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Friday, February 14, 2020

Knox Trail students named Project 351 ambassadors

Kevin Flanders Photo

Knox Trail Middle School students Ava Bergeron and Logan Josti were selected as Project 351 ambassadors.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Two Knox Trail Middle School eighth graders were thrilled to be named Project 351 ambassadors last month. Ava Bergeron and Logan Josti traveled to Boston on Jan. 18, joining hundreds of students from across the Commonwealth for the annual Project 351 day of service. Only one student ambassador is chosen from each town in the state, and the KTMS students were honored to represent their school.

“I was so excited to find out I was chosen,” said Bergeron, who lives in Spencer.

“It was a really fun experience, and we got to meet a lot of other students,” added Josti, an East Brookfield resident.

Both students are no strangers to leadership in their school and communities. Josti, a member of Boy Scout Troop 238, has been involved in scouting since the first grade. He has learned a lot about service over the years, which helped propel him to Project 351.

“It teaches you about leadership and

Please Read **KNOX**, page **A7**

Community rallies to raise funds for DPHS track

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Always willing to step up to solve problems, the school community is rallying together to raise funds for track improvements at David Prouty High School.

Led by Wendy Fullam and supported by several members of the school community, a Go Fund Me page was recently set up to raise money for the track renovation. The DPHS track has fallen into disrepair over the years, and several spots are deteriorated or missing altogether. Other sections of the complex, including the long jump pit, are badly overgrown.

The fundraising goal for the renovation project is \$50,000. Within the first week of fundraising, community members had already combined to raise nearly \$3,000.

“This momentum around fundraising for a renovated and improved track speaks volumes to the positive energy and excellent partnership we enjoy with our alumni, parents, and families we serve,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey.

The fundraising effort is fully sanctioned by the SEBRSD. Individuals who donated \$250 or more will earn the opportunity to have their names displayed on a fence planned for the grounds.

For parents, school officials, and community members, it means a lot to give back to the schools. Several donors are DPHS alumni members who took part in sports and other extracurricular activities while they attended Prouty. Others are parents and grandparents whose children enjoyed sports at DPHS.

School leaders remind community members that, no matter how much money is raised in advance of the project, it won’t change the timing of the schedule of overall projects. The district’s School Building Committee is currently proceeding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority through each step required for a renovation or new high school.

“We are currently years out for this project to break ground. It would be unfortunate to put a new track in before we fully understand the timing and requirements that are involved with the renovation or new build,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee Chairman Jason Monette. “The School Committee and district are very grateful to all of the community members and their initiative to establish a Go Fund Me page to renovate the track

Please Read **DPHS**, page **A7**

Local youngsters take part in KOC free throw contest

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD – In an event that always combines fun and competition, local youngsters recently took their best shots at success during the annual Knights of Columbus free throw contest.

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 11080, the Feb. 2 event drew kids from throughout the area to West Brookfield Elementary School. Boys and girls ages 9 to 14 were once again invited to participate in the free event, which serves as the local competition of an international event.

This year’s program featured 24 participants showing off their skills at WBES on Super Bowl Sunday. Winners included the following students in boys’ and girls’ brackets broken down by age:

9-year-old Division: Olivia Fiske (Brimfield) and Lucas Josephson (North Brookfield)

Please Read **FREE THROW**, page **A7**

Kevin Flanders Photo

Olivia Fiske, nine, left, and Leah Phaneuf, 10, represent Brimfield at the event.

DPHS Marketing students embark on new project

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – A first-year marketing program at David Prouty High School is continuing its momentum, highlighted by a major project launched last week.

Led by instructor Peggy Bridges, Prouty’s new vocational business and marketing program is creating opportunities for students that were never previously possible. Last week, freshmen marketing students embarked on the first stage of an integrated project with Wire Village School second graders and Spencer Cable Access.

On Feb. 4, students from both schools met at the Spencer Cable Access studio for a series of interviews. Prouty freshmen went before the cameras to ask second graders in Allie Beane’s class a range of questions, including their favorite subjects in school, their musical preferences, and what they want to be when they grow up. The goal for the interviewing phase was for freshmen to gain insights into the second graders’ personalities in order to better understand how various products might be marketed to them.

Students from both schools were thrilled to take part in the project, and Spencer Cable Access officials were eager to show them around the studio.

“Our class has been very excited about this. We have a classroom full of enthusiastic learners,” Beane said.

Looking ahead, the marketing students will compile their short interview clips into a full-length video resembling a TV show. It will be aired on Spencer Cable Access upon completion, and the marketing students will then write and graphically illustrate a short 10-page story for each second grade

David Prouty High School freshman Charlie Lascom interviews Wire Village School second grader Leo Wilson.

Kevin Flanders Photo

Please Read **PROJECT**, page **A4**

Spencer police warn of social media scams

SPENCER – Police are warning residents to beware of scams targeting users of multiple mediums.

The Spencer Police Department has recently been contacted by several residents who received suspicious emails, text messages, Facebook messages, Twitter requests, and other social media notifications. All of the messages were purportedly sent from a friend or acquaintance of the users, asking them to download an app for more information.

“People need to be aware that typically apps delivered to your device in this fashion are most likely delivering a virus to your electronic device,” the SPD wrote in a statement. “Some of these apps, once downloaded to your electronic device, can provide access to all of your contacts, photos, or financial information that may be stored on this device to the hackers.”

Police advise residents to delete any message that seems suspicious.

Leicester Woman’s Club accepting scholarship applications

LEICESTER — Leicester Women’s Club will award \$500 scholarships to three Leicester residents who will graduate from High School in 2020. Also this year, two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to students majoring in Nursing in memory of Elizabeth Swan, given by the Swan family.

Applications are available at your local guidance office. Any Leicester resident graduating from High School in Spring 2020 is eligible. Applications must be submitted by April 1.

North Brookfield selectmen hold hearing on CDBG application

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Selectmen held a public hearing last week at the Senior Center to discuss the town’s 2020 community development block grant application.

The Feb. 4 meeting was scheduled to highlight the joint application that will be submitted by North Brookfield and Brookfield officials. The application will seek up to \$950,000 in block grant funds from the state’s Department of Housing and Community Development.

On Feb. 4, officials sought input from residents on several potential grant-funded projects. The application process is being assisted by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning

Commission, and CMRPC officials were in attendance at the hearing. Several residents and officials from both towns also attended.

“Everyone seemed excited and appreciative of the program and the proposed projects,” said Ian McElwee, an associate planner with the CMRPC. “I’ve been working with both towns on different CDBG grants, and I’m hoping these projects get approved so I can continue working with them.”

Among the proposed projects that will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development is a North Brookfield Senior Center improvement construction project. The application will also seek funds to continue housing rehabilitation programs in both towns, officials said, with funds

to be distributed evenly to rehabilitate roughly seven units per town.

At the end of the public hearing, North Brookfield selectmen authorized the CMRPC to move forward with the process and submit the application on the town’s behalf.

“As North Brookfield will be the lead community on this joint application, the Brookfield Board of Selectmen will not need to hold a separate public hearing,” McElwee told the New Leader. “All that is left to do is to finish writing up the full application and submit everything by the March 6 deadline.”

Funding awards will likely be announced in the late spring or summer.

Brookfield Democrats to elect convention delegates

BROOKFIELD — Registered Democrats in Brookfield will hold a caucus at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central St., to elect a delegate and alternate to the 2020 Massachusetts Democratic Nominating Convention.

At the event, caucus-goers also will have an opportunity to hear from candidates and campaigns vying for their vote in upcoming elections and to get involved in organizing activities in the region. Light refreshments will be available.

The event is open to the public, though caucus voting is limited to registered and pre-registered Democrats in Brookfield. Pre-registered Democrats who are 16 years old as of Feb. 15 will be allowed to participate and run as a delegate or alternate. Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a delegate or alternate may apply to be an add-on delegate at the caucus or at www.massdems.org.

This year’s state convention will be held May 30 at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, where thousands of Democrats from across the state will vote to endorse a candidate for the U.S. Senate ahead of the September primary. The Convention is an important opportunity for Democrats across Massachusetts to unite behind shared values and organize to win up and down the ballot.

To learn more about the Brookfield Democratic Town Committee, visit facebook.com/BrookfieldDTC.

Local University of Rhode Island students named to the Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that more than 6,000 undergraduates have qualified for the fall 2019 Dean’s List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and nations.

To be included on the Dean’s List, students must have completed 12 or more credits during a semester for letter grades with at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 credits with a 3.30 quality point average. The list includes students who have not yet declared their majors as well as those from all of the University’s undergraduate academic colleges.

The following students from your area have been named to URI’s fall 2019 Dean’s List:



Evona Bolaske of West Brookfield

Hannah Brown of Rochdale
Ben Cote of Leicester
Jack Dorman of West Brookfield
Lexie Duntzee of Leicester
Sarah Laflamme of Brookfield
Sean McCarthy of Rochdale
Hayden Peterson of Brookfield
Lynnea Talbot of North Brookfield

Note: Students who qualified for the Dean’s List, but have restricted access to their information under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines, are not included on this public listing. Students may adjust these restrictions on eCampus.

The University of Rhode Island’s pioneering research extends the University’s influence well beyond its coastal borders, while its unique inter-

disciplinary courses provide its 16,800 undergraduate and graduate students with global opportunities in an intimate environment. In May 2019, more than 3,400 undergraduate and about 700 graduate degrees were awarded. The University now has more than 120,000 alumni worldwide.



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Endicott College announces local Dean’s List student

BEVERLY — Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2019 Dean’s List students. In order to qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below “C,” have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

Jordyn Valencourt of North Brookfield is among those named to the Dean’s List at Endicott College for the Fall 2019 semester. Valencourt is majoring in Photography and is the daughter of Joseph Valencourt and Rebecca Valencourt.

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— REAL ESTATE —

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\$310,800, 15 Old Farm Rd, John Hoff Properties LLC, to Machicote, Nelida, and Machicote, Angel.

\$249,000, 49 Pleasant St, Valley, Craig A, and Valley, Meghan E, to Pillsbury, Matthew R.

\$235,000, 32 Shore Dr, Holmes, Cathy, and Gildert, Albert F, to Grenier, Bryan.

\$35,000, Meadow Rd, Andrews, Mark A, and Andrews, Joyce A, to Spooky RT, and Turner, Steven A.

BROOKFIELD

None.

EAST BROOKFIELD

None.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$309,000, 38 North St, Courchaine, Philip, and Courchaine, Sheila, to Chartier, Brad C.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$300,000, 39 Oak Dr, Forgit, Andrew L, to Cintra, Jair F, and Thibault, Stephanie M.

LEICESTER

\$275,000, 15 Pine St, Gabrila, Mary M, to Watterson, John R.

\$231,758, 44 Howard Ter, Marengo, Pamela J, and US Bank NA Tr, to US Bank NA Tr.

\$195,000, 1033 Main St, 1033 Old Main Street NT, and Jung, Alexander, to Medina, Peter M.

\$146,000, 866 Pleasant St, Joseph& Marie Robidoux IRT, and Pare, Rose, to Snow, Kevin R, and Snow, Susan G.

\$60,000, 56 Lake Sargent Dr, Bombard, M Gwyneth, to RTL Realty LLC.

Area Democrats work to get out the vote



Kevin Flanders Photo

Sen. Anne Gobi addresses guests during a Democratic candidates' forum at Salem Cross Inn.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD – Democrats from throughout the region came together earlier this month to rally supporters and gain momentum for campaigns.

Held at Salem Cross Inn, the Feb. 1 candidates' forum was emceed by State Sen. Anne Gobi, of Spencer. Several local leaders were in attendance, including Congressman Jim McGovern and an array of candidates who will be

vying for positions throughout the area this year.

A strong attendance of residents and community leaders also came out to support various campaigns and meet new candidates.

“It was a fantastic turnout that exemplifies the enthusiasm and interest in this election cycle,” Gobi said.

Presidential campaigns for Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Andrew Yang were also represented, as

well as candidates and campaign surrogates for U.S. Senate and Congressional races. Throughout the day, local candidates and campaign speakers made their cases to voters during a forum organized by the Democratic Town Committees of West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, and Sturbridge.

Guests attending the event from several communities were excited to have a chance to hear directly from campaigners in advance of the March 3 Massachusetts Presidential Primary. Several issues affecting residents and their families were discussed.

“This forum will give voters from a broad geographical area the opportunity to get direct information on candidates and campaigns that they can take to the ballot,” wrote West Brookfield Democratic Town Committee Chairman Bob Datz in a statement issued before the event. “It will also engage them in the political process for national, state, and local races that will shape the priorities for the residents of central and western Massachusetts.”

Representatives from the U.S. Senate campaigns for Sen. Ed Markey, Congressman Joe Kennedy, and Attorney Shannon Liss-Riordan attended the event as well. Also addressing guests was Alex Morse, a former Holyoke mayor who is challenging Congressman Richard Neal. Morse discussed several of his accomplishments despite being one of the youngest mayors in the town's history.

Looking ahead, local leaders are hoping the energy displayed at the forum



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

will translate to the polls next month and beyond.

“Politics is not a bystander sport. It is important that people get involved, participate, and most importantly, vote,” Gobi told the New Leader following the event. “Seeing this many people on a Saturday bodes well for an active election season.”

Massachusetts voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, March 3, to choose each party's presidential nominee. Voters registered with a political party by the voter registration deadline of Feb. 12 will receive that party's ballot. Unenrolled voters, as well as those who are not affiliated with a political party, may select a specific party ballot.

To check your voter registration status, call your town clerk for more information. Candidates for state and district offices will appear on the Sept. 1 Massachusetts Primary ballot. The general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Gobi announces MVP grants for area towns

BOSTON — Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) announced today the release of grant funding for area towns through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. The popular grant and designation program provides communities with funding and technical support to identify climate hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience, and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change. With these grants, 82 percent of Massachusetts cities and towns are now enrolled in the MVP program.

When asked for comment on the grant funding, Senator Gobi, Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, had this to say: “My communities and communities throughout the Commonwealth are always working towards more sustainability and resiliency. These funds allow the communities to plan and take action on what is right for them. I appreciate the support of the Baker-Polito administration and I am glad to continue to support MVP in the budget.”

More than \$1 million in MVP Planning Grants were awarded to 38 cities and towns to pursue a community-led planning process to identify vulnerabilities to climate change and priority actions. Results of the workshops and planning efforts inform existing local plans, grant applications, and policies. When complete, these municipalities will be eligible for MVP Action Grants to implement priority on-the-ground projects.

The following towns in Senator Gobi's

district will be set to receive planning grant funds:

Applicant	Region	Total Award
Hubbardston	Greater Connecticut	
River Valley		\$20,000
North Brookfield		
Greater Connecticut River Valley		\$25,000
Sturbridge		
Greater Connecticut River Valley		\$15,000
Winchendon	Greater Connecticut	
River Valley		\$36,400

In addition to the planning grants, more than \$10.5 million in MVP Action Grants were awarded to 52 cities, towns or regional partnerships to implement projects that build local resilience to climate change in the Commonwealth's third round of MVP Action Grant funding. Projects are focused on proactive strategies to address climate change impacts and may include retrofitting and adapting infrastructure, detailed vulnerability assessments or design and engineering studies, storm water upgrades, dam retrofits and removals, culvert upgrades, drought mitigation, actions to protect environmental justice communities and improve public health, energy resilience, mosquito control initiatives, and implementing nature-based solutions such as wetland restoration and floodplain protection.

From the Senator's district, the town of Monson will be receiving a \$75,000 action grant for an energy resiliency project at the Town Hall/ EOC / Police Headquarters Facility, and Palmer will receive a \$26,000 grant for culvert replacement on RT 181 and \$112,500 for

improvements to their Comprehensive Master Plan.

MVP supports implementation of the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, released in September 2018, provided a national model of integrating hazard mitigation priorities with forward-looking climate change data and solutions. The plan engaged over 500 stakeholders and is the first in the nation to fully integrate federal hazard mitigation planning requirements, with a proactive approach to addressing the impacts from climate change. The plan is implemented within state government by the Resilient MA Action Team, an inter-agency team launched in August by Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito an inter-agency team led by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and staffed by designated Climate Change Coordinators from each Executive Office. In its first year, the Resilient MA Action Team will provide guidance and decision-making for Plan implementation, further refine priority actions, and ensure actions are integrated into agency practice and policy. The RMAT will also be exploring development of climate resilience standards for state agencies and a resilience evaluation for the annual capital planning process to ensure that investments are climate-smart.

For more information on the plan, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>.

Durant announces office hours

REGION – State Rep. Peter Durant will be holding office hours throughout his district each month. Constituents and town officials are invited to express any concerns, issues, or ideas they have. Walk-in's are always welcome. To schedule an individual appointment, please contact Ann Gaudreau, Chief of Staff for Representative Durant at Ann.Gaudreau@MAhouse.gov or (617) 722-2060, ext. 8563.

Local Office Hours Schedule
Spencer Town Hall
- Monday, March 2 9-10 a.m.
Southbridge Town Hall
Monday, March 2 11 a.m.-noon
Charlton Town Hall
Monday, March 2 1-2 p.m.
Dudley Town Hall
- Monday, March 2 3-4 p.m.

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Leicester’s Judy Le selected for ArtsWorcester College Show

WORCESTER — Worcester State University’s Visual and Performing Arts Department has announced that WSU Junior Judy Le, a native of Leicester, MA, has been selected for participation in the 16th annual ArtsWorcester College Show, a prestigious exhibition and competition featuring some of Worcester’s most creative student artists.

Le, who is studying Chemistry, is one of 14 students representing Worcester State University in this year’s show.

“With this painting, I convey the state of innocence and the passion to pursue pure dreams we may have that take vast distances to achieve,” said Le.

“WSU’s Visual and Performing Arts Department congratulates Judy, her fellow WSU students and all of the Worcester artists whose works of art are being featured in the 16th annual ArtsWorcester College Show,” said Amaryllis Siniosoglou, Worcester State University Professor of Studio Art. “Each of our students’ pieces reflects

their hard work, creativity and vision. We’re honored to be part of the ArtsWorcester tradition again this year as it continues to recognize Worcester’s inspiring, rising artists.”

Le’s piece is one of 73 featured works of various mediums by 60 artists of several Worcester colleges and universities. The show opened with a reception on January 31, 2020 and runs through March 7, 2020 at ArtsWorcester’s gallery at 44 Portland Street in Worcester. According to ArtsWorcester, the exhibition is being judged by Lynne Cooney, Artistic Director and chief curator of the Boston University Art Galleries. For more information on ArtsWorcester, visit <https://artsworcester.org/>.

About The Worcester State Visual and Performing Arts Department

The Worcester State Visual and Performing Arts Department offers an interdisciplinary, student-centered, artistic education that prepares students for professional lives in the arts. Its edu-

cational spaces encompass the Fuller Theater, practice rooms for music, and art studios at the University’s Sagamore Studios. VPA students gain in-depth knowledge of their preferred art form – art, music, or theatre – plus an understanding of what the arts have in common, and how they are performed and exhibited in the real world. Learn more at www.worcester.edu/VPA or connect with VPA on social media: Facebook/VPA at Worcester State, Twitter and Instagram @WSUVPA. Follow our blog, The Artful Lancer, at WSUVPA.wordpress.com or subscribe to our YouTube channel, search WSU VPA.



Courtesy Photo

This work by Leicester native Judy Le, a Junior at WSU, has been selected for the 16th annual ArtsWorcester College Show, a prestigious exhibition and competition running through March 7 at the ArtsWorcester gallery.

Nichols College students named to Fall 2019 Honors List

DUDLEY — Many hard-working students at Nichols College in Dudley have achieved Dean’s List or President’s List honors during the fall 2019 semester.

The Dean’s List and President’s List give recognition to those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President’s List honors.

Seth Carlson of East Brookfield.

Meghan Bowen of Spencer.

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the

classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. Nichols also offers master’s degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today’s professionals.

Le Moyne College names Kelly Krull to Dean’s List

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Kelly Krull, a Sophomore Political Science major from Leicester has been named to the Le Moyne College Dean’s List for the Fall 2019 semester. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Located in a suburban setting on a picturesque 160-acre campus in Syracuse, N.Y., Le Moyne College is one of only 28 Jesuit colleges and uni-

versities in the United States. Offering more than 30 majors, Le Moyne provides a values-based education that helps students explore their potential through academics, experience and service. In 2019, for the seventh consecutive year, Le Moyne was ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education, an honor achieved by only 15 percent of the colleges and universities in the nation. A Le Moyne education provides students with the intellectual skills necessary to succeed in the world and the will to use their abilities to promote a more just society.

PROJECT

continued from page A1

student. The freshmen will use the second graders’ answers to the interview questions to tailor each story to align with their personalities.

“These two parts of the project will give the marketing students experience with video editing so they can later create TV advertisements,” Bridges explained. “Making the story books will teach them how to align their product with their target market. The story book writing will also use embedded academics to reinforce the students’ writing skills.”

dents to work on projects that help them connect education with the real world in ways that traditional classroom learning can’t.”

In the final phase of the project, the marketing students will travel to Wire Village School to read their stories to the second grade class. Officials in both schools have enjoyed the opportunity for students to meet and work together.

“I’ve done the story book writing part of the project many times over the last 20 years, and it’s always been very well received by everyone concerned,” Bridges said. “This year, I’ve added the video interviews and editing phase to it, and I’m really excited to see what comes out of the whole experience.”

Bridges thanked the staffs and administration of both DPHS and Wire Village School for their support of the project. Spencer Cable Access leaders and staff were also thanked for allowing use of their studio.

