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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, November 19, 2021



Photo Kevin Flanders

The colors are presented at the beginning of the event.

Veterans honored at ceremonial breakfast

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – After last year's event was lost to the pandemic, local veterans and their families were thrilled to return to the ceremonial breakfast at the Senior Center.

Held two days prior to Veterans Day, the Nov. 9 event featured an impressive crowd of local veterans and their families. The ceremony was led by Bill Moore, of Project New Hope, Inc., a nonprofit organization supporting veterans.

"This is a wonderful event that gets a lot of great participation from throughout the community," Moore told the New Leader. "It is great for veterans and their families to finally be able to attend events like this after a year without them."

The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Brigadier General John Driscoll, the Commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. He enjoys traveling across the state and meeting veterans and their families.

"It is always an honor to spend time with veterans and thank them for what they have done for our country," Driscoll said. "Every veteran has a story to be told."

The Nov. 9 ceremony began with a presentation delivered by the South High Community School Air Force Junior

Turn To **BREAKFAST** page **A6**

Spencer designated as Purple Heart Community

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – With an aptly timed proclamation, officials culminated a week of giving thanks to veterans by designating Spencer as a Purple Heart Community.

The town's Purple Heart proclamation was publicly announced during a ceremony on Nov. 14—the Sunday following Veterans Day. Selectmen and other town officials are thrilled to show their support for veterans with the designation. Purple Heart Community signs are now displayed at every entrance to the town.

"This was a great project for the town. It's nice to see our veterans honored in this way," said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury.

Added Selectman Ralph Hicks, "I am pleased that Spencer joins the other Massachusetts communities that show their appreciation for the sacrifices these veterans made for our country."

Spencer's Veterans Agent, Scott Conner, led the way in making the project happen. With a large number of veterans living in town, Conner was determined to honor them by helping Spencer become a Purple Heart Community.

"It's important to let our veterans know that we support them. By designating our town as a Purple Heart Community,

anyone driving into the town will see the signs as a symbol of support for our veterans," Conner told the New Leader.

In his discussions with local veterans and their families, Conner has received strong feedback about Spencer becoming a Purple Heart Community. He always enjoys the opportunity to connect with veterans and hear their stories.

"They are all incredible people deserving of recognition," Conner said of Spencer's veterans. "They do their time and meld back into society. This [Purple Heart Community designation] is a celebration of all veterans."

Conner was especially pleased by the timing of the Purple Heart Community proclamation, which capped off a week of celebrating veterans. Spencer's Veterans Day parade was well-attended again this year in support of everyone who served.

Officials thank Conner for all of his efforts ensuring that Spencer became a Purple Heart Community.

"Scott did all of the legwork to get this done, and the Board fully supported it," Chairman Woodbury said.

Spencer joins Leicester, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Warren, Ware, and several other local towns as Purple Heart Communities.

Agreement finalized for relocation of District Court

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Selectmen recently finalized an agreement that will allow the East Brookfield District Court to temporarily relocate to the Senior Center.

The contract was negotiated between the town and the Mass. Office of the Trial Court, which is overseeing

upcoming renovations at the East Brookfield courthouse.

With the renovations set to begin in December, the court's relocation to the second floor of the Senior Center is expected to last 18-24 months. Terms of the contract call for Spencer to receive \$94,700 per year of the relocation.

If the court's stay in Spencer is

projected to exceed 24 months, an extension would need to be granted by selectmen.

"I think this is a win-win situation for the town and the court," said Interim Town Administrator William Ross.

No jury trials will occur at the Senior Center, and only a percentage of the court's arraignments will

be scheduled at the temporary site. Several arraignments will be moved to the Worcester courthouse or take place through video, officials said.

The court's probation department and other offices will also be temporarily relocated to Spencer. In addition to the space operated by the court on the second floor of the 68 Maple Street

Turn To **AGREEMENT** page **A19**

Connor's proclamation rings true as Wolverines win State Tournament opener

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL THEN UPENDS LEICESTER WITH PENALTY KICKS IN ROUND OF 16

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEICESTER — Back on Sept. 10, after the Leicester High girls' varsity soccer team lost a 5-0 decision to Grafton High and dropped to 0-2 in the process, head coach Autumn Connor said the following: "We're going to come back strong and people are not going to recognize us for how we started our season."

Connor couldn't have been more accurate, as the Wolverines went



Photos Nick Ethier

Leicester's Maura Granville attempts to keep the ball in play as it hovers around the out of bounds line.

Turn To **LEICESTER** page **A13**

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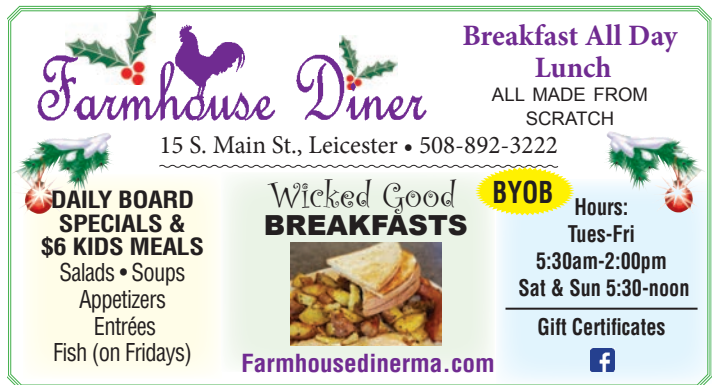
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Senior Center to host first ever Holiday Vendor Fair

SPENCER — Residents are invited to support local creators this holiday season during a first-time fair at the Senior Center.

The Winter Holiday Vendor Fair will take place on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Senior Center (68 Maple Street). Taking place one week before Small Business Saturday, the fair is a great opportunity for guests to shop local.

Event organizer Sharon Legasey is always looking for new ways to support and promote local creators. Many

area crafters missed out on an entire year's worth of sales in 2020 due to pandemic cancellations, plus half a year of lost events in 2021. Looking ahead, officials are hoping residents will keep local creators in mind when putting together their holiday shopping lists.

The Nov. 20 event will feature a dozen local crafters who create an array of products, including jewelry, paintings, wooden bowls, cups, tumblers, bowl cozies, towels, baby sweater sets, hats, Christmas ornaments,

wreaths, table decorations, candles with a primitive style, designer soaps, and more.

Additionally, four local authors will be in attendance to offer signed books. Area readers are invited to come out and meet talented writers of multiple genres.

"I have met some of the most interesting people at craft fairs. Artists of all kinds live in a playful world—I am so glad to be one of them," said Legasey, a writer and crafter herself.

The fair will also feature

Black Friday Specials, raffles, and games. The Senior Center kitchen will be open with great pricing for items. Shoppers can sit and enjoy a sandwich, warm themselves up with a bowl of soup, or just relax with a cup of coffee while consulting their shopping lists.

The Friends of Spencer Seniors will benefit from the event's registration proceeds. Senior Center officials hope to install a barbecue patio where the basketball hoop is currently located.

Holiday workshop for North Brookfield Town House Nov. 28 at Bemis

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House are partnering with Bemis Farms Nursery to present a Holiday Fundraiser Workshop to benefit the restoration of the Town House as a Regional Cultural Center. Mark your calendar and make this event a part of your holiday preparation! Bring a friend and enjoy the evening with us. The workshop will be held at Bemis Farms Nursery on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. The minimum number of participants is 25. The cost is \$35. It will be a Wreath Workshop with a Grab and Go Kit option. The kits can be for either a Porch Pot or a Wreath. Whether participating in the workshop or just stopping in for your kit, the cost for each project is \$35. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Show your support for the restoration of the Town House by celebrating with us and/or purchasing a Grab and Go kit to do at home. Please sign up by contacting either Eva Brown at eva.dave.brown@gmail.com or 508-826-6924; or Trish Miller at trish.miller3@verizon.net or 508-867-7054. The deadline for registering is Saturday, Nov. 20.

Nativities Around the World display returns Dec. 3 & 4

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is again hosting Nativities Around the World, an exhibit of nativities from many countries, cultures, styles, materials and dimensions. All are warmly welcomed to enjoy this display Friday, Dec. 3 from 5:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is located at 108 New Braintree Rd., North Brookfield, 2.2 miles north of the center of town on Route 67.

Tarentino Fund attending charitable event

REGION — Local residents are invited to join the Tarentino Charitable Fund on Saturday, Nov. 20, at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Tickets will get you into both the Worcester Railers vs. Trois Rivières Lions game, as well as the "Guns 'N' Hoses" game to be played between the Worcester Police and Fire Departments.

The Railers will be honoring all front-line workers at the event. All proceeds will benefit the Manny Familia Fund.

Spencer Exchange Club to honor first responders

SPENCER — The Exchange Club of Spencer will be honoring Spencer's first responders with the National Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award at the club's 75th anniversary celebration on Dec. 2 at Zukas Hilltop Barn in Spencer. The Spencer Police Department, Spencer Fire Department and the Spencer Rescue and Emergency Squad first responders will be honored for their service to the community.

The awards will be presented to each department's chief, who will accept on behalf of their entire organization. While this award is typically bestowed upon individuals, the Exchange Club of Spencer chose to collectively honor each organization in recognition of their contribution to the safety and well-being of the community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Exchange Club's longest running project, the Book of Golden Deeds Award, recognizes dedicated volunteers who give endless hours of their time and talents toward making their communities better places to live. Ever since the Exchange Club of Huntington, Ind., sponsored the first award in 1919, thousands of unsung heroes and heroines have been recognized. Honoring fellow citizens with the Book of Golden Deeds Award is a heartwarming and inspiring act not only for the honoree, but for any Exchange Club. The Book of Golden Deeds Award exemplifies The National Exchange Club's beliefs.

With local school districts struggling to improve student vaccination figures, officials are hopeful that convenient clinics held at school settings will help create momentum.

As of the last update released by the SEBRSD, only about 50 percent of David Prouty High School students had received both doses of the vaccine. Officials hope that younger students getting vaccinated will help inspire all eligible students.

