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Community comes together to celebrate art



Charlton's Maggie Hart took the top spots in two categories during the Massasoit Art Guild's recent show in Spencer.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Area residents came together earlier this month for a celebration of artists and creativity.

Hosted annually by the Massasoit Art Guild, the two-day program features local artists representing several mediums. After last year's event was forced to be held virtually by COVID-19, event organizers, artists, and community members were grateful to have it back on Oct. 16-17.

Throughout the weekend, art enthusiasts and novices alike visited Town Hall in big bers to check out a gallery of local work. Featured categories included acrylics; drawing and printing; digitally enhanced photos; oil paintings; pastels; traditional photography; and watercolors.

Several awards were given to top entries in each category, as voted by a group of

Charlton's Maggie Hart took the top spots in both the acrylic and watercolor categories. Her acrylic entry, "Monarch," impressed guests and judges throughout the weekend.

"I was thinking about the fall colors and saw a monarch butterfly. The movement and colors of the butterfly inspired me,' Hart said of her genesis for the "Monarch" project.

Additional first-place finishers include Barbara Blake (drawing and printing category); Ellen Smith (digitally enhanced photos); Deborah Reicker (oil paintings); Carole Bentley (pastels); and Peter Spencer (traditional photography).

Memorial award winners include Paulette Adams (Joyce Morse Memorial Award); Francis Warner (Vernon Graham Memorial Award); Ann McDougle (Margery Cook Memorial Award); Leslie Tracy (Gayle

Please Read ART, page A12

DPHS alum's podcast explores psychology and spirituality

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER - David Prouty High School alum Keith Miller is looking forward to featuring a local community member on an upcoming episode of his

Miller, a member of the DPHS Class of 1995, runs a psychology and spirituality podcast called "The Soul of Life." On Nov. 4, he will release an episode interview of Fr. Isaac Keeley, a Trappist Monk and Director of the Spencer Brewery at St. Joseph's Abbey.

In the Nov. 4 episode, Miller explores how the brothers living within the austere monastic discipline are also connoisseurs of ale and succeed in the intensely competitive craft brewery market.

'Our prayer together starts at 3:30 a.m. I have to be pretty disciplined with my time and my schedule - and kind of have to be disciplined with my mind," Keeley said.

For Miller, a social worker and psychotherapist who grew up in East Brookfield, North Brookfield and Spencer it is a thrill to host and produce the weekly podcast. Also an author, Miller has conveyed stories in many forms over the years, but he particularly enjoys the opportunities presented by his podcast. With each episode, he is able to highlight a different



Keith Miller will feature a local guest on an upcoming episode of his podcast.

informational and inspirational story.

"I'm channeling my creative energies into the podcast," Miller told the New Leader. "One thing I have learned from publishing books is that while the writing itself is very important, cultivating an audience that will actually read what you write is perhaps just as, or more, important. I'm very content to kind of grind things out on the podcast for many years, to get to know who my audience is and write the book I want to write, not the book I have to write.'

Miller has faced several challenges in recent years, and the

Please Read PODCAST, page A12

New book celebrates 100 years of East Brookfield history

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD Chronicling a century of town history, a recently released book is a must read for residents before the upcoming centennial celebration.

Written by East Brookfield 100th Anniversary Committee member Heather Gablaski, "East Brookfield: 100 Years a Town" outlines the fascinating history of the Bay State's youngest community. Beginning with the indigenous

peoples who first lived here, the book traces the history of the Quaboag Plantation and the town of Brookfield, with a focus on the section of the Plantation that would eventually become East Brookfield.

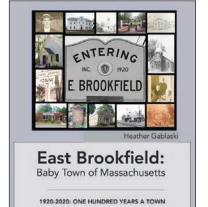
Also highlighting the efforts for independence and the sep-

Photo Courtesy A recently released book celebrates 100 years of East Brookfield

aration of the village of East Brookfield from Brookfield in 1920, the book summarizes events all the way through

The book also includes several pictures and anecdotes from residents to help readers immerse themselves in

Please Read EB BOOK, page A13



New Town Administrator hired in Spencer

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER - Selectmen have unanimously supported the appointment of Jeff Bridges as Spencer's next Town Administrator.

The 5-0 vote was taken during the Select Board's Oct. 21 meeting.

Bridges most recently served as Sturbridge's TA. He brings several years of municipal experience northeast to Spencer, and selectmen are thrilled with his background and leadership skills.

"What set him apart was his experience of being an administrator. We feel that his background will help to move the town forward," said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury.

Bridges has served in leadership roles throughout the country, including stops in Connecticut, Kansas, and even Alaska. He has held the administrator's office in Sturbridge since 2019.

'He has a wealth of experience and a record of getting things done," said Selectman Ralph Hicks. "We are lucky to have a candidate of his level."

Bridges earned a master's degree in public administration. Officials were impressed by his educational and career credentials.

The hiring of Bridges is expected to be finalized early next month. If the process goes according to schedule, officials are hoping for a Dec. 1 start date.

The appointment marks the end of a comprehensive process completed by the Town Administrator Search Committee. A strong pool of candidates was produced by the committee, and ultimately Bridges stood out as the top pick for selectmen.

"His background is amazing. When I was on the initial interviews, his qualifications really stood out," said John Howard, the Select Board's designee to the search committee. "He is very approachable, and I have a great feeling about him in this position.'

Please Read **NEW TA**, page **A13**

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Ten years from now

When my dad told me four years ago he was going to be a syndicated columnist, I gave it little thought. I had confidence that he could do anything he wanted.

I didn't know much about his column. He was calling it Positively Speaking! and

it was about having a positive mindset. That was nothing new to me; as far back as I can remember, he promoted thinking positively. He was a motivational speaker for a time.

I was a busy kid and, was involved in many different sports. Whenever my dad drove me to practice, he'd pop in a cassette tape or a CD, and we listened to Zig Ziglar, Tony Robbins, Jim Rohn, Norman Vincent Peale, Napoleon Hill, and many more. I would've rather listened to some 80's hair bands instead; I pretended not to hear, but I was listening.

As I grew older, I began to listen to them myself. In college, I was reading the books I'd heard about in the car with

He was a big thinker - he taught me that anything was possible as long as I believed and worked hard.

It's been three months since he passed away. He always kept a positive attitude about dying. If you were a fan of his columns, you probably remember that he didn't accept that he would die soon. He planned on living a few years longer.



TOBY MOORE

About ten days before he died, he asked me to continue writing his column on his behalf. It wasn't something I envisioned myself doing. I was apprehensive, but how do you tell your dying father no?

It wasn't easy figuring out who all of his contacts were with the newspapers. By the time I agreed to fulfill his wish to continue the column, he didn't have the energy to teach me how to get it to the editors every week.

Sometimes I post links to his old columns on social media. They consistently receive many more likes than mine. If you were a fan of my dad's columns, after reading my first few, you probably thought to yourself, "this kid doesn't have anywhere to go but up!"

I've enjoyed getting to know a couple of his old friends through this process. Lynda, with a "y," is of great encouragement; she will laugh when she reads that! Hi, Lynda!

Another is a lady named Judith. I thought she was an editor for a newspaper for the first couple of weeks.

She emailed me about how to be a better writer. She gave great advice; after a few emails, I figured out she was a writing friend of my dad's and not a newspaper editor. She and my father shared a love for writing.

Judith recently recommended I write

a column about how my dad might have been if he lived another ten years.

That's a tricky thing to write. He was very excited about the company we started, Cubestream. He and our partner Ted helped to develop it from the beginning. He had big plans to make it an international company.

We would have gone on a couple of family road trips. We planned on doing one earlier this year, but he was too sick. He wanted to go out west to see the mountains and the buffalo like we did when I was young

He would've enjoyed seeing his two grandsons Caleb and Noah, graduate from high school - they were everything

He may have even started lifting weights again. When I was a child, he was a big weight lifter and was very

As he grew older and became more affectionate and he made sure to let us know how much he loved us.

In his final year, he frequently wrote emails to my two siblings and me telling us things about his life we never knew to help us understand him better.

It's hard to say all the things he might have done if he lived another ten years, but one thing I do know - he would have continued to be more loving, affectionate, and caring.

Love you, Dad.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Spencer New Leader is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress. news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.



Spencer selectmen show support for Exchange Club Week

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

SPENCER - The Board of Selectmen recently showed its support for the Spencer Exchange Club by approving a special proclamation.

At the Board's Oct. 18 meeting, selectmen voted to designate the week of Nov. 29 through Dec. 5 as Exchange Club Week in Spencer. The proclamation was made in honor of the Exchange Club's 75th anniversary.

'The Spencer Exchange Club has been an integral part of the town of Spencer for 75 years," said club presi-dent Sheena Toscano. "With the help of our many sponsors and contributors, we have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of our neighbors and our community. It is such a great honor for us to be recognized by the Spencer Board of Selectmen, and it is a great pleasure to work hand in hand with our town government.'

Selectmen praised club members for their dedication over the years and continued commitment to improving the

REGION – Area postcard enthusiasts

St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the

are looking forward to a major show

Central Massachusetts Postcard Club

are co-sponsoring the club's 37th annual

postcard show. The event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the church (26

South St. in Barre). Hours are 9:30 a.m.

Socially Speaking...

or other civic organizations who have

email jsima@stonebridgepress.news

This feature is for churches, senior centers, libraries,

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to 3:30 p.m.

Postcard show returns

Nov. 4

'They do so much for the town. They are a fantastic group, and it's our pleasure to join them in celebrating this milestone," said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury.

The proclamation will be presented to Exchange Club members at an upcoming Select Board meeting. Officials hope the designation serves as a reminder of the importance of community involvement and service projects.

'We're honored that the Select Board has proclaimed Nov. 29 to Dec. 5 as Exchange Club Week in Spencer to recognize all that the club has done through the years to make our community a better place to live," said club member Pat George. "During this 75th anniversary year, our membership remains as committed as ever to carry on the good work of those who came before us.'

The Exchange Club will host an invitation-only event on Thursday, Dec. 2, to celebrate its 75th anniversary. At that time, the club will honor local public servants and also present a gift to the town.

Admission is \$2 per person, with proceeds benefiting the church. Eleven

dealers from three states will offer old

picture postcards for sale, depicting

Free appraisals of old postcards will

For more information about the

event, contact the show manager by

local scenes and numerous topics.

also be offered at the show.

email at jrg01331@webtv.net.

The club is comprised of several local volunteers eager to give back. The club has led countless community improvement projects over the years, including upgrades at town parks, the Town Hall clock restoration project, and the Spencer Little League Association refreshment booth project, among others. The Exchange Club has also provided funding for scholarships, gifts, equipment, sponsorships, and other efforts benefiting the community.

This past June, the Exchange Club hosted its first annual 18 Under 18 event to highlight the accomplishments of unheralded young people. Each 18 Under 18 winner earned a cash award, a certificate from the Exchange Club, and a certificate from the State House. All award winners reside in Spencer or East Brookfield.

To learn more about the Exchange Club and how you can support its efforts, visit www.spencerexchangeclub.org.

Katie Smith from Rutland, MA

Ms. Katie works at the Richard Sugden Library in Spencer, and is being recognized for her kindness and willingness to help.

Thank you, Ms. Katie, for all that you do to assist the patrons of the library!

— Submitted by Tammy Vangel

If you would like to nominate a PERSON OF THE WEEK, please email your suggestion to jsima@stonebridgepress.news. Thank you.

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Start a Phalaenopsis, moth orchid, that is best suited to the home environment making it the easiest to grow. Purchase a healthy plant with green leaves, a few open flowers, lots of buds on a firm green flower stem and no signs of neglect.

Provide your orchid with proper care, similar to that of an African violet, for the best results. Water thoroughly with room temperature tap water just as the planting mix is beginning to dry. This is usually once a week in most indoor gardens. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to prevent root rot.

Grow your moth orchid in a bright location near an east-, west- or slightly shaded south-facing window. Plants do best when they receive 12 to 14 hours of bright light. Give plants growing in low light locations a boost with

artificial light. Keep lights 4 to 10 inches above the plants. Placing the plants on a reflective surface helps bounce light back up into the lower parts of the plant. Look for one of the many economical, energy efficient and attractive options for sale. Keep the lights on for 14 to 16 hours if this is the only light the plant receives. You can reduce the time to five or six hours for plants receiving natural light.

Boost the humidity around your orchid while creating a beautiful display by placing it among other indoor plants. As one plant loses moisture from its leaves, it increases the humidity around the neighboring plants.

Use gravel trays to further increase the humidity around all your indoor plants. Fill the saucer or plant tray with pebbles. Set the pots on the pebbles, elevating them above any water that collects in the saucer. When you water thoroughly the excess collects in the saucer. As it evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plants right where it is needed.

Fertilize actively growing plants when the soil is moist. Use a dilute solution of a complete fertilizer such as a 20-20-20 labeled for use on orchids or flowering houseplants. Avoid excess fertilization that can cause damaged black root tips, green floppy growth, and prevent flowering.

Once your orchid finishes flowering, continue growing it in a brightly lit location and water and fertilize as needed. You can either remove the faded flowers, leaving the flower stem intact and wait for a flush of smaller flowers at the tip of the stem or cut the flower stem back above either the second or third node, the thickened part of a plant stem where new growth appears, from the bottom. A third option is to cut the flower stem back to one half inch above the leaves. This is better for the health of the plant. It results in the best reblooming and allows the plant to restore energy used for flowering and focus on growing roots.

If forcing your orchid to produce a second flush of flowers seems like too much work, just treat it like a long blooming bouquet. Ease your guilt by gifting the plant to a fellow gardener that would be happy to accept the challenge. Then invest in a new and different orchid to brighten your indoor garden.



Photo Melinda Myers

Moth orchids are the easiest to grow in a home environment.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How Anything" GrowDVD series and the nation-

ally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$325,000, 38 Long Hill Rd, Halbrook, Lynda G, to Meersman, Michael S, and Meersman, Marlaina.

\$300,000, 5 Webber Rd, Williams, Michael, and Williams, Lauri, to Recore, Melissa A.

LEICESTER

\$434,000, 24 Redfield Rd, Dellacava, Michael L, and Dellacava, Carol J, to Konopka, Alexis M.

\$380,000, 27 Carleton Rd, Fairbanks, Richard, and Fairbanks, Shari L, to Ryan, Remington.

\$179,900, 17 Burncoat St, Rushford, Dwayne E, to GM Properties LLC.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$294,000, 51 Grove St, Ells, David P, and Ells, Melanie A, to Reed, Camilia.

SPENCER

\$482,000, 83 Ash St, Jolicoeur, Rene M, and Jolicoeur, Sheree L, to Demoura, Edilson M.

\$445,000, 21 Kittredge Rd, Perry, Cheryl A, and Murphy, Mary C, to Poplawski, Bryan

P, and Wornham, Amanda C. \$390,000, 55 R Jones Rd, Bedard, Gregory P, and Ferrandino, Amy E, to Nguyen, Danny.

\$380,000, 32 Donnelly Cross Rd, Nguyen, Thi L, and Moreau, James R, to Carroll-Tidman, Sharon L, and Tidman, William F.

\$300,000, 5 Paula Bay, Obrien, April E, to Jouki, Stephanie A.

\$290,000, 179 Charlton Rd, Legere, Tara, to Norton, Andrew.

\$275,000, 20 High St, Bellemer, Charles A, to Daddario, Elisabeth, and Papp, Nicholas.

\$220,000, 63 Main St, James, Stoddard, and Stoddard, Philip R, to Ebol-Roberts, Brendan M.

\$190,000, 44 Maple St, Agoglia, Robin, to Leveillee, Richard.

\$145,000, 40 Ash St, Clinton, Raymond W, and Lewis, Nancy L, to Renovated Real Estate LLC.

\$96,000, 34 Lambs Grv, Tappin, Robert M, and Tappin, Donna M, to Tappin, Mark R.

WARREN

\$585,000, 13 Mill St, Jurczvk. Philip D, and Jurczyk, Renee P, to Skybridge Properties LLC.

\$223,000, 47 Cottage St, CEP Real Estate LLC, to Charbonneau-Brodak, Chery. \$39,900, East Rd #A1, Landcaster Associates RT, and Thomas, Robert L, to Lone Oak Enterprieses LLC.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$465,000, 50 Wickaboag Valley Rd, Reyes-Perez, Jose, and Rosendale, Mary, to Lavoie, Sean A.

\$390,000, 83 Lakeshore Dr. Frick LT, and Frick, Richard A, to Ballou, Karen F, and Ballou, Joseph F. \$380,000, 37 Ragged Hill

Rd, Towsley, Jonathan R, and Towsley, Shealene M, to AlRubaye, Saif.

\$336,024, 93 Lakeshore Dr, Branscombe Ganna C Est. and Muscente. Donna. to Roberts, William E, and Roberts, Jennifer M.

\$245,000, 135 Pierce Rd, Roberts, Melissa A, and Roberts, James D, to Setian, Melia, and Simons, Thomas.

CLUES ACROSS

- 4. Cooling device
- 7. Corporate exec (abbr.) 10. Antidiuretic hormone
- 11. South American plant 12. Adult female bird
- 13. Type of snake
- 15. Soak in water 16. Emerge
- 19. Church tower
- 21. Having solidified from lava 23. Eye parts
- 24. Natural 25. Swiss river
- 26. Require to live
- 27. Obstruct
- 30. Immobile
- 34. Expression of satisfaction
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Cavalry-sword
 - 2. Gland above the kidneys 3. Hat
 - 4. Predict
 - 5. A team's best pitcher
 - 6. Countries 7. Substitutions
 - 8. Peruses again
- 9. Popular food 13. Reciprocal of a sine
- 14. Of or relating to the ears 17. __ juris: Independent
- 18. Keyboard key 20. Fat from a pig
- 22. AC manufacturer
- 27. Organization of N. and S. American countries
- 28. 22nd star of a constellation
- 29. Scoundrel
- 31. A way to save money

32. Boy or young man

37. Egg-laying mammal

40. Actress __ de Mornay 41. Gambling hotspots

38. Salt of citric acid

39. Barbary sheep

42. Wing-shaped

47. Beats per minute

49. Military vehicles

and southeast

53. Midway between east

58. Forearm nerve (abbr.)

51. Elderly woman

43. Basked in

44. Poison

48. Macaws

52. Body part

and east

35. Moved quickly

45. Waxed finish

36. Popular cocktail 41. Dish detergent brand

47. A place to get clean

50. Able to be rescued

57. Beverage container

59. Long narrow hilltop

56. Hindu goddess

61. Data executive

60. Sir (abbr.)

54. Large, open grassland

46. Kyrgyzstan mountain range

55. Expressions for humorous effect

- 62. Doctor of Education 63. Car mechanics group 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. "The Partridge Family" actress

33. Midway between northeast

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This event will feature raffles, an Exquisite Table, Christmas Table, Bake Table, pies, and craft Table. A homemade luncheon will be available including clam chowder, cabbage soup, beef barley soup, sandwiches, and apple crisp.





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PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER Frank G. Chilinski 860-928-1818 ext. 103 frank@stonebridgepress.news

RYAN CORNEAU 860-928-1818 EXT. 102 ryan@salmonpress.news

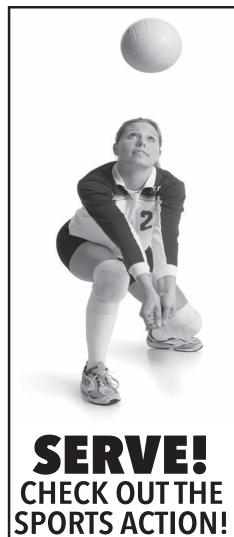
Business Manager

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JIM DINICOLA 508-764-6102 jim@stonebridgepress.news

Editor BRENDAN BERUBE 508-909-4106 news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER Julie Clarke 860-928-1818, ext. 305

julie@villagernewspapers.com The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical Postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Spencer Nev Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



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Momentum swings in Valley Tech's favor as Howe and Mateo torch Minutemen

BY DEAN ST. LAURENT SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — A groundand-pound approach employed by senior running backs Trey Howe and Josh Mateo — both scored three rushing touchdowns — of the Blackstone Valley Tech varsity football team worked wonders on Friday evening, Oct. 22 when the Beavers defeated Bay Path Regional, 55-14. The visitors also used a late second quarter touchdown as a momentum swing to erupt for a 21-point third quarter to put a once close game out of reach.

"It was huge because I didn't think we played a very good first half," expressed BVT (4-2) head coach Anthony Landini about his team's touchdown with 32 seconds left in the first half. "Once again I have stressed it all year is our penalties, especially early. We are a very fiery, emotional team. They play physical, I preach physicality, and sometimes it hurts us. They finish blocks and play until the whistle, but it is stuff that we should be able to clean up by now and I think we did that specifically in the third quarter.'

Despite the final score, Bay Path (3-4) did not go away easily. They battled adversity in the first half and always answered with a score of their own to keep pace with Valley Tech.

Down 21-7 with 7:30 left in the second quarter, the Minutemen were able to put together a beautiful 4 minute, 14 second drive, capped by a 1-yard strong run by junior back Casey Gallagher to make it a one-possession game, 21-14, with 3:16 left. A 26-yard one-handed catch by junior Jonathan Nussey and a 23-yard scamper by junior quarterback Anthony Catino highlighted the drive.

Moments after the Gallagher touchdown is what changed the course of the game. Bay Path decided to lay down an onside kick that failed and gave the Beavers appealing field position at Bay Path's 43-yard line. BVT took advantage and capped a seven-play drive with a 1-yard TD plunge by Howe. This was Howe's second touchdown of the game and he accounted for another in the second half.

'They were getting the ball to start the second half, so we were just trying to maximize ball in the first half and keep the ball out of their possession," explained Bay Path head coach Cody Giampa regarding the onside kick. "I liked the call, it just didn't work out for us.

Coming out of halftime Blackstone Valley received the ball and quickly drove down the field and scored in just six plays when Mateo got loose for a 13-yard touchdown. This was his third score of the game. He also finished the contest with 13 carries for 222 yards and a circus catch interception.

Mateo switched from quarterback to running back after a hand injury, forcing him to play both sides of the ball with a



Bay Path's Jackson Philion rushes with the ball, hoping to juke past a Valley Tech defender.

cast on his left hand. The injury problems." happened against Northbridge High in the Beavers' season



Anthony Catino of Bay Path sprints down the field while a teammate blocks for him.



Blackstone Valley Tech's Trey Howe (22) gets an edge and looks to block a pass thrown by Bay Path guarterback **Anthony Catino.**

kid out here. I do what I can." The win was Valley Tech's fourth in a row and they look to build off this momentum heading into the last week of the season hoping for a playoff berth. The key to success has been trusting the process after two early losses expressed by Landini, but from Mateo's eyes, it has been leading by example and getting the younger players ready.

opener, but the senior has

adjusted and made the most of his opportunities to contribute

"I am not going to lie," stated Mateo. "This is the position I

have been trying to play for-

ever. I have been playing this

position since second grade, so

it was an easy little transition

and I do what I can for my

Although the transition was

"Yeah, significantly, I usu-

ally carry the ball in my left

hand, so it has been a big change having to run the ball

with my right hand and not

being able to switch with a stiff arm," expressed Mateo. "Other

than that, I have just had to

adjust and start lowering my

shoulder more being a smaller

easy, there has been some adjusting the speedster has had

team. Be a dog out there.'

to make to his game.

to his team.

Especially with the two losses early we really needed to it up and get into the younger kids a little bit to have them mature and feed off the energy we bring every week to show what BVT is about. Get right back to Gillette where I was my freshman year," he said.

Bay Path showed a lot of heart against a team that is led by a great group of seniors in Blackstone Valley. The Minutemen are a young team led by a junior core: Gallagher, Catino, Nussey and Lucas Welton. Gallagher scored in the contest and Catino connected with Nussy for a 5-yard strike in the end zone.

'We were proud of the way the kids battled, especially in the first half," expressed Giampa. "BVT is one of the top programs in the area, and their offense, both personnel, and scheme present a lot of



Photos Jason McKay

Bay Path's Jonathan Nussey attempts to catch a pass by the 40-yard line.





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Strong showing gives Warriors confidence heading into State Tournament



Olivia Magierowski of Tantasqua tries her hardest to keep the ball inbounds, although the play was ruled out.

BY NICK ETHIER SPORTS EDITOR

NORTHBOROUGH — Going up against the top seed in any given tournament, the lower seed is always going to be motivated. Such was the case when the Tantasqua Regional girls' varsity soccer team, seeded eighth in the Central Athletic Directors Association (CMADA) Division 1 Tournament, faced No. 1 Algonquin Regional on Saturday, Oct. 23.

But the Warriors were even more motivated. Just two weeks prior, Tantasqua lost badly to the formally-named Tomahawks, 8-1. On top of that, the girls were missing an important school event.

The girls were a little motivated. They all missed their Homecoming. We asked them to change the time to 2 in the afternoon before the boys,' explained head coach Matthew Rickson.

See, when Tantasqua defeated No. 9 North Middlesex Regional, 3-0, in first round play on Wednesday, Oct. 20, they found out they'd be playing at 6 p.m. on Saturday. The Warriors' brass asked if they could play the first half of the talent and a nose for the goal.

doubleheader, as Algonquin's boys' team competed at 4 p.m.
"They weren't budging," said Rickson.

And although Tantasqua did lose the game, 3-1, they played much better this time around.

"They didn't drop their heads once," said Rickson. "They responded and kept their head

With Algonquin taking a 2-0 lead in the beginning of the second half, it took only two minutes for the Warriors to respond. They were awarded a free kick from the 50, and Keelan Mader launched the ball as far as she could. Teammate Lilina Shiers handled the service with her back to Algonquin's goal, popped the ball up-and-over a defender, spun around and one-touched a shot into the upper 90 to cut Tantasqua's deficit in half.

"She's had more than a couple this year," Rickson said of Shiers scoring phenomenal goals. "She had one earlier where the ball came over her head and she was running onto it. On the volley she upper 90'ed it from about 20 vards out. I couldn't believe that; it was insane. She has a nice touch



Photos Nick Ethier

Tantasqua's Ava Chevalier steals the ball and clears it out of her team's defensive end.

Algonquin did put the game away, though, with a goal off the foot of Caroline Alcock in the 62nd minute. The shot was a laser that couldn't be stopped, as were the other goals (Sadie Candela, 21st minute; Caroline Kelly, 52nd minute) they scored.

Tantasqua keeper Lizzy Thompson was phenomenal, finishing with 13 saves. More than a handful involved Thompson sprawling to either side to keep the ball out of the net in what otherwise would have been surefire goals.

"I've had two keepers all year. They've split every game and I felt the other day that Lizzy just had an edge," Rickson said of starting Thompson in both CMADA games. "She came out of [the game with North Middlesex] with five really good saves and a shutout."

Thompson surrendered five goals in the second half of the regular season loss to Algonquin — Grace St. Laurent started that game and gave up three goals in the first 40 minutes — and she wanted to prove that she could play better.

"She was beside herself. 'I want redemption," Rickson Thompson remembered exclaiming. "That's the best I've seen her all year.'

Tess Chevalier, Mader, Erin Parker and Nicki Vejack were the primary Warriors that



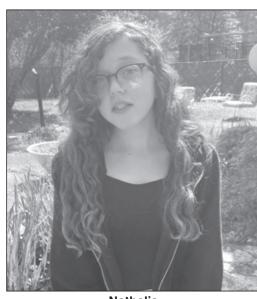
Algonquin's Caroline Alcock, left, and Tantasqua's Shannon Dunn do battle for a loose ball.

helped Thompson defensively. "They're a solid back four," Rickson said of the unit.

Now at 10-5-1, Tantasqua will wait for the Division 3 State Tournament, which begins in early November. But they have some added belief after playing so well versus Algonquin.

"It's going to give us a boost of confidence going into practice for the week. I have a lot of trust in these girls. I have more confidence in them sometimes than they do in themselves and when we come off this...usually our game gets elevated," said

* * Friday's Child * * *



Nathalia Age 14

Hi! My name is Nathalia and I want to be a teacher when I grow up!

Nathalia is a teen girl of Caucasian descent. She is very kind and sweet described as "easy going" and "one to go with the flow." Nathalia loves to go for long walks, play video games on her phone, and watch movies. She loves animals and enjoys having the responsibility of caring for them, including walking her foster family's dog. Nathalia also likes listening to music and singing. She already has future aspirations and would like to be a teacher when she grows up.

Nathalia is legally freed for

adoption and will thrive with a family that is able to give her some one-on-one time. Nathalia has stated she would like a family that is patient with her, loves her, and plays with her. She would also like a family that is willing to maintain contact with her little brother and older siblings. Her social worker is seeking a family of any constellation and with or without other children in the home. Nathalia would benefit from maintaining contact with her biological siblings and foster family.

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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.

Veterans Day Salute November 5, 2021

Stonebridge Press would like to salute our veterans

(from all wars & branches, including honoring deceased veterans, reservists, and active duty U.S. Military members in the November 5th issue

of the Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Spencer New Leader, Southbridge News, Webster Times, Sturbridge Villager & Charlton Villager.

This is not a separate section but will be page(s) within the papers. If you've submitted a veteran in the past, you must resubmit.

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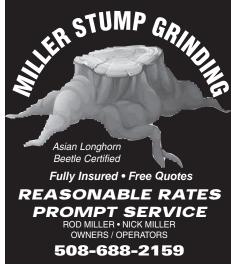
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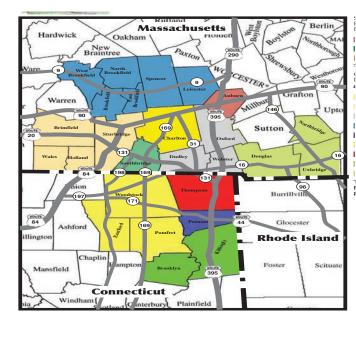


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FRANK G. CHILINSKI

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Clash of the horror titans

With Halloween taking place in four days, we figured we'd have a bit of fun and pose the question who's scarier Freddy or Jason?

For those not in the know, Freddy Krueger is the lead character from the 1980's movie series, 'A Nightmare on Elm Street', created by Wes Craven. Donning a black hat and a red and grev sweater, Krueger played by Robert Englund, literally gave all of us '80's kids nightmares for months. With his face shredded and his claw hand, we all definitely slept with the light on for a while.

Enter Jason Voorhees from the famous "Friday the 13th" movies. Voorhees was the young son of a camp cook turned killer, Mrs. Voorhees. This film was created by Victor Miller, Ron Kurz, Sean Cunningham and Tom Savini. The plot begins with a group of teenagers on vacation at a lakeside camp. One by one they start to disappear. What could be scarier than a hockey mask, machete wielding ghost?

A poll we conducted revealed that Freddy is the scarier of the two leading men. This revelation may not offer us anything of real value, but it does give us some insight on what the majority considers 'scary.' We remember watching the "Nightmare on Elm Street" series as adults and actually laughing during parts we thought were scary as youths.

One reader replied, "Freddy, because he's in your dreams."

Another brought up a good point: "You can run away from Jason, but not Freddy."

reader took the question quite seriously and gave us a great answer: "I'd argue that Jason was more the product of childhood trauma. A missing father, mentally ill mother who goes on a killing spree after she thinks he's drowned. Freddy's supernatural capabilities far surpass Jason. So I'd say Freddy."

'Freddy is the scarier of the two, but Michael Meyers is a true problem,' remarked one person.

Another said, "Freddy, because you can't resist falling asleep, and with Jason there are no facial expressions."

One person called it a draw, stating "Can't do it; it's like the chicken and the egg question. Props to Freddy for the nightmares but props to Jason for the daymares."

We got a chuckle out of 'daymares.' Of course, our Executive Editor and

movie buff gave his take: "Freddy, but I'm going to qualify my answer by saying Freddy from the first two 'Nightmare' movies, before they turned him into Don Rickles in a striped sweater.'

We can't write an editorial regarding scary characters without mentioning Gollum from the "Hobbit" and "Lord of the Rings" franchises. No one is scarier than Gollum, and he did it without even trying.

With that, we hope you eniov Halloween, half off candy sales, a scary movie or two and enjoy the beautiful

fall weather before the snow flies.

Opinion and commentary from Spencer, Leicester and the Brookfields

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help make a child's Christmas a happy financial one

To the Editor:

We are getting ready to kick off the 2021 Christmas season, and it is our hope to help make a Spencer child's Christmas a happy one. Last year, more than 200 Spencer children received gifts for Christmas through the efforts of this generous community. We cannot do it without your help. Monetary donations, new toys and family/child sponsors who "adopt" them are what makes our world go around.

We are under the Spencer Exchange Club's Charitable Trust Foundation. Spencer Toys for Tots is now called Spencer Toys for Kids. With this merge, we are able to use their 501c3 status so we will not have to pay tax on the toys we purchase. This helps us a lot! I've been a proud member of Spencer Exchange Club for more than 25 years, and the generosity of its members is second to none!

Spencer Toys for Kids has been helping Spencer families for more than 50 years. We have a main distribution the third week of December, but we will fill $all\,needs\,right\,up\,to\,Christmas.\,Children$ 13 years old and younger receive gifts & stocking stuffers. Applications will be available starting the first week of November at the Spencer Post Office & ERA Key Realty (4158) Main St. We have also downloaded them to our Facebook page. Monetary donations can be sent to Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562. One hundred percent of these donations go right to the kids. We have no administrative fees! New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Spencer Fire Department,

(Spencer office) & ERA Key Realty. If you would like to "adopt" a family, let us know! We will supply you with a child/family "wish list." This part of our program is amazing! It enables us to do a little bit better for the kids that are not sponsored. I wish you could see the wonderful gifts that come in.

My office at ERA Key Realty Services becomes Santa's workshop in November and December, where we collect, sort & distribute to the families. We are grateful to the owners for allowing us to take over the building and sometimes the staff to get this done.

We have a handful of dedicated shoppers who run with the rest of the lists and purchase items with such great care with your monetary donations. They shop the sales, multiple stores and even venture out on Black Friday to get the most bang for your buck. They do this year after year, and we are lucky to have them.

Items like mittens and hats are always great to have also! Follow and like us on Facebook Spencer Toys for Kids. We will keep you updated on our page as to what is going on during the Christmas season with our program. This program runs as well as it does because we are blessed with people who care in this community. Let's work together to help make a Spencer child's Christmas a happy one. Thank you!

> Donna Morin-Flannery DIRECTOR SPENCER TOYS FOR KIDS

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you'll want to record the password in a secure place so you won't forget it. Instead of using a password, you may have the option of choosing a passphrase, which contains a series of words strung together. You'll want to avoid phrases taken from popular culture or that are otherwise commonly used. And it's also a good idea not to use phrases containing your name, birthday or other personal identifiers.

Activate your account alerts. When you turn on your account alerts, you'll receive text messages or emails notifying you of certain activities, such as account logins, failed account login attempts, personal information changes, money transfers, adding or deleting of external financial accounts, and more. These alerts can help you monitor your accounts for fraud and verify your own moves, as well.

Avoid using public computers to access investment accounts. If you're at a hotel or library, try to avoid the temptation to use the computer to check in on your investments. But if you do use a public computer, at least take proper precautions. For starters, don't leave data on a screen and walk away, even for a moment. And when you're finished with the computer, log out of your account to end the online session. You may also want to change any password you used.

Ignore suspicious links. Be suspicious of emails or text messages containing links claiming to be connected to your investment accounts. These links could take you to websites designed to solicit sensitive account information, which could then be used for financial or identity theft. Even if the link seems to be coming from a business you know, you'll want to be quite cautious - experienced "phishers" can now create websites or online documents that look real. And keep in mind that legitimate investment firms will not ask you to divulge personal information without going through the password or two-step authentication protocols already described. The ability to connect with your investment accounts online can be extremely useful to you - and you'll feel more comfortable about these interactions if you know you've done all you can to safeguard your information.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.

Government propaganda

To the Editor:

I hope readers who read these editorials know they are opinions of the writers. They should not be used as a factual reference or learning experience but only as source of entertainment or idea formation. Currently, with universal access to the Internet, people have more access to information and technology than ever before in the existence of mankind. They can go online and read different accounts, different viewpoints, and then make up their own mind what reality they want to believe in. The government should be the last one defining what you must think and follow when you have access to the wealth of knowledge of the world.

It's incumbent on parents to use these resources to teach their children their values and freedoms as how they see it was created. Not by government propaganda. We now have our public schools trying to teach "Critical Race Theory." Their reasoning is that there is institutional racism in this country. Well, that's funny. Just who has been teaching this "racism" in schools for the last 60 years? You got it. The same teachers, with the administrators adhering to a curriculum created by a politically run governmental education department. So, by saying we need "CRT" in schools, they are in fact admitting that they have been forcing the racist propaganda down the throats of children in our schools. They admit they are just tools for political purposes.

I don't know about you, but based on this admission, they are the last ones I would want filling the minds of our children. It's evident that the only purpose of the public school system and their curriculum is to indoctrinate and train your children to the latest government's propaganda.

I believe that the public school system run by the government should be barred from teaching race, history, and sociology. Their responsibility should be to teach the "STEM" classes. Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Math only. They have themselves exposed themselves as propogandist spreaders on history and social matters. Teaching these classes should be left to the children's parents or curriculum approved by the parents alone. Parents can find online tools to help teach for a more balanced treatment on these subjects instead of ones created by the leftist. This is easily done when you have access to the Internet. For teaching about American history, there is an excellent resource called the Digital History Project developed by the Houston University. This can be viewed at http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/. I encourage all parents and children visit this site and read these digital history textbooks. Things you will learn is that slavery was not a race issue but an economic issue. Slaves were a source of income for other black tribes in Africa and sold throughout the world. This included in America before the revolution. It was only our white Christian heritage that formed the abolishment movement that ended it here. It should be noted that if we were formed from an Islamist heritage, we would have a Shira theocracy with no religious freedom and no equal rights for women. So those who criticize our founders as Christian should be thankful because they gave you things like religious freedom and the concept of equal rights. Women like Omar and Talib would not be allowed to speak. They created our Constitutional laws that can be changed and evolved instead of rigid adherence to a racist, sexist set of religious rules written in ancient times. Parents should require their children to read this Digital History no matter what the leftist leaning political propagandic curriculum the public-school forces upon them. These are your children, this is your America, and you need to fight to make it great again.

> MARK ROBILLARD SPENCER

Hate to say "I told you so," but...

To the Editor:

One of the greatest of Charles Dickens' characters is, of course, the 'umble clerk, Mr. Uriah Heep, appearing in "David Copperfield," one of the most astonishingly unctuous personalities in all of literature, the very definition of smarmy insincerity.

Though not wishing to be compared to Heep the creep in any way, yet being personally of a most humble, inoffensive and innocuous nature myself, I have found it increasingly difficult over the past, say, nine months or so to exercise the restraint necessary to keep from crowing, from luxuriating in the irrefutable assurance that we, the unwashed masses of the ignorant "Untermensch" (Nietzsche's ("Under Man"), we Trump-flagwaving, America-loving, traditional American patriots now chanting "Let's go Brandon!"...were right when we told anyone who would listen "If you sow the wind by voting for this fool, this corrupt, pathetic, and senile puppet of the radical left, if you settle for communism...you will most assuredly reap the whirlwind."

In just nine agonizing months (by the way, nothing compared to what they have in mind for us) we have gone from being energy independent for the first time in our history as well as exporting petroleum, to gas on its way to \$5 per gallon (from \$1.80 under Trump) and now having to once again go hatin-hand to the Middle East for the lifeblood of our economy. It only now dawns on the cognitively challenged that everything--everything!--has to cost more when the means to produce

those things--oil!--skyrockets in price. But, the Biden-handling ventriloquists hate oil and gas, so you will just have to suck it up...sucker.

Now, instead of virtual full employment under Trump (pre-virus), we have ten million jobs that no one is willing to do. Under Bidenomics, millions of young men (a total disgrace) and women (almost total) choose to stay home, sleep in, let other more honorable members of society go to work so the loafers who are perfectly capable of working can waste the best and most productive years of their lives while feeding off the labors of others. Isn't socialism just so great?! The old bumper sticker said it best: "Keep working! Millions on welfare are depending on vou!"

Under Trump, when sanity pre-

vailed, it didn't take much courage to opine that allowing biological males into the bathrooms, locker rooms and other private domains of girls and women would come to no good end. "Oh, shut up, bigots," said the smarter, better people. Now look, it's just as the pretend reverend Jeremiah Wright, Obama's preacher, once cracked, "America's chickens are coming home to roost!" In Loudon County, Va. (as woke an area as one will ever find), a dude in a dress enters a high school's girls' bathroom and violently assaults and rapes a 15 year old female student. His second offense of a similar nature had previously occurred in a different school. The uber-progressive school superintendent gets caught lying about the whole

Turn To MCRAE page A9

Waiting for the ice to set in



THE GREAT **OUTDOORS** RALPH **TRUE**

The string of great weather we had over the last few weeks made for some great opportunities to enjoy numerous outdoor activities. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club and the Whitinsville Fish & Game Club stocked their club ponds with trout recently, and members can enjoy some great fishing for weeks to come. The state of Massachusetts continued to stock numerous lakes with trout and should provide some great fall

It should also provide some great ice fishing, if and when we get safe ice this season. Back 30 or 40 years ago, I can remember ice fishing on Thanksgiving Day. Catching yellow perch from the Meadow Pond and Carpenters Pond using a jig stick, and a Swedish Pimple baited with a perch eve. it did not take long to catch 100 or more yellow perch for the dinner table. Fresh yellow perch pan-fried, can provide some great eating in the winter months. I never ate yellow perch during the summer because they often contained worms in the meat. The ice-cold waters seemed to alleviate the problem.

Checking out your ice fishing gear now, will ensure that you are ready for this season first ice. Of course, it all falls on Mother Nature to provide safe ice, which has been extremely poor for the last few winters. If you do not believe in global warming by now, I doubt that you will ever realize that it is happening. The latest in ice fishing gear can be found at your favorite sporting goods store, but it is a bit pricey. Do not for-



Photos Courtesy

This week's picture shows Grampa Murphy and his grandson Jayden Burke enjoying some pheasant hunting at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club this past Saturday.

get to shop at some local Bait & Tackle shops. They are struggling to stay open with all of the competition of big store chains. It is not too early to start some of your Christmas shopping for that special guy or woman in your family, as many items may not be available until spring, because of the massive fleet of ships waiting to unload goods.

Wild turkeys were not presenting hunters with many opportunities to harvest one last week, and time runs out on Nov. 27 in Massachusetts for hunters hoping to harvest one for the Thanksgiving dinner table. It is a lot easier to harvest a big bird in the spring, as they are receptive to turkey



This week's Second picture shows Captain Matt Fontaine of Uxbridge with a nice sea-

calls. If you can find a flock of turkeys, and you can break them up, calling does often work, but you need to find a flock first. A hen or tom turkey can be harvested by a licensed hunter with a fall turkey tag. Because hunting turkeys is legal during bow season, you may just get lucky to have a big turkey present a shot, if deer hunting is slow.

Archers have done really well during the archery deer season in Massachusetts! During the first week of bow season, hunters reported numerous scrapes and rubs indicating that the start of the rutting season has indeed started. One archer reported harvesting three deer. Drivers need to be aware of the deer rutting season, and be extra vigilant when traveling on the roads and highways. Bucks chasing does to breed can have them running out in front of cars, with little time for drivers

to react to a deer car collision. Every year, drivers and passengers are killed when a deer is struck by an automobile. Motorcyclists are even more vulnerable, and can be killed or suffer serious life-threatening injuries from a deer collision. Motorists need to be reminded that if they strike and kill a deer, they can keep the animal for their meat, if the carcass is salvageable. Immediate care needs to be taken to ensure the meat is properly cared for.

Pheasant hunters are enjoying some hunting on stocked areas throughout Massachusetts! The state will continue to stock areas with pheasant until Thanksgiving Day. Bird hunters with dogs are doing the best, but they too need to check their dogs and themselves for ticks after every hunt. As mentioned last week, ticks are going to be a big problem this year, both for man and dog! Deer hunters also need to take precautions after hunting. Removing most of your clothing outside of your home after a hunt, and checking for ticks before you enter the home, can save a lot of grief if Lyme disease is contracted by you or a family member. Never hang a harvested deer in your basement or attached garage. As the deer carcass cools, the ticks will fall off, and can be a real problem for your family if someone is bitten by an infected tick. The deer tick is incredibly small, and careful examination to locate and remove them is necessary. It is best to drop the ticks in a small amount alcohol to kill them. Do not remove them, and toss them into the back yard!

Seabass and tautog fishing remain hot in both Massachusetts & Rhode Island. This week's picture shows Matt Fontaine of Uxbridge with an impressive seabass caught last week off of the Point Judith light house area.

The second picture shows Jack Murphy and his grandson Jayden Burke enjoying a day hunting pheasant.

Tips to Scent Your Home this Season



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

Scents are powerful - just a small whiff of certain smells can fuel emotions. From altering moods and sparking memories to creating calm and promoting focus, fragrance can be very influential in our everyday lives.

Autumn in New England offers an abundance of native sights and scents that can be captured as everlasting fragrance for the home. Read on for a few simple recipes to bring the spectacular fragrance of the fall season indoors for months to come.

New England Potpourri Mix: This all natural autumn potpourri mix will bring you back to a walk along winding New England roads. A few drops of essential oil may be added to boost the scent as the mixture ages.

Ingredients: Dried slices of two Red or Golden Delicious apples (or other hardy New England variety); dried slices of one orange; eight cinnamon sticks: one tablespoon nutmegs; three tablespoons whole cloves; 2 Whole nutmegs; Filler: acorns, dried leaves, bark pieces, pinecones, etc.

Directions: Break up (or smash) the cinnamon sticks and some of the whole cloves to release fragrance. Mix together all ingredients, gently folding in apple and orange slices last. Place in an open bowl or pack in a clear glass jar for gift giving or later use.

Pie Spice Sachets: The sweet scent of freshly baked apple and pumpkin pies can be resurrected every time you reconstitute these essence filled sachets. Best of all, these can be used to scent the air and to spice up cider!

Ingredients: 2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice; 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon; 2 teaspoons nutmeg; 2 tablespoons applesauce

Mix the applesauce and spices together in a bowl. Dough will be very stiff. Pinch off small pieces of dough and roll into balls. Press down to form discs, about an inch or so. Bake in a 275 degree oven for about two hours or until fully dry and firm. Allow to cool and harden.

To use for simmering potpourri: Drop one disc into a couple of inches of simmering

To use as spice sachet: Drop disc into Preheat oven to 275 degrees and bake for 1 1/2 hours until dry and firm. Cool. Use as a simmering potpourri by simply dropping in boiling water. To use as a spice, drop into container of simmering

Autumn Wax Tarts (Recycled candles): Making fragrance tarts is easy (and free) if you've collected all your autumn fragranced candle ends throughout the year.

Ingredients: Leftover candle wax; foil cupcake wrappers.

Directions: Carefully melt leftover candle bits in a double boiler or in the microwave. Remove wicks and black bits from melted wax. Line a cupcake pan with aluminum foil cupcake wrappers. Pour about an inch of wax into each aluminum wrapper. Allow to cool, then remove wrapper from tin and peel off tart.

Great Gourds!

Now that your house boasts the aroma of autumn, why not do a little decorating, compliments of Mother Nature? Gourds are plentiful this time of year, and let's face it, gourds have only one main claim to fame: Their interesting colors and shapes make them a fantastic fall decorating tool.

Talented and imaginative artisans have formed everything from utilitarian bowls to musical instruments out of gourds, although mainstream offerings are likely to include a creative mix of baskets, candleholders, birdhouses and vases. Gourds, both large and small are plentiful and whimsical, with a high "personality quota." Tossing interestingly shaped gourds in a bowl creates an instant centerpiece. Or place handfuls of colorful gourds around an outside entryway display to fill the gaps between pumpkins, mums and cornstalks.

Gourds, with their contrast of color and textures, are the perfect candidate for an interesting craft project. Whether you choose to make a vase, bowl or birdhouse, drying, cutting and cleaning the gourds are important chores to complete. Much like carving a Jack-O-Lantern, the top of a gourd must be cut off and the inside scraped clean.

To do: Scrape out all inside dried membranes and seeds. This can be tedious, but it is necessary to avoid rot. To ensure a smooth inside surface as for gourd bowls, sand inside with a wire brush drill attachment.

To dry out decorative thinskinned gourds, clean them in warm, soapy water containing a household disinfectant. Dry gourds with a cloth and spread them on newspaper in a warm, dry place. After a week, wipe them with a cloth moistened only with disinfectant. Again, spread gourds to dry, now in a warm, dark, damp-free spot for about a month. Every other day, turn them. When seeds rattle inside, they are properly seasoned. Small, thin shelled gourds will dry in less than a month, and large ones can take up to six months. If mold appears during the drying process, scrape it off with a knife. Thin-shelled gourds dry best when hung in a mesh

You can finish your bowl

or vase by staining, painting, or using leather dye on it. The leather dye provides a vintage look and is easiest to apply for a first time project. After the dye has dried, apply a protectant, such as varnish or wax.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed!

Your tips can win you a great three course 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!

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.

MCRAE

continued from page A8

sordid affair, but it's the outraged father who gets arrested and carted off to the pokey for the offense of expressing outrage at the cluelessness of the school board comprised entirely of liberals.

Reports of similar previously unheard of breaches of normal social decorum with regard to bathroom privacy and personal safety are filed in, among other places, Fresno, Calif. and, closer to home, right here in the ultrablue Bay State. See the story out of Wrentham, Mass. with some perv male with a hidden camera snapping pictures in a females bathroom of women and girls as young as ten. Who couldn't see this coming? Trump, and his supporters did, why didn't you, you delusory, myopic liberals?

Under the former--and hysterically maligned-- president, the border was finally, and against all odds, secured, the river of drugs and gangs flowing into the country to kill countless Americans was largely dried up, and the future for those Americans living in areas close to that secured border was once again looking brighter and safer.

Until Biden, now it's every man/ woman for him or her self. Millions

simply walking in and being dispersed across the country, with their identity, health and criminal status unknown, but that is of no concern for those running the show, those who hate America and Americans, and who only see the invaders as the key to the future absolute control of a socialist/communist America over which they expect to preside before very long. Wait and see.

It wasn't Trump or his people who refused to deport one Fiston Ngoy, an illegal alien invader from the Congo who, idle with time on his hands, decided to harass and then forcibly rape a woman on a commuter train in a tough area of Philadelphia last week. That's all on you, liberals, who, as long as you don't have to live anywhere near them, welcome with open arms any degenerate criminal, any illiterate, incompetent intruder into this country as long as they will become dependable voters for the thoroughly rotten and corrupt Democrat Party. I think the passengers on that car, who did nothing to aid the woman, but were interested enough to film the nightmare on their phones, were all Democrats. There may have been human beings on that car who were in possession of male genitalia, but there were no men. These cowards have been sufficiently neutered by feminist crackpots--of the Democrat Party-to subsume their manhood and pretend it was none of their business. This is what you get when you hand over your ancient culture formed and shaped by Judeo-Christian moral and cultural ethics (one tenet of which is that men need to stand up and defend women too weak to defend themselves) to the new beliefs of an amoral, nihilistic, society that says nothing matters---no honor, no courage, no risk-taking on behalf of others, nothing. That vicious, cowardly, perverted attack would've never taken place in Trump country where still exist men unashamed to be called such.

Trump tried to stop the invasion. Somewhere, someone knows just how many innocent Americans have been raped, robbed, murdered, killed in drunk driving wrecks, etc. by the invaders. But, you will never hear the statistics as long as the commies pulling the old fool's strings are in control. Everything, to them, is about the revolution. Everything!

In so many other areas--the military, schools, issues of personal freedom, the economy, censorship, etc., things are collapsing. As the Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, wrote in "The Second Coming": "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned; the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.

If that doesn't describe our present exigent calamity, what does? You geniuses of the left had a choice in November: stay with something that was working remarkably well for most people--whether you liked the Tweets or not--or launch out into the dark night seas raging with the swells of collectivism, envy, hatred, and incompetence. You chose poorly and got for us riot, invasion, inflation, humiliation in foreign affairs, the death of Constitutional liberties, full-blown censorship, and the manifest end of the rule of law in America. And now all of us must pay for your stupid-

Despite my Heep-like hopelessly humble and benevolent nature—and certainly not desiring to hurt any of you liberals and your precious feelings--I will close by saying that when the book is finally written regarding the past year in our history (assuming the scholars are honest men and women and not Democrats) it will be made decisively clear: we were right and you were fatally wrong. We will be able to say, "See? We told you so!"

> JOHN MCRAE EAST BROOKFIELD





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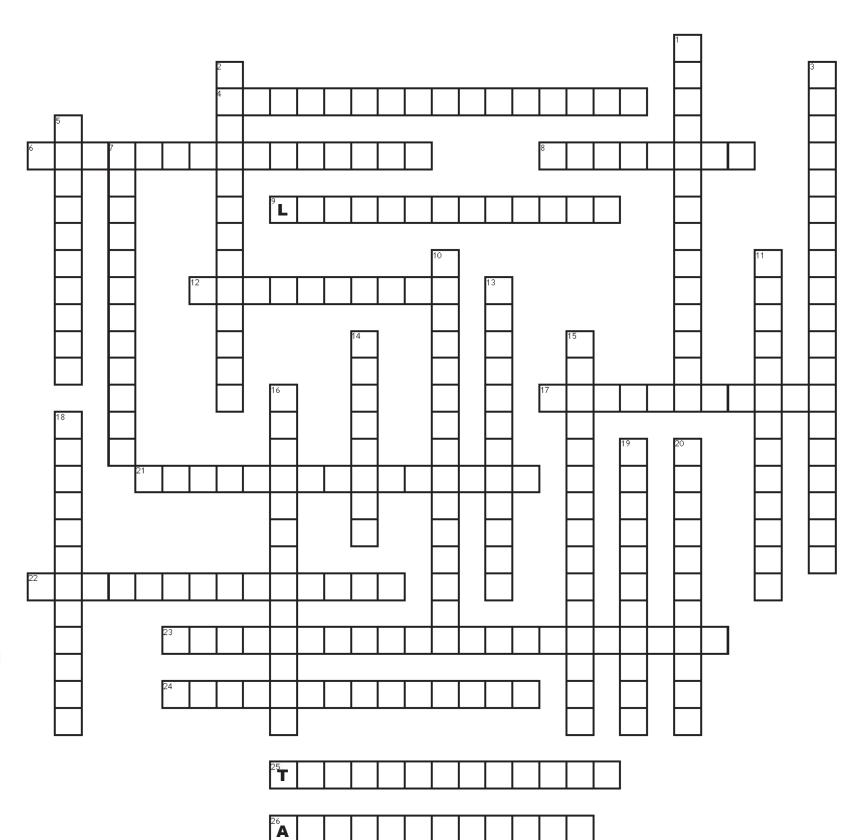
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4th Annual ABC's of the Seasons Fall Fdition 2021

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page



ACROSS

- 4. Order online
- 6. 1103 Main Street, Leicester
- 8. Beautifying America
- 9. Community is our top priority
- 12. as low as 0.99%
- 17. Check out my private office at 12 E Main St.
- 21. Cheers to a new location!
- **22.** Construction Supply Delivery
- 23. Great Careers Start Here
- **24.** Cirque Dreams
- 25. Fresh Start
- 26. Family owned and operated since 1997

DOWN

- 1. Curbside pickup and no contact delivery available.
- 2. A unique destination experience
- 3. We treat chronic bad breath
- 5. Fall Special \$300
- 7. Small town charm
- 10. Major Insurance Referral Shop
- 11. Select models are eligible for 26% savings
- 13. Seeking ALL Direct Care Staff
- 14. First, Goal Oriented
- 15. Maple Syrup/Products
- 16. Now Hiring
- 18. Cleaning, Repairs, Free Estimates
- 19. We can save you time and money!
- 20. 33 Sutton Ave, Oxford, MA

4th Annual ABC'S OF THE SEASONS, FALL EDITION Hint... answers don't always include the entire business name.

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| Circle which paper you found this in: Spencer New Leader, Web | ster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburr |

News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News Daytime Phone: ___ Email address (optional) Comments:

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page. Enter to win a \$25 gift card to an ABC business by mailing in your completed crossword to ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Wednesday, November 24th. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the December 3 issue. One entry per person. Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21P3397EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of:

Everett S Allen Date of Death: 09/08/2021 To all interested persons:

Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Marion E Gagnon of West Brookfield

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Marion E Gagnon of West Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/16/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 15, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate October 29, 2021

(SEAL)

TRIAL COURT OF **MASSACHUSETTS** THE SUPERIOR COURT **Worcester Superior Court** 225 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts 01608 CIVIL ACTION NO. 2185CV1118 A **ORDER OF NOTICE** BY PUBLICATION **CORNERSTONE BANK** F/K/A SPENCER SAVINGS BANK

> **ROBERT F. SMITH** AND MICHELE M. SMITH

TO: Robert F. Smith and Michele M. Smith, Palmer, Ma, all in said Commonwealth; and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §501 et seq.: Cornerstone Bank f/k/a Spencer Savings Bank claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Ma, known and numbered as 1053 Main Street and Main Street, Warren, Ma given by Robert F. Smith and Michele M. Smith to Spencer Savings Bank

n/k/a Cornerstone Bank dated

02/27/2004, and recorded in Worcester

County District Registry of Deeds, in

PODCAST

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podcast has helped open the door to new chapters of opportunity. Established in Sept. 2020, The Soul of Life has already seen significant momentum.

"Just prior to the pandemic, I was hitting a wall in my 20-year career as a clinical psychotherapist in private practice," Miller said. "To be clear, the wall was in my head. I was developing as a writer and had written two books in 2015 and 2017 - and wanted to focus again on writing - when I found myself increasingly troubled by a struggle to concentrate and difficulty remembering simple things.'

Since launching his podcast, Miller has embraced the next journey in his career, interviewing a range of inspirational guests along the way. These include gymnast Dominique Dawes; Nobel Laureate John Mather; astronaut John Grunsfeld; musician David Wilcox; actress Jessica Hansen; author Bessel van der Kolk; and journalist Olga Khazan, among several others.

Looking ahead, Miller can't wait to interview Fr. Keeley and spotlight a venue that will always hold a special place in his heart.

The Abbey interview is really special to me," Miller said. "Before I moved Book 32966, Page 58 has/have filed with this court a Complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemember status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Worcester Superior Court on or before 11/24/2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Judith Fabricant, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Worcester, Massachusetts, this 13th day of October, 2021

Dennis P. McManus Clerk of Courts Corrine L. Gorman First Assistant Clerk October 29, 2021

> **Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Variance, for James and Michelle Wojcik for the property located at 40 Wigwam Road, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to keep their shed in the front yard at this conforming property in Rural Residential District. This requires a variance as per section(s)

-4.3 Modifications to the Dimensional Requirements: §4.33 Location of Accessory Building, (et al) October 29, 2021

> **Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board**

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday November 16, 2021 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Major Site Plan Review/ Special Permit/ Stormwater permit- Applicant: David Franca, Franca Services; Owner: Gregory Lano; Location: 0 Donnelly Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R35-The applicant is looking for a Major Site Plan Review under Section 7.4, a special permit under Section 4.2 (A3 Multi Family in SR District) and 4.2.3, and a Stormwater permit under section 4.11 of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to construct a multi-family housing development. The property is located within the suburban residential zoning district. October 29, 2021

November 15, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family** Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21P3420EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Eunice Li Jones

Date of Death: 09/26/2021 To all interested persons:

Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Brenda Dacev of North Brookfield MA

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Brenda Dacey of North Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety

away from Spencer more than 25 years ago, I certainly didn't recognize the natural beauty of the area's forests, fields, and lakes. It is such a gem. The Abbey sits on 2,000 acres of land. My father and I would often visit the Abbey to pray."

With plenty of family and friends living locally, Miller is eager to share his interview with community members. His parents, Roger and Elaine Miller, still live in Spencer - and his brother Thomas teaches at DPHS.

Although Miller no longer resides in the area, himself, he has countless unforgettable memories. His soon to be released interview for the podcast has sparked several reflections of living, studying, and working in the Route 9 corridor.

"I passed a lot of my school years on the golf course adjacent to our house in East Brookfield, playing golf and working at Bay Path from the seventh grade until college," Miller recalled. "If I wasn't mowing greens or teeing up, our family was involved in some church event at the East Brookfield Baptist Church, which was like an extended family to us."

Later in November, Miller plans to release a podcast episode covering the legacy of Len Bias, the Boston Celtics' 1983 draft pick who died from a drug overdose before putting on a Celtics

on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/16/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

Date: October 18, 2021

October 29, 2021 A.C. 92A

Commonwealth of Massachusetts 21E0059PP

Worcester, ss. **Probate Court**

To Michael R. Santos of Spencer in the County of Worcester and to all persons interested. A petition has been presented to said Court by Kelley McFee, of Spencer in the County of Worcester representing that she holds as tenants in common an undivided part or share of certain land lying in Spencer in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows:

of 136 North Spencer Road, in the County of Worcester that she holds as tenants in common an undivided part or share of the following described land situated in Spencer, in the County of Worcester, which she wishes to hold in

a certain tract of land with buildings hereon, situated in Spencer on easterly side of the Spencer-Paxton Road, Route 31, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a WCHB on the easterly side of said Route 31;

THENCE northeasterly by a curve to the right, fifty-two and sixty-four hundredths (52.64) feet to a stake, the radius of said curve being seven hundred and seventy-five (775) feet;

THENCE S. 83° 44' 47" E., three hundred and sixty-eight and twelve hundredths (368.12) feet to a stake by the west bank of the Seven Mile River;

THENCE S. 11° 42' 42" E., fifty-five and twenty-two hundredths (55.22) feet by said river to a stone knocker at the end of the stone wall: THENCE S. 86° 58' 50" W., two hun-

dred and sixteen and fifty-two hundredths (216.52) feet by said wall to a corner of walls;

THENCE S. 85° 17' 20" W., one hundred and sixty-four and fifty-four (164.54) feet to a stake in the easterly line of said highway, Route 31;

THENCE N. 00° 35' 53" E., sixty-seven and twelve hundredths (67.12) feet to the point of beginning.

Containing about 32,160 square feet of

and your petitioner further represents that the names and residences of all

jersey. Bias will be inducted into the NCAA Hall of Fame in November. For his podcast episode, Miller interviews Dave Ungrady, the author of "Born Ready: The Mixed Legacy of Len Bias.'

One of Miller's favorite aspects of the podcast is the constant search for new guests. He has acquired guests for his program in a variety of ways.

"Talking to one guest often opens doors to talk to another guest," Miller said. "In Season One, I spoke to Nobel

the tenants in common and their respective shares and proportions and the nature

setting forth that she desires that - all the aforesaid described part – of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than \$220,000.00 dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyances of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private-sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the thirtieth day of November 2021, the return day of this citation.

Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this eighth day of October 2021.

Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate October 29, 2021 November 5, 2021 November 12, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO19P2637EA Estate of: William R Falkowski Date of Death: 03/06/2019 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by William E Falkowski of Framingham

COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

and Carol A Falkowski of Worcester MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First and Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Pe-

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the

return day of 11/16/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further no-

tice to you. Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court October 22, 2021 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate October 29,2021

> **Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for William E. Roberts and Jennifer M. Roberts for the property located at 93 Lake Shore Drive, West Brookfield. The applicant(s) wish to construct two new decks at the above preexisting nonconforming property in Neighborhood Residential District. This requires a Special Permit as per section(s)

-1.5-Nonconformity: §1.52Nonconforming Structures (a) (et al) October 29, 2021

Prize Laureate and NASA science director John Mather. John later put me in touch with veteran astronaut John Grunsfeld, who I just interviewed last week. It's crazy - I'm actually talking to the guy who last touched the Hubble Space Telescope."

To learn more about The Soul of Life podcast, visit www.souloflifeshow.com. You can listen to the podcast on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, Stitcher, or YouTube.

ART

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Magwood Memorial Award); Peter Spencer (Doreen Sequin Memorial Award); Deborah Kirk (Mildred Terry Memorial Award); Donald Beal (Best in show); and Francis Warner (President's

For Massasoit Art Guild President Sandy DeCoff and her team, it was exciting to see such strong attendance figures throughout the weekend. During the Saturday leg of the program alone, over 125 guests attended.

"It's been a great turnout. Local people look forward to it every year, and they told us how glad they are to have it back," DeCoff said.

This year's two-day program featured 33 total artist entrants and 118 pieces. Organizers thank all attendees and artists, as well as the local businesses that supported the event by donating raffle

The Massasoit Art Guild's organizing committee was also commended for producing another strong show.

"Our committee works so hard to put this together," DeCoff said.

To learn more about the organization and its membership opportunities, visit www.MassasoitArtGuild.com. The group is always on the lookout for new members; you must be at least 18 years of age to join.

POLICE REPORT

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

12:30-12:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:46 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:37 a.m.: medical/ general (Point Eastalee Drive); 7:07 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:55 a.m.: medical/general (Mercury Drive); 9:53 a.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), mv blocking hydrant; 10:53 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 11:12 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:18 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 11:28 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 11:57 a.m.: officer wanted (Condon Drive), req. escort; 12:10 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 12:15 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:18 p.m.: medical/ general (Chestnut Street); 12:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), req. property check; 1:45 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. escort; 3:31 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), re: call for help; 4:07 p.m.: accident (Main Street), truck vs school bus; 4:49 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:11 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; 5:30 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road): 7:05 p.m.: odor of gas (Meadow Road), referred; 10:35 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:51 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 11:07 p.m.: suspicious persons (Church Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

12:29-1:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:35 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), fem. yelling for help; 5:52 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:52 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 9:00 a.m.: officer wanted (Powers Street), mv theft; 9:57 a.m.: medical/general (Hebert Road); 11:33 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 11:49 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (Highland Street); 12:09 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 12:37 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 1:01 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 1:34 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: chickens/roosters; 2:16 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lewalson Lane), info taken; 2:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Laurel Lane), inquiry re: paving road; 3:10 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:10 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:58 p.m.: medical/ general (Cherry Street); 4:18 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), re: threats made; 5:05 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), poss. drunk driver; 5:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), dog bit dog; 6:12 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 6:53 p.m.: medical/ general (Ash Street); 7:54 p.m.: medical/general (Collier Circle); 9:12 p.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 9:38 p.m.: bullding checked, secure 10:37 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); (Total daily mv stops – 0). FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

12:07-12:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:39 a.m.: mv repossessed (Temple Street), info taken; 12:50-1:15 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:20 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), inquiry re: mv registration; 4:27 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 4:50 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), debris in road; 9:19 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: family issue; 9:21 a.m.: 911 call (Pauls Drive), open line; 9:38 a.m.: disturbance (Lake Street), combative daughter; 10:56 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 10:56 a.m.: animal complaint (R. Jones Road), loose dog; 12:10 p.m.: lost/ found (Grove Street), RI plate found; 1:04 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:33 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:27 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet lost; 3:04 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:41 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 4:38 p.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), m/f dispute; 4:53 p.m.: mv lockout (Water Street), assisted; 5:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), re: cat; 5:50 p.m.:

medical/general (Valley Street); 6:52 p.m.: medical/general (Prouty Street); 6:33 p.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), services rendered; 7:05 p.m.: disturbance (Dufault Road), family issues; 7:27 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 9:01 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:04 p.m.: medical/ general (McDonald Street); 11:30 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 12:27 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), Noah Robert Thompson, 21, 29 High Street, Spencer, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 3:53 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 7:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Buteau Road), gunshots heard; 9:10 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), accidental; 9:45 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:38 a.m.: medical/general (Depot Road); 10:48 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:52 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 11:48 a.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), hang-up; 12:21 p.m.: incident redacted from police log (Bixby Road); 12:24 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 1:09 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line: 1:12 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), injured turtle; 1:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), inquiry re: police assoc. fundraising; 1:20 p.m.: RV complaint (Chestnut Street), dirt bikes on rail trail; 1:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Kittredge Road), threats from son; 5:07 p.m.: officer wanted (South Street), landlord wants tenants evicted; 5:10 p.m.: 911 call (East Charlton Road), accidental; 5:36 p.m.: RV complaint (West Main Street), re: unregistered dirt bikes; 5:47 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), car broken into; 6:22 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bacon Hill Road), open line; 6:26 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 6:59 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:15 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 7:54 p.m.: medical/ general (Wm. Casey Road); 8:02 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 10:15 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 10:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 11:04 p.m.: medical/general (McDonald Street); (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 4:03 a.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 4:43 a.m.: building checked, secure; 9:37 a.m.: animal complaint (Clark Road), cat in tree; 9:37 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 10:42 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 11:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), missing dogs; 12:19 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:19 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 3:48 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 4:12 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:54 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 5:16 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), bobcat in area; 6:33 p.m.: fire p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo/welfare check; 7:11 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), loud m/f argument; 9:01 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv

stops - 0). MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

12:46-2:16 a.m.: buildings checked secure; 3:25 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unwanted party; 4:54 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 9:37 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:38 a.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 11:15 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 11:25 a.m.: restraining order service (Lake Avenue); 12:27 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 1:01 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lambs Grove), misdial; 1:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Whittemore Drive), req. welfare check; 1:51 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 2:15 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:02 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 4:17 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), gas drive off; 4:38 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:56 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street), lift assist; 5:24 p.m.: suspicious persons (Grove Street), investigated; 6:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: phone call rec'd; 6:44 p.m.: offi-

cer wanted (West Main Street), loose dogs spotted; 6:47 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 6:49 p.m.: parking complaint (High Street), my blocking hydrant; 6:57 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), stolen bicycle; 7:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Lloyd Dyer Drive), req. welfare check; 7:22 p.m.: medical/general (Dufault Road); 9:13 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Mechanic Street); 9:37 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), mv vs cat/cat ran away; 10:09 p.m.: juvenile matter (Valley Street), son OOC; 11:17 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), loud argument; 11:52 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; (Total daily mv stops -3).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

1:44-2:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:48 a.m.: medical/general (Heber Road); 8:21 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 8:33 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (Main Street), info taken; 8:51 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Willow Lane), no contact; 9:35 a.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 10:50 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Briarcliff Lane), missing cat; 11:43 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), left vm on cb; 1:26 p.m.: citizen complaint (East Charlton Road), heavy equip't working in road; 1:36 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet found; 1:37 p.m.: fraud (Cranberry Meadow Road), rep. scam; 1:55 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 2:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Cranberry Meadow Road), spoken to; 3:11 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), gas drive off: 4:31 p.m. medical/general (Wall Street); 4:46 p.m.: 911 call (Donnelly Road), spoken to; 5:57 p.m.: lost/found (Smithville Road), stroller, etc. found; 6:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Dufault Road), spoken to; 7:34 p.m.: parking violation (Clark Street), ticket issued; 7:59 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 8:08 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 8:44 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 9:18 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; (Total daily mv stops -3).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

1:56 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, marked lanes violation, report taken; 10:04 a.m.: investigation (Tobias Boland Way, Worcester), services rendered; 1:18 p.m.: summons service (Sunset Drive), served; 2:19 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 3:45 p.m.: ambulance (Park Avenue, Worcester), transported; 3:49 p.m.: stolen mv (Woodland Road), spoken to; 4:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:28 p.m.: suspicious activity (Mannville Street), spoken to; 4:39 p.m.: ambulance (Bottomly Avenue), transported; 5:24 p.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 6:05 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 6:31 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 7:38 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival; 8:14 p.m.: disabled mv (Bottomly Avenue), no action required; 8:20 p.m.: disabled mv (Waite Street), assisted; 8:34 p.m.: assist citizen (Brickyard Road), no service; 10:59 p.m.: ambulance (Brown Street), transported.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 2:56 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 8:05 a.m.: disturbance (Mannville Street), services rendered; 9:21 a.m.: threats (Paxton Street), report taken; 10:01 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), no action required; 3:38 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 4:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, mv towed; 5:58 p.m.: welfare check (Crestwood Road), transported to hospital; 8:46 p.m.: erratic operator

(Main Street), investigated; 10:20 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Woodland Road), services rendered; 11:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:50 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 11:56 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

12:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), dispersed group; 12:58 a.m.: my stop (Stafford Street). written warning; 1:06 a.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), investigated; 1:07 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), unlicensed operation, speeding, citation issued; 2:03 a.m.: open door/window (Main Street), investigated; 2:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, speeding, citation issued; 9:43 a.m.: disturbance (Tobin Road), peace restored; 12:30 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street, Spencer), assisted; 12:35 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), mv towed; 1:09 p.m.: suspicious person (River Street), gone on arrival; 5:08 p.m.: mv b&e (Main Street), spoken to; 5:26 p.m.: assist other PD (Baldwin Street), unfounded; 8:57 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), spoken to; 8:58 p.m.: suspicious activity (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 10:34 p.m.: ambulance (Ledyard Road, Paxton), transported; 11:34 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), verbal warning.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

2:14 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 2:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:02 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:39 p.m.: harassment (Tobin Road), spoken to; 11:40 p.m.: welfare check (Warren Avenue), services rendered.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

4:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:53 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 9:06 a.m.: investigation (Mulberry Street), services rendered; 9:30 a.m.: property found (Paxton Street), services rendered; 10:32 a.m.: assist citizen (Paxton Street), services rendered; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:08 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 2:22 p.m.: threats (Main Street), report taken; 7:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Pine Street), services rendered; 8:42 p.m.: suspicious activity (Memorial School Drive), services rendered: 11:42 p.m.: my stop (Main Street), Anthony Pusateri Walsh, 36, 128 Lincoln Street, #2B, Worcester, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, negligent operation, speeding, arrest.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

4:37 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:03 a.m.: investigation (Brickyard Road), 8:34 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 8:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/ suspended registration, unregistered my, criminal application issued; 9:37 a.m.: investigation (Brickyard Road), services rendered; 12:16 p.m.: summons service (Sunset Drive), unable to serve; 12:22 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), no action required; 3:53 p.m.: summons service (Sunset Drive), served; 4:05 p.m.: animal complaint (Hyland Avenue), advised civil action: 4:12 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted; 4:27 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Lake Avenue), report taken; 6:26 p.m.: investigation (Lake Sargent Drive), services rendered; 8:09 p.m.: investigation (Lake Sargent Drive), services rendered; 8:10 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:58 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 4:02 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:17 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), no action required; 11:32 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

###

EB BOOK

continued from page **A1**

town history. Additionally, the book features information gathered from town records, newspaper archives, Historical Commission interviews, written accounts from residents, and various other sources.

The book is not only a celebration of East Brookfield's past, but also a reminder of the impacts it had on local activities and industry.

"East Brookfield was a large economic and social center with hundreds of mill workers and thousands of tourists visiting in the summer months, which is so different from the makeup of our community today," Gablaski said.

Residents will enjoy the

many images included in the book, particularly those featuring past uses of familiar buildings and sites.

The book is on sale at ebay and Amazon for online shoppers. If you would like to purchase a copy in-person, the book is available at the town's Historical Museum, which is open on the second Saturday of each month from noon-2 p.m. in the Hodgkins Building.

The book will also be on sale at a book talk planned for December.

Looking ahead, residents can't wait to enjoy a year of celebration in 2022 that was pushed back two years by the pandemic. The town's centennial celebration was supposed to take place in 2020, and residents and officials are eager to finally get the party started.

"We are planning a year-

long series of events that focus on the history and resources of the town,"

Gablaski added. The yearlong celebration will feature multiple activities, including historical talks about trolleys that used to run through town; ice harvesting events; and discussions on the colonial and revolutionary time periods. Moreover, a History and Dessert event will be held in June at the Podunk Chapel, and a large dinner dance is planned for March.

Finally, a parade and family fun day are planned for September. All times and dates will be announced as 2022 gets closer.

To learn more about upcoming events, check out the 100th Anniversary Committee's Facebook page.

NEW TA

continued from page A1

Spencer has been on the hunt for a new administrator since Thomas Gregory left in the spring after three years on the job.

Looking ahead, Bridges will hit the ground running with several ongoing projects and proposals. From building reuse plans to continued infrastructure improvement, Spencer currently has many projects in motion, as well as the docket of solar development proposals that must be addressed when the moratorium ends in November.

Until Bridges takes over, Interim Town Administrator William Ross will continue to handle town affairs in November. Ross is also likely to assist Bridges with the transition process until his contract expires at the end of December, officials said.

Ross previously served Spencer in an interim TA capacity before Gregory was hired in 2018.

Look out for the New Leader's full feature on Mr. Bridges when he starts in December.







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AUBURN - 26 Bryn Mawr Ave! Electric Pond Waterfront! Western Exposure - Beautiful Sunsets! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch! Applianced Cabinet Packet Granite Kitchen w/Center Island! Dining/Living Room w/Open Floor Plan & Wood Cathedral Ceiling w/Skylights! Fireplaced Formal Living Room w/Hrdwds! 3 Season Porch! Huge Composite Deck with Tempered Glass Railings for an Unobstructed View! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/Fireplace & Water View! Listed by Another, SOLD by Lake Realty! \$540,000.00







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WEBSTER: Investors, 4 bedrooms, family room, workshop, town services, ideal for "flip" or 203K loan, 56 Ash St. ~ \$200's

OBITUARIES

Pauline "Penny" T. McKeon, 86



BROOKFIELD - We sadly say goodbye to Pauline "Penny" T. (Courteau) McKeon, 86, who passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Friday, October 22, 2021 at St.

Vincent Hospital after an illness. She was born in Worcester, the daughter of Wilfred and Rose (Jette) Courteau and had lived most of her life in East Brookfield.

Her loving husband of 58 years, William R. McKeon, passed away in 2013. She leaves her children, Thomas

McKeon and his wife, Wanda of Barre, Theresa Goguen of East Brookfield, Deborah Chartier and her husband, Raymond of West Brookfield, Patricia Adams and her husband, Darrell of Caribou, ME, Timothy McKeon and his wife, Dawn of East Brookfield and Kim Choquette and her husband, Brian of Bolton. She also leaves many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and her beloved cat, Lucy. She was predeceased by her grandson, Bradley Dillon, her sister, Phyllis Peters, and her son-in-law, Raymond

Penny was an avid gardener and enjoyed sitting outside on Sunday mornings with her family, playing

cards and Michigan Rummy. She wanted to thank everyone who helped her during her illness. She will be greatly missed.

Relatives and friends were invited to attend calling hours from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, October 25th in the Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main Street, Holden. Funeral services for Penny was held on Tuesday, October 26th with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. John the Baptist Church, Blaine Ave. East Brookfield. Burial will follow at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. To share a memory or offer an online condolence, please visit www.milesfuneralhome.com

Plans announced for Veterans Day Parade

SPENCER — The Spencer Veterans Day Parade will take place on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. The parade route will start at the American Legion and proceed down Main Street, turn left onto Elm Street, a let onto Chestnut, left onto Maple Street back to Main Street, and will end at the American Legion. We welcome all groups and organizations to attend this year's services.

For more information, please contact Jerry Perron, Senior Vice Commander, Gaudette-Kirk Post #138, at (774) 200-



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2:00 PM-SOUTHBRIDGE

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TERMS: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit

must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder. No CASH. No personal checks will be accepted. Cashier/certified checks should be made out to whomever is going to bid at the auction. The balance to be paid within thirty (30) days at the law offices of Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851,

Auctioneer makes no representation as to the accuracy

of the information contained herein.

Attorney for the Mortgagee.
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Must-have features in your bathroom remodel



Veteran homeowners recognize the value of remodeling their kitchens and bathrooms. Kitchens and baths tend to appear dated more quickly than other spaces, such as living rooms and bedrooms, which can always be revamped with some fresh paint and new furnish-

The home improvement pricing resource Home Guide indicates an average bathroom remodel costs anywhere from \$5,500 to \$15,000 depending on the size and scope of the renovation. However, a bath redo can increase a home's resale value and can return as much as 68 percent of homeowners' investments. As homeowners plan their bathroom renovations, it's a good time to consider improvements that will improve function and add design appeal for years to come.

• Floating vanity: Add an airy feeling to the room by creating space between the vanity and the floor. A floating vanity can be a counter with a vessel sink or even have cabinets, as long as the vanity doesn't extend to the floor.

· Freestanding traditional sink or tub: There's something elegant about a freestanding tub or pedestal sink. Such features can lend a classic vibe to a space. However, freestanding fixtures also come in modern or eclectic forms, so there are options for any design style.

· Frameless showers: Switch to a walk-in shower option, which improves aesthetics and makes it easier to "age in place" in a home. Pair that frameless shower with clear glass shower doors so sightline in the space remains unencumbered.

· Natural textures: Create a calm and serene sanctuary in the bathroom with light, natural hues and materials. Nature-inspired colors on tiles, walls and vanities can add to the spa vibe.

· Dual sinks and vanities: With a double vanity, two people can share the space and easily use the bathroom without getting in each other's way. One vanity with two sinks works, but homeowners can create even more personal space by dividing vanities and mirrors.

• Small textured tile on shower floors: Small textures are appealing and add safety. The added texture and grouting will keep feet from slipping on wet floors. Also, opt for mold-resistant grout to make cleanup even easier.

Special shower heads: Invest in

shower heads that can run the gamut from creating steam showers to rainfall effects. Some showers will have multiple shower jets to offer an invigorating

· Improve drainage: Increase the diameter of the drain pipe in the bathroom from the standard to a two-inch drain pipe. This will reduce the risk of clogs and overflow leaks.

• Install a window: Natural light and air flow can reduce the risk for mold and mildew growth, and windows add some aesthetic appeal to a space. Just be sure to choose frosted privacy glass.

Additional considerations for a bath remodel include heated floors, wellplaced and attractive storage options and a toilet enclo-

sure (water closet) for added privacy. These and other bathroom renovation ideas can add value and improve the appeal of the



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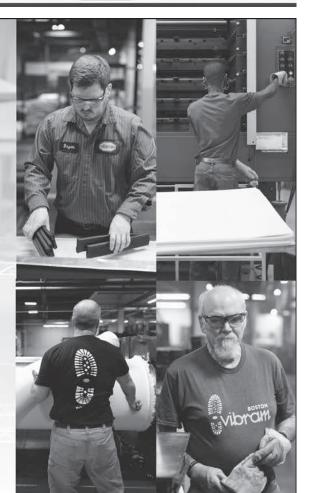
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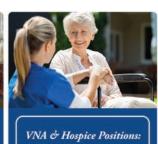
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Stonebridge

Solar project bylaw tops Special Town Meeting warrant

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – At the upcoming Fall Special Town Meeting, residents will have an opportunity to vote on proposed bylaw amendments involving

The Special Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m.

solar installations.

at Town Hall.



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With the town's large-scale solar moratorium set to expire next month, officials are hoping residents will approve the proposed amendments to ensure a more comprehensive bylaw. Earlier this fall, selectmen received the proposed bylaw revisions from the Planning Board.

Final Planning Board hearings took place in September, culminating with members' approval of the proposed

"This is the most potent bylaw revision that we can have," said Town Planner Todd Miller in a previous interview. "We are confident that it will make it through the Attorney General's office.'

The proposed changes to the bylaw, which were also approved by Town Counsel, must now receive a 2/3 majority vote at Town Meeting to take effect. The revisions would then need to be approved by the Attorney General's

At a Special Town Meeting in Nov. 2020, residents voted to impose a one-year moratorium on the use of land or structures for large-scale, ground-mounted solar installations. During the moratorium period, the Planning Board reviewed zoning bylaw language pertaining to large-scale solar projects. Assistance was provided by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).

"The town asked us to do some research and recommend possible solar bylaw changes," said CMRPC spokesman Andrew Loew in a previous interview. "A memo was sent their way in March outlining recommendations

on site setbacks, ownership changes, permit caps, and mitigation of visual impacts.'

Spencer has received at least 17 largescale solar proposals in recent years, with seven projects advancing through the permitting phases and becoming operational.

One of the major concerns for officials in Spencer and surrounding towns is the lithium batteries in solar units. Additionally, many solar projects require extensive clear-cutting of trees and ground vegetation.

Looking ahead, some officials are hopeful that the bylaw continues to be strengthened in future years.

These [current proposed bylaw] amendments] are a step in the right direction," said Selectman Ralph Hicks. "I believe the bylaw should be reviewed annually because solar is a moving tar-

Throughout the Route 9 corridor, area communities continue to tighten their restrictions on solar growth. At West Brookfield's 2018 Annual Town Meeting, voters overwhelmingly passed a bylaw that is restrictive to the number and type of solar installations that can operate in town. West Brookfield was also the first community in the nation to adopt a bylaw requiring solar companies to provide upfront funding for the decommissioning of a solar field. The funding must be provided before a company can become eligible to receive a building permit.

The life expectancy of solar battery containers is about 10 years. Because the lifespan of an average solar field is approximately 20 years, officials in area towns fear that solar companies could exit agreements early and leave towns with costly disassembly respon-

"My biggest concern is that when these things start to be decommissioned, the town might be forced to either pay the high costs itself or see them sit

there and rot," Selectman Hicks said. "If they're not repurposed when they come off-line, it could become a major problem." The currently

proposed bylaw amendments do not include requirements of upfront funding for the decommissioning of a solar field. The revisions also do not include a cap on the number of installations that can be approved in town, although language this could be added to future proposals.

For more information about the Fall Special Town Meeting warrant, visit www.spencerma.gov.





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