“One of our priorities is connecting with the schools on several programs. We want to continue working with them and assisting them,” said Spencer Cable Access station manager Aaron Keyes.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
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		58					59					
60	61					62	63			64		
65					66					67		
68					69					70		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Small deer

4. Khoikhoi peoples

9. South African statesman

14. Keyboard key

15. Remove

16. A conspicuous constellation

17. Data executive

18. Retired NASCAR driver

20. Tightens

22. A picture of the Virgin Mary

23. “The Mission” actor Jeremy

24. Confidently

28. More (Spanish)

29. Sports highlight show (abbr.)

30. Hand out cards

31. Distinctive Asian antelope

33. Arabic greeting

37. Of I

38. Hip hop trio

39. Meat roll

41. One’s mother (Brit.)

42. __-GYN

43. Belgian city

44. Plucks

46. Leak slowly

49. Denotes a particular region

50. General’s assistant (abbr.)

51. Divides

55. Kid

58. Inland Empire Expanded Learning Symposium

59. Engaged in conflict

60. Former CBS sportscaster

64. Characterized by unity

65. Working-class

66. Corners

67. __ de plume

68. Influential French artist

69. “Very” in musical terms

70. Financial account

CLUES DOWN

1. Long, flat abdominal muscles

2. Small Eurasian willow

3. Justified in terms of profitability

4. Required

5. River that starts in Turkey

6. Disfigure

7. A way of communicating (abbr.)

8. Leaks slowly

9. Shady place under trees

10. Made a speech

11. Long, angry speech

12. Mortar trough

13. Autonomic nervous system

19. Southern India island

21. Grab quickly

24. Ancient Mesopotamian city

25. With three uneven sides

26. Football visionary Hunt

27. Primordial matters

31. Facing towards the flow of a glacier

32. “A Delicate Balance” writer

34. Emits coherent radiation

35. Commercial

36. Groups of foot bones

40. Out of print

41. Partner to cheese

45. German river

47. Concluding speech

48. Spanish dish

52. Prominent California cape

53. Any high mountain

54. Ethiopian lake

56. Mr.

57. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

59. Large, flightless bird

60. Oil industry term (abbr.)

61. Something one can draw

62. Officers in charge

63. Greek island

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Gender: Male

Size: Large

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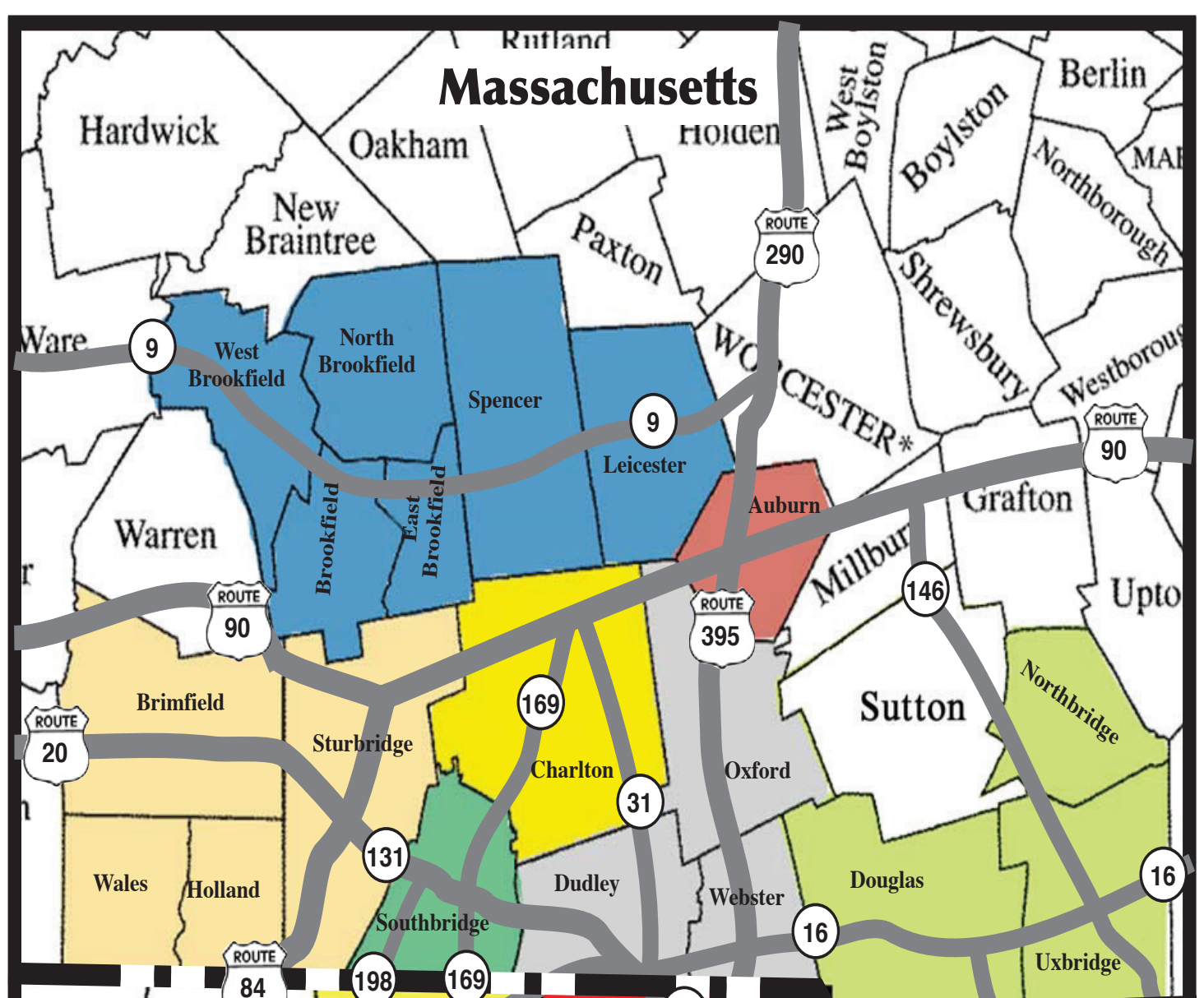
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North Brookfield Savings Bank promotes Andrea Healy



Andrea Healy

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the recent promotion of Andrea Healy to Chief Administrative and Human Resource Officer.

“Andrea provides North Brookfield Savings Bank employees and our management team a level of knowledge and experience that is extremely valuable,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. “She has continually exhibited her dedication to our Bank family, our communities, our customers and to the overall success of the Bank. We are grateful for her commitment and expertise.”

Healy, of Paxton, has a strong background in the Human Resources industry and vast experience in leadership roles. Prior to her promotion she served as North Brookfield Savings Bank’s Senior Vice President and Human Resources Officer and before joining the Bank she held the position of Director of Human Resources at Cutler Associates, Inc. for 17 years.

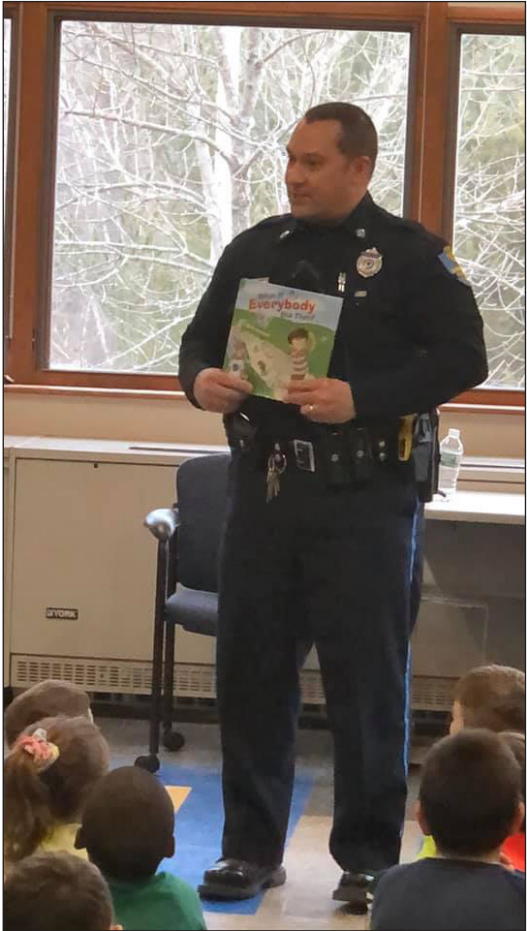
In her new role, Healy will continue to manage the Human Resources depart-

ment and be responsible for attracting, retaining and developing North Brookfield Savings Bank staff through meaningful performance appraisal, employee training, and recognition programs. As well as, overseeing marketing and strategic planning for the bank as a whole.

She has most recently completed an MBA in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Anna Maria College. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Business at Becker College, an associates in Business Management with a Marketing concentration, and has achieved a Human Resources Certification from Becker. Healy has earned designations as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and Society for Human Resources Certified Professional (SHRM-CP). Healy also plans to attend law school in September of 2020.

“Change is inspiring and I am looking forward to the excitement that my new role will offer. Partnering with our talented marketing team in the coming year and being a part of our ongoing efforts to be integral to the growth and strengthening of our communities is a role I am most looking forward to,” said Chief Administrative and Human Resource Officer, Andrea Healy. “There is so much opportunity to partner with others and lift others up through our community involvement and at the end of the day, that’s what our Bank is about, helping others. I now have the best of both worlds; setting our employees and our communities up for success by partnering with them in a meaningful and supportive way. Through exceptional human resources delivery, thoughtful strategic planning and community centric marketing efforts, I see an exciting year ahead for all of us.”

Healy is also on the Board of Director’s for the Worcester Animal Rescue League, the Board of Director’s for Rainbow Child Development of Worcester, and the Becker College Alumni Board and Dean’s Council. In 2016, she received the New England Human Resources Association (NEHRA) Community Leadership Award for her commitment to the community.



Courtesy Photo

SRO READS TO WIRE VILLAGE STUDENTS

School Resource Officer Todd LaPorte has been plenty busy in his first year on the job, splitting time between three schools in town. Last week, LaPorte found himself at Wire Village School, where he read to second graders. Officer LaPorte enjoyed his time as a guest reader, choosing to read a book called “What if Everybody Did That?”

North Brookfield Savings Bank promotes Rick Egan VP, Senior Commercial Lender

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the recent promotion of Rick Egan to Vice President and Senior Commercial Lender of the NBSB Business Center.

“We are so pleased to announce Rick’s promotion and grateful for the valuable knowledge and experience he brings to the Bank,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. “Rick goes out of his way to assist and support our business customers with their banking needs and he has continually displayed his commitment to the success of the entire Bank and the NBSB Business Center.”

Rick Egan, of Ashburnham, has been promoted to Vice President and Senior Commercial Lender. In his new role, Egan will be responsible for managing and leading the Commercial Lending Team, developing new and existing commercial lending relationships, informing business customers on available lending products and helping borrowers achieve their financial goals.

Egan joined North Brookfield Savings Bank’s Business Center team in 2012 and most recently served as Commercial Lending Team Leader, Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer. He has more than 25 years of professional banking experience and is a graduate of the New England School of Advanced Commercial Lending and the Massachusetts Bankers School for Financial Studies.

Egan serves on the Board and the Loan Committee of the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (BAC) and Community Development Corporation; is active with the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce, and also serves on the Finance Committee for the East Quabbin Land Trust.



Rick Egan

“North Brookfield Savings Bank makes it a priority to build and cultivate our customer and community relationships so we can tailor a solution to their situation,” said Rick Egan, Vice President and Senior Commercial Lender. “Each day I aim to do just that when I help our business customers with their financial goals and lending needs. I am proud to say that The NBSB Business Center has a knowledgeable and invested team of business banking professionals who are dedicated to supporting business people who need financing or business banking products.”

To reach Rick Egan, Vice President and Senior Commercial Lender, call 508-637-7502 or email regan@banknbsb.com for your lending inquiries.

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1. February is Creative Romance Month. Write an old fashioned love letter or poem to someone special.
2. February is American Pie Month. Share a recipe of your favorite pie.
3. February is National History Month. Whom do you admire most in American history and why?
4. It’s a leap year! If your birthday was on February 29, how would you celebrate it?
5. Topic of your choice.

HOW TO SUBMIT?

- May be mailed or dropped off to: June Simakauskas, Spencer New Leader, 25 Elm Street, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
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We reserve the right to not publish essays for inappropriate content or to hold for a future publication. Early submissions are greatly appreciated.

Firefighters injured battling N. Brookfield blaze

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Five firefighters from area departments suffered minor injuries while battling an overnight blaze last week.

The Feb. 3 fire at 81 Old East Brookfield Rd. was first reported just after 1 a.m. Firefighters from several local departments responded, including East Brookfield and Spencer. Five firefighters suffered minor injuries during the three-alarm blaze and were transported to the hospital.

All firefighters are expected to make a full recovery.

No one inside the house reported injuries, but a cat was killed in the fire. An investigation from the State Fire Marshal’s office determined that the blaze was caused by a chimney fire that extended into the home.



CourtesyPhoto

Five firefighters were injured last week during a North Brookfield blaze.

North Brookfield's Sheila Orsi receives Citizen Planner Award

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield wishes to express its appreciation for both the competence and dedication of one of its local leaders. In what is recognized across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be a singular honor recognizing leadership and personal commitment to community improvement, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission has awarded Sheila Orsi the Citizen Planner Award for her distinguished contribution to the town of North Brookfield. The award is made annually to non-governmental citizens who've made significant contributions to improvement in their respective town or municipality.

This prestigious award was formally presented at the American Planning Association Massachusetts Chapter (APA-MA) annual awards luncheon, on December 13, 2019 in Boston. Ms. Orsi has chaired the

North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee (DDC) since its inception in 2018. Under her leadership, work has begun to rejuvenate the downtown area including work to restore the community's historic 1864 Town House, proposed site of an innovative Creative Life Center. That center will be purposed to support the creative culture which has always been part of the greater North Brookfield community. When a local group spearheading efforts to restore the aging North Brookfield Town House agreed to join forces with municipal departments of North Brookfield in efforts to rejuvenate the entire community, Friends of the Town House (FOTH) committee chairman Jim Buzzell was thrilled to learn that Ms. Orsi would head the effort.

"She has not disappointed. Under her leadership the Downtown Development Committee is well on its way to completing the tasks set before

it," Buzzell said.

Ms. Orsi has worked with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to identify and map trails that will link North Brookfield's downtown with its Rail Trail System. She's also assisted the CMRPC Local Hazard Mitigation Team, which exhaustively detailed the town's infrastructure and natural hazards.

CMRPC Principal Planner, Kerrie Salwa, who nominated Ms. Orsi for the award and worked with her on several community projects, says of her, "As Chair of the DDC and participant in other community action efforts, Sheila has been a true leader. She's not only spent countless hours learning about planning principles, the ins and outs of the planning process, but done it with unending patience. Sheila's infectious personality coupled with her relentless energy have really made working in this community (North



Courtesy Photo

In what is recognized across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be a singular honor recognizing leadership and personal commitment to community improvement, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission has awarded Sheila Orsi (pictured here with her colleagues) the Citizen Planner Award for her distinguished contribution to the town of North Brookfield.

Brookfield) a delight, not only for myself but our entire team at CMRPC.

"Your committee mates, colleagues, neighbors, and friends all join to recognize the com-

petence, creativity, dedication and sacrifice of one of their own. In a community of talented people, Sheila, you are surely a standout."

FREE THROW

continued from page 1

10-year-old Division: Megan Clark (West Brookfield) and Sam Conroy (Sturbridge)

11-year-old Division: Lillian Sturges (West Brookfield) and Isaac Cowher (North Brookfield)

12-year-old Boys Division: Ethan Quevillon (Brookfield)

13-year-old Boys Division: Jacob Routhier (West Brookfield)

14-year-old Boys Division: Alfred Laskowski (Fiskdale)

The winners in each division moved on to compete in the district competition held on Feb. 8 at Trinity Catholic Academy in Southbridge. Winners at the district level will advance to the regional tournament set for March 14 at Nichols College in Dudley.

From there, the top shooters will advance to the state competitions in the spring. International champions will be announced by members of the KOC worldwide headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions.

In West Brookfield, tournament organizer Wally Connor thanks all KOC volunteers and sponsors who help make the event happen each year. Winners in each age division received prizes donated by local supporters.

Last year, more than 165,000 sharpshooters participated in more than 3,700 KOC competitions held across the country. The events serve as a great way for students to make friends, officials said, as well as an opportunity for kids who have never been involved in athletics to enjoy the thrill of competition.

The Knights of Columbus is an international service organization with more than 1.9 million members. During the past decade, Knights have donated more than 700 million volunteer hours and \$1.75 billion to charitable causes.

DPHS

continued from page 1

at DPHS. Community involvement like this is a very positive and amazing step in the right direction."

Added Monette, "There is a process we must follow to make sure these funds are used properly and responsibly. We just want to make it clear that projects will be completed in the proper order."

KNOX

continued from page 1

shows the importance of service," Josti said of his years in scouting.

Bergeron enjoys being active inside and outside the classroom, taking part in soccer and several other activities. She had fun taking part in a Cradles to Crayons service project during her time in Boston, and both she and Josti will lead service projects locally to collect clothes this spring.

"We will set up boxes in the school and at Town Hall. It is always fun to give back," Bergeron said.

During the day of service in Boston, the students met several inspirational speakers like New England Patriots star Devin McCourty. Josti even enjoyed a few minutes to talk with McCourty about all things football.

"I talked with him for like five minutes. He told me to keep working hard

for school leaders, the willingness of community members to donate to the project is reflective of increasing enthusiasm and momentum within the district.

"There are so many positive things happening within Spencer and East Brookfield, and within our regional school district," Haughey told the New Leader. "I am honored and privileged to be part of this district."

toward my goals," added Josti, who is hoping to earn a spot on a high school football squad next year. He also enjoys playing baseball.

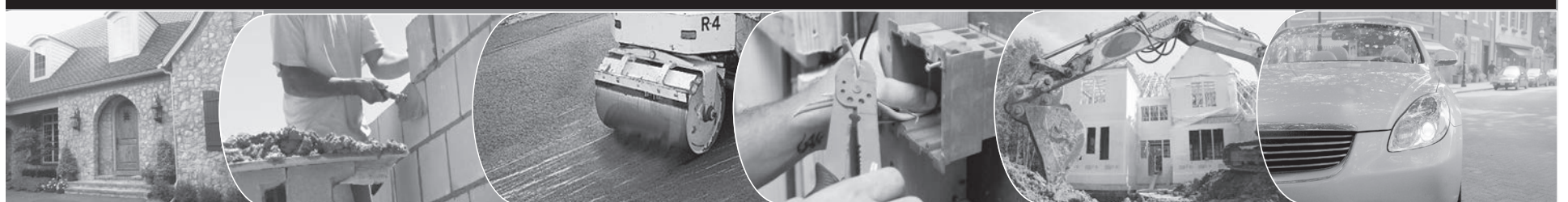
Looking ahead, Bergeron and Josti are looking forward to taking part in their spring service projects. Next year, they will have the opportunity to mentor younger students entering the Project 351 program.

"It is a great experience for the students. They are given exposure to many people who have devoted their lives to service," said Christine Cheney, Knox Trail's Project 351 coordinator. "The kids can initially be very timid on the service day, but they quickly make friends and have fun. They will now take what they learned and use it to help out in their own towns."

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EDITORIAL

A Valentine’s Day playlist

This Friday is Valentine’s Day, and love is in the air. For most, the day will consist of chocolates, roses, diamonds, gifts, candle lit dinners and all things heart shaped. Feb. 14 is a day that is either loved or hated. The once Pagan holiday turned Hallmark money maker is a day to celebrate love or to wallow in the ‘woe is me’ life of a single person.

If you’re single, ignore society’s ideals that we have to be involved in a relationship to find happiness. It’s simply not true, and there are millions of people across the globe who find themselves skipping happily down the sidewalk of life solo. If you do have a sweetheart, enjoy the day and all of the happiness that goes hand in hand as a result of Cupid’s arrow.

We think, as we often do, that the best part of any holiday is of course the music. Music is something we can enjoy regardless of our relationship status. Love has been the fuel for some of the greatest songs to pass over our ears. Below we came up with some favorites, and dug deeper to find the meaning behind the lyrics or how the songs came to be.

“Fly Me to the Moon” was originally titled “In Other Words” (for obvious reasons), and was written in 1954 by Bart Howard. In 1964, Frank Sinatra put a new spin on the old jazz standard and it has become a favorite classic. The song was written at the request of Howard’s publisher for a simpler song. Howard wrote the song in 20 minutes.

“I Say a Little Prayer,” another romantic classic with an unexpectedly deep message, was written by Burt Bacharach and Hal David in 1967 for Dionne Warwick. The song is about a woman’s concern for her significant other, serving in the Vietnam War. The song became one of the most successful hits of that era.

“What a Wonderful World” was written by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele and recorded, most famously, by Louis Armstrong in 1967. The writers originally had Tony Bennett in mind to record and release the song however Bennett turned it down. Weiss later admitted that he wrote the song expressly for Armstrong because of his ability to bring people of different backgrounds together. The song was a huge hit in the United Kingdom before it reached more fame in the United States almost ten years later. The reason for the halt, was the hesitation of ABC to promote the song.

“The Greatest Love of All” just might be the best song to belt out while driving down the highway, or in our minds, at the very least a close tie with Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.” The ballad was written by Michael Masser and Linda Creed in 1977. The first to record the tune was George Benson who brought the song to number two on the charts. Whitney Houston took the song to a new level in 1985 where it reached the number one spot. The message is a good one, ‘learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all’.

“At Last” is a classic that was written in 1941 by Mack Gordon and Harry Warren for the movie “Sun Valley Serenade.” The lyrics were ultimately never heard in the movie, but the powerful vocal laid down by the legendary Etta James for Chess Records in 1960 led the song to the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

We can’t have a list of favorite love songs without including a power ballad from the 1980’s. What better band to honor today than Def Leppard. After all, nothing says “I love you” like big hair and fluorescent colored tank tops...at least, to us. In 1987, the song “Love Bites” was released, offering a tongue in cheek view of the pitfalls of romance. The song was written by five people, but it was celebrated producer Robert John “Mutt” Lange who brought the song to the attention of the band. The song was originally written with a Country artist in mind; however, Def Leppard added the rock flare that made the song climb the charts.

“Your Body is a Wonderland,” written by John Mayer in 2001, was apparently about Mayer’s first girlfriend at the age of 14. The original title was “Strawberry Wonderland,” but was later changed.

Last but not least to make our list is perhaps the definitive love song — “My Girl” by the Temptations. This classic was recorded in 1964. The song was written by Smokey Robinson and Ronald White. The inspiration for the song came from Robinson’s wife Claudette Rogers Robinson.

Valentine’s Day, with its tricky origins, still serves as a solid reminder that romance is timeless and we have the music to prove it.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Soul of a nation

To the Editor:

It’s 5 p.m., and midsize cars are filling the parking lot behind a small town school. A steady stream of neighbors exchange gossip and greetings as they make their way to the cafeteria where a local band is setting up. Inside, more than a dozen volunteers put the final touches on a spaghetti supper they’ve been preparing all day. Everyone knows everyone as families settle in to tables set with paper plates and plastic cutlery. The din of children playing and adults talking over them subsides as more than a hundred souls rise to face the flag hanging from a painted cinderblock wall. Without prompting, everyone places a hand over their heart and recites the pledge of allegiance. No one remains seated but the handful of elders and disabled veterans who cannot stand.

The local lodge of Free Masonry is holding its annual Hearts for Heat charity dinner and the hall is packed with people less concerned about the quality of the meal than the welfare of their fellow townspeople. Once the pledge is finished the band begins a three hour medley of music reaching back across the decades. Like the volunteers who made the meal and the food served, everything’s donated. There’s nothing fancy showing as people cue up for the food and drink provided at cost by the local market. And there’s not a frown to be found as folks mingle who may only speak to each other once or twice a year. Not everyone’s friends, but everyone’s welcome at the sort of gathering that’s formed the core of social unity since our nation’s founding.

In the tiny town of North Brookfield, just a few miles from George M. Cohan’s famed Podunk, abides a community that lends proof to what most Americans imagine when they think of their country. A community that harkens back to the days of Thornton Wilder, Aaron Copland, and Norman Rockwell. A town where people respect each other, even when they disagree. Where no one’s abandoned, and everybody knows everyone else’s history, achievements, and family problems. A place where volunteer fire and police augment municipal departments. A community whose pioneer history is cherished

by men and women who revere the wisdom of experience, in a world that recognizes only celebrity and self promotion. A quiet slice of sanity resting amid the verdant farms and rolling foothills of central Massachusetts. This is truly the spiritual center of our modern American nation.

As the tables are cleared, children continue playing and the band takes a break, so prize winners can be selected from a large circular drum holding thousands of chance tickets. Tickets purchased by citizens, all of whom surely have needs of their own. Chances to win: haircuts, massages, auto repairs, and groceries; hand crocheted sweaters, and farm fresh produce—all of it offered to folks who could simply buy it next-door. Every ticket purchased with an eye to the needs of others. When the last winner’s prize is awarded, the Master of Ceremonies takes the stage and asks the assembly to rise. With a wave of his hand the band breaks into God Bless America, and the assemblage sings the words familiar to them since childhood.

They sing without embarrassment, mindful of the love they bear for our country; not the earth underfoot, but the people standing fast upon it. America isn’t a piece of land, so much as an amalgam of people. It’s not so much an amalgam of people, as an idea. And it’s not so much an idea, as a dream that was dreamed in the hearts of people willing to risk everything to build a life free from want and the tyranny of others. How noble it would be if the elected representatives of our nation’s government cherished that dream as we the people do. We who are the pulsing life blood of that dream. We, who uphold the laws, pay the taxes, cherish the history, and defend the nation; a dream wrought in the very heart of humanity. How splendid if they put aside their petty self-interest in the name of the greater good, the common good, of we the people. And shame upon them for their failure to do so. As a former president once reminded our citizenry, elections have consequences. And Election Day, is coming.

JACK MCCLINTOCK
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Principles and personality

To the Editor:

I would like to suggest that, contrary to one of the letters you published, both principles and personality are important in a president, and they are intertwined. We need leaders who our allies can trust.

It was said that “Trump is someone who bluntly tells it like it is.” This is not true. The Washington Post has documented over 15,000 false or misleading statements by him since he has been in office. How can our allies, or anyone else, trust what he says?

His principles and policies are also questionable. Is the economy in such great shape? The U.S. Census Bureau has found that income inequality is worse than it’s been in 50 years. Data from the U.S. Courts reveals that for the 12-month period ending September 2019, Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies

totaled 580 filings, up 24 percent from the prior year and the highest level since 676 filings in 2011. The federal government’s outstanding public debt has surpassed \$23 trillion for the first time in history and this day of reckoning is coming.

And do we really want to go back to the days when corporations were free to dump pollution in our waterways, harming the health of whole communities like Love Canal? This is what his environmental policies are threatening to do. It is not a black and white choice between managed government and total freedom. We need a healthy push pull between sensible regulation and responsible free markets. Both keep each other in check. The balance is now tipping in the wrong direction.

Peter Swanson
Leicester

Informational pamphlets mailed to Pine Grove lot owners

To the Editor:

Pamphlets have been mailed to many lot owners in the Pine Grove Cemetery off Route 31 North in Spencer. If you have not received a pamphlet and are a lot owner or have a loved one buried there, please email pinegrovecemeteryspencer-ma@gmail.com to give your name and address, and a pamphlet of information about the current situation of the cemetery will be mailed to you.

THANK YOU,
DEAN AND LYN STEVENS
PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY/
TREASURER
PINE GROVE CEMETERY
CORPORATION

Our first responders deserve thanks

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the North Brookfield EMT’s, the police, Officer Churchey, and the all men with the Fire Department. Your quick response to our emergency, was greatly appreciated. We thank you for helping us get through that

devastating evening.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated, hard working first responders in our town.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.
RON AND MARY REMILLARD
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Valentine’s Day: Financial protection can be a great Valentine’s Day gift



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JEFF
BURDICK

On Valentine’s Day, you can give your spouse or life partner a traditional gift such as candy or

flowers. But once you’ve done that, why not think about something that can provide longer-lasting benefits for your loved one? Specifically, think about ways to provide a lifetime of financial protection.

You can do this in several ways, including:

Protection while you’re alive – As you know, it’s usually necessary for both partners or spouses to work to maintain a household – so if your income were to disappear, even temporarily, it could present a big problem. Your current employer could offer disability income insurance as an employee benefit, but it might not be enough for your needs, so you may want to consider purchasing your own policy. Keep in mind, though, that disability coverage typically only lasts for a few years, and, in any case, probably won’t completely replace your income. Consequently, it’s a good idea to build up your financial resources in other ways, so contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) and IRA during your working years. If you do become disabled, it may be possible for you to tap into these funds without incurring a tax penalty, though regular taxes may still be due.

Protection if you need care – If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home or the services of a home health care worker, you might find the costs to be considerable – and possibly a severe burden on your spouse or partner. In fact, the average cost for a private room in a nursing home is about \$100,000 per year, while a home health aide costs about \$50,000 per year, according to Genworth, an insurance company. And Medicare typically pays only a small percentage of these expenses. To protect your spouse or partner – not to mention your grown children – from possibly having to deal with these costs, you might consider purchasing long-term care insurance. As an alternative, you could purchase a “hybrid” policy that combines long-term care benefits with those offered by a traditional life insurance policy. So, if you never needed long-term care, your policy would pay a death benefit to your spouse or partner or another beneficiary you’ve named.

Protection when you’re gone – If you were to pass away, would your spouse or partner have the financial resources to continue the same lifestyle, pay the mortgage or, if you have children, provide for their education? If the answer is no, then you need to maintain adequate life insurance. How much is enough? There’s no one right answer for everyone. You might hear that you need a death benefit that’s worth seven or eight times your annual income, but the actual amount should be based on a variety of factors – your age, size of family, current income, spouse or partner’s income, and so on. A financial professional can help you determine the appropriate amount of coverage.

Valentine’s Day is just one day on the calendar. But if it serves as another reminder of how much you value your spouse or partner and spurs you into action to protect her or him throughout your lifetime – and beyond – then it will be an important day indeed.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The state of the Union is poor

To the Editor:
At last week's State of the Union (SOTU) address, there was a cast of characters from the audience that were specifically honored. This tradition was started by Reagan in 1982, has been done by members of both parties, and has gotten more absurd over the years. In 1982 Reagan honored Lenny Skutnik for his heroism in diving into the frozen Potamac River to save a passenger from a crashed Air Florida flight who was too weak to grab the rope lowered down from a helicopter just weeks before the SOTU. Lenny received the U.S. Coast Guard Gold Livesaving Medal among other accolades. Lenny is a true hero.
This year, Trump honored 11 individuals. An "Opportunity Zone beneficiary" (somebody who lives in a bad neighborhood that gets tax incentives for employers), a kid who wants to join the Space Force, a 4th grader used as a prop to play up school vouchers and undermine public schools, an extreme premature baby to jab at abortion, the brother of an American killed by an undocumented immigrant, a random border patrol agent, parents of an American Christian aid worker killed by ISIS in a warzone in Syria, the family of a random soldier killed in Iraq, the family of a deployed soldier currently in Afghanistan, Rush Limbaugh, and Juan Guaidó.
The first nine individuals while sympathetic characters are nothing more than props for a dog & pony show and minimize real heroes like Lenny Skutnik.
Rush Limbaugh (AM talk radio host) in addition to being honored was given the Presidential Metal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor. Limbaugh is a despicable human being, and unrepentant racist, misogynist, and many other-ists. Limbaugh has said white people shouldn't be blamed for slavery because white people have done more to end it than any other race. He called Susan Fluke a slut and a prostitute for arguing before congress about the importance of contraceptive coverage under the ACA. He was forced to resign from ESPN over racist comments about a black quarterback. He poked Michael J. Fox's Parkinson's disease, he compared the Obamas to cartoon monkeys, he regularly commented on Michelle Obama's body calling her "Moochelle" and "Michelle, my butt". He called Amy Carter the most unattractive presidential daughter in the history of this country and he called Chelsea Clinton the "White House dog." He joked that Hillary Clinton castrates men. He joked that the NAACP should have a riot rehearsal, called AIDS in Africa a joke and ruse to get money, said women shouldn't be on juries when the accused is a "stud," and said that when a gay person turns their back, it isn't an insult, but an invitation. He said that the 2018 Central American refugee crisis was a plot to dilute, erase, and eliminate American culture. He's dismissed the dangers of smoking and said he wanted a metal for smoking cigars. He even said that African American children were "trained" to hate the United States.
President Trump bestowed our nation's highest civilian honor to that piece of human garbage. I think we now know where the "Moochelle" joke came from - other authors in this publication must listen to Rush. Sadly though, par for the course. Too bad Lenny Skutnik has to share his honor with such a despicable and deplorable human being. Limbaugh was recently diagnosed with lung cancer (who would have guessed with the cigar smoking...). I hope his larynx gets removed so he can no longer promulgate his vitriol but he otherwise has a speedy recovery. There would be no better poetic justice than for him to live another 30 years witnessing America get browner and less Christian but unable to say anything about it.
Last but not least, Trump honored Juan Guaidó, the (disputed) Acting President of Venezuela. In a nutshell, Nicolás Maduro won an election in 2018 that most of the world says was fraudulent. The US, Canada, EU, Mexico, Chile, and Columbia, and others say it was a fraud but Bolivia,

Cuba, China, Russia, North Korea, and others say it was legit. Maduro is in Venezuela exercising power as President, and he's the one wearing the presidential sash. Guaidó's claim to "Acting President" is that if there is no President then the head of the National Assembly (congress) is acting president. Guaidó and his allies claim that since the 2018 election was a fraud, there is no president, therefore Guaidó is the Acting President... Despite the fact that Maduro wears the sash and is in Miraflores Palace playing President on TV.
I find it odd that Trump supports Guaidó when the world despots support Maduro - Trump is much more like Maduro than he is Guaidó. Under the logic that Guaidó is the acting President of Venezuela, I declare Nancy Pelosi the acting President of the United States. The 2016 election here was a fraud and is recognized as such around the world. Pence is in on it and was elected in the same sham. Furthermore, Trump has committed treason, bribery, and extortion in the Ukraine affaire to fraudulently rig the 2020 election, we had an impeachment "trial", and he was acquitted without witnesses or testimony. The GOP said that they will not be impartial and acquit before the "trial" even started. The US doesn't even have a Presidential sash! The US does not have a legitimate president, despite the fact that we have an occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Therefore, Nancy Pelosi is the acting President as Speaker of the House.
Last topic - Facebook. I'm not a big fan of social media, it's algorithms and privacy features promote echo chambers as we tune settings to only hear the voices we want. I've created an account only for it to fall into disuse. Recently, I got online again and friend requested some random people in town more as a social experiment - I am very curious what people say off the cuff when they think it is a "safe space." My account got shut down - apparently, somebody reported me to Facebook as "faux." Lovely, and thanks. Calling me fake sure is a way to cleanse your echo chamber...
I'm back online now. I was reluctant to do it, but I had to send Facebook a photograph of my ID, then a few weeks later they turned my account back on. No - none of the other authors in this publication will receive the same courtesy. Only large multi-billion dollar tech giants where I am less than a needle in a haystack.
More to come from my social experiment, it has been eye opening. I only repeat names of people who knowingly and willingly make public statements - any commentary from Facebook will be scrubbed of real identities. I've already been told vthat I'm a piece of garbage, go [expletive] myself, and no one needs an [expletive] piece of trash like me in this country (I was born here...). Most of my interaction thus far has been with other people on the Worcester T&G Facebook page. I'm shocked and scared at the same time. This isn't the country I thought it was.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

So-called acquittal

To the Editor:
It's been a busy week in national politics with the Iowa Caucuses, the tyrant-in-chief's State of the Union Address, and the so-called acquittal we all knew was coming.
The so-called President delivered his State of the Union Address while the impeachment "trial" was not finished - it appears that Nancy Pelosi's delay in transmitting the articles was to prevent him from gloating about acquittal during his SOTU and possibly goading him into a tirade.
From the beginning of this process we all knew that the outcome was certain - Trump would be acquitted because Republicans wouldn't break rank and that would neutralize impeachment as a viable threat for any future offense. Not calling witnesses to an impeachment trial, or any trial is simply inconceivable. Given the fact that Republican Senators vowed to not be impartial before the trial even began, not calling witnesses could be seen as saving time before the constitutional abdication we all knew was coming. In effect, the Senate has removed impeachment from the constitution; it is now nothing more than censure from the opposite party.
Nancy Pelosi was reluctant to approach impeachment as she knew it was not a political winner, but it was forced upon them by the president and by the revelation that he was shaking down, extorting in fact, to not only obtain but to manufacture unflattering and libelous information on his principal political opponent. The congressional Democrats were left with no choice. Only Mitt Romney was willing to break ranks and cast a vote he can later explain to his children and grandchildren. Romney said that he has to live under the censure of his conscious - too bad the other Republicans don't feel the same way.
Politics and religion have long been (disastrously) intertwined. The question is whether your faith inspires your politics or does your politics inspire your faith? With the exception of Romney, the GOP is more cohesive than ever and unchained by facts or principals. Donald Trump emerges from impeachment emboldened, demonstrated by his remarkably egregious behavior since then at the National Prayer Breakfast, in the White House, and his public utterances.
Despite the Democrats' hand being forced by Trump's treasonous abuses of power, this has been a political loser. Trump's approval rating is higher than when this began and the Republican party is more popular than it's been since the depths of the Iraq War in 2005. Americans just don't like impeach-

ment, regardless of how deserved or necessary. We seriously have to ask ourselves if doing the right thing and enforcing the norms of our democracy (republic) is worth the political cost...
History will celebrate Nancy Pelosi for doing the right thing, standing up for America, and standing up for the constitution despite its high political cost.
Trump's behavior is so childish, it is almost comical. Trump said that Romney ran a terrible campaign for president, lashed out at Pelosi for ripping up his speech while omitting that he refused to shake her hand on live TV, he purged Sondland and Vindman for being witnesses, and he even fired Vindman's identical twin brother who wasn't even involved probably because they looked alike. Trump's behavior has been vengeful, vindictive, and small minded while he has a cultish and slavish reaction from his political and emotional serfs who act more like sycophants than statesmen.
At the SOTU, Trump clearly launched his re-election campaign, trying to strike the "morning in America" chord as best he could. His basic premise is that we don't have to like him but the economy is doing well and for that you'll have to put up with absurd gracelessness. It is important to acknowledge the strength of the economy, the low unemployment, and the growing GDP. It is just as important to realize that we have been steadily growing and improving since 2009 at the beginning of the Obama administration. Obama's economic record was far better than Trump's. Either Obama saved the economy and Trump inherited a strong economy, or the root cause of our strong economy is disconnected from the president entirely.
America stands for a lot more than the economy. In the past three years our collective values have been tarnished and diminished. The White House has changed hands in a strong economy before; there just needs to be something that Americans care about more. In 1960, JFK had the missile gap, in 1968 Nixon had "law and order," and in 2016 Trump had White Nationalism.
As for the Iowa Caucuses, I think we now have proof that paper is really the best technology for voting. Paper is very hard to hack, it never runs out of batteries, it doesn't crash, it can be easily recounted, it can be hand recounted. Technology is a great thing for most applications but not voting. Regarding the results, clearly Trump's treason worked given that Joe Biden is effectively out of the race.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

Climate change bill will drive up cost of living in Mass.

To the Editor:

If you think the cost of living is high in Massachusetts, it could soon get a lot higher - thanks to the state legislature.
The State Senate (Gobi among them) passed a climate change bill that will raise the price of gas and electricity in an effort to have net zero emission of greenhouse gases in this state by 2050. The motive behind the bill may be noble, but unfortunately greenhouse gases are not confined to Massachusetts.
The Senate Bill would, among other measures:
Eliminate gas vehicles
Result in new building codes that raise construction costs

Introduce a cap-and-trade system on carbon that will raise gas and diesel costs
Let the governor make all the program rules so the public can't hold lawmakers accountable

There's been no analysis of the proposal's cost or benefits. Before the House acts on this climate control legislation, call your state lawmakers and tell them to do a "cost-benefit" analysis so any person with a brain can see how foolish the economics of this proposal are.

JAMES COOKE
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Please turn to A17 for more Letters to the Editor

SPORTS

Uxbridge boys, Grafton girls stake claim as SWCL Track Champions



Nick Ethier photos

The Southern Worcester County League indoor track and field championships were held at Tantasqua Regional on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — The title of Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) indoor track and field champion was up for grabs on Tuesday, Feb. 4 when the 12 member schools all visited Tantasqua Regional for the SWCL Championships. The Uxbridge High boys' team and the Grafton High girls' squad were team champions, with 24 event winners also rewarded.

The team results and top-six finishers from each event are listed below. A first place finish earned 10 points toward the team total, with second place generating 8 points, third place accumulating 6 points, fourth place gaining 4 points, fifth place receiving 2 points and sixth place getting 1 point.

BOYS' TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Uxbridge, 74 points
- 2. Millbury, 57
- 2. Grafton, 57
- 4. Auburn, 49
- 5. Tantasqua, 32
- 6. Quaboag, 27
- 7. Northbridge, 24
- 8. Bartlett, 20
- 9. Leicester, 16
- 10. Oxford, 4
- 10. Southbridge, 4

BOYS' INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- 55-Meter Dash
- 1. Josh Fiore, Grafton, 6.95
 - 2. Hunter Wilcox, Grafton, 7.01
 - 3. Barry Rincon, Bartlett, 7.12
 - 4. Alex Torres, Southbridge, 7.13
 - 5. Eastyn Davis, Tantasqua, 7.13
 - 6. Tyler Schold, Millbury, 7.13

- 300-Meter Dash
- 1. Marcus Babi, Northbridge, 38.48
 - 2. Tyler Schold, Millbury, 39.63
 - 3. Theodore Miller, Leicester, 39.81
 - 4. Cabot Lacey, Quaboag, 40.04
 - 5. John-Paul Brennan, Grafton, 40.12
 - 6. Chandler Horn, Tantasqua, 40.52

- 600-Meter Run
- 1. Marcus Babi, Northbridge, 1:30.93
 - 2. Rigoberto Alfonso, Leicester, 1:31.18
 - 3. Brandon Rodrigues, Tantasqua, 1:32.61
 - 4. Grayson Logan, Grafton, 1:34.71
 - 5. Cameron Szalay, Auburn, 1:34.91
 - 6. Fidel Castro, Auburn, 1:35.59

1,000-Meter Run

- 1. Aidan Gilmore, Grafton, 2:48.65
- 2. Aidan Ross, Uxbridge, 2:54.08
- 3. Zach Lapointe, Auburn, 2:55.98
- 4. Stephen Sanches, Uxbridge, 3:02.10
- 5. Thomas Burke, Uxbridge, 3:03.14
- 6. Nevan Kelley, Grafton, 3:07.87

- One-Mile Run
- 1. Avinash Bissoondail, Millbury, 4:45.24
 - 2. Aidan Ross, Uxbridge, 4:47.05
 - 3. Aidan Gilmore, Grafton, 4:47.83
 - 4. Stephen Sanches, Uxbridge, 5:11.36
 - 5. Oscar Wyspanski, Auburn, 5:15.53
 - 6. Marhsall Knowlton, Grafton, 5:26.93

- Two-Mile Run
- 1. Keegan Gleason, Millbury, 10:17.92
 - 2. Colin Caso, Uxbridge, 10:34.33
 - 3. Carl Gallawan, Uxbridge, 10:39.78
 - 4. James Bernard, Uxbridge, 10:53.36
 - 5. Josh Anderson, Auburn, 11:26.67
 - 6. Eric Romanoff, Tantasqua, 11:28.52

- 55-Meter Hurdles
- 1. Joe Cook, Millbury, 8.53
 - 2. Casey Robidoux, Tantasqua, 8.69
 - 3. Cabot Lacey, Quaboag, 9.41
 - 4. Donald Speight, Bartlett, 10.09
 - 5. Alexander Majewski, Tantasqua, 10.11
 - 6. Jacob Gulledge, Grafton, 10.18

- 4x200-Meter Relay
- 1. Uxbridge (Robbie Mateer, Brendan Thompson, Jared Peniche, Ryan Silbor), 1:45.74
 - 2. Auburn (Caleb Scopetski, Kyle Jacques, Andrew Noonan, Anthony Cintron), 1:45.88
 - 3. Grafton (Hunter Wilcox, Zach Markt, Josh Fiore, Nimith Soth), 1:46.49
 - 4. Bartlett (Jake Richard, Sam Kontoes, Barry Rincon, Nicholas Violette), 1:49.89
 - 5. Oxford (Giovani Casiano, Myles Caft, Darius Richardson, Aiden Fahey), 1:51.55
 - 6. Quaboag (Andrew Gagnon, Justin Janosz, Chris Laprade, Thomas Snow), 1:57.80

- 4x400-Meter Relay
- 1. Auburn (Alex Bisceglia, Caleb Scopetski, Aaron Pigeon, Cameron Szalay), 4:03.34
 - 2. Quaboag (Tyler Jovic, Jordan Floria, Gage Lane, Austin Lourake), 4:07.03
 - 3. Tantasqua (Alexander Majewski, Eric Romanoff, Sam Smith, Brandon Rodrigues), 4:14.98

- 4. Bartlett (Alexander Somicu, Ryan Truscott, Chase Czernicki, Lucas Wolfram), 4:23.47
- 5. Leicester (Rigoberto Alfonso, Evan Benoit, Brett Carroll, Theodore Miller), 4:25.26

- 4x800-Meter Relay
- 1. Uxbridge (Thomas Burke, Colin Caso, Carl Gallawan, Ben Wojciechowski), 9:37.65
 - 2. Auburn (Josh Anderson, Oscar Wyspanski, Finn O'Donnell, Zach Lapointe), 9:51.60
 - 3. Grafton (Colin Frank, Justin Trihn, Nameer Khan, Marhsall Knowlton), 10:08.96

- High Jump
- 1. Ryan Silbor, Uxbridge, 5-10
 - 2. Cabot Lacey, Quaboag, 5-08
 - 3. Caleb Scopetski, Auburn, 5-06
 - 4. Anthony Cintron, Auburn, 5-04
 - 5. Richard Sayle, Bartlett, 5-04
 - 6. Nimith Soth, Grafton, 5-00

- Shot Put
- 1. Edwin Cochoran, Millbury, 46-00.00
 - 2. Charlie Mitchell, Millbury, 43-05.50
 - 3. Kyle Boone, Tantasqua, 43-03.50
 - 4. Jared Wielsma, Northbridge, 43-00.00
 - 5. Nick Geragonis, Oxford, 41-08.50
 - 6. Hunter Wilcox, Grafton, 40-04.50

GIRLS' TEAM RESULTS

- 1. Grafton, 93 points
- 2. Tantasqua, 74
- 3. Uxbridge, 73.5
- 4. Auburn, 68
- 5. Leicester, 30
- 6. Millbury, 16.5
- 7. Quaboag, 8
- 8. Northbridge, 4
- 9. Oxford, 3
- 10. Bartlett, 1

GIRLS' INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- 55-Meter Dash
- 1. Anastasia Achiaa, Uxbridge, 7.97
 - 2. Breanna Escobar, Leicester, 7.99
 - 3. Kylie Lambert, Auburn, 8.06
 - 4. Mackenzie Mackin, Auburn, 8.08
 - 5. Jackie Gilbert, Millbury, 8.12
 - 6. Julia Koshivos, Grafton, 8.27

- 300-Meter Dash
- 1. Aaliyah Hernandez, Leicester, 44.38
 - 2. Anastasia Achiaa, Uxbridge, 45.47
 - 3. Annebel Balogh de Galantha, Grafton, 45.94
 - 4. Caroline Gilson, Grafton, 46.70
 - 5. Shannon Dunn, Tantasqua, 46.89
 - 6. Calley Brouillard, Millbury, 47.16

- 600-Meter Run
- 1. Andrea St. Jean, Grafton, 1:44.24
 - 2. Jordan Lapierre, Tantasqua, 1:49.84
 - 3. Claudia Oliver, Auburn, 1:50.07
 - 4. Samantha Chrabaszcz, Northbridge, 1:54.31
 - 5. Jena Taubert, Millbury, 1:54.39
 - 6. Carly Hayes, Auburn, 1:55.40

- 1,000-Meter Run
- 1. Taylor Blanton, Auburn, 3:23.85
 - 2. Abigail Deary, Uxbridge, 3:28.60
 - 3. Karina Sargent, Auburn, 3:31.18
 - 4. Mikayla Mannion, Grafton, 3:35.99
 - 5. Claire Godek, Tantasqua, 3:42.31
 - 6. Grace Cummings, Grafton, 3:46.38

- One-Mile Run
- 1. Olivia Magierowski, Tantasqua, 5:53.15
 - 2. Karina Sargent, Auburn, 5:55.09
 - 3. Mikayla Mannion, Grafton, 5:57.94
 - 4. Faith McCormack, Tantasqua, 6:13.59



- 5. Grace Cummings, Grafton, 6:14.81
- 6. Julia Philbrook, Uxbridge, 6:19.94

- Two-Mile Run
- 1. Abigail Deary, Uxbridge, 13:03.57
 - 2. Julia Philbrook, Uxbridge, 13:07.51
 - 3. Abigail Gahagan, Leicester, 13:12.19
 - 4. Megan Wajer, Grafton, 13:19.31
 - 5. Kate Downing, Tantasqua, 13:32.48
 - 6. Grace Foulkrod, Auburn, 13:35.66

- 55-Meter Hurdles
- 1. Fleur Balogh de Galantha, Grafton, 9.10
 - 2. Kathryn Morrill, Tantasqua, 9.65
 - 3. Riley Clark, Millbury, 9.93
 - 4. Morgan Martellio, Uxbridge, 10.22
 - 5. Ana Wengender, Tantasqua, 10.38
 - 6. Megan Raymond, Oxford, 10.71

- 4x200-Meter Relay
- 1. Tantasqua (Maeve Ashworth, Lila Ives, Jordan Lapierre, Shannon Dunn), 2:01.27
 - 2. Grafton (Olivia Follansbee, Fleur Balogh de Galantha, Chloe Bergeron, Julia Koshivos), 2:03.25
 - 3. Leicester (Jordan Clarke, Aaliyah Hernandez, Breanna Escobar, Hannah Collette), 2:05.15
 - 4. Auburn (Chizoba Igwenagu, Kylie Lambert, Sydney Mercadante, Haley Norris), 2:05.49
 - 5. Uxbridge (Danielle Healey, Morgan Martellio, Paige Seymour, Jenny Frick), 2:06.54
 - 6. Millbury (Jenna Boria, Calley Brouillard, Hannah Irish, Allison Pogorek), 2:07.75

- 4x400-Meter Relay
- 1. Grafton (Annebel Balogh de Galantha, Bridget Kennedy, Caroline Gilson, Andrea St. Jean), 4:37.34
 - 2. Auburn (Claudia Oliver, Chizoba Igwenagu, Taylor Blanton, Carly Hayes), 4:40.24

- 3. Tantasqua (Kate Downing, Julia Howard, Olivia Magierowski, Faith McCormack), 4:46.29
- 4. Uxbridge (Cecilia Schleinitz, Paige Seymour, Jillian Lutton, Jenny Frick), 5:01.05
- 5. Millbury (Jenna Boria, Charlotte O'Neil, Hannah Irish, Elena Mimo), 5:15.41

- 4x800-Meter Relay
- 1. Grafton (Riley Cass, Helena Firlings, Abigail O'Toole, Megan Wajer), 11:46.05
 - 2. Quaboag (Phoebe Clowes, Isabella Clowes, Kate Landon, Annabel Melanson), 11:57.76
 - 3. Auburn (Grace Beauregard, Grace Foulkrod, Emily Dupuis, Marta Brzoska), 12:10.63
 - 4. Uxbridge (Avery Guillette, Kaylee Travares, Jalyn Gingras, Jillian Lutton), 12:16.91
 - 5. Millbury (Jena Taubert, Rebecca Goyette, Jayden Welsh, Allison Pogorek), 12:33.19
 - 6. Bartlett (Vivian Poplawski, Lily Picchioni, Jolin Etpison, Kathryn James), 12:42.77

- High Jump
- 1. Fleur Balogh de Galantha, Grafton, 5-00
 - 2. Genevieve Porter, Auburn, 5-00
 - 3. Kathryn Morrill, Tantasqua, 4-10
 - 4. Danielle Healey, Uxbridge, 4-08
 - 5. Megan Raymond, Oxford, 4-08
 - 6. Anastasia Achiaa, Uxbridge, 4-06
 - 6. Jena Taubert, Millbury, 4-06

- Shot Put
- 1. Kaitlyn Boone, Tantasqua, 31-01.50
 - 2. Kelsey Prince, Uxbridge, 30-05.00
 - 3. Fleur Balogh de Galantha, Grafton, 30-00.75
 - 4. Faith Mwangi, Tantasqua, 29-01.00
 - 5. Danielle Healey, Uxbridge, 28-05.00
 - 6. Emily Masera, Grafton, 28-01.25

SPORTS

A slow start, but a strong finish for Tantasqua over Woolies



Jason McKay photos

Tantasqua's Tyler Hall gets ahead of a Millbury defender on his way to the basket.



Going in for a layup, Liam O'Brien of Tantasqua fights hard against a Millbury defender.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

MILLBURY — Troy Lee scored 6 of his 8 points in the second half to help the Tantasqua Regional boys' basketball team shake off another slow offensive start and go on to defeat Millbury High 49-25 on Saturday, Feb. 8 in the Woolie Swamp.

"Troy did a good job; he's such a good kid, such a good leader," Warriors' head coach Scott Dion said about his senior captain. "I challenged him at halftime, and he responded. That's what senior leadership is."

Tantasqua improved to 12-4 overall and 9-1 in the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) with the win, which was the Warriors' second straight, third in their last four games and eighth in their last 10. With the loss Millbury dropped to 9-8 overall and 5-5 in the SWCL.

Junior Tyler Hall led Tantasqua in scoring, finishing with 14 points, 10 coming in the second half. Sophomore Joey Groccia added 10 points and hit two 3-pointers, and junior Mike Lucas added 7 points.

To get the win Tantasqua needed to, again, overcome a slow start. The Warriors led 8-2 after the first quarter and 18-10 at halftime.

"We started slow again. Unfortunately, that's been a problem pretty much all season," Dion said. "We're having a real hard time putting four quarters together. Some games it's three, other games it's two."

This was a two-quarter game for Tantasqua — the third and the fourth.

"You've got to give Millbury credit for that. They smashed us and made everything difficult for us in the first

half," Dion said. "We knew they were going to be playing fired up because it was their Senior Night and they need another win to qualify for Districts."

"In the second half we were able to score early and get into our pressure defense," Dion continued. "Pressure changes the flow of the game. The game becomes more up and down. That's not what they want to do. I thought our pressure gave them a little trouble."

Tantasqua outscored Millbury 18-6 in the third quarter to take a 36-16 lead into the final frame. The Warriors outscored the Woolies 13-9 in the fourth period, Millbury's point total helped by three 3-pointers.

Dion said the Warriors prefer to play an up-tempo style.

"We want to run when we can, walk when we have to," Dion said. "But it also depends on who we're playing; there are some teams we don't want to run with. I thought that was one of our advantages today, that we could get up and down the court a little bit."

Tantasqua's defense completely stifled Millbury's offense. The Warriors forced the Woolies into 16 turnovers and allowed them to score just 25 points, 20 below their season average. Six of the nine field goals Millbury made were from beyond the 3-point arc.

Dion was asked if Tantasqua is a work in progress.

"Well, yeah, I think we are, but we're 16 games in so I thought we'd be a little further along than this," Dion said. "But our defense has been good, and I've got great kids and they're trying. We're just struggling to put the ball in the basket some days."



Tantasqua's Mike Lucas makes contact with a Millbury defender while driving to the basket.



Tantasqua's Cam Varney keeps the ball away from a Millbury defender while waiting for a play to develop.



Mike Lucas of Tantasqua eyes the basket before attempting a 3-pointer from the right corner.

SPORTS

Auburn’s defense clamps down on Minutemen in order to take home victory



Positioned in the corner, Bay Path’s Jackie Ross reaches out to catch a pass thrown her way.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — Not only were shots not dropping for the Auburn High girls’ varsity basketball team in first-half action versus Bay Path Regional last Wednesday, Feb. 5, but the Minutemen were also putting together some of their best basketball of the season. Add all

that up and Bay Path held a 17-15 lead over the Rockets at intermission. The halftime break helped Auburn, as they regrouped and came out recharged. The Rockets not only scored 25 points in second-half play, but they also limited the Minutemen to 7 thanks to a scorching hot defense.

“I am very glad that we turned around that way because in the first half I felt like we were doing the things that we needed to do, but we weren’t producing,” Auburn head coach Nicole LePrevost said, as the Rockets ultimately won a 40-24 decision. “I told them to keep up with the defensive intensity — that was keeping us in the game — and offensively to just keep working the ball, taking open shots and following your shot.” With 5:36 to play in the third quarter, a string of three straight Bay Path turnovers — due in large part to Auburn’s pressing defense — led to two baskets by Hanorah Murphy and two more by Olivia Mathews. That gave the Rockets the lead for good at 23-17. Auburn eventually scored the first 17 points of the frame to pull ahead 32-17, and they led by a 33-19 count as play entered the fourth quarter. The Rockets then won the low-scoring period 7-5 to claim a 16-point victory.

“My senior captains, Mick Sampson and Liv Mathews, they both had over five steals each and they really led us with their intensity,” LePrevost said of the defense being such a big factor in the second-half turnaround. Eight Auburn players scored in the game, who were led by Murphy’s 11 points. Mathews was close behind with 9 points. LePrevost is hoping that the Rockets can continue to play strong basketball, as their record moved up to 7-8. They need to finish at 10-10 or better to qualify for the Central Mass. Division 2 postseason tournament. “We’re clawing. We have five games and we need three of them to make districts,” she said. “They want it and if they want it they’ll keep working hard.” On the other end of things, Bay Path head coach John Selen was ecstatic with the way his team played in the first half, but also that it was a total tale of two halves. “We played as good as we could play in the first half. [In the second half] we just started making fundamental mistakes, young mistakes, and the kids understand that we’re just not there yet,” he said. “We’re working toward it. We’re grow-



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path defenders Olivia Bowes (14) and Bethany Lasell reach out to disrupt a shot taken by Auburn’s Zoe Picard.



Olivia Bowes of Bay Path gets a step on an Auburn defender as she drives the ball into the lane.



Bethany Lasell of Bay Path drives down the court on an Auburn defender.

Rockets’ extremely fast start does in Bay Path, 72-48

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Both individually and collectively, there are hot starts and then there are hot starts. The Auburn High boys’ varsity basketball team enjoyed both kinds — individually and collectively — in its 72-48 win over Bay Path Regional on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Collective heat: The Rockets — winners of five consecutive games to improve to 9-8 with two regular-season games remaining — needed just four minutes and 22 seconds to score the first 17 points of the game. Comfortably ahead, Auburn cruised to leads of 22-8 after the first quarter, 49-17 at halftime and 60-27 after three periods. Individual heat: The Rockets’ first-half assault on the basket was led by senior Coleman Picard, who scored 23 of his game-high 29 points before intermission. Justin Skaparas, Picard’s classmate, did his part in the first 16 minutes, too, scoring 15 of his 19 points before the break, all his first-half points coming on five of the six 3-pointers he buried in the game. “I don’t think we’ve gotten off to such a fast start in any of our other games this year. Everything we were doing was working — kick out 3s, fast breaks, driving to the hoop — everything was dropping,” Picard said. “It’s nice to have a night like this. We’ve worked so hard in practice and the games leading up to this, it was nice for everything to come together like it did tonight.” Auburn head coach Dan Koen said he could feel his team’s sense of purpose right from the start of the game. “We came in focused tonight, knowing if we want to have a chance to get into the Clark Tournament this was the



Bay Path’s Dylan Cotton leaps into the air to begin his layup after racing past Auburn’s defense.

game we needed to have,” said Koen, whose team ended up falling just shy of qualifying for the Clark despite the win. “From the tip we definitely had the mindset that nothing was going to stop us; that we were going to do whatever it takes to win this game.” Auburn’s point total was its third highest this season and increased the Rockets’ average points per game to 56.1. “We do have the potential to score,” said Koen, whose team defeated Bay

Path earlier in the season, picking up a 65-58 win in that game, played on New Year’s Eve. “The shots we were hitting were all in the flow. We got some offensive rebounds and some defensive stops that led to some baskets in transition. You could see the kids’ confidence grow and the shots just kept falling. The kids have bought in and they want to keep playing.” Picard said the Rockets are a much different team during this five-game winning streak than the three-game

losing skid that preceded it. “Truthfully, it’s just the team coming together. The start of the season was slow; most of us are multi-sport athletes so we came in having taken less shots than some of the teams on the early part of our schedule,” Picard said. “Now we’re playing with a different type of swagger and confidence. We can go out any night and perform and execute. We believe in coach and everything that has worked for us and we’re excited for what’s coming up.” Bay Path head coach Al Greenough said he knew right away that the game was going to be a 32-minute struggle for his team. “From the get-go we were flat; we didn’t have it,” said Greenough, whose team dropped to 3-12 with the loss. “It’s disappointing because we came off what I thought was our best win of the season. On Monday we knocked off [11-5] Parker [Charter, 74-61] who is in first place in our league. The kids were excited about this game, both in practice yesterday and during warmups before the game. “[Auburn] hit a couple of shots right off the bat — I don’t know what they shot tonight but it had to be around 70 percent — and I think that just deflated us early and we never really ever got started,” Greenough continued. “If you dig a hole that big, obviously you’re not going to come back. They shot well and we couldn’t get our offense going and we couldn’t break the press. We didn’t have anything going for us and by the time we did it was just too late.” The Minutemen were led by sophomore Dylan Cotton, who scored a team-high 17 points and hit four 3-pointers, and senior captain Ben LaPointe, who added 7 points.

Jason McKay photos

SPORTS

Southbridge finds stride, takes down Wolverines for fifth straight win

LEICESTER’S O’NEILL BECOMES AREA’S LATEST 1,000-POINT SCORER



Leicester's Bryce Gosselin makes a pass past the reach of Southbridge defender Kevin Loftus.



Nick Sluckis of Leicester drives into the lane and finishes off a layup.



Leicester's Tej Patel fires off a pass down into the corner of the court.



Nick Ethier photos

Leicester's Jack O'Neill, the Wolverines' latest 1,000-point scorer, handles the ball in the paint versus Southbridge.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — The Southbridge High boys' varsity basketball team began the year at 2-11, but a current five-game winning streak, which most recently included a 67-57 victory over Leicester High on Saturday, Feb. 8, has the Pioneers feeling a lot better about themselves.

The lone Division 4 team in the Southern Worcester County League, Southbridge has qualified for the upcoming Central Mass. D4 Tournament thanks to the Sullivan Rule, which states that since they play at least 70 percent of their league games against teams in higher divisions, they must go .500 or better in common Division 4 games throughout the season. A recent victory over Abby Kelley Foster of Worcester did the trick, as the Pioneers went 4-1 against Division 4 teams.

"Just slowly but surely," Southbridge head coach Victor Colon said of his team's progression. "We made Districts and that hyped everybody up. They know we're playing for seeding and they're having fun."

Jose Colon-Rivera, one of the key cogs for the Pioneers versus Leicester, agreed with coach.

"I think we just got together as a team. We're having fun, that's the key," he said.

Against the Wolverines, Colon-Rivera was certainly having fun putting the ball in the basket, as he finished with a team-high 23 points. His points included five 3-pointers, a pair of two-point baskets and four made free throws.

"We were down about four or five guys, a couple starters in Sam Ortiz and Reniel Vasquez," said coach Colon, who noted that he called it a "next guy up" mentality. "Guys are stepping up like Jose Colon."

Colon-Rivera and fellow backcourt mate Johnathon Cortez (18 points) were lights out from 3-point land, as Cortez also knocked down five treys. That helped Southbridge's two post players — Zach Besse and Jose Hiciano — do solid work down low. Both players scored 13 points.

"Work it inside and once they pinch inside the shooters are open, and vice-versa," coach Colon said of the effective offense.

Now at 7-11, the Pioneers are attempting to be a dangerous team come postseason time. In recent seasons Southbridge has finished under .500 but has qualified for playoffs and then given top teams competitive games.

"That's what it's been the last few years. We'll give whoever it is a fight," coach Colon said of potential playoff opponents. "We're aiming for that middle of the pack seed."

For Leicester head coach Mike Lynch, he was disappointed with the fact that the Wolverines could never claw back into the game. They trailed throughout and lost each quarter in close fashion (14-12, 18-13, 20-18, 15-14).

"We had a hard time stringing together stops. Their two guards played pretty well, their two big guys played well too," Lynch said of Colon-Rivera, Cortez, Besse and Hiciano making life difficult for Leicester's defense.

"Offensively we didn't shoot the ball well. We turned it over at inopportune times in the fourth quarter," added Lynch. "This has been the issue for us, the inconsistency."

Now at 4-9, Leicester must win its final five games to finish 9-9 and qualify for the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament.

"We have to string together two or three good games in a row and we have not been able to do it all season, so

we'll see," said Lynch. "I feel like if we play well we can beat anyone, but any of these [league games] if we don't play well they'll get you. That's the kind of league it is."

Jack O'Neill (23 points) and Nick Sluckis (10) were the double-digit scorers for Leicester.

And in the Wolverines' prior game versus Oxford High, O'Neill became a 1,000-point scorer. He did so in three-plus seasons, as he missed 10 games of his sophomore year due to injury.

"We have built our entire program around him over the last four years," Lynch said of O'Neill. "He's played a big part. As a freshman he was our point guard on that Clark Tournament team. He has evolved every year, from a point guard to our wing scorer."

"Kids like him don't come around too often. He's as good as they get," Lynch concluded.



Defender Stephen O'Connor of Leicester keeps Southbridge ball-handler Jose Colon-Rivera at bay.



ATHLETE of the WEEK

Jack O'Neill

The Leicester High senior became a member of the 1,000-point club with a made free throw in a Feb. 4 victory versus the Oxford High boys' varsity basketball team. Congratulations!

Athlete of the Week is sponsored by:

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Antique and collectibles news

It's been over a month since my last report on antique and collectibles news. Collectibles articles top the recent news.

A very rare Hot Wheels Camaro white enamel prototype made in 1968 was recently found and purchased by a dealer, according to the Robb report. The car was a prototype that was painted in white enamel. The white painted cars were used by the



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

an Antiques Roadshow appraiser according to People Magazine. The man was stationed in Southeast Asia where he admired the Rolex watches being worn by many of the pilots. He began scuba diving when he transferred to another base and learned that the watches were also good in water. That convinced him to purchase the watch through the base exchange for \$345.97, with his 10 percent discount. It was a sizable purchase when most monthly salaries were then only \$300 to \$400 per month. He found the watch was too nice to use in salty water. He kept it in a safe deposit box since then, along "with the paperwork, receipts, and original box." The watch face is marked "Oyster Cosmograph" and is referred to as the Paul Newman watch. Newman wore a similar Rolex in the movie "Winning." The appraiser informed the owner that watches like his have been



selling for \$150,000 to \$200,000 at auction. Because he never wore it and because he kept the original box and paperwork, the appraiser said that his watch should sell for even more. He estimated it could bring \$500,000 to \$700,000 at auction.

For those of you who want a collectible you can imbibe, Glenfiddich Scotch is offering 100 bottles of their single malt scotch that were produced in 1975. Maxim reports that 100

bottles of the 44-year-old scotch were created only for the U.S. market. The 100 bottles were produced from 2 different casks. Cask 4706's description is "distinctive and rare rich gold whisky has a lively and vibrant bouquet imparting notes of oak, antique leather, tannin and crisp parchment, while maintaining its intriguing zestiness with hints of green apple and citrus." The scotch in the cask 5114 bottles is described as "a beautifully

rich and complex dark amber whisky envelops the nose with an intense spicy oak character and layers of dried fruits." The bottles are priced at \$9,000. Doing the math, that is a little over \$380 for just one drink.

Our Jan. 30 auction was very successful. Comic books, coins, sterling silver, gold jewelry and military memorabilia were some of the best sellers. Comic books have been selling so well recently that I will dedicate an upcoming column to them.

There is still time to register for my "Evaluating your antiques" on March 3 at the Bay Path Adult Education Evening School. Other events are being scheduled. Please see www.centralmassauctions.com for details on these and other events.

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

Thoughts on striper season



Saltwater anglers are patiently waiting for the final results on striped bass sizes and limits for the 2020 fishing season in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The winter 2020 public hearings are scheduled for three dates, and are as follows: March 10 at the Coolidge Middle school, 89 Birch Meadow Dr., Reading, starting at 6 p.m.; next meeting will be held on March 12 at 9:30 a.m., Tisbury Town Hall, Katharine Cornell Theater, 51 Spring St., Vineyard Haven, Mass.; and the final meeting for public input will be on March 12, at 6 p.m. at the Mass. Marine Academy, Admirals Hall 101

Academy Dr., Buzzards Bay .

It is very important that all striper anglers attend one of the public hearings to voice their concerns and suggestions to the Mass. Marine Fisheries board at the above mentioned hearings. Slot size limits, daily bag limits and use of circle hooks are the major concerns of most striper anglers. Use of devices to remove striped bass from any waters will be discussed. Also on the agenda are Bluefish recreational possession limits, striped bass commercial seasons, fishing days and size limits. Sea bass commercial possession limits and by catch allowances,



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Summer flounder commercial possession limits, Menhaden commercial limits and permitting, and numerous other housekeeping items will be discussed.

Removal of menhaden by commercial fisherman is a hot topic annually. The removal of tons of menhaden annually has had major impacts on striper populations, because the stripers feed heavily on them. In past years, areas that once had big striper populations were negatively impacted by the removal of menhaden. One area was the Providence River. What once was a fantastic fishery for recreational anglers back only a few years ago, was extremely poor for the last few years. Removal of tons of Menhaden annually has also impacted the bluefish population in the area.

Bluefish populations are also in big trouble. Their numbers have plummeted dramatically over the last 10 years, and Marine Fisheries is final-



ly addressing the problem. By the time the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association holds their annual fishing show on March 27-29 this year, most regulations should be finalized. More on the show in the coming weeks.

This week's two pictures of 50-pound stripers are from last year's fishing season! This year, you may need to take a

picture, and then release it, because of the possible slot limit which is expected to be 28 inches to 34 inches in both Massachusetts & Rhode Island.

Ice fishing is still on hold in the Valley! Looks like another poor ice fishing season due to bad ice.

Take A Kid Fishing And Keep Them Rods Bending!

Baker-Polito Administration announces \$8.1 million in Complete Streets funding awards

FITCHBURG – Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack, and Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver joined Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale and other local leaders in Fitchburg last week to announce the latest round of Complete Streets Funding Program awards, totaling \$8.1 million in funding to 24 communities. These awards will be used to fund local, multimodal infrastructure projects that improve accessibility for bicyclists, pedestrians, public transit users, and people using other forms of transportation.

"The Complete Streets Program is one of the many ways our administration partners with cities and towns to improve their local transportation infrastructure," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "This latest round of funding will help ensure that local roadways provide accommodations for all modes of travel, and we were pleased to include additional funding for the Complete Streets Program in our administration's transportation bond bill to continue supporting this program."

"We are proud to continue supporting our municipal partners so they can achieve their transportation and economic development goals," said Polito. "These funding awards will enable communities across the Commonwealth to carry out projects that install new sidewalks, bicycle lanes, crosswalks and intersections for people to safely and easily reach the places they need to go."

A "Complete Street" is one that provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes and for all people, taking into account the ages and abilities of individuals. The Baker-Polito Administration has now awarded a total of 148 construction grants at \$46 million since creating the funding program for Complete Streets in February 2016.

The Baker-Polito Administration included \$20 million for the Complete Streets Program as part of the Administration's \$18 billion transportation bond bill. In July, the Administration filed "An Act Authorizing and Accelerating Transportation

Investment," which will provide both resources and tools that will enable MassDOT and the MBTA to repair and modernize the state's transportation system faster, improving its reliability, sustainability and resiliency.

"Thanks to the leadership and support of Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito, MassDOT is continuing to partner with municipalities to increase connectivity and better enable residents and commuters to reach their jobs, homes, friends, families, and opportunities across the Commonwealth," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "The Complete Streets Program is a reflection of our commitment to ensuring that our roadways work for everyone and benefit people of all ages, abilities, and modes of travel."

"We appreciate the hard work of all those who are helping manage and implement this important funding program," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "We are continuing to receive positive feedback and support from the

local communities that are benefiting from these awards and we look forward to seeing these projects carried out."

These Complete Streets funding awards are in addition to \$1.1 billion authorized by the Baker-Polito Administration in Chapter 90 local transportation funding for cities and towns since 2015. In addition, \$43 million has also been awarded through the Administration's Municipal Small Bridge Program, which was announced in 2016 and allows municipalities to repair or replace their small bridges which are not eligible for federal funding.

"The Complete Streets Funding Program provides the necessary resources so that municipalities like Fitchburg can design and build infrastructure projects to benefit pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users," said Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale. "I would like to thank the Baker-Polito Administration and MassDOT for their support and confidence in Fitchburg's Application."

The Complete Streets

Funding Program was launched on February 1, 2016. To date, 208 municipalities have approved policies and 173 (nearly 50%) have approved Prioritization Plans. Examples of projects that can be addressed through the program include improved street lighting, radar speed signage, intersection signalization, new multimodal paths and new signals at crosswalks.

Today's announcement regarding the Complete Streets Program provides funding to the following communities:

West Brookfield – Reconstruction of West Main Street \$383,228

The West Brookfield Town Center project will provide bicycle, pedestrian and traffic calming improvements along a section of West Main. Crossings will be shortened and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) will be provided at crossings along West Main Street. A solar powered "Your Speed" flashing speed limit sign will help slow vehicles when entering the project area.



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Always choose optimism

We came into this world without choice. We didn't decide to be conceived. Two people we didn't know decided that for us. We were carried for nine months, then pushed out with no consideration by our mother as to whether we wished to go or stay. We were suddenly and rudely squeezed out into a life that we didn't decide to live. Then to add to the humiliation of coming into this world naked, a group of masked strangers examined our bare bodies and counted our fingers and toes, as if they'd never seen a tiny human before. Embarrassingly, we cried like little babies, when for no reason at all, one of the masked strangers grabbed us by our ankles, raised our naked bodies upside down and slapped us on our bottoms. Their actions told us for the first time, life is unfair.

That's how it all began for me. Maybe you endured a similar experience?

We were given no choice. On one day we didn't exist and on the next, we are a human life beginning to form and grow. We entered an imperfect and broken world and are told at an early age, "Life isn't fair. Just deal with it."

Even though we are forced onto this world we quickly begin establishing how we'll live our lives by the choices we make. Those choices are made based upon how we see and interpret

the world around us. The choices we make, determine our direction and the way we live our lives. We are where we are at this very moment, not by chance, but because of the choices we made. It is those choices that determine the quality of the life we lead and our impact on those around us.

The choice between optimism and pessimism may be the most impactful choice we make. It creates the foundation upon how we build and live our lives and the impact we have on others.

Where some people see sadness, others create happiness. Where some see no way out, others optimistically create their path. Where some see overwhelming odds, others see opportunity to succeed. The greatest difference I see in the lives of happy and successful people and those who are miserable and failing, begins with how they view life. The happiest and most successful among us, see the world as a beautiful place abundant with opportunities for happiness and success, while others see obstacles in their path and misery.

I always marvel at how an optimist and a pessimist can look at the same thing but see something different. It is a matter of prospective created by our

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

By GARY W. MOORE

attitude. We all have heard the example of those who see the glass half full while others see it half empty. That is applicable to any situation. I paid my way through college selling vacuum cleaners, door to door. I graduated from college debt free, while nine out of ten people who started in that business quit in the first day because they could not see the opportunity. They focused on the prospects who slammed the door in their faces. I focused on those who did not and assumed they were happy to see me. Both were true but I focused on the positive.

Looking through the eyes of optimism encourages you to push forward. As I say almost every week, if you are pessimistic and assume failure, why would you even try? You already assume the worst.

Don't blame others for your view of life.

Some of us are born into loving families who nurture and teach us right from wrong, while others are brought into lives where they were never wanted and learn to live their lives without nurturing or instruction. Regardless of which, it is the choices that we make that determine how we live our lives

and how we ultimately impact others. Blaming your parents for your attitude is a foolish excuse. As soon as we are old enough to discern right from wrong, good from evil and positive from negative, our choices become our responsibility. Accepting responsibility for our own actions is paramount to living a happy, successful and optimistic life.

More important than success, the most optimistic people I know are also the kindest. The kindness we shared and the dignity in which we live makes a lasting impact on the world around us.

The time to think about the impact we have on others is not on our deathbed but while we are living our lives. Decide now the difference you wish to make, the joy and happiness you wish to share with others or positive education you can pass on.

Choose optimism and you are choosing a happier and more fruitful life.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.



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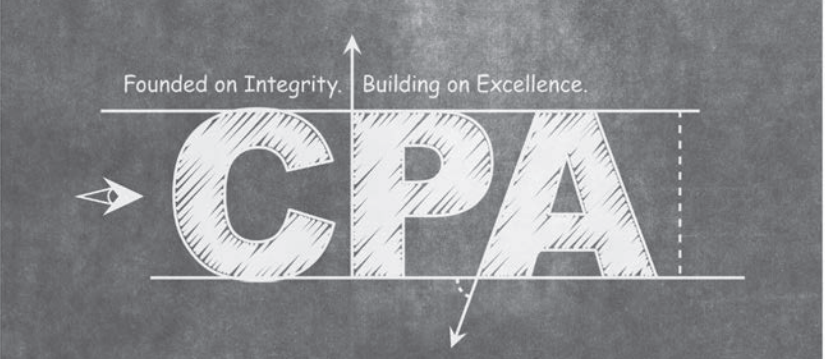
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PROMOTE YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS



Keep your Valentine flowers looking their best



Melinda Myers Photo

Adding a few roses to bouquets with less fragrant flowers, like hydrangea, will add the aroma that many people desire when receiving a floral arrangement.

Nothing says Happy Valentine's Day like a fresh bouquet of flowers. Make sure your gift provides many days of enjoyment by selecting the freshest flowers and providing the best possible care.

Take some time to evaluate the quality of the cut flowers you plan to purchase. Select fresh flowers with upright and perky flowers and lots of firm buds that are just starting to open. Avoid flowers sitting in foul smelling water with drooping leaves and discolored slimy stems.

Consider color and fragrance as well as freshness. Many people love the sweet fragrance of roses, carnations and lilies. Some varieties are more fragrant than others, so you'll need to do the nose test. Other individuals prefer to look at and not smell their beautiful arrangement. For them, select non-fragrant varieties and other flowers like hydrangea, alstroemeria, gerbera daisies and lisianthus that lack a strong fragrance.

Select their favorite color or perhaps one that sends a message. Red is often used to represent love and passion, pink for happiness and sometimes love, yellow for friendship and cheer, and peach for gratitude. Include a card to make sure the message and sentiments are received.

Roses are a Valentine favorite, but a dozen may be out of reach for your budget. A single rose in a bud vase or large bloom floating in a shallow vase

can bring a bit of beauty and lots of enjoyment to you or the recipient. Or add a few roses to your bouquet of other colorful flowers.

Once you make your selection, ask the florist to include a packet of floral preservative and wrap your flowers. This protects them from extreme temperatures and jostling during the ride home.

Extend the life of your floral gift with a few key steps before placing the flowers in a vase.

Remove the lower leaves, so just the leafless stems are sitting in the water. This minimizes bacterial growth that can shorten the vase life of cut flowers. Recut the stems and arrange your blossoms in a clean vase filled with fresh water and floral preservative. Cutting the stems on an angle increases the amount of exposed surface area to absorb water.

Change the water, clean the vase if needed, recut the stems and add floral preservative every two to three days. Remove any flowers that have faded to keep your arrangement looking its best. Doing this can double the life of your cut flowers.

Further extend the vase life of cut flowers by displaying them in a cool, draft-free location. Or move them to a cooler spot at night and back in a prominent spot during the day.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Even if you do everything right, roses sometimes bend or droop at the neck and disappoint. This can happen if they have not received enough water at some point between harvest and your vase.

Fortunately, there is a way to revive roses. Remove the roses from the vase. Recut the stems and submerge the whole rose – stem, leaves, flowers and all – in a sink or tub of warm water. Leave the roses submerged for 30 minutes.

Clean and refill the vase with fresh water and a bit of floral preservative. Recut the stems on a slant, underwater if possible, and place the roses back in the vase. You will have perky fresh roses to enjoy for a week or more.

And pick up an additional bouquet for yourself. Fresh flowers are a great way to brighten your home and lift your spirits.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series* and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Rush

To the Editor:

Like most people of my generation, there are some events or moments which have occurred and made such a dramatic and immediate impression on our minds that we will go to our graves knowing where we were and what we were doing when those things happened.

For example, on Nov. 22, 1963 at around ten o'clock in the morning, I was cleaning my college dorm room, preparing for the weekly inspection while listening to the local radio station when the music stopped and an obviously anxious broadcaster broke in to report "President Kennedy has been shot in downtown Dallas!" That was less than 20 miles away from where I was, and my shock, like that of the entire country, was profound.

Thirty-eight years later, on Sept. 1, 2001, I was in front of a class, and noticing what a beautiful morning it was outside, when my colleague from the adjoining room entered looking stricken, approached my desk and quietly said, "Turn on the television."

The most traumatizing recollection of where I was and what I was doing came nearly 40 years ago, when the call came informing me of my wonderful father's unexpected death at a much-too-early age. Unlike loved ones, some memories never die.

I can't name the town, the day or date, or even the year, but I can recall exactly the scene (a rolling, two-lane state highway in rural western Pennsylvania farm country surrounded

by endless corn-stubble fields during the early stages of a snowstorm) when I first heard the throbbing bass line of what would become the signature intro music for the Rush Limbaugh Program. As it turns out-and true to his street-fighter instincts-Rush had appropriated the riff from the song "My City is Gone" by the Pretenders, a typically low-tier, uber-left rock group led by Chrissy Hynde, a stereotypical vegan, pro-abortion, anti-capitalist, anti-American hater. Having a conservative-loathing "artist" introduce the most successful and influential conservative program (of any medium) every weekday for over three decades is a coup only a revolutionary like Rush could pull off.

As the miles rolled on, and I listened to this guy on the radio of whom I had never heard, I thought "Who is this guy?" Everything he was saying I agreed with, as did nearly all of my friends, but they were thoughts never openly expressed in the, at-the-time, monolithically liberal-dominated radio/television/newspaper/magazine media culture of America. If ABC, NBC, CBS, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The L.A. Times, late night entertainers, or, surely, Walter Cronkite, John Chancellor, Harry Reasoner, and other news readers didn't want something said or promoted, it didn't happen.

Now, out of nowhere, comes this iconoclast, Rush Limbaugh, from quintessentially midwestern, Cape Girardeau, Missouri taking on all the sacred cows of liberalism: rad-

ical feminism (he dubs them "feminazis"); corrupt black activists like the "Reverends" Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton; the enviro/animal rights whackos; the Kennedy's, Gore's, Clintons, and any other Democrat-Socialist political wreckers; and other targets of opportunity who managed to draw his attention.

For over 30 years, Rush has never wavered, never flown the white flag. Not only has he driven the left nearly insane with his relentless effort to "shine the beacon of truth" on their ruinous policies, and their unhinged, hypocritical, and vicious personalities, he has also opened the way for countless others to find their place in conservative talk radio both at the national and local/regional level. Without Rush-the Daniel Boone-style pioneer of the airwaves-there would have been no Tea Party; without the Tea Party, there would have been no Trump; without Trump, there would have been no hope for America-as we knew her-to survive.

Fabulously wealthy, with everything one could ask for in his material life, Rush didn't have to devote so much of his life to doing the show, prepping for it, and dealing with the unending attempts by the left to silence him. From "behind the golden E.I.B. microphone," while crumpling papers in his "formerly nicotine-stained fingers," and with "half his brain tied behind his back just to make it fair," Rush has been an indefatigable warrior fighting to retain all that was good from the old America, and always reminding the listeners just how blessed he and they were to have been born in this-despite its

shortcomings--greatest country in the history of the world.

Of course, they've called him every name in the book: homophobe, nativist, bigot, draft-dodger, sexist, plutocrat, and-the old reliable-racist. Rush has always made the point that he and conservatives in general want the best for everyone in America. Everyone: all races, both sexes, all religions--anyone who obeys the law, works hard, lives responsibly, and loves America. The fact that the immensely popular call screener and official program observer, Bo Snerdly (a.k.a. James Golden) is a large, gregarious black man who loves Rush and is loved in return by El Rushbo, and has been with the program for 31 years, might tell the casual observer that Rush doesn't appear to have any problem with minorities at a personal-or any other-level. But, don't expect that to count at all in his favor with his critics who so despise him.

Professor Limbaugh, who holds the "Atila the Hun Chair" in the E.I.B. (Excellence in Broadcasting) Institute for Advanced Conservative Studies, has put his money where his mouth is by raising untold millions of dollars for charity through his Marine Corps and Law Enforcement Fund to aid surviving family members of Marines and police officers lost in the course of their duties. He is an uncommonly generous man who earned his vast fortune the old-fashioned way, by working hard for it even though opposed at every step by very powerful people who didn't want to see him succeed.

His life has not been a cakewalk by any means. He found college insufferably boring, and quit. He readily tells of all the jobs from which he was fired, only to fight back even harder to get back in the race. He has lost his hearing completely and can only hear things thanks to cochlear implants which still make audio issues a major problem. His fortunes in marriage have not been good: its been a matter of "If at first you don't succeed, try, try.....and try again." None the less, nothing has broken him. He's like Trump in that regard; you will not wear him down, you will not discourage him, he will fight you to his last breath. And in Rush's case, he'll be smiling and joking all the way.

Rush is not, I'm sorry to say, the perfect man. He loves golf, the world's worst waste of precious time ever invented (thank you, Scotland), and still thinks the N.F.L. is worth watching and talking about. His recently disclosed-and catastrophic-news relating to his advanced lung cancer may have some relation to another of his passions, smoking great cigars. Who can ever know?

But, there are those in addition of the millions of us like myself who love the guy, who care very much for him and will notice when he's not around the house as often as he once was (for treatments, etc.), and those would be his and Katharine's cats. His beloved Punkin (recently deceased), and now, the new guy, Allie, get a lot of air time on the program. I am reminded of a crack once made by the great Christian apologist, C. S.

Lewis regarding a fellow member of the faculty at Oxford or Cambridge, "Well, he's a Christian and he loves cats, so he can't be all bad." Rush doesn't wear his faith like an article of clothing, but if he's not a Christian at this point, I'm sure his deeply faithful brother, the lawyer and author, David Limbaugh, will be guiding him in that direction in the next few very difficult months Rush will be facing.

It must be an incredibly powerful influence on one's treatment and therapy program to know that literally tens of millions of one's countrymen and women are actively praying that at least for the next decade or two the people I call "real Americans" God will let that pounding bass guitar announce at 12:00 noon (EST) that "Maharaji Rushie" is up and ready to go for another three hours of fun, inspiration, and analysis.

God bless you, Rush, and thank you so very much for all you've meant to me and those of our country who love it and the freedom and opportunity it has given us all, whether we acted on it or not. And, as you've often said, in so many words, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." If anyone can win this battle, you can. Remember the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas's anguished rant against his father's seeming acceptance of impending death: "Do not go gently into that good night. Old age should burn and rave at close of day. Rage, rage against the dying of the light!"

LOVE YA, RUSH.

JOHN McRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

Aimee Travis of Spencer named to UA Deans List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Aimee Lynn Travis, of Spencer was named to The University of Alabama Deans List for fall 2019.

A total of 12,050 students enrolled during the 2019 fall term at UA were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 or above or the President's List with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA Dean's and President's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or to undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

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POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Logs

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
12:31-2:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 3:19 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 6:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 6:38 a.m.: mv stop (Cherry Street); 7:46 a.m.: mv complaint (South Spencer Road), truck stuck at bridge; 7:58 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 8:03 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 8:19 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 9:03 a.m.: accident (Ash Street), report taken; 10:07 a.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 10:13 a.m. animal complaint (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:35 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 10:36 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), info taken; 11:49 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 12:12 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 12:53 p.m.: DPW call (Chickering Road), debris in road; 1:27 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 1:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), welfare check; 2:54 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:28 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), landlord/tenant issue; 4:31 p.m.: mv lockout (Howe Village), assisted; 4:44 p.m.: mv lockout (South Spencer Road), assisted; 5:07 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Kingsbury Road), no contact; 5:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 5:17 p.m.: accident (Woodside Road), report taken; 5:17 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), threats received; 6:11 p.m.: DPW call (Hastings Road), low-hanging wire; 7:26 p.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road), Adam Garrette Spence, 30, 56 Fiskdale Road, Brookfield, OUI liquor, negligent operation, failure to stop/yield, arrest; 11:52-11:58 p.m.: buildngs checked, secure.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
12:07-1:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:32 a.m.: medical/general (Summit Street); 2:03 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:53 a.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road); 8:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:24 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:28 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 10:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), req. residence check; 11:08 a.m. medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:08 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:19 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), stray cat; 12:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), ex-tenant issue; 1:25 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:25 p.m.: building checked, secure; 1:47 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road); 1:48 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Avenue); 1:55 p.m.:suspicious persons (Howe Village), info taken; 2:53 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 3:04 p.m.: mv stop (Temple Street); 3:14 p.m.: mv coplaint (Barclay Road), erratic operation; 3:14 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 4:08 p.m.: disabled mv (Meadow Road), assisted; 4:36 p.m.:officer wanted (West Main Street), poss. eBay scam; 4:40 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), info taken;4:46 p.m.: 209A service (West Main Street); 4:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), welfare check; 6:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), unwanted party; 6:36 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unau- thorized c/c use; 8:40 p.m.: mutual aid (Bixby Road), Worcester PD bolo; 9:37 p.m.: medical/general (Summit Street).
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31
1:06-2:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:16 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), info taken; 6:43 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 7:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 7:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 7:53 a.m.: mv stop (Maple Street); 8:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 10:45 a.m.: 10:45 a.m.: warrant service (Main Street), Richard P. Corriveau, Junior, 195 Main Street, Spencer, warrant arrest; 10:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), assist constable; 11:10 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:05 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), moped through stop lights; 1:10 p.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road); 1:40 p.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 1:51 p.m.: parking complaint (West Main Street), mvs blodking roadway; 2:29 p.m.: 209A service (Bixby Road); 3:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), debris in road; 4:26 p.m.: distur- bance (Main Street), domestic issue; 4:47 p.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 8:59 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 10:53 p.m. sus- picious mv (Meadow Road), investigat- ed; 11:26-11:30 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:54 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:58 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), hazardous conditions.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
1:52 a.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road); 2:21 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 2:36 a.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 8:22 a.m.: animal com- plaint (Browning Pond Circle), bear in yard; 9:52 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 9:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), spoken to; 10:24 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:30 a.m.: officer

wanted (Howe Road), spoken to; 11:42 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:21 p.m. officer waned (Ash Street), illegal burn; 12:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; 2:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Woodside Road), spoken to; 2:33 p.m.: medical/overdose (Wilson Street); 2:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), speeding; 3:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; 4:17 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:03 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), 209A violation; 5:43 p.m.: 911 call (Lakeshore Drive), acci- dental; 6:07 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), speeding/tailgating; 6:16 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 7:02 p.m.: 911 call (Donnelly Road), no con- tact; 7:48 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Ash Street), services rendered; 8:19 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:20 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 8:56 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:04 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), assisted; 11:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Route 49), debris in road; 11:10 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 11:44 p.m.: building checked (Main Street), Benjamin L. Votta, 20, 25 Hamilton Drive, Greenwich, RI, trespassing, number plate violation, unregistered mv, person under 21 in possession of alcohol, open container/ marijuana, littering, arrest.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
1:16 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 2:11-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:20 a.m.: medical/ general (West Main Street); 3:53-4:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:22 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 4:26 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:52 a.m.: fire alarm (Chickering Road), services rendered; 6:29 a.m.: suspicious mv (Meadow Road), invesigated; 6:52 a.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), escort/ retrieve belongings; 8:20 a.m.: officer wanted (Kingsbury Road), neighbor issue; 8:38 a.m.: mv stop (Greenville Street); 8:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Sunset Lane), party feels unsafe; 10:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), ex-tenant issue; 12:25 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 2:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), ex-tenant issue; 3:00 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 3:05 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:38 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 3:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), escort request; 3:51 p.m.: van- dalism (North Spencer Road), cemetery vandalism; 6:35 p.m.: mv stop (Cherry Street); 6:47 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), obscene phone calls; 6:50 p.m.: building checked, secured; 6:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 10:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), assault reported; 10:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), barking dog; 10:56 p.m.: suspicious persons (McDonald Street), info taken.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
12:12 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:27 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 12:34 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:34 a.m.: residential fire (Ash Street), services rendered; 12:43 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), harassment; 1:11 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), North Brookfield structure fire; 1:30-1:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 2:07-2:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:39 a.m.: fire/woods/ grass (Northwest Road), services ren- dered; 6:16 a.m.: mv stop (Greenville Street); 6:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 7:16 a.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Road), assisted; 7:37 a.m.: sex offender regis- tration (West Main Street), assisted; 7:49 a.m.: animal complaint (Howard Hurley Road), missing dog; 8:13 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:23 a.m.: mv stop (Clark Road); 9:28 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), no contact; 11:03 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), medical emergency; 11:15 a.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), info taken; 12:17 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:50 p.m.: 209A service (West Main Street); 1:19 p.m.: accident (Main Street), info taken; 1:27 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue), lift assist; 3:21 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), tenant issue; 3:54 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:10 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 4:24 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 4:43 p.m.: harassent prevention order service (West Avenue); 5:13 p.m.: 911 call (Condon Drive), no emergen- cy; 5:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Duggan Street), tenant/ladlord issue; 5:55 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 5:58p.m.: mv complaint (Meadow Road), mv/no lights; 6:14 p.m.: mutual aid (2:00West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 6:26 p.m.: Abandoned 911 call (Cherry Street), no contact; 6:34 p.m.: murual aid (Chestnut Street), wel- fare check; 6:41 p.m.: mv complaint (MainStreet), speeding; 11:46 p.m.: offi- cer wanted (West Main Street), info given.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
12:12-12:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:58-1:04 a.m.: parking vio- lations (Church, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 1:04 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services ren- dered; 1:31-1:52 a.m.: parking violations (Cherry, Elm Chestnut, Lake, Valley streets), tickets issued; 1:58 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:02 a.m.:

parking violation (Temple Street), ticket issued; 2:08-2:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:34 a.m.: parking violation (Bixby Road), ticket issued; 3:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 5:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 5:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 6:13 a.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road); 6:22 a.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road); 6:29 a.m.: mv stop (Maple Street); 7:42 a.m.: suspicious persons (Charron Street), spoken to; 9:01 a.m.: medical/gener- al (Temple Street); 9:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), assisted; 10:14 a.m.: 209A service (West Main Street); 10:20 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), domestic issue; 11:07 a.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), assisted; 11:18 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), escort requested; 2:00 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:31 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:12 p.m.: mv stop (High Street); 4:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), 209A inquiry; 4:58 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), female w/gun; 5:58 p.m.: officer want- ed (West Main Street), tenant issue; 7:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), juvenile issue; 7:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 7:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:12 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:30 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 9:43 p.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), couch on R/R tracks; 10:20 p.m.: offi- cer wanted (West Main Street), Paxton PD bolo; 11:32 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigat- ed; 11:51 p.m.: medical/general (Water Street).
Leicester Logs
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
12:11 a.m.: threats (South Main Street), report taken; 8:01 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:07 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 9:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:55 a.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), services ren- dered; 10:38 a.m.: water/sewer prob- lem (Stafford Street), assisted; 11:05 a.m.: mvstop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 11:16 a.m.: summons service (Pine Ridge Drive), served; 11:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:30 a.m.: summons service (Beech Street), served; 1:12 p.m.: sum- mons service (Sherri Lane), served; 1:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, uninsured mv, op w/ suspended registration, mv towed; 1:32 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street, Worcester), services rendered; 2:40 p.m.: investigation (Parker Sreet), services rendered; 3:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:50 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Sreet); 4:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:16 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:53 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:43 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Sttreet), wrtitten warning; 6:03 p.m.: mv stop (Stfford Street), citation issued; 6:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:36 p.m.: accident (Main Stree), report taken; 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unli- censed operation, license not in pos- session.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31
8:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:44 a.m.: parking complaint (Washburn Square), citation issued; 9:46 a.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), written warn- ing; 10:36 a.m.: assist other agency (Washburn Square), services rendered; 11:04 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:26 p.m.: disrurbance (Main Street), no action requiried; 3:06 p.m.: assist other agency (Maple Street), no action required; 3:54 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:16 p.m.: assist other agency (South Main Street), message delivered; 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:00 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 6:20 p.m.: assist other agency (South Main Street), message delivered; 6:30 p.m. mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 8:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
2:03 a.m.: asist citizen (South Main Street), referred; 8:54 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 8:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warn- ing; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 3:50 p.m.: ambu-

lance (River Street), transported; 4:32 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), no action required; 5:11 p.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), services rendered; 7:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:29 p.m.: mutual aid (Sunset Lane, Paxton), transported to hospital.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
3:43 a.m.: assist other agency (River Street), no service; 8:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:57 a.m.: parkign complaint (Washburn Square), citation issued; 9:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:44 a.m.: summons service (Logan Street), served; 10:57 a.m.: sum- mons service (Stafford Street), served; 11:03 a.m.: summons service (Atwood Road), served; 11:22 a.m.: summons service (Stafford Street), served; 11:37 a.m.: summons service (Andy Drive), served; 11:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafrrod Street), written warning; 12:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warn- ing; 1:43 p.m.: mutual aid (Fruit Street, Worcester), transported to hospital; 2:08 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 2:17 p.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 3:00 p.m.: ambulance (McCarthy Avenue), trans- ported; 5:20 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), assisted; 6:46 p.m.: trespassing (Pleasant Street), unfounded.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
1:24 a.m.: ambulanc (Verona Street), transported; 1:40 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), services rendered; 3:21 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Stafford Street), services rendered; 9:20 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), trans- ported; 11:15 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:34 a.m.: ambu- lance (Main Street), transported; 11:49 a.m.: fraud (Stafford Street), report taken; 1:02 p.m.: ambulance (Washburn Square), transported; 4:15 p.m.: parking complaint (Washburn Square), citation issued; 4:27 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:05 p.m.: parking complaint (Washburn Square), citation issued; 5:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:28 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), transported; 5:45 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 6:05 p.m.: residential alarm (Henshaw Street), false alarm; 6:30 p.m.: residential alarm (Henshaw Street), no action required; 8:37 p.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), no action required.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
12:32 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 12:59 a.m.: suspicious mv (Collier Avenue), 1:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), no action required; 7:13 a.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), trnssported; 8:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:59 a.m.: fraud (Harberton Drive), spoken to; 11:22 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street), trans- ported; 1:00 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 1:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 1:50 p.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 2:51 p.m.: assist citizen (Bottomly Avenue); 3:13 p.m.: acci- dent (Main Street), report taken; 4:16 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 6:19 p.m.: property found (Main Street), spoken to; 8:06 p.m.: harassment (Lake Avenue), advised civil action; 8:09 p.m.: suspicious mv (Dale Court), investi- gated; 9:23 p.m.: assist other agency (Pleasant Stree), services rendered; 11:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), writ- ten warning.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
4:55 a.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 9:51 a.m.: disabled mv (McNeil Highway), spoken to; 9:57 a.m.: assist citizen (Paxton Street), spoken to; 10:10 a.m.: restraining order service (Mannville Street), served; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warn- ing; 12:12 p.m.: invesigation (Paxton Street), report taken; 1:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:25 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspend- ed registration, mv towed; 8:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:40 p.m.: parking complaint (Washburn Square), citation issued; 10:22 p.m.: welfare check (Water Street), unable to locate.

A Potpourri of Assorted Tips and Tricks

While most of the hint columns are theme based, sometimes there are some tips worth sharing that don't fall into an upcoming category. The solution? Compile them for a potpourri of assorted tricks and tips! Read on for some everyday solutions to life's little hassles:

Flu season is here for at least another month. Want another weapon in the fight against flu? According to several Japanese studies, gargling with black tea twice a day from October to March, significantly improved participants' abilities to fend off the flu bug.

Washing your car this weekend? If you run out of car wash, just add a couple of capfuls of biodegradable shampoo such as Herbal Essence into a bucket of water. Does your car smell damp after a heavy rain? Sprinkle clay-based kitty litter under the car mats, leave for two days, then vac up after the odor is gone!

Did you know not only can an apple a day keep the doctor away - it may even help keep the fat away! Pectin in apples contains soluble fiber, which absorbs water in the intestines, mixes the food into a gel and can actually limit the amount of fat your cells can absorb!

Hydrogen peroxide is a thrifty alternative to pricey products. Did you know 3% hydrogen peroxide can be used as an effective foot bath for athlete's foot? Soak feet in one pint of hydrogen perox-

ide mixed with one gallon of warm water for a half hour each night. And it's a natural disinfectant so use it full strength to kill germs on phones, keyboards or door handles.

If you have symptoms of carpal tunnel, it could be the way you use your computer mouse. Relieve symptoms by using your fingers instead of your wrist to control the mouse - think piano lessons! And try grasping the mouse with the thumb and pinky - it takes the strain off the wrist.

Did you know it's easy to make delicious homemade applesauce in the crock pot? Peel, core and slice ten large apples, add one cup water, one cup sugar (if desired), and one teaspoon cinnamon. Cover cook on low for eight to ten hours! Start it in the morning and it'll be done when you get home!

Cleaning the house in a hurry? Slip a sticky lint roller replacement tube onto a paint roller and wipe away ceiling dirt and cobwebs in a snap! Freshen carpets without a mess of by spritzing Febreze fabric freshener on the vacuum roller brushes. The sweet smell will spread across the room.

The fiery spice cayenne is also a hot commodity in home remedies. Have a head cold? A dash or two of cayenne powder in a cup of hot tea relieves

TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

congestion. Touted as a natural antibiotic, a few shakes of Tabasco sauce into tomato juice is said to boost the immunity and fight flu. Never give cayenne to kids!

Here's a quick energy saving tip that adds up to savings! Replace your shower head with a low flow model and instantly reduce your hot water consumption up to 30%! If your family showers 30 minutes a day, switching a five gallon per minute shower head with a 2.5 gallon per minute head will save about \$150 per year.

The virtues of a cup of tea go way beyond taste! A study conducted by Harvard University found that those who drank one or more cups of black tea per day had more than a 40 percent lower risk of having a heart attack compared to non-tea drinkers. Need another reason to take a tea time break? Tea contains 1/3 less caffeine than coffee or cola!

Who says you can't teach an old cat new tricks? Instead of de-clawing your cat to prevent ruined upholstery, just tape instead tape clear carpet tape on areas of sofas and chairs, and your cat will avoid it like the dog next door! Replace tape when dirty or remove when cat stops scratching the area.

Resolving to walk more? These tips are for you! Walking to "digest your meal"

is more than an after dinner pastime. Studies show when you walk within 30 minutes after eating you can increase the amount of calories you burn by as much as 30 per cent! But be sure to avoid caffeinated beverages before you walk. They cause thirst and a loss of bodily fluids.

Dinner for Two at the Publick House
Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.



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LEASE **\$198** /MO*
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**2020 Toyota
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STK# 274887 | MODEL# 4432
MSRP \$28,858



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10k Miles/Year
CAP COST: \$27,371. 3YR/10K. \$3,999 + TAX + FEES = \$5,394 TOTAL DUE AT SIGNING

**2019 Toyota
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STK# 274465 | MODEL# 2532
MSRP \$26,054



LEASE **\$208** /MO*
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**2020 Toyota Tacoma
SR5 Double Cab V6 4x4**

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LEASE **\$248** /MO*
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Sedan AWD, 6 cyl, auto, Platinum Graphi, 65K miles, A5839
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Sedan, 4 cyl, auto, Super White, FWD, 63K miles, A273709B
\$15,998

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2017 Toyota Corolla iM

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2017 Nissan Altima 2.5 SR

Sedan, 4 cyl, auto, FWD, Deep Blue Pearl, 28K miles, A5808A
\$16,998

2018 Toyota Corolla LE

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2016 Nissan Rogue SV

SUV AWD, 4 cyl, auto, Brilliant Silver, 18K miles, A5858XX
\$17,998

2016 Hyundai Sonata Sport

Sedan, 4 cyl, 6 sp auto, FWD, Shale Gray Metallic, 36K miles, A5824XX,
\$17,998

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Van AWD, 6 cyl, auto, Salsa Red Pearl, 63K mi., A274011B
\$18,998

2017 Toyota Camry Hybrid XLE

Sedan, 4 cyl, auto, FWD, Midnight Black Metallic, A274627A
\$18,998

2014 Honda CR-V EX-L

SUV AWD, 4 cyl, auto, Basque Red Pearl II, 62K miles, A274898A
\$18,998

2018 Toyota C-HR XLE

SUV, 4 cyl, auto, FWD, Blizzard Pearl, 40K miles, A5830A
\$18,998

2016 Toyota RAV4 XLE

SUV AWD, 4 cyl, auto, Electric Storm Blue, 48K miles, A274853A,
\$19,998

2017 Toyota RAV4 LE

SUV AWD, 4 cyl, auto, Barcelona Red Metallic, 23K miles, A5853
\$21,598

2017 Toyota RAV4 LE

SUV AWD, 4 cyl, auto, Super White, 20K mi., A5862
\$21,598

2014 Honda CR-V EX-L

SUV, AWD, 4 cyl, auto, Polished Metal Metallic, 51K miles, A5646C
\$21,998

2016 Toyota Prius v Three

Wagon, 4 cyl, auto, FWD, Toasted Walnut Pearl, 41K miles, A274289B
\$22,598

2016 Hyundai Tucson Ltd

SUV, AWD, 4 cyl, auto, Carib, 45K mi., A5791XX
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2018 Toyota Camry XLE

Sedan, 4 cyl, auto, Blue Crush Metallic, 2K miles, A272076A
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2017 Toyota RAV4 SE

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2018 Toyota Camry SE

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Truck, 4WD, V-6 cyl, auto, Barcelona Red Metallic, 38K miles, A274591A
\$28,998

2017 Toyota Sienna XLE

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\$28,998

2019 Toyota Camry XSE

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2018 Toyota Tundra SR5

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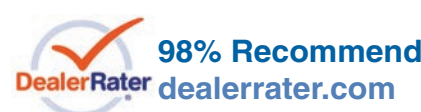
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<p>USED</p>  <p>2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4x4, 8 sp auto, 3.6L V-6 cyl, certified preowned #2144UJG, 47,678 miles,</p> <p>\$26,495</p>	<p>USED</p>  <p>2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4x4, 8 sp auto, 5.7L V-8 cyl, certified preowned #6804UJ, 17,925 miles</p> <p>\$27,995</p>	<p>USED</p>  <p>2016 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4x4, 6 sp auto, 2.4L I-4 cyl, #3656UJC, certified preowned, 22,340 miles</p> <p>\$16,495</p>	<p>USED</p>  <p>2015 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4x4, 6 sp auto, 2.4L I-4 cyl, #4129UJ 53,038 miles</p> <p>\$11,995</p>	<p>USED</p>  <p>2016 RAM REBEL Crew Cab, 4x4, 8 sp auto, 5.7L V-8 cyl, # 2104UR 18,237 miles</p> <p>\$35,995</p>	<p>USED</p>  <p>2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4x4, 3.6L V-6 cyl, #JKJP74, certified preowned, 45,000 miles</p> <p>\$28,995</p>

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OBITUARIES

Gurlie I. Perron, 77



SPENCER- Gurlie I. (Hitchings) Perron, 77, of Spencer, died peacefully on Friday, Jan. 31 in St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester.

She leaves her husband of 61 years, Roger E. Perron, her daughters Darlene C. Kruckas and her husband Robert of Brookfield, Charlene M. Dacey and her husband Thomas of Spencer and Francine M. Purinton and her husband David of Southbridge, five grandchildren; Melanie (Michael), Joshua (Kristina), Thomas (Monique), Amanda (Joseph), and Matthew (Leanne), six great grandchildren; Zachery, Dylan, Wyatt, Gabriella, Madilynn and Easton, her sister in law Sr. Constance Perron of CT.

Born in Spencer, she was the daughter of Russell and Irene (Lachambre) Hitchings. She was a member of St. Joseph's Church in Charlton.

Gurlie was a special lady who would light up a room with her smile and make people laugh with her quick wit. A friend to everyone she met, even the workers at the Big Y knew her name. One of her favorite things to do was to serve up Apple Crisp at the church bazaar for many years. She also was known for her famous meatloaf which

she brought to many, in their time of need. She enjoyed playing Bingo, crossword puzzles and hosting game nights at the home she loved so much.

Gurlie was a woman of faith who prayed daily and had a deep devotion to God. She was a dedicated wife to the absolute love of her life, Roger.

Gurlie will be missed by her family and many others who had the pleasure of being part of her life.

She was active in many local organizations including a 30 year volunteer with the American Red Cross in Worcester, member and past President of the Spencer Fire Dept. Women's Auxillary, past member of Bay Path Chapter #114, and volunteered for the Martha Mary Guild at the former St. Mary's Church in Spencer.

A Funeral Mass for Gurlie was held on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., in Charlton. Friends and family are asked to go directly to the church. Burial will follow in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. Please omit flowers. Memorial donations can be made to the Melha Shriners, P.O. Box 5115, Springfield, MA 01151. The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Robert A. Boucher, 83



SPENCER- Robert A. Boucher, 83, of Chickering Road died Sunday, February 2 in Rose Monahan Hospice House after an illness.

His beloved wife Cheryl A. (Wedge) Boucher predeceased him in 2016. He leaves a son Darryl R. Boucher and his wife Melissa of North Brookfield, two daughters; Monique M. Boucher and her husband Will Gassett of Marlboro and Nicole M. Boucher of East Brookfield, seven grandchildren; Jacqueline, Amanda, Michael, Mathew, Jillian, William Jr. & Kristie, nine great grandchildren; Andrew, Brady, Maddisen, Raymond, Mia, Nathaniel, Lila, Michael & Hunter, his extended family and constant caregivers Jarie & Nii and his beloved cat Princess. He was predeceased by his sister Theresa McCaffrey.

Robert was born in Spencer, son of Alfred and Noella (Bedard) Boucher. He graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. He was a claims supervisor for many years at Worcester Insurance before retiring. He was a dedicated Republican

-"Keep America Great" and a devout catholic. He was a member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish and a long-time Eucharistic Minister. He was a former Spencer Town Treasurer and Selectman, serving the town for over 10 years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 118. He enjoyed traveling, dining out, spending time with his family and meeting his friends at the local coffee shops. He was an avid New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox & Boston Bruins fan. He served his country in the Air National Guard. The family would like to thank the Spencer Rescue Squad for all the help they gave both of their parents over the last few years.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, February, 11 from J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church Street, Spencer. Burial followed in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer. Calling hours were Monday, February 10 from 4:00-7:00 PM in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Spencer Rescue Squad, P.O. 147, Spencer, MA 01562. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Dylan John Skeean, 49



AUBURN - Dylan John Skeean, 49, of Blaker Street, died peacefully on Saturday, February 8, 2020, in his home after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Annmarie (Rossik) Skeean of Auburn; three children, Natasha M. Skeean of Worcester, Derek R. Skeean of Worcester, and Matthew K. Skeean of Auburn; his parents, Denis and Sandra (Malm) Skeean of Oxford; his sister, Timi L. O'Connor of Spencer; his brother, Demian Skeean of Oxford; a niece, Devon of Connecticut; two nephews, Kyle and Ryan of West Boylston; and his great

niece, Avery. He was born in Webster and lived most of his life in Auburn. He graduated from Auburn High School.