To learn more about today's clinic, visit www.sebrsd.org.

New 2 You Thrift Shop /Furniture Annex to hold First Annual Holiday Bazaar

LEICESTER — The New 2 You Thrift Shop/Furniture Annex will hold its first Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 759 Main St., Leicester.

Enjoy a full day with shopping, receiving 20 percent off all purchases in both the thrift shop

and annex. Don't forget to enter to win a holiday centerpiece. We will be having our Children's shopping event where children can purchase a gift for a loved one and have it personally wrapped.

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LIONS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Photo Courtesy

The West Brookfield Lions Club welcomes new members Andy Molnar, Sue Molnar, Sue Lewandowski and Ken Day. Curt Jameson, 2nd Vice District Governor, was also in attendance.

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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.

PERSON of the WEEK

JESSICA PIWOWARSKI
West Brookfield, MA

Jessica has been a PMC (Pon Mass Challenge) rider for years and is the Captain of PMC Team De-Feet Cancer. Her goal, almost complete, is to ride her bicycle in every city/town in Massachusetts. She only has a few towns left. You could see her recently "witch riding" in West Brookfield.



Thank you, Jessica, for your dedication to bring awareness and raise funds for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. We applaud your efforts!

— submitted by Theresa Plante

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Oxford takes rematch with Cougars in first round of State Tournament

BY DEAN ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WARREN — On Friday, Nov. 5, the Quaboag Regional and Oxford High varsity football teams clashed for the second time in less than a month, but this meeting had a little more on the line. It was the first round of the MIAA Division 8 State Championship playoffs.

Quaboag, seeded sixth in the tournament, hosted their first playoff game in program history and No. 11 Oxford found themselves in the playoffs for the first time since 2010. Both schools were hungry for a win, which created great energy throughout despite the freezing weather conditions.

After losing 23-12 in their regular-season meeting, Oxford wanted redemption and they did just that.

Momentum was sparked by a touchdown right before half-time to take their first lead of the game. The Pirates never looked back and held Quaboag scoreless in the second half. This propelled Oxford to a 28-14 win, advancing the young Pirates (7-2) team to the second round of the playoffs, where they will take on No. 3 Palmer High (8-1) on the road at Legion Field on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.

“The defensive coach Jimmy Small had their number,” praised Oxford head coach Jeff Clarkson. “I have never met someone who watches more film and he put the kids in the

right place. He was all over them, the poor kid [Small] can’t talk after a game. He just put the kids in position and the kids stepped it up. Honestly, we are a second half team and I am surprised by what we did in the first half. I didn’t like all the fumbles, we need to clean it up, but it was unbelievable. Just an unbelievable effort, the kids worked so hard.”

Time was ticking off the clock and with just seven seconds left in the second quarter, Oxford found themselves on Quaboag’s 21-yard line. An incomplete pass thrown into the end zone stopped the clock, and Pirates quarterback Lucas Lambert gathered his offense for one last play before half-time.

Lambert got the offense set and the home crowd chanted for a defensive stand, but the junior signal-caller remained poised, dropped back, and threw a 21-yard strike to his favorite target, sophomore wide-out Connor Fantasia for a 21-yard touchdown with just one second left in the half. Oxford converted the two-point conversation and went into the locker room leading 22-14.

“We call timeouts for that reason, to try and get the ball back and score and it worked,” expressed Clarkson. “The kids, they executed just like we wanted to.”

Early on both teams fed off the playoff energy and it was a

battle of the defenses until Quaboag was able to capitalize on a miscue by Oxford’s secondary late in the first quarter to get on the board first. Quaboag quarterback Derrick Shepherd dropped back and stung it down the left sideline and hit wide receiver Alex Worthington in stride for a 46-yard touchdown. The Cougars led 7-0.

Following the Cougars scoring drive, Oxford responded with a touchdown of its own. Senior running back Darius Richardson capped a long drive with a 3-yard plunge to put the Pirates on the board, but Oxford was unable to convert on their two-point attempt. Early into the second quarter Quaboag led 7-6.

The Cougars offense remained hot and drove down the field, highlighted by a 51-yard rush by junior running back Brendan Burke. Moments later Burke powered his way into the end zone for a 3-yard score. Quaboag led 14-6 and had all the momentum. Their offense was flowing.

But Oxford went on to tie the game on their next possession with a 16-yard sprint by Morales and never looked back.

Quaboag had a chance, but Oxford senior lineman Antoine Lacourt Ramos intercepted a screen pass and took off for what everyone thought was a long big-man touchdown. Unfortunately, a block in the back penalty negated the score.

“Poor Antoine, to have that play called back for the kid,” stated Clarkson. “He has done it every year and this would’ve been the third year he has done it, an interception for a touchdown. It was unfortunate, I felt bad.”

Despite the defensive touchdown being called back, Oxford was able to score offensively. A few plays following the turnover, Lambert got loose for a 33-yard touchdown. Oxford led 28-14, deflating the Cougars. The Pirates kept up an excellent defensive showing, which made it hard for Quaboag to do anything for the rest of the contest.



Photos Nick Ether

Quaboag's Tyler Withers employs a stiff-arm maneuver after catching a pass.



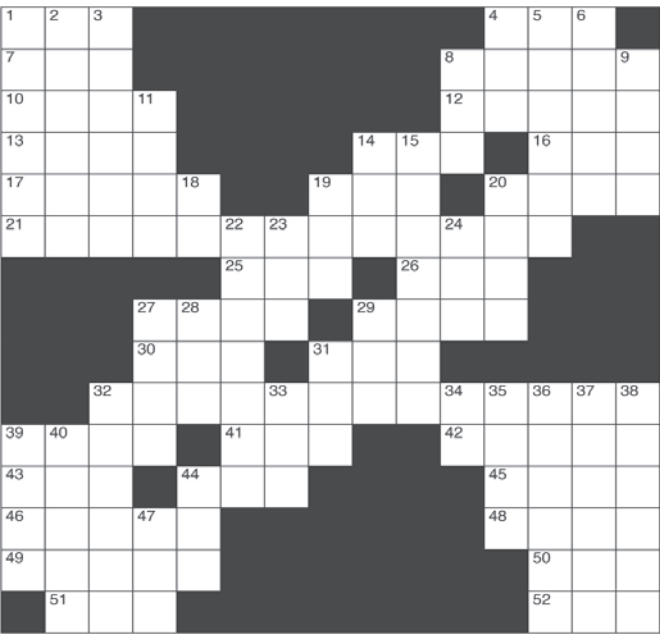
Alex Worthington of Quaboag hauls in what turned out to be a 46-yard touchdown reception.

Lambert paced the Pirate offense with 175 yards on the ground and 32 passing yards to go along with two scores.

Although it wasn’t Quaboag’s night, they remain a proud program. The Cougars finished the regular season undefeated at 8-0, were SWCL champs and hosted a playoff game.

“I just told them now keep yours heads up, you still have a chance for a 10-win season,” expressed Quaboag head coach Dave Shepherd. “If you can get a 10-win season as a coach I will take that any year. That is what we are going to fight for now, just push and get a double-digit winning season.”

Unfortunately for the Cougars, they lost a 30-20 decision at St. Bernard’s High on Thursday, Nov. 11. Quaboag is now 8-2 and will host Ware High on Thanksgiving Eve at 6 p.m. to conclude its season.



CLUES ACROSS

1. FDNY’s union

4. Hideout

7. Trent Reznor’s band

8. Old World tropics plants

10. Places to stay

12. Group of organisms from a common ancestor

13. TV character Goodman

14. Not around

16. Title of respect

17. Ceramic jars

19. British legal authority (abbr.)

20. A companion (archaic)

21. Where groups of people live

25. Indigenous person of NE Thailand

26. Red-brown sea bream
27. Ridge of jagged rock

29. Meat from a pig (French)

30. A way to save for the future

31. Opposite of bottom

32. A term of endearment

39. Weight used in China

41. You need it to hear

42. Frighten

43. Basics

44. Computer data collection (abbr.)

45. The best point of something

46. Jewelled headdress

48. Spoke

49. Mammary gland of female cattle

50. Midway between north and northeast

51. Defunct European economic group

52. Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear

CLUES DOWN

1. In tune

2. Ending

3. Ring-shaped objects

4. Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)

5. Removes from record

6. The lowest point

8. Plant cultivated for its tubers

9. Dry or withered

11. Stony waste matter

14. Speedometer reading

15. Each of two or more forms of the same element

18. A baseball stat

19. Corporate PR exec (abbr.)

20. Insures bank’s depositors

22. Made dim

23. Uncultured person

24. Paddle
27. Currency of Cambodia

28. Pitching stat

29. A place to put mail

31. God of battle (Scandinavian)

32. 10 years

33. Resinous substance secreted by insects

34. Losses

35. S. American plants

36. Void of thought or knowledge

37. Stout-bodied moth

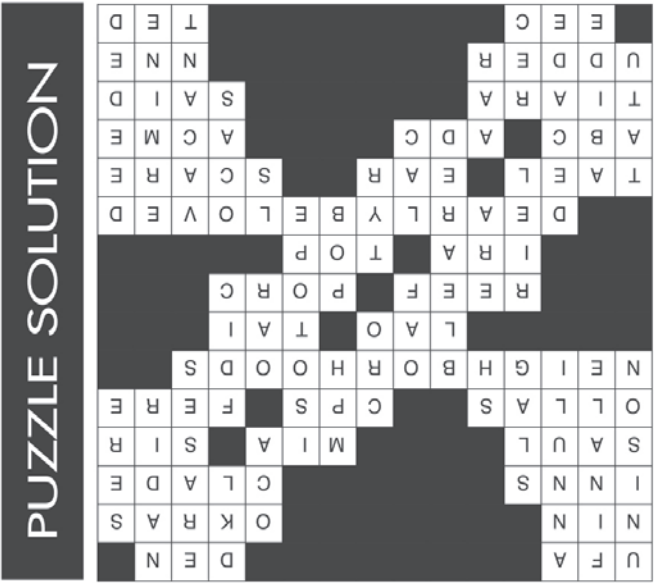
38. Transferred property

39. Russian pop act

40. Accept

44. A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)

47. A type of center



LOCAL VETERANS AWARDED QUILTS OF VALOR



Photo Courtesy

The Veterans Day Luncheon for American Legion Post 138 was held on Nov. 14. Several local veterans earned Quilts of Valor during the ceremony, and the event was also attended by many town officials. These included Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons and other community leaders.

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Dunn, Wengender combine for goal to lead Warriors by Bishop Fenwick

TANTASQUA'S SEASON ENDS IN STATE
PLAYOFF ROUND OF 16 GAME AGAINST
AUSTIN PREP

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

PEABODY — With the game still scoreless in the 68th minute, something had to give when the Tantasqua Regional girls' varsity soccer team played at Bishop Fenwick High's Donaldson Field on Monday, Nov. 8 in a Round of 32 match-up in the MIAA Division 3 State Championship Tournament. And a pair of seniors combined for the winning moment to propel the Warriors to victory.

Ana Wengender took the ball down the left side of the field and utilized her blazing speed to outrun a Crusaders' defender. From there, she entered the 18-yard box where Fenwick keeper Claudia Keith approached. Wengender was able to take a touch past Keith and send a crossing ball toward the goal. A hustling Shannon Dunn was there, near the right post, to tap the ball in.

Tantasqua, seeded 25th in the tournament, was then able to hang on for the 1-0 victory.

"I knew I didn't really have a good angle for the shot because the keeper was right in front of me, so my goal was to touch it past and then touch it in if I could get there. But my teammate ran up, read it like a book and she touched it in," said Wengender.

"I'm just trying to be there as a backup because I want her to score. It's more of a just-in-case backup plan," added Dunn.

Keith and the eighth ranked Crusaders, who finished 8-2-7, only allowed five goals against all season long.

"I was so grateful for the support to be there. I was really hoping it would find its way in on its own, but that's why we do that play," Wengender said of the scoring sequence. "We work well together up there."

When the ball came Dunn's way, Bishop Fenwick defender McKenna Gilligan made a beeline for the goal. The two nearly collided, but Dunn was



Tantasqua's Nikki Vejack makes a run on the ball in the middle of the field.

able to get the ball in the net one touch before Gilligan could clear it out.

"I thought I had a lot of room when I was making the run in, but I don't know where she came from," explained Dunn. "There was not much room and I ran right into the post."

Tantasqua head coach Matthew Rickson was proud of the way Wengender and Dunn produced the goal from start to finish.

"Her first touch was impeccable, right where it had to be," Rickson said of Wengender. "She held composure and she didn't fire it at the goalie as the goalie came out and took the angle away. She pushed it past that keeper and it was awesome."

"Shannon has scored a couple of goals just like that this year, coming from the outside and the ball coming through," Rickson continued. "Not waiting for the ball to get there, she's anticipating and she's there."

"Such a moment, game-winner, it felt so elevating," added Wengender.

From there, the Warriors had to battle defensively. Fenwick threw everything it had toward the goal, but sophomore keeper Lizzy Thompson was always there to make the big save.

"I was low key freaking out, I'll admit it," said Thompson. "But my defense held strong, so I'm going to put it all on them."

Thompson wasn't the only one freak-



Tantasqua's Ana Wengender touches the ball past Bishop Fenwick keeper Claudia Keith on her way to assisting on the Warriors' lone goal in a 1-0 victory.



Keeper Lizzy Thompson of Tantasqua races out to secure the ball before a Bishop Fenwick player can attempt to score on her.

ing out as the game drew to a close.

"My heart was beating, I could feel it through my shirt. As a coach, you know if you're down 1-0, you just throw everything you've got forward. Whether it's a good shot, a bad shot, a rebound, a kick, a penalty, a handball — anything can happen," said Rickson, before crediting Thompson and the defense. "They did their job and they did their job very well. They work off each other and play for each other."

The Crusaders' final quality chance came in the final five minutes when they were awarded a free kick. Amy Hatfield took the shot from 37 yards out, but as it dropped toward the goal it ended up being a tad too high, clanging off the crossbar and bouncing out of bounds.

"I knew for sure it wasn't going in.

I was very positive," Thompson, who didn't leap to make a potential save, said.

Tantasqua's run ends in Round of 16: The Warriors were back in action two days later when they played at No. 9 Austin Prep with a bid to the State Tournament quarterfinals on the line. And Prep (17-3-2) won a 5-0 decision, ending Tantasqua's season with a record of 12-6-1.

Division 3 Boys' Soccer Round of 16 (3) Norwell 2, (14) Tantasqua 1 — The Warriors also advanced to the Round of 16 in boys' soccer, and nearly pulled off the upset on Tuesday, Nov. 9, but they fell a goal short. As a result, Tantasqua finished its season with a record of 13-4-1 having allowed only nine goals against all season long.



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POSTSEASON SCOREBOARD

Leicester’s Bernabei has race for the ages, while Prouty girls’ soccer bows out



On Saturday, Nov. 13, the Divisional Qualifying Races in high school cross-country took part across the state, with Division 3 running at Stanley Park in Westfield. There, Leicester High’s Abby Bernabei took 16th place in the 3B race with a time of 20:58 on the 5k course, which was a career best. Bernabei, who also won the Southern Worcester County League meet back on Oct. 25, will next run in the Division 3 State Championship race at the Wrentham Development Center on

Saturday, Nov. 20. Tuesday, Nov. 9 Division 5 Girls’ Soccer Round of 16 (5) Bromfield 5, (12) David Prouty 0 — Having reached postseason play for the first time in 10 seasons, the Panthers played in the final of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Division 4 Tournament and the Round of 16 in the States before falling to Bromfield. They finished with a record of 10-7-2.

Area Seniors are planning to travel in 2022

PAXTON — After hearing from many sources, overseas tourism is in demand for 2022. Many citizens were forced to cancel all travel plans due to COVID 19 in 2020 & 2021, and many are planning to resume next year. Space is going fast! Our friendly group is planning to travel to Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria with an optional extension to Vienna in October 2022. Are you interested? The travel package

includes transportation from Paxton to Logan, Air to Switzerland and return to Paxton, eight breakfasts and four dinners, plus touring in all these beautiful countries. Another plus is that we are only changing hotels once from Bern to Innsbruck. We are planning a full informational session with travel experts from Collette, AAA Member Vacations and AAA Travel. We are meeting on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 1:30

p.m. at the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St. (Route 31 South), Paxton. This informational session is open to all, so plan to attend. For more details, please contact Lynn Natale at AAA Northeast 508-853-7000 ext 3326, lnatale@aanortheast.com or group leader, Bob Wilby, Paxton at 508-792-4662 or rwilby@charter.net If interested, just show up at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2.

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Socially Speaking...

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Leicester celebrates Veterans Day



Photo Courtesy Veterans from the American Legion Post 443, Cherry Valley, and the VFW Post 7556, Rochdale, recently observed Veterans Day at Bean Square.

LEICESTER – Veterans from the American Legion Post 443, Cherry Valley, and the VFW Post 7556, Rochdale, observed Veterans Day at Bean Square. This year’s observance and remembrance were led by Matt Thompson, 1st Vice Commander of VFW Post 7556, Rochdale. Additionally, representing the Town of Leicester and the Select Board was Dianna Provencher, who thanked all

town veterans and those currently on active duty. Both Thompson and Provencher also honored service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Event organizers thank the town and its public safety departments for their support of Veterans Day activities.

Toys For Kids Update

Monetary Donations may be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept, Spencer Post Office, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St). If you would like to sponsor a child please contact Katie at katrinah@erakey.com or call/text 774-925-8127 OR Donna at donnaflan-nery@erakey.com or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, appli-

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BREAKFAST
continued from page A1

ROTC. The presentation included a recognition ceremony honoring all prisoners of war and service members missing in action. The event also featured several local leaders, including Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr.; Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis; and State Representative David LeBoeuf, among others. Selectmen and Police Chief Ken Antanavica were also in attendance. “We were honored to attend the Veterans’ Breakfast at the Leicester

Senior Center with the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office; Register of Deeds Katie Toomey; Leicester Police Department; and David LeBoeuf, State Representative,” read a statement released by Early’s office. “This morning was a small way to honor all who have served. It was wonderful to hear everyone’s stories.” Added LeBoeuf, “It’s always great to see so many people come together in town to support our veterans and Gold Star families. The annual breakfast is just one way Leicester builds community and honors those who serve and continue to serve. After having to postpone the event last year because of COVID-19, I was happy to join with our neighbors again.” The event also featured Nancy Lamb, a retired RN from the U.S. Air Force and current outreach coordinator for the Senior Center. Veterans and their families thank everyone who came together to make the event happen, especially Senior Center Director Rachelle Cloutier. She and her staff always work hard to ensure that veterans are honored. This year’s event saw veterans receive thank-you cards written by local students, and they also got gift cards donated by local businesses. Elementary school students are thanked for their efforts in acknowledging local veterans.

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Don't be a source of misinformation

There is never a good excuse to not be informed about what is happening in your town or school district. In this day and age, with technology at our fingertips, information is readily available in a matter of seconds. Public hearings are always posted in local papers, town halls and libraries as well. Minutes from meetings are also easily accessible on town and district websites. School districts are constantly emailing information home to parents on a daily basis. Finding information could also be as simple as calling a family member or friend who tends to always be in the know. If people remain unaware of what is going on, they only have themselves to blame.

Further, do not post misinformation on social media. If you don't understand a situation completely, refrain from posting about it, until you do, unless of course your post is an inquiry. Posting misinformation does two things — it makes you look uninformed and unintelligent, and second, it passes on misinformation to others who might believe that what you're posting is true. Fact check or find out more information before blindly posting things you know nothing about. Would you give a book report without first reading the book?

While being informed is key to being a productive member of your community, keep in mind to not overwhelm yourself with too much negative news. Be sure to check the news twice a day, then turn it off. Now, if you're a news junkie, and are unaffected by too much negativity, then of course, have at it.

Be sure to avoid news on social media as it's often biased and filled with misinformation. Make sure your news sources are reliable.

Experts say that when people consume too much information, it's hard to process it in a meaningful way. It can also make it difficult to remember all of the facts. In order to properly think about new information, you need time to process it and compare it with other facts you know. You need time to reflect and form an idea or opinion that logically makes sense.

Instead of letting hours go by doom-scrolling, spend some time outdoors or with friends and neighbors. By doing so, you're engaging with fellow Americans in a positive, productive way.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for honoring our brave soldiers

To the Editor:
To Rob and Frank, thank you for your outstanding (custom made) tribute at Holy Rosary Cemetery to the 13 soldiers who gave all to protect our freedoms. It's nice to see there are still some caring proud Americans who understand that freedom isn't free. Sadly, these brave soldiers are an example of the cost. Your amazing display is a reminder to all of the sacrifices made to provide us the land of the free. Let us never forget. God bless all of our brave soldiers past, present and future. See you next year. Thank you from America,

MATT DEFOSSE
SPENCER

Two Leicester good guys remembered - George Albro and Joe Robidoux

To the Editor:
George Albro almost ruined my senior year in high school. During my junior year, our Auburn High School basketball team moved up and finished at .500. Now for the 1960-61 season, I had been named co-captain and we looked forward to a winning record. Then George and his Leicester High team came for a final pre-season "game." Led by George, with his brother, and a "Jack the Shot" like jump shooter, Leicester sliced and diced our team into a loser's salad, leaving us dazed and depressed.
Nor did we immediately recover - in our season opener, we got crushed by Northbridge 56-21. This is not a typo, we really lost 56 to 21. (We did, however recover and go on to a winning season, even playing in the Clark University Tournament.)
I never crossed George' Albro's path again but from time to time heard positive things about him. Certainly the accolades he has recently received as a revered and respected family mentor, lifelong public servant, teacher-coach, and Worcester State University (WSU) basketball star, trustee, and leader indicate that he departed with lasting respect and a community legacy.
Returning to the winter of 1960 - 61, one of George's current accolades jumped out at me. It involved him advising a WSU basketball teammate not to worry about setting up the play or organizing the defense, he would take care of that - just as he did that 1960 winter day in Auburn. Only now, George, do I understand what you did to us and no doubt many other teams.
The other Leicester good guy, Joe Robidoux, I got to know pretty well. In his Rochdale barber shop, along with my father's and son's, he cut my hair for 60 years. The business now continues his able and equally friendly daughters.
Especially during the times when I lived away from the area and came back just for the summer, Joe and his barber shop always became a "welcome home" event. I didn't just get my hair trimmed, but learned about what had gone locally during my absence local, especially as related to those in his and my father's generations.
Maybe five or six years ago, when he began to limit his time behind the chair, we decided to get together one afternoon a week. During it we would "record" his experiences over 80 years. Sadly, my recording ability proved to fall well below my interest level. Still, I remember many of the things we discussed: his French Canadian parents both meeting and working in the mills of the then "industrial village"; getting up in the 1930s at dawn for farm work then going to school; learning the ABCs there, remembering the teachers and the goings on at that Rochdale primary school; working as young teenager, with my father during World War II at (the now named) Worcester Tool and Stamping; playing football in Leicester and the military; going away to work for GE and quickly becoming homesick; setting up his barbershop close to the then Williamson coal yard and railroad tracks - where years earlier earlier he collected the morning papers from a passing train- ; and all things interesting about Rochdale during the 1950's, '60's and '70's.
Most of all, I remember that Joe rarely talked about himself, rather he focused on the people and things going on around him. First came his family (who visibly adored Joe) and next his friends and barber shop regulars like me. Then came the organizations he belonged to that contributed to community well-being - the Church, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, Fire Department etc.
Another Leicester life well lived and forever respected.


KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

One nation under God

To the Editor:
Being old enough to remember the attack of Sept. 11,2001, although it was a day that for me, will rank in infamy with Dec. 7,1941, and Jan. 6, 2021, there was a certain unity and nationalism that pervaded the whole nation. It certainly stirred many mixed emotions for me, as both of my sons were already serving in the US Army. We collectively took the attack personally, and demanded retaliation. Sadly, the 24 identified terrorists, 15 of whom were Saudi, did not fit with any ability for adequate retribution, so we created a perception that attacking nations where these people might have trained or hidden was the right answer (Afghanistan), and we threw in Iraq because it presented the chance to get rid of someone we did not like, even though no Iraq connection was found. We sought out and killed Osama Bin Laden over 10 years ago (in Pakistan), but only recently concluded this 20 year failed nation building mission at a cost in lives and dollars far beyond any benefit we received. With Veterans Day just passed, I thank all of our heroes who have served, anywhere at any time, because they deserve our gratitude, win, lose or draw. With a granddaughter in the USAF and a grandson leaving for Army training the first of next year, I extend my thanks to John McRae for his time in the USMC. We are one nation under God, and should spend more time acting like it.
Kevin Kane referenced that "Liberalism truly is a mental disorder" and "Death of free speech" offerings by our usual cadre of radical right writers proves two things. Free speech is alive and well, and name calling is the agenda of those who cannot offer factual argument to stand on its own merit. It is bad enough that we have finally seen the end of an administration (Mexico did not pay, spending millions investigating Hillary still did not "lock her up," there are not better cheaper healthcare plans, the deficit did not get reduced, nuclear threats still exist, the climate is still an issue, etc.) On the more recent page,

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Judgement



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Tonight, I was watching an independent movie made by a friend of mine who is a film director.

I think it's a great movie, and although I'm not at liberty to promote it yet, I wanted to share something the lead character said that made my mind turn.

"We can't judge somebody in their worst moment because everyone has the capacity for change, and anyone can change."

I don't know if it was the way the actor said it or the statement itself, but it got me thinking.

I initially found myself judging people who judge others. Then I realized I'm judging others for judging others, which led me to think about how judgmental I've been in my life.

I've been guilty of judging public figures, strangers, co-workers, friends, and family,

practically everyone, especially when I've witnessed one of their worst moments. I've written people off who probably didn't deserve it.

After a few minutes of beating myself up and feeling guilty, I realized I was judging myself.

Does it ever end?

I suppose we all judge people. It's only natural. We judge people the moment we meet them. The moment somebody walks through the door, we instantly make judgments about their appearance, their demeanor, the way they talk, the way they walk, the rumors we heard about them, and much more. How could we not?

Is all judgment bad? If we don't judge a person's character the right way, sometimes it could lead to disastrous consequences. That's not the type of judgment I'm attempting to write about.

What is judgment? Is it just an opinion based on the present moment, or is it a conclusion about someone that causes us to think about them or mistreat them?

How often does our judgment allow us to give someone a second chance? How often do we judge people in a way that causes us to write them off?

When I judge someone based on a rumor I heard, their physical appearance, the way they talk, or even something I know they did when they were younger, is that fair?

What happens when we witness someone's worst moment? Is that their true character shining through, or are they just having a bad day?

People act the way they do because of a combination of factors, and we don't know what they go through that leads them to behave the way they do. We usually aren't seeing the complete picture. People are more complex than that.

I don't think it's possible to live a life where I never judge anyone, but how often have I judged someone to find out later I was wrong?

How often have those judgments led me to a negative mindset where I'm holding a grudge against a person and thinking negative thoughts about them? Is it healthy for me to be carrying around negative opinions about people?


I think the evidence is clear that harboring negative thought patterns about others harms us in various ways and is often unfair to the person we are judging.

Although real change sometimes takes years, we all are capable of change. I would hate to be judged because of something I did or said ten or twenty years ago; although I'm the same person, I am pretty different now. I have different opinions, different behaviors, different thought patterns. I've changed quite a bit. I'm sure you have too.

Maybe when we're reflective about our own lives, and we think about our own worst moments, it might allow us to give someone a second chance who maybe deserves one.

It's been said our judgments about another person probably say more about our character than the character of the person we are judging. Is that true? I'll leave it for you to decide.

ENTERTAINMENT AND
EVENTS



DON'T MISS
A THING!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Buy-Dumb Economics

To the Editor:

In the Reagan era, they coined the phrase “Trickle-down economics.” This basically means it was a business-friendly policy that encouraged the proliferation and growth of private business. The policy was, if they do good financially, then the economic benefits would flow downward to the workers and the communities. It seems that the progressive socialist didn’t agree with this concept and the current administration has developed a new policy. It’s called Buy-Dumb Economics. The policy is to basically to do the dumbest thing, look astonished when the results go bad, blame it on the people, and laugh in there faces. Here are just a few of the Buy-Dumb policies.

The Buy-Dumb energy policy. Create an energy crisis immediately, then act as if you don’t know why it happened. On day 1, immediately attack the fossil fuel industry. Cancel the pipelines, cancel fracking, cancel drilling. When the price of oil doubles or triples, act like it’s the oil companies’ fault. Instead of the money that had been spent on buying our oil and gas, buy it from countries that support terrorism. Instead of having high paying jobs for our workers, put them on unemployment. When your energy secretary is questioned on the high prices the consumer is facing, have her laugh at them. Yeah, it’s hilarious that we must pay \$4 a gallon for gas and double or triple to stay warm. Then have Joe Biden look astonished and bewildered when he hears gas is almost \$5 a gallon. Dum-Da-Dum-Da-Dum. Buy-Dumb Economics at work.

The Buy-Dumb Infrastructure plan. President Trump tried to pass an infrastructure plan, but the Democrats blocked it on day 1. With Biden the come up with a \$1.2 trillion pork laden infrastructure social building plan. Very little for roads and bridges. Who does he appoint for the transportation secretary to oversee the administration? A guy that is the spitting image of Mad magazine’s Alfred C Neuman, Petey Buttigieg. His qualifications: a mayor of a city and openly gay. No experience in building or business. Just a progressive socialist patronage appointment. He states that he’s going to build roads with social equity! Dum-Da-Dum-Da-Dum. Guess what the main ingredient of the stuff to build roads is? You got it; asphalt made with oil. Guess what powers the construction equipment. You got it, diesel fuel from

oil. Made with the thing that you have just raised in price with your policies. So, a large chunk of the trillion dollars will be used up on the inflated oil prices, Going to the oil industry in the middle east and Russia, Dum-Da-Dum-Da-Dum. If they had passed Trumps plan it would be buying American oil, employing American workers, and buying double due to the low costs of the oil. Buy-Dumb Economics at work.

The Buy-Dumb Climate Change Economics. Bring in the deal maker John Kerry. He is going to make great deals except America is going to be on the losing side of them all. Like Trump said before, this guy made the worse deals ever. So of course, Joe Biden brings him back. He just made another “historic” deal with China on climate change. The deal: China can pollute at will, build as many coal fired plants as possible, and have no carbon limits because they are deemed a developing third world country. America has strict carbon limits meaning we will have to eliminate coal and oil for generating electricity. We will have carbon taxes imposed on us to pay developing countries. We will be buying solar panels from China, built in China from factories, built by your tax money during Obama/Biden administrations. The \$1.2 trillion infrastructure tax money going to employ Chinese workers. So essentially the Climate Change accord deals are destroy America and empower China policies. The liberal biased media propagandizes this as a “historic achievement” for the Biden administration. Dum-Da-Dum-Da-Dum. Buy-Dumb economics at work.

I’m not sure how much more of the Buy-Dumb economics policy America can take. Maybe when you must take a wheel barrel of cash to pay for a fill up or to heat your house. Maybe when you turn on the TV and see them laughing at you. Maybe then it will dawn on you. You have been had. Maybe when you’re freezing and out of work it will motivate you. Maybe it will be time to march to the capital and start a protest. Oh no. You’ll be labeled and jailed by the Biden DOJ as a domestic terrorist. The only real sane solution Is in 2022 vote for every politician with a “R” next to them. You know who you need to vote for in 2024. the crazy liberals can’t get the guy out of their heads.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

Coffee Hailed as
“Virtuous Vice”

The humble cup of coffee.

It’s a simple pleasure that baristas elevate to an art, painters depict on canvas, and philosophers have sung the praises of throughout the ages. So what’s so virtuous about the everyday cup of Joe we sip every morning? Plenty, according to reliable health studies which show a steaming mug of java may go way beyond a satisfying pick-me-upper. If your daily dose of caffeine has become nothing more than a breakfast ritual, the following coffee facts may prove to be more of an eye opener than that morning cup of coffee!

Joe Jogs Memory: If you love your coffee, you now have another excuse to drink high octane java! Here’s the latest buzz on caffeine: A cup of joe can jog your memory, especially if you’re over age 65, say researchers at the University of Arizona. In a study, memory performance declined significantly between morning and afternoon in seniors who didn’t drink coffee or drank decaf. Those who had a cup of the high octane stuff showed no such effect.

Dodge Diabetes: According to WebMD, one to three cups of coffee per day can reduce risk for diabetes by up to nine percent. Up the cups to six or more daily and men’s risk for diabetes is cut by 54%, while woman’s is reduced by 30% as compared to non coffee drinkers. Further, a 2018 study of adults aged 20-70 years with low levels of coffee consumption (the majority consuming 1 cup of coffee per week) suggested that a lower risk of both pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes was observed in coffee drinkers compared to non-drinkers.

Drink to Think: A decades long study by the University of Bristol revealed coffee drinkers really may be better thinkers! The report said a cup of coffee can help in the performance of tasks, requiring sustained attention. It further helped enhance a person’s ability to perform these tasks, during low alertness situations such as at night or when a person has a cold.

Buzz Boost: Did you know a safe caffeine buzz can give your workout a boost? According to the American College of Sports Medicine, consum-



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

ing caffeine equivalent of between two to six cups of coffee one hour prior to exercise, increased both the endurance and performance of athletes during both prolonged and short-term exercise sessions. If you drink caffeinated beverages, drinking one before your workout may help you run or walk a little farther or cycle a little longer. Studies have shown that moderate caffeine intake about 300 milligrams, the equivalent of three cups of drip coffee, may be safe in most adults. But be sure to drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to remain adequately hydrated.

Jovial Java: Are you aware caffeine can also be an effective antidepressant? Just don’t drink more than a couple of cups of coffee a day or the effect can be counterproductive.

Steam Therapy: Taken in normal doses, caffeine has shown to have several other beneficial effects: Home remedy books advise drinking a cup of hot steaming coffee to suppress an asthma attack while waiting for proper medicine to kick in. The caffeine acts on the bronchial tubes contributing to the expansion of the muscles, thus relieving the severity of the attack in some cases.

Halt Headaches: Before you reach for a pain pill, try drinking a cup of strong coffee to combat your migraine or tension headaches. Caffeine has long been used in over the counter pain relief products because it dilates the blood vessels, helping to relieve migraine pain. In addition, coffee is a diuretic, helping to eliminate toxic substances from the body.

Java Rx: Did you know medical data shows coffee is rich in antioxidants? In fact, a well known study from the University of Scranton proclaimed coffee America’s number one source of health boosting antioxidants! Here’s the scoop: The beneficial “free radical sweepers” are also found in coffee aroma after brewing. According to research carried out in Switzerland by the Lausanne-based Nestle Research Center, consuming coffee up until 20 minutes after brewing will deliver 300

Turn To TRAINOR page A12



Photo Melinda Myers

Mums add beauty and fall color whether growing them indoors or in the garden.

Mums, a traditional
fall favorite

The rich colors and fall bloom of Chrysanthemums represent fall for many. It’s also the November birth flower symbolizing cheerfulness, optimism, and friendship. Add a few to your indoor décor and help improve the indoor air quality in your home.

This traditional favorite is often overlooked for other newer introductions. Mums’ long vase life, variety of flower shapes, and array of colors have helped it maintain a role in flower arrangements, gift plant sales and fall gardens.

These plants begin to flower based on day length. As days shorten and nights lengthen, the plants begin to flower. Those grown as gift plants, often called florist mums, or for cut flowers usually require the longest periods of uninterrupted darkness or shorter days. Growers can force them into bloom any time of the year by covering them to create the shorter days that initiate flowering. When these mums are grown under natural daylight they flower in late fall or early winter.

Maximize your enjoyment of potted gift mums by selecting plants with deep green leaves and only a few open flowers. Then enjoy watching the remaining buds burst into bloom.

Place the plant in a cool, brightly lit location free of drafts that can cause buds to drop. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water. Or reduce maintenance by placing pebbles in the bottom of the foil wrap, decorative basket, or saucer. The excess water collects in the pebbles below the pot and eventually evaporates, increasing the humidity around the plant.

Remove faded flowers to keep your plant looking its best. Once it’s done blooming, you can enjoy the greenery or add the plant to the compost pile. Keep in mind florist mums may not thrive or flower in the garden like those



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

sold as hardy or garden mums.

Grow mums headed to the garden in a sunny window and water the soil thoroughly whenever it starts to dry. Wait for the danger of frost to pass before moving the mum outdoors. Pinch the plant back to four to six inches throughout June to keep it tidy and compact. Those with long growing seasons can continue pinching plants through mid July. If lucky, you will have flowers before the snow flies.

Next year, consider planting a few mums in the garden for an added blast of fall color: Garden mums are sold at nurseries and garden centers each fall. They may be hardy and suited to the area, but all the energy is directed to the flowers. This leaves little to establish a hardy robust root system for winter survival.

Those sold as perennial mums are usually hardy enough to survive the winter and flower early enough to provide weeks of color in the garden. Increase your success by planting them in spring. This allows the plant time to develop a robust root system before it begins flowering in the fall.

As the holidays approach, celebrate the season with a potted chrysanthemum or a few flowering stems. Then plan on adding some perennial mums to your garden next summer.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener’s Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series* and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

Friday’s Child



Photo by Shaanon Cabral

Liana
Age 15

Hi! My name is Liana and country music is my favorite!

Liana is a talkative girl of Caucasian descent who loves reading and writing. She even hopes to become an author when she grows up! Liana is also interested in arts and crafts projects, and her favorite genre of music is country. In school, Liana has developed a great deal of confidence in her-self, and her teachers report she is doing well.

Liana is legally free for adoption and can be placed in an active one or two-parent family where there is at least

one female caretaker. She should either be the youngest or only child. The ideal family for Liana is one that is patient and provides consistent structure and follow-through in her everyday life. It would also be beneficial if her future family maintained some level of contact between Liana and her sister.

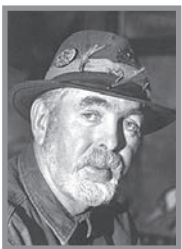
Who Can Adopt?

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.





THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

As deer hunting goes into full mode on Nov. 29 for shotgun this year, many hunters are eager to head out into the woods in search of their trophy buck while others will be happy to harvest any deer that is legal game. Not every deer hunter is looking for a trophy, and are just happy to harvest a deer to pack some venison into their freezer for the coming months. The old story that venison is better eating for you than farm raised meat is repeated every year, and may be true.

For those that dislike venison, they more than likely have never tried, it or were given venison that was improperly handled and processed. It all starts in the field! Field dressing is where most venison is ruined with the improper handling and knowledge of the cleaning process. The inner parts of the deer need to be carefully removed without breaking the urinary sack or the stomach.

It is best to have two men lay the deer upside down one holding the legs apart while the other carefully make an incision from the chest cavity to within six inches of the urinary sack. Carefully reaching up into the chest cavity using a sharp knife and gloves, you can slowly cut the heart and liver free. Continue cutting the inner parts free of the cavity until enough is loose. Rolling the deer onto the side you can extract most of the inner parts by carefully pulling on them and cutting them free. Removing the urinary sack can be done while slowly

cutting around the sack, being careful not to spill any on the meat. There are videos on YouTube on field dressing your deer, and they can ensure you that you do it properly.

Now that you have a deer to remove from the woods, you should be in good shape to drag the deer out to your car. If not, you need to get help. Deer carriers also work well, but an extra hand from a friend makes things a lot easier.

Wait! You forgot to wrap up the deer liver and heart for transport. These two organs are delicious to eat, and should not be left behind for the wild animals. If you do not eat them, give them to a friend or local Rod & Gun Club for their wild game supper.

Hanging the harvested deer for a few days in a cooler will improve the taste of the meat, but you need to ensure the deer is kept cool until processing. Never hang a deer in a tree, especially if rain is predicted. I hung my first deer in a pine tree for a few days. It rained a couple of the days, but I did not think it would hurt to hang it there. When I started to process my deer, I brought a couple of steaks into the house for supper. All of the meat was tainted with pine sap, and it tasted as though it was soaked in turpentine! What a waste!

Many hunters bring their deer to a meat processor, and have it properly cut to their specifications. Roasts, steaks, sausage, hamburger & stew meat are going to supply your family and friends with some good eating in the coming months, but it needs to be properly cared for and processed. It is best to use a vacuum packaging machine for all meats and fish. One of the top-rated machines are the Nesco VS-12 from



Photo Courtesy
This week's picture shows Jeff Graves with a salmon he caught a few weeks ago on the Salmon River. Fishing was slow but everyone had a great time.

Amazon which cost \$100. The Mueller Austria Vacuum Sealer is a bit cheaper, at \$60 from Amazon.

You can also freezer wrap your meat in a good freezer wrapping, ensuring that you squeeze all of the air out, which is responsible for freezer burn. Be sure to label all of your meat before placing it in the freezer. If properly processed and wrapped with freezer wrap, your meat should stay good for at least six to 10 months. With the cost of meat rising every day, a freezer full of venison will keep your family well fed. Do not

forget to share some venison with the landowner!

Rabbit hunting locally is providing a bit of hunting for hunters that own a good beagle. The upswing in rabbit populations this year is promising a better season for the once popular sport, and they are good eating. Snowshoe hare are still providing some hunting North And West of the valley.

Take a kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Tips for buying antiques and collectibles



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

In my recent columns, I offered tips for selling your antiques and collectibles. I realize many of you enjoy the thrill of hunting for items for your collections, so today's column will focus on tips for collectors.

I received a question at a recent presentation which made me think more about how collectors can find items for their collections. The person who asked the questions collects pocket watches. He said that he frequently goes to estate sales and tag sales but only occasionally finds pocket watches. When he goes to antique shops, he sometimes finds booths that are full of pocket watches and wonders how dealers are able to find large collections of watches that can fill a booth in an antique shop.

Whether you are collecting pocket watches or have a different item you're hunting for, there are some things you can do to improve your odds of

making that next great find. I'll discuss pocket watches in this column because that's what the person who asked the question was interested in, but these tips apply to any type of antique or collectible.

The most important step is to learn as much as you can about the items you are interested in collecting. You can find books on almost area of collecting to increase your knowledge. You can also find plenty of websites full of information. For example, a web search for "collecting pocket watches" produced nearly eight million results. Many dealers like sharing their knowledge and passion for what they sell. If you find someone who specializes in what you collect and it is a slow time during a show, they'll likely be very happy to answer your questions and offer advice to a fellow collector. If there is something specific that you collect, they may even contact you if they happen to find items that may interest you.

When I answered the question about where dealers get their inventory, I explained that there are many different ways and dealers often use a combination of methods to acquire items. Some dealers are also collectors and sell items for extra cash to purchase items for themselves. Many purchase

items from estate sales and auctions. When people see that a dealer at a show or in a shop specializes in specific such as pocket watches, they may be inclined to bring their watches specifically to that dealer to sell.

My advice for collectors who are looking for specific items is to cast a wide net in your search. Visit local antique shops and speak with the owners. Go to estate sales, tag sales and flea markets. Websites like estatesales.net and estatesales.org list local sales. These sales are primarily run by estate sale companies, but you can find smaller sales run by individuals in the classified ads of this publication and other newspapers. You can also find live and online auctions on auctionzip.com.

Before I became an auctioneer, I spent Saturday mornings at estate and yard sales and Sundays at flea markets and antique shows looking for things for my personal collection. I rarely found the local sports and railroad memorabilia that I was looking for, but I was able to find many other items that other collectors might be interested in. I sold items I didn't collect and had some additional funds to buy things for my collection. Even though the weather is get-



ting cooler, there are still plenty of sales running and you can always buy or bid online. Happy hunting!

We currently have two online auctions running. Session I with gold jewelry, diamonds, gold coins and Rolex watches ends Nov. 30. Session II with sterling silver, paintings and other artwork, silver coins, sports cards, comic books and other antiques and collectibles ends on December 1st. Please

visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

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

Work with life partner to achieve mutual goals



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When you and your life partner work together to achieve your important long-term goals, such as a comfortable

be greatly rewarding. However, your success will require commitment and discipline. So, what steps should you take along the way?

One key move is to decide early in your relationship how you will handle money. Many couples merge their finances and make joint decisions on major purchases. But some couples like to keep at least part of

financial burden.

Here's another suggestion: Try to avoid keeping financial secrets from your partner. That means disclosing your debts, hidden funds or uncommon investments. These types of surprises can lead to difficulties and mistrust. Even if you're entering the relationship carrying something like a heavy student loan, it's best to get it out in the

risk tolerance – perhaps one of you tends to be more aggressive, willing to take more risks in exchange for potentially higher returns, while the other is more conservative, preferring to keep down the risk level of a portfolio, even if it means lesser capacity for growth.

Again, neither you nor your partner is necessarily “right” or “wrong” in your views on investing – and nobody's feelings about risk should be ignored. But once you've clearly identified your retirement goals and estimated their cost, you may find that compromise is possible. In other words, perhaps the conservative partner will realize that a too-cautious approach could hinder progress toward the desired retirement goal, while the partner who focuses on maximum growth will learn that a somewhat less aggressive approach can still yield the desired results. This type of compromise may affect the investment choices you make in your individual accounts as well as your joint accounts. And the way you choose your investments may even change over time, especially if your financial goals evolve.

Ultimately, communication is the key. As long as you're talking to each other and openly expressing your wishes and concerns, you and your partner can find a way to keep moving toward your mutual goals.

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.

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POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
12:01-1:54 a.m.: parking violations/16, flyers issued; 12:04-2:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure;
6:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 6:48 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 7:19 a.m.: accident (Cottage Street), report taken; 9:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 9:09 a.m.: mv lockout (Church Street), assisted; 10:43 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Water Street), odor of gas; 11:18 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:20 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:38 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 11:42 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 12:16 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), rep. of scam; 12:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), carriage/roadside; 1:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Old Farm Road), msgs re: missing dog; 2:51 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no emergency; 3:40 p.m.: fraud (Franklin Street), re: check issued to Nat'l Grid; 4:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 4:39 p.m.: suspicious persons (Sullivan Street), investigated; 4:47 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 5:03 p.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), poss. rabies exposure; 5:13 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), misdial; 5:37 p.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), boat on roadside; 7:17 p.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 8:16 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: mv sale; 10:38 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:44 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); (Total daily mv stops – 1).
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4
12:11-12:47 a.m.: parking violations/8 (various locations), flyers issued; 12:43-1:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:44 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 10:05 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address/2; 10:32 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:28 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), aggressive operator; 1:21 p.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), horses not contained; 1:55 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 2:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), barking dog; 2:27 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 3:09 p.m.: LTC

issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), info taken; 5:38 p.m.: missing person (Hastings Road), son gone four days; 5:38 p.m.: fire alarm (Pleasant Valley Road), referred; 5:54 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 5:57 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), trapped cat; 6:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Charlton Road), investigated; 8:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 2).
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5
12:17 a.m.: suspicious mv (Maple Street), investigated; 12:43-1:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:26 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 8:03 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: family matter; 11:10 a.m.: fire alarm (Prospect Street), referred; 11:17 a.m.: animal complaint (High Street), dog injured by other dog; 11:49 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:00 p.m.: restraining order service (Cherry Street); 12:19 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 12:51 p.m.: residential alarm (Grove Street), services rendered; 1:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 1:31 p.m.: restraining order service (Wilson Street); 1:51 p.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), hang-up; 3:26 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Chestnut Street), poss. illegal burn; 3:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), debris rem. from road; 4:25 p.m.: fire alarm (Old East Charlton Road), referred; 4:31 p.m.: fire alarm (Church Street), referred; 5:46 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), misdial; 7:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 7:42 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 7:42 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:47 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 9:13 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 10:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 1).
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6
2:55 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 7:45 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 8:28 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Maple Street), no contact; 9:10 a.m.: animal complaint (Bay Path Road), bear got into chicken coop; 11:02 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 11:29 a.m.: officer wanted (R. Jones Road), re: missing pkg.; 11:40 a.m.: elderly matter (Charlton Road), investigated; 12:04 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:15 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street),

