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# North Brookfield candidate responds

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Incumbent Selectman Mary Walter aims to defend her seat at this year's election against challenger Jason Petraitis. Both candidates were asked to respond to the same set of questions involving their community. Below are Selectman Walter's responses. Despite multiple attempts to contact Petraitis, he could not be reached for this piece.



Mary Walter

to balance and monitor budgets, to avoid tax overrides while maintaining and improving vital public safety services. Working with the Superintendent of Schools have successfully reduced student choice-out of our school system while increasing student choice-in. Funding capital and infrastructure projects with State and Federal grants Working with Central Mass Regional Planning developed and published a plan for priority development of the town center.

- 1) What accomplishments in town have you been most proud of over the last few years?  
 My accomplishments in North Brookfield have not been the product of personal, individual efforts alone. They are the product of leadership and teamwork amongst the three elected members of the Board of Selectmen representing the residents of the town. Working continuously to find ways

2. What short-term areas of improvement do you feel North Brookfield needs?  
 Continuously find ways of saving money by streamlining and mechanizing our municipal business processes to increase productivity and improve services.

Turn To **WALTER**, page **A15**

# Candidates give reasons for wanting the job



Philip Landine



Sarah Allen

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Incumbent Selectman Sarah Allen is facing a challenge from Advisory Committee member Philip Landine. In advance of the election, the New Leader provided each of the candidates with an opportunity to participate in a debate-style profile. Below are the candidates' responses to the same questions reflecting on West Brookfield's past and focusing on its future. (Editor's Note: the answers have been edited a bit for length, both were given a word count limit, neither of whom followed. The answers are printed

alphabetically.) What are some of the most important improvements and accomplishments you've seen the town make in the last three years?  
**SARAH ALLEN:** In the area of infrastructure, the Highway Department has secured grants from MassDOT to reconstruct School Street and North Main (\$1,623,548) around the Common, providing more parking and new sidewalks. We also received a MassWorks grant to reconstruct Cottage and Lake streets

Turn To **CANDIDATES**, page **A12**



Courtesy photo

The annual spring festival includes a chance to begin planning the garden.

# Ring in spring with this festival

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** — After a winter that at times seemed like it wouldn't end, residents are invited to ring in spring by supporting locally grown foods and products at the Haston Public Library's May Festival. The eighth annual festival will take place on Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local farmers, nurseries, horticulturalists, food crafters, grocers, restaurateurs and others will sell their products and share information about their services, both inside and outside the library. Products will also be displayed on the Congregational Church lawn. The event always draws an impressive crowd of all ages, with guests eager to find the perfect Mother's Day gifts or get their spring gardens started. Event organizers and library officials always enjoy taking the opportunity to support local growers and give them an annual event to share their products. "We started this event eight years ago with the hope of supporting our

Turn To **FESTIVAL**, page **A9**

# How they think: three selectmen answer questions

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**SPENCER** — From deliberation on recreational marijuana sales, to consideration of a potential horse park in town, there is a lot for residents to discuss this election season and moving forward. That means significant decisions for elected officials over the next year-plus. In advance of the May 9 election, the New Leader reached out to candidates for selectmen and provided them with the opportunity to answer several questions critical to town affairs. Candidates for this year's elec-

tion are incumbent Selectmen Chris Woodbury and Ralph Hicks, as well as challenger Warren Monette. (Editor's Note: The questions and answers are alphabetical in order; with no emphasis on incumbent or challenger. The attempt was made to have all respondents keep their answers limited to a certain word count.) What are some of the most important improvements you've seen Spencer make in the last three years?  
**RALPH HICKS:** I have been a selectman since last May, not counting

Turn To **SPENCER ELECTIONS**, page **A14**

# Dipping into the derby: kids' fishing day

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**SPENCER** — It doesn't matter if you're a youngster with a pole in hand for the first time, or a veteran of countless excursions, it's always a thrill to cast a line into the water and see what you can bring in. Residents from throughout the area

will take part in an annual tradition this weekend that is over a century old — the Spencer Fish and Game Club's Trout Derby. Taking place at the club's pond at 155 Mechanic Street, the two-day event is set for April 29-30. Registration will begin bright and early on both days at 6 a.m., with the derby getting started at 8 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including the first two catches of each day and top performers for length and weight. "The first twenty minutes are always so exciting when the kids catch the fish and come running in to get their prizes," said Holly Collette, the club's secretary. "This event is a great tradition. A

lot of families come from all over — some of them grew up doing it and are now bringing their own kids back." The event is free to all members of the club. For non-members ages 12 and under, the cost is \$5. For kids ages 13-17, the cost is \$10, while adults will pay \$10 per day or \$50 for admission and a year-

Turn To **DERBY**, page **A12**

# Is Staging my Home Necessary?

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the recommendations of the stager really do sell their home quicker and for more money. Almost every time I come back for pictures I am shocked at the transformation that happened. Most stagers will be able to uti-

lize the furniture you already have and make some recommendations for some purchases to make the home show best. We have also had stagers come in and stage the home using furniture they own. This can be a little more expensive as you are typically renting the furniture monthly while your home is on the market plus the cost of them setting it up but still most times you are getting more money if it is done correctly. The other option is to virtually stage your home which would involve placing furniture in the picture so the buyers can see online how the space can be used. This is less expensive than bringing in furniture but when the buyers go

to the home the furniture is not there so you want to disclose that it is virtually staged to show the space utilization. According to a 2015 survey by the National Association of Realtors, among Realtors who typically represent a buyer 49% said most buyers are affected by home staging and 47% said some buyers are affected by home staging which means almost every agent agrees that home staging affects buyers purchasing decision. 32% of Buyers agents surveyed believed that staged homes increase the value buyers are willing to offer by 1%-5%. 16% of the agents surveyed believed it increases what a buyer is willing to pay



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JAMES BLACK

by 6%-10%. Since the median dollar range to stage a home was \$675 and if your home is selling for \$300,000 almost half of the agents surveyed believe you will get at least a \$3,000 increase in your offer by staging your home. This tells me that spending a little money up front will definitely payoff in the end on the sale of your home.

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 \$20,000, 649 Podunk Road, Patricia and Daniel Shannon to Jessica Shannon

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
 \$171,000, 45 Forest Street, Craig and Kristie Swenson to Yasmin Grateraux  
 \$301,933, 40 Smith Hanson Road, Daniel and Donna Picard to Allen and Kathryn Smith

# Fresh first vegetable of year welcomes visitors to region



Diederick Leertouwer welcomes guests to the West Brookfield Asparagus Festival. He'll tell you that he brought asparagus to America in 1794, and is proud of it.

WEST BROOKFIELD — This town's annual ode to spring will be here soon, and we hope you'll come to the party, the one we know and love as the West Brookfield Asparagus Festival, on Saturday, May 20. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the eagerly anticipated Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival will welcome visitors from across New England and beyond, to spend the day enjoying this splendid tribute to the slender, tender stalks of green for which it's named. As the town works at sprucing up the common area, vendors are promising and planning creative displays, stunning arrangements of out-of-the-ordinary things for guests to peruse, admire, and take home. And there's free transportation, to the common — no long walks necessary.

More than one hundred juried vendors of all things earthy, artistic and artisanal will provide food for the senses and for thought - here's history, gastronomy and the pleasure of your company, all of you, as you meet and greet the thousands of friends of Diederick Leertouwer. In fact, perhaps you'll meet the man who, tradition informs us, brought asparagus to America in 1794, right here in small, scenic and altogether remarkable West Brookfield.

That sprucing we mentioned is taking some time, to be sure, but Spring and our heritage and asparagus and flowers and music and fun just won't wait. To make your visit pleasant despite extensive highway work around the common, there's a free shuttle bus all day, from ten to four - you may park your car at the town highway department area (at the junction of Ware and Front and Central Streets); you'll be whisked to the common, no parking problem at all. You'll be welcomed by the festival committee (and perhaps take a selfie with Diederick) and walk right into the party of the year, free of charge and open to all.

Throughout the day, there's a lively agenda in place. Bring the kids, the grandparents, the whole family, or neighborhood, to browse for plants and pleasurable things, enjoy the music, and, of course, venture down the enticing Asparagus Alley. There you will savor the famous asparagus chowder; in fact, a tasty array of dishes dedicated to the delicately delectable vegetable, and other treats as well. Meanwhile, the church ladies serve up their home baked pies; the men stay busy making eighty gallons of their special asparagus chowder. We don't like to brag, but this year's array of foods and vendors is especially diverse - variety and creativity to accommodate all tastes. Lunch and munch to the music of the Stable Hands as you witness the joy of this day.

Artisans will demonstrate - you may wish to help the blacksmith make a nail and

stamp it with your initials. Artists will discuss their work and techniques as you admire affordable art you can take home. There are photo ops everywhere, and music - just pull up a hay bale, sit and enjoy - and did we mention the glorious food? The honeys, jams, maple syrup. Love in a jar or bottle.

Youngsters and the young at heart will be charmed by the Clowning for Kidz bus full of clowns - the yellow bus, sporting myriads of balloons, will enliven the afternoon with its cargo - more than a dozen clowns, ready to amaze and amuse with frolicsome entertainment throughout the day. There are free kids' games all day long, face painting and fun arts and crafts and much more. Ed the Wizard will bring his usual bag of tricks and mystify the kids with his wily wizardry. The dunking tank is back this year - the coaches of the town's youth sports teams will again occupy the hot seat. For the third year, there's an art contest amongst local school students. The committee selects three winners; each receives a Michaels' gift card. The two first prize holders' art is made into a postcard, given out free at the festival.

The popular festival began as a friendly, small town happening, sponsored by the Quaboag Historical Society and the West Brookfield Historical Commission, 14 years ago. A famous cook volunteered to cook her special chowder. Pies were baked, other savories served. Growers brought plants, flowers, honeys and so on. Artists, artisans and crafts people brought unique and lovely items to purchase and admire; animals, raised for food, fun or textiles abounded - they still do. Music accompanied the myriad activities, the bustling, busy, happy day of celebrating the earth's goodness and its promise. And when the day ended, everyone knew the event was a keeper.

In the ensuing years, word has spread; offerings and participants have multiplied. This year welcomes a pleasing blend of returning and new vendors, something fresh and appealing for everyone. Look for local authors with books to sign. Ask the blacksmith to tell the terrifying tale of St. Dunstan - the patron saint of blacksmiths - and the Devil, and why we hang a horseshoe over our door. Greet old friends,



Courtesy photos

Photo ops in the spears at the annual festival, now gearing up for this year's edition.

make new ones. You'll know them by their smiles - everyone always smiles at everyone else at the asparagus festival - they just can't help it.

As you approach the common, at the junction of Routes 9 and 67, where all roads will surely lead on May 20, be sure to admire the beautiful forms of "our ladies" arrayed and adorned just as they were when George Merritt Rice donated the town's centerpiece in 1885. Rest awhile on the new benches, donated by appreciative townspeople in memory of loved ones. Witness the colorful whirl of families enjoying a quintessential event in this very special place. Perhaps you should mark the date on your calendar right now. You won't want to miss it!

There is no rain date. There is no ATM on the common; if you think you might want to purchase a trinket or two, (or how can you resist the superb displays of plants) bring cash or checks. There's an ATM in the center of town, a brief walk away. And of course, you can enjoy the day without spending a penny if that's your style.

There may be limited parking around the common - no guarantees at this point - but the shuttle is constant, convenient and free. If the orange webbing eyegore is still in place, just fix your eyes on the lovely fountain, the hundred vendors, the flowers, the food, the fun, and sally forth to a joyous day.



## ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4130 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

## ATTENTION WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS Hydrant Flushing



The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants April 24, 2017 thru May 5, 2017 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate.

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The North Brookfield Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town beginning Tuesday, May 2nd through Saturday, May 20th, 2017.

The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water, caused by small particles dislodged during the flushing. This discoloration might stain your laundry, especially white materials.

Flushing is performed between the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM. We post our daily flushing schedule on the North Brookfield Water Department Facebook page. If you would like additional information, please call the Water Department at (508) 867-0207.

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# Luck is a duck as Harrington plans its fun day

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN  
STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**CHARLTON** — The Harrington Hospital Auxiliary's 26th annual Lucky Duck & Family Fun Day is coming to a new venue this year. On Sunday, May 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. families are invited to Fay Mountain Farm in Charlton for a day of games, raffles and the Harrington Hospital 5K. And it's all for a good cause.

Lucky Duck & Family Fun Day is the auxiliary's largest fundraiser. It's a day where the entire community comes together. There will be various organizations and business

vendors set up throughout the event, letting people know what services they offer within the community.

There are also a large variety of activities for families, including a pie eating contest, face painting, a corn hole tournament and a carnival games tent. Bay Path will also be coming with duck cookies for people to decorate. Capen Hill Nature Sanctuary is also planning activities and games. Fay Mountain Farm will also be open so people can check out their products and "do a bit of shopping," said auxiliary member Christine Lee.

And then, of course, there's the ducks!

This year, for the first time, the ducks will not be in a kiddie pool but a pond! Throughout the day people can purchase rubber duckies to be entered in the raffle. One duck is \$5. A "six quack" is \$25. And a flock of 13 is \$50.

At 2 p.m. Harrington's "Big Lucky Duck" will pluck the five lucky winning ducks. The first duck plucked wins \$1,000. Second place gets \$500, third place \$300, fourth place \$200 and \$100 to fifth place.

"It's a fun day to spend time outside with your family. There's just so much to check out, a lot to do and there's a chance to win a prize at the same time," said Lee. "It also

helps raise money for the community."

The money raised at the Lucky Duck event goes directly to the Harrington Hospital Auxiliary, which donates money to the hospital and to scholarships in the medical field throughout the community.

The Harrington Hospital services 17 communities, among them Oxford, Webster, Dudley, Charlton, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Thompson and Woodstock.

In the past, the auxiliary has used the funds to help support the addition of an ER unit and mental health unit in the Webster campus and pur-

chased expensive equipment for various hospital departments in Southbridge. They've also donated to churches and organizations throughout Southbridge. They also offer scholarships to seniors within the community who are going into the medical field.

"We have so much to offer," said Lee. "It's a volunteer opportunity where you get to see the smile on people's faces. You just know it's all going to a good cause. It will help keep the hospital alive and help us have a community hospital."

For more information on the Lucky Duck event call the hospital's volunteer office and ask for Lisa at (508) 765-6473.

# Relay fundraiser features benefit hockey game

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN  
STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — A very unique Relay for Life fundraiser is coming to the Buffone Rink in Worcester on May 6. Relay team F Troop – Harrington Hospital's pediatric nurses – have teamed up with The Rusty Blades for the fourth annual Peter Brown Memorial Benefit hockey game.

"People won't believe it until they see it," said Buff Congdon, who is both a member of F Troop and The Rusty Blades, a hockey team for men over 60 years old. "I'm 70 years old and still playing ice hockey. It's hard for

some people to believe. It's a very aggressive, fast, physical game that we play. To see a bunch of guys our age come out and still do this, it's amazing. We have two people in the game that are 80 years old. It's amazing. It's just amazing that we can do what we do at our age."

People who come to the fundraiser get to watch a fast-paced, action-packed game with some unlikely athletes and participate in a large number of raffles organized by F Troop. There will also be local mascots at the game.

Last year almost 500 people came to the game and they raised \$8,400 for the American Cancer

Society.

"It's fantastic how many people are getting involved," said Congdon. "Once they see the game they tell their friends and we get more and more support. All the businesses, restaurants, and communities are willing to donate and help us. We just feel so grateful for everybody's help. Every year it gets more and more successful so we're just rolling with it!"

This year The Rusty Blades are looking to raise \$10,000.

"Everyone's been touched by this terrible disease one way or another," said Congdon. "Everything we do is for the American Cancer

Society. My mom died of lung cancer years ago. My girlfriend lost her nephew a few years ago at 40 years old. It's a tragic disease. If we can raise money to help end this disease, we're all for it."

Currently, there are 75 members registered with The Rusty Blades, but only around 30 will skate in a game. Congdon — who played hockey as a child, in high school and even played some pro hockey — got involved with the team when he went to the Auburn rink at 63 years old and bumped into a high school teammate.

"We started skating," he recalled, "and he kept telling me about the

team. We ended up getting some equipment and started playing again. When you love hockey... It's just in your blood. If you love the game, you'll play forever."

Congdon grew up on the Auburn pond. His mom had put him on skates when he was three years old. He eventually played in high school at Auburn High. He was drafted by the Bruins but never played for them.

"I was a goal tender for years. I can't play that position anymore because my knees just won't take it," he said. "But I still keep going! It's a lovely game. Any time you can put the skates on and play I do it."

Last August, The Rusty Blades lost one of their friends and teammates Pete Brown at 72 years old. This year's fundraiser is named after him and it will be each year from now on, said Congdon.

For more information on the upcoming game or to get tickets call Congdon at (413) 668-6330 or his girlfriend and F Troop member Barbara Merrill at (413) 668-4500. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$8 or \$4 for children. There will be door prizes, including a \$100 scratch ticket tree.

Said Congdon: "Come on down and have some fun!"

# Spencer among towns wrestling with pot questions

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

**SPENCER** — Voters will be busy early next month, with the annual town meeting and election taking place five days apart.