Mr. Skeean was a machinist at Allied Machine Products for 26 years. He enjoyed woodworking, fishing, and playing with his dogs Bella Rose and Zeus.

Memorial calling hours are Saturday, February 15, 2020, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will be private at a later date at Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the UMass Memorial Foundation, Cancer Research Fund, 333 South St., Suite 400, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

paradisfuneralhome.com

Bruce F. Bemis, 66



Auburn/North Brookfield - Bruce F. Bemis, 66, of Auburn, died suddenly on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at UMass Memorial Medical Center - University Campus after being stricken ill at home.

He leaves his wife of 45 years, Nancy E. (Gustafson) Bemis; a son, Shawn Bemis and his wife, Valarie of Brookline, NH; two daughters, Kelly McElroy and her husband Geoffrey of Auburn and Julie Bemis of Oxford; seven grandchildren, Jake, Tessa, Alex, and Evan Bemis, and Mia, Gregory, and Molly McElroy. He also leaves his brother, Bradford Bemis of North Brookfield, as well as many beloved in-laws, nephews and nieces. He was born in Worcester, son of the late Warren and Inez (Thompson) Bemis. He and Nancy lived in North Brookfield for 38 years before moving to Auburn in 2015.

Bruce was a graduate of David Prouty High School in Spencer. He worked as a Maintenance Mechanic at St. Gobain in Worcester for 25 years before retiring in 2013. He previously

worked at Consolidated Fabricators and G.F. Wright Steel & Wire. After retirement he returned to part-time work at B & R Survey.

Bruce was a member of the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield where he served on the Property and Security Committees. He was also a previous member of the North Brookfield Fire Department and the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, camping, fishing, hunting, and lobstering at the Cape Cod Canal.

A funeral service for Bruce will be held on Friday, February 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield. A calling hour will be held from 5 to 6 PM at the church before the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, 144 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535 or online at firstchurchnb.org.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Mary E. Martin, 84



WARREN / CHARLTON- Mary E. (St. George) Martin, 84, of Charlton, died on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at Overlook Masonic Home.

She leaves her beloved children, Greg Martin and his wife Judy of Newmarket, NH, Patty Spare and her husband Alan of Indiana, Kurt Martin and Rebecca Sey of Sturbridge, Bruce Martin and his husband Marty Perkins of Maryland, Michelle Martin and her partner Paul Pinsonnault of Ludlow, and Mark J. Martin and his wife Christine of Sterling; eleven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great great-grandchild; a brother, Robert J. St. George of Warren and a sister, Jane Messier of North Brookfield. Mary is predeceased by her brothers Warren and Walter St. George. She was born in Warren, daughter of the late Charles W. and Mary E. (Bullock) St. George.

Mrs. Martin worked as a secretary for the Law Office of Vincent J. McCaughey for 37 years, before retiring in 2010. Mary also served as the town clerk of Warren for several years prior to her work at the law office.

Mary loved going to the orchestra, the theater, and enjoyed all kinds of music. She would often gather her

family and friends around the piano to sing and play showtunes. She enjoyed traveling, and went to Fatima, Portugal to visit the location where the Virgin Mary appeared to the children. Mary also sponsored girls in third-world countries and would correspond with them regularly. Once they became old enough to be of age, she would sponsor a new young girl.

She was a life-long member of St. Paul's Church in Warren where she was very involved. Mary sang in the church choir and served as the secretary at the church rectory.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Michelle Martin for the dedication and care that she gave to their mother, and to the staff at Overlook Masonic Healthcare in Charlton.

A Funeral Mass for Mary was held on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM in St. Paul's Church, 1060 Main St., Warren. Everyone is asked to meet at the church. Calling hours were held Sunday, February 9, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., West Brookfield. Burial will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association, 73 East Concord Street, Room C, Boston MA, 02118 or apdama@apdaparkinson.org

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Robert J. Charette, 67



OXFORD - Robert J. Charette, 67, died peacefully on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at Wingate at Worcester after a long illness. He is survived by his daughter, Amethyst Charette of Newark, NJ; his mother, Lucille J.

Charette Latham of Charlton; five sisters, Linda L. Shaw and her husband Glenn of Homosassa, FL, Denise M. Blevins and her husband David of Rochdale, Carol A. Perkins and her husband John of Charlton, Nancy E. Bourassa of Millbury, and Dianne H. Leduc and her husband Mark of Charlton; two grandchildren and several nephews and nieces. He was born in Worcester, son of the late Donald F. Charette.

Mr. Charette was an electronics technician in the telecommunications industry. He enjoyed reading and writing, especially history and biblical texts among other subjects. He had a great appreciation for music and will be remembered as an incredibly smart man.

The family would like to thank Pat and the entire staff of Wingate of Worcester for their exceptional care during Robert's time there.

Memorial calling hours were Thursday, February 13, 2020, from 5-7 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. A prayer service was held at 7 p.m. at the conclusion of calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005. paradisfuneralhome.com

Louise E. (Bishop) MacDonald, 85



EAST BROOKFIELD - Louise E. (Bishop) MacDonald, 85, passed away peacefully February 8, 2020 with her daughter and son-in-law by her side.


Louise was born in Worcester to the late Esther (Oberg) Myatt and Henry Bishop. A graduate of Commerce High School, Louise worked at the Aronson Tire Company in Auburn until moving to St. Augustine, Florida in 1984 where she worked at Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience (University of Florida) for over 30 years.

Louise loved riding a motorcycle with her husband of 36 years Robert MacDonald, who predeceased her in July of 2014. Together, they also travelled extensively. Her most memorable trips were to Hawaii, Alaska, Scotland and Florence, Italy. She also enjoyed dancing and listening to country music. She was a huge fan of Willie Nelson and often referred to him as "My Willie". Above all else, the most important thing in life to Louise was her family.

Louise's smile and sweet nature will be deeply missed by her brother John Myatt and his wife Delcie of Palm Coast, Florida; her son Michael Schwartz and his wife Karen Bernardi and her son Thomas of Snohomish, Washington; her daughter Debbi Beer and "her favorite son-in-law" Mike of East Brookfield; her 4 grandchildren: Sarah Delis and her husband Dean of Longmeadow; Joseph Beer and his wife Katie of Sturbridge; Grace Morin and her husband Zeb of Wales; Emily Beer and her wife Lindsay of Wilbraham along with 10 great-grandchildren: Alex, Grayson, Gabe, Caleb, Aeson, Cole, Blake, Skyler, Wesley and Oakley.

There will be no calling hours. A service will be held on Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:30am in Bourne National Cemetery Connery Ave, Bourne, MA. Those who so desire may make memorial donations in Louise's memory to Second Chance Animal Shelter po box 136 East Brookfield, MA. 01515. Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield is directing arrangements

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news



In Loving Remembrance

John Soboleski III

February 18, 1988 – February 18, 2020


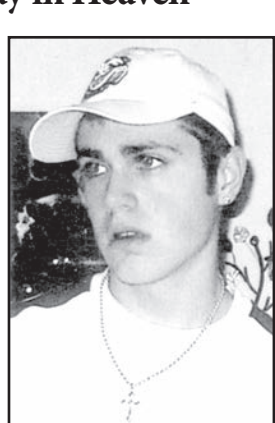
Happy 32nd Birthday in Heaven

Time passes but not one day goes by that you are not here in our hearts

The day you died was not just a date on a calendar, it was the day when our very existence changed Forever

We hold you tightly within our hearts and there you will remain until the joyous day arrives that we will meet again

Happy Birthday John,
to our Son, Brother, Grandson,
Nephew, and Cousin,
We love and miss you so much
Our Blue Eyed Angel
Your Loving Family and Friends



CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 19

LEICESTER WOMEN'S CLUB: 11:30 a.m., Leicester Country Club. Program is Rose Wolanski, speaking on "Comprehensive Physical Therapy." Cost is \$15 for lunch. Please call Maureen at (508) 864-6871 by Friday, Feb. 14 for reservations.

Wednesday, February 26

COMFORT QUILTS SERVICE PROJECT: 10 a.m.-noon, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 108 New Braintree Rd. (Route 67), North Brookfield (2.2 miles north of the center of town). Over the last several years several hundred Comfort Quilts have been made and donated to local police, fire, and EMT departments for use by car crash, fire or other disaster victims. The quilts offer comfort and warmth at the scene of any type of distressing upheaval and provide a particularly vital sense of safety and solace for children involved in traumatic situations. Community members are invited to join us as we put together even more comfort quilts. The task requires no particular skill, just a warm heart, an hour or two, and a smile. Refreshments are served to keep stomachs happy as we enjoy each other's company and put together comfort quilts. For more information, call 508-867-9962.

Thursday, February 27

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION NIGHT: 6:30 p.m., Park Ave Elementary School cafeteria, 58 Park Ave., Webster. Hear from our staff — administration, teachers, related service providers, counselors, food service, before & after school care, and more. Registration packets will be handed out at this event. Completed registration packets should be returned to the Central Office located at 77 Poland St.

Saturday, February 29

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DINNER: Knights of Columbus Council # 11080, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield, Mass. is having a Chicken Parm Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 29, in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St., West Brookfield, Mass. Proceeds from this event will benefit Our Lady of the

Sacred Heart Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield. Dinner includes pasta fagioli, chicken parmigiana, pasta, garden salad, garlic bread, homemade desserts, water, soda, and coffee. Cost is only a \$12 donation and \$10 for children under 12 years old. Take out is available at 5:30 p.m. and sit down dinner is served at 6 p.m. Admission tickets are also good for entry for special door prizes! Raffle tickets for a 50/50 Raffle and more will be available! Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated! Tickets are available by calling Wally Connor at 413-813-8100, or by emailing wally@supportingorphans.org. Only 120 tickets to be sold! Tickets will only be available at the door while they last!

ONGOING EVENTS

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP: Community members who have experienced the death of a loved one are invited to attend our GriefShare support group. This program features Biblical teaching that focuses on encouragement, comfort and hope in grieving. GriefShare will be held on Tuesdays for 11 weeks total, beginning Febr. 4 at the East Brookfield Baptist Church, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Chapel. A registration fee of \$15 will cover the cost of a workbook. This ministry is a collaboration of both E. Brookfield Baptist Church and the Brookfield Congregational Church. For questions, please call 508-867-7725.

MASSASSOIT ART GUILD OPEN STUDIO: The Massasoit Art Guild would like to announce the addition of new Open Studio hours. Starting on Saturday, Jan. 11, we will be holding Open Studio time from 9:30 a.m. to noon each Saturday. The Current Wednesday morning Open Studio will continue to meet. Open Studio is a time to bring your current work in progress, start a new project, receive critiques if desired, pick up new skills and techniques and be with other artists for support and encouragement in an open and friendly environment. Membership is required. Please visit our Web site at massasoitartguild.com for more information!

ECONOMY SHOP: The First Congregational Church's Economy Shop invites you to come in and see our Holiday items and our weekly specials. Our shop hours are Wednesday 8 a.m.-Noon, Thursdays 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.-noon.

DEJA NEW: Art, Antiques & Collectibles Marketplace which is open in the St. Joseph's Rectory building at 759 Main Street Leicester. Hours are Tuesday 5-7 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday 3-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon, all proceeds going back into the town's Food Pantries, Hearts for Heat and programs for the needy. We are non-profit and run on volunteers. We are open May into December.

EAST BROOKFIELD LIBRARY PROGRAMS: The East Brookfield Public Library is currently conducting their fall registration for children's programming. Rhythm and Rhyme is for toddlers aged 18 mos. to 3 years. This program runs from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and includes lots of music, finger plays, physical activities and a story with a related craft. Preschool story time is geared for children aged 3 to 5 years old. It runs

from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30a.m. Seasonal songs, poems, and gross motor activities are part of this program, as well as a story and craft that encourages fine motor skills. Both programs are held on Thursday mornings. Parents and caretakers are asked to remain with their children. For more information or to register by phone call (508) 867-7928. You can also like us on Facebook and visit our website @ www.eastbrookfieldLibrary.com. We look forward to seeing you!

VFW MEETING: The Rochdale VFW Post 7556 will hold their monthly business meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the post at 713 Pleasant Street, Rochdale on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: On the third Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. at the Overlook Independent Living Building, fourth floor Solarium, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. The intent is to build a support system, exchange practical information, talk through issues and ways of coping, share feelings, needs and concerns and to learn about community resources. Contact Kathy Walker at (508) 434-2551 or kawalker@overlook-mass.org for more information. Presented by Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, visit (800) 272-3900 or alz.org.

THRIFTY: St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish, 759 Main St., Leicester, 508-859-8083. New 2 You Thrift Shop. Hours: Tuesday 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m. to noon., Thursday 3 to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to noon. We have added Thursday hours.

FREE FOR MOM & KIDS: There will be free weekly parent/child programs from 9 to 11 a.m. Fridays and Wednesdays at the North Brookfield Elementary School, New School Road, North. The program runs on school calendar and closes for vacation and inclement weather according to North Brookfield School calendar. This free program is sponsored by the Spencer, Wachusett, North and East Brookfield Coordinated Family Grant in partnership with the North Brookfield Elementary School. Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. For more information, please call CFCE at (508) 885-2934 or e-mail Wachusettcpc@hotmail.com.

SUPPER TIME: A free, community meal is held on the first Tuesday of the month at The Cross Roads Café Coffeehouse, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at the Emmanuel Church, 25 Winthrop Terrace, Warren. All ages are welcome. There is no cover charge; however, a love offering is accepted as a gift to the band or musician as thanks to God for their sharing of their talent and gift for the glory of God (www.emmanuelorthodox.org).

STRE-E-E-TCH: Senior Exercises Classes are held every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Rutland Community Center, Glenwood Road. Enjoy an hour of fun and exercise to music to help stay strong, fit, healthy and independent. Classes are co-ed and all are welcome. The fee is \$4 per class. For more information, call Joyce Gamache at (508) 754-2821.

SIT AND KNIT: knitting group every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Merriam Gilbert Library, West Brookfield. Bring your sewing, embroidery, knit-

ting or crochet and enjoy some socializing while you work on your project.

STAY HEALTHY: The VNA Care Network and Hospice is holding a free Keep Well Clinic to residents 60 and older from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Spencer Fish and Game Club on Mechanic Street. Local residents may have their blood pressure checked and learn about health concerns. Blood sugar, weight monitoring and other health assessments may also be available. VNA Care Network and Hospice clinics are funded in part by the United Way, local boards of health, private foundations. For up-to-date clinic information visit www.vnacarenetwork.org or call (888) 663-3688 x 5603.

IT'S A LUNCH DATE: The East Brookfield Baptist Church invites all senior citizens to a Community Lunch at 11:30 a.m. every second Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall. A delicious lunch and great desserts will be served. Followed by a time of fellowship and games concluding with a devotional just before 2 p.m. Reservations are encouraged. Call (508) 867-7725.

SHARING CUPBOARD: The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield Sharing Cupboard - serving West Brookfield, Warren and West Warren. Located at 36 N. Main St., West Brookfield, is open Wednesdays 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursdays 7-8 pm. Call the church for more information (508) 867-7078.

BINGO at the Knights of Columbus is now at the Spencer Senior Center, 68 Maple St. in Spencer, every Thursday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. The first game starts at 6:30 p.m. We have 20 regular games; two winners take all games, two 50/50 games and two progressive jackpot games with payouts of \$600 and \$500 respectively. Good food and soft beverages are available. Come and enjoy some good food, good people and hopefully win a little.

PITCH at the Spencer Senior Center will begin on Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. Cost \$5.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP IN W. BROOKFIELD: The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC has partnered with Faith and Family Hospice of Marlborough, MA to offer a local bereavement group for individuals who are living with the loss of someone they care deeply for. This program honors the reality that there is no perfect way to grieve or say goodbye to someone that we love—we each have our own process and our own time. Grief is not something that we “get better” from or that ever leaves us. Rather, we build coping skills to help us carry it through our lives. This group is open for all ages and all kinds of losses. It is a circle that strives to be mutually supportive and free of judgment. Sessions are held on Fridays at 5 pm in the church office at 36 North Main Street, West Brookfield, MA. Please call the church office to indicate you will be attending (508)867-7078 or email lstongo.westbrookfield@gmail.com. There is no charge for this group. This group has recently started and wishes to welcome others in joining them. Sessions will be offered for six weeks with a two-week break between the next. (There is no limit to the number of times any individual can sign up for this program.)



Ad Libs by June

Happy Valentine's Day to all! I hope you have a lovely weekend. Check out this week's Dining and Gift Guide for some great ideas... still time to surprise your loved one! **CORMIER JEWELERS** has a coupon to buy any in stock jewelry item and get the 2nd item 50% off of equal or lower price which expires on February 15. **EB FLATTS** has their specials menu listed in this week's issue for Valentine's Weekend 2/14 and 2/15. **CHARLIE'S DINER's** special this weekend are lamb chops. How about a great breakfast and lunch Valentine's Day at **KOSTAS**. **APPLEBLOSSOMS** has roses, plants, gift baskets, Godiva chocolates, and more! Get your fix in this weekend for the **SPENCER COUNTRY INN** as they will be closed for renovations 2/17 thru 2/26, and will reopen on February 27!

This weekend is also President's Day Weekend which is a big weekend for car sales. **LAMOUREUX FORD** will be opened on Sunday, February 16...the only Sunday of the year that they are open! Great time to buy a car or truck!

Looking for an adventure? Check out **ADVENTURE TOURS OF WARREN's** ad this week for their upcoming trips. They start at just \$69 for a trip to the Boston Flower Show on March 14. See the ad on the front of Section B this week for a list of upcoming tours, call Randall at 413-436-5357, or visit www.adventuretoursforwarren.com for more info.

Have you made an appointment yet to do your taxes? Why wait? Check out our **PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY** for some local tax professionals you can trust and get your refund sooner rather than later!

Tried something for the first time last week. Have you ever tried Zumba? By definition, according to the web, it is an exercise fitness program created by Columbian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990's. (So that explains the salsa dancing!) The Spencer Senior Center offers Zumba on Thursday nights at 6 pm. It's a fun way to exercise and don't let the fact that it's at the Senior Center fool you...this was quite a workout! I just hope I can follow the routines better next time I go.

Have a great week and a Happy Valentine's Day!

June Simakauskas
508-909-4062
jsima@stonebridgepress.news



News, really close to home

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MILLBURY – WATERFRONT! Ramshorn Lake! 51 Davis Rd! Beautifully Landscaped & Private 1.22 Acres w/500' on the Water! One of Ramshorn's Premier Properties "Royledge"! Sprawling 3,117' French Country Villa w/Panoramic Water Views from this Perfect Peninsula! Ideal for Entertaining! Stonewalled Gated Entry, Long Private Drive to its Stately Appearance! Sprawling Stone & Slate 6+ Rm Masterpiece! Light Abounds! Cathedral & Tray Ceilings w/Skylights! Unique Country Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm! Frpld Great Rm! Lake Facing Spacious Master Suite w/Everything You'd Expect! 3 Comfortable Bdrms! 3 Full Bathrooms! C/Air! Garages – 1 & 2 Car Detached Garages! Reward Yourself! **\$999,000.00**



SOLD



ON DEPOSIT



SOLD



AUBURN – 16 Lorna Dr! 7 Rm Split Entry Ready for the Next Owner! Located on a Cul-de-sac! Many Recent Updates! Windows 2006! Roof 2010! Siding 2016! Water Heater, Garage Door & Opener 2017! Driveway & Deck 2018! Appliances Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tile Floor! Dining Rm! Spacious Liv Rm! Master Bdrm w/Hrdwds! 3 Comfortable Bdrms Total! Full Bath! Finished Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm w/Custom Bar, Recessed Lighting & 2nd Bath! Screened-in Porch to a Private Yard w/New Pressure Treated Deck is Ready for Entertaining! Nicely Landscaped! 1 Car Garage! Shed! Ideal Commuter Location! **\$325,000.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 9 Pebble Beach Rd! Middle Pond – Winter Cove! Private Peninsula Protected from the Storm – Safe Harbor! Custom 3,179' 8 Rm Contemp Ready for Your Immediate Enjoyment! Grand Entry Foyer! Ideal Open Fir Plan w/Sky Lighted Cathedral Ceilings, Tall Windows & Hrdwd Frst! Beautiful Applianced Custom Granite Kit w/Center Isl! Formal Din, Fireplace Liv Rm w/Water/Estuary Views! 1st Fir Laundry! Second Floor Master Suite, Ideal Full Bath, Huge Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full & 2 Half Baths! Walk-out Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm! Buderus Oil Heat! C/Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! **\$779,900.00**



SOLD



SOLD



OXFORD – 27 Rocky Hill Rd! Move Right Into this 6 Rm Ranch! Bright, Fresh Kitchen! Dining Rm! 20' Living Rm! 3 Comfortable Bdrms! Nice Bathrm! Deck w/Awning! All the Work has been Done! Porch, Siding, Windows, Insulation, Gas Furnace, Gas Hot Water Heater, AC, Front Porch Windows, Door, Living Rm Floor, Skylights, Kitchen, Bath & Dining Rm Floors! 2 Bdrms w/Wall to Wall Carpeting & the Interior Freshly Painted 10/2019! Quick Closing Possible! **\$269,900.00**



WEBSTER – 27 N. Main St! 3 Family! 55'9 Rm! 3/4 Bedrooms! 1st Fir w/Eat-in! Liv Rm! 3 Bdrms! Updated Bathrm! 2nd Fir w/Kit w/Din Area! Liv Rm! 3 Bdrms! Updated Bath! 3rd Fir w/Eat-in! Kit! Liv Rm! Bdrm! Full Bath! Long Term Tenants! Sep Utilities! Vinyl Sided! Laundry Hook Ups! Freshly Painted Hallways! **\$249,900.00**



DUDLEY – 9 Nellies Way! TOBIN FARM ESTATES! 10 Rm Colonial Set on 1.2 Acres! Applianced Dine-in Granite Kit! 3 Season Sun Rm off Kit! Din Rm, 2 Story Fam Rm w/Pellet Stove, Bdrm, Full Bath w/Laundry & Gleaming Hrdwds Round Out 1st Fir! 2nd Fir Features an Open Balcony to the Liv Rm! Plenty of Space for an Office, Playroom or Reading Area, Use Your Imagination! Master w/Tray Ceiling & 3 Closets! Master Bath w/Dual Sinks, Shower, Whirlpool Tub & Makeup Counter! 2 Additional Bdrms & Full Bath! Huge Finished Walk-out Lower Level Perfect for Entertaining! Wet Bar w/Wine Cooler & Fridge! Half Bath w/Tile Flr! Irrigation! Shed! JD Riding Mower! Don't Miss Out! **\$469,900.00**



ON DEPOSIT



DUDLEY – 7 – 9 West Street! Brick 4 Family plus a 2 Family! Side by Side! All with 5 Rooms and 2 Bedrooms! Gas Heat! All Separate Utilities! 2 Car Detached Garage! The 4 Family with Beautiful Natural Woodwork! All Apartments are Empty and Work is Needed in Several Apartments! Excellent Potential! Will be a Good Investment for the Right One! **\$399,900.00**



WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! Extremely Conveniently Located just off Exit 1 of 385! Loads of Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Applianced Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Wall to Wall or Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 1st Fir Bdrm w/Commode Closet! Recent Furnace! Recent Roof! **\$169,900.00**



SOLD

THOMPSON – 299 Quaddick Rd! Custom Cedar Log Home! 5.47 Acres! Stone Wall Entry! 700' Driveway! Nestled in the Woods! 6 Rms of Cedar! Granite Kit! Cathedral Ceilings w/Skylights! Hrdwds! Stone Frpl! 1st Fir Master w/Full Bath & Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms & 2.5 Baths Total! Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! **\$399,900.00**

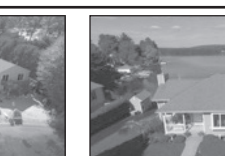


SOLD

DUDLEY – 94 Tracy Road! 7 Rm 4 Bdrm Colonial on 1.24 Acres! Privacy! Many Upgrades! Hrdwds Throughout! Frplce Liv Rm w/Recessed Lights! Formal Din Rm! Eat-in Kit! Updated in 2015! Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Center Isl & SS Appliances! Sunroom w/Skylights, Hrdwd Frs & Slider to Deck! 1st Fir 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2nd Fir Full Bath! Lower Level Game Rm/Office! Utility/Storage Rm! 16x21 Deck! Garage Under! Save on Your Electric Your Bills, 2015 Solar Panels! Level yard w/Shed! Call now! **\$349,000.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 250 Killdeer Island Rd! North Pond's Sandy Shore! 9 Rm Ranch in Meticulous Condition! Absolutely Beautiful 100' Waterfront Lot! Stainless Applianced Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Hrdwd Floor & Dining Area w/Slider to Deck! Formal Dining Rm w/Hrdwds! Front to Back Living Rm Overlooking the Lake w/Cathedral Ceiling, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplce & Hrdwds! 1st Fir Lake Facing Master Bdrm w/Slider to the Deck & Access to the Screened Hot Tub, w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Whirlpool Tub, Separate Shower & Commode Closet! 1/2 Bath & Separate Laundry Rm Nearby! Walk-out Lower Level w/Full Kitchen, 22' Lake Facing Family Rm w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! 2 Lake Facing Bdrms w/Sliders to the Patio/Lake! Full Bath! Oversized 2 Car Garage! LP Gas Heat/Hydro Air! Generator! Private Boat Ramp! Docks! Don't Delay! **\$910,000.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 50 West Point Rd! Killdeer Island! 4,700' Entertainers Dream! Magnificent Sunsets! Built 2016, Has It All! 2 Story Foyer! Granite Kit w/Center Isl, Dble Oven, High End Appliances & Walk-in Pantry! Din Rm w/Wet Bar, Sliders to 14x30' Deck! Bright & Airy Liv Rm w/Lake Views, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplce! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! An ELEVATOR to Service All 3 Floors! Upstairs leads to 3 Spacious Bdrms each w/Private Baths! Master w/Tray Ceiling, Walk-in Closet & Private Balcony! Master Bath, Soaker Tub & Large Tile Shower! Walk-up Attic w/Expansion Possibilities! Lower Level w/Full Kit, 1/2 Bath, Lake Facing Fam Rm, Media/Exercise Rm & Lake Facing Bdrm w/Frplce & Private Bath! Slider to Patio! 13 Zones! Oversized 2 Car Garage! Loaded w/Quality & Detail! **\$1,175,100.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 50 Union Point Rd! Panoramic Views of Middle Pond – South Facing – Tons of Sun! Principal Residence or as a Second Home! This 6+ Rm Gambrel Colonial will be Ready for You! You'll Appreciate its Easy Access and Taken Back by the Ever Changing Lake Vistas! Featuring Applianced Kitchen w/Island, Dining Area, Lake Facing Fireplace Living Rm with Custom Cabinetry, All with Hardwood Floors! Ideal Lake Facing 3 Seasons Rm w/Tile Floor & Anderson Sliders All Around! 3 Second Floor Bedrooms! Spacious Lake Facing Master w/Cathedral Ceiling & 2 Sliders to its Private Deck! 2 Full Baths! Central Air! Composite Decks & Flag Stone Patio for Your Enjoyment! 7,405' Lot with 50' on the Water! Sorry, Closing not before 9/10/2019! **\$624,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 68 W Point Rd! Western Exposure - Spectacular Sunsets! 75' Waterfront w/Expansive Views! 6 Rm Yr Rd Ranch! Ideal 2nd Home! Renovate or Enjoy As Is! Open Fir Plan! Applianced Cabinet Packed Kit! Lake Facing Din & Liv Rms w/Water Views! Sliders to Screen Enclosed Porch! Master w/Ceiling Fan & Dble Closet! 2nd Bdrm w/Dble Closet! Full Bath off Hall! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/25' Fam Rm w/Door to Lakeside Patio, Bdrm, Full Bath & Utility/Storage Rm! 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths Total! Oil Heat! Covered Entry Ramp & Electric Chair Lift! Shed! Dock! Summer Will Be Back – Don't Delay! **\$499,900.00**



SOLD

DUDLEY – 61 Townfarm Rd! Charming 7 Rm Cape Set 1.9 Acres! This 3 Bdrm Home Completely Renovated 2015! Updates Include - Roof, Windows, Siding, Kitchen, 2 Baths, Furnace, Electric Panel, Well, Septic, Driveway & More! Ideal Open Fir Plan! Cabinet Packed Granite Kit w/Island & SS Appliances! 1st Fir w/Beautiful Hrdwds! Frplce Liv Rm! 1st Fir Master Bdrm! Office or 4th Bdrm! Custom Tiled Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs 2 Spacious Bdrms w/Hrdwds & 2nd Full Bath! Large Paver Patio! Shed! Gorgeous Views! **\$299,900.00**



NEW LISTING

WEBSTER – 14 Summit Street! Conveniently Located 8 Room, 4 Bedroom Cape! Featuring Newly Remodeled Stainless Steel Applianced Granite Eat-in Kitchen w/Custom Cabinetry & Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring! Formal Dining w/Hardwoods! Spacious Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 2 1st Floor Bedrooms w/Hardwoods! Newly Remodeled Full Tile Bath! 2nd Floor w/2 Bedrooms w/Hardwoods, Plenty of Closet & Storage Space! Updated Second Full Bath! Recently Oil Heat, Cast Iron Baseboard! Detached Garage! Corner Lot! **\$279,900.00**



CHARLTON – GLEN ECHO LAKE! 3 Sunset Dr! Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic 105' Waterfront! Ideal 15,941' Gently Sloping Lot! Comfortable 9 Rm Ranch! Stainless Appliance Eat-in Granite Kit! Din Rm w/Hrdwd Fr! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Panoramic Water Views! 4 Bdrms, 3' Lake Facing including the Spacious Master! Full Hall Bath! Enjoy the Sun Rm w/Lake Views! 32' Walk-out Lower Level Frplce Fam Rm w/Wet Bar & Convenient Half Bath! Nicely Landscaped Front & Back! Lake Level Deck, Dock & Rear Shed! Benefitted by Town Sewer! Start Packing! **\$499,900.00**



SOLD



WEBSTER LAKE – 50 West Point Rd! Killdeer Island! 4,700' Entertainers Dream! Magnificent Sunsets! Built 2016, Has It All! 2 Story Foyer! Granite Kit w/Center Isl, Dble Oven, High End Appliances & Walk-in Pantry! Din Rm w/Wet Bar, Sliders to 14x30' Deck! Bright & Airy Liv Rm w/Lake Views, Custom Built Cabinets, Gas Frplce! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry! An ELEVATOR to Service All 3 Floors! Upstairs leads to 3 Spacious Bdrms each w/Private Baths! Master w/Tray Ceiling, Walk-in Closet & Private Balcony! Master Bath, Soaker Tub & Large Tile Shower! Walk-up Attic w/Expansion Possibilities! Lower Level w/Full Kit, 1/2 Bath, Lake Facing Fam Rm, Media/Exercise Rm & Lake Facing Bdrm w/Frplce & Private Bath! Slider to Patio! 13 Zones! Oversized 2 Car Garage! Loaded w/Quality & Detail! **\$1,175,100.00**



SOLD



SOLD



WEBSTER LAKE – 68 W Point Rd! Western Exposure - Spectacular Sunsets! 75' Waterfront w/Expansive Views! 6 Rm Yr Rd Ranch! Ideal 2nd Home! Renovate or Enjoy As Is! Open Fir Plan! Applianced Cabinet Packed Kit! Lake Facing Din & Liv Rms w/Water Views! Sliders to Screen Enclosed Porch! Master w/Ceiling Fan & Dble Closet! 2nd Bdrm w/Dble Closet! Full Bath off Hall! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/25' Fam Rm w/Door to Lakeside Patio, Bdrm, Full Bath & Utility/Storage Rm! 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths Total! Oil Heat! Covered Entry Ramp & Electric Chair Lift! Shed! Dock! Summer Will Be Back – Don't Delay! **\$499,900.00**



CHARLTON – 105' WATERFRONT! Baker Pond! 63 Lincoln Pt Rd! East Facing = Fantastic Sunrises! Custom 9 Rm Colonial! Beautiful 1/2 Acre Lot w/Lawn to Water's Edge! 2 Story Foyer! Natural Woodwork! Open Fir Plan! Applianced Granite Kit w/Island, Recessed Lights, Tile Flr & Water View! Din Area w/Slider to Deck! Sunken Frplce Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Fr & Water Views! Din Rm w/Hrdwd! 1/2 Bath w/Pedestal Sink! 2nd Fir w/4 Bdrms, 3 w/Water Views! Master w/Cathedrals, French Dr to Balcony, Bath w/Separate Tub/Shower, Walk-in Closet & Laundry! Hall Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Finished Walk-out Lower Level w/31' Fam Rm! Full Kit! Full Bath & Laundry! Includes NEW A/C SPLIT SYSTEM! Enjoy Outside from the Farmer's Porch, Deck, Patio, Screened Porch or Dock! 2 Car Garage! Full Recreational Use! **\$524,900.00**



SOLD



WEBSTER LAKE – 50 Union Point Rd! Panoramic Views of Middle Pond – South Facing – Tons of Sun! Principal Residence or as a Second Home! This 6+ Rm Gambrel Colonial will be Ready for You! You'll Appreciate its Easy Access and Taken Back by the Ever Changing Lake Vistas! Featuring Applianced Kitchen w/Island, Dining Area, Lake Facing Fireplace Living Rm with Custom Cabinetry, All with Hardwood Floors! Ideal Lake Facing 3 Seasons Rm w/Tile Floor & Anderson Sliders All Around! 3 Second Floor Bedrooms! Spacious Lake Facing Master w/Cathedral Ceiling & 2 Sliders to its Private Deck! 2 Full Baths! Central Air! Composite Decks & Flag Stone Patio for Your Enjoyment! 7,405' Lot with 50' on the Water! Sorry, Closing not before 9/10/2019! **\$624,900.00**



SOLD



SOLD



WEBSTER LAKE – 506 Beacon Park! 1,280' Custom WATERFRONT Townhouse, Ideal End Corner Unit w/Panoramic Lake Views! Overlooks Lakeside Pool & Sandy Beach! From the Private Entry this Unit is Like No Other! Being Sold Fully Furnished & Appointed! 1st Fir w/Beautiful Maple Hrdwds! SS Applianced Silestone Kit! Recessed Lighting! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath! 2.5 Tile Baths! Recent A/C & Heat! Garage! **\$369,900.00**



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Your Listings!**

Featured New Listing!



WEBSTER - 68 POLAND ST

4 BEDROOM COLONIAL! 2600 SQ FT, 2 FULL BATHS, 2 FIREPLACES, 2 CAR GARAGE, ABOVE GROUND POOL, 1ST FLOOR BEDROOM, UPDATES INCLUDE - RECENT WINDOWS, ROOF, UPSTAIRS BATH, FHW GAS HEATING SYSTEM!!!! **\$339,000.**

WEBSTER - 5 SURREY LN



BRAND NEW TO MARKET! Gently Used 5 Bdrm Colonial, or 4 Bdrms & Game Room! This 24 x 28 3 Car Garage HAS HEAT! Radiant Heat in Floor. Open Concept Kitchen, Dining & Living Room, Full Bath, Beautiful Granite Counters w/Breakfast Bar, Newer SS Appliances – Second Floor – 5 Over-sized Bdrms! Bath & Laundry Rm! Walk up Attic. **\$409,000.**

WEBSTER - 8 MAPLE ST



2 Family – 1st Floor: 6 Rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, open Kitchen. Fully Applianced. New Carpeting, Hardwood Floors. 2nd Floor – Open Kitchen with Gorgeous Kitchen Cabinets – 6 Rooms, 3 Bed, 1 Full Bath Hardwood Floors, New carpeting. Each Apartment has 1,200+ sq ft plus. Oil Heat. Off street parking. Town Water & Sewer, 3rd Story Unfinished. **\$237,500**

POMFRET, CT - 280 RIVER RD



Motivated Seller! Cape that has been completely re-modelled!, 3 Br, 1 bath, 1.7 acres. New kitchen cabinets w/granite counters and center island. New electrical/plumbing. Large Gambrel Post & Beam. 2 bay garage w/loft. New septic. **NEW PRICE \$244,900**

WEBSTER - 14 HIGHCREST #4



ON DEPOSIT

Ready to move in! 2 bedroom 1 & 1/2 bath condo. Large bedrooms with large full bath master bedroom private access. Skylight Hallway, extra large living area with separate dining! Access to private deck via sliders, fully applianced kitchen, loads of counter space, tons of storage. Full finished basement, brand new heat and a/c system. **\$134,900.**

WEBSTER - 212 SCHOOL ST



SORRY, SOLD!

Large 4 Family! 3 car garage! Off street parking. 2 bedrooms each unit! Walk-up attic with a lot of potential! Solar panels!! Fully Rented. **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 3 STEFANIAK AVE.



SORRY, SOLD!

Cute 2 Bedroom Ranch! All hardwood floors, gas fireplace living room! 2 baths. Appliances included. 2 zone heat. Large deck! Young asphalt roof. Walk out lower living level. Town Water & Sewer, City Gas **\$219,900.**

WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, w/Jetted tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. Radiused sidewalk on upper level! Walk in closets. Walk out lower level! The third garage is accessed from the lower level. Generator hookup. One beautiful property! assisted sale **\$499,900.**

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS



Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Possible potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer, City Gas! Nice level lot. **\$70,000**
Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**
Webster - 3 Lots Cooper Rd. **Attention Developers!** 3 abutting house lots, potential to divide into 5-6 Buildable lots! w/water/sewer access **\$129,400**
Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre,artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. **\$130,000.**
Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

HOLLAND - 6 MAIDEN LN



SORRY, SOLD!

A nice place to call home! Houses situated perfectly on the lot to promote privacy on this .44 acre Lot! 6 room 2 bedroom 1-1/2 Bath. 2 brick fireplaces! Furnace and roof approximately 6 years old. Plus a guest house! assisted sale **\$229,000.**

WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



LAND FOR SALE

ATTENTION DEVELOPERS

Available 10,000+ sq. ft. of Land. Zoned Lake Residential. Potential to divide into 2 Buildable Lots. Town Water & Sewer Available. **\$49,000.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE - 118 POINT BREEZE RD

Excellent Opportunity to Finally Own Your Own Webster Lake Waterfront Property! Prime Location, 5,697+/- SF Lot, 50' Rd & Water Frontage at a Great Price! Contemporary Ranch offers 996+/- SF of living area w/2 BRs & 2 full baths. Plus, convenient, indoor access to Walkout Lower Level w/tremendous potential for additional living area. Main level features Open Floor Plan w/sliders to full front deck! Spectacular Westerly views across Middle Pond! Additional land & shore frontage available. **NEW PRICE \$299,900**



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE - 32 JACKSON RD

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– Ja mówię po polsku"

LAND FOR SALE
11 ACRES
Leicester
0 Henshaw St.
\$95,000

On Deposit

Dudley
2 Shine Ave.
\$475,000

Sold

Oxford
570 Main St,
\$310,000

Judy Colecchi
88 Lakeside Ave.
Webster, MA 01570
Licensed in MA & CT

35 Lakeside Ave.
Webster Lake area. Attractive well kept 3brm, 2 bath cape located steps away from a neighborhood beach on Webster Lake for summer enjoyment or winter ice fishing? Features 2nd level master suite w/sitting room. 2 more brms on the main flr w/eat-in kitchen and living room. All appliance kitchen, washer/dryer included. Large lot w/deck and small fenced in area for a pet. Quiet neighborhood and minutes to Rt. 395 and shopping
\$269,900

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24 Normandy Ave – \$252,000

Dudley: 4.1 acres, 5 room house, potential to sub divide land, town water & sewer available
71 Mason Rd – \$319,900

Woodstock: 21 acres, Privacy, White Cedar Log Home, A Scenic Retreat, Proximity.
480 Route 197 – \$600's

Szymczak Sells
ON DEPOSIT

Webster: Unit 1, 2 Bedroom, Hardwood Floors, Gas Heat, Garage
17 Cutler St – \$119,900

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Top 10 Producer of 2020

SOLD

OXFORD, MA - \$234,900
44 Depot Road
3 Bedroom, Ranch
Recently Remodeled

PENDING

WEBSTER, MA - \$288,900
90-A Sutton Rd.
3 Bedroom, Raised Ranch.

PENDING

DUDLEY, MA - \$248,500
5 Fairview Ave
Under Priced, Needs Work

FEATURE PROPERTIES

OPEN HOUSE SAT
Noon - 2

WEBSTER, MA - \$1350/Mo.
6 Summit Street
3 Bdrm Apt., First, Last, Security. Completely remodeled, brand new appliances incl. W/D

OPEN HOUSE SUN
12:30- 2

WEBSTER, MA - \$1100/mo
56 Chase Ave, Apt #2
2-Family, Completely Renovated

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Open House Directory

(C) Condo	(X) Condo	(M) Multi-Family	(T) Townhouse
(B) Business	(U) Duplex	(S) Single Family	(D) Adult Community
(P) Land	(L) Mobile Home	(A) Apartment	(W) Waterfront

ADDRESS STYLE TIME PRICE REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

WEBSTER

6 Summit St	A	Noon-2	\$1350/Mo	Re/Max Professional Associates/ Patrick Sweeney 774-452-3578
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NORTH BROOKFIELD

38 E. Brookfield Rd	S	11:30-1	\$339,000	Century 21 North East / Dorrinda O'Keefe-Shea 978-434-1990
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WEBSTER

56 Chase Ave Apt. #2	A	12:30-2	\$1100/Mo	Re/Max Professional Associates/ Patrick Sweeney 774-452-3578
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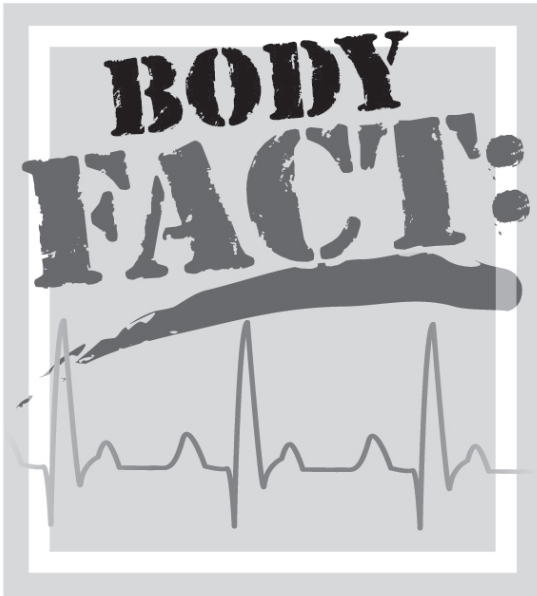


THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1861:** JEFFERSON DAVIS IS ELECTED AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
- **1964:** THE BEATLES MAKE THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE ON “THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW.”
- **1991:** LITHUANIA VOTES FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION.



THIS MUSCLE HAS
BECOME SYMBOLIC OF
THE EMOTION OF LOVE.

ANSWER: HEART

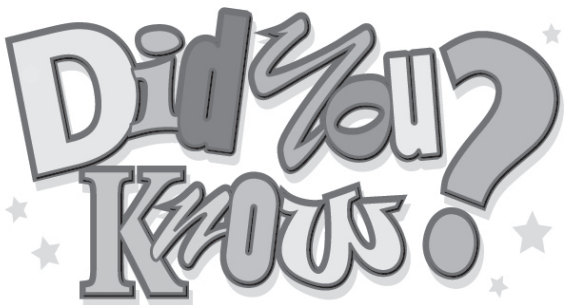


ROMANCE

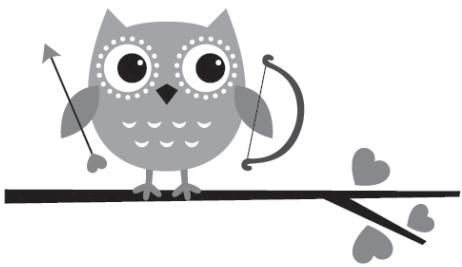
a feeling of
excitement
associated with love

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Affection
- SPANISH:** Afecto
- ITALIAN:** Affetto
- FRENCH:** Affection
- GERMAN:** Zuneigung



FEBRUARY 14 IS A POPULAR DAY
TO EXCHANGE GREETING CARDS.



Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RED ROSE

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to the library.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 21 = a)

A. 4 24 24 14 6

Clue: Volumes

B. 22 21 10 21 17 24 7

Clue: List of items

C. 21 17 15 2 21 4 13 10 25 12 13

Clue: Sort by letter

D. 5 13 21 20 25 11 7

Clue: Interpreting printed words

Answers: A. books B. catalog C. alphabetize D. reading

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

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NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$30,340~~
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LIKE NEW 2018 TOYOTA RAV4
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NEW RETAIL PRICE: ~~\$31,850~~
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