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Business Briefcase

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Courtesy photoJeannette Sheehan MS, RN, CS, CCM, a board-certified family nurse practitioner and founder of ABC Home Healthcare, ha achieved certified dementia practitioner status from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

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Nurses receive dementia certification

Jeannette Sheehan MS, RN, CS, CCM, a board-certified family nurse practitioner and founder of ABC Home Healthcare, and Clare Pappagallo, RN, CCM, recently attended the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Seminar run by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

The seminar covered the full range of the disease from diagnosis to treatment, behaviors, reactions, personal care, activities, support, abuse, neglect, diversity, spiritual care, and more. Upon completing the seminar, Sheehan and Pappagallo, a registed nurse, have achieved certified dementia practitioner status from the NCCDP.

"Alzheimer's disease is growing fast. Someone develops Alzheimer's every minute in the United States with close to 5.5 million Americans now living with the disease," said Sheehan in a statement. "Within the next 30 years, the number will triple to approximately 16 million. At ABC Home Healthcare, we are constantly training and re-training our staff on the best methods of caregiving to our clients with dementia and Alzheimer's. We are committed to serve this segment of our clientele with the most up-to-date care possible."

With offices in Gloucester and Wakefield, ABC Home Healthcare is a full-service private home care organization owned and managed by a nurse practitioner, nurses, and certified case managers. For more information, call 781-245-1880 or visit www.abchhp.com.

Ribbon-cutting at new studio, gallery

The Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting at Melody Phaneuf Paintings, located at 3 Centennial Ave., Gloucester, on Wednesday, May 18.

The newly-opened studio and gallery in the heart of Gloucester, is located midway between the iconic Fisherman Statue and Stage Fort Park.

Phaneuf's paintings have provided the finishing touch for residential and commercial clients since 1987. The artist is well-known for her evocative still-life, landscape and portrait paintings. Several are available as giclees, tumbled marble tile coaster sets, and handmade note cards.

The gallery is open to visitors on weekends, noon to 6 p.m., from Memorial Day through Christmas; or by appointment. Call 617-236-4322.

Community solar campaigns extended

Two community solar programs on Cape Ann that were set to end on April 30, have now been extended. Gloucester residents who are interested in going solar through the Gloucester Solar Challenge, now have until June 30. Residents who live in Essex, Manchester or Rockport and want to go solar can do so through the Cape Ann Solar Challenge until June 30 as well.

The extensions of both programs will allow residents in these Cape Ann communities to join neighbors who have already chosen to go solar for more than 400 combined kilowatts, across all four communities, in new power from the sun.

To make it even easier for residents to purchase, Direct Energy Solar, the chosen installer, has added the Mass Solar Loan to its suite of financial product offerings.

The goal of the Gloucester Solar Challenge is to combat climate change by dramatically reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the Cape Ann communities. Local community members carefully select a highly-qualified solar installer (Direct Energy Solar) who will guarantee for this program a price that is 20 percent lower than the retail rate. The community and the installer work together to educate community residents and bring them through the process of considering solar power.

The Cape Ann Solar Challenge was started as part of the Gloucester Solar Challenge by the Gloucester Meetinghouse Foundation. This program offers discounted pricing on solar electricity systems to residents in Essex, Manchester, and Rockport.

For more information, contact Susan Hoague at gloucestersolarchallenge@gmail.com or 978-283-2586.

Thorpe named Community Bank Hero

The Warren Group and its banking industry publication Banker & Tradesman have named Patrick Thorpe, president and chief executive officer of BankGloucester, one of 12 selected Community Bank Heroes in Massachusetts.

To be recognized as a Community Bank Hero, a professional must be a Massachusetts community bank employee; an individual who consistently gives back to the industry and community with their time, energy and resources; a respected colleague who has made significant impact on those around them; and an outstanding contributor to their institution as a positive influence and industry expert.

Thorpe more than meets these requirements. He is not only responsible for the bank's continued growth and overall health under his direction but is an active member of the community on both the professional and personal fronts.

BankGloucester has several programs that actively give back to the local community it serves. Thorpe initiated "Banking for the Community" — an annual program whereby the bank has given a total of \$130,000 since its inception to local organizations chosen by the community at large. Additional events BankGloucester supports include an annual outdoor community concert, where Thorpe, along with other members of the Board of Directors, scoops ice cream that is offered free to attendees. The bank also sponsors an annual holiday high school basketball tournament. These programs, and the many others BankGloucester sponsors, prove how the bank, under Thorpe's direction, is going above and beyond and is actively involved in the community itself.

In addition, Thorpe has worked with local high schools and community organizations to provide Financial Literacy Education to teenagers. He is chairman of the Board of First R Foundation's Literacy Program, a kindergarten and first-grade volunteer reading program, past chairman of the Board of CBERA (Cooperative Banks Employee Retirement Association), past president and board member of the Gloucester Rotary Club, and committee member of the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, an organization that works with students, educators, parents, seniors, faith leaders, businesses, law enforcement and city officials to promote a healthy and drug-free community for Gloucester's youth.

Thorpe is also actively involved with the Cape Ann YMCA serving on its Board of Directors, Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce where he serves as chairman of the Business Education Collaborative, Northeast Health Systems and Massachusetts Bankers Association. He has participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge as well as the Polar Plunge into the icy Atlantic Ocean on behalf of the Gloucester Rotary Club's "Freezin' for a Reason: Make Polio History" event.

Thorpe's leadership skills, financial background and dedication to service have led BankGloucester, a state-charted mutual bank, in its growth and evolution as a community champion since he became president and CEO in 2000. Under his guidance, the bank's assets have increased from \$86 million to \$223 million. Total loans have increased by \$124 million or 197 percent and total deposits have increased \$111 million or 158 percent. Furthermore, BankGloucester opened a second branch and introduced banking innovations such as debit cards, online banking, mobile banking and remote deposit capture under Thorpe's direction. This past year, BankGloucester was chosen by members of the Cape Ann region as 2015's Best Community Bank.

Thorpe, and the 11 other Community Bank Heroes recognized this year, will be honored in the May 16 issue of Banker & Tradesman as well as at a dinner reception in Boston on May 19.

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