After much discussion this spring about recreational marijuana sales, voters at the May 9 election will decide whether to follow Sturbridge's lead and ban such sales in town. Communities throughout the state are voting on the issue, including East Brookfield, and Spencer officials have emphasized the need for the outcome to lie in voters' hands.

"Towns across the state have insisted on having local control and giving residents the chance to express their views on this," said Board of Selectmen Chairman John Stevens. "I expect this subject will bring a lot of people out to the election this year."

The ballot question asks whether voters support banning all types of recreational marijuana establishments in town, including testing facilities, product manufacturers, and retailers.

Voters at the election will also decide whether a pair of selectmen earn re-election. Incumbent Selectmen Ralph Hicks

and Chris Woodbury are hoping to defend their seats against challenger Warren Monette, a lifelong resident of Spencer. Voters will choose two of the three selectmen candidates for three-year seats.

Residents will also elect a SEBRSD representative, an assessor, a treasurer, a library trustee, a tree warden, and a sewer commissioner, among other positions.

The election will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at town hall, 157 Main St.

The annual town meeting, meanwhile, is set for May 4 at 7 p.m. at town hall. Voters will deliberate on 30 articles, the most controversial of which also involves recreational marijuana sales.

Article 24 will ask if voters support establishing a moratorium on recreational marijuana dispensaries, which would remain in effect through November 2018. If approved, the moratorium period would enable the town to undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana sales in town. It would also allow the state's Cannabis Control Commission to adopt regulations and convey them to town leaders. If approved, the moratorium taking

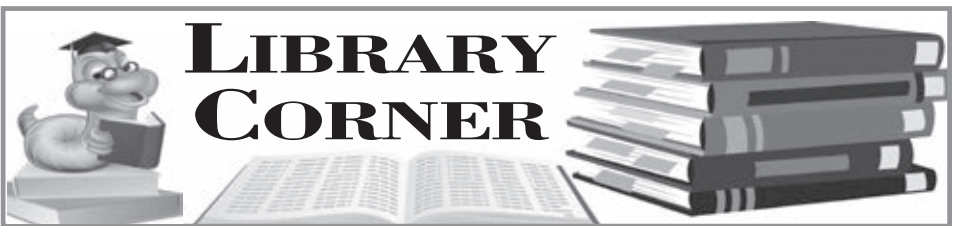
effect is contingent on a defeated ballot question to ban recreational sales at the election. The moratorium article requires a 2/3 majority vote and would only be incorporated into the zoning bylaw if the ballot question is defeated on May 9.

Article 25 would amend the zoning bylaws in the instance of an affirmative approval of the ballot question on May 9. This article would amend the bylaws to prohibit the use of all types of commercial marijuana establishments. The passage of this article also requires a 2/3 majority vote and would only be incorporated into the zoning bylaw if the ballot question passes on May 9.

Article 23 asks voters whether they support appropriating \$353,876 for a capital program of equipment purchases and improvements. These include a dump truck (\$60,000); a replacement cruiser (\$40,000); and a Wire Village building study (\$20,000), among other items.

Article 1 will determine if voters support amending the FY17 operating budget by appropriating \$274,000 to cover additional expenses.

To view the remaining town meeting articles, visit [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) and click on the homepage link.



## Richard Sugden Library Merriam-Gilbert Public Library

Spencer  
For information or to register for programs (508) 885-7513 or register online at [www.spencerpubliclibrary.org](http://www.spencerpubliclibrary.org).  
New programs scheduled include:

May 1st  
Teens are invited to try zoom sci and mini art projects. Teen Mania will take place from 3:30-4:30.

May 2nd Come to toddler story hour at 10 a.m. and meet other parents, enjoy songs, stories, and activities with your 18 months to 3 year old. Caregivers must remain in the room with their toddler. Preschoolers (ages 3-5) come at 11 - caregivers must remain on the same floor. These are free programs. Today's theme is bugs!

May 4th Tune in Together is a music and movement program for toddlers and preschoolers and their caregivers, sponsored and presented by CFCE. Meets from 11 a.m.-noon

3 West Main St./P.O. Box 364  
West Brookfield, MA 01585  
508-867-1410

## Come see what is happening:

Thursday, May 4 at 6 p.m.: "Scents-Sational Aromatherapy 101" with Kim Larkin from Klassic Kreation, who will give a presentation highlighting the history & health benefits of essential oils & healing botanicals. Participants craft & assemble aromatherapy dream pillows, bath salts & soaps. Please register.

Tuesday, May 9 at 7 p.m.: Monthly Book Discussion - "Middlesex" by Jeffrey Eugenides.

Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m.: Book Discussion & Signing with author, Ed Orzechowski, who will introduce Donald Vitkus and read selections from "You'll Like It Here, the Story of Donald Vitkus, Belchertown Patient #3394". Following the readings, the event will be open to discussion & questions. Afterwards, both Ed & Donald will sign books which will be available for purchase. Please register.

Ongoing: Knitting Group on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

**Your Dental Health**  
by Edward Larkin D.M.D.

**SPOTTING SIGNS OF DISEASE**  
A thorough dental examination may reveal more than signs of tooth decay and gum disease; the dentist is in a unique position to spot signs of other diseases, as well. For instance, signs of mouth dryness may be indicative of diabetes. While patients may not realize that their reduced saliva production is an issue until it decreases by half, the dentist may see signs of dry mouth much earlier. Diabetes also increases vulnerability to oral infections that create swelling around the teeth, in the gums, and in other areas of the mouth. In addition, the dentist may notice fungal infections (such as thrush, which produces white patches in the mouth) that may be evidence of diabetes.

Brushing and flossing keep more than your teeth healthy – they might also prevent serious illnesses. Poor dental care is also a possible factor in other conditions, such as immune system disorders, weak bones, and problems with pregnancy and low birth weight. To schedule an appointment, please call 9 W. MAIN DENTAL at 508-867-2777. We are located at 9 West Main St., West Brookfield. For your convenience, we offer extended hours – both before and after the typical workday – to ensure that even the busiest of our patients have every opportunity to build and maintain a healthy, beautiful smile.

*P.S. Aside from diabetes, the dentist may see signs of Crohn's disease, heart disease, cancer, and rheumatoid arthritis while conducting a dental exam.*

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Age: 1 Years, 2 Months

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# CLASSROOM CORNER

## Bay Path plans summer program

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN  
STONEBRIDGE STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — Bay Path is offering a very unique and exciting summer program this year. Parents can now register online through Bay Path's website, where the entire schedule and course descriptions are available. Not only will there be a full sports schedule but a full vocational program as well.

Bay Path's summer program will be running the whole summer, starting June 26 through the end of August. The days run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, but they will also be offering before and after care so parents can drop their child off at 7:45 and pick

them up at 4:45, "which is really convenient," said Assistant Vocational Director Jeremy Guay, who is now the director of summer programs as well.

"Normally I have the summers off and I have a child," said Guay. "There are times I want to send them off to camp but by the time I sign them up they're full. A lot of the area camps are only four days of the week or a few hours a day. It's great to have, but it's not as convenient as it could be. We saw a need for families whose moms and dads work in the summer and need a place to have their children go during the day. We thought it was a golden opportunity to utilize our facility, which is basically empty in the summertime. We

have an amazing facility and talented instructors. It's really a three-way win."

The summer program will offer everything from golf, soccer and basketball, but the vocational programs for younger children are what really make Bay Path's summer program different from others in the area.

There will be a carpentry program where students will assemble a coat rack that resembles a large LEGO construction. The students will work on it all week and then take it home on Friday.

There's a cosmetology program where students will learn hair care, nail art, styling and fantasy makeup.

The program also includes

a graphic arts program where the students will design and make their own silk screen t-shirt, coffee mug and some other items as well, using Photoshop.

There are also many STEM programs and opportunities for the students to use 3D printers.

Then there's a culinary arts program, where the students will learn about different foods from different cultures. They'll cook their own lunch. And in the afternoons, they'll do baking and can bring the items home to their families every night.

"Not every child wants to go to a camp where it's just sports," explained Guay. "We have so many children who are

hands-on. They want to build things, they want to construct things, use tools. They want to do things that are just out of the ordinary. They can express themselves in ways they never have before."

The vocational programs are being taught by licensed instructors that teach at Bay Path during the year.

The summer program is being offered at a competitive price, with each week averaging around \$150.

Parents can register their students online at [www.bay-path.net](http://www.bay-path.net) at the summer program link. They can also register by downloading and printing a form that can be mailed in or dropped off at Bay Path.

## Virtual school invites prospective families to event

TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School (TECCA), the state's largest full-time, tuition-free public school for K-12 students, is now enrolling students for the 2017-18 school year and is hosting in-person information sessions across Massachusetts.

Interested families are encouraged to learn more about how virtual school works and if it's the right fit for their students by attending one of the in-person information sessions held by TECCA over the coming weeks. An information session for families of potential students will be held in Auburn on May 8.

TECCA's success is apparent in results of the school's annual survey of parents, which was completed by an independent third party. Eighty-seven percent of parents indicate they

would recommend the school to other families, and 92 percent say their children are satisfied with TECCA's program. Eighty-four percent of parents gave TECCA an "A" or "B" grade, whereas public school ratings from the 47th annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools shows that traditional public schools received 70 percent "A" or "B" grades from parents. Over ninety percent of parents surveyed are also satisfied with the helpfulness of their TECCA teachers and agree that the curriculum is high quality.

Families will have the opportunity to meet with a TECCA faculty member or representative, explore the program and curriculum, and ask questions about the enrollment process. Interested families may also attend Parent-to-Parent meetings for the opportunity to speak

with currently enrolled families in a more casual setting. For those unable to attend an in-person session, real-time interactive online information sessions and an on-demand session accessible 24/7 are also available. A complete list of events and links to the online information sessions are available on TECCA's website.

Information session for prospective families interested in attending virtual school at TEC Connections Academy are scheduled May, May 8 beginning at noon at Fairfield Inn and Suites Worcester Auburn at 718 Southbridge St.

TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School (TECCA) is Massachusetts' newest statewide, tuition-free, virtual public school for students in grades K-12. The school was approved in February

2014 by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and is now serving students for the 2016-2017 school year. TECCA provides students with the flexibility to learn from anywhere there is an Internet connection and with an innovative online school curriculum that meets rigorous state education standards. The combination of Massachusetts-credentialed teachers, an award-winning curriculum, engaging electives, technology tools, and social experiences provides a supportive online learning opportunity for students who want an individualized approach to education. The virtual school is sponsored by The Education Cooperative (TEC). For more information, call (800) 382-6010 or visit [www.TECConnectionsAcademy.com](http://www.TECConnectionsAcademy.com).

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**Join us for an Admissions Information Session**

Thursday, May 25 - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

[www.QCC.edu/admissions-events](http://www.QCC.edu/admissions-events)

\*Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, The College Payoff, 2009.

#### Summer I classes start May 15

Course #	Course Name	Credits	Day	Time
<b>Accounting</b>				
ACC 101	Financial Accounting I	3	MW	8:00-11:45 a.m.
ACC 222	Managerial Accounting	3	TR	12:00-3:45 p.m.
<b>Allied Health</b>				
ALH 102	Introduction to Medical Terminology	3	MW	12:00-3:45 p.m.
ALH 131	Introductory Nursing Assistant	5		
Please call 774.318.2110 for schedule				
<b>Computer Information Systems</b>				
CIS 111	Introduction to Microcomputer Applications	3	TR	8:00-11:45 a.m.
<b>Economics</b>				
ECO 216	Principles of Microeconomics	3	MW	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>English</b>				
ENG 102	Composition II	3	TR	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>Finance</b>				
FIN 111	Personal Financial Planning	3	TR	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>Mathematics</b>				
MAT 099	Intermediate Algebra	3	MW	12:00-3:45 p.m.
MAT 122	Statistics	3	TR	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>Psychology</b>				
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3	TR	8:00-11:45 a.m.
<b>Speech</b>				
SPH 101	Speech Communication Skills	3	TR	8:00-11:45 a.m.

#### Summer II classes start July 5

<b>Accounting</b>				
ACC 102	Financial Accounting II	3	MW	8:00-11:45 a.m.
<b>Allied Health</b>				
ALH 102	Introduction to Medical Terminology	3	TR	12:00-3:45 p.m.
<b>Computer Information Systems</b>				
CIS 111	Introduction to Microcomputer Applications	3	MW	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>English</b>				
ENG 090	Basic Reading Skills	3	MW	8:00-11:45 a.m.
ENG 096	Intermediate Writing Skills	3	TR	12:00-3:45 p.m.
ENG 101	Composition I	3	TR	8:00-11:45 a.m.
ENG 102	Composition II	3	MW	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>Mathematics</b>				
MAT 095	Beginning Algebra	3	MW	12:00-3:45 p.m.
MAT 099	Intermediate Algebra	3	TR	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>Psychology</b>				
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3	TR	6:00-9:45 p.m.
<b>Speech</b>				
SPH 101	Speech Communication Skills	3	MW	6:00-9:45 p.m.

#### Fall classes start September 6

**PHOTO REPRINTS AVAILABLE**  
Call for details 508-764-4325

# CLASSROOM CORNER

## Science rally draws hundreds



BY GUS STEEVES  
STONEBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

“When did science become a political agenda?”

To Charlton resident Jane Cutting, the fact that’s become an askable question was a key reason for braving a raw, drizzly day to participate in Worcester’s March for Science last weekend. It was one of hundreds in many cities around the world.

“If each of us focuses, zeroes in on one issue, we can fight this,” she said. “I decided yesterday to work on rivers and food. Rivers are critical to our food sources. We need clean water for that.”

Cutting was one of several

hundred people gathered in Institute Park to hear a short and surprisingly optimistic yet serious speech before parading about a mile along Salisbury, Park, Institute and West streets. Many carried homemade signs bearing related themes, including “Save the EPA,” “Let’s NOT make America toxic again,” “There are no jobs on a dead planet,” and “Climate change is real.”

“It’s great to see so many people in Worcester supporting our march,” said Heather-Lyn Haley, an assistant professor at UMass Medical School. For her, the key issue is budget cuts for public health.

“Money for preventive med-

icine brings huge savings for America,” she said. “Taking money away from that to pay for the other side is ridiculous. Hopefully, the guy on stage was right and Trump is just ‘a bump in the road.’”

She’s quoting climate activist Gene Frye of Brookfield, whose Linked-in page describes him as a “global warming and energy efficiency consultant” who runs “a climate change information website with some 6,000 articles and 1,200 illustrations.” He has a doctorate in resource economics from Cornell University.

In a five-minute talk citing both causes for hope and worry, he said he sees Trump’s rhetoric and policies as unlikely to change the fact “investors are turning rapidly to the sun (cheaper than coal) and wind (cheaper than gas). Global investment in renewables overtook fossil fuels two years ago.”

True, but renewables still have an uphill climb. The most recent Energy Information Agency website data (updated April 18) shows all renewables comprise 14.9 percent of the US supply, while fossil fuels combine for 66 percent, creating dangerous climate momentum.

“If warming rates of the last 20 years continue, eight US states become as hot as Las Vegas this century, plus four more by 2117,” Frye said. “Now the good news: world CO2 emissions peaked five years ago. So did China’s.”

The problem is the lag time: carbon dioxide (CO2) stays in the atmosphere for a century or more, while methane (CH4) sticks around for about 20 years, but packs an even bigger climate wallop. For the same quantity emitted, CH4 has about 86 times more warming effect than CO2 over those 20 years, and 20 times more over a century (because it converts to CO2 and water). We’re incredibly lucky it’s now measured in the parts-per-trillion range, while CO2 just crossed the 410 parts-per-million level. CH4 has more than doubled since 1750, and CO2 is up about 130 points, according to the US Department of Energy.

“What happened last time we had this much CO2 in the air?”

Frye asked. “Earth’s surface was 4-5 degrees Celsius hotter than now, and seas were 65 to 130 feet higher.”

He predicted the lag time, “even if we stop cold turkey today,” guarantees at least 2° Celsius warming in this century “and again as much later.” That means Kansas and Georgia will see Vegas heat in summer around 2300.

“But if we don’t phase out emissions until 2100, they become Las Vegas hot 200 years sooner. An awful lot else follows,” Frye added. The key word there is awful: “large reductions in our food supply, widespread extinctions, water wars, refugee movements that dwarf the Syrian exodus to Europe, and putting most of Florida [and many other coastal places] under water.”

Kim Wilson of Boston has a rather humorous potential solution to that: push President Trump to act by “appealing to his ego” and competitiveness. She suggested creating the Donald Trump Environmental Prize, and giving it to the world leader who makes the biggest strides toward fulfilling the Paris Climate Accords. If it’s him, “find an old crown, shine it up, and give it to him in front of Paris’s Arc de Triomphe for saving civilization from dying,” she said. If it’s China’s president, give it to him, “and get [Trump] jealous of China’s advances.”

Wilson said she isn’t a scientist, just a concerned citizen and active member of 350.org. She attended with her grandson, who carried a big, round sign he waved at passing cars.

Wilson is one of a growing number of people jolted into action in recent years, many of them because of November’s election. Some have been forming local Resistance, Indivisible and similar groups, and WPI teacher and software designer Scott Runstrom of Paxton is one of them. His Indivisible chapter has seen more than 100 people join recently, most of them without any previous political involvement.

“Climate change is a clear and present danger to all of us,” he said while walking. “But there’s also a denial of science across the board.”



Gus Steeves photos

Scenes from Saturday’s Science March in Worcester.

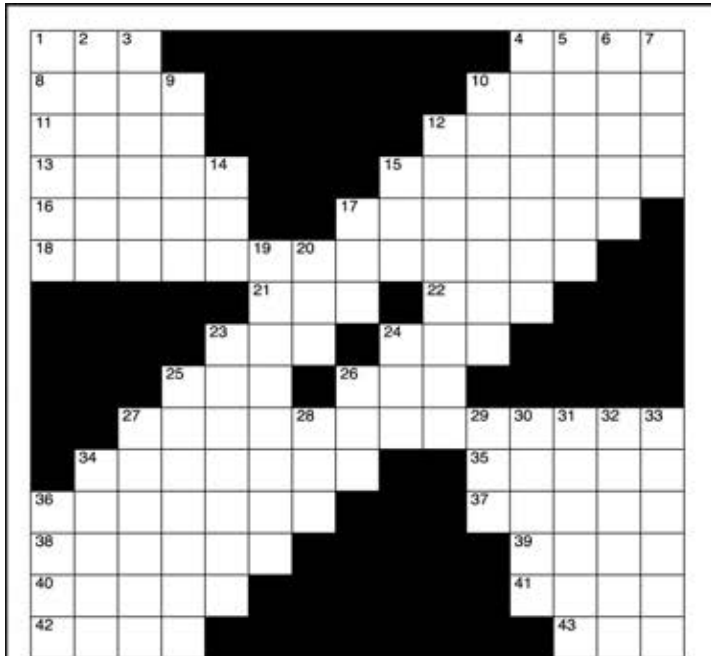
Indeed, that broader issue brought many to the rally. Worcester State senior Cynthia Lapan said she sees it from the perspective of someone who wants to be a children’s librarian and has a sociology major.

“This is more than just a single-discipline issue. This gets to the foundation of our human rights. Under the UN Declaration of Human Rights, freedom of information is a human right,” she said. But with the current administration suppressing some information sources and putting money into fossil fuel research over climate work, she foresees worsening “devastation from social issues affecting vulnerable people.” She pointed to Hurricane Katrina and Flint, MI, as examples.

Couple that with what seem to be “disincentives to creating an educated populace” coming from the policy and personnel choices of this administration, and Lapan said she expects even more climate change. To confront it, people need to encourage the many who did not vote in November to get involved.

“There is a right side to history, and they can be on it,” Lapan said. “We need to stop ‘silencing,’ stop treating it as ‘those people’s problem,’ and realize this concerns all of us.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at [gus.steeves2@gmail.com](mailto:gus.steeves2@gmail.com).

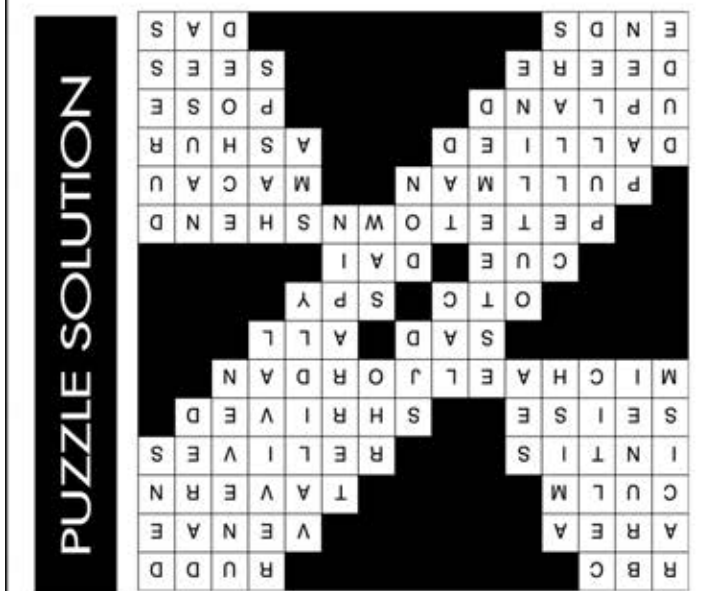


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Computer security philosophy (abbr.)
- 4. “Antman” actor Paul
- 8. Region
- 10. Heart veins \_\_ cavae
- 11. Stem
- 12. Public house
- 13. Outdated monetary units
- 15. Experiences again
- 16. Took possession of (Brit.)
- 17. Absolved
- 18. “His Airness”
- 21. Unhappy
- 22. The entirety
- 23. Meds without prescription
- 24. James Bond is one
- 25. Signal
- 26. Midwife
- 27. “The Who” guitarist
- 34. “Independence Day” actor
- 35. East Asian territory
- 36. Moved slowly
- 37. God of Assyria
- 38. Highland
- 39. Photographers’ requests
- 40. Makes tractors
- 41. Witnesses
- 42. Not beginnings
- 43. Prosecutors

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prejudice
- 2. Known for its sultans
- 3. Boston hoopster
- 4. An evangelistic meeting
- 5. Inconsistent
- 6. Challenged
- 7. Hideaways
- 9. Members of Mennonite sect
- 10. Cogently
- 12. Univ. of Maryland mascot
- 14. The Caspian is one
- 15. Greek letter
- 17. Law degree
- 19. Respected
- 20. Resin-like substance
- 23. A basis for
- 24. Popular horror movie franchise
- 25. Basements
- 26. Boxing promoter King
- 27. Plucked
- 28. Small amount
- 29. Shape-memory alloy
- 30. Metal plates
- 31. Resonated
- 32. Sickness
- 33. Coercion
- 34. Franz van \_\_, German diplomat
- 36. Type of ranch



## North Brookfield Dems celebrate regeneration of focus

It’s official: the North Brookfield Democratic Party has been reenergized, forging full-steam ahead to make sure our voices are heard loud and clear here, at the State House and in Washington, DC.

Despite an unexpectedly severe snowstorm on Saturday, April 1, Democrats in North Brookfield were determined to participate in the Caucus, showing up in record numbers for the first time in years to elect four delegates and two alternates to the 2017 Massachusetts Democratic Convention where Democrats

from across Massachusetts will gather to adopt a new Party Platform.

North Brookfield elected delegates include Elisabeth Melad, Emilie Parent, Jonathan Parent and Susan Lyons. Ethan Melad and Sharon Donovan will serve as alternates.

On Tuesday, April 4, Sharon Donovan was appointed Registrar of North Brookfield. Among several duties on behalf of local Democrats, Sharon will assist in supervising poll workers on the day of each election, primary, or referendum.

To ensure ongoing Democratic participation of the issues that matter locally and nationwide, the new North Brookfield Democratic Town Committee submitted a declaration form to Chairman Gus Bickford

and is now officially recognized as representing the interests of North Brookfield by the Massachusetts Democratic Party.

Though each town will determine issues its delegate representatives will be voting on, the North Brookfield Democratic Town Committee and the Brookfield Democratic Town Committee are joining forces for a Party Platform Meeting on Sunday, April 30, at 3 p.m. at the Brookfield Inn, 8 West Main St. This meeting is open to the public regardless of town residence or voter registration and it’s your chance to see democracy in action.

While meetings, strategy sessions and forums are vital to our mission, the North Brookfield Democratic Town Committee is looking forward to hosting fun events and activities for members, Independents, friends and families in the upcoming weeks and months. As we work together, forging friendships and leading the way for a more caring, fair and dignified society your participation in urgently needed.

Visit the North Brookfield Democratic Town Committee website [www.nbdemocrats.org](http://www.nbdemocrats.org) for details on upcoming events and get involved. Join us as we forge full-steam ahead on the issues and values so important to our quality of life, health, safety and freedom.

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# CLASSROOM CORNER

May 2017	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Spaghetti & Meatsauce, Mixed Greens & Bean Salad, Garlic Knot <b>Chef's Salad Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	2 Chicken Fajita Wrap, Seasoned Rice, Fiesta Corn <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	3 Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Creamy Tomato Soup <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	4 Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Baked Beans, Potato Smiles <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	5 Whole Grain Pizza Sticks W/Tomato Sauce Dip Tossed Salad <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>
<b>BREAKFAST</b> Milk-Fruit-Cheese Stick - 100% Fruit Juice and... <b>Mon</b> Cereal or Muffin <b>TUES</b> Cereal or French Toast Sticks & Sausage <b>Wed</b> Cereal or Muffin <b>Thu</b> Cereal or Breakfast Sandwich <b>Fri</b> Cereal or Muffin Regular Price \$1.50 Reduced .40 Free for students who receive free lunch	8 Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Seasoned Carrots, Soup of the Day <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	9 Cheese Pizza, Seasoned Corn <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	10 French Toast Sticks, Sausage, Hash Brown <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	11 Deli Turkey Sandwich, Cucumber Wheels, Sun Chips <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	12 <b>Early Release No Lunch Served</b>
	15 Chicken Patty Sandwich, Creamy Tomato Soup <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	16 Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	17 Chicken Nuggets Seasoned Pasta, Peas <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	18 Cheese Pizza Steamed Broccoli <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	19 Taco's on Hard or Soft Shell, Seasoned Rice, Carrots <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>
	22 Pasta W/or Without Sauce, Seasoned Vegetable, Shredded Cheese <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	23 Assorted Pizza Slices, Soup of the Day <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	24 Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Baked Beans, Potato Smiles <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	25 Sausage Egg & Cheese Croissant, Potato Wedges, Tomato Soup <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	26 Chicken Fajita Wrap, Seasoned Rice, Fiesta Corn <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>
	29 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	30 Whole Grain Pizza Sticks W/Tomato Sauce Dip, Macaroni Salad <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	31 Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	June 1 Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Creamy Tomato Soup, Mixed Greens & Bean Salad <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>	June 2 Chicken Nuggets W/Dipping Sauce, Seasoned Rice, <b>Chef's Salad Or Yogurt Parfait</b>



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## Tri-Valley, Inc. May 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Roast Pork w/ Gravy Mashed Potatoes Jardiniere Vegetables Peaches	2 Salmon Boat / Dill Sauce Rice Pilaf Peas & Pearl Onions Cookie	3 Lasagna Broccoli Corn Vanilla Mousse	4 Cold Roast Beef S&W Potato Salad Beet Salad Wheat Roll Cantaloupe Mayonnaise	5 Chicken Fajitas Spanish Rice Black Beans & Corn Sour Cream Pita Bread Pineapple
8 Sesame Beef Steamed White Rice Broccoli & Carrots Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	9 Macaroni & Cheese Stewed Tomatoes Green Beans Fresh Fruit	10 Lemon Thyme Chicken Red Potatoes Peas & Onions Fruited Ambrosia	11 Roast Turkey with Gravy Cherry Sauce Mashed Potatoes/Stuffing Tuscany Vegetables Cream Puffs Diet-Lapicoca Pudding	12 Potato Crunch Fish Tartar Sauce Lemon Seasoned Potatoes Peas & Mushrooms Peaches
15 Chicken Mornay Couscous Roman Blend Vegetables Cookie*	16 Stuffed Pepper Casserole Mashed Potatoes Carrots Fresh Fruit	17 Caribbean Pork Steamed Rice with Vegetables Broccoli Pineapple	18 Meatloaf & Gravy Garlic Mashed Potatoes Country Blend Vegetables Pears	19 Chicken Cacciatore Penne Pasta Italian Blend Vegetables Mousse*
22 Swedish Meatballs Spiral Pasta Scandinavian Vegetables Mandarin Oranges	23 Pork Rib-i-que Yukon Gold Potato Chuck Wagon Corn Strawberries/Whip Topping Wheat Roll	24 Sloppy Joe Potato Wedges Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit Wheat Roll	25 Buttermilk Chicken Red Bliss Potatoes Green Beans Birthday Cake Diet - Small Piece	26 Catch of the Day Rice Pilaf Tuscany Style Vegetables Brownie Diet-Pan Cake
29 <b>Memorial Day No Meals Served</b>	30 Chicken a La King Wild Rice Brussels Sprouts Peaches	31 Beef with Pearl Onions Bowtie Pasta Carrots Pineapple	<p>Tri-Valley, Inc. 508-885-9619 - Danvers 508-921-1422, Milford 508-478-8152, Northbridge 509-234-2102                  Oxford 508-987-8600, Southbridge 508-764-1450, Spencer 508-885-1408, Stonebridge 509-347-1053                  Uxbridge 508-234-0700, Upton 508-529-9216, Uxbridge 774-492-6174, West Brookfield 508-352-1441</p> <p>Tri-Valley, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Tri-Valley, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Tri-Valley, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider.</p>	



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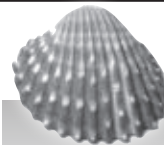
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**EDITORIAL**

**Rock the vote**

As it was easy to see, the New Leader is full of election pre-coverage this week. We tried very hard to ask the same questions of all candidates in a given town, giving everyone the same chance at sharing their views with the voters.

That way, voters can have some sort of comparison; just how people feel about the same issues.

Because what is important in Spencer and to one person running for a board may not be the same as what affects North Brookfield at all. We know that. So we geared the questions specifically to events and projects in the area.

This seems to work well. We hope it helps.

The ideal of course would be to give every single person running for an office the same forum. Space considerations make it hard. So does time.

We do always welcome letters to the editor, a great way to share opinions.

At any rate, here they are. Those who took the time and energy to answer our questions. Some are longer answers than others; some did bullet points; some did essays.

We always do the alphabetic listing, we are not biased as to which candidate is better, worse or indifferent; we admit we don't know them.

And we wish them all well. Anyone who is willing to take time from their lives to do this has our respect. It isn't easy, and the towns need these people desperately. Good people just wanting to help.

Please get out and vote. This is where your vote really does make a difference. If you don't think it matters at the national level, you may be right in some ways but here, right down here where you get a say in how the taxes are spent, the education is decided, the people are hired, this does very much make a difference and your voice needs to be added.

**VIEWPOINT**  
 OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Youth Group: thanks for support**

To the Editor:  
 It is with sincere gratitude that we would like to thank the following people and local businesses for their recent donations toward this summer's annual Youth Mission Trip to Washington, DC sponsored by The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC.

Our fundraiser on April 8at Camp Putnam in New Braintree was a great success because of these generous local merchants, organizations and individuals. Thanks to Camp Putnam, Varnum Funeral Home, GreMarco Industries, Klem's, Olson's Seafood, Berkshire Blanket & Home Co., Rapsallion Brewery, Artisan Beverage of Greenfield, Mexicali Fresh Mex Grill, Cinemagic of Sturbridge, Howard's Drive-In, Bogy Lanes, June Glidden Bakeshop, Brusos Liquor Mart, Home Depot, Spirit Shoppe, Salem Cross Inn, Honey Bee Orchard, Gavitt Wire & Cable, Dunkin Donuts of West Brookfield, and Dunroamin Country Club Inc.

Please remember their generosity when shopping locally. An additional

special thanks to The Otters, Regina Morgan, Diana & Mark Tuttle, Robin & Mark Fleischer, Cindy & Greg Dwelly, Wally & Michele Connor and Dick & Linda Griffing.

The goal of this trip, now in its 20th year, is to change teens' awareness and understanding of homelessness and hunger, in both their hearts and minds. By taking them to our nation's capitol, the epicenter of the decision making process in our country, we have found that the impact is great. This trip is open to any teenager who possesses the desire to help others, with religious affiliation not a consideration.

We are grateful that our community and local businesses support efforts to make the world a better place. It is evident that they, like us, believe that nurturing teens is the place to start. Again, thanks to all for your contributions. We wouldn't be able to continue our work without generous people like you.

TERRY & WALLY HALL  
 TRIP COORDINATORS

**Auxiliary: Lucky Ducks on their way**

To the Editor:  
 I'm writing to inform you that the Harrington Hospital Auxiliary will be holding its 26th Annual Lucky Duck and Family Fun Day on Sunday, May 7. Please note that this year Ducks has a new venue, Fay Mountain Farm on Cemetery Road in Charlton. The event will be held in conjunction with Harrington Hospital's 5K Color Run/Walk.

This year Duck Day features some exciting activities for kids as well as adults. We invite everyone to come and enjoy a photo booth, pie eating contest, face painting and much more. The fun begins at 11 a.m. and the "plucking of the duck" takes place at 2 p.m.

Parking is limited, but a shuttle bus will be available to transport visitors from their vehicles to the site of the event.

The Auxiliary would like to gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors and In-Kind donors for their generous support:

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 Accurate Metal Sales, bankHome-town, B&M Excavating, Country Bank Savings, Dexter-Russell Inc., Harrington Orthopedics, Hyde Tool Inc., Karl Storz Endovision, Laporte Electric, Load Controls Inc., McGrath Insurance Group Inc., Mr. Mike's, Millennium Power

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 Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Buckleupallofus Giant Balloon Attraction, Charlton Police Explorers, Economy Canvas & Awning, Ken Pecore Plumbing, MBI Graphics, Snap-Flash Photo Booth, Stonebridge Press, and Table Talk Pies

Got Duck?  
 One Lucky Duck: \$5; Six Quack (1 free duck): \$25; a Whole Flock (13 for the price of 10): \$50

Grand Prize: \$1,000; 2nd Prize: \$500; 3rd Prize: \$300; 4th Prize: \$200; 5th Prize: \$100

For more information on where to purchase tickets, please call the Duck Hotline at (508) 765-6473 or stop by the Duck Ticket Tent on Sunday, May 1. You need not be present to win. Hope to see you there!

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 CHAIR, LUCKY DUCK & FAMILY FUN  
 DAY CHAIR  
 HELEN LENTI, HARRINGTON  
 HOSPITAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

**Berthiaume: choice is Ortiz**

the word. Robert has children in the school district and has a strong desire to work with the other members of the committee and the administration to move the school district forward in a positive way. Robert currently serves on the Capital Subcommittee and in a short time has brought valuable information and insight regarding our capital needs. I have found him to be a very fair person who listens, asks questions and then makes well informed decisions.

As Chair of the School Committee

**White: why Landine**

Board of Health issues (she's a member).

The taxpayers deserve to have all selectmen voting on 100% of town issues. Phil Landine can do that. He has proven himself to be reliable and dependable in prior town positions, is well informed on town government, and would have the ability to vote on

during the 2016-17 school year, I am pleased to say I feel the school district made many positive gains. We still have much work to do, and I ask that you vote to support Robert Ortiz so that he can continue in this position that he has performed in so successfully.

MARTHA BERTHIAUME, CHAIR  
 SPENCER-EAST BROOKFIELD  
 REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Searching for classmates**

the following members of our class: Michelle LaPierre Darnell, Ruby Jean Earnest DiFederico, Suzanne Lemoine Garrett, Cheryl Horonzewicz Gilman, and David Savage. If anyone has information or and address for these class-

mates, please call (508) 765-9419 or send an email to panel18@aol.com. Thank you.

PETE AND BETH COURNOYER  
 SOUTHBIDGE

**Can You Free Yourself of Some Investment-related Taxes?**



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
 JEFF BURDICK

Tax Freedom Day generally falls around this time each year. This is the day when the nation as a whole has

earned enough money to pay off its total tax bill for the year, according to the calculations made by the Tax Foundation. So you may want to use Tax Freedom Day to think about ways you can liberate yourself from some of the investment-related taxes you may incur.

Of course, Tax Freedom Day is something of a fiction, in practical terms, because most people pay their taxes throughout the year via payroll deductions. Also, you may not mind paying your share of taxes, because your tax dollars are used in many ways – law enforcement, food safety, road maintenance, public education, and so on – that benefit society. Still, you may be able to reduce those taxes associated with your investments, leaving you more money available to help you work toward your important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Here are some suggestions for making investing less "taxing":

Contribute regularly to tax-advantaged retirement plans. Contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Traditional IRA earnings grow tax deferred, and your contributions may be tax-deductible, depending on your income. (Taxes will be due upon withdrawal, however, and withdrawals made before you turn 59½ may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty.) Your 401(k) or similar plan also provides the opportunity for tax-deferred earnings growth. Roth IRA contributions are not deductible, but your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided you don't take withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years.

Follow a "buy-and-hold" strategy. If you sell investments you've owned for less than a year, and their value has increased, you will have to pay capital gains taxes at your personal income tax rate, which, in early 2017, could be as high as 39.6%. But if you hold investments for at least a year before selling them, you'd be assessed the long-term capital gains rate, which tops out at 20%. Be aware, though, that the Trump administration and Congress seem likely to change the tax rates. Early plans call for a maximum personal income tax rate of 33%, with the top rate for capital gains and dividends either staying at 20%, or possibly being reduced to 16.5%. In any case, you'll still come out ahead, tax-wise, by holding your investments long enough to receive the long-term capital gains rate.

Consider municipal bonds. If you are in one of the higher income brackets, you might benefit from investing in municipal bonds, which are typically used to finance public projects, such as roads, schools, airports and infrastructure-related repairs. Interest payments from "munis" are typically exempt from federal income taxes and may also be exempt from state and local taxes, depending on the state in which the bond issuer is located. Interest payments from some types of municipal bonds may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Again, though, watch for developments from Washington, as both the Trump administration and some congressional leaders favor eliminating the AMT.

When charting your investment strategy, consider your risk tolerance, time horizon, family situation and estate plans. But investment-related taxes should also be in your strategic mix – so look for opportunities to keep these taxes under control.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

To the Editor  
 The Southbridge High School class of 1967 will be holding its 50th reunion on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at Cohasse Country Club.  
 We have been unable to contact

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# SPORTS

## Prouty falls to BMR in Panther Classic championship

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — A work in progress. A group of young players full of enthusiasm. A team hoping to be better in May than it is in April. All of these phrases describe the David Prouty Regional softball team.

The Panthers dropped to 1-3 on the young season when they lost in the championship game of the Panther Classic, 6-2, to Blackstone-Millville Regional last Wednesday, April 19. Prouty qualified for the title game by defeating Worcester's South High, 9-8 in eight innings, in the semifinal round.

Both the semifinal and final round games were played at the Wire Village School. "The game got away from us, really, in one inning," second-year David Prouty head coach Christine "Cricket" Bolduc said. "We had the lead and then they had that inning

and got the lead and forced us to play from behind. With a young team playing from behind, at times, is tough."

And the Panthers are nothing if not a young team. Eleven of the 17 players on Bolduc's roster are freshmen and sophomores.

David Prouty jumped out to a 2-0 lead against BMR its first at-bat.

Senior Olivia Fahey got things started for the Panthers in the bottom of the first inning when she tripled to center field, the ball sailing over the head of the Chargers' Erin O'Connor. Fahey staked Prouty to a 1-0 lead two batters later when she scored on a squeeze bunt by sophomore Brooke Pepin. Pepin ended up on second on the play, thanks to a BMR error.

At bat next for the Panthers was sophomore Victoria Bain. Bain struck out, but strike

three was a wild pitch, so she sprinted to first, getting in ahead of the throw from BMR catcher Kailey Chapman. While Bain was scampering to first, Pepin was sprinting home to extend the Prouty lead to 2-0. Pepin took off for third when she saw that strike three to Bain was a wild pitch. As she rounded third Pepin saw that the throw from Chapman was going to first base so she never even slowed down and scored easily.

Blackstone-Millville, which improved to 5-2 with the win, took the lead for keeps in the top of the third inning. After a leadoff fly out to Fahey in center field, five straight Chargers reached base and scored. There were three singles, a walk and a hit batsman in the flurry. Blackstone-Millville pushed its lead to 6-2, and closed out the scoring, with a run in the top of the fourth inning.

Despite the loss, Bolduc is upbeat about her team, which is coming off a 4-14 season a year ago.

"We're definitely better than we were last year. I feel we're a stronger unit than we were last year," Bolduc said. "The upperclassmen are really helping the freshmen and sophomores and we're really building a team."

Seniors on the team include Fahey, Alivia Lamoureux, Rachel "Teebs" Thibeault, Jillian Roy and Rachel DeWan.

Starting pitcher Michelle Lamothe is the lone junior on the team. In the Panthers' win over South in the tournament semifinals Lamothe was 5 for 5 at the plate, including a home run.

Sophomores on the team are Pepin, Bain, Lily Fahey, Anna Rondeau, Kylie Soter and Machalia Vanderhoof. Freshmen on the team are Alison Hingston, Aisha Perez, Trinity Gustafson, Erin Parenteau and Summer Perry.

"I'm looking forward to the rest of the season," Bolduc said. "I look forward to playing some of these teams again, teams that we played last year, games that were kind of a blowout. We're improved, and I want to see how improved we are. We're always striving to get better."



Olivia Fahey of David Prouty reaches low for a swing and coinciding hit versus Blackstone-Millville.



David Prouty's Michelle Lamothe swings away at a pitch.



Olivia Fahey of David Prouty slides safely into home plate.



Mathew S. Plamondon photos

David Prouty's Olivia Fahey fields the ball from center field.

## The British are coming to North Brookfield for most popular soccer camp in North America

With an innovative camp curriculum, alongside a team of coaches that eat, sleep and breath soccer, Challenger Sports is bringing young players throughout the US and Canada an up close and personal opportuni-

ty to experience the sport closest to Britain's heart. Challenger Sports has a rich history of being the most successful and most popular soccer camp in the United States and Canada for over 20 years. Challenger Sports is very

excited to once again team up with West Brookfield Youth Soccer for another summer of soccer, we'd love to have you join us and the rest of the US in this wonderful soccer experience for 2017.

West Brookfield Youth Soccer's weeklong "British Soccer Camp" will run July 10-14 at West Brookfield Elementary School. The camp runs Monday through Friday and each child will be coached by a member of our elite team of over 1,200 British soccer coaches, hand selected, trained and flown to the USA exclusively, to work on these programs. Challenger Sports will hold over 4,000 soccer programs this year and we will coach over 225,000 players between the ages of 3 and 19.

Challenger Sports' mission is to provide all children with an opportunity to learn, grow and share a positive and educational camp experience, which not only develops success on the field, but also inspires confidence, happiness and builds self-esteem. The Challenger camp culture is centered on making learning fun and their British coaching staff are famous for the way they are able to entertain, engage and educate the campers throughout the week.

The West Brookfield Youth Soccer British Soccer Camp has the following sessions available, for the following ages:

Ages 3-6, Mini Soccer, 8-9 a.m., \$75  
Ages 7-10, Half Day, 9 a.m. - noon, \$140  
Ages 8-14, Full Day, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$195

Teams are also welcome to attend and receive a week of focused instruction to prepare them for the fall season — Team Camp Rates are available.

Each camper will receive a free camp T-shirt, a free soccer ball, free soccer poster and a personalized skills evaluation just for signing up. Every child that registers online at Challengersports.com 45 days prior to camp will receive a free British Soccer Jersey (value \$39) shipped straight to their door. Free jersey offer deadline is May 26.

Parents are encouraged to sign up online in advance to avoid disappointment. To register and for more information please go to [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com) or contact Challenger Sports Regional Director Mo Abarak at [mabarak@challengersports.com](mailto:mabarak@challengersports.com) or call (401) 213-0465.

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## SPORTS

## Six-run fifth inning sparks Spartans past Tantasqua

SPORTS STAFF WRITER

UXBRIDGE — Facing an early 3-0 deficit after just a half-inning of play, the Uxbridge High varsity baseball team had its work cut out for them versus Tantasqua Regional on Monday afternoon, April 24.

But the Spartans continued to show fight and scored runs in each of their first five times up to bat — including a six-run fifth inning — to defeat the Warriors, 11-6.

“We spotted them four [runs] right out of the gate — three in the first inning — on a couple errors that were key errors,” said Uxbridge head coach Peter Rice. “We knew we had some guys that could put the ball in play. We talked about chipping away at

it.”

The Spartans chipped away by scoring once each in the home half of the first, second and third innings before adding two runs in the fourth and then the six-spot in the fifth.

“When we’ve been winning it’s been with a lot of runs,” said Rice, whose Spartans have scored 12, 17 and now 11 runs in their three victories, as they improved to an even 3-3.

The Warriors scored their three first-inning runs when Ryan Bonja’s grounder was mishandled, which plated both Ryan Slade (2 for 3) and Colin Eliason (2 for 4). Bonja then scored when Deven Kingman (3 for 3, walk) ripped an RBI single.

Uxbridge retaliated

with a single run in the first off an Alex Martello (3 for 4) RBI single, and Tantasqua countered with another run in the top of the second. That was scored when Slade’s single and outfield bobble scored Connor McCaffrey.

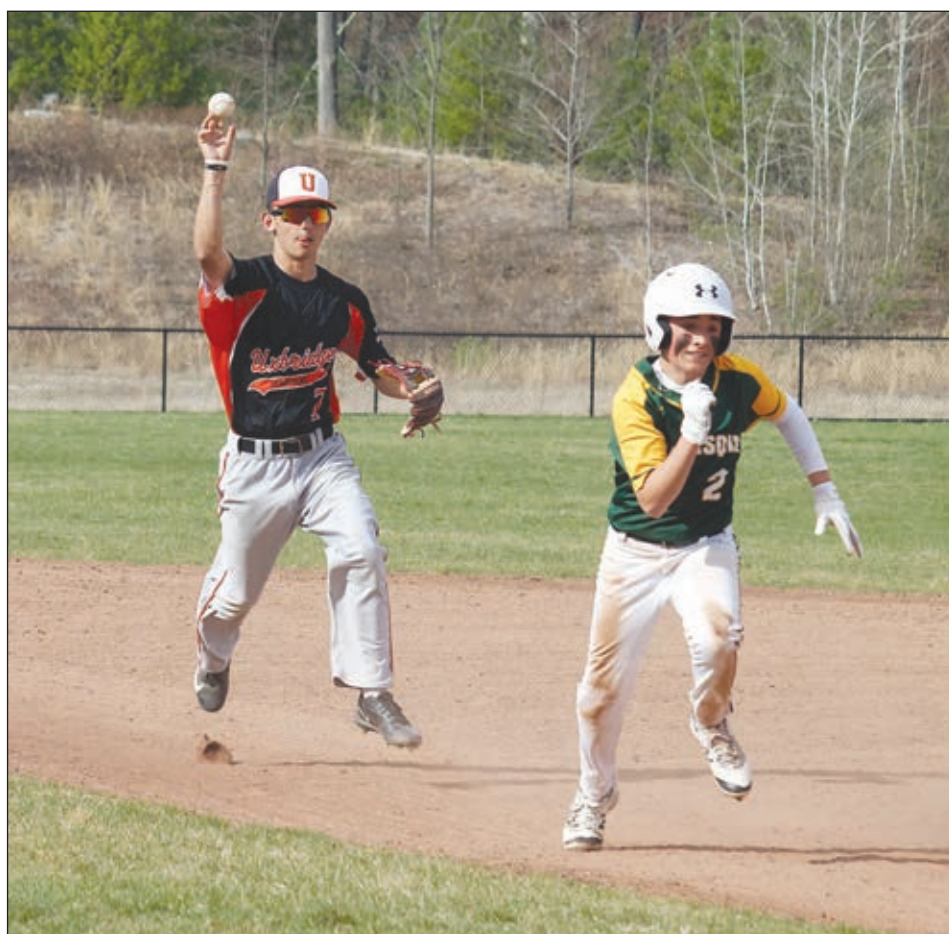
Uxbridge’s Ryan Morais (2 for 4) grounded into a fielder’s choice in the home half of the second to make it 4-2, and an inning later the Spartans clipped the deficit down to 4-3 when Harrison Mansfield hit a sacrifice fly.

Uxbridge took its first lead in the bottom of the fourth when Tantasqua reliever Benjamin Kelley took over for McCaffrey, who started and went the first three innings.

The Spartans’ Josh Callinan drove two runners home with a single into left field, but the Warriors tied the score at 5-5 in the top of the fifth when Eliason poked an RBI double.

But Uxbridge got to Kelley in the bottom of the fifth with their six runs. It didn’t help Kelley’s cause that the fielders behind him — primarily underclassmen — booted three balls for errors.

“Very young team,” said Tantasqua head coach Mark Muska. “At that time we had three freshmen in the game



Nick Ethier photos

Uxbridge second baseman Riley Rosborough tosses the ball over to first while Tantasqua’s Ryan Slade heads back to the bag in the middle of a rundown.

and one senior.”

Kelley was one of those freshmen, but a week earlier he pitched three scoreless innings of relief — a sign that the potential is there, but the Warriors as a whole may have to go through some growing pains first.

The key hits for Uxbridge in the fifth came off the bats of Holden Thiebault (2 for 4), Alex Currie (2 for 3), Riley Rosborough (3 for 4, walk, fielder’s choice), Morais, Dom Cariglia and Dan Page.

“It started with getting the first couple of guys on base,” explained Rice. “Hitting has been contagious with these guys all

year.”

Muska believes that his team’s error count will downgrade with each passing game, which could produce victories and a potential postseason tournament appearance.

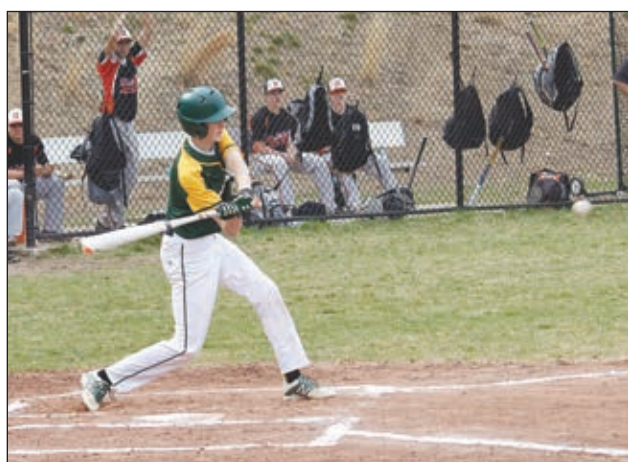
“We definitely could come back and play this team again and win if we don’t make errors and mental mistakes,” said Muska after the Warriors dropped to 2-4. “We have two wins and we’re looking for eight more.”

McCaffrey hit an RBI single in the sixth inning for Tantasqua, but that was the last run that Thiebault allowed for the Spartans. His complete

game effort included six runs — two earned — on nine hits with two walks, three hit batsmen and four strikeouts.

“He pitched great,” Rice said of Thiebault, adding that fellow pitcher Jack Hughes was the hard-luck loser a day before versus Quaboag Regional when the Spartans lost, 2-1. “He hit his spots. He really settled down.”

If the likes of Thiebault and Hughes continue to pitch well while the offensive continually produces a large number of runs, the postseason may also be on the minds of the Uxbridge faithful like it is for Tantasqua.



Colin Eliason of Tantasqua swings away and hits a first inning single.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Wachusett Babe Ruth League has openings for summer baseball

The Wachusett Babe Ruth League has openings for complete teams or individual players in our 13-15 year old division as well as our 16-18 year old division. The Wachusett Babe Ruth League currently consists of the towns of North Brookfield, Rutland and Barre. Players and teams from neighboring towns that currently do not have Babe Ruth are eligible to play in the Wachusett League.

For more information, contact Rich LeBlanc at richardleblanc1955@yahoo.com or Tammy Griffin-Kumpey at tkumpey@msn.com.

## Rochdale Baseball to join Central New England Baseball Association

The South Central Express of Charlton will now be known as the Rochdale Express, and their new home field will be at Rochdale Park, home of Becker College baseball. The team will be looking for players of all ages (19-plus) who have either graduated from their American Legion program or still want to play competitive baseball. The team is part of the Central New England Baseball Association (cneba.com), a wooden bat league. Anyone interested in playing in an adult men’s baseball league is encouraged to contact Joel Hart at (508) 864-9709 or at harttattack31573@gmail.com. Tryouts will be in early May when field availability is made known, and spots at all positions are open.

## Sturbridge American Legion

## holding baseball tryouts

Baseball players interested in playing for the Sturbridge American Legion team that are born on Jan. 1, 1998 or later are eligible to play. All players that live in Sturbridge and/or attend Tantasqua Regional High School are eligible for the Sturbridge team, also players from other surrounding towns may also be eligible to play. The team will conduct tryouts May 6, 7, and 13 at Tantasqua Regional High School, with times to be determined. For more information contact team manager Jim Rosseel at (774) 230-1784 or email jimrosseel@hotmail.com, coach Ray Sullivan at (508) 736-7770 or email raysull@charter.net, or coach Dave Proulx at (774) 230-6490 or email davidp7@hotmail.com.

## U.S. Baseball Academy coming to Worcester State

The U.S. Baseball Academy, the nation’s largest training program, is coming to Worcester State University from June 26-29. Advance registration is required. Kids sign up for the sessions they want, although most participate all four days from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please visit [www.USBBaseballAcademy.com](http://www.USBBaseballAcademy.com) for more details. You can also call the offices at 866-622-4487.

## David Prouty Regional varsity softball team

The Panthers reached the finals of their own tournament — the Panther Classic — following a 9-8 victory versus South High of Worcester. Prouty then lost to Blackstone-Millville Regional in the championship game, 6-2, on April 19.

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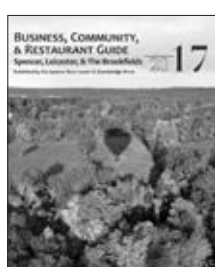


**The Write Stuff *Spencer New Leader***  
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**We Love Our Pets June 9, Pet Appreciation Week.** Looking for pet photos. No cost to submit. Please include pet name and town from. We will have a section for Pet Memoriams too (15 word max for memorial messages). Send in your pet photo with info to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news).

news by **Friday, May 26**. Business sponsors just \$60/block. Runs in all 7 Mass papers. Color first come/first serve.



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**SPENCER ELECTION**

*continued from page 1*

my terms in 1997-2002. In the past year, the reconstruction of Main Street has begun to happen. The reconstruction of Route 31 South is in the process of being bid as well. The Spencer Police Department has developed and began their Opioid Abuse Task Force. The town planner position has been restored and filled with the goal of increasing businesses to open in Spencer. The Board of Selectmen recently voted to reopen the town hall on Thursday mornings, hire a part-time outreach worker for the Senior Center, and add a part-time page at the Richard Sugden Library without increasing property taxes. In addition, Chairman Stevens and I have been working together and meeting with various entities to attempt to reopen Luther Hill Park and restore the swimming lessons for our youth.

**WARREN MONETTE:** In the last three years, the town has done well passing the debt exclusion for roads, preserving open space and responsibly managing the town budget by making conservative cuts.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** I have seen a lot of improvements going on in town. Some small and some large. The most important one is that as a town we are tackling the infrastructure and voted on the roads project we so desperately needed. It showed that we as a community can come together and improve our town. We are now working on Main Street and Route 31 South is scheduled for this summer. We were able to replace the broken fire engine for the department under a lease, which is a big public safety factor. We also are starting to restore services a little at a time that were lost when we had a tough decision to cut when our assessment for the schools increased from the state. It will take time, but my hope is that in the next three years we can restore what was lost while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of this community. Another improvement is we were able to have a community-senior center in town in a building that can offer more programs for our citizens.

What are your thoughts on the situation at David Prouty High School? What is the best route to improving the school, and how would you go about advancing this policy?

**RALPH HICKS:** First, it must be understood that outside of having a role in the school district's budget process, the

Board of Selectmen have nothing to do with the operation of the autonomous regional school district. The building is in desperate need of either a major renovation or total reconstruction. For the past year, I served as the chairman of the SEBRSD School Building Needs Committee, which attempted accessing state funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. However, East Brookfield's committee that is studying the feasibility of leaving the SEBRSD was cited by the MSBA as the reason DPHS is not eligible for state funding at this time. Although I fully understand and support East Brookfield's right to study leaving the SEBRSD, it is obvious that nothing of major proportions is going to happen with DPHS until East Brookfield completes its study and finalizes their decision one way or the other. Once that happens, I hope to be able to assist the SEBRSD in moving forward with this project. Having been deeply involved in the construction of Knox Trail Middle School, Wire Village School and the John R. Briggs Elementary School in Ashburnham, I feel I am well suited to be of assistance with this matter. In the interim, I wish to state that under the capable leadership of Mrs. Elizabeth York, I have seen many new improvements made in the school's course offerings and overall operation of DPHS.

**WARREN MONETTE:** The student to teacher ratio has decreased at David Prouty and this can provide a positive opportunity for students to excel. The school curriculum has to be creatively worked on to deal with a changing school dynamic. Everyone has to be willing to work together to do what's best for the students.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** I am a graduate of Prouty and have many fond memories of that school and have made many wonderful lifelong friends when I attended that school. The school is in need of repairs to give the students the tools and support that they need. It is the responsibility of the school committee to oversee these buildings and come up with a plan, which they are currently doing. It is the town's responsibility to work with them and keep an open dialogue and work on ideas together, the best way to implement them and devise a plan on how to pay for improvements that are needed that are fiscally responsible for the community.

If you receive the support of voters, what would be some of your

immediate priorities moving forward?

**RALPH HICKS:** If re-elected, I will continue to push for the restoration of the town services that were cut during FY14 due to the SEBRSD financial problems that were related to the Namin administration. In part this includes the restoration of library hours, the reopening of Luther Hill Park including swimming lessons, the restoration of all town hall hours cut, etc. I also hope to continue to support the Spencer Police Department's Opioid Abuse Task Force.

**WARREN MONETTE:** If I am elected, the first thing I would like to do for the town, would be to work with the town planner to promote economic development within the town. I would like to re-open the Luther Hill town park for residents.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** I would like to attract more people and businesses to the town. I also would like to work with the school committee on the best way to upgrade our schools so that students can get the best education that we can offer.

Discuss your accomplishments, experiences, and what makes you the best person for the job?

**RALPH HICKS:** As stated above, I have been actively supporting a number of successful initiatives over the past year. I have been involved in town government most of my adult life, having first elected a member of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Committee at age 23.

**WARREN MONETTE:** As a superintendent of schools, I have managed an almost \$30 million school district budget. I have been actively involved in collective bargaining for nearly 40 years. Lastly, in 1997 I was elected to the Board of Selectmen during what was Spencer's most difficult period of time. I made and stood by many tough decisions that I and the Board made despite many spheres of public pressure to do otherwise.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** I have been a lifetime resident of Spencer. I have been a business owner in the town, involved with the Conservation Commission many years ago, and active in the town community. Because of my experiences dealing with people and seeing the changes in town over the years, I feel I am the best suited for the job.

**WARREN MONETTE:** I work with the public every day. Part of my job is to listen to people and to try to solve their problems. I have lived in this town for 39 years. I love this town and I am raising my children here. I have a vested interest in this town as my children



Warren Monette



Chris Woodbury



Ralph Hicks

go to school here and I grew up here. Spencer is part of me and I am part of Spencer. I think there needs to be someone on the board who has children in the schools and who can think outside of the box. I always will listen to both sides and keep an open mind. I am passionate about this town and community that I call home. There was a learning curve when I was first elected to the board but after three years I have a very good grasp and knowledge of the issues facing the town and community.

Retention rates in the school system are a major concern for residents. What ideas do you have for keeping students in the district and attracting kids from other districts?

**RALPH HICKS:** As a superintendent of schools in both the Spencer-East Brookfield and Ashburnham-Westminster Regional school districts, I turned negative school choice numbers into positive school choice numbers. I did this by stressing the positive aspects of the school district. I believe the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District has many positive attributes such as the new curriculum choices and Advanced Placement courses at DPHS, the DPHS marching band, the wide variety of sports available at DPHS, and the new principal who has breathed new life into the school. In addition, the district itself is now in excellent fiscal shape.

**WARREN MONETTE:** The retention rates in the school system can be improved by making the students' experience within the schools more appealing. The bottom line is that the school is for the students and that's where everyone's focus needs to be. The faculty needs to work collectively to make the student experience and education top notch.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** We need to make improvements at the high school. We need more innovative classes for math and science. The current school committee and the superintendent have a plan and vision and are currently working toward that goal and also are working on an innovation lab. We are a district with East Brookfield, so as town officials we do not implement policy for the schools, that is the responsibility of the school committee. We do have a responsibility not

only to the school committee but to the voters to work together to help implement and support financially any plan that helps students achieve success.

How do you feel the town's response has been to the opioid crisis over the last year-plus? What opportunities still exist for improvement going forward?

**RALPH HICKS:** I feel the fact that the Spencer Police Department established an Opioid Abuse Task Force that includes several highly knowledgeable persons and is up and running as the only one of its kind in central Massachusetts is an example of the proactive response the town has taken to the tragic crisis. In addition, the Spencer Police Department continues to investigate and make arrests of dealers. Going forward, improvements include the Spencer Police Department working with our schools to educate our students about substance abuse and working with school administrators in working to keep drugs out of our schools.

**WARREN MONETTE:** The opioid crisis has been an issue in many towns. At the request of the selectmen the chief of police has created a program to deal with the problem. The chief is to be commended - the program is a model for other towns and cities. We need to appropriate funding for a full-time officer to fully implement the program. We also need the residents to step up; if they see problems in their neighborhood, they have to let the police know. With their cooperation, this problem can be reduced.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** This crisis is not only in this town but also is state and nationwide. We as a town have an opioid program that was started with the chief of police and a lot of hard work by the department to not only attack the source of the opioids but to provide support to individuals and family members that need information or don't know where or who to turn to for help. The department puts them in touch with people and departments to assist in that. We are one of the few communities that offer this outreach. We can continue to tweak this program if parts of it are not working or adopt programs that other communities are having success with.

What is your view on the proposed horse park in town? What is the best path toward determining

if this is a good fit for Spencer?

**RALPH HICKS:** My initial view on the horse park is that it will require a lot of study. I have serious concerns about the proposed location, which is in a rural part of the community with limited road access. I also have concerns about the gambling part of the proposed horse park and bringing it to Spencer with no guarantee that the rest of the facility will ever be built.

**WARREN MONETTE:** The horse park in town is currently a topic of discussion. I feel that it could be an instrument of economic growth for the town, but more information is needed at this time and careful planning is needed to make sure it is a good fit and within the best interests of the town.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** This is still in the very early stages of development. There is a lot of what ifs that need to be answered. I do like the possibility of up to 1,000 jobs for our community and like the possibility of it bringing people into town which then, those people would be using our area businesses and restaurants in the town. This is again in the early stages of development and a lot of questions would need to be answered along with the impacts on infrastructure, town services and also the community.

What are your thoughts on the prospect of recreational marijuana sales in town?

**RALPH HICKS:** Although I support medical marijuana sales, I am opposed to recreational marijuana sales in Spencer. I see no gain in bringing this to Spencer with the negative possibility of it bringing additional responsibilities for our police department.

**WARREN MONETTE:** I am opposed to recreational marijuana sales. I find it ironic that a town that has an opioid epidemic would consider a marijuana dispensary. The idea that having a dispensary would be beneficial to the town is contradictory to the current situation the town is having with opioids.

**CHRIS WOODBURY:** We as a board decided to put that question on the upcoming ballot to let the voters decide if they would like to have recreational sales in town. This is an issue that the board of selectmen in my opinion should leave to the voters.

Spencer town elections are Tuesday, May 9 at the town hall, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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# Milk bottles and dairy collectibles

When the milk man dropped off milk for customers on his route brings back fond memories for many baby boomer and older individuals. Delivering milk wasn't limited to men though. Many women also made milk deliveries to homes as well. Although most people now buy their milk at the grocery store, some local companies still have milk trucks running routes delivering fresh milk to area homes.



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
.....  
WAYNE TUISKULA

The nostalgia with milk delivery is one reason milk bottle collectors seek bottles for their collections, but there are others. Some collectors worked at dairies or on dairy farms. Others collect bottles and other memorabilia from their home town or county. It is a field of collecting where a collector on a budget can buy a bottle for under \$5. An advanced collector may pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars to own a rare one.

There are many factors that affect milk bottle values. The shape is important. Some bottles held cream at the top. The cream top bottles can sometimes be shaped like a face. There are "cop top" bottles that look like police officers and "baby top"

bottles that look like baby faces. The printing on milk bottles is called pyroglaze. More interesting graphics and more than one color on a bottle can increase value. Older bottles with embossed writing are also popular with collectors.

There are some dairies that are very popular and their memorabilia is in demand with collectors. Two local examples are Sibley's Dairy and Alta Crest Farms in Spencer. Some colleges also had dairies and their memorabilia can be very desirable.

Along with milk bottles, there are plenty of other dairy collectibles. Rare, small creamer bottles can command prices in the hundreds of dollars. Milk cans, carriers, porch boxes, bottle caps, crates and equipment like milk separators are other items wanted by dairy collectors.

Milk related advertising signs, clocks and other advertising pieces are highly desirable, as they are with most collector groups.

When I was a boy I looked forward to the Hood Milk truck making deliveries to my home. On hot summer days he would give me a piece of ice as he made his way from the truck to

my house. Bob Cousy promoted Hood products and I remember seeing a poster of Cousy on the side of some of the Hood trucks. I check online from time to time to see if one ever turns up in my search. I've yet to see one.

If you are interested in learning more about dairy memorabilia, there are collector groups available. The National Association of Milk Bottle Collectors website milkbottlecollectors.com offers information on the club and their annual convention. They have a publication called the "Milk Route" that goes out to its members.

Our milk bottle and dairy memorabilia auction takes place on April 27 in Worcester. See [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) for details on these and other events. My next scheduled appraisal event will be held at the Townshend Historical Society on June 10. I'll be appraising items at the Residence at Valley Farm in Ashland that coincides with the summer solstice on June 21.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111), [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com)



## WALTER

continued from page 1

Use of the North Brookfield Downtown Development property as an economic benefit to the town.

Successful renovation of the North Brookfield Town House for the benefit of its residents and the revenue and economic benefits to the town as a whole.

3. What are the biggest challenges facing the town right now, either

financially or issue related?

What can the town do to address them?

Improve financial management by utilizing best practices under the state's Community Compact Program and the simultaneous appointment of a Financial Advisory Group.

Continuous efforts to stimulate economic development by active recruitment of business operations, assisting in the expansion or reten-

tion of existing business operations or promoting the start-up of new businesses in the town center.

Commitment to funding Capital Projects through Capital Planning, which includes annual funding of the existing Capital Stabilization Account rather than borrowing through debt exclusion.

4. Discuss your experience and what makes you the best candidate for North Brookfield moving forward.

In addition to having

nine years of experience as a member of the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen, I have the skills in planning, project management, human resources and successful grant writing to continue moving the town forward successfully. In my service as a Board member, I have applied for and successfully received \$1,600,000 in grants for the town with the results of two more grants being announced in June and July, 2017 worth over

\$1,000,000.

5. What long-term goals are you focused on?

Creating an economic environment that serves the community and promotes the success of local industry and business with an emphasis on North Brookfield as a rural, scenic and historic destination.

Completion of the redevelopment of the town center as defined in our Priority Development Area Study.

Commitment to the

long-term stabilization of the town's financial status through long-term commitments to increased revenues by encouraging tourism, new businesses and energy independence.

Maximize use of information technology in all town departments to reduce costs of providing services.

The North Brookfield town election is scheduled Monday, May 1 at the senior center, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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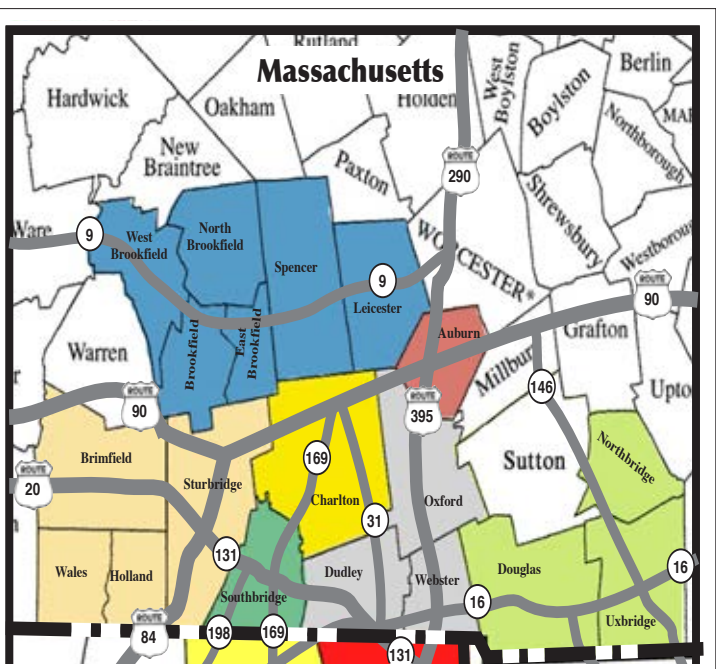
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# The Congregational Church in the Brookfields

## BACK IN TIME

BY DAVID FITZGERALD

The church which began in the meeting house on Foster Hill in 1717 (whose 300th anniversary is being celebrated this year of 2017) was Congregational in organization. Since it and other Congregational Churches like it played such an important role in Massachusetts colonial history leading up to the American Revolution, it seems fitting to give a brief account of how Congregationalism came into being.

The origins of Congregationalism can be traced to 16th century England

when the English monarch, Henry VIII, in a dispute with the Pope over his right to divorce his wife and re-marry, made a complete break with the Catholic Church. He seized control of the Church, and the resulting Anglican Church (Church of England) was thus now completely state-controlled. It was not long, however, before dissatisfaction with this secular control of the church, as well as with the continued use of many of the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Church, produced an opposition movement. The opposition group, Puritans, wanted to have the English Church "purified" of secular and Romanish influences.

At about the same time, however, a more extreme group known as Separatists developed, which went a step further, believing that the whole idea of a state church was

contrary to Biblical teaching. The Separatists believed that they must be, like the early Christians, independent of all authority other than that of God as revealed in the Bible and through the Holy Spirit. It is from these Separatists that the Congregational form of organization developed, in which each individual church is independent, democratic and self-governing in all its affairs.

These early Separatists in England were persecuted by the authorities for their beliefs, and a small group of them sought refuge in Holland. After about 10 years there, this group, known today as the Pilgrims, made the courageous decision to cross the Atlantic in a small ship, the Mayflower. Enduring incredible hardship and suffering, they settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620, thus becoming the first Congregationalists in America.

The Puritans who began to settle in and near Boston in the 1630s were, unlike the Pilgrims at Plymouth, not Separatists. They were still technically Anglicans, subject to the Church of England. But the English monarch, Charles I, was at this time becoming increasingly embroiled in civil and religious conflict, soon leading to a Civil War, and was in no position to exercise effective control over his colonial subjects 3,000 miles across the ocean. As a result, the early Puritan Churches of Massachusetts Bay were forced to solve their own problems and manage their own affairs, and in effect at length became Congregationalist-independent and self-governing.

The lack of control from England also allowed the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay to develop strong governmental control during

this early period. They were strong-minded people, with deeply held religious convictions based on their interpretation of the Bible and the teachings of John Calvin. Although Church and State were officially kept separate, Puritan ideals and beliefs strongly influenced governmental actions. Church membership was a requirement for voting and holding public office. Thus, it was in Congregational meeting houses throughout Massachusetts, such as those in Brookfield, that government and religion were combined. And it was in meeting houses such as these that many of the values and ideals were developed which would bear fruit in the American Revolution.

(to be continued)

## Between blue water and blue sky

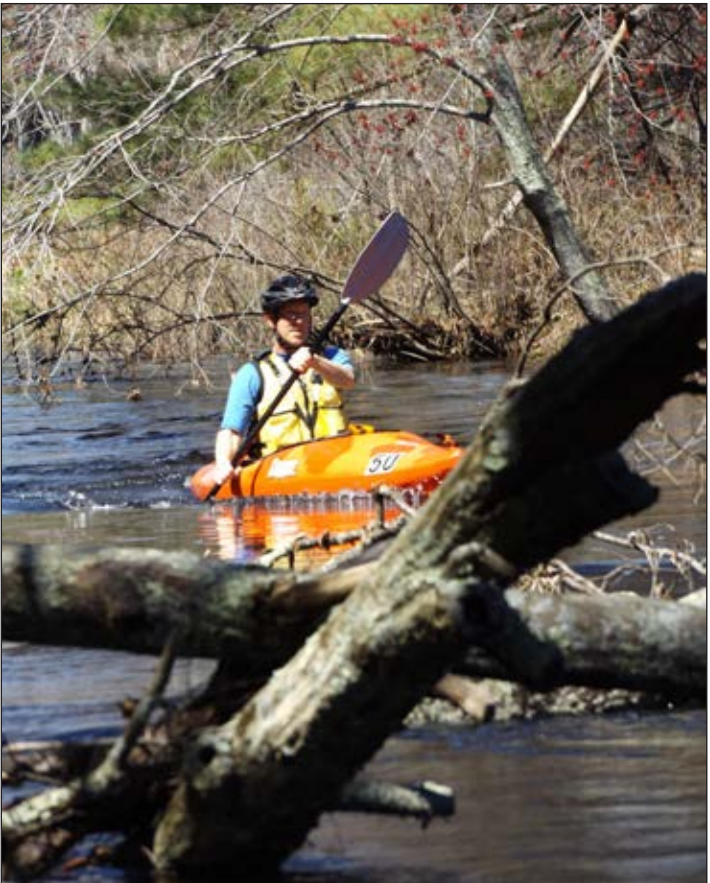
STURBRIDGE — Sunny, cloudless skies overlooked the 60 boat teams who launched their way down the Quinebaug River Sunday for this year's All American River Race. Organizers said the turnout was lower than expected — last year had 85 boats — but participants said it was a great day for a race. Some were clearly trying to win, while others took the route in a more leisurely fashion.



Lions Club member Jeff Chasse of Sturbridge gives a racer the 10-second countdown.



Jason and Eric Gottier of Vernon, CT, pull their boat out after crossing the finish line.



A racer evades tree limbs in the river just above the Farquhar Road bridge. Such trees are common along the course; some have been there since the tornado of 2011, other came down in more recent storms.



Photos by Gus Steeves

Sklya Waleski of Durham, Conn., could easily hide in the bow of her grandfather Scott Waleski's kayak.



A kayaker paddles through the curve just downstream of Old Sturbridge Village.



Abram Lempicki of Sturbridge ratchets his boat to the top of a van at Westville Park.



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• Back-Up Camera • Alloy Wheels

Lease For **\$136** /Mo. 36 Mos. **35** MPG! †

Stk# 267489, Model# 2546, MSRP: \$24,944, \$2,899 cash or trade down, \$3,604 due at signing, \$23,058 capitalized cost, \$1,950 Toyota lease cash.\*\*

**New 2017 Toyota**  
**RAV4 LE AWD**



• 6 Speed Automatic • Off Road Capability

Lease For **\$178** /Mo. 36 Mos. **28** MPG! †

Stk# 267996, Model# 4432, MSRP: \$27,718, \$2,999 cash or trade down, \$3,710 due at signing, \$26,272 capitalized cost, \$450 Toyota lease cash.\*\*

**New 2017 Toyota**  
**TACOMA SR5 4X4 DOUBLE CAB**



• V6 Engine • Back-Up Camera

Lease For **\$279** /Mo. 36 Mos. **23** MPG! †

Stk# 277146, Model# 7540A, MSRP: \$34,563, \$2,999 cash or trade down, \$3,497 due at signing, \$32,743 capitalized cost.

**New 2017 Toyota**  
**SIENNA LE AWD**



• V6 Engine • Star Safety System • 8 Passenger

Lease For **\$299** /Mo. 36 Mos. **24** MPG! †

Stk# 278426, Model# 5366, MSRP: \$36,370, \$2,799 cash or trade down, \$4,497 due at signing, \$34,233 capitalized cost.

**New 2017 Toyota**  
**HIGHLANDER XLE AWD**



• Front Bucket Seats • 4 Wheel Independent Suspension

Lease For **\$327** /Mo. 36 Mos. **25** MPG! †

Stk# 277546, Model# 6953, MSRP: \$41,363, \$2,999 cash or trade down, \$3,710 due at signing, \$38,312 capitalized cost.

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Friday 7:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 7:30am-4:00pm






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\*Taxes, license, title, insurance and \$349 doc. fee extra. Excludes \$350 disposition fee due at lease end. Zero security deposit. \$650 acquisition fee is included. Lessee pays maintenance, excess wear and tear and \$0.15 per mile charge for all mileage over 12,000 miles per year. \*\*Rebate from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. \$17.92 is due monthly for every \$1,000 financed at 2.9% x 60 months. \*\*\$16.67 is due monthly for every \$1,000 financed at 0% x 72 months. †EPA-estimated highway mileage. Actual mileage may vary. †Available on the 2017 Toyota Camry. Delivery must be taken from dealer stock by 4/30/17 and is subject to availability.

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 <p><b>\$17,998</b></p> <p><b>2013 Honda Civic Si</b> Sedan, I-4 cyl, 6 spd manual, front wheel drive, 30K miles, A4174A</p>	 <p><b>\$18,998</b></p> <p><b>2011 Toyota Venza Crossover</b> Base AWD, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 67K miles, A4177A</p>	 <p><b>\$18,998</b></p> <p><b>2013 Hyundai Genesis 3.8</b> Sedan, V-6 cyl, 8 spd auto, rear wheel drive, 63K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A4086</p>	 <p><b>\$19,998</b></p> <p><b>2011 Toyota Highlander</b> SUV AWD, V-6 cyl, 5 spd auto, 86K miles, A267636A</p>	 <p><b>\$19,998</b></p> <p><b>2012 Honda Pilot LX</b> 4x4, V-6 cyl, 5 spd auto, 73K miles, A4193</p>
 <p><b>\$21,098</b></p> <p><b>2014 Toyota Avalon XLE</b> Sedan, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, 55K miles, A267770A</p>	 <p><b>\$22,598</b></p> <p><b>2014 Lincoln MKZ</b> Sedan All-Wheel Drive, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 22K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A266949B</p>	 <p><b>\$22,598</b></p> <p><b>2013 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport</b> SUV, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 30K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A4183</p>	 <p><b>\$22,998</b></p> <p><b>2011 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE</b> Ext Cab 4x4, V-8 cyl, 4 spd auto, 66K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A267388A</p>	 <p><b>\$24,598</b></p> <p><b>2016 Ford Escape SE</b> 4x4, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, 9K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A267172A</p>
 <p><b>\$24,998</b></p> <p><b>2015 Subaru Forester 2.5i Premium</b> (CVT) SUV, H-4 cyl, con. var. auto, AWD, 15K miles, A4020A</p>	 <p><b>\$25,998</b></p> <p><b>2015 Toyota Sienna LE</b> Van AWD, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, 56K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A267605A</p>	 <p><b>\$25,998</b></p> <p><b>2015 Honda CR-V EX-L</b> SUV, I-4 cyl, cont. variable auto, FWD, 12K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A4139A</p>	 <p><b>\$26,998</b></p> <p><b>2016 Toyota RAV4 SE</b> SUV, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, AWD, 48K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A267627A</p>	 <p><b>\$28,598</b></p> <p><b>2014 Ford Edge Sport</b> SUV, V-6 cyl, auto, front wheel drive, 23K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A267572B</p>
 <p><b>\$29,998</b></p> <p><b>2015 Honda Odyssey EX-L</b> Van, V-6 cyl, 6 spd auto, front wheel drive, 28K miles, A267474A</p>	 <p><b>\$31,598</b></p> <p><b>2014 Toyota 4Runner</b> SUV, V-6 cyl, 5 spd auto, 4x4, 27K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A267495A</p>	 <p><b>\$31,598</b></p> <p><b>2017 Volkswagen Tiguan 2.0T SEL</b> 4MOTION, I-4 cyl, 6 spd auto, AWD, 4K miles, A267169B</p>	 <p><b>\$32,998</b></p> <p><b>2015 Honda Pilot EX-L</b> AWD SUV, V-6 cyl, 5 spd auto, 4x4, 29K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A267712A</p>	 <p><b>\$33,998</b></p> <p><b>2012 Dodge Challenger SRT8 392</b> Coupe, V-8 cyl, 6 spd manual, rear wheel drive, 35K miles, A267579A</p>
 <p><b>\$35,998</b></p> <p><b>2012 Toyota Tundra Ltd 5.7L</b> CrewMax, V-8 cyl, 6 spd auto, 4x4, 31K miles, A4137</p>				

Not responsible for typographical errors

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**SPRING BULLETIN BOARD**  
It's Spring Clean-up Time at The Pine Grove Cemetery in Spencer!  
Please visit the cemetery before Memorial Day to spruce up your loved ones' graves, trim the bushes at the plot (if any are planted), and remove old containers/decorations. If you make a pile at the end of the grass next to the roadway by the plot, it will help our superintendent a lot!  
- Thank you!

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**Ad Libs by June**  
A sure sign of spring is SPENCER FISH & GAME'S ANNUAL SPRING DERBY! The big event is this weekend, April 29 and 30; registration & breakfast start at 6 am; fishing times 8:00am-3:00 pm Saturday; 8am-2pm on Sunday. Tagged & Golden trout have been stocked for the event, with large trout up to 11 pounds! There will be cash prizes and trophies. Bring the kids...non-member entry fees for kids ages 0-12 is \$5 for both days; ages 13-17 \$10 for both days which includes a yearly youth membership. Adults 18 and over is \$10 per day or free with an annual membership fee of \$50. Join the club and enjoy all they have to offer throughout the year!  
Registration is now open for summer camp! Please check out the summer camp schedule and theme weeks for SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL in this week's issue. There are nine different theme weeks this summer. There is an OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, May 6 from 10am-noon, or you can email stmcamp@stmaryshigh.org with any questions. Camp hours are 8:30am-2:30 pm with extended day available, 7:00 am-5:30 pm. SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL offers Catholic education for Pre-K through Grade 12 in one location, where 100% of graduates are accepted into college. The school is located at 50 Richland Street, Worcester, MA 01610. Phone 508-753-0484. Keep the kids busy this summer at this educational fun camp!  
Welcome to HIGGINS ENERGY ALTERNATIVES of Barre in this week's issue. They are having a sale on pellets...buy off season and save! I visited them last week and was so very impressed with their beautiful showroom. Mary Welch was most helpful in giving me a tour of the showroom, and I spoke with Paul Tonelli for quite some time regarding the benefits and beauty of fireplace gas inserts. You'll never burn wood again in your fireplace once you've seen these! Thinking about SOLAR? They offer AllEarth Solar Trackers, made and engineered in America, capturing up to 45% more power than fixed systems. Visit or call with your questions and for a free solar quote! They are located at 140 Worcester Road in Barre, and online at www.higginsenergy.com. Or call 978-355-6343 and tell them you saw their ad in the Spencer New Leader!  
HAYMAKER'S GRILLE in West Brookfield is having a raffle for Mother's Day. Visit them anytime between now and May 14 and you'll get a free raffle entry with your food order. Enjoy their delicious home-style cooking Monday-Friday from 7am-2pm and Saturday & Sunday 7am-1pm, and enter to win! They are located just off the beautiful West Brookfield Common at 8 East Main Street.  
Have a great week!

Advertise your events here and reach 12,000 households in Spencer, Leicester and the Brookfields. Starting at just \$25 a week!

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 <p><b>2014 FORD TAURUS</b> Twin turbo, GPS, Moonroof <b>\$25,723</b> 4151X</p>	 <p><b>2014 FORD FOCUS SE</b> Auto trans, Great mpg, Nice Car! <b>\$10,923</b> 6348A</p>	 <p><b>2014 FORD F150 LTD</b> Crew cab 3.5ltr Ecoboost Power <b>\$36,623</b> 5101X</p>	 <p><b>2014 FORD EDGE SPORT</b> Nav., Moonroof, Remote Start, PRICED TO SELL! <b>\$23,623</b> 5355B</p>
 <p><b>2016 FORD F250 XLT SUPERCAB</b> Low Miles, Nav. <b>\$35,923</b> #6309A</p>	 <p><b>2016 FORD TRANSIT</b> Connect Titanium 7 Pass wagon <b>\$19,923</b> #535X</p>	 <p><b>2015 FORD ESCAPE</b> Titanium Loaded <b>\$24,923</b> #7058A</p>	 <p><b>2011 FORD FLEX LIMITED</b> AWD, 7 Passenger, NEW TIRES AND BRAKES <b>\$18,923</b> 4721X</p>

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<p><b>BRAND SPANKIN' NEW 2017 FORD FUSION SE</b> SE TRIM • BLUETOOTH • 17" ALLOY WHEELS THE SLASHER STRIKES AGAIN! <b>\$17,777</b> BUY FOR: <b>\$186/mo.</b> <b>SAVE \$8,200</b> 43 FUSIONS AVAILABLE</p>	
<p><b>BRAND SPANKIN' NEW FORD FOCUS SE</b> HEATED SEATS • 16" ALLOY WHEELS THE SLASHER STRIKES AGAIN! <b>\$13,377</b> BUY FOR: <b>\$135/mo.</b> <b>SAVE \$7,800</b> 28 FOCUS AVAILABLE</p>	
<p><b>BRAND SPANKIN' NEW FORD F-150 REGULAR CAB</b> XLT TRIM • ALLOY WHEELS • BRAKE ASSIST THE SLASHER STRIKES AGAIN! <b>\$20,777</b> BUY FOR: <b>\$218/mo.</b> <b>SAVE \$10,400</b> 145 F-150S AVAILABLE</p>	

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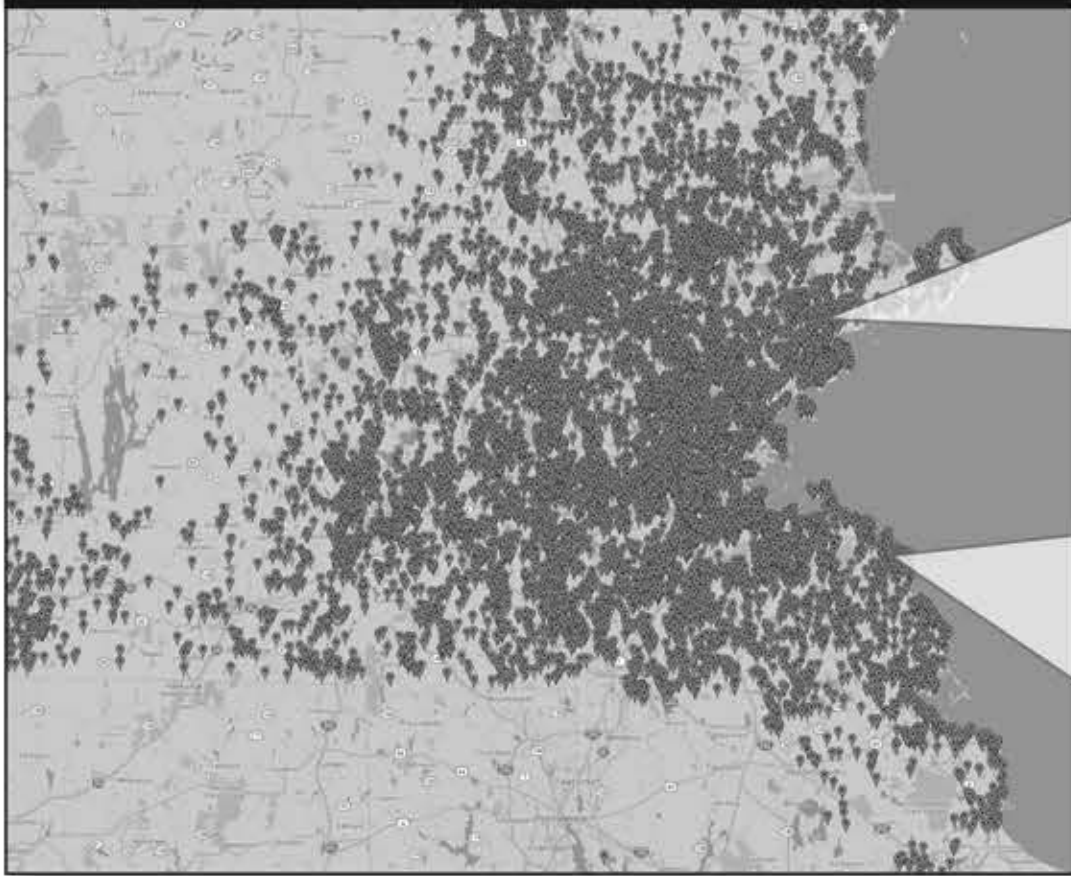




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# April 28

## The Write Stuff

OUR 15th SEASON!

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Open to ALL ages

### Suggested topics for May

1. Mother's Day is May 14, and Father's Day is June 18. Write a poem about your mom, dad, grandmother, or grandfather.
2. May is National Bike Month. Write a short story about an adventurous journey on a bike.
3. Memorial Day is May 29. Whose memory do you cherish on this holiday?
4. Share memories of your childhood, neighborhood, and how things are different today.
5. Topic of your choice.

(Please try to limit to 300 words)

For more information or to submit for next month, email jsima@stonebridgepress.news or call 508.909.4062

The Next Write Stuff Will Publish On May 26.

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We hope that you will join us again, and encourage others to write as well. This is a great class project, senior center project, or for anyone who enjoys writing and sharing your thoughts.

### APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH. Letter to Dougie, from Mom

Dear Dougie,

This letter has been a long time coming. It is overdue. Even though you may not think it's necessary and it's filled with mommy's typical gibberish you find annoying, I needed to write it. For you. For me. Although I may fill this page with too many words that will make your head hurt, there are only six words that you need to tuck in your brain where your heart can always retrieve them.

I AM SORRY.  
I LOVE YOU.

I am sorry for all the times I got it wrong. There were so many many times. The times I tried to force eye contact by gently turning your head and saying, "look at mommy."

The times I insisted you wear clothes that you hated for family photos, special occasions, etc., because I thought you were being stubborn. The times I tried so hard to help you conform, to help you be like the "rest of the other kids," when it was me wanting to be like "the rest of the moms!"

I AM SORRY

We are very different, you and me, and that is not a bad thing at all, it just means, what works for me may not work for you, and it took me a long time for mommy to figure that out. In fact, some days I still get it wrong. I am sorry for the times that I get you wrong.

I am sorry for the times I pushed you too hard, too far. For the times I pushed you before you were ready, before it was your time. Yes, watching you struggle to keep up with your peers was hard. So some times I pushed you as much for you as I did for me.

I AM SORRY.

I am sorry for the times I didn't push enough. The times I thought it was too hard for you so I let it slide. The world won't let you slide. So by making excuses, by letting it go, I did you a disservice.

I am sorry for the times I thought I got it right. The times I thought I understood your overload sensory system and tried to help, but only made things worse. The times I thought you preferred to be alone and believed that your loneliness was somehow different than those with Autism. The times I thought I finally got it but still had so much to learn. I am sorry for the times I lost my patience, yelled, swore and cried when I could not reach you. I know you were trying to let me in by didn't know.

I AM SORRY.

It may be difficult for you to understand but through all my mistakes, through all my successes, through all the highs and lows, I did it all because...

I LOVE YOU.

I love you for working so hard and never judging those who judge you.

I love you for always, without fail, being YOU.

I love you for helping me see the way you view the world and for not giving up on me for my lack of understanding.

I love you for loving me in your perfectly beautiful way.

No one will ever love me like you.

I love you for accepting me just as I am, flawed, silly, confusing, and horribly annoying.

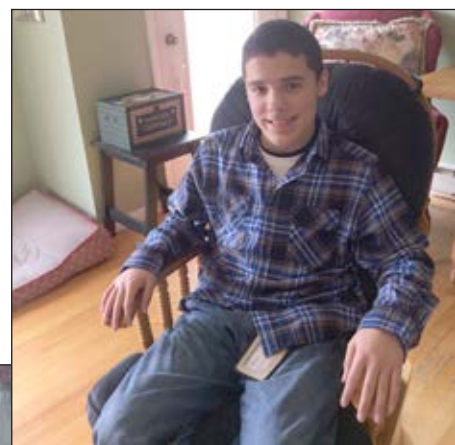
I love you for so many reasons Dougie, but the one that matters the most to me, the one that will always supersede the rest, I love you for letting me love you!

Just six words...

I AM SORRY.

I LOVE YOU.

Mom



Dougie is a student at the Center for Applied Behavioral Instruction in Worcester, Mass.



### Easter

BY EMILY JANES, NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

When spring comes, I know Easter is right around the corner. I have so many fond memories growing up with Easter traditions, such as egg hunts and a nice ham dinner.

One year was a little different because I was in the psychiatric ward. I wasn't with my family, but the staff made our day special. We got to dye Easter eggs! For fun, the girls and I blew up marshmallow peeps in the microwave. The staff didn't mind because we were just having fun.

I felt sad I wasn't with my family, but my parents came during visiting hours and they even brought me Easter baskets full of wonderful treats!

Even as I get older, the celebration of Easter will always be one of my favorite holidays.

### STAR THEATER, NORTH BROOKFIELD

BY EVA E. PERRON, EAST BROOKFIELD

Movies played an important part in our growing up years. We looked forward to Saturday afternoons when we enjoyed two movies, coming attractions, news reels, cartoons, and interesting short subjects.

Our favorite actresses were Betty Davis, June Allyson, Paulette Goddard, Alice Faye, Ingrid Bergman, Betty Grable, Shirley Temple, Barbara Stanwick, Claudette Colbert, Jane Withers, among others.

The actors we enjoyed were Clark Gable, Errol Flynn, Tyrone Power, Bert Lancaster, Jimmy Stewart, Fred Astaire, James Cagney, John Wayne, Harry James, Gene Kelley, and cowboys Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy, and the Lone Ranger and Tonto.

The Star Theater was owned by a Miss Kelley who lived on Mt. Pleasant Street and was managed by her brother, Leo. The admission price was 25 cents, popcorn 15 cents, and candy bars 10 cents. A young man from East Brookfield, Ernie B, made and sold the popcorn and worked in the control room. Some of the kids were very noisy, and I can still picture Miss Kelley coming down the aisle, flashlight in hand, warning the noisy ones that they'd be thrown out.

My neighbor's friend, Gladys, was gifted with a beautiful singing voice and after watching and studying the movements and timing of talented singers, she could copy them; she was very talented. We watched "Holiday Inn" many times, it was one of our favorite movies, a real classic. I had a collection of autographed pictures of movie stars. Sadly, through the years, my collection was lost.

A real treat was going to a movie in Worcester; theaters that come to mind are the Palace, Loews Poli, the Plymouth, the Capitol, the Strand, and the Family.

When television became popular, movie theaters took a back seat and it was a sad story when the Star Theater closed in North Brookfield in the good ole days.

### HEAVEN'S ANGELS

BY SUE ANGELA HEALY

Dedicated to my Special Friend, Elaine

Although you are someone I don't know that well You are a kind, living soul that I could tell I first met you at St. Joseph's at the 4:00 Mass Oh how I wish more than an hour it would last That is where I have met so many special friends There in my heart I could not depend They would often say hello - how are you But in the past year there was something different - that I know

My friend Elaine was getting sick But why was it you God decided to pick? Probably because he knew you were someone who cared

And a more beautiful person you could find no where It broke my heart when I used to see you cry And it also brought tears to my eyes When someone gets sick it affects the whole family This I know because it also happened to me My mom now for a year has been in a nursing home Visiting her daily so she won't be alone You see, Elaine, you to me are a lot like my mom Deep faith - considerate - loving and strong Someone who would not only give you her last dime But most of all would give of herself, give a stranger her time

To your ill friends I'm sure you would give them a call Be by their side when they begin to fall Every few weeks you'd send a card or a gift For their well-being - their spirits you want to lift It's said when you remember years ago but can't remember today

And every day for you and your family I pray I'm sorry for you and others there is no cure So millions of individuals would suffer no more But you as a person, Elaine - you are not free You are a unique being you so we shall just let you be I know your life now will never be the same And it's bringing to all so much sorry and pain But even though for you and your family it's difficult to cope To you my dear friend don't ever give up hope When you look at the endless blue sky from up above Knowing the Heaven's Angels sending you their love

### JUST A PRAYER AWAY

BY SUE ANGELA HEALY

Shoveling my driveway I see your truck blanketed in a coat of white snow Why our Lord took you at such a young age only he really knows You, Richard, are someone I never spoke to or met But reading your obituary in the newspaper I can never forget A lovely home and a beautiful wife Ryan and Kathryn the loves of your life Working at Howe Lumber for over 28 years Someone who loved people and also your career Great pride in your religion - living your faith Supporter of Holy Cross and Assumption College, friend, on-the-go father, husband, that's no mistake Married to your beloved Joann for over 30 years A loving kind hearted individual - someone who really cared Last year on your anniversary you made a great escape

Spending frozen in time moments on the dunes on the Cape Me and Joann exchanged hellos at the 4:00 Mass Someone with compassion - dignity and class Often when I saw her I would give her a little gift For sometimes in life even strangers need a little lift It's like I could see you looking thru Joanne's eyes Nowadays she's lonely, in sorry and cries I wish I could hug your family and make the pain go away But in time only God can do that and for now it must stay Remembering you as the first to snow blow your driveway out into the street A warm and friendly good morning to your neighbors you would greet Your lawn always cut in the summer, something you would never neglect Cars driving by admiring it for it looked so neat and perfect A tree house still sits in the woods in your back yard Something you must have built with love - working at it so hard You had a beautiful family - you had it all But then on January 9th you received that call God needed another angel in heaven so he decided to pick you Knowing Joann, Ryan and Kathryn would need his help to eventually pull thru You don't have to worry about them Richard, for soon in time will be okay For you shall be guiding and protecting them from heaven - for you are "Just a Prayer Away"

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~ SERVICE HOURS ~  
Mon 8am-7pm • Tues-Fri 8am-5pm • Sat 8am-Noon

# April 28

## The Write Stuff

OUR 15th SEASON!

Essays, Short Stories, Memories, Poems and more!

Open to ALL ages

### Suggested topics for May

1. Mother's Day is May 14, and Father's Day is June 18. Write a poem about your mom, dad, grandmother, or grandfather.
2. May is National Bike Month. Write a short story about an adventurous journey on a bike.
3. Memorial Day is May 29. Whose memory do you cherish on this holiday?
4. Share memories of your childhood, neighborhood, and how things are different today.
5. Topic of your choice.

(Please try to limit to 300 words)

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### DEAREST MADRE

BY JORGE DELGADO, SPENCER, MA

Life as a fatherless child was not detrimental in my upbringing, Since I have a wingless angel as a mother, friend, protector, but above all else; role model, This particular woman was... Used and abused because of her general generosity, However, instead of bitter she turned, She was inspired to change the world, Not only in her own home, but across the globe, Because never have I known such a gentle, caring, but far from naive soul. She taught me right from wrong, to forgive, not forget, And to never hold prejudice against anyone; Because anger was the devil trying to manipulate one's thoughts, And she always taught to let God guide in the right direction, By giving, Cuz 'tis better to give than receive, and regardless of your dreams, sometimes one gotta sacrifice in order for another in need, And she taught me the fine line between needs and wants, Clearly defined the difference of won't and can't, So if I need what I want I must work hard until I can't anymore, And my every can't should be replaced with won't, Because I can so long as I am willing, And because of all of this, I am a man that can't, better said, won't, Not will to work hard, having what I need, for what I want, dreaming other's needs, give what I receive, God got me to feel and see the devil can and will be beat! And I have a spirit that won't let me be unwilling.

### SPRING

BY DEBORAH JM GREGOIRE-LEFEBVRE, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA

Spring has sprung, Time for outdoor plants to be hung. Trips to the greenhouse and home improvement store, To get all my gardening supplies and more. Let's see, I want vegetables, flowers and herbs, To fill my garden and landscape my yard to the curb. Carrots, corn, peas and tomatoes, Have to remember to get out the garden hose. Roses, tulips and carnations, Flowers reflect personality and emotions. Thyme, rosemary, basil and sage, My spaghetti sauce will be all the rage. It's easy planting the seeds, It's a pain later pulling out the weeds. Regardless of all the work, A garden does have it's perks!

### I NEED SPRING

BY RICH M. TRAUSCHKE  
WEST BROOKFIELD

Spring is upon us, or nearly so; snow's still here...why don't it go! Crocus was growin', startin' to show, winter returned, crocuses under snow.

Daffodils and Iris were comin' alive; a promise of Spring, ready to thrive; yellow and purple waitin' to strive; then more white, they might not survive.

Pussy willows bloomed, right on time; Forsythia is waiting for warmer clime; the buds are showing, should be fine, more snow came, that's not a good sign.

All in all, just gonna have to wait; till snow is gone, though Spring be late; the earth'll warm up, that'll be great, digging for worms, to use for bait!



# HERE & THERE → Local Events, Arts, and Entertainment Listings

### FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY APRIL 28, 29, 30

**KLEM'S SPRINGFEST AND TENT SALE**  
Discounted items  
Up to 90% off retail  
**KLEM TRACTOR, INC.**  
117 West Main St.  
Spencer, MA  
508-885-2708 (Ext. 104)  
www.klemsonline.com

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29**  
9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
(Rain date: April 30)  
"BOOT" SALE ON THE LAWN AT WOODSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
523 Route 169  
Woodstock, CT  
(a "boot" is the trunk of your car!) Anything goes!  
Food trucks!  
860-771-1579

**WYNDEMERE WOODS ASSISTED LIVING OPEN HOUSE**  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Light refreshments  
Tours  
Immediate openings  
1044 Mendon Rd.  
Woonsocket, RI  
401-762-4226

**NATE KENYON**  
9:00 p.m.  
Country singing sensation home for the weekend!  
308 LAKESIDE  
308 East Main St.  
East Brookfield, MA  
774-449-8333

### SATURDAY AND SUNDAY APRIL 29 AND 30

**ANNUAL SPRING DERBY**  
Spencer Fish & Game Club  
155 Mechanic St., Spencer, MA  
Cash prizes and trophies  
Tagged & Golden Trout

Youth Archery Shoot  
Registration and breakfast starts at 6:00 a.m.  
Fishing hours:  
8am-3pm Sat.  
8am-2pm Sun.  
Open to the public

### TUESDAY, MAY 2

Free lecture  
6:30-8:00 p.m.  
**MY ACHING AND AGING SHOULDER**  
Leahy Conference Room  
UMass Memorial-  
Marlborough Hospital  
157 Union St.  
Marlborough, MA  
RSVP at  
RSVP@umassmemorial.org  
Or call 508-486-5849

### THURSDAY, MAY 4

6:00 p.m.  
**PUTNAM SCIENCE ACADEMY'S OPEN HOUSE**  
18 Maple St. Putnam, CT  
860-928-5010  
A co-educational private boarding school for grades 8-12 Come take the tour!

### THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY MAY 4TH - MAY 7TH

11am-7pm (Sunday till 5 pm)  
**RECORDS & BURPEE CHILDREN'S ZOO**  
Free admission  
Educational Family Fun  
**KLEM TRACTOR, INC.**  
117 West Main St.  
Spencer, MA  
508-885-2708 (Ext. 104)  
www.klemsonline.com

### FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 5 AND 6

6:00 p.m.  
**63rd ANNUAL WINDHAM COUNTY 4-H AUCTION AND TAG SALE**

at Windham County 4-H Center  
326 Taft Pond Rd.  
Pomfret, CT  
Preview at 5:00 p.m.  
Early bird buy in to Tag Sale - \$5 from 10:30-12:00 on Fri., May 5  
Tag sale open to all from 12-5 on Fri and 9-5 on Sat.

**COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOW**  
Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center  
366 Main St.  
Sturbridge, MA  
Friday: 11-6  
Saturday: 9-5  
Admission \$6  
Your handstamp admits you both days  
CountryFolkArt.com

### SATURDAY, MAY 6

**BUSINESS ACADEMY AND MARKETPLACE**  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
North Brookfield Elementary School Cafeteria  
10 New School Dr.  
North Brookfield, MA  
Student vendors, crafts, plants, jewelry, collectibles and more  
Supporting North Brookfield's Young Entrepreneurs

**YOUR MOTHER**  
9:00 p.m.  
Return performance for this local rock band playing fun covers  
**308 LAKESIDE**  
308 East Main St.  
East Brookfield, MA  
774-449-8333

### SUNDAY, MAY 7

**12th ANNUAL WALK OF CHAMPIONS AT THE QUABBIN**

**RESERVOIR**  
To benefit the Baystate Regional Cancer Program at Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Clinic  
For more info or to Sign up, contact Michelle Graci at 413-794-7654  
Or by email at Michelle.Graci@baystate-health.org

### TUESDAY, MAY 9

**JOINT REPLACEMENT - IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?**  
Free health seminar  
UMass Memorial Medical Center  
Beechwood Hotel  
Worcester, MA  
Register at  
www.umassmemorial.org/healthseminars  
Or call 855-862-7763

**SHOULDERING THE PAIN**  
7:00-8:00 P.M.  
Free health seminar  
UMass Memorial Medical Center  
Beechwood Hotel  
Worcester, MA  
Register at  
www.umassmemorial.org/healthseminars  
Or call 855-862-7763

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 A.M. - afternoon  
**5th ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE IN WOODSTOCK**  
\$2 maps available at Garden Gate Florist the day of the sale  
Info 860-315-5175

### ONGOING

**MEAT RAFFLE**  
Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.  
6 tables; prime rib, lobster and much more  
Public invited  
In the Veterans Lounge

**AMERICAN LEGION TUTTLE POST #279**  
88 Bancroft St., Auburn, MA  
508-832-2701

**ROADHOUSE BLUES JAM**  
Every Sunday, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
**CADY'S TAVERN**  
2168 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI  
401-568-4102

**TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS**  
7:00 p.m. register  
7:30 p.m. start up  
**HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB**  
325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA  
508-892-9822

**WISE GUYS TEAM TRIVIA**  
Every Tuesday, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
**CADY'S TAVERN**  
2168 Putnam Pike (Rt. 44)  
Chepachet, RI  
401-568- 4102

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAY NIGHT**  
**HEXMARK TAVERN AT SALEM CROSS INN**  
260 West Main St., West Brookfield, MA  
508-867-2345  
www.salemcrossinn.com

**TRAP SHOOTING**  
Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.  
Open to the public  
\$12.00 per round includes clays and ammo  
NRA certified range officer on site every shoot  
**AUBURN SPORTSMAN CLUB**  
50 Elm St., Auburn, MA  
508-832-6492

**HUGE MEAT RAFFLE**  
First Friday of the month  
Early Bird 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

1st table: 7:00 p.m.  
Auburn Sportsman Club  
50 Elm St., Auburn, MA  
508-832-6496

**BREAST FEEDING SUPPORT GROUP**  
at Strong Body/Strong Mind  
Yoga Studio  
112 Main St., Putnam, CT  
Third Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m.  
860-634-0099  
www.strongbodystrongmind.us

**TRIVIA TUESDAYS**  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Cash prizes  
**308 LAKESIDE**  
308 East main St.  
East Brookfield, MA  
774-449-8333

**KLEM'S FARMERS MARKET**  
June 10th through Oct. 21st  
Every Saturday from 10am-2pm  
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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CRUISING FOR CHARITY CAR SHOW**  
June 7th through August  
Every Wednesday 5 p.m. until dusk  
Donations accepted  
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**WORCESTER**  
 Turnkey property with gross income potential of over 56k! Many updates inc heating system, electric, water heaters. Property comes with a separate lot with parking for 12 cars. Store on 1st floor is 1450sqft w/ full kitchen.  
**\$400,000**

**WORCESTER**  
 Walking distance to Clark U! Very large property; Each apt is approx 2000 sq ft and can be set up as 5 BR. Major updates include a rubber roof, new windows, exterior paint and kitchen cabinets with counters.  
**\$799,900**

**AUBURN - LAND**  
 188 Acres of land off of Rochdale St., in Auburn – great for a developer! Could also be a great opportunity for a Solar or possibly wind turbines due to high elevation.  
**\$899,000**

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 2 Bedrooms, South Pond, Glass sliders overlooking pond, Minutes to MassPike, Fishing/Boating, Privacy  
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# Tips to Garden Large in a Small Space



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It's finally spring and that means gardeners everywhere are planning their vegetable crops. Did you know escalating food costs coupled with fresh food safety concerns have spurred a backyard gardening movement that translates into more than one third of the country's households growing some type of edible? It's true, and today's gardens know no boundaries — even if you're short on space. Read on for a few unconventional gardening options that promote purposeful planting and promise big yields in a limited space.

**DIY Topsy Tomatoes:** There are several upside-down tomato plant kits on the market, but you can do it yourself and save money! Perhaps the easiest and most sturdy option is simply to use a common hanging coco fiber basket with a wire frame. Just cut an X in the bottom of the coco material and push the root ball of a tomato plant up through the hole. Fill top of basket with a good soil mix with peat moss added. Carefully distribute soil around the root area and fill the basket enough to allow for ample root spread. Some growers completely fill the basket with soil and plant basil or other complementary herbs in the top, creating a "double duty" planter.

**Three Sisters:** Another strategy to reap as much volume as possible in a small space is to adopt the "three sisters" planting technique, a Native American tradition. The companion planting of pole beans, corn and squash not only saves space but encourages good growth. The pole beans climb up the corn stalks as the squash leaves form a natural shading to discourage weeds.

The Iroquois Museum website explains it this way: "The bacteria that occur naturally in beans absorb nitrogen from the air and convert it to nitrates, which fertilize the soil for the corn and squash. Beans are supported by winding around the corn stalks and the squash leaves provide ground cover between the corn and beans preventing weeds from growing and increasing the amount of rain that soaks into the ground."

**Trellis Planting:** Using a trellis is an ideal solution to grow vining vegetables, such as cucumbers and beans, which can take up a lot of ground space. According to Homestead Harvest, cucumbers grown on trellises typically produce uniform fruit and two to three times more fruit than varieties grown on the ground!

Pole beans are avid climbers, and their light weight and lush leaves make an arbor or trellis an ideal support. Pole beans will continue to grow and produce more pods as the beans are picked, offering an attractive visual for the garden area throughout the growing season.

Peas and tomatoes are other common garden plants that can be trained to grow along a trellis. The National Garden Bureau (NGB) suggests combining vining plants, such as

beans and cucumbers on the same A-frame trellis thus yielding double the crop per space. It also notes vegetables grown on trellises should be set on the north side of the plot and toward the back of a row or bed so they do not block the sun from other, low-growing plants.

**Trellis To Do:** The NGB directions to build a trellis with bamboo poles and netting is as follows: Use two poles for each end, tilt them towards each other and tie together about six inches from the top; then lay a fifth pole across the top and tie it securely to the trellis legs with twine. Insert legs about one foot into the soil, separating them at an angle for stability. Drape netting over the top and tie it to the legs in a few places. Sow seeds of plants, such as cucumbers and pole beans, along the length of both sides of the trellis; guide stems up onto the netting as they begin to grow.

To make a teepee simply tie five bamboo poles at the top with twine. Legs should be spread out and about 12 inches into the ground. Sow up to five pole bean seeds around each leg of the teepee.

**Straw Bale Gardening:** The virtues of straw bale gardening lies in its simplicity. Straw bales offer comfortable raised bed gardening sans the digging and weeding. The method eliminates crop rotation hassles, and at the end of the season, the decomposed bales "give back" in the form of rich compost. In addition, this "soil free" method of planting is ideal for those with limited yard space and/or less than ideal soil conditions, and can be set up virtually anywhere to take advantage of sunny areas.

Tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, summer squashes, and lettuces are all good candidates for straw bale planting. Planting seedlings is perhaps the easiest and most efficient way for beginners to try their hand at straw planting. Follow the same instruction as conventional soil planting for plant placement (inches deep, inches apart). Using a trowel, dig into the straw to separate it. Plant the seedling down to the first leaf. Carefully close the gap back together. Water thoroughly.

To plant seeds, sprinkle a light layer of a compost/soil mixture over the top of the bale and plant seeds directly in the soil mixture. Cover with a sprinkling of peat moss (or soil) and water well.

Straw bales should be watered frequently; a soaker hose placed on the outside perimeter of the bales makes the task much easier. Straw bale plants require additional fertilizer. Veteran gardeners suggest feeding seedlings a compost tea or liquid fish emulsion once every other week, increasing the feedings to once a week as plant grows.

**Tips:**  
\*Only use straw (wheat, oat, or rye) or hay. (Note: pine straw will not work).

\*It's important to plan out the location of straw beds. While you'll want to take advantage of sun position, keep in mind the bales require more water than a conventional bed, so a nearby

water source is a necessity.

\*Place newspaper or another form of mulch on the ground before you set down the bales to prevent weeds and grass from growing up around the bales. Set bales out about four weeks ahead of time to prepare for planting. Water well and keep bales soaked to condition the straw for planting.

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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 publications? Send questions and/or hints to: *Take the Hint!* c/o Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email [kdrr@aol.com](mailto:kdrr@aol.com).

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## Welcomes Dr. Elias V. Belezos, M.D. Effective 05/01/2017



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Elias Belezos will be joining our practice effective May 01, 2017. Dr. Belezos has been a board certified Internal Medicine physician since 1996, after receiving his Medical Degree with Honors from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and completing his internship and residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. He is the Medical Director for Overlook Hospice Services. Prior to joining our practice, Dr. Belezos was the Director of the Hospitalist Program at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge, MA and has also worked as a Primary Care Physician in Central Massachusetts. Dr. Belezos was the Medical Consultant

for the Boston Red Sox for eight years. His interests include treating diabetes, joint disease and cardiovascular disease as well as palliative and end of life care. He is fluent in both English and Greek.

Dr. Belezos will be available to see new patients on May 01, 2017.

Please contact our office at 508-753-2060 extension 177 to schedule a new patient appointment with Dr. Belezos or you can register as a new patient on our website at [www.grovedoc.com](http://www.grovedoc.com).



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ONLY **\$105** per week



**2014 DODGE CHALLENGER**  
9K MILES, LOADED  
ONLY **\$106** per week



**2011 MERCEDES E350 4 MATIC**  
4 MATIC WITH ONLY 42K MILES! LEATHER, NAVIGATION, SUNROOF  
ONLY **\$108** per week



**2016 TOYOTA RAV 4 XLE**  
15K MILES  
ONLY **\$110** per week



**2016 CHRYSLER 300C**  
FULLY LOADED, NAV, HEATED & A/C SEATS, REMOTE START  
ONLY **\$112** per week



**2016 DODGE DURANGO**  
LIMITED AWD, LOTS OF EXTRAS, 25K MILES  
ONLY **\$116** per week



**2016 RAM 1500 SLT 1500**  
GREAT VALUE TRUCK, 4X4 WITH HEMI, 12K MILES  
ONLY **\$116** per week



**2016 RAM BIG HORN**  
WITH ONLY 11K MILES!! HEMI 5.7L V-8 4X4  
ONLY **\$120** per week



**2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500**  
POWERFUL 5.3L V8, LOW MILES!  
ONLY **\$123** per week



**2016 FORD F150 XLT**  
FULL 4 DOORS, ECO-BOOST, GREAT FUEL ECONOMY, 12K MILES!  
ONLY **\$132** per week



**2016 GMC ARCADIA**  
SLE WITH A 3.6L V-6 AWD WITH ONLY 28K  
ONLY **\$140** per week



**2016 FORD F150 DIESEL**  
DIESEL, GREAT FUEL ECONOMY, FULL 4 DOOR WITH EXTENDED BED  
ONLY **\$144** per week



**2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LTD**  
22K MILES, LOADED  
ONLY **\$146** per week



**2016 CHEVROLET TAHOE**  
8 PASSENGER LEATHER SEATING, WITH LOW MILES!  
ONLY **\$158** per week



**2017 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED**  
15,700 MI, LOADED  
ONLY **\$158** per week



**2014 MERCEDES BENZ E350 CABRIOLET**  
CONVERTIBLE RWD, LOADED WITH A BEAUTIFUL TAN & BLUE INTERIOR  
ONLY **\$164** per week

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Sun 11-4











### Crossword Puzzle

1			2		3		4
5							
			6			7	
8							

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- **1912:** HARRIET QUIMBY BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO FLY ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.
- **1963:** DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PENS HIS "LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL."
- **2003:** TEN NEW MEMBER STATES ARE ADMITTED TO THE EUROPEAN UNION WITH THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION.

### BODY FACT:



TRUE OR FALSE?

LAUGHTER CAN HELP RELIEVE STRESS AND MAKE A PERSON FEEL BETTER.

ANSWER: TRUE

### ACROSS

1. Making happy sounds
5. Pleasant
6. Completely
8. Showing happiness

### DOWN

1. Silly people
2. Happy
3. Perfect
4. Silly
7. Carry with effort

Down 1. Loonies 2. Glee 3. Ideal 4. Goofy 7. Lug

Across 1. Laughing 5. Nice 6. Fully 8. Smiling

### New Word

### HUMOR

the quality of being amusing

### How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Laugh
- SPANISH:** Reir
- ITALIAN:** Ridere
- FRENCH:** Rire
- GERMAN:** Lachen

### Did You Know?



EMOJIS EVOLVED TO CONVEY FEELINGS WITHOUT WORDS IN TEXT MESSAGES. THIS ONE CAN REPRESENT "LOL," OR "LAUGHING OUT LOUD."

### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: TEETH

⊙ \* ☘ ♪ ~ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ X ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

### CRYPTO FUN

☘ ◡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡ ⚡

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to frozen foods. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = r)

- A.** 16 3 23 23 12 23 3  
Clue: Chilly place
- B.** 16 3 26 21 1  
Clue: Ice crystals
- C.** 25 26 11 7  
Clue: Frigid
- D.** 16 11 10 9 26 3  
Clue: Taste

Answers: A. freezer B. frost C. cold D. flavor

### SUDOKU

		8		6		7		
	9		7					
		3					9	1
				2			3	4
	8		4		7			2
					8			1
					2			9
	2	4		8				
		7			3	8		

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	5	7	1	4	3	8	6	2
6	2	4	8	5	1	3	7	
8	3	1	6	7	2	4	9	5
4	6	2	3	9	8	5	7	1
3	8	5	4	1	7	6	2	9
7	1	9	5	2	6	3	4	8
2	7	3	8	5	4	9	1	6
5	9	6	7	3	1	2	8	4
1	4	8	2	6	9	7	5	3

ANSWER:

