

UMass Lowell celebrates Class of 2021

LOWELL — UMass Lowell recently honored local residents among its 4,582 graduates.

Despite the pandemic, UMass Lowell was able to offer graduates the chance to safely celebrate their success through a combination of virtual ceremonies and the in-person presentation of their diploma covers with a family photo at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell May 12 through 14.

"For those of you joining us in person, we're thrilled that you are able to walk across the stage with family and friends present. As graduates, I imagine there is both a sense of tremendous pride but also a sense of relief in receiving your diploma after enduring a time when the world around you was under a siege of challenges," said Chancellor Jacquie

Moloney. "You, the Class of 2021, showed us the meaning of true grit and what it means to stay strong and to keep hope alive. I know you will join me in saying thank you to the faculty and staff who also had to dig deep to provide you with as great an experience as possible under the circumstances, and to your family and friends who were there for you when you needed them most. But I also want to thank each of you who are graduating. For just as UMass Lowell has impacted you, you have all left a powerful impact on us. In 1,000 ways, you, the Class of 2021, have enhanced and improved this university."

The three-day Commencement celebration began on Wednesday, May 12. A ceremony for graduates who earned doctoral degrees featuring William Moylan,

UMass Lowell Distinguished University Professor and architect of the university's renowned sound recording technology program, as the keynote speaker was held. A series of brief, small ceremonies on Thursday, May 13 and Friday, May 14 at the Tsongas Center recognized graduates who earned bachelor's and master's degrees. At these ceremonies, graduates, accompanied by up to two guests, walked into the Tsongas Center and then crossed the stage, received their diploma covers and had an official photo taken before departing. Strict social distancing and other safety measures were in place during all in-person Commencement events.

The virtual portion of the celebration - online ceremonies viewable at www.uml.edu/commencement for the next year - featured a range of notable individuals with experience and knowledge to share with the Class of 2021.

Thursday's ceremony included the presentation of an honorary doctoral degree to Ron Insana, senior analyst and contributor to CNBC and MSNBC networks, as well as the Chancellor's Medal for Public Service and Civic Engagement to Market Basket, the 104-year-old supermarket chain founded in Lowell that now employs more than 25,000 people and is well known for its generous profit-sharing plan, for two charitable foundations and support for scholarships for UMass Lowell students.

Friday's ceremony featured Deepak Chopra - founder of The Chopra Foundation, a nonprofit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global receiving a doctor of humane letters - who, along with UMass Lowell graduate and founder of The Born to Run Foundation Noelle Lambert, addressed the Class of 2021. Their speeches were viewable at www.uml.edu/commencement.

uml.edu/commencement.

Local residents among UMass Lowell's Class of 2021 are:

* Lauren Bostock of Fiskdale, who received a bachelor of science degree in clinical laboratory sciences

* Mark Fonner of Holland, who received a bachelor of science in engineering degree in mechanical engineering

* Sun-Hei Bamfo of Southbridge, who received a bachelor of arts degree in history

* Benjamin Horr of Southbridge, who received a bachelor of science degree in biology

* Ethan Champeau of Southbridge, who received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice

* Anthony Giuggio of Sturbridge, who received a bachelor of arts degree in political science

More on UMass Lowell Commencement is available at www.uml.edu/commencement.

UMass Lowell is a national research university offering students bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in business, education, engineering, fine arts, health, humanities, sciences and social sciences. UMass Lowell delivers high-quality educational programs and personal attention from leading faculty and staff, all of which prepare graduates to be leaders in their communities and around the globe. www.uml.edu

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 prevent 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 outdoors, 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.

Community College presidents release joint statement on new vaccine policy

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D., joined the other 14 community colleges presidents in the Commonwealth in his support of a new COVID-19 vaccine policy that will go into effect January 2022.

Below is the statement issued by the 15 Massachusetts Community College presidents:

"During the last 18 months, the Massachusetts Community Colleges have prioritized the health and safety of our communities while also recognizing that many of our students have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While a significant number of students, faculty, and staff are already vaccinated or are in the process of becoming vaccinated, the 15 colleges are seeking to increase the health and safety of the learning and working environment in light of the ongoing public health concerns and current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

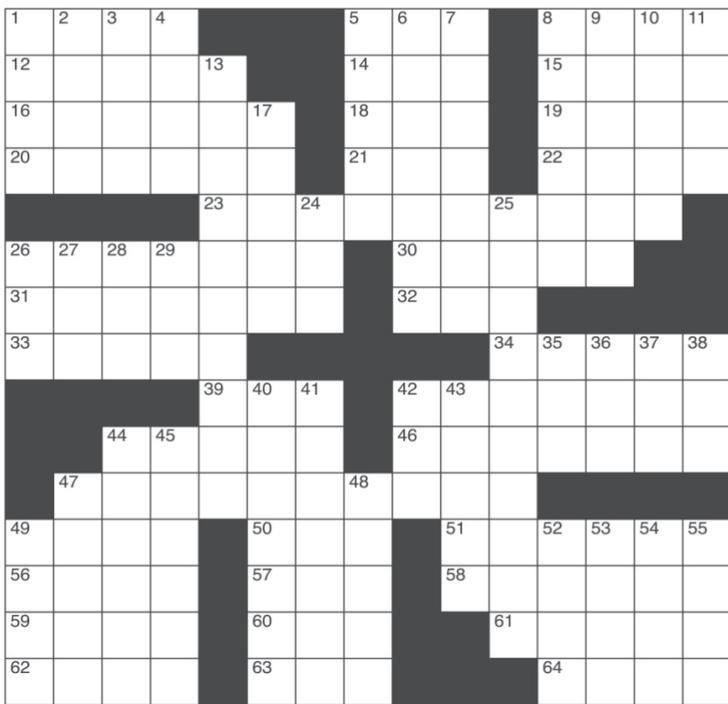
With the number of new cases of COVID-19 across the Commonwealth in unvaccinated populations, the increased access and availability of vaccines in the Commonwealth, the Food & Drug Administration's full and pending approval of available vaccines, and

CDC guidance that the COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be extremely safe and highly effective at preventing infection, severe disease, hospitalization, and death, the Presidents of all 15 Massachusetts Community Colleges announced today that they will require students, faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated by January 2022.

Students who seek to register for courses that do not include any in-person component, and who do not plan to come on campus for any reason for the Spring 2022 semester, will not be required to provide documentation of vaccination.

As participants in the White House's COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge, the Massachusetts Community Colleges will continue to make vaccine clinics available on site. Further, the Massachusetts Community Colleges are committed to ensuring vaccination status is not a barrier to students and will continue offering a range of virtual learning opportunities and services.

This vaccine requirement is aimed at ensuring the safest learning and working environment possible for the more than 135,000 students we educate and train each year as well as our staff and faculty. Additional details about implementation will be forthcoming."

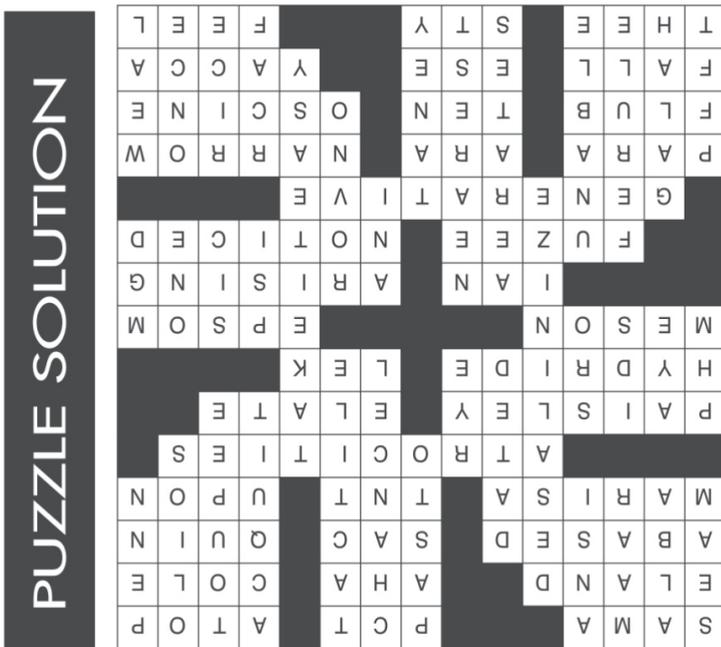


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One of the four Vedas
- 5. Part of (abbr.)
- 8. At the peak
- 12. African antelope
- 14. Expression of satisfaction
- 15. Yankees' ace
- 16. Belittled
- 18. A baglike structure
- 19. Utah Jazz coach Snyder
- 20. Actress Tomei
- 21. Explosive
- 22. Formal for "on"
- 23. Cruelties
- 26. Country singer Brad
- 30. Make very happy
- 31. Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal
- 32. Albanian currency
- 33. Subatomic particle
- 34. Type of salt
- 39. 007's creator
- 42. Emerging
- 44. Railroad flare
- 46. Observed
- 47. Capable of reproduction
- 49. Indicates adjacent to
- 50. Legendary Notre Dame coach
- 51. Not wide
- 56. An embarrassing mistake
- 57. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 58. Denotes passerine birds
- 59. Stumble
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. W. Indian trees
- 62. You
- 63. Pigpen
- 64. Be aware of

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Crease
- 2. "Honey" actress Jessica
- 3. Broad volcanic crater
- 4. Product safety watchdog
- 5. Southern Colombian city
- 6. Part of a church
- 7. Perceptible by touch
- 8. Pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
- 9. Hairpiece
- 10. Variety acts
- 11. "Mystic River" actor Sean
- 13. Remove salt
- 17. Went out with
- 24. Type of bread
- 25. Popular Eagles song
- 26. Philosophy degree
- 27. Yes vote
- 28. Passports and licenses are two
- 29. No seats available
- 35. Pounds per square inch
- 36. A way to launch an attack on
- 37. The lowest cardinal number
- 38. Popular Miller beer
- 40. Pokes holes in
- 41. Closest to
- 42. Folk singer DiFranco
- 43. Rivne's former name
- 44. Flat ruler
- 45. Lacking the means to do something
- 47. Cockatoo
- 48. Dred Scott decision deliverer
- 49. Explosion exclamation
- 52. Canadian flyers
- 53. Houston university
- 54. At some prior time
- 55. Red, swollen mark



PUZZLE SOLUTION