



# SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, January 7, 2022

## LHS student selected for Central District Band



Photo Courtesy

**Cole Delage will represent Leicester High School in the Senior Central District Band.**

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Cole Delage overcame several challenges, including COVID-19, in his journey to landing a spot on the Senior Central District Band.

The Leicester High School junior is the only student-musician at his school to make Senior Central Districts this year. He previously served in the band, but this year marks his first selection to the senior division.

“Every region in Massachusetts has its own districts, and this is a very challenging audition to participate in, especially virtually,” said LHS Music Director Alexis Phillips. “Cole will have the opportunity to perform with students all over the state in a virtual clinic, with a virtual concert link to come after.”

Delage worked hard this past fall to prepare for his audition, but he was set back by a bat-

tle with COVID-19.

“It all came crashing down when I got COVID. I was out for two weeks missing school, soccer, my job, and my three AP classes, so I was so miserable,” said Delage, who plays the clarinet. “It was so hard to catch up because I had no in-person instructions, and when I went back, I had no time for myself. It was a constant battle to catch up and it left me with no practice time. It took a while, but I was finally able to catch up and turn my attention back to the clarinet.”

Putting in two to three hours of practice daily for a month, Delage was able to work his way back into audition form. Still, he was stunned to receive news of his selection considering the long road back and countless lost hours while other local musicians were honing their skills.

“I just wanted to try my best and give it a good shot. That’s why I was so shocked to know I got in because I did not have high expectations,” Delage said of the virtual audition. “I was doing it more for the experience, but it felt great to know I was actually decent at something and the work I put in was worth it. My parents were always there to help me along the way, as well as my music teacher, Samantha, and I am very grateful for them.”

Despite his hard work and the guidance of his educators, Delage never imagined he would have been selected for the band, especially after a challenging virtual audition.

“After I sent my audition in, I told Ms. Phillips that it was my worst audition ever,” Delage told the New Leader. “My jaw dropped when I found out I actually made it. I had to reread the acceptance email about three times to make sure it wasn’t sent to the wrong person. Overall, it felt so amazing to know my hours of practice and hard work had paid off.”

This year’s Central Districts will feature a vastly different format than the event Delage experienced following his selection to the band in the eighth grade. The performance will be held virtually because of COVID-19 concerns, and a practice session will occur on Jan. 15.

“We will each record our parts and send them in so they can be edited together in a way to mimic the performance,” Delage said. “It is a shame that it is not in person, but I am grateful that there is some type of perfor-

Please Read **COLE**, page **A9**

## Threats against Knox Trail prompt police investigation

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Police continue to investigate after Knox Trail Middle School joined a lengthy list of schools across the country to receive threats from students last month.

On Dec. 16, the Spencer Police Department was alerted to threats allegedly made by two KTMS students shortly after dismissal. The threats came amid a rash of nationwide postings on social media warning of violence in schools, some of them prompting closures.

The first student investigated by Spencer police, a 13-year-old boy from Spencer, allegedly made threats to “shoot up the school” to other students, both verbally and through social media. Police questioned the boy’s family, and the juvenile suspect was placed in custody for a mental health evaluation. A replica handgun was confiscated from a third party outside the home, police said.

The second suspect, a 12-year-old boy from Spencer, had allegedly shown another student a handgun that he stored in his backpack while at school, police said. Investigators questioned the boy’s family, and a pellet pistol was confiscated from the family.

The investigations in both cases are ongoing. No information on potential charges was available by press time, but police expressed confidence that neither student has the means to carry out a school shooting.

Meanwhile, police and school

officials continue to warn students about the dangers of posting threatening messages on social media. Because such threats have often preceded shooting attacks and other acts of violence in schools nationwide, police must fully investigate each incident to determine the threat level. Charges against offending students are frequently pursued, even if the message is only meant to be a hoax.

Police also regularly sift through waves of false information connected to social media. Much of this misinformation is added directly to police social media pages by residents following the posting of an incident or a community awareness bulletin.

“One of the most significant issues for law enforcement is the spreading of false information,” said Spencer Police Chief David Darrin. “While it is difficult to stop the spread, you can avoid becoming a part of it. Take a moment to check the facts before you re-post or re-tweet.”

Police are also urging parents to play a more active role in monitoring their students’ activities on social media. This starts by setting a strong example with their own behavior online, officials said.

“Social media does have its perks, especially during the pandemic. But as younger children start logging on, parents need to stay vigilant more than ever,” Chief Darrin said.

During the height of last

Please Read **KNOX TRAIL**, page **A9**

## Leicester selectmen question school officials

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – School leaders continue to face a barrage of questions over several controversial decisions made during the last year.

Since the spring of 2021, the school leadership team has been a source of frequent ques-

tions, grievances, and allegations. These include multiple Open Meeting Law complaints against the School Committee; two claims of wrongful termination made by former school district employees; questions surrounding the costly March 31 oil spill at the elementary school; and concerns over

transparency, communications, and recordkeeping from school officials.

In a November letter, the Select Board questioned school officials on several of these items after receiving complaints and inquiries from community members.

“We were getting questions

from residents who said they weren’t getting answers, and some of the [Select] Board members had questions of their own,” said Select Board Chairman Rick Antanavica.

Among several other questions, the selectmen’s letter asked school officials to explain the reasoning and pro-

cess behind the decision to hire an assistant superintendent. Selectmen also had questions about the timing of Assistant Superintendent Richard Lind’s hiring, as a letter of hire was sent to Lind prior to the School Committee voting on his employment.

Please Read **BOS**, page **A14**

## Brookfield Rotary celebrates season of giving

BROOKFIELD — In December, just in time for the Holidays, Brookfields Rotary Co-President Lynn Duffy O’Shea presented holiday donation checks to the local Food Pantries in North Brookfield and Spencer.

Cecelia Daniels accepted a check on behalf of the North Brookfield First Congregational Church Pantry. Kathy Sullivan received a check for the Mary, Queen of the Rosary Pantry in Spencer.

Rotary’s Annual Winter Coat Drive In November, several members of the Brookfields Rotary Club conducted in their annual collection of winter coats at the Clam Box Restaurant in Brookfield. Co-President Sujoy Spencer coordinated an effort in which the club teamed with our recycling partner Planet Aid, and the event sponsor Clam Box restaurant, to collect more than 125 coats. One hundred of these coats were donated by Planet Aid in the Clubs name,

while the members collected another 25 coats and jackets donated during the event.

The coats and jackets will be distributed through ‘The Friendly House’ in Worcester. During the event, on-air personalities from Worcester radio station 98.9, WORC, provided music and picture taking, and the Clam Box contributed a free fish and chips dinner to anyone who donated a usable coat or jacket.

Tantasqua High School Students and Brookfields Rotary team up to recycle footwear

In October, Brookfields Rotary member Jake Rosen, with help from his high school classmates at Tantasqua Regional High School, collected new and used sneakers over a two week period during the school’s Homecoming Celebration. The collection is part of an ongoing environmental project of the Brookfields Rotary Club.



Photo Courtesy

**Brookfields Rotarians collect Winter Coats in Brookfield.**

New and used sneakers, shoes, boots and slippers in good repair are refurbished and distributed to needy individuals. Items that cannot be refurbished are recycled and used to resurface running tracks at schools

and playgrounds, thus keeping them out of landfills where they can take up to 43 years to decompose.

The Club partners with the

Please Read **ROTARY**, page **A8**



# Taking stock of 2021

Another New Year is upon us. It's amazing how the years keep slipping by, each year seemingly moving faster than the year before. As I take stock of 2021, I encourage you to do the same.

New Year is a mixed bag of emotions for me. As I reflect on 2021, I think of many things. I think of the people who helped me, I think of the people who harmed me, I think of the goals I gave up, and the goals I didn't give up.

As we move into 2022, I have to wonder, have I headed in the right direction? If not, how can I change course? Do I positively impact others? Am I surrounded by people who positively influence me? How am I performing at work? Am I giving it my all? Am I aggressively pursuing my dreams? Am I helping others accomplish their dreams?

I am thankful for those who helped me in 2021. Many positive things occurred this year that couldn't have happened without the help from friends, fami-



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

TOBY  
MOORE

ly, and strangers. Thank you all; you make me feel gratitude that should last a lifetime. I need to make sure I let you know how much I appreciate you and help you in any way I can in 2022 and beyond.

This year, I want to focus on helping those who helped me and those who haven't helped me. I want to become a blessing in as many people's lives as I possibly can. It reminds me of a quote by Zig Ziglar, "You can have everything in life you want, if you will just help other people get what they want."

As I think of those who harmed me in 2021...

I want to say thanks to you as well. Thank you for making me more robust, aware, flexible, and diplomatic. I'm tempted to feel anger and revenge, holding onto this poison forever. As I've written in the past, it doesn't do any good to feel that way. It will only cause more harm. Please forgive my trespass-

es and anything I've done to impact you negatively. Let's move into a place of mutual respect this year. "Don't go into the new year holding a grudge from last year, we cannot move forward if we are stuck in the past." That's excellent advice by Pastor Joel.

I should feel satisfied with the goals I did accomplish in 2021. When I achieve a goal, the good feelings are quickly replaced by acknowledging that I'm still not where I want to be, and the sense of accomplishment quickly fades. This year I will take the time to feel good about my successes, whether they be little or big. I don't know who said it but I think it's true, "Success is a series of small victories."

The hardest thing to think and write about are the failures of 2021. Many things I wish I had done differently, goals I didn't take seriously enough, times I snapped at loved ones while under pressure, the food I ate that made me feel unhealthy, the negative thoughts I harbored for too long, the days when I was lazy and let procrastination take

hold. There are more failures in 2021 than I can count. I wish I could go back and fix my mistakes but it's just a fantasy, the only thing that can be done is to focus on change. Changing my personality, my habits, my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I guess Winston Churchill said it best, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Every day the sun rises again reminding us we can start over. Every year gives us another chance. If, at first, you don't succeed, try again. If you're still alive, you're still a contender.

Let's be resolved to become better people, do the things we ought to do and let the pieces fall where they may. Hold firmly to our dreams, yet be relaxed about how they occur. In 2022 let's be determined, happy, flexible, free from worry, free from doubt, free of anger and hatred. Let's choose to feel optimistic and seize the New Year!

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# Town Of East Brookfield

## *100th Anniversary*

### *1920 - 2020*

## Calendar of Events 2022

### **JANUARY 22 • 6:00 PM**

1920's Night at the Brewery - themed music and drinks  
Timberyard Brewery  
FREE ADMISSION

### **FEBRUARY 5 •**

"The Lake in Winter"  
2:30 PM Ice Harvesting Presentation  
Ken Ethier at Town Hall  
3:30 Ice Skating, bonfire & music  
Lake Lashaway Town Beach  
Free refreshments!

### **FEBRUARY TBD • 6 AM - 2 PM**

Fishing Derby - Details to come!

### **MARCH 12 • 5:00 PM**

Roarin' Twenties Dinner Dance  
Spencer Country Inn - \$35  
Tickets on sale online at  
<https://tinyurl.com/EB100thGala>

### **MARCH 24 • 6:30 PM**

Re-enactment of signing of town bill and unveiling of  
Anniversary Quilt  
Baptist Church • FREE

### **APRIL 9 • 11:00 AM**

Hodgkins Bell Dedication Ceremony  
EB Elementary • FREE

### **APRIL 16 • 9:30 AM**

Historical Talk - Ed Londergan - The First and Second  
Settlements at Brookfield  
Town Hall • FREE

### **APRIL 23 • 9:00 AM**

Town Wide Clean-Up Day  
Meet at Town Hall • Lunch provided

### **APRIL 30 • 2:00 PM**

East Brookfield Nature Walks at Pelletier Woods  
Howe Street • FREE

### **MAY 14 • 10:00 AM**

7K Run and Fun Walk Timberyard Brewery  
\$30.00 adults / \$15.00 kids  
Tickets online - details TBD

### **MAY 28 • 9:30 AM**

Historical Talk - Ed Londergan -  
Murder in the Brookfields  
Town Hall • FREE

### **JUNE 4 • 2:00 & 3:30 PM SEATINGS**

History and Dessert at Podunk Chapel \$5.00 pp

### **JUNE 10 • 7:00 PM**

Coast Guard Band  
EB Elementary • FREE (ticket required to enter)

### **JUNE 18 • 11:00 AM-3:00 PM**

Open House at Camp Frank A. Day  
(archery, boating, basketball, mini golf, lunch)  
125 South Pond Road • FREE

### **JULY 9**

Events for Independence Day proceed as usual  
Down Town Area • FREE

### **JULY 11**

Summer Reading Kick Off - EB Library -  
continues for five weeks

### **JULY 23 • 9:30 AM**

Historical Talk - Heather Gablaski - East  
Brookfield: 100 Years a Town  
Town Hall • FREE

### **JULY/AUGUST**

Summer Concert Series continue as usual -  
every Thursday 6:00-8:00  
Connie Mack Field • FREE -  
Food and Drinks for sale

### **JULY/AUGUST TBD**

Adaptive Water Skiing on the Lake  
Lashaway Lake Association  
Details to follow

### **AUGUST 13 • 2:00 PM**

Luau at the Town Beach  
Town Beach • FREE

### **SEPTEMBER 17 • 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM**

Parade and Family Fun Event!  
Route 9 / Connie Mack Field • FREE

### **OCTOBER 29: 3:30 PM**

Town and Cemetery Tour,  
dinner at Podunk Chapel / \$15.00 pp

### **NOVEMBER 5 • 9:30 AM**

Historical Talk - Guy Morin- Central Massachusetts  
during the Revolution  
Town Hall • FREE

### **DECEMBER 10 • 9:30 AM**

Historical Talk - Ken and Tina Ethier - "Trolley Talk"  
Town Hall • FREE

### **DECEMBER**

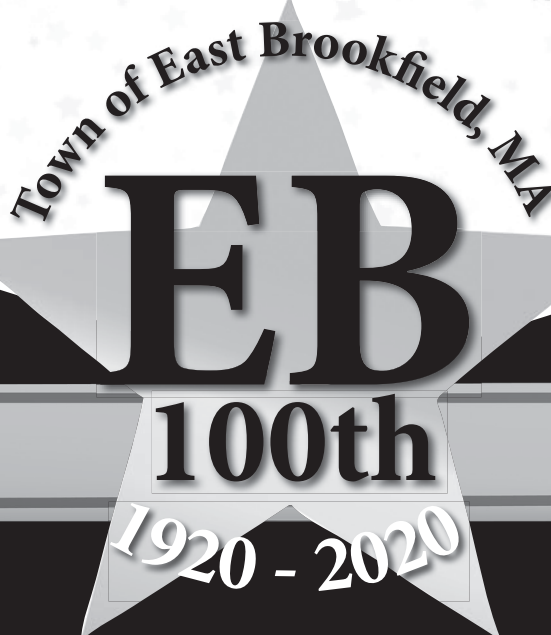
Light the Town Event: Decorating Contest,  
Town tree lighting • FREE

For events requiring tickets: email [EB100th@gmail.com](mailto:EB100th@gmail.com) or purchase at EB Public Library  
East Brookfield Historical Museum and Quaboag Valley Railroaders' Display are open  
the second Saturday of each month from 12:00-2:00 in the Hodgkins Building.

**Clip  
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**Save this calendar listing  
to keep track of upcoming  
Anniversary events!**



For more details about events, follow us on Facebook @EB100th or visit our website at [tinyurl.com/EB100th](https://tinyurl.com/EB100th)



# The Centered Place collecting food and donations to feed the hungry

WARREN — Every month, The Centered Place yoga studio organizes a fundraiser for a charity. For the holidays this past two months, The Centered Place has been collecting food for the Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry of West Brookfield as well as raising money for the national hunger-fighting organization, Feeding America.

The Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry is operated by volunteers at the First Congregational Church (UCC) of West Brookfield. It serves West Brookfield, Warren and West Warren. Students and staff at The Centered Place have contributed over 150 pounds of food to the pantry thus far. The Centered Place welcomes food contributions from the community. The top priority includes non-perishable food such as canned or

packaged items plus other goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies and hand cleaners. You can bring them to The Centered Place at 286 Bridge Street in Warren or bring them directly to the pantry behind the First Congregational Church on Wednesdays 11 am to 12:30 pm and Thursdays 7 to 8 pm.

Feeding America is the leading organization in the fight against hunger in the United States. It has the largest network of food banks, pantries and meal programs in the country. Thus far, The Centered Place has raised more than \$700 for Feeding America. Contributions can be made to The Centered Place's Facebook Fundraiser at [www.facebook.com/TheCenteredPlace](http://www.facebook.com/TheCenteredPlace) (<https://www.facebook.com/donate/588672052214915/>).

Over the last few years, The Centered Place has raised thousands of dollars for a host of charitable organizations. Locally, these have included the Quaboag Regional High School scholarship program, Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally Inc (SONG), Warren Public Library, Merriam-Gilbert Public Library of West Brookfield, Warren Community Elementary School Parent Teacher Fund, Quaboag Valley Community Development Fund, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Project Bread, Opacum Land Trust, East Quabbin Land Trust, Second Chance, Massachusetts Audubon, Angels Answers, Agric Organics Urban Farm, and Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture Inc (Buy Local).

National and global organizations that have been supported include Operation Gratitude (support for military veterans, wounded warriors and first responders), Doctors Without Borders, NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Ronald McDonald House, Mercy Corps, Red Cross, Food & Water Watch, When We All Vote, Public Citizen, Take Back the Night, and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

This coming January, The Centered Place plans to raise money for tornado disaster relief in Kentucky.

For more information, call The Centered Place at 413 436-7374 or email [info@thecenteredplace.com](mailto:info@thecenteredplace.com).



Jacob Morrow

## Leicester native graduates from Sheriff's Academy

WEST BOYLSTON — Sheriff Evangelidis is proud to announce the graduation of 12 corrections officers from the 56th Basic Recruit Training Academy (BRTA) on Dec. 3 at Anna Maria College.

Among the 12 graduates, Officer Jacob Morrow hails from the town of Leicester and was elected by his peers to serve as Squad Leader.

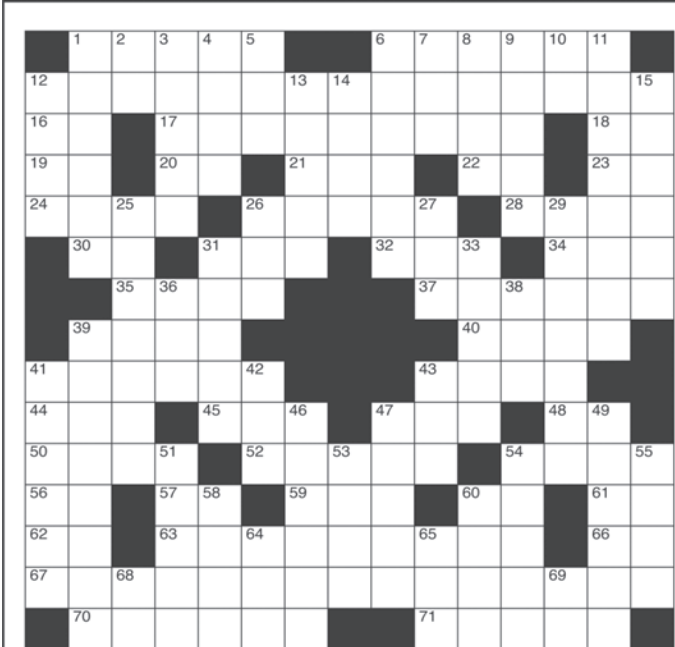
The BRTA #56 represents 10 towns, two military branches, earned the class nickname "Custodes Pacis," or Keepers or Peace.

"Our new officers have just completed 12 weeks of rigorous training, and are now among the best and brightest in corrections today," stated Worcester County Sheriff, Lew Evangelidis. "Each has demonstrated great strength and resolve, as they persevered through the pandemic, and will now continue our mission to serve, protect, and create a better, more safe community for all."

Throughout the academy, BRTA #56 are taught to handle the challenges of the care, custody, and control in an inmate population. Training included topics

such as de-escalation, duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, first responder training, suicide prevention, mental health, and substance abuse.

Since taking office in 2011, Sheriff Evangelidis has implemented the highest hiring standards in corrections today. All Worcester County correctional officers must have an associate's degree or at least two years of military service. Other application requirements include: a written exam, physical fitness test, background check, and psychological screening test.

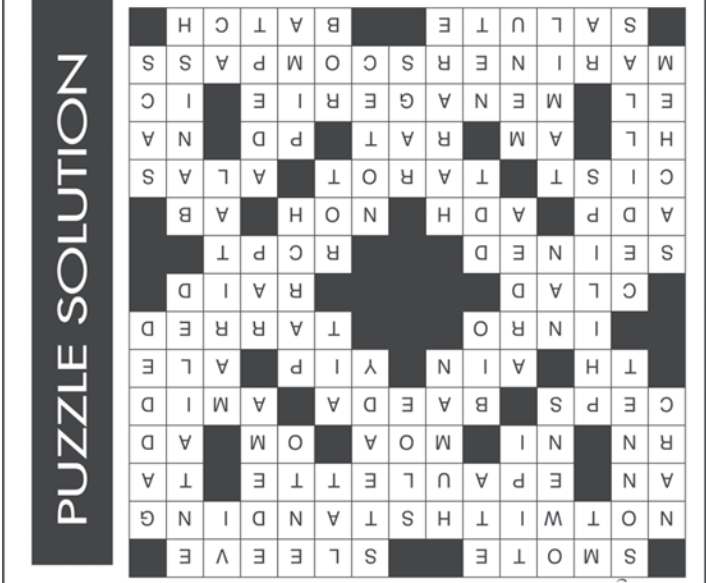


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Struck firmly
- 6. Shirt part
- 12. Nevertheless
- 16. Article
- 17. Adornment
- 18. Educator's helper
- 19. Healthcare pro
- 20. Atomic number 28
- 21. Extinct flightless bird
- 22. Mystic syllable
- 23. College sports decision maker (abbr.)
- 24. Edible mushrooms
- 26. Venerable English monk
- 28. Surrounded by
- 30. Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards
- 31. Eastern France river
- 32. Short cry or yelp
- 34. Brew
- 35. Ornamental box
- 37. In a way, surfaced
- 39. Attired
- 40. Peculation
- 41. Netted
- 43. It shows you paid (abbr.)
- 44. Payroll firm
- 45. Antidiuretic hormone
- 47. Japanese classical theater
- 48. The first two
- 50. Ancient burial chamber
- 52. Type of card
- 54. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 56. Hectoliter
- 57. Morning
- 59. NYC subway dweller
- 60. Law enforcement
- 61. Sodium
- 62. Elevated subway
- 63. Facility where wild animals are kept
- 66. Integrated circuit
- 67. Seaman's tool
- 70. Drink to
- 71. Small group

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Poem
- 2. Everest is one (abbr.)
- 3. Olympic legend Jesse
- 4. Portable tent
- 5. When you hope to get there
- 6. Unwavering
- 7. Back muscle
- 8. Within
- 9. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 10. Six
- 11. Involved as a necessary part
- 12. 2002 Liotta, Patric film
- 13. Living thing
- 14. Type of gin
- 15. Moved around in pursuit of fun
- 25. Makes light bulbs
- 26. Story of one's life
- 27. Small island in a river
- 29. A type of bliss
- 31. Genus of large herons
- 33. A way to make dry
- 36. One's grandmother
- 38. Vocal style
- 39. Pronunciation mark
- 41. American Indian chief or leader
- 42. Insecticide
- 43. Go bad
- 46. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 47. Polish river
- 49. Cast out
- 51. People of India and Sri Lanka
- 53. Cleaning fabrics
- 54. Very skilled
- 55. Pouches
- 58. Restaurant must-have
- 60. Native Americans from Arizona
- 64. Remaining after all deductions
- 65. Fleece
- 68. Dorm official
- 69. It cools your home



### REAL ESTATE

#### BROOKFIELD

\$400,000, 47 Lake Rd, Mcnally, James V, to Greenstein, Eric.  
\$230,000, 5 Pratt Hill Rd, Martell, David G, to John, Paulette, and John, Michael P.  
\$227,000, 26 Central St, Button, Patrick, to Griffin, Daniel E, and Griffin, Jodi Ann.  
\$190,000, 166 Rice Corner Rd, Kozikowski, Thomas P, and Kozikowski, Ronald H, to Hubacz, Jodi Ann.  
\$97,000, 3 Lawrence Cross Rd, Knox Charles Jeffrey Est, and Knox, Gregory M, to Chaffee, Richard.  
**LEICESTER**  
\$570,000, 56 Parker St, Usher, Joseph A, to Broullon, William, and Leblanc, Julia E.  
\$430,000, 1 Autumn Ln, Matawin Vent T, and Kondaur Capital LLC Tr, to Diaz, Vasthy, and Diaz, Hector.  
\$395,000, 223 Pleasant St, Morrissey, Corrie A, to Amiar, Salah E, and Siga-Amiar, Asmaa.  
\$380,000, 64 Virginia Dr #64, Cooke FT, and Cook, Eleanor, to Hawkins, James, and Perkins-Hawkins, Lisa.

\$323,500, 8 Sunset Dr, Rollins, Elizabeth A, to Samolinski, Brooklyn.  
\$299,900, 25 Bottomley Ave, Huynh, Nhan T, to Petit, Jillian M, and McGinty, Shannon R.  
\$520,000, 455 Main St, Lysius, Nicole, to Thames, Benjy, and Goncalves-Delima, Lucas.  
\$294,780, 41 Woodland Rd, Rondeau, Margaret R, to Rock, Laura A.  
\$240,000, 704 Main St, Rapid Transit LLC, to 704 Main Street RT, and Farnham, Mark S.  
\$40,000, 86 Willow Hill Rd, Grafton Office T, and Hill, Norman G, to Akuamoah, Frank O.  
**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
\$440,500, 12 Kittredge Rd, Lopez, Hector L, and Viet-Lopez, Hong, to Peckham, Renee E, and Mcvaugh, Mark L.  
\$365,000, 32 Mill Rd, Soulor, Sandra, and Thibeault, Alfred J, to Lareau, Kyle.  
\$192,500, 38 Bates St, Waugh, Glenn H, and Waugh, Thomas F, to Ruiz, Tomas M.  
\$127,000, 45 Grove St, Russell-Brown, Suzette A, and Bourn, Robert V, to Ebenezer Const& Cleaning.  
\$590,000, 144 Oakham Rd, Larkin& Beaver RET, and Larkin, Edward, to Williams, Matthew F, and Williams, Meghan A.  
\$292,000, 10 Evergreen St, Baldiga Paul Est, and Brown, Jane E, to Mcpartland, Michael.  
\$290,000, 75 Summer St, Robinson, Scott A, and Mccarthy, Keri, to Barriera, Casey M, and Bousquet, Kristy E.  
\$46,600, 43 Mad Brook Rd, Rodney L Foisy 2020 RET, and Jamack, Judith L, to Wheeler, Richard H, and Wheeler, Linda C.  
**SPENCER**  
\$575,000, 50 Wilson Ave, Bonnie BE RT, and Berthiaume, Bonnie B, to Giffen, Brian M, and Giffen, Lisa M.  
\$575,000, 52 Wilson Ave, Bonnie BE RT, and Berthiaume, Bonnie B, to Giffen, Brian M, and Giffen, Lisa M.  
\$460,000, 207 Paxton Rd, Butts, Paul D, and Butts, Maureen E, to Premo, Lee E.  
\$345,000, 58 Lincoln St, Scanlon, Candy P, and Scanlon, Mark, to Wills, Jenna L, and Hokanson, Paul R.  
\$340,000, 24 Main St, Guertin RT, and Mccarthy, Lisa A, to Blodgett, Lynn A, and Sullivan, Jeanne.  
\$300,000, 23 High St, Jones, Zachary T, to Sunday-Ajogoke, Oluwafemi.  
\$269,900, 26 Church St, Plante, Joshua A, to Fitzgerald, Nathan K.  
\$210,000, 10 Grove St, Feldman, Jeremy T, to Seventure Inc.  
\$160,000, 23 Pine Acres Rd, Lukes, Konstantina B, to Paz, Victor I, and Sirvas-Paz, Patricia.  
\$140,000, 5 Maple St, Flannery, Tara M, to Deloss Renewal LLC.  
\$135,000, 32 S Spencer Rd, Guerin, Paul A, and Guerin, Lucinda A, to Belov Inc.  
\$425,000, 199 Paxton Rd, Fawe, Jeremy M, and Fawe, Tara L, to Londono, Omar, and Londono, Rebecca.  
\$389,800, 71 Brooks Pond Rd, Brown, Suzanne C, to Mondor, Joseph, and Mondor, Joyce.  
\$320,000, 176 Charlton Rd, Almstrom, Bryan W, and Almstrom, Lori N, to Bleau, Samantha E, and Bleau, Paul J.  
**WARREN**  
\$335,000, 122 East Rd, Lareau, Kyle, and Burnett, Koryssa, to Richer, Travis, and Richer, Ellen O.  
\$585,000, 804 Main St, Shorten, Brian P, to Veronex LLC.  
\$585,000, 818 Main St, Shorten, Brian P, to Veronex LLC.  
\$285,000, 661 Main St, Lone Oak Enterprises LLC, to Fowler, Jack A.  
**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
\$435,000, 105 Shea Rd, Letourneau, Jonathan R, and Letourneau, Kristin M, to Johnson, Daniel R, and Johnson, Danielle M.  
\$349,900, 33 Juniper St, Hopkins, Joseph, and Hopkins, Donna, to Wilson, Jamie N, and Adams, Kenneth R.  
\$335,000, 6 Hadley Path, Reyes, Ruben, and Reyes, Xiomara, to Rossetti, Anthony M, and Rossetti, Deana M.  
\$450,000, 41 Lakeview Dr, Braconnier, Craig G, and Braconnier, Christine, to Evans, Robert, and Evans, Rachel.  
\$392,000, 94 Shea Rd, Foss, Edward M, and Foss, Joan M, to Rodriguez, Kristian, and Ramos-Rodriguez, D L.  
\$330,000, 267 Long Hill Rd, Kelley-Dominick, Debra J, to Asbridge, Nicole.  
\$11,000, New Braintree Rd #B5A, Dupuis, Robin, and Takorian, Clay A, to Carroll Property Mgmt LLC.

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**SPENCER NEW LEADER**  
PUBLISHED BY  
**STONEBRIDGE PRESS**  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
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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 New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



# Spencer's Lindsay Guertin completes Master of Science in Nursing Education degree



CHARLTON — Western Governors University has announced the completion of Master of Science in Nursing Education degree by Lindsay Guertin of Spencer. At a presentation at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Lindsay was joined by her husband Jayson Guertin, BHS, ASN, RN. A Professor of Nursing at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Lindsay has been with the Academy since 2018.

An alumna of Becker College, Guertin received her Associate Degree of Nursing in 2006 before continuing her education to receive her BSN at Sacred Heart University. Her related coursework includes class vice-president, 1060 clinical hours (Becker College) and clinical work as a parish nurse and as a unit

manager (Sacred Heart University).

Within her field, she connects with students in class, clinical and lab settings. Within the Academy she has been part of several teams including the Advisory Committee, Admission, and Graduation Committee. She is also a mentor to newer faculty and an advisor to a select group of PN students. She is passionate about Alzheimer's and dementia care.

"As I connect with PN students, it is my hope that their desire to learn and grow never burns out," Guertin said. "In the same way, I want to continue to learn and grow to help students for a successful future."

Guertin stated how honored and grateful she was to be celebrated by the PN Class of 2022.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 [www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn) The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 [www.council.org](http://www.council.org) Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201 Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 [www.neasc.org](http://www.neasc.org)

## EAST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

EAST BROOKFIELD — East Brookfield Elementary School has released its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2021-2022 school year.

Grade 4 — Mr. Daponte  
Honors: Sophia Starr; Ryder Bayer; Kenzie Berard; Addison Bibinski; Sophia Mozeak;

Victoria Mulrain, Brooklynn O'Brien, Wes Obrzut, Shelby Parsons, Aleena Patchen, Casey Richard

Grade 5 — Mrs. St. George  
High Honors: Lucas Mateucci, Jackson Roode  
Honors: Macie Cournoyer, Jonathan Denher; Liam

Jenkinson, Tyler Josti, Madelyn McDonald, Anna Messier, Avianna Roberts, Kinley Sauvageau, Gianna Vega

Grade 6 — Mrs. Lavin  
Honors: Cameron Lemanski, Hunter Morin, Angelina Pereira, Mason Russo, Parker Starr; Roman Whitcomb

# Man arrested for carrying unlicensed weapons

WEST BROOKFIELD — A driver was found in possession of a unique combination of weapons that led to his arrest last month.

Shortly before 12:30 a.m. on Dec. 18, State Police Trooper Willie Burnett—a recent graduate of the 86th Recruit Training Troop— was patrolling West Main Street with his field training officer, Trooper Michael Lyons. Burnett observed a blue Mazda SUV with a license plate cover that made the vehicle's tags unreadable.

After stopping the vehicle, the troopers made contact with the driver and identified him through a Florida driver's license as Drake Decker, 32, of West Brookfield.

During the stop, Trooper Lyons observed the grip of a firearm which was unsecured on the rear floor of the vehicle. The troopers questioned Decker and learned that he did not have a license to carry a firearm and was also in possession of an electronic control weapon.

After removing the suspect from the vehicle, the troopers located the electronic control weapon on Decker's person. The officers then conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle, which revealed the grip in the rear section as belonging to an 1841 firearm, police

said.

Decker was arrested on the following charges: unlawful possession of a firearm; carrying a dangerous weapon; carrying a loaded firearm; improper storage of a firearm; possession of ammunition without an FID card; possession of an electronic control weapon; and carrying an electronic control weapon.

Decker was arraigned at East Brookfield District Court.

## PERSON of the WEEK

**Donna Flannery of Spencer, MA  
Director, Toys for Kids Program**

Donna, along with her volunteers, once again ran a successful Toys for Kids Program, supplying toys to over 160 less fortunate children through age 13.

Thank you, Donna, for all that you do to keep the spirits up at Christmas for the less fortunate of Spencer.

If you would like to nominate someone or a group of people for 2022, please email your suggestion to June at [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news). Thank you.

Person of the Week is sponsored by:

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# MSBA board votes David Prouty High School into schematic design

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) recently announced that its board of directors voted to move David Prouty High School into the schematic design phase.

This is an important step for the advancement of the DPHS building project. In the schematic design phase, MSBA officials and Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District leaders will review possible addition and renovation options for the school.

"Thanks to our collaborative work with local officials, we are working to build a 21st century educational facility that will provide Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District students with a top-notch learning environment," said State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, who chairs the MSBA.

The district's preferred

pathway is to proceed with an addition and renovation project at the existing DPHS. In addition to serving students in grades 9-12, the new look building would also incorporate district-wide pre-kindergarten.

District leaders, parents, and students are eagerly anticipating the project. Built in the 1960s, the aging DPHS suffers from numerous problems, including issues with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; roof and accessibility issues; and outdated classrooms and equipment.

"The addition/renovation project at David Prouty High School will mean a better learning and teaching location for students and teachers," said MSBA Executive Director John McCarthy.

The next step in the process will involve MSBA officials working with the district to produce detailed designs for a potential project.

A community forum was held last month to keep residents and officials in Spencer and East Brookfield updated on the process. Additional public meetings will take place throughout the winter, school officials said.

"It means a great deal to have MSBA vote to enter us into the next phase of the project, which is the schematic design," said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee Chairman Jason Monette. "This is a very important phase and I urge community members to view in or attend the meetings. This phase is critical to help us determine what the next David Prouty will look like."

The MSBA partners with Massachusetts communities to support the design, construction, and renovation of school facilities statewide. Since its 2004 inception, the MSBA has made more than \$15.4 billion in reimbursements for school construction projects.

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## Friday's Child



**Damien**  
Age: 15

**My name is Damien and I like to play basketball and flag football!**

Damien is a smart and outgoing teenager of Portuguese descent. He likes making others laugh and has a great sense of humor. Damien does well with other peers and adults. He enjoys playing basketball and flag football. Damien also likes LEGOs, video games and magic cards. He does well in school with extra support. Damien's dream is to become a lawyer.

Legally freed for adoption, Damien would do best in a family of any constellation. He would prefer a two-parent household. He would do well as the youngest or only child in the home. He would like a family that would help maintain his connection to his birth mother and paternal aunt. Damien would benefit from caregivers that are patient and supportive.

### Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

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](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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# UpCycle! ROAR program successfully completed



NORTH BROOKFIELD—UpCycle! an eight-week ROAR (Rural Opportunity through Art and Restoration) program that encouraged grownups to use their creativity to convert something old into something new, has come to a very satisfactory end.

Part of a series of community building offerings designed to bring people



together for a common artistic or cultural purpose, the classes were led by local master craftsman, carpenter, and creator Rick Lauder. Lauder assisted participants in turning old pallets into works of art that double as gardens. Once their pallets were shored up, they painted or stained them, printed words or images on them, and added pots that could be filled with plants or other deco-



orative items. Each person's project was unique to them.

The conversation among participants as they worked showed a real feeling of connection and comradery. This quote from program organizer Bonnie Milner summarizes the feelings of everyone connected to the UpCycle! program: "The class has been a lot of fun and once again underscores the importance



of uncovering the creativity we all have and the gifts that come from finding it!"

The Friends of the Town House want to thank Lauder for volunteering his time, and the following businesses for their participation in this ROAR program: Green Gold, Howe Lumber Company, FlexCon, Fay Mountain Farm, and Kettlebrook Farms.

## Hearts for Heat offers fuel assistance to area residents

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – For residents in need of assistance to keep their homes warm this winter, a local organization is once again stepping up to provide relief.

Hearts for Heat, Inc., has provided fuel assistance to central Massachusetts residents for 14 years. The organization has chapters in Leicester, North Brookfield, and Spencer, among other area communities.

Each chapter is run by members dedicated to helping residents in that community. The Leicester Hearts for Heat chapter can help with oil, propane, wood, pellets, or electric heat.

"Our qualifying guidelines are similar to Worcester Community Action Counsel Fuel Assistance Program, but we can sometimes go beyond their guidelines," said

Deborah Antanavica, who runs the organization's Leicester chapter.

The organization is run by volunteers. Applications for fuel assistance are available in a variety of places, including [www.heartsforheat.org](http://www.heartsforheat.org).

In Leicester, you can pick up applications from the Town Clerk's office, Senior Center, Deja New, and the Leicester Public Library. You can also leave a message at 508-892-3086 requesting that an application be mailed to you.

For Leicester residents seeking fuel assistance, mail the applications back to Leicester Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 69, Rochdale, MA, 01542. You can also place the envelope in the mailbox at Deja New addressed to Hearts for Heat.

Residents in need of assis-

tance are urged to apply right away. Don't wait until you get low on fuel and frigid temperatures arrive, officials said.

"Please do not wait until you run out, as the application process can take a couple days to approve and set up a delivery," Antanavica added.

The price of a 200-gallon oil delivery has increased by more than \$150 since Dec. 2020, officials said. Combined with job losses and other pandemic-related challenges, this has put several residents under pressure to keep their homes warm. Local seniors also struggle to heat their residences, often forced to choose between paying for groceries, medications, and heating oil.

For more information about the organization, visit [www.heartsforheat.org](http://www.heartsforheat.org).

## Paxton area seniors are traveling

PAXTON — Now that the Holidays are over and everyone has had a great holiday with family and friends, Paxton area seniors are planning a travel experience in 2022: Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria in October.

Several people have made deposits and are anxiously waiting for Oct. 6 to arrive when we jet off to Bern, Switzerland. We will stay in Bern for four nights and tour the Swiss countryside during the day. After the four nights in Bern, we move on to Innsbruck, Austria and tour Austria during the day.

Our package includes transportation from the Paxton area to Logan Airport and return, roundtrip Air to Switzerland, eight nights in top-rated Hotels, eight break-

fasts, four dinners and escorted tours with an expert Tour Manager.

To date, 12 seniors have made a commitment to travel with some reserved seats remaining.

Every traveler must be vaccinated and have a booster shot to meet the international travel requirements along with a valid Passport good for a least six months after travel.

For more information, you can call or email Bob Wilby at 508-792-4662 or [rwilby@charter.net](mailto:rwilby@charter.net).

For more detailed information, please contact Travel Agent Lynn Natale at AAA Travel, Worcester at 508-853-7000, ext. 3326 or email [lnatale@aanortheast.com](mailto:lnatale@aanortheast.com).



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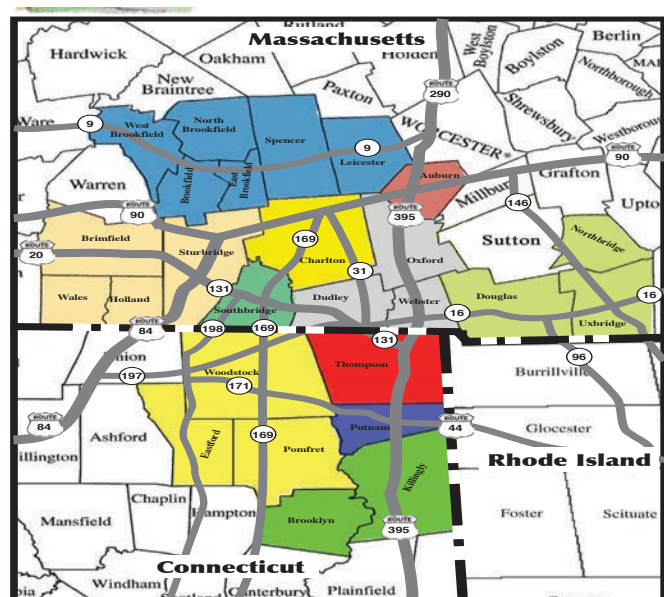
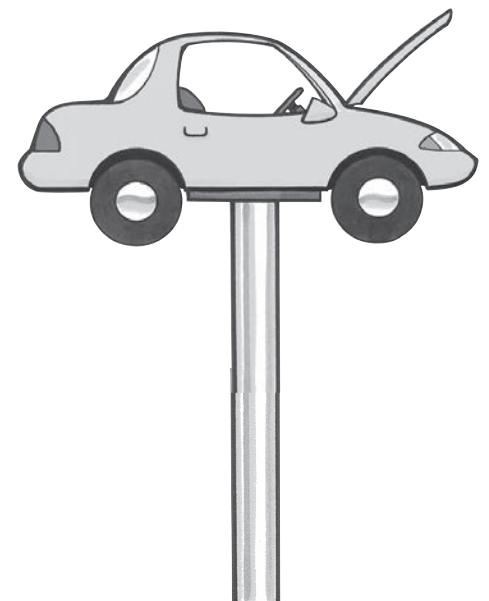
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EDITORIAL

Snowy weather is nothing new

The first big snow dump of the season has come and gone, leaving us with anywhere between three and eight inches of snow, depending on where you are. As with most things, we like to think about how our ancestors handled certain situations. On a personal note, it was during a snowy drive last winter that we writer became more grateful for studded snow tires and heat, after thinking about how those before us dealt with travel during snowstorms.

During the winter of 1717, a storm dumped four feet of snow creating snowdrifts of up to 25 feet. Passing through the snow-covered roads was too much for a postman who traded his horse for a pair of snowshoes. Objects similar to skis were attached to carriages as a means of winter transportation. Streets had to be passable for wood and food deliveries. When the roads were not passable townspeople would gather together in large groups and dig out a path. The snow was placed into the back of a horse-drawn cart by gangs of men and driven to the closest river to be dumped. Salt was also used on streets, but many people complained because it ruined their shoes and clothes.

Fast forward to 1840, when the first snowplow patent came to be. It wasn't until 1862 that the first snowplow was put into use. The plow was attached to a cart and pulled by a team of horses. Soon after, many cities began to use the horse-drawn snowplow.

Typically, the use of the horse-drawn plow was only used to clear main streets, leaving side streets and sidewalks snowed in by large piles often blocking entrances to businesses. Many business owners actually brought lawsuits against the plowing companies as a result because their customers could not gain access to the storefronts.

The solution to that conundrum, was the hiring of snow shovellers to accompany the plow. The blizzard of 1888, however, was too much for the "modernized" plow, leaving many people trapped inside their homes. This emergency was the catalyst cities needed to begin coming up with a better plan for snow removal. One idea was to stay on top of the storm as it started, instead of waiting for it to end. Different men driving the plows were assigned to certain neighborhoods as well.

The invention of the automobile brought with it a crutch and a new possibility as far as snow removal went. The crutch being that an entirely new method needed to be engineered and put into use. In New York in 1913, a dump truck could be seen on city streets. Seven years later, the first snow loader, came on to the scene. It had a big scoop with a conveyor belt. The snow would go into the scoop via the belt, then dumped into the back of the truck. From there, off to the river it went.

It wasn't until 1959 when the weather was able to be predicted more accurately, allowing towns and cities to better prepare for any incoming storms.

Reading old diaries of our New England ancestors gives the perfect window as to what it was like to experience a bitter cold winter, prior to modern practices. Below a quote literary critic Van Wyck Brooks.

"All praise to winter; then, was Henry's feeling. Let others have their sultry luxuries. How full of creative genius was the air in which these snow-crystals were generated. He could hardly have marveled more if real stars had fallen and lodged on his coat. What a world to live in, where myriads of these little discs, so beautiful to the most prying eye, were whirled down on every traveler's coat, on the restless squirrel's fur and on the far-stretching fields and forests, the wooded dells and mountain-tops, -these glorious spangles, the sweepings of heaven's floor."

— The Flowering of New England, 1815-1865



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for helping us make Christmas brighter for children in need

To the Editor:

The Spencer Toys for Kids program has wrapped up another successful season bringing some Christmas magic to more than 160 needy Spencer children. It takes a team of volunteers to pull it all together and we are lucky to have them!

Huge thanks this year to Kayleen Sauvageau & Nicole Cusson for their tremendous efforts to get it done! Thanks to Katie Harris & Alison Delong for your help behind the scenes! Thank you, Jim Laney, for putting bikes together and to James & Linda for three of you helping out on distribution day. Alicia & Eric Hashey, Kenny Devries, T.J. Ouellette & Kayleen & Alivia Sauvageau for running on distribution day also!

We are fortunate to have so many generous sponsors who buy for families, donate toys & checks and the combined effort is nothing short of amazing! We are fortunate to live in a community that cares! Many thanks to Cornerstone Bank (and Jenny for also delivering toys), Spencer Post Office & Spencer Fire Dept(thanks Bob for running up the toys too) & ERA Key Realty who collect toys for this program.

Employees of Cornerstone bank have been sponsoring large amounts of families for years, and help us out a ton. Additional thanks to Jenny Anderson & Lynne Esposito for organizing and delivering all the goods every year! Flexcon & Big Y employees

collected a bunch of toys and delivered them to us for distribution! AA Transportation did Stuff a Bus again this year and Leslie & crew collected a lot of great toys! So many generous people make beautiful handmade hats, mittens & Mary Mildish does her awesome craft boxes straight from the North Pole...

The owners of my office at ERA Key Realty allow us to turn the entire space into Santas workshop year after year utilizing what ever they have to help us including staff. Spencer Exchange Club members are generous with monetary donations, sponsoring familys, donating toys and the club presents us with a large monetary donation every year. We also have a 501(c)3 under the Spencer Exchange Club Charitable trust foundation which has saved us thousands of dollars in taxes. They are my favorite group of people and I have been a proud member of the club for 25 years. Thank you to the New Leader for publishing our donations every week. They have been doing it for this program for as long as I can remember... All of you who help us with this program can rest assured that each child will have a great Christmas thanks to all of your efforts. We could not do it without you, that's for sure! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

DONNA MORIN-FLANNERY  
TOYS FOR KIDS COORDINATOR  
SPENCER

Faith, hope, and charity

To the Editor:

These three — faith may be lost in sight, hope ends in fruition, but charity extends beyond the grave , to the boundless realms of eternity.

As the holiday season is upon us, I would never think to impune anyone's faith, regardless of lack of actual evidence, or improbability, from candles that burned eight days to shining stars in the east, sleighs above the clouds or reindeer on the roof. For me, having faith is its own reward, and not having any whether in deity or your fellow creatures, is depressing.

Two things that you have heard from me before are that I grant respect to all without any need to earn it — it is theirs to lose or spend as they wish, and, from late Sen. Moynihan, "you are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts."

In reading the comments of brother Robillard, his first line is expressing how dumb people are to embrace Biden's Build Back plan are.

He goes on to enumerate some questionable truths about how Biden keeping his promise to halt drilling on public lands and stop the running of another leaky sludge pipe across the corn belt. I do believe in climate change, and being aware of the disasters we frequently experience, the actual scientific evidence of global warming, and knowing full well, that a glut of \$2 gas will allow my spoiled countrymen to hop in their 12 mpg pickup for any reason with no thought of consolidating trips, efficient routing or just cruising.

I am not saying electric vehicles, solar panels or windmills are the answer. While not a "conservative," I am pro-conservation.

If you think more and cheaper fossil fuels is the answer, that attitude readily explains why we, 4 percent of the world's population, account for 16 percent of the problem and are gross polluters. I hope we will do better, as without our leadership, like so many other issues, nothing happens.

Good governance variants, and the American Axis

To the Editor:

In this letter, the word "variants," whether used for Covid, or persons, means something a little different, but essentially the same.

The First "B" and Trump and Variants (T&Vs):

Our well respected and competent Governor, Charlie Baker, has announced he will not run for a third term.

Baker has served as our governor in difficult times. The top of that list goes to Covid and its' Variants—first the viruses and then their ongoing impact on families, schools, businesses, public and private and front-line workers, etc.

It would also include working with and around our state's Democratic and

The Keystone pipeline pitch was a giant scam, promising thousands of jobs to American workers, and included the support people like the butcher , baker and candlestick maker, who would derive income from pipeline workers, when the fact is just 40 line checkers would end up on the payroll. If you were paying any attention, you would know that Canada is against pipelines in their country, and this Canadian sludge was all for export — not for us. The major reason we import oil, is that it is cheaper from the middle east than pumping it here. Maybe we will turn domestic wells back on if prices warrant. If you follow the barrel prices for oil, they are nowhere near peak — you are just funding oil investor profit taking.

Finally, Mr. Robillard, military equipment is certainly a major "cottage" industry here. We are largely responsible for arming the western world, and having armed the Iraqi and Afghan armies and leaving so much equipment there, perhaps our stock is down and hoppers need filling, but we are about to fund above pentagon requests to deliver pork and jobs, even though it will not only exceed budget requests, but guarantee re-election of the pork providers. It is a matter of record that our defense spending exceeds that of the next twelve highest spending nations collectively. Yes it provides great paying jobs to Americans, straight out of our pockets.

In the meantime, 16 percent of children and 10 percent of elders in our country, live below the poverty level, and suffer cold, hunger, lack of health care. It was Eisenhower who said- "the military industrial complex will take your last dollar, and leave you to starve in the streets"

This is what we are defending, and it certainly isn't charity.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

B&Bs, Trump & Russia-China Anti-

Republican parties.

This group includes likely dishonest Democratic kingpins (example DeLeo) who largely control the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Behind closed doors and with special interest groups, they possess too much influence on our state's budget and decision-making processes.

However, Baker didn't decide not to seek re-election because of these or other Democrats. In fact, its voters, while differing on important issues, much appreciated Baker's good governance and would have voted for him again.

However, it would not surprise if his decision included not wanting to

What are your financial resolutions for 2022?



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As you know, 2021 was full of challenges. We were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when supply chains shut down and inflation heated up. So, if you're like many people, you might not be sorry to see the year come to a close. But now it's time to look ahead to a brighter 2022. And on a personal level, you may want to set some New Year's resolutions. You might resolve to improve your health and diet, and possibly learn some new skills, but why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few ideas to consider:

Prepare for the unexpected. If you haven't already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to contain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

Boost your retirement savings. The pandemic caused many us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the retirement lifestyles we've envisioned. In fact, 33 percent of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic, according to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones. This year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Reduce your debt load. The less debt you carry, the more money you'll have available to support your lifestyle today and save and invest for tomorrow. So, this year, resolve to cut down on your existing debts and avoid taking on new ones whenever possible. You can motivate yourself by measuring your progress — at the beginning of 2022, record your total debts and then compare this figure to your debt load at the start of 2023. If the numbers have dropped, you'll know you were making the right moves.

Don't overreact to the headlines. A lot can happen during a year. Consider inflation — it shot up in 2021, but it may well subside in 2022. If you changed your investment strategy last year to accommodate the rise in inflation, would you then have to modify it again when prices fall? And inflation is just one event. What about changes in interest rates? How about new legislation coming out of Washington? And don't forget extreme weather events, such as wildfires and floods. Any or all of these occurrences can affect the financial markets in the short term, but it just doesn't make sense for you to keep changing the way you invest in response to the news of the day. Instead, stick with a strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. You may need to adjust this strategy over time, in response to changes in your own life, but don't let your decisions be dictated by external events.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make — but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with confidence.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielson, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielson@edwardjones.com.*

ROTARY continued from page A1

non-profit sneaker recycler 'GotSneakers', which provides the Club with postage paid return bags for collected items. As an incentive, the Club receives compensation based on styles and quality of sneakers only. Proceeds are added to the Club's charitable account to help support our local service projects.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### How important is a father to his family?

To the Editor:

In the Friday, Nov. 12 and Dec. 3 Viewpoint, Mr. Robillard had a very good articles, “Democratic insanity” and “Resist socialism.”Kudos to you, Mr. Robillard.Also, a reference to Mr Ken Kimball’s Nov. 19 Viewpoint.Unless the Democrats lose in 2024, this country will not be a country under God, it will become a socialist country under Democratic authority.

The importance of fathers in marriage. Fathers, do not underestimate yourself; you are very important to your children, your wife, the mother of your children, and your helpmate.For us men who choose to be married according to God, God has made the man husband, father, spiritual, and physical head, leader, caretaker of his family. This does not imply that the family is to be subjected to him, however; the family is to be submissive to him as Jesus is submissive to the Father God, and the man, husband, is submissive to Jesus.

When we, as a parent, father, need to learn to instruct our children according to God’s will, our children will also need learn to understand, accept and realize that their parents have their best interest, and that God is good and loving and has and wants the best for our life, and that nothing is impossible for God Jesus when we as a family remain faithful and obedient to God through our parents. [Luke 1: 37]

Men, husbands and fathers.God has ordained for us a challenging responsibility of love, humility, patience that can only be achieve in and through Jesus.I know for me personally humility is a challenge and I need to be focus on Jesus, I know that on my own, I cannot achieve, and Jesus reminds me in John 15:5 that apart from Him, I cannot.Unfortunately, humility, patience, gentleness are not

my best virtues.I make a daily effort to keep focus on Jesus, and my wife is a big help, helping me to be that man and father.Don’t be deceived men, fathers, husbands we will not achieve perfection in this body because of our sinful nature, however, Jesus knows our heart, our faith and we will be bless in our daily efforts when we remain focus on God Jesus Word, teaching us to submit to each other and become the best we can be as mortal humans.What is submitting, it does not imply subjection. God has appointed the woman, wife to be submitted to her husband has the head of the family “and” the husband is putting aside his own interest, “and” Jesus is the head of the man “and” God the Father is the head of Jesus.[Genesis 2: 18- 25] [Ephesians 5: 21-33, & 6: 2-4]

There is a difference between obeying and honoring.To obey is to do as one is instructed; to honor is to respect and love, to submit. To submit does not mean to be a doormat, subjected; to submit is to be obedient to God’s Word, instructions.Jesus was submissive to the Father God, the first person to the Holy Trinity, Triune God. Jesus is not teaching that the husband, man, father to be the boss, the husband; father is to be the leader, having the best interest, concern for the needs, not wants of his family. [Ephesians 6:2-4] Men, husbands, fathers this cannot be done in our own humanity, we need God’s grace that can only be received through Jesus. Marriage requires and involves mutual submission, discipline and a personal desire for the good of the family, the ones we love, “and” this can only be obtain by submitting our self to God Jesus.Yes! We all have a certain amount of self control, and we are very human, however, if we allow God Jesus to come into our lives, live within us, Satan will

not be able to take control of us, Satan is a very possessive, he does not wait for an invitation as God does, Satan will take control if we let him, God is a gentleman and loves all His creations and apart from Jesus we can do nothing [John 15:5]; the choice is ours, freedom or slavery, heaven or hell.

Children also have a responsibility in the family — they need to accept discipline and correction; it is part of their guidance and being cared for. Parents need to love, not nagging; they need to be respect so they do not discouraged and have them lose heart.This all starts with the love and responsibility of the father and the mother the husbands help mate. [Colossians 3:19-21]

The husband [man] has the responsibility to manage, provide for his family and his wife [woman] also has the responsibility to help she is his helpmate, this working relationship is very important.The wife has the responsibility to manage the child, children and, God is very clear in this, the husband has the responsibility with the help of his wife to maintain a healthy godly environment, if he does not he is considered worse than an unbeliever, an unbeliever is someone who does not believe in God and His teachings.Ephesian 5:25] [1 Timothy 5:8]

The question we need to ask our self according God’s Word is which parent father loves is child, children more? The father who allows his child, children to do what he or she wants and could harm themselves at the present time or in the future, or the father that corrects, disciplines the child and teaches what is morally and physically right at the present time and the future.

God’s Word teaches us that discipline in a loving firm manner and taking the time to explain what the child did is

very important, it could prevent much sorrow and consequents in the future. God’s moral loving caring life style is always the best policy for the child’s future endeavors. [Hebrew 12:9]

Ladies, let me start by telling you what Peter meant with his description about the women when he instructs the man, husband, to be gentle with his wife as the weaker partner physically; however, I have witnessed that some women do very well physically.Peter is teaching that the man, husband, is the spiritual authority and responsible to his wife spiritually, emotionally and physically, and the wife is instructed to come under his authority in marriage because God has placed the husband in marriage as the authority of his family, as God is the head of His Son Jesus, and Jesus is the head of the of the husband and husband head of his wife, helpmate; the wife is very important in this relationship they have become one together in God taking care of their family in obedience to God, Amen! God is very explicit, if the husband uses his position to mistreat his wife, his relationship with God will suffer.God will not tolerate the misuse of the wife without consequences. [1 Peter 3:7]

When the man and woman decide to unite together in marriage it becomes a full time responsibility till death parts us and for whatever reason you decide to unite together with out getting married you will not receive any blessings from God because you have united in fornication which is immoral before God, sin, and will not be accepted in heaven. The choice is yours, choose wisely. Your eternal future, heaven depends on it.

ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD

#### KANE

continued from page A8

subject himself and family to a nasty primary managed by the mostly reactionary and incompetent T&Vs who run the state’s disgraced Republican party (example Lyons).

So, at least partly because of them, another Republican good governance politician leaves public service, leaving a vacuum no Democrat can completely fill.

Go well, Charlie; thanks, and well done.

The second “B” and his T&Vs.

Selected by 81 million voters, Joe Biden now serves as our President. He has represented America voters in one elected office or another for over 50 years. Unknown he is not.

Before serving as Vice President for eight years, Biden won seven U.S. Senate elections in Delaware. It has a too well-earned reputation for being business and corporation friendly.

So when you read on these pages or hear politicians and media voices say Biden is a “Radical Socialist,” the kindest interpretation is their complete ignorance. Attempts to make Americans angry at one another, stoke hatred of “others,” intentionally lie, and/or efforts to destroy shared American values and good governance seem more likely.

Biden’s current good governance efforts include; rebuilding our neglected and decaying infrastructure, better supporting our families and schools, addressing dangerous climate changes and related business and job opportunities, and making the rich pay their fair share of taxes.

One aspect of Joe’s T&Vs situation is different from Charlie’s in that his good governance and programs find large support throughout the Democratic party.

Similarities exist too. Like Baker, T&Vs almost always oppose President Biden’s good governance efforts. One can perhaps understand this. Many supporters, personally benefited from and/or turned a blind eye towards the misdeeds of our worst and corrupt former President (example McCarthy).

Worse, T&Vs constantly seem to seek ways to undermine, for their own benefit, (example Meadows) the rules and principles that have guided our successful more than 225 year old American democracy by

- overriding certified election results, marching on and damaging the US Capital and its’ protectors,
- replacing honest election officials, limiting the voting access for Americans who likely would not vote for T&Vs,
- drawing election maps that favor T&V candidates, and
- giving T&Vs the power to overturn results of victories against them.

Good governance means having and applying needed knowledge and skills. It also means having the integrity to put people and country first. These words do not describe T&Vs.

Our earlier Civil War was little influenced by other countries. Nor did they try hard to gain control over the Unites States.

Now is different. Some strong countries, especially those run by dictators plan and support efforts to take us down.

Consider Putin’s Russia and Xi Jinping’s China. Their two autocrats

recently held their 37th (virtual) summit meeting in the last nine years. The they announced that their countries’ relations were “stronger than an alliance” against the Western powers, particularly the U.S.

Initially Trump, with near total ignorance, tried charm Xi Jinping at his Mar e Largo resort. Little did he understand that Xi had begun a long-term plan (example, “Belt&Road”) to overcome and dominate the USA and the world.

Putin’s strategy mirrors his long-held hatred of America and his career as a Soviet Russia KGB spy. It centers on finding and exploiting our human, economic, military, etc. weaknesses. Multiple attacks follow – infiltration, promoting internal chaos, division by social media, cyber and ransomware, targeted personal and military actions, etc. (multiple attack examples Ukraine and the USA).

Many T&Vs greatly admire Putin’s autocratic ethnic nationalist approach or at the least, like their letters here, rarely criticize him or Russia’s actions against us.

Meanwhile, we should think long and hard about a former president who pardoned many while, working with him, assisted Russia (example Manafort).

In trying to divide us, T&Vs make it easier for Russian and China to defeat us.

In 2017, when Trump became President, some wondered if America’s democracy could survive. Entering 2022, mainly because T&Vs, it has become less likely.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

#### KNOX TRAIL

continued from page A1

month’s nationwide threats against schools on social media, local and state police increased monitoring efforts online. The FBI and other law enforcement agencies also joined several investigations.

On Dec. 17, the Spencer Police Department had an increased presence at schools during arrival and dismissal, in addition to patrol checks conducted throughout the day.

“Please be careful in what you post on social media, and keep in mind that there are things that are being posted that are, quite simply, false,” read a statement released by the SPD on its Facebook page.

SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey declined to comment on the potential disciplinary measures the two KTMS students are facing and when they might return to school.

#### COLE

continued from page A1

mance.”

Delage is also encouraged by his improvements and ability to overcome adversity. He looks forward to continued growth over the next few years.

“I feel I have improved my higher note range of the clarinet, as I have been able to reach a lot of notes that used to give me issues,” Delage added. “I also feel that I developed more of a love for music this past year and was able to push myself to do things that I normally wouldn’t have. For example, I went for a solo at the recent winter concert instead of hiding in the back. I really wanted to start pushing myself and putting myself out there.”




# FAMILY DINING & GIFT GUIDE

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# Deer season ends with some impressive harvests

Deer hunting improved dramatically last week, when a coating of snow fell in our area. Tracking deer helped numerous hunters bag a deer during the light snowfall, but it did not last long as the rain washed most of it away in the following few days. Deer hunting closes this Friday in Massachusetts, and results of the harvest from Mass. Fish & Wildlife should start trickling in by the middle of January. Some real impressive deer were harvested locally, with numerous does weighing in at more than 130 pounds dressed. Some big bucks were also harvested, but few hunters wanted to share their photos. Reports of mutable deer were still being caught on trial camaras set up by sportsmen. There should be no shortage of venison this year for many families.

News of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers show preparing for their event in Providence, R.I. in March was great news for local sportsmen. The event is a top rated must attend show, and if Covid is kept under control, it will hopefully happen. I understand that the Marlborough show and the Providence sportsmen's show has not been confirmed to date. Captain Mel True has already canceled his event because of the Covid threat, but has already confirmed his reservations for the Providence show.

Reports from Jerry's Bait & Tackle of



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
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anglers fishing rod & reel in freshly stocked trout waters & are catching some nice rainbow trout was good news. Ice fishing is off to a bad start so far this year, and if we do not get some colder weather soon, it will make for another short season locally. This is the time of year that I normally catch a good mess of yellow perch for the frying pan, but I am forced to eat some of my tautog and seabass that I caught this past summer. It really is not a problem to have!

The new Mass. Fish & Wildlife Web site has been a major problem for some sportsmen looking to purchase a hunting or fishing license as a Christmas gift for friends or family members and themselves. Even local stores that sell licenses were not able to get them without problems. One local sportsman drove to Westborough to ensure his purchases would be ready for the holidays. Previous license information was unavailable on the new site, and required the buyer to find an old license to complete their purchases. Deer permit zones required some sportsmen to get their licenses without completing the paperwork. Hopefully, the problems will be rectified soon.

Now is a good time to check out your freshwater and saltwater fishing gear, and make all of the necessary repairs on rods, reels, etc. Tying fly's and repairing fishing lures, by applying a fresh coat



Photo Courtesy

This week's photo shows a youngster with his dad ice fishing at the Whitinsville Fish & Game club ice derby a year or two ago!

of paint, and new hooks will insure you that you are ready for this upcoming fishing season. If you have a small boat that can be accessed easily, you can still fish local lakes and ponds, which may become an annual event because of climate change.

This week's photo shows a youngster with his dad ice fishing at the

Whitinsville Fish & Game club ice derby a year or two ago! Hopefully, we will have safe ice soon, but until then, staying off thin ice is highly recommended.

Wishing everyone a happy New Year!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Tips to Keep New Year Resolutions

Let's face it, New Year resolutions are difficult to keep. Even the firmest intentions can lose steam come March. So what's the secret to willpower longevity? The key factors to resolution success are attitude and commitment. Oftentimes New Year resolutions are self-improvements, and that requires a lifestyle change. Taking on the challenge with an eye to the future can increase the odds of your New Year resolution turning into a longtime success.

The following strategies are geared toward arming you with the tools to expand your January vows into lifelong achievements. Happy New Year!

A national study released by Retailmenot.com revealed the top seven resolutions for 2022. The survey found that 85 percent of consumers will set a New Year's resolution, and nearly half (49 percent) are likely to spend money to keep their resolutions.

According to the survey, Americans made the following New Year resolutions for the upcoming year:

Saving money 44 percent; Exercise more, 35 percent; Losing weight, 30 percent; Spending more time with family, 28 percent; Paying off debt, 27 percent; Reduce stress, 22 percent; Travel more, 19 percent.

While losing weight and saving money have long headed annual New Year resolution lists, spending time with fam-

ily, reducing stress and traveling are also important goals for the coming year, no doubt influenced by the past two years of stress and restrictions.

Rules from the Experts to Turn Annual Resolutions into Daily Habits

### Rule #1: Stop Overachieving

Whittling your resolutions down from a top ten list to one or two increases the odds of long term success. With a focus on one main goal, your "eye is always on the prize."

### Rule #2: Adjust your Attitude

No you hate working out? Resent pinching pennies? Can't bear to say no to sweets?

Remind yourself you are doing this of your own free will! Remember the "fake it till you make it" research that reveals even a forced smile boosts your happy genes, thus actually making you happier! The phenomenon is called "facial feedback," and according to Psychology Today, it works because the brain senses the flexion of certain facial muscles and interprets it as "Oh I must be happy about something."

No one is forcing you to get on the treadmill or give up your \$6 morning Latte – it is your choice. You are choos-



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

ing to improve your life. Sometimes reminding yourself that you are willingly partaking in the sacrifice can get you through the tough times.

### Rule #3 Be Accountable

Taking pen to paper or using a fitness or budget app can be powerful, and research repeatedly reveals that holding yourself accountable, be it via an exercise chart, daily food or budget tracker, is very effective to making long term changes.

### Rule #3: Break it Down

It sounds like common sense to break goals down into manageable tasks, but people don't always take the time to practice it. Make a plan with mini goals. When you achieve each goal, document it. Again, the power of the written (or typed) word solidifies the commitment.

### Rule #4: Group Therapy

There's a reason why group programs are successful. Misery (and merriment) loves company. With plenty of support groups available online there is no reason not to seek out others striving for the same end results as you. Posting in a group that promotes healthy eating, frugality or even organization skills can boost your willpower and give you "shots" of encouragement. Not ready to join in a discussion? No worries. Just

visiting a FB or other internet group with information and resources can aid you in your journey of improvement.

### Rule #5: Make it Fun!

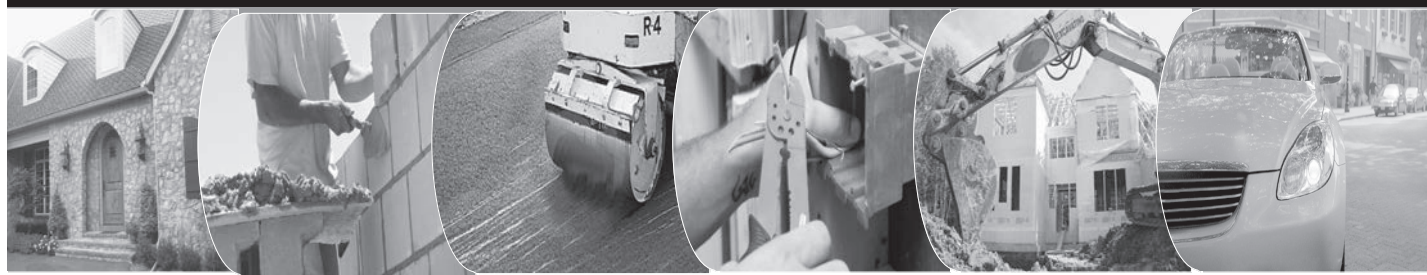
When's the last time you had fun achieving a goal? It's easier than you think to stay the course if it's a pleasant trip. Besides, who ever said a self-improvement plan has to be grueling? For example, watch the Food Channel while you're on the treadmill. You will get your "food fix" virtually (and with no calories)!; Make a game of your budgeting: Challenge yourself to save a certain percentage at the grocery store each week, and up the ante when you reach your goal; Or simply play your favorite music while you are organizing that messy closet.

### Rule # 6: Motivate Yourself

Motivational speakers spark results, but you can use simple tools to be a self-motivator. Look up inspirational quotes, and post them where you'll see them every day. You might also want to repeat an affirmation every day to solidify your vow. Research the habits successful people and take a cue from them on how to carry on and achieve success even after failures. Remember Thomas Edison's famous quote. After someone remarked his light bulb experiments failed, he said: "I have not failed 10,000 times. I have successfully found

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A12**

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For J.D. Power 2021 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](http://jdpower.com/awards). <sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 1/31/2022. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 1/1/2022 and 1/31/2022. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$50 off each window or entry/patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 1/31/2022. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.





# Start seeds outdoors with winter sowing

Save money and indoor space used for starting seeds indoors with winter sowing. This easy technique allows you to start transplants from seeds outdoors without a greenhouse or cold frame.



GARDEN  
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Growing your own transplants from seeds can save you money and is often the only option for new, unique, and other hard to find plants. Not everyone has the time, equipment, and dedication to watering that's needed to start plants indoors. All you need are flower and vegetable seeds, milk jugs or two-liter soda bottles, duct tape and a quality potting mix. Check the seed packet for information on planting details and timing. Winter sowing dates vary with the growing climate, individual gardener, and seed variety you are planting. Try starting hardy perennials and self-seeding annuals sometime winter through early spring. Other flowers and vegetables seeds are typically winter sown about the same time you would plant them indoors or a month or two before the transplants get moved into the garden. Keep a record of your planting dates and results to help you fine tune your planting schedule and increase future success. Drill four to 12 small holes in the bottom of the jug for drainage. One winter sower fills the container with water and pops it into the freezer or outside in below freezing temperatures. Once frozen solid, he drills the holes

into the container. The ice prevents the plastic container from collapsing during the process. Next, partially cut the jug to create a hinged lid. Make your cut about three to four inches above the bottom, leaving the area by the handle attached so it forms a hinge. The bottom of the milk jug handle is usually a good guide. Fill the bottom with moist potting mix. Plant seeds according to the package directions. Gently water until the excess runs out the bottom of the container. Fellow gardener, Patricia, uses rolled newspaper or the cardboard tubes from toilet paper to help space and eventually transplant her winter sown seedlings. She makes newspaper pots by wrapping 22 and a half by five inch strips of newspaper around a two and a half inch diameter by four inch tall jar. She folds the end to create the bottom for a three and a half inch tall pot. Secured with staples, she sets the pots or toilet paper rolls in the milk jug, fills with potting mix, tops them off with about half an inch of seed starting mix and then plants her seeds. Label the inside and outside of the jug with a permanent marker. Close the lid and seal it shut with duct tape. Remove the cap before setting your milk jugs in a sunny location outdoors where rain and snow can reach it. Keep them handy to prevent waterlogged soil during extremely wet weather. Water your outdoor seed start-



Photo Melinda Myers

Winter sowing allows gardeners to start transplants from seeds outdoors by repurposing milk jugs or two-liter soda bottles.

ing chambers during snow-free and dry weather. This will be much less often than those seedlings growing indoors under artificial lights. Your plants will be ready to move into the garden at the normal planting time. Just open the lids, harden off the plants and move them into the garden.

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 to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-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](http://www.melindamyers.com).

## TRAINOR

continued from page A10

10,000 ways that will not work."

**Success Strategy**  
You've likely heard it before but here is some advice to successfully "break a bad habit": Experts agree that it takes a minimum of 21 days to change a behavior, so the first thing to do is count ahead 21 days and mark the day you'll be officially "home free" from your habit on a calendar. How to get through the 21 days? First write down your goal and list the positive reasons you want to change your habit. These exercises will help build commitment. Next share your goals with your family and friends. Making a commitment public leaves little room to back out, plus you'll benefit from a support system. Each day review your list of reasons for quitting or changing.

Reward yourself verbally, each hour if necessary, working up to a great treat at the end of a successful week. And remember if you fall off the wagon, jump back on immediately before you fall completely back into your old habit. It pays to remember research reveals only 40 percent of habits are broken on the first try. Besides, there's always next year!

**Famous Quotes**  
Here's a dose of inspiration from successful people:  
"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success."- James Cameron  
"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney  
"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out." - Robert Collier

"The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary." - Vidal Sassoon  
"Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going." - Jim Ryun  
"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it." - Margaret Thatcher  
"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success." - Dale Carnegie  
"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will." - Vince Lombardi  
"The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus." - Bruce Lee  
\*\*  
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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.*

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newspaper  
is the realist's  
morning prayer.

*George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel*



## LEGALS

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
Premises: 12 North Brookfield Road, Spencer, Massachusetts  
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John R Sherman Jr to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), its successors and assigns, as nominee for Santander Bank, N. A., said mortgage dated September 5, 2014, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 52783 at Page 13 and now held by U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust by virtue of an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Lodge Series IV Trust to U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust dated October 23, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63794, Page 167, previously assigned by Santander Bank, N.A., to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Lodge Series IV Trust dated February 4, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62095, Page 20, previously assigned by Mortgage

Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), its successors and assigns, as nominee for Santander Bank, N.A., its successors and assigns, to Santander Bank, N.A., dated January 16, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53301, Page 11 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **February 9, 2022 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in said Spencer, with the buildings thereon, on the Northerly side of North Brookfield Road and being shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Spencer, Massachusetts owned by Joseph R. and Susan C. Foley, surveyed by John & Francis Dowgielewicz," dated November 1972, John W. Dowgielewicz, R.L.S., said plan being recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 379 Plan 35 bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point at an iron pin in the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road, said point being the Southeast corner of the tract herein described, as shown on said plan; THENCE N. 81 degrees 22' W., 262.3

feet along the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road, partly along a stone wall, to a point; THENCE N. 70 degrees 00' W., 296.9 feet still along the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road and partly along a stone wall, to a point at other land of the grantors; THENCE N. 20 degrees 00' E., 76.7 feet along said other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin at a stone wall; THENCE N. 70 degrees 00' W., 87.9 feet along said wall along other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin; THENCE N. 20 degrees 00' E., 633.0 feet partly along other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin at a stone wall; THENCE S. 84 degrees 00' E., 242.0 feet along said stone wall to a point at a corner of walls; THENCE S. 5 degrees 03' W., 659.5 feet along said stone wall to a point at an iron pin at a corner of walls; THENCE S. 83 degrees 46' E., 216.3 feet along said wall to a point at a corner of walls; THENCE S. 8 degrees 23' W., 135.5 feet along said wall to the point of beginning. The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated August 26, 2014, and recorded in Book 52783 at Page 10 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.  
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.  
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.  
Other terms to be announced at the sale.  
BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC  
270 Farmington Avenue  
Farmington, CT 06032  
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(860) 677-2868  
January 7, 2022  
January 14, 2022  
January 21, 2022



# SPORTS

## Strong effort gives Prouty a chance before falling to strong Sutton squad

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

SUTTON — When the David Prouty Regional girls' varsity basketball team, a program that hopes to be on the rise, played at Sutton High's Stephen C. Romasco Memorial Gymnasium on Tuesday, Dec. 28 against the perennially powerful Suzies and lost a 38-34 decision, a reporter asked Panthers' head coach Dennis Streeter if the team would be happy with contending or take it as a standard loss. Streeter noted it was more of the latter — a true sign that they intend to win more games than in the past.

"We're taking it as a loss, it is a loss, but we did play well," he said. "We didn't give up. They got up 10 and we fought back. Every possession was crucial."

Sutton held a 9-6 lead after the first quarter and saw the advantage balloon to 10 points, 20-10, with three minutes to go until halftime. But Prouty did score the final six points to get back into it at the intermission, 20-16.

Both teams then scored six points in the third period — the Suzies led, 26-22 — to set up an exciting fourth quarter.

With 6:11 to play, the Panthers' Olivia Pepin connected on a free throw to tie the score at 26-26. Then, when her next foul shot didn't go in, she eventually grabbed the rebound and made a layup, giving Prouty its first lead of the night, 28-26.

Then, with the game tied at 29-29, the Panthers' Olivia Mendoza drained a 3-pointer



Nick Ethier photos

David Prouty's Gabby Soter calls out a play from the top of the key.

to again put Prouty ahead, 32-29. But the Panthers could only add two more points the rest of the way on a pair of free throws by Gabby Soter, as the Suzies rallied for the victory.

Sutton has won six Dual Valley Conference League championships since 2013-14, and Streeter acknowledged that by stating, "It's their gym and they've won a lot of games here," before telling his team it will be time to move on.

"I told the girls at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning we're going to forget about it," he said.

All told Soter led the way for the Panthers with 14 points and 11 rebounds. She had a 3-point attempt with under 30 seconds to play that would have given Prouty a one-point advantage, but it unfortunate-

ly didn't drop.

"She was probably 0 for 5," Streeter said of Soter's uncharacteristically cold night shooting from distance, before adding that he wanted her to shoot that potential game-winning attempt. "I'll take those shots all night long."

Despite no 3's made, Soter was a perfect 10 for 10 from the free throw line.

"Gabby Soter is an All-American, just a really, really tough, good player," Streeter said.

Pepin scored 13 points (7-of-10 free throws) and added 12 rebounds, while Mendoza chipped in another five points, and Madison Ethier scored the other two.

The Panthers connected on 17 of 20 free throws, good for an 85 percent clip.



Olivia Pepin of David Prouty drives hard into the lane on Sutton's defense.

"We stress free throws in practice. As a team we want to shoot 70 percent," Streeter noted.

Prouty, now 3-3, is playing this well with mostly underclassmen on the roster, including a handful of eighth graders.

"They're still learning how to play physical basketball. They're getting there," said Streeter. "The effort was there. Every day it's there."

Other

### Performances

Monday, Dec. 20

David Prouty 51, Uxbridge 28 — Soter's 24 points paced the Panthers, while Pepin scored 17 more. Prouty, as a team, shot 75 percent from the foul line.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

David Prouty 56, North 36 — Pepin scored 25 points in the first half — and 31 total — as the Panthers dispatched the Polar Bears. Soter added 14 points and 7 assists.

Prouty

## Rams shake off slow start to win, while Leicester stays cold in loss

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

LEICESTER — For a good portion of the boys' varsity basketball contest pitting Northbridge and Leicester High against one another on Tuesday, Dec. 21, points were at a premium. Shots from both ends of the floor were oftentimes front-rimming, clanging off the back plate or swirling around the rim before rolling out as the Wolverines clung to a 7-5 lead after the first eight-minute quarter of play.

Leicester still led, now at 19-10 with 2:37 to go until halftime, when Luke Clay finished off a three-point play, but from there they went ice cold while the Rams found their groove. Northbridge ended up tying the game at 19-19 before the halftime buzzer and scored all 18 of the third quarter's points as they won going away, 52-31.

"We gave up 19 points in the first half, so our defense wasn't really the issue. We'll take that any half," said Rams' head coach Aaron Katz. "Offensively, we weren't that disappointed in what was going on. The ball just wouldn't drop."

The nine points that dropped to have the game tied at intermission was big for his team, according to Katz.

"It was everything because if you don't do that we probably have some belief issues. That little run made us believe a little," he noted.

In the deciding third quarter, it wasn't Northbridge sharpshooter Cam Boucher who did the damage. Instead, Nikolas Hayes had a memorable frame, scoring 11 of his game-high 19 points there.

"He was everything because he was playing on both sides of the floor, he's leading the press, he's getting rebounds and he's the only guy that really got us going offensively. He's a versatile player," Katz said of Hayes, who also grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds. "Everyone keys on Cam — Cam's a four-year starter — and Cam's going to have nights like this because everyone is keying on him, so who's going to step up?"

Boucher still found the time to score 7 points and pull down 7 boards.

When asked how the Rams were able to hold Leicester scoreless in the third quarter — turning a 19-19 tie into a 37-19 lead with a period to play, which Northbridge then won by a 15-12 count — Katz said that it had to do with additional defensive pressure.

"We were pressuring, but we added more pressure in the second half. Basically we tried to get our defense



Nick Ethier photos

Leicester's Mike Mero skies to the glass for a fast-break layup.

to create offense for us," he explained.

The Wolverines were led by Eric Moller (11 points) and Clay (7 points, 9 rebounds), but it wasn't nearly enough — especially during the near 12-minute stretch bridging the end of the second quarter all the way to the beginning of the fourth where they couldn't buy a point.

"We got good looks and we couldn't make the looks. Then the pressure in the second half just built and built," said Leicester head coach Michael Lynch. "You've got to score. You can't score zero points in a quarter and expect to win."

Lynch did like his team's defensive effort, though, particularly in the first half.

"I liked what we were doing defensively, [but] the defense starts to break down as the pressure on offense starts to mount," he explained. "I think we can play a lot better and I know we are going to play better."

Northbridge improved 2-1 on the young season, while the Wolverines slipped to 1-2.

Leicester's Chris Cutroni uses the back of his left hand to keep the ball in his possession and away from the reach of Northbridge's Cam Boucher.



Eric Moller of Leicester drives in hard on Northbridge's defense.

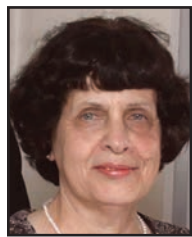




# OBITUARIES

## Elaine M. Emery, 78

North Brookfield - Elaine M. (Mallon) Emery, 78, of Ward Street, died Sunday, December 26, 2021, at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. She is survived



by her husband of 56 years, Thomas L. Emery; her daughter, Michelle Blood and her husband Brian of East Brookfield; her four grandsons: Robert Blood, Braden Auger, Quinn Blood, and Keegan Blood; two brothers-in-law, Paul McQuaid and Gene Befford, both of North Brookfield; and several nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces. She is predeceased by her son, Thomas J. Emery; and her siblings, Frances Befford, Claire McQuaid, Robert Mallon, and David Mallon, all of North Brookfield, and Alice Gilman of Warren. She was the daughter of the late John and Adela (Lemieux) Mallon and lived her entire life in North Brookfield.

Mrs. Emery started her career as a medical secretary for Dr. John Curran, Sr., and Dr. John Curran, Jr. She went back to school and graduated in 1988 from Quinsigamond Community College as a registered nurse. She worked for several years on the medical-surgical floor at Memorial Hospital

and Memorial Home Healthcare. She finished her career at the Webster/Dudley Family Health Center. When she retired in 2005, she started her favorite job, watching her grandsons and great-nephews.

She was an active member of the St. Joseph Parish as a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Bereavement Committee. She dedicated her life to service and helping others as a Cub Scout Den Leader and assisting working mothers by volunteering to watch over their children. Her favorite saying was, "What can I do to help?"

A Funeral Mass was held on Friday, December 31, 2021 at 10AM at St. Joseph's Church, 296 Main Street in North Brookfield. Everyone is to meet at church. Calling hours were held Thursday, December 30, 2021 from 4 to 6 PM in Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main Street in West Brookfield. Burial will be held in the Spring at St. Joseph's Cemetery in North Brookfield. At the family's request, masks are requested for all in attendance at the funeral home and at church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Joseph's Improvement Fund, 296 Main Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)

## Edward J. Lattinville, 72

Leicester, MA - Edward J. Lattinville, 72, of Leicester, MA, formerly of Hudson, MA, died on Thursday, December 30, 2021.

Born in Marlborough, MA, son of the late Edward and Pearl (Monreau) Lattinville. Graduate of Hudson H.S. and Worcester State earning a degree in chemistry and returned to school at Central New England College to complete core coursework in Industrial Engineering. Ed taught chemistry and physics and subsequently worked as a chemist, technical writer, and industrial engineer in the pharmaceutical, medical device, and chemical industries. He returned to teaching after the birth of his son Ethan. He has resided in Leicester the past 30 years since moving from Hudson in the early

1990's.

Edward leaves behind his wife of 38 years, Joyce C. (Chrisicos) Lattinville and son Ethan Lattinville.

Family and friends were invited to a short period of visitation on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022 from 1:00 to 1:30 PM at the Tighe Hamilton Regional Funeral Home, 50 Central Street, Hudson, MA 01749 with a service to follow at 1:30 PM. Burial immediately followed in Forestvale Cemetery, Broad Street, Hudson, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Edward may be made to: First United Methodist Church of Hudson or the Salvation Army.

For online condolences and life story visit [www.tighehamilton.com](http://www.tighehamilton.com).

## Raymond O. Barnes, Jr. 81

East Brookfield - Raymond O. Barnes, Jr., 81, of East Brookfield died on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at his home after a long illness surrounded by his loving family.



He leaves his wife, Anne Barnes; his children; Michael Barnes, Raymond Berard, Gail Bassett and her husband Brian, Lisa Giguere and her husband Stephen and Peter Sablack and his wife Darlene; his brother, Richard Barnes and his wife Catherine and their sons, Richard Jr. and his wife Kristen and Roger and sister-in-law, Sandra Barnes and her sons, Ronald Jr. and his wife Justine, Robbie and his wife Michelle; his grandchildren, Christina Berard and Francis Berard; his great-grandchildren, Austin, Amber, Tori, Tyler, Mariah, Anthony, Kenzie, Tori and her husband Kyle, John and his fiance Lauren; his great-great-grandchildren, Kennedy and one more on the way, also his foster daughter, Susan Eldred and her husband Ralph and granddaughters, Tiffany and Charlotte Schmidt and her husband Pat along with many niec-

es and nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter, Judy Berard and his brother, Ronald Barnes. He was born in North Brookfield, the son of the late Raymond Sr. and Olive (Prindle) Barnes.

Ray was a self-employed contractor his whole life. Working with tractors, trucks and bulldozers in his excavating business for over 50+ years at Ray Barnes Jr. General Excavating Inc. where he would help out anyone he could.

Raymond was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He will be missed dearly by anyone who had the pleasure of knowing or working with him.

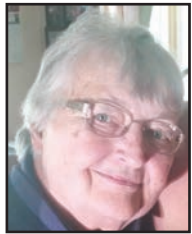
A Graveside Service for Ray will be held Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 11AM in Evergreen Cemetery followed by a Celebration of Life at his home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Assoc. of Massachusetts/New Hampshire, 309 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham, MA, 02452 or [alz.org/manh](http://alz.org/manh)

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)

## Roberta J. Berthiaume, 76

West Brookfield - Roberta J. (Weare) Berthiaume, 76, of West Brookfield, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at Harrington Memorial Hospital following a brief illness.



She leaves her beloved and devoted husband of 57 years who was also her best friend and fishing buddy, Rene J. Berthiaume; two daughters, Tina Frizzell and her husband John, Jr (Jack)

of Worcester; and Coreen St. Jacques and her husband Greg of N. Brookfield; two grandchildren, Alex St. Jacques, and Noelle St. Jacques, as well as two sisters, Juanita A. Hayes of N. Brookfield and Lillian Szloch of Ware along with many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sisters, Margaret Day, and Diane Plante. She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Robert C. and Cora (May) Weare.

Roberta enjoyed being a homemaker and devoted her life to her family. She worked as a baker in the kitchen at the West Brookfield Elementary School for several years, making delicious breads, rolls, and treats for the children and

staff to enjoy. She loved spending time with her family camping and traveling the coastline of Maine, especially the beaches of Ogunquit and Old Orchard Beach along with visiting the lighthouses of Maine including Bug Light and Spring Point Light; she also enjoyed the Cape Cod Coast especially Nauset Beach. Sitting by an open campfire and reminiscing of old times with her family always made her smile and brought great joy to her. Bird watching was something she enjoyed doing every day from her dining room window and always loved to see her cardinals, humming birds and orioles. She was a talented knitter and enjoyed making hats, mittens, sweaters, scarfs and afghans. Her greatest loves though, were Alex and Noelle.

At her request, services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 540, West Brookfield, MA 01585 or the Adams-Cooney-Frew American Legion Post 244, P.O. Box 252, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com).

## Francis E. (Skip) Johnson, Jr

SOUTHBRIDGE- Francis E. (Skip) Johnson, Jr. formerly of Worcester, Leicester and Southbridge, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December



25, 2021 after a brief illness. He was born and raised in Worcester, the son of the late Francis E., Sr. and Ada C. (Anderson) Johnson. He is predeceased by his sister Shirley L. Quillia and survived by his sister Eleanor Asadoorian. He is survived by Constance C. (Brassard), his loving wife of 61 years, his four children, Deborah J. and her husband Timothy MacMillan of North Oxford, Gary F.



Johnson and his wife Joie of Fountain Inn, SC, Scott A. Johnson of North Oxford, and Melina A. and her husband Matthew McCarthy of Spencer. He leaves eight grandchildren, Julia and her husband Mike Haddick of Okatie, SC, Marc Johnson of Boulder, CO, Philip Johnson of Columbia, SC, Sarah, Ryan and Jessica McCarthy of Spencer, Natalie and Zachary Johnson of Mendon. He leaves a great grandchild Abe Luzon of Okatie, SC. He leaves many loving nieces and nephews. Francis graduated from South High School and later attended

Worcester Junior College. He served honorably in the United States Navy, in the Pacific Region on the Island of Guam as a Radioman and then in



San Diego aboard the USS AJAX and USS HECTOR. During this time he earned the Navy's Good Conduct Medal. He worked for many years in the automotive repair business as owner and operator of Village

Mobile in Worcester and later retired, as a certified technician, from Chabot Motors of Millbury. In his retirement years, he kept busy with part-time jobs. He enjoyed hot-rods and muscle cars, billiards and poker, crossword puzzles and telling jokes, but most of all he loved vacationing in Myrtle Beach with his beloved wife Connie along with his children and grandchildren. Francis was a good man with a good heart and will be greatly missed.

The funeral was held on Monday, Jan 3 at 11 a.m. in the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer. The family suggests that masks be worn in the funeral home. Calling hours preceded the service from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Monday. Burial was in All Faiths Cemetery, Worcester. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Shriner Children's Hospital, 516 Carew Street, Springfield Ma 01104. [www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

## Victoria J. Little, 66

Ware - Victoria J. (Medeiros) Little, 66, of Ware died peacefully on Thursday, December 23, 2021.



She leaves her daughters, Hayley M. Lawrence and her husband Cory of North Brookfield and Sarah B. Evans of Brookfield; her beloved grandsons, Ian Majka and Tyler Majka of Brookfield and her brother, James A. Medeiros of Barnstable. She was predeceased by her sister Anita G. Guzik. She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Abel G. and Miriam (Perry) Medeiros.

She was a graduate of Quaboag High School and went on to earn her Associates Degree.

Vicki has been a resident of Ware for

the last 15 years. She was known in the community from her time as a waitress & bartender at the Gables in Brookfield and later E.B. Flatts in East Brookfield.

She enjoyed traveling and seeing new things. Shortly after high school she and several friends traveled and explored the country. She was a always a free spirit and lived her life the same way. If you find yourself missing her, listen to Gypsy by Fleetwood Mac.

At Vicki's request, services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA, 01515 or at [secondchanceanimal.org](http://secondchanceanimal.org).

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at [charbonneauafh.com](http://charbonneauafh.com)

## BOS

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In an answer to the Select Board letter provided by Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Marilyn Tencza, the Superintendent wrote, "In order for a candidate to give adequate notice at his/her former job, it is a customary practice to offer a hire letter for reasonable assurance of a position. The hire letter states, 'pending approval of the School Committee on August 25, 2021.' As part of the interview process, the Superintendent always asks candidates, regardless of the position, on what date they are able to start work."

Residents have spent months questioning why the assistant superintendent position was created this past summer by the school district immediately after eliminating its director of curriculum role. The final occupant of the latter position was Matthew Joseph, who told the New Leader he received several conflicting messages over the summer regarding his employment in Leicester.

Joseph is one of two former school employees who recently filed wrongful termination complaints against the district. The topic of these complaints was addressed in the Select Board letter to school officials.

In response to this question, Tencza's letter read, "While the school disagrees with the allegations made by the two former employees, one of whom was terminated and the other whose position was eliminated, we cannot comment or provide any information on pending legal matters."

On June 29, 2021, Joseph received a letter from Superintendent Tencza announcing that he would receive a 1.5 percent salary increase, effective July 1 to June 30. Additionally, Joseph described meeting with the Superintendent in June to establish goals and strategies for his role in the 2021-22 school year.

Less than a week later, school officials eliminated Joseph's position.

Questions poured in from residents following the elimination of Joseph's position and creation of the new assistant superintendent role. But several residents felt their questions were dodged by school officials.

At a Sept. 15 School Committee meeting, resident Dylan Lambert attempted to inquire about Lind's hiring process during a public session, but Committee Chairman Tom Lauder denied the request, stating the item was not on the meeting agenda.

In response to the denial of his request

for information, Lambert filed an Open Meeting Law complaint against the School Committee. This added to a list of other OML complaints against the committee, prompting the Select Board to ask about the subject in its November letter.

"The School Committee has been accused of violating the Open Meeting Law on several occasions. Please list the complaints filed, and their status with the Attorney General," the Select Board letter read.

Selectmen also questioned why there is a difference in the way the School Committee conducts its public comment period compared to other town boards.

"The Select Board allows topics not on the agenda to be discussed, while the School Committee allows topics only on the present agenda to be discussed," the Select Board letter read.

In response, Superintendent Tencza's letter read, "While the open meeting law does not require any type of public participation in a meeting, the School Committee routinely allots time for public comments. In an effort to respect everyone's time, the School Committee limits public comments to topics on the agenda for that meeting."

At a Dec. 20 Select Board meeting,

Lambert discussed the issue in person with selectmen during public session. He also discussed the answers received from school officials.

"These answers, I have to be honest with you, some of this doesn't jibe," Lambert told selectmen. "I think we need to question the validity of some of these answers."

In their November letter, selectmen also asked school officials to explain the source of funds for various items, including charges associated with the oil leak that exceed insurance coverage, as well as \$150,000 for the new assistant superintendent position.

In her response to the Select Board, Tencza's letter read, "We allocated funds at the end of FY21 to cover the oil spill. The Assistant Superintendent's position was funded through the elimination of the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment's position. Because the Assistant Superintendent's salary was prorated and there was a lapse in the staff salary expenses, no additional funding was required. The Assistant Superintendent's salary is \$135,000."

An estimated 750 gallons of oil leaked during the March 31 spill. As of Sept. 30, the estimated cost of the incident is

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22  
12:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Lloyd Dyer Drive), req. welfare check; 12:59-1:37 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:43 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), inquiry re: road conditions; 3:59 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 4:16 a.m.: disturbance (Paxton Road), info taken; 4:57-5:04 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Mechanic, Pleasant streets), tickets issued; 6:56 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 8:01 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: road closure/UMass North at Plantation; 9:57 a.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), icy conditions; 10:00 a.m.: elderly Matter (Pleasant Street), welfare check; 10:05 a.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), smoke from cooking; 11:00 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:26 p.m.: medical/general (Laurel Lane); 1:14 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:20 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 1:53 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. detox; 1:55 p.m.: residential alarm (Bixby Road), services rendered; 2:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Prospect Street), c/o overfeeding stray cats; 4:36 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 4:59 p.m.: residential alarm (Borkum Road), services rendered; 5:02 p.m.: suspicious mv (Donnelly Cross Road), investigated; 6:25 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 8:06 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), poss. attempted break-in; 8:45 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), misdiagonal; 9:10-9:30 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:41 p.m.: suspicious mv (Valley Street), investigated; 9:52 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:50 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), fight; (Total daily mv stops – 12).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23  
1:17 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:22 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:39 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:39 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 8:01 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Howe Village), loose dog; 9:48 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:19 a.m.: medical/general (Sullivan Street); 11:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), loose dog; 11:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), req. mutual aid; 11:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), ongoing harassment; 11:58 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 12:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Kingsbury Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 12:55 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:03 p.m.: accident (Sullivan Street), services rendered; 1:18 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Kingsbury Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 2:03 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 2:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Holmes Street), info taken; 2:13 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:20 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 3:03 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 3:45 p.m.: building checked, secure; 3:54 p.m.: medical/general (Robert Bay); 5:01 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 5:10 p.m.: mv stop (Woodside Road), Francesca A. Metterville, 38, (address redacted from police log), OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 8:17 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 8:39 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 9:02 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:47 p.m.: parking complaint (Prospect Street), mv blocking d/way; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24  
12:01-12:09 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic Street), tickets issued; 12:19-12:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:30 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mechanic Street), investigated; 12:46-2:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:18-5:24 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Pleasant, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 8:53 a.m.: animal complaint (May Street), re: cat at pound; 9:54 a.m.: 911 call (North Brookfield Road), open line; 10:02 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 10:17 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), mv off road; 10:34 a.m.: medical/general (Woodside Drive); 12:18 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), services rendered; 12:39 p.m.:

officer wanted (South Street), re: eviction notice; 1:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Laurel Lane), unable to reach residents; 3:37 p.m.: building checked, secure; 4:19 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv/middle of lot; 7:40 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), no emergency; 8:05 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 8:15 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:44 p.m.: disabled mv (Water Street), services rendered; 8:59-9:29 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:15 p.m.: fire alarm (Browning Pond Road), referred; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25  
12:02 a.m.: medical/general (Lambs Grove); 12:37 a.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), info taken; 1:07 a.m.: disabled mv (Water Street), services rendered; 1:22-1:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:49 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 6:24 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 9:44 p.m.: DPW call (Thompson Pond Road), icy conditions; 9:56 a.m.: animal complaint (Debbie Drive), lost dog; 10:22 a.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), icy conditions; 12:16 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 12:36 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Paxton PD bolo/stolen mv; 2:17 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), req. assist w/dogs; 4:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Brooks Pond Road), domestic issue; 4:38 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 6:02 p.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), icy conditions; 6:54 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), lost wallet; 6:54 p.m.: medical/general (Cornfield Road); 9:58-10:04 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26  
2:05-2:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:55 a.m.: medical/general (Lambs Grove); 8:40 a.m.: DPW call (Cranberry Meadow Road), icy conditions; 9:34 a.m.: vandalism (Chestnut Street), mv scratched o-night; 10:03 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: custody exchange; 1:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), problem w/former employee; 4:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 5:57 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 7:46 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), erratic operator; 8:56 p.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), noise complaint; 9:13 p.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); 9:38 p.m.: fire alarm (Condon Drive), referred; 10:31 p.m.: disturbance (Wilson Street), noise complaint; 10:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Charlton Road), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27  
1:02-2:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:12-1:40 a.m.: parking violations/4 (Chestnut, Grove, Irving, Main streets), tickets issued; 3:24 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:05 a.m.: medical/general (Wilson Street); 7:44 a.m.: 911 call (Buteau Road), open line; 8:01 a.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 10:34 a.m.: officer wanted (Ledge Avenue), locksmith needed; 10:37 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:52 a.m.: accident (Route 49), previous accident; 11:17 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:45 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), loose dog; 2:44 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 3:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: stolen pkgs; 3:21 p.m.: juvenile matter (Adams Street), kids skating on pond; 3:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), stray cat; 4:10 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), unwanted party; 5:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 7:15 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (Total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28  
12:16 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 12:23-12:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:46 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 12:47-12:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: suspicious mv (Donnelly Cross Road), investigated; 1:11-1:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:27 a.m.: DPW call (Salem Street), water/sewer pipe broken; 7:49 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:12 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 8:45 a.m.: fire alarm (Brooks Pond Road), referred; 11:33 a.m.: officer waned (West Main Street), mv insurance issue; 12:18 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv on sidewalk; 12:57 p.m.: abandoned 911

call (Cherry Street), no contact; 1:08 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 2:08 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bacon Hill Road), accidental; 2:18 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:27 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: employee; 3:34 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 4:24 p.m.: restraining order service (Maple Street); 4:59 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), loose chickens; 5:04 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), noise complaint; 5:19 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), accidental; 5:45 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 6:07 p.m.: medical/general (Lyford Road); 7:50 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 7:57 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: sale of item; 8:13 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 8:16-8:20 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:40 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:46 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), re: road crews; 9:51 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

# # #

## Leicester Police

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23  
12:04 a.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), assisted; 5:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:58 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, speeding, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, mv towed; 9:50 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:14 a.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 10:55 a.m.: investigation (Tobin Road), services rendered; 11:03 a.m.: ambulance (Hyland Avenue), transported; 12:05 p.m.: investigation (Broad Street), spoken to; 4:12 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 4:37 p.m.: residential alarm (Parker Street), false alarm; 5:07 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), mv towed; 5:56 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24  
12:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:52 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), services rendered; 1:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:40 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 1:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Andrew Charles Lynch, 25, 29 Pearl Street, Spencer, OUI liquor, negligent operation, lights violation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 3:21 a.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Circle), transported; 11:05 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 11:54 a.m.: erratic operator (Auburn Street), spoken to; 12:08 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 12:41 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:05 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:21 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 2:31 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 3:36 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, speeding, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 3:57 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 4:52 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 6:07 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 6:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 7:42 p.m.; ambulance (Main Street), transported; 8:01 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mannville Street), services rendered; 8:09 p.m.: accident (Main Street), services rendered; 8:23 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), spoken to; 11:04 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25  
3:31 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Street), resolved; 5:13 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), no action required; 8:11 a.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Circle), transported; 8:57 a.m.: ambulance (Mulberry Street), transported; 9:02 a.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 10:50 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:28 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 3:22 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 4:22 p.m.: assist citizen (Mechanic Street), services rendered;

4:39 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), mv towed; 6:25 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 6:52 p.m.: suspicious activity (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 6:53 p.m.: ambulance (Freland Street, Worcester), call canceled; 11:07 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26  
12:46 p.m.: family problem (Main Street), spoken to; 2:41 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 4:11 p.m.: ambulance (Lovell Street, Worcester), transported; 5:53 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 6:13 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 10:24 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27  
12:00 a.m.: mv stop (Willow Hill Road), spoken to; 12:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 12:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:56 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:20 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 1:25 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), services rendered; 1:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:56 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 3:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:40 a.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 9:49 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:08 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:34 a.m.: debris in road (Henshaw Street), referred; 10:52 a.m.: commercial alarm (Stafford Street), false alarm; 11:29 a.m.: summons service (Winslow Avenue), served; 12:00 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:06 p.m.: family problem (Monterey Drive), resolved; 12:16 p.m.: ambulance (Monterey Drive), transported; 12:40 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 1:18 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unfounded; 2:43 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 3:05 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Circle), transported; 9:39 p.m.: assault (Boyd Street), name and address redacted from police log, assault, malicious destruction of property under \$1200, report taken; 10:55 p.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), unable to locate; 11:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28  
2:29 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), assisted; 5:02 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Massasoit Road, Worcester), Oliver Alberto Ramos, 32, 190 Massasoit Road, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Worcester, breaking/entering building in daytime to commit a felony, arrest; 10:16 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:12 a.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 11:47 a.m.: larceny (Mill Street), report taken; 2:14 p.m.: investigation (Mill Street), services rendered; 3:20 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:29 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Monterey Drive), resolved; 8:49 p.m.: ambulance (Howard Terrace), transported.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29  
12:00 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Street), unfounded; 1:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), no action required; 9:27 a.m.: investigation (UMass Medical Center Drug Lab), services rendered; 10:01 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 10:23 a.m.: assist other PD (Tobin Road), services rendered; 11:00 a.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 1:04 p.m.: ambulance (Outlook Drive, Worcester), transported; 1:40 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:03 p.m.: ambulance (Harberton Drive), transported; 3:29 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 3:46 p.m.: ambulance (Cambridge Street, Worcester), no service; 6:36 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hyland Avenue), resolved; 8:42 p.m.: ambulance (Sabina Circle), transported; 9:32 p.m.: residential b&e (Stafford Street), report taken; 10:30 p.m.: confiscated license plates (Stafford Street), report taken; 11:30 p.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), verbal warning.

# # #

## BOS

continued from page A14

\$891,437.70, with an insurance coverage limit of \$500,000. The balance must be paid by the school department.

In a follow-up interview with the New Leader last month, Tencza contended that school officials have attempted to be transparent in all matters. She referred community and media members to an FAQ document created by the school department for information on the hiring process used to acquire the assistant superintendent. She also highlighted a blog on the Superintendent's webpage that answers various questions.

“The facts are out there. We answered the [Select Board's] questions so we would be transparent,” said Tencza.

The school department was under no obligation to answer the Select Board's questions, school officials said, but

answers were nonetheless furnished in an effort to foster further transparency.

“We have submitted our answers to the Select Board and, in the spirit of fostering improved communications among all, are sharing several of the questions that pertain directly to the schools on the LPS Web site,” the Superintendent's blog read.

Selectmen remind the public that

the School Committee is not under the Select Board's authority. Selectmen encourage residents to continue reaching out to school officials for answers to questions regarding educational matters and processes.



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**WEBSTER** – 20 Scenic Ave! Views of Webster Lake! 7 Rm Colonial! Work-in Appliance! Kitchen! Dining Area w/Cathedral Ceiling! Living Rm w/Pine Flooring, Hearth & Woodstove! 1st Flr Bdrms, 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full Baths! Expandable Walk-out Lower Level! Buderus Oil Heat! Recent Roof & Siding! **\$299,900.00**

**WEBSTER** – 8 Riverside Dr! Super Convenient 9 Rm Colonial! Work-in Appliance! Kitchen! Dining Area! Dining Area! 24' Living Rm w/Laminate Wood Flooring, Slider to Composite Deck! 3-5 Bdrms Total! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths Total! Finished Lower Level! Oil Heat! Roof 2019! **\$399,900.00**

**DUDLEY** – 50 Brandon Rd! 3 Family! 5/54 Rm! 2/21 Bdrms! 2/21 Bathrms! Investors Take Notice! Ideal Office Setup! 1st Floor Waiting Rm, Reception Area, 4 Offices w/Sinks, 3 Alcove/Prep Areas, Handicap Accessible 1/2 Bath, and Hrdwd Flrs! 2nd Floor Currently w/Employee Breakroom w/ Full Kitchen, Cabinets & Closet Storage, 3/4 Bath and additional office/bedroom! C/Air C/Vac! Security System! **\$349,900.00**



**DUDLEY HAYDEN POND WATERFRONT** – 48 Hayden Pond Rd! Recently Renovated, beautifully appointed, 5 Rm Waterfront Ranch! Enjoy sunsets, fishing & all water sports! Vinyl Composite decking & vinyl railings! Open floor plan! Cathedral ceilings w/skylights! Din Rm w/slider to covered deck! Kit w/quartz counters & SS appliances! Liv Rm w/stunning views of the Pond! Comfortable Master w/generous closet & half bath! 2nd bedroom or office! Full bath w/washer/dryer hook ups! Full basement for storage or additional living space! Floating Dock! Shed! **\$439,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 701 Beacon Park! 5 Rm End Corner Garden Unit - One Level Living - No Stairs! 10 Beautiful Acres of Park Lake Grounds w/Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 1,100' of Living Space! Ample Room for Year Round Living or as 2nd Home - Summers on the Lake - Winters in Florida! Well Maintained! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath, 2 Baths Total! Beautiful Lakeside Pool, Spectacular Beach, Best on the Lake! Detached Garage! **\$299,000.00!**

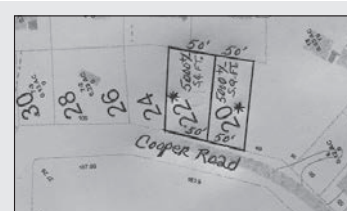
**WEBSTER LAKE** – 50 Laurelwood Drive! 90' Waterfront! Western Exposure – Beautiful Sunsets! Half Acre, 22,729', of Natural Privacy! 6 Room Custom Built Cedar Home with 2 Car Attached Garage! Dining Area and Fireplaced Living Room with Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! First Floor Master Bedroom with Full Bath! 2 Second Floor Bedrooms and Second Full Bath, Large Second Floor Expansion Area! Additional Garage Space Under! Lighting Strike Fire Damage Repair Required! Tons of Potential! **\$889,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 33 Loveland Rd! South Pond - Fantastic 19,243' Waterfront Lot with 125' of Prime South Facing Natural Shoreline which Highlights this 5 Room, 2 Bedroom, 3 Season Cottage! Start Your Lake Memories Here! Cute & Cozy, the Way the Lake Use to Be! Open Floor Plan with Lots of Glass and Panoramic Lake Views! Just Enjoy it as it is, or Add on to it, or Take it Down and Build Your Dream Home Here! Don't Need the Entire Lot, Subdivide it and Bring the Cost Down! Perfect Gentle Slope to the Water! Town Services! **\$949,900.00**



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*Featured Listing!*

**WEBSTER - 20 & 22 COOPER RD**

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**DUDLEY - 10 MILL ROAD**



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Beautiful family home! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, newer widows & heating system. Mini split system. Hardwoods. Lg eat-in kitchen /Corian counters & Island! Warming fireplace with handsome mantel. Generous dining room, spacious enough for your family gatherings. lower level fireplace family room. Harmon pellet insert! 2 car garage. Reduced **\$340,000.**

**WEBSTER - 23 EMERALD AVE.**



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 SF +/- living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors, Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hip roof 3 car garage! **\$439,900**

**WEBSTER - 10 THOMPSON RD**



**ON DEPOSIT**  
2 FAMILY! LOCATION, LOCATION! OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS A SOLID INVESTMENT. A GENERAL BUSINESS ZONED! PRIME WEBSTER BUSINESS DISTRICT! A LARGE, DEEP LOT, 14,875 SF/0.34 ACRE. 9 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, FHW/OIL. Garage! Lot is currently private with a mature tree line in the rear. Property serviced by Municipal Water & Sewer, Natural Gas line in Basement. A QUICK CLOSE IS POSSIBLE. **\$195,000**

**WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE**



**SORRY SOLD!**  
LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF +/-, 4 BRS w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch. 2nd Flr - 3 BRS, Reshingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Buderus Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage! **\$215,000**

**THOMPSON CT - 15 WAGER RD**



**SORRY SOLD!**  
Cape with 3 bedrooms, gleaming hardwoods, stone fireplace. Septic (2019), replacement windows, family and dining room, fresh paint throughout! Generator hook up, and updated Buderus boiler with holding tank. Garage under. This one maybe for you! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

*Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island*



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included, 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY! **\$389,900.**

**SOUTHBRIDGE - 140-148 HAMILTON ST.**



Multi-Families - 4 Buildings! 9 Occupied Residential Units! 1 Occupied Commercial Unit! Huge BONUS, Drive through Heated Garage, can accommodate up to 18 Vehicles! **\$975,000.**

**LAND: WEBSTER/OXFORD/CHARLTON**  
Oxford - 2 Merriam Rd 80+/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton.  
**ON DEPOSIT \$329,000.**  
Oxford - 4 Leicester St. - Approx. 8.47 Acres! River Frontage.

**NEW PRICE \$79,500.**

**Webster - DOUGLAS RD 26 ACRES! on SUGARLOAF HILL 1000+/- of frontage! **SORRY, SOLD! \$200,000.****

**Webster - COOPER RD - 2 BUILDABLE LOTS! Water & SEWER Access. Zoned Lake Res.! **\$24,500. Each****

**OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

2 Family! A RARE FIND, BUILT IN 1967!! 2 PARCELS = 16,224 SF!! EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED! Total 9 rooms, 5 Bedrooms, 2 baths. 2nd apartment is a perfect mortgage helper! Beautiful Hardwood Floors! Roomy yard. Off Street Parking! Neighborhood Setting! **\$449,000.**

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

**WEBSTER LAKE - 300 KILLDEER ISL.**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

**Killdeer Circle!** Gently sloping landscape to waters edge. Crystal clear shoreline. Ranch with 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths! Walkout lower level to patio! Garage! **\$650,000.**

**TREASURE ISLAND - CONDO**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Unit 1404 Marina side of the Complex - with 2 Boat Slips! 6 rooms, 2-1/2 baths, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, garage, Sandy Beach, Heated Salt Water Pool! **\$549,000.**

**WEBSTER - 401 TREASURE ISLAND**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

**WEBSTER LAKE!** Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Hardwood Floor & Carpet, Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets, Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Natural gas heat! 2 Boat Slips! Heated Pool! Natural! Sandy Beach! **\$439,000.**

**WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

Quiet Summers & Fall Seasons on Big & Beautiful Webster Lake. Completely updated Hardwood & Ceramic. Center Island Kitchen. 6 Rooms. 2-1/2 Baths. a must see. Overlooking the Marina. 2 Deeded boat slips. assisted sale **\$600,000.**

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**ON DEPOSIT**

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92 West Main St ~ **\$425,000**

**WEBSTER**



**PRICE REDUCED \$60,000**

**6 Units:** Sided, 6 (1) bedroom units, Recent roof, Detached barn  
227 School St ~ **\$525,000**

**WEBSTER**



1.5 acres, 26' living/dining room, Fireplace, 2 baths, 2100 sq.ft., 2 car garage  
63 Klebart Avenue ~ **\$429,900**

**WEBSTER**



**ON DEPOSIT**

4 bedroom, 1/2 acre lot, Fireplace, Small barn or workshop  
56 Ash Street ~ **\$234,900**

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# Toys for Joy

The East Brookfield/Brookfield Toys for Joy program was able to assist 22 children from 12 families. The committee wishes to thank all of the businesses and citizens for their continued commitment to this program. Without you, we would not be able to make this happen.

The following is a summary of the donations.

Jean Ledoux \$25.00  
 Ronald & Judith Gagnon \$25.00  
 Deborah Miner \$30.00  
 Ann Auger \$50.00  
 In memory of The Melesky, Davis, Carter & Constantine Families  
 From Ruby Melesky \$50.00

Justyne & Jeffrey Smith \$50.00  
 Spencer Garden Club \$50.00  
 Joe & Catherine Messier \$ 50.00  
 Lex T. Varney \$ 50.00  
 Sylvia A Varney \$ 50.00  
 RCB of Worc./St. Johns Parish \$ 75.00  
 The Morin Family \$100.00  
 Fred/Arlene Schofield \$100.00  
 Nelson J. Ezen, Esquire \$100.00  
 Daniel/Margaret O'Leary \$100.00  
 Maryellen/Stephen Brunelle \$100.00  
 Laurel Chesson \$100.00  
 John/Eileen Prizio \$100.00  
 Anonymous \$250.00  
 North Brookfield Savings Bank – Bank Match for toy donations \$250.00  
 North Brookfield Savings Bank – community donations \$273.86  
 Lamoureux Ford \$500.00

East Brookfield Elementary School – 6th Grade Kindness Council – Community Service-Learning Project \$1405.00

## Donations

East Brookfield Elementary School 6th grade Kindness council, who sponsored a fundraising event for their service-learning project in December. The project allowed people to purchase candy cane grams for their friends/family and/or staff. They donated a total of \$1405.00 to the program. (Special thanks to Chrissy Lavin)

The Brookfield Community Club for clothing donations for the families (special thanks to Lois O'Leary)

Gavitt Wire, Tip Top Country Store and Lamoureux Ford for their gifts of

toys.

**For those who adopted families (who wish to remain Anonymous) and:**

The Mahoney Family, The Hurley Family, The Alitz Family, Ron Sinclair-Clee, Kate Larson, Patti & Peter O'Neil

**To our shopping superheroes and Toy Room Organizers:**

Peter & Patti O'Neil, Debby Silliman, Heather Gablaski

**To our distribution day helpers:**

Tammy & Tim Josti/ Peter & Patti O'Neil

**Toys for Joy Committee of East Brookfield/Brookfield**

Donna & Roger Lafleur Debbie Morgan

## Toys for Kids Donations

Donations as of 12/28/2021

Patricia Ferrara	\$50.00
Spencer Garden Club	\$50.00
Knights of Columbus	\$200.00
Michael & Pauline Tone	\$100.00
St. Josephs Abbey	\$300.00
Anne Mulrain	\$50.00

Monetary Donations may be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562.

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept, Spencer Post Office, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St). If you would like to sponsor a child please contact Katie at [katrinah@erakey.com](mailto:katrinah@erakey.com)

or call/text 774-925-8127 OR Donna at [donnaflannery@erakey.com](mailto:donnaflannery@erakey.com) or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.



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# SPORTS

## Minutemen explode early with plenty of points in romp over Tri-County

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Regional girls' varsity basketball team entered its holiday break in style on Wednesday, Dec. 22, easily dispatching Tri-County Regional 51-22 to improve to 4-0. The Minutemen won't play again until Jan. 3, after press time.

"We've got a real good unit this year with some really nice freshman, [including starters] Kendall Bond and Alison Welton," said Bay Path head coach John Selen. "We're really blessed with them coming in this year."

Both freshmen made an immediate impact in the Minutemen's victory versus the Cougars. Welton poured in two quick baskets to give her team a 4-2 lead, and Bond followed with a free throw and shortly thereafter a made jump shot as Bay Path surged to a 17-4 first quarter lead, which included a 14-0 run.

Welton added another two baskets in the second quarter and teammate Amber Girard canned a pair of 3-pointers as the Minutemen held a sizeable 31-12 advantage at the halftime break.

"We're off to a real nice start and it's a fun team to coach," said Selen.

Welton showed a model of consistency in the third quarter, again scoring two baskets. In total, Bay Path won the frame 9-6 as they turned to the final quarter holding a 40-18 lead.

The Minutemen then won



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Alison Welton looks to drive into the lane on Tri-County's defense.

fourth quarter scoring 11-4 to account for the 51-22 final. And, you guessed it, Welton scored two more baskets in the frame to finish with a game-high 16 points. Bond had 5 points and secured a game-high 11 rebounds.

Selen said that he does not know the freshmen heading into Bay Path beforehand.

"You're just hoping for the best," he noted of first-day tryouts before saying, "It's like I just won the lottery, you

know?" followed by a chuckle when thinking about his talented roster.

In the win over Tri-County (2-2), the Minutemen's Bethany Lasell scored 10 points, while Girard finished with 9 more on a tri of 3-pointers. Maggie Mullaly had 6 points and 9 rebounds as Bay Path won the battle of the boards, 44-30.

"It's a real good group of kids as far as the chemistry goes. They're all getting along and sharing the ball. It's a good



Kendall Bond of Bay Path peers over the basketball before attempting a free throw.

team effort from us," said Selen. "What can you do to make your teammates better? That's what they really try to do on the floor — find the open person and do things when you

don't have the ball." The Minutemen also executed a strong fast break game plan, which will continue to be

Turn To **MINUTEMEN** page A19

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## SPORTS

## Rockets rally to defeat Woodstock Academy in overtime



AUBURN — The Auburn High varsity ice hockey team may have trailed in its game with Woodstock Academy at the Horgan Arena back on Monday, Dec. 27, but the rallying Rockets forced overtime and ultimately won a 3-2 decision.

Nolan White (Dillon Winkelmann assist) and Will Reece (Cooper C'Miel assist) both tallied second period goals to tie the score at 2-2 and, just 15 seconds into overtime, White scored again, and again from Winkelmann, as Auburn triumphed in victory.

The Rockets, a co-operative team consisting of athletes from Millbury High, Shepherd Hill Regional and Tantasqua Regional, in addition to Auburn High, improved to 3-2 after beating the Centaurs.

Jason McKay photo

The Auburn High varsity ice hockey team celebrates its 3-2 overtime victory versus Woodstock Academy on Monday, Dec. 27.

## MINUTEMEN

continued from page A18

in store for 2022.

"The young kids are fast, so we're really trying to up-tempo it as much as we can and score the easy ones when we can," said Selen.



Bay Path's Bethany Lasell gets fouled in the act of shooting.



Amber Girard of Bay Path begins her deep heave of a pass during an inbounds play.



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HIGH SCHOOL  
NOTEBOOK  
TANTASQUA  
SWIMMING RESULTS

Wednesday, Dec. 22  
Tantasqua 109, Advanced Math and Science Academy 43 — The Warriors easily won their girls' swim meet, with the medley relay team of Kira Dambly, Emily Owens, Katie Wade and Makena Pentoney taking first. Other Tantasqua winners included Zoey Zhu (200 freestyle, 100 fly), Owens (200 IM, 500 freestyle), Wade (50 freestyle, 100 breaststroke), Mariana Gentile (100 freestyle), Dambly (100 backstroke), the 200 freestyle relay team (Zhu, Grace Chisholm, Tori Stendrup, Wade), and the 400 freestyle relay team (Zhu, Pentoney, Owens, Dambly). The girls are now 1-1.

Advanced Math and Science Academy 78, Tantasqua 75 — The boys' swim team from Tantasqua lost a very close meet, dropping to 1-1 in the process. The Warriors' winners were the medley relay team (Max Sullivan, Ethan Korenda, Eben Mazeika, Adam Mazeika), Jonah Scherer (200 freestyle), Korenda (200 IM, 100 freestyle), Sullivan (50 freestyle, 100 butterfly), and Eben Mazeika (500 freestyle, 100 backstroke).

Wednesday, Dec. 29  
Tantasqua 102, Monson

50 — The girls' swim team won for the second time in two weeks, as the Warriors improved to 2-1. The medley relay team (Zoey Zhu, Emily Owens, Katie Wade, Kailyn McCarthy) had the first first-place finish of the day. Kira Dambly won the 200 freestyle, while Zhu also won 200 IM and the 500 freestyle. Other winners included Molly Bilodeau (50 freestyle), Wade (100 butterfly), Owens (100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke), the 200 freestyle relay (Dambly, Charlotte Ardis, Bilodeau, Owens), and the 400 freestyle relay team (Zhu, Bilodeau, Dambly, Wade).

Tantasqua 71, Monson 41 — The Warriors improved to 2-1 as the boys' swim team defeated Monson. The medley relay team of Zachary Hilborn, Jonah Scherer, Adam Mazeika and Cameron Giroux had the first victory for the team. Eben Mazeika (200 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Scherer (200 IM), Adam Mazeika (100 butterfly, 500 freestyle), the 200 freestyle relay team (Scherer, Max Pitcher, Cameron Grioux, Eben Mazeika) and the 400 freestyle relay team (Adam Mazeika, Pitcher, Hilborn, Eben Mazeika) were all winners.

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