statement. This will be Uxbridge's fourth designation, this time in business, finance, and logistics.

The school is partnering with MassHire Central and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, according to reports. Students in this pathway can participate in dual-enrollment coursework which will enable them to transfer credits toward the attainment of a logistics certification, offered through Quinsigamond Community College. Students

in their senior year will complete a 100-hour internship or capstone project that will tie together elements of the program, school officials announced.

"We remain committed to ensuring that our students, upon graduation and completion of these programs, are well prepared for their post-secondary experiences, whether they are headed off to college or planning to enter the workforce," said Uxbridge High School Principal Michael Rubin. "We believe firmly in the connection between content mastery and skills, and this newest Pathway will help enhance our already robust programs to meet even

more students' needs and interests."

Early career programs provide high school students with a coherent course of study "focused on a particular field, while also offering them access to college-level courses and internship opportunities to gain work experience and insight" about whether the field is something they would like to pursue in college or a career after high school, the school released.

"Not only are these programs driven by student and community feedback, but also the commitment of departments and educators to look at school in a different way," said Uxbridge Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano. "We have continued to push forward despite the challenges of this past year, and the team at UHS has continued to focus on opportunities that move the needle for our entire district and the community as a whole."

The Baker-Polito Administration launched these early career programs in 2017 to help students develop knowledge and skills related to a chosen field of study before

they graduate high school. Many of the early career programs at high schools are in STEM-related fields, including: advanced manufacturing, information technology, environmental and life sciences, health care and social assistance, and business and finance. Uxbridge High School now has programs in engineering/manufacturing, biomedical science, digital media and information science, and business and finance.

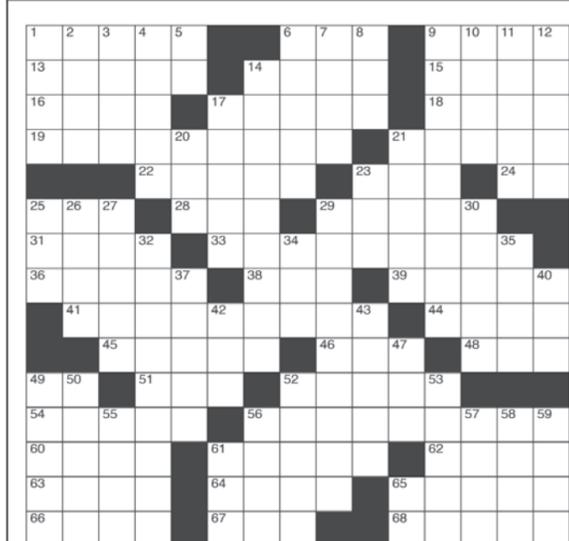
"These early career programs provide students tremendous opportunities for future success in and out of the classroom by building partnerships with local employers to equip students with experience and knowledge in a growing field," said Gov. Charlie Baker in a press statement.

Statewide, more than 600 students are expected to enroll in the newly designated pathways announced recently. With these new designations, there are now 49 high schools in Massachusetts with Innovation Pathway programs, with a total of 121 different pathways. More than 4,000 students are projected to be enrolled in an Innovation Pathway program by Fall 2021.

"It is a testament to the success and importance of these programs that despite the challenges of the last year, high schools moved forward with creating more early career opportunities for students. These programs give students relevant and valuable experience that helps them think about their future career paths, something that may have been sidetracked during the health crisis," said Education Secretary James Peysers.

In October 2019, the administration announced the availability of \$1.8 million in grants over three years from American Student Assistance, a national nonprofit based in Massachusetts. The grants will support high schools across the Commonwealth in developing programs that prepare students for college and careers.

Uxbridge has also partnered with ASA to support middle-level career exploration, with programs already underway in the eighth grade at Uxbridge High School and planned for implementation at Whitin Intermediate School, according to a district statement.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who manufactures
6. Science degree
9. Database management system
13. Desert
14. Inventor Musk
15. Welsh valley
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Saying
18. Comedian and TV host
19. Uppermost portions of brain
21. City in Transylvania
22. Where astronauts go
23. Men's hairstyle
24. Indicates position
25. One point east of due south
28. Businessmen may have one
29. Grass part
31. Running back Gurley
33. Unwavering
36. Options
38. Annoy
39. Greek mountain
41. Pastas
44. Fishes
45. Wrap
46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
48. Seize
49. The Constitution State
51. Upset
52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
54. Central Chinese province
56. Predisposition
60. A notice of someone's death
61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
62. Swiss river
63. Dried-up
64. Finger millet
65. _ Allan Poe
66. German river
67. Brew
68. Kenyan river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
2. Acts as military assistant
3. Knot in a tree
4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
5. The Ocean State
6. Point the finger at
7. Parts in a machine
8. Midway between northeast and east
9. Portray precisely
10. Blister
11. Mental illness
12. Nose of an animal
14. What students receive
17. Semitic peoples
20. Beats per minute
21. Family of drugs
23. Atrocious
25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
26. _ or bust
27. Icelandic poems
29. A citizen of Pakistan
30. Very pale
32. Metric linear unit
34. Sea eagle
35. Biblical judge of Israel
37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
42. Cool!
43. Large hotel room
47. Type of boat (abbr.)
49. Picked
50. Type of hookah
52. Attack
53. Directs
55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
56. Finished negotiation
57. Heroic tale
58. Middle Eastern country
59. Protein-rich liquids
61. Malaysian Isthmus
65. Spielberg's alien



CNA'S

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various vaccination administration techniques. Reviewed the screening questions required, the monitoring period, and why it is needed. It was truly a culmination of all they have learned."

"It was a wonderful opportunity to attend the clinic and observe Melissa Blodgett, Captain/Paramedic of the Uxbridge Fire Department skillfully demonstrate various techniques," said Jessica Brown of Douglas, a senior in Health Services at BVT. "I had previously watched instructional videos about how the Pfizer vaccine is mixed before being admin-

istered, but seeing Captain Blodgett, a BVT alum, mix the two parts of the vaccine right in front of me was a fascinating and compelling experience. My vocational-technical education is paving the way for me to help others and give back to the community too."

"This clinic is a fine example of how our vocational-technical students use their career training to help their community," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "While the pandemic has presented many unique challenges, we are proud of our students and staff who are embracing new learning opportunities to help our neighboring towns." About Blackstone Valley

Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT)

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills. The school's Web site is www.valleytech.k12.ma.us.

Grafton police warn of gummy candy THC 'edibles'

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

GRAFTON — After a recent incident, the Grafton Police Department is warning residents—especially parents and guardians of teenagers—of medicated gummy candy "edibles" infused with the active ingredient in cannabis.

According to reports, the department recently received a call from a resident on Buttercup Lane regarding a "found package with suspicious items in the woods" near the caller's home. Officer John Ropiak responded and spoke with the caller, who indicated that several teenagers were seen running from the wooded area in the rear of the condo unit.

"The caller also observed a plastic bag protruding from a pile of rocks where the youths had been seen," police said. "The bag contained seven packages of what appeared to be commercially wrapped candy identified as 'Gummi Sharks.'"

The caller had retrieved the bag and turned it over to Officer Ropiak, reports said.

"On closer inspection, Officer Ropiak noted that the candy was actually medicated Gummy candy, edibles infused with 500mg THC, the active ingredient in cannabis," the Grafton Police statement

continued.

The caller did not recognize the juveniles and did not know if they resided in the neighborhood, according to reports. The investigation is continuing to determine the identity of the teenagers and if or how they came into possession of the THC edibles.

"The Grafton Police Department would like to warn parents and guardians about the dangers of ingesting THC edibles by teenagers. It's not only unlawful for anyone under 21 to possess marijuana/cannabis and products infused with THC, it is also dangerous," the department released. "Because these items are packaged similar to commercially available candy, parents and guardians need to closely examine suspected THC edibles."

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, edibles take longer to digest and produce a high, police added. Therefore, youth may consume more to feel the effects faster, leading to "an increase in dangerous results."

"Taken in large doses, the intoxicating effects of cannabis may include diminished concentration and impaired memory. Acute cannabis toxicity can result in severe anxiety, panic attacks, nausea, respiratory insufficiency, delirium, psychosis, paranoia and hallucinations."

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

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

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

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Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

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

Friday's Child



Keanu Age 17

Hi! My name is Keanu

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

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

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

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

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

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



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