

Who is melonoma worse for?

Studies show men suffer more than women

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THE TIMES

Wednesday, April 18, 2023



Can they keep it rolling?

Local softball teams look to stay competitive

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WALKING STRONG



AP Photo/Jennifer McDermott

Boston Marathon Race Director Dave McGillivray sends out a group of about 20 from the Massachusetts National Guard, which walks the course annually, announcing the start of the 127th marathon Monday.

While some students skip college, trade programs are booming

By OLIVIA SANCHEZ The Hechinger Report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — It's almost 4 p.m. at the Nashville branch of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology, and the students in the auto collision repair night class are just starting their school day.

One is sanding the seal off the bed of his 1989 Ford F-350. Another is patiently hammering out a banged-up fender. A third, Cheven Jones, is taking a break from working on his 2003 Lexus IS 300 to chat with some classmates.

While almost every sector of higher education has fewer students registering for classes, many trade programs are thriving. Jones and his classmates, seeking certificates and other short-term credentials — not associate degrees — are part of that upswing.

Trade programs are often more affordable than a traditional four-year degree, students note, and, skilled trades offer a better path to a job.

Mechanic and repair trade programs saw an enrollment increase of 11.5% from spring 2021 to 2022, according to the National Student Clearinghouse. In construction trades, enrollment grew 19.3%, and in culinary programs, it increased 12.7%. Meanwhile, overall enrollment declined 7.8% at public two-year colleges, and 3.4% at public four-year institutions.

In Tennessee, the state's overall community college enrollment took a hit during the pandemic, despite a 2015 state program that made community college tuition free. But at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology, a network of 24 colleges that offers training for 70 occupations, many trade programs have continued to grow.



AP Photo/John Amis

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Nashville student Abbey Carlson poses during welding class Wednesday, April 13, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. While almost every sector of higher education is seeing fewer students registering for classes, many trade school programs are booming with young people who are choosing trade school over a traditional four-year degree.

At TCAT Nashville, several programs have waiting lists, and the college has added night classes to meet demand, said Nathan Garrett, president of the college.

TCAT focuses on training students for jobs that are in demand in the region, which appeals to many students in normal times, but Garrett said the pandemic may have underscored the need for workforce relevance.

"When we look at 'essential workers,' a lot of those trades never saw a slowdown," he said. "They still hired. They still have the need." Automotive trades are always in demand, he added.

Even so, Jones's pursuit of a degree at TCAT Nashville would perhaps be a surprise to his high school self. "I didn't necessarily know what I wanted to do," said Jones, now 26. "My biggest fear was to go to college, put in all that time and effort and then not use my

degree."

So, at 18, Jones went to work in warehouses, spending long days loading and unloading heavy boxes from tractor-trailers. But after just a few years, he realized he needed a job that would make him happier, cause fewer injuries and pay him more. Trade school for a career fixing cars seemed like the best route.

Robert Nivyayo's priorities became clear a bit earlier in his education, when he realized he didn't like high school. He spent most of his free time watching YouTube videos about fixing up cars before he was even licensed to drive.

Training in auto collision repair made sense for him, he said, because he could earn a credential while doing what he enjoyed, and without spending much time in the traditional classroom. Now 19,

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Pires, Folarin, others win gold at SkillsUSA

By JON BAKER

jbaker@pawtuckettimes.com

PAWTUCKET — As Davies Tech senior Clarissa Pires sat in The Vets auditorium the night of Tuesday, April 4, she couldn't stop wondering if she had done all she could during the SkillsUSA R.I. Competition in the Health Occupations Professional Portfolio category.

"I thought maybe I could have done more," she said.

Minutes later, as she and hundreds of other competitors looked up at the big screen above the stage during this — the state SkillsUSA awards ceremony — Pires discovered she had captured the gold medal and automatically qualified for the SkillsUSA National Championships in Atlanta, Ga. between June 18-24.

"I was extremely proud of myself, but I also felt like I wanted to cry a little



Clarissa Pires



Haadiyah Folarin

See SKILLS, page A2

SpaceX calls off 1st launch attempt of giant rocket in Texas

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (AP) — SpaceX called off the first launch attempt of its giant rocket Monday after a problem cropped up during fueling.

Elon Musk's company had planned to fly the nearly 400-foot Starship rocket from the southern tip of Texas, near the Mexican border.

The test flight was called off with just over eight minutes left in the countdown because of a stuck valve needed to pressurize the first-stage booster. Launch controllers couldn't fix the frozen valve in time, but for practice, took the clocks down to the 40-second mark before halting the

countdown.

No people or satellites were aboard. There won't be another try until at least Wednesday.

"Learned a lot today," Musk tweeted after the flight was postponed.

The company plans to use Starship to send people and cargo to the moon and, ultimately, Mars.

On the eve of the launch attempt, cars, campers, RVs and even bicycles and horses jammed the only road leading to the launch pad, where the stainless steel rocket towered above the flat scrubland and prairie. Enthusiasts posed in front of the giant letters that spelled out Starbase at the entrance of the SpaceX complex, and in front of the rocket two

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Speaker McCarthy vows to pass debt bill, with an 'if'

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Kevin McCarthy pledged on Monday to pass

legislation to raise the nation's debt ceiling — but only on condition of capping future federal spending increases at 1% — as he lashed out at President Joe Biden for refusing to engage in

budget-cutting negotiations to prevent a debt crisis.

In a high-profile speech at the New York Stock Exchange, McCarthy, the Republican leader who was marking his 100th day

as speaker, said the nation's debt load is a "ticking time bomb" and Biden is "missing in action" as the deadline nears to raise the debt limit.

"Since the president continues

to hide, House Republicans will take action," McCarthy said.

The White House complained that McCarthy was doing "dangerous economic hostage taking."

Skills

Continued from page A1

bit because I had put so much work into my projects," the Pawtucket resident said. "I didn't think it was real; I couldn't believe that I had accomplished what I had strived for.

"I mean, this was the first time I ever competed in SkillsUSA. I couldn't compete last year because I had so much going on preparing for by boards and skills exams to become a CNA.

"Then again, I did have some confidence because I've always had great support from my tech teachers, including Mrs. Ellen Morey and Mrs. Susan Votto, and my family and friends," she continued. "Mrs. Morey has been my teacher for our years now, and she's taught me everything. She's been such a big help to me."

SkillsUSA Rhode Island is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. With the help of dedicated teachers, the organization reaches over 6,000 middle, high school and college/postsecondary students.

Each element of SkillsUSA programming is based on a framework that illustrates the importance of personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.

Pires was just one of 11 Patriots snagging gold at the event this spring; in all, the Lincoln school mustered 32 medals, including those who brought home 12 silver and nine bronze. Davies had 86 students in all participate in 27 different competitions, but those fortunate 11 will move onto the national competition in June.

As always, the school will offer financial support to get them there via a '90s-themed talent show entitled Davies Totally! Got Talent; that will serve as a fundraiser for airline tickets, hotel and the like.

That event is slated for Friday, May 5, inside the Davies Cafetorium. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and

the show will start at 5:30 sharp.

Pires, a student in the Health Careers division, explained her interview in that Health Occupations Professional Portfolio took place at the Community College of Rhode Island-Warwick campus on March 16, and it had two components — presentation and portfolio, and it included six topics: Resume and career objectives; references; awards and recognitions; school and work documents; community service; and membership and affiliations.

She said the presentation and portfolio could only last five to seven minutes, and a competitor would get penalized if he or she went over or under that time.

"My portfolio alone was 72 pages," she said. "After I left, I actually felt confident because I had faith in myself, and I know others did, too. Now that I'm going to nationals, I'd super-excited; I've worked really hard for this. I have over 800 work-based learning hours as a CNA at The Miriam Hospital's Med/Surg Department. I've done that over a year.

"I've also done multiple other programs through the Brown Pathways to Medicine, the Brown Brain Bee and the Brown Young Entrepreneurs of Providence."

She hasn't decided where she wants to college, but has already been accepted to the Massachusetts College of Health Science & Pharmacology; the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth; Pace University in New York; Johnson & Wales University and the University of Rhode Island.