theft of cans for recycling; 12:28 p.m.: residential alarm (McCormick Road), services rendered; 12:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), missing dog; 1:55 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:46 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), VIN verification; 3:54 p.m.: elderly matter (Chickering Road), family dispute/vandalism; 4:37 p.m.: medical/general (Park Street); 6:08 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:10 p.m.: 911 call (Summit Street), open line; 6:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), re: issues w/landlord; 6:40 p.m.: 911 call (Brooks Pond Road), accidental; 6:56 p.m.: school alarm (Lake Street), Kamron Jordan Routhier, 18, 60 Green Road, North Brookfield, b&e for misdemeanor, destruction of property, arrest; 6:58 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant View Road); 8:21 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), open line; 10:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Valley Street), bear in yard; 11:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Borkum Road), lockout/residence; 11:19 p.m.: animal complaint (Howe Village), bear in area; (Total daily mv stops – 1).
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7
12:05 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:06-12:37 a.m.: parking violations/11 (various locations), flyers issued; 12:22-12:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:44 a.m.: mv stop (Thompson Pond Road), Harmony D. Wilson, 27, 90 Hall Road, Sturbridge, OUI liquor, negligent operation, failure to drive in the right lane, arrest; 12:59 a.m.: mutual aid (Park Street), Marlborough PD/missing 14 yom; 9:42 a.m.: DPW call (Holmes Street), rusty water/low pressure; 9:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), man down; 11:18 a.m.: officer wanted (Franklin Street), rep. footprints in yard; 12:12 p.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); 12:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), re: harassment prevention order; 12:42 p.m.: suspicious persons (South Spencer Road), investigated; 1:13 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), investigated; 1:28 p.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 1:42 p.m.: RV complaint (Main Street), dirt bikes on field; 1:44 p.m.: animal complaint (Hebert Road), kittens found; 2:13 p.m.: parking complaint (Northwest Road), mv's side of road; 3:06 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 3:15 p.m.: residential alarm (Borkum Road), services rendered; 3:26 p.m.: officer wanted (South Street), re: former tenants; 3:31 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street), lift assist; 5:12 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pearl Street), investigated; 5:43 p.m.: mutual aid (North Spencer Road), Rutland PD bolo; 6:05 p.m.: disturbance (Ash Street), altercation w/neighbor; 6:35 p.m.: 911 calls (Pearl Street), repeated calls; 6:55 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 8:15 p.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), accidental; 8:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Duggan Street), bear in yard; 8:54 p.m.: residential alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 9:00 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 9:25 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), man lying outside bldg.; 9:48-9:49 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:04 p.m.: burglary (West Main Street), mv break-in; 11:19 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street) non-emergency; (Total daily mv stops – 1).
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8
12:44-1:36 a.m.: parking violations/10 (various locations), flyers issued; 1:14 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:19 a.m.: open door (Main Street), secured; 1:43 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:58 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Terrace); 3:25 a.m.: building checked, secure; 4:24 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), ex took cat; 11:12 a.m.: medical/general (Pope Street); 11:17 a.m.: elderly matter (Main Street), assist w/elderly tenant; 11:31 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 11:44 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), employment update; 11:56 a.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 12:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 12:15 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (High Street), no contact; 12:57 a.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), caught loose

dog; 1:14 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:30 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Hastings Road), accidental; 3:57 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:26 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:27 p.m.: accident (Kittredge Road), report taken; 4:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Linden Street), issue w/landlord; 4:44 p.m.: juvenile issue (Main Street), didn't return from school; 4:45 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 5:26 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 6:03 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:09 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; (Total daily mv stops – 0).
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9
12:03-1:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:10-1:40 a.m.: parking violations/9 (various locations), flyers issued; 2:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:01 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 6:30 a.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 8:45 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:25 a.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), investigated; 9:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), bear destroyed bird feeders; 10:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), req. assistance w/tenant; 12:05 p.m.: citizen complaint (Paxton Road), issues re: track; 12:36 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo/restraining order violation; 1:21 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: missing sheep; 1:55 p.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 2:08 p.m.: restraining order service (Lake Street Extension); 2:19 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Wire Village Road), investigated; 2:45 p.m.: illegal dumping (Adams Street), gas cans by water; 2:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), apt. lockout; 3:00 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 3:16 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), services rendered; 3:36 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), services rendered; 3:40 p.m.: residential alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 3:42 p.m.: accident (Elm Street), report taken; 3:58 p.m.: illegal dumping (Maple Street), gas cans left roadside; 4:01 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), req. harassment prevention order; 4:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), req. welfare check; 4:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Borkum Road), hiker lost in woods; 5:54 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Donnelly Road), accidental; 6:05 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Street), bear in area; 6:58 p.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 7:00 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 8:07 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 8:44 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), bear on Charles Street/Leicester; 10:02 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 10:07 p.m.: mv repossession (Woodside Road), info taken; 10:27 p.m.: medical/general (Wilson Avenue); 11:16 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); (Total daily mv stops – 1).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4
12:16 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:49 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), report taken; 1:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:13 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 5:14 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:35 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:42 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:16 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), assisted; 8:22 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), info taken; 9:02 a.m.: assist other PD (Keefe Court), no service; 9:45 a.m.: EMS response (Pine Street), transported; 10:07 a.m.: EMS response (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:11 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), assisted; 10:47 a.m.: investigation (Soojians
Turn To POLICE LOGS page A15

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

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

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LEICESTER

continued from page A1

4-0-1 over the course of their next five games before finishing off a 9-5-2 regular season. Leicester then moved to the MIAA Division 4 State Championship Tournament, where they earned the No. 9 seed.

The Wolverines hosted No. 24 Mahar Regional in a Round of 32 contest played Friday, Nov. 5 on Alumni Field at the former Becker College. And, as Leicester's trajectory has risen all season long, they played some of their best soccer against the Senators. Junior Maura Granville broke the ice with a goal in the 35th minute and added a second strike only two minutes into the second half before junior Lily Peterson and senior Grace Guinee also potted goals on their way to a 4-1 victory.

"We've absolutely progressed. We've figured out a new alignment of how we play. Overall, we figured out the best positions for everybody and worked on bringing out everybody's qualities," Connor said of the Wolverines' ascension.

"We definitely play more as a team," added Granville. "We know how each other play a lot more."

"As the season progressed, we really began to jell, especially in our positions," said senior Rian Fadden, who assisted on all four goals.

Fadden nearly scored a goal of her own to give Leicester a 1-0 lead in the 20th minute when her shot rolled past Mahar keeper Mackinley Drew, but the ball was cleared out by a defender. Undeterred, Fadden set up the first goal in the 35th when she lobbed a pass into the box. From there, Granville's shot hit Drew's fingertips, clanged off the inside of the right post and bounced into the net.



Lily Peterson of Leicester runs up to a loose ball and begins to move it down the field.

"We actually started calling ourselves the posts because we hit so many posts throughout the season — posts and out — so finally being able to get that in the net, Maura opened the floodgates and then it came through," Connor said of hitting the post and scoring instead of hitting the post and having the ball bounce the undesired way.

"It was really important to me," Granville said of scoring just before halftime. "It gave me more confidence on the field."

That confidence was shown early in the second half when Fadden again found the foot of Granville in the box. Granville then stabbed at the ball, which got past Drew for her fifth goal of the season.

"I think they were definitely really good assists," Granville said of Fadden's passes.

"I think that the two goals from Maura, they really put our morale up and got our

team going," Fadden said of Granville's important tallies.

Then, in the 52nd minute, the Wolverines made it 3-0 when Fadden fed Peterson, who turned and fired a shot off the inside left post and into the net for her 11th goal of the season.

Leicester concluded its scoring in the 62nd minute when Fadden was credited with her fourth assist. Guinee scored her fourth goal of the year on the play by targeting the lower left corner of the net from 30-plus yards out.

"Rian, I have to say, she's one of the most unselfish players I've ever seen. She's so talented and so skilled," Connor said of Fadden, who now has 11 goals and 6 assists on the season.

Mahar's Kaylee Murphy did score in the 72nd minute, but it didn't stop the Wolverines from winning and advancing in the tournament after a total team victory.

"That's what it comes down to is it's all about being a



Leicester's Grace Bujak sees the ball coming her way and runs up to make a play on it.

team. We started off at the beginning of the year, I think that was our biggest thing is we weren't a team yet," explained Connor. "Those first two games we were individually skilled and figuring out where we were, but we didn't move as a team on the field. Now these girls they're sisters, they're family, they're a team — and it showed tonight."

Leicester next played at No. 8 Hampshire Regional in the Round of 16 on Tuesday, Nov. 9. There, Peterson scored for the Wolverines, but Hampshire was able to tie the score and force overtime. Then, after two overtimes periods and penalty kicks, Leicester fell just short on a 2-1 final that saw them lose 4-3 in the penal-



Rian Fadden of Leicester stops the ball's momentum and moves it toward the center of the field, away from Mahar's Astha Bernard.

ties. As a result, they finished their season with a record of 10-6-2. Hampshire improved to 9-6-5.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

The Board of Selectmen has scheduled a Public Hearing in accordance with MGL, Ch. 40, Section 56 on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Lower-Level Conference Room located in the West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, on the issue of the tax levy to be borne by each class of property for FY 22. The Public is invited to attend. Information regarding the policy decisions will be available at the hearing. Interested taxpayers may present oral or written information on their views at the hearing. Board of Selectmen November 12, 2021 November 19, 2021

Town of Spencer, MA Tree Public Hearing 3 Old Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA. (Water Dept.)

In accordance with MGL Ch 87 §3, The Town of Spencer, MA Tree Warden will hold a public hearing in-person or remote on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to consider National Grid proposed removal & trimming of trees – Wilson Street 2 trees various sizes. The Remote meeting may be accessed by: Dialing in from your phone: 1 (224) 501-3412 Enter Access Code: 928-904-381: Or join from your computer: https://www.gotomeet.me/TownofSpencerUF/meeting-room Information pertaining to these particular trees may be viewed at spencerma.gov

Ray Holmes Tree Warden

November 12, 2021 November 19, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21P3409EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Thomas A O'Neill Date of Death: 08/31/2021 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Krista Virchow of Warren MA requesting that the Court enter a formal

Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Krista Virchow of Warren MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/30/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 08, 2021 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate

November 19, 2021

North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Tuesday Nov 30, 2021 at 6:30pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Michael and Janie Cook 7 Point Road for variance to Zoning Bylaw, section V, Table 1: construct attached garage with entryway porch within front setbacks. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St. Respectfully, Kimberly Bent ZBA Clerk November 19, 2021 November 26, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21P3378EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Mary Martha Cummings Date of Death: 07/08/20211 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Mary L. Smith of North Brookfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Mary L. Smith of North Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/07/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 04, 2021 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate

November 19, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21P3683EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Darren Scott Dube Date of Death: 01/10/2021 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sarah B Dube of Worcester MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Sarah B Dube of Worcester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/14/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 09, 2021 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate

November 19, 2021

Spencer parade honors local veterans

SPENCER – Local veterans were celebrated last week during the town’s annual parade on Main Street.

The Nov. 11 Veterans Day parade was once again run by American Legion Gaudette-Kirk Post 138. Parade participants included veterans, local elected officials, scouting groups, first responders, local organizations, and the David

Prouty High School Marching Band.

Residents lined Route 9 in big numbers to honor veterans and thank them for their service. Flags were handed out to guests to augment a patriotic evening.

Officials thank all veterans for their service.

Photos Kevin Flanders



The Big Picture

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POLICE LOGS

continued from page A12

Drive), services rendered; 11:55 a.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), peace restored; 1:40 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 2:10 p.m.: assist other PD (Keefe Court), message delivered; 3:30 p.m.: threats (South Main Street), report taken; 4:59 p.m.: EMS response (Charles Street), transported; 5:17 p.m.: commercial alarm (Clark Street), false alarm; 5:38 p.m.: EMS response (Auburn Street), transported; 5:51 p.m.: runaway (Main Street), resolved; 6:24 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 6:33 p.m.: assist citizen (Woodland Road), report taken; 6:58 p.m.: assist other PD (Auburn Street), services rendered; 8:37 p.m.: family problem (Hyland Avenue), report taken; 11:26 p.m.: accident (Charles Street), Ryan James Lucifer, 31, 324 Leicester Street, Auburn, OUI liquor; leaving scene of a property damage accident, negligent operation, uninsured mv, arrest.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

3:08 a.m.: noise complaint (Chapel Street), peace restored; 10:34 a.m.: hold up alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 11:01 a.m.: EMS response (Mt. Pleasant Avenue), transported; 12:39 p.m.: assist citizen (Woodland Drive); 1:17 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:33 p.m.: EMS response (Winslow Avenue), transported; 3:08 p.m.: assist citizen (Brickyard Road), report taken; 5:00 p.m.: EMS response (McCarthy Avenue), transported; 5:06 p.m.: hold up alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 5:39 p.m.: EMS response (Main Street), transported; 6:25 p.m.: notification (Peter Salem Road), no service; 8:07 p.m.: EMS response (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:46 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

12:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:38 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 7:58 a.m.: assist other PD (Watson Street), resolved; 9:15 a.m.: accident hit/run (Green Street), report taken; 9:55 a.m.: accident hit/run (Green Street), report

taken; 10:04 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 10:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Rawson Street), services rendered; 2:05 p.m.: investigation (Green Street), resolved; 7:37 p.m.: assist citizen (South Street), spoken to; 7:41 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), no action required; 9:25 p.m.: EMS response (Tobin Road), transported; 11:47 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

12:00 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), resolved; 12:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:51 a.m.: suspicious mv (Whittemore Street), services rendered; 5:45 a.m.: EMS response (Pine Street), transported; 12:24 p.m.: property found (South Main Street), assisted; 1:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police report, unlicensed operation, missing registration sticker, failure to notify RMV of name/address change, citation issued; 2:13 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 2:26 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), dispersed group; 3:35 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 3:48 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 5:43 p.m.: municipal security alarm (Paxton Street), false alarm; 8:55 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), spoken to; 9:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:12 p.m.: harassment (Henshaw Street), spoken to; 9:54 p.m.: suspicious person (McCarthy Avenue), unable to locate.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

12:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:20 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:46 a.m.: EMS response (Peter Salem Road), transported; 4:10 a.m.: EMS response (Main Street), assisted; 7:06 a.m.: EMS response (Main Street), transported; 11:45 a.m.: civil dispute (Main Street), advised civil action; 12:23 p.m.: disabled mv (Pine Street), assisted; 1:48 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), info taken; 1:54 p.m.: EMS response (Pleasant Street, Paxton), transported; 2:09 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 2:34 p.m.: accident (Stafford

Street), report taken; 4:11 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 4:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:48 p.m.: family problem (South Main Street), peace restored; 8:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

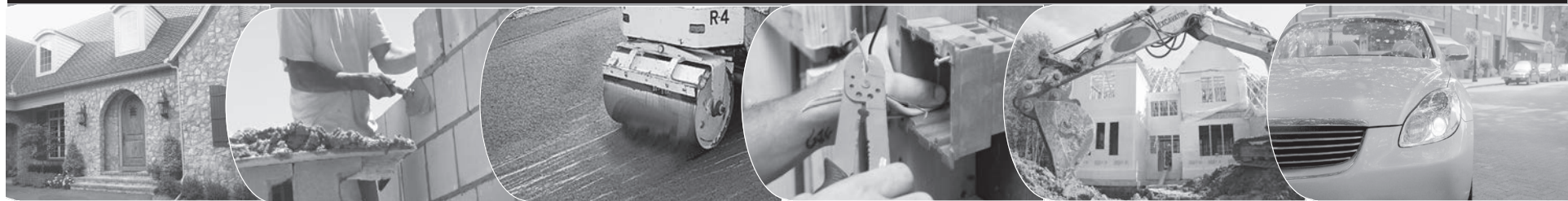
12:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:14 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:59 a.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), spoken to; 2:07 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 4:56 a.m.: EMS response (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:42 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 5:51 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 6:03 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 6:13 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 6:18 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Towtoid Street), info taken; 9:48 a.m.: EMS response (Main Street), services rendered; 10:18 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:23 a.m.: EMS response (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 11:39 a.m.: harassment (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 12:56 p.m.: welfare check (Waite Street), resolved; 1:03 p.m.: suspicious activity (River Street), gone on arrival; 2:37 p.m.: EMS response (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 3:46 p.m.: EMS response (Old Stafford Turnpike), transported; 4:02 p.m.: RV complaint (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license; name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal applications issued; 5:30 p.m.: summons service (Pine Street), served; 6:01 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 6:15 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 6:32 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 9:34 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), no action required; 9:46 p.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), no action required; 11:30 p.m.: EMS response (Elm Street, Spencer), transported.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:58 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 5:16 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 5:32 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 5:39 a.m.: EMS response (Woodland Road), transported; 8:01 a.m.: disturbance (South Main Street), assisted; 8:06 a.m.: EMS response (South Main Street), transported; 8:24 a.m.: suspicious mv (Crestwood Road), resolved; 8:30 a.m.: larceny (Green Street), report taken; 8:39 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 8:43 a.m.: assist citizen (Baldwin Street); 9:19 a.m.: EMS response (Paxton Street), transported; 11:33 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 11:43 a.m.: EMS response (Henshaw Street), transported; 11:44 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lillian Avenue), unfounded; 12:06 p.m.: disturbance (Winslow Avenue), resolved; 1:03 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), report taken; 1:22 p.m.: EMS response (Carleton Road), transported; 2:04 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 4:22 p.m.: EMS response (Alsada Drive, Worcester), transported; 4:26 gunshots heard (Mulberry Street), no action required; 5:11 p.m.: property found (South Main Street), services rendered; 7:53 p.m.: assist other PD (Marshall Street, Paxton), services rendered; 8:07 p.m.: EMS response (Winslow Avenue), transported; 8:29 p.m.: commercial alarm (Paxton Street), false alarm; 10:22 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 11:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

#

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 Extraordinary Find! Beautiful 2 Family! Owner occupied with pride and it shows. Grand Front Entry! 3,012 Sq +/- living area. 12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 updated Baths. 2nd Flr - Granite Countertops! High ceilings & Hardwood Floors, Modern Kitchens. Manicured 13,525 SF Lot with a Hg roof 3 car garage! **\$439,900**
WEBSTER - 10 THOMPSON RD

ON DEPOSIT

 2 FAMILY LOCATION, LOCATION! OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS A SOLID INVESTMENT. A GENERAL BUSINESS ZONED! PRIME WEBSTER BUSINESS DISTRICT! A LARGE, DEEP LOT, 14,875 SF/0.34 ACRE. 9 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, FHW/OIL. Garage! Lot is currently private with a mature tree line in the rear. Property serviced by Municipal Water & Sewer, Natural Gas line in Basement. A QUICK CLOSE IS POSSIBLE. **\$195,000.**
WEBSTER • 22 EASTERN AVE

SORRY SOLD!

 LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE, HUMBLE ABODE, THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK? Convenient Location, corner lot! 1288 SF +/-, 4 BRS w/1st Flr Mstr BR, Half Bath! Eat-In Kitchen, Dining/Living Room Combination! 3-Season Porch, 2nd Flr - 3 BRS, Reshingled Roof, Replacement Windows, Updated Electric, Buderus Boiler. Part finished walk-out bsmt! Garage! **\$215,000**
WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD

SORRY, SOLD!

 WELCOME TO MIDNIGHT FARM! 1876 Antique Colonial. Included separate Building - Studio/Store both situated on 2.5 Acres Professionally Landscaped! 5 Bedroom, Lg Living room, Fireplaced Dining room, Library, Master Bdrm, Renovated Kitchen! 3 Stall Garage! Picturesque Location! **\$455,000.**
Featured Island Listing! Webster Lake - 22 Long Island

SORRY, SOLD!

 Once in a lifetime opportunity to own a Webster Lake Waterfront Cottage on Long Island! Properly named the "Grand View". Sandy beach, boat house! Antique Cottage w/5 Rms, 3 BRs, a stone fireplaced w/pellet stove, eat-in kitchen w/modern appliances, full bath! washer/dryer. Screened porches. Included, