



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES

WAYNE
TUISKULA

According to the local dealer I spoke with, the September Brimfield show was a success. One told me that two large sales at the beginning of their show more than covered their expenses. Beyond this great local news, there has also been plenty of other antique related news from across the country.

National news begins with the sale of a 286-piece collection of rare antique portraits by some of the first Black photographers. According to NPR, in 1975, Larry West found a portrait of an African American person in a box of daguerreotypes in a New York antique store. NPR said that "his collection of 286 objects dating from the 1840s to about 1925, which includes daguerreotypes and other early types of photographic works" was sold to the Smithsonian after multiple museums competed

Latest antique news

for the collection. NPR reported that "daguerreotypes were widely popular in the 1840s and 1850s and it's estimated that 3 to 5 million were made in the United States. But only 30,000 to 40,000 still exist." Further, there are only a small percentage of daguerreotypes from African American photography studios. West's collection contained 40 of these rare daguerreotypes. The collection will be displayed at the Smithsonian through 2023.

Further West, Al Capone's favorite gun and other personal effects are headed to auction in California. Capone was referred to as "Public Enemy No. 1" after the "Valentine's Day Massacre" where seven rival bootleggers were killed. However, his granddaughters who are auctioning his belongings remember him differently. Diane Capone described him as "very loving, very devoted to family, very generous." One of the items to be auctioned is a letter Al Capone wrote to his son Albert "Sonny"

Capone. Capone called Sonny the "son of my heart" in a letter he wrote while serving an 11-year term in Alcatraz for tax evasion. Other items being offered include "diamond-encrusted jewelry with [Capone's] initials, family photographs and his favorite handgun." According to the AP, the highlight of the sale is "the Colt .45-caliber pistol Capone always carried with him and used several times to protect himself." Diane Capone was unsure if the gun was involved in any crimes.

In other news, the Iowa Hawk Eye reported that Jim Sonnevile started collecting Coke bottles after one of his sons found a bottle while working on a construction site. He gave the bottle to his dad who became more curious about its origins. He continued buying bottles and now has around 1,200 in his collection. Sonnevile hopes to add a rare Hutchinson bottle to his collection. Charles Hutchinson of Chicago, IL patented the bot-

tle that became popular in the 1880s. A Hutchinson Coca Cola bottle sold at auction for \$7,000 in 2014. Much better than a 5 cent deposit.

Our online estate auction with 1950s and 1960s Corvettes, boat motors, tools and other estate items is now open for bidding. Our next multi-estate online auction will begin next month and end in early November. I'll be presenting on antiques and collectibles on Saturday, Oct. 30 at FinnFunn Weekend in Troy, New Hampshire. My "Evaluating your antiques" night class will take place on November 10th at Bay Path Evening School in Charlton, Mass., and on Saturday, Nov. 13, I'll also be appraising items virtually for the Townsend, Mass. Historical Society. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for



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State officials ramp up West Nile Virus warnings

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Following the announcement of new West Nile virus infections, state officials are ramping up warnings to residents.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced two new cases of WNV. The latest person infected is a woman in her 30s who was exposed to the virus in Bristol County, officials said.

Statewide, seven human cases of WNV have been confirmed this year. One animal case was also confirmed.

"Based on mosquito findings and the new human case, eleven additional communities are being raised to moderate risk," read a statement released by the DPH. "As overnight temperatures get cooler, mosquito activity right around dusk and dawn may be more intense."

About 30 communities in Essex,

Middlesex, Bristol, and Suffolk Counties are currently listed in the DPH's high-risk category, plus 49 towns at moderate risk. Communities recently upgraded to moderate risk include Blackstone, Hopedale, Milford, Millville, Fall River, Seekonk, North Andover, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Halifax, and Plympton.

For state officials, the report of the woman in her thirties contracting the virus is particularly alarming. Officials are warning residents to avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn.

"This is our first West Nile virus case this year in someone under the age of 50," said Acting Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. "This is a reminder that although people over the age of 50 are at greater risk from West Nile virus, all ages can be affected. Risk from West Nile virus will continue until the first hard frost, and people should remember to take steps to pre-

vent mosquito bites anytime they are outdoors."

In 2020, there were five human cases of WNV identified in Massachusetts. Due to increased rains over the summer, this year's total has already passed 2020.

WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe disease. Most people infected with WNV will have no symptoms. When present, WNV symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. In rare cases, more severe illness can occur.

"People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes," the DPH statement read.

To help avoid mosquito bites, you can take several measures around your home. Use insect repellent when out-

doors, and try to schedule activities outside peak mosquito hours between dusk and dawn. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Additionally, drain sources of standing water around your home like wheelbarrows, empty flower pots, and rain gutters. Change the water in birdbaths frequently.

You can also protect your house from mosquitoes by having tightly fitting screens on all of your windows and doors. Animal owners should also take steps to protect their pets by reducing standing water and keeping animals indoors as much as possible, especially at night.

For more information about protective measures you can take, call 617-983-6800.

Betz named UNICEF Club Advisor



Ruth Betz

CHARLTON — Ruth "DeeDee" Betz, ASN, LPN of Southbridge, a staff member at Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy, was named UNICEF

Club advisor.

The distinct honor of becoming UNICEF Club Advisor recognizes Betz's experience and successful stint as an LPN and a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumna, PN Class of 2015.

"We are pleased to recognize DeeDee's leadership and spirit of volunteerism," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "DeeDee is a staff member and as PN secretary give tremendous assistance to students and alumni alike. Being named UNICEF Club Advisor solidifies her commitment to practical nursing education, we are proud of her and value her time, practice, and experience."

As UNICEF Advisor Betz is pleased to have the opportunity to influence future nurses and fundraise for children's advocacy. She is excited and honored to work with practical nursing student leaders for UNICEF projects.

About UNICEF Club
The UNICEF Clubs program is a youth led grassroots movement rooted

in a belief that high school and college students in the United States have a vital role to play as the voice for children everywhere. UNICEF Clubs partner with UNICEF USA to activate their local community by advocating, building community, fundraising, and speaking out for UNICEF's child survival work in over 190 countries. It is UNICEF USA's goal to empower youth in the United States with the resources and skills to be effective global citizens - thinking globally and acting locally for the world's most vulnerable children. www.unicefusa.org

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

Founded in 2009, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. www.baypath.net

Quinsigamond Community College offers free healthcare training

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education (CWDCE) is once again offering a free Medical Administrative Assistant program and a Nurse Assistant/ Home Health Aide program, in late fall 2021 and early spring 2022. Each program takes approximately two months to complete.

"These free workforce training programs are one of the ways QCC is making an investment in the community our students live and work," said Kathleen Manning, dean of The Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education.

The free Medical Administrative Assistants program prepares students to work as Medical Administrative Assistants in healthcare facilities such as hospitals and health systems, physicians' offices, clinics, long-term care facilities, surgery centers, ambulatory surgery centers, rehabilitation centers, and other types of healthcare areas. After successfully completing this course, students are eligible to sit for the National Health Career Association's Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA). The program includes free tuition, textbook and Medical Office Simulation software; Microsoft Office training; Contract Tracing and Infection Control training; and the CMAA Exam fee.

The free Nurse Assistant/ Home Health Aide program is a dual certificate that will open many doors for students, whether they choose to work in a health-care facility or home setting. Students will learn about basic patient care, medical terminology, nutrition, patient care procedures, communication skills, basic anatomy, and safety. Basic nursing skills are taught through classroom lectures, nursing labs and clinical practice in a long-term care facility. The program includes free tuition, textbook, scrubs, and the certification-testing fee.

For more information, or to request an application, email Jo Sundin jsundin@qcc.mass.edu or call 508-751-7921.

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

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