Someday, she said she hopes to become a sports medicine doctor, as her father John is very much into sports, especially the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I'm not an athlete, but because of my family, which is very sports-oriented, I want to combine that and medicine," she said.

Classmate Haadiyah Folarin, a sophomore who is also in the Health Careers major at Davies, stunned even herself when she took the gold in the Job Interview category.

She said the whole idea behind it is to enter an interview just like a professional would and sell yourself, yet there is a caveat — you're not told what that job is.

"I built my resume based on the interview I did for Health Careers at school," said Folarin, a Pawtucketer, who was competing in SkillsUSA for the first time as well. "I did my interview at CCRI-Warwick on March 16; it lasted about 10 minutes, and I felt pretty good walking out of there. I don't consider myself a cocky person; I just thought I did the best I could.

"I remember when I got home replaying the interview in my mind, and I kept reassuring myself I did a good job."

Fast forward to April 4 at The Vets, and Folarin ended up feeling the same way Pires did.

"At first, I didn't believe it; my name up on the screen, and I was thinking, 'Is that really my name?'" Folarin said with a laugh. "It had been a long wait, as there were 70 competitions, and mine was the 37th called. Still, I found out I won the gold medal, and it was definitely a crazy, surreal feeling."

During the interview, she said three judges analyzed her resume and began asking her questions about what she had experienced at assorted jobs and schools.

"If somebody had told me when I left that interview that I'd be the gold-medal winner, I would've laughed and said, 'Get out!'" she said. "But I'm now really excited about going to Atlanta. I think I'll feel confident going into that because I won the state championship."

For now, she's most looking forward to co-hosting that May 5 talent show with her sister, senior Faizah — and because she'll be helping raise money for herself and other state victors to attend nationals.

"That's great because not only do we get to have fun with our schoolmates and get up on stage, but we also will be acting as role models for the other students," Fo-

larin said. "And we'll be helping ourselves get to Atlanta. We want to sell as many tickets as possible."

Those interested in attending the talent show may purchase tickets for \$5 per person (cash or check only) by calling Jax Adele Ventura at (401) 205-1796 or e-mailing her at jadele@daviestech.org. She also will conduct a raffle at the show's intermission, and it will include a gift basket donated from each CTE program and academic department, and other goodies provided by community partners and alumni.

All raffle items will be made ready for perusal on www.daviestech.org and Davies' social media for those who want to participate in the raffle but may not be able to attend the event.

Raffle tickets are \$1 for one and \$5 for six, and they may be purchased at the Davies' main office between April 24-May 5 (only between 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday).

SkillsUSA Rhode Island Competition

Awards Ceremony at The Vets, Providence

April 4

Davies placements

CNC Turning Specialist

Gold — Wilbert Cante, senior, Pawtucket.

Silver — Niko Saunders, junior, Pawtucket.

Bronze — Nathan DeMello, senior, Pawtucket.

CNC Milling Specialist

Gold — Melvin Shaw, senior, Providence.

Silver — MacKenzie Glennon, senior, Lincoln.

Bronze — Amedeo Musto, senior, Harrisville.

CNC Technician

Gold — Jovany Neves, senior, Central Falls.

Silver — Stephen Egan, senior, Cumberland.

Basic Health Care Skills

Gold — Penelope Ferreras, senior, Pawtucket.

Bronze — Mariah Halajko, senior, Pawtucket.

Graphics Communications

Gold — Megan Cobb, senior, Pawtucket.

Silver — Michael Pignolet, senior, Pawtucket.

Bronze — Brendan Amorim, senior, Lincoln.

Nurse Assisting

Gold — Fatou Gaye, senior, Pawtucket.

Silver — Hailey Ortellado, senior, Johnston.

Auto Refinish Technology

Gold — Mario Tapia, senior, Cranston.

Silver — Aliesh Rodriguez, senior, Central Falls.

Bronze — Evan Fahnbulleh, sophomore, Providence.

Customer Service

Silver — Sara Hunt, junior, Pawtucket.

Bronze — Kyanna Gomes, senior, Pawtucket.

Electronics Technology

Gold — Kurtis Waters, junior, Pawtucket.

Silver — Noah Camponelli, senior, Lincoln.

Bronze — Emma Ainsburg, senior, Pawtucket.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Gold — Joslyn Brown, junior, Cumberland.

Health Occupations Professional Portfolio

Gold — Clarissa Pires, senior, Pawtucket.

Job Interview

Gold — Haadiyah Folarin, sophomore, Pawtucket.

Silver — Aissatou Male, senior, Woonsocket.

Medical Terminology

Bronze — Romina Florentino, senior, Pawtucket.

Photography

Silver — Michael Frenze, Jr., senior, Pawtucket.

Job Skill Demo A

Silver — Natalia Ayala Renderos, sophomore, Providence.

Bio-Tech

Silver — Dayano Cano, senior, Pawtucket; Taina Marigny, senior, Providence.

Bronze — Victoria Ukpong, senior, Pawtucket; Kendra Kouame, senior, Pawtucket.

Trades

Continued from page A1

Nivyayo looks forward to the anticipated payoff when he gets a job in an auto shop. He can expect to make roughly \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year, depending on the shop, his instructor said.

"Every new day, I just get more motivated," Nivyayo said.

Just a few doors down, Abbey Carlson is in the welding studio, wearing jeans with holes burnt through them and a cap to

protect her hair. She's the only woman in the nighttime welding class.

Carlson, now 24, had initially intended to attend a four-year college, but her plans were derailed by an addiction to alcohol. After dedicating herself to recovery, she decided to pursue a career in the trades.

After researching her options, she concluded welding would be the safest path to take as a young woman while also offering her the highest eventual earning potential. So far, she's enjoying her time at TCAT Nashville.

"Finally, I feel like I'm going to accomplish something in life," Carlson said.

Laura Monks, president

of the Shelbyville branch of TCAT, said one of the reasons TCAT appeals to students is the school's "co-op" program, which gives students who are nearing graduation the chance to work in their desired field a few days a week while also getting credit toward their diploma.

Brayden Johnson, 20, who is in his fifth trimester studying industrial maintenance automation, has had the chance to work as an electrical maintenance technician in a local factory that makes tubes for toothpaste. He's working the night shift, which comes with a slight pay bump, and is earning about \$26 per hour.

He said he hopes to

stay in the job after he finishes at TCAT this spring.

At trade schools like TCAT Nashville, students are drawn to the hands-on design of the courses, Garrett said. "You need to get your hands on the equipment," he said of the school's philosophy. "You need to start building stuff, breaking stuff and then learn how to fix that stuff."

The opportunity to get real work experience in TCAT's co-op is an extra perk. The employer reports back to the student's instructor so they know where the student is excelling and where they are struggling, so they can work on those weaknesses in class, Garrett said.

For Cheven Jones, the game plan is to transform his car by the time he graduates, and have fun while doing it.

"It's school, and I take it seriously. But you know, you come here, and it just feels more like you're at a shop hanging out with your homies all day," Jones said. "It's a good feeling."

After he graduates, he hopes to get a job in an auto body shop.

And he says he'll keep working until someday he can afford a red 1982 Nissan Skyline R31, RS Turbo, with bronze wheels — his dream car. Even if he can't get one in perfect condition, at least he'll know how to fix it up.

THE TIMES

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Rocket

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miles farther down the road, which ended at a beach on

the Gulf of Mexico.

On Monday, spectators were barred from the area, and instead packed a beach about six miles away on South Padre Island.

NOTICE

RUSTY WATER MAY OCCUR ON:
Wednesday, April 19th at 9pm

DUE TO FIRE FLOW TESTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:
Higgins Ave & Old Crow Point Road

Some discoloring of water within this area as well as in adjacent areas might occur while flow test is in progress. The testing in this area will be completed in 4 hours, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

In case of rusty water, do not run your water while the work is underway.

To clear your service, run the cold water for a short time from the faucet nearest the water meter two (2) hours after completion of all work.

TESTING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY:
Pierce Fire Protection

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Monday's RI Daily

Mid-day: 3-7-2-3

Evening: n/a

Monday's Mass. Daily

Mid-day: 2-0-3-2

Evening: n/a

Sunday's Mass Cash

1-20-21-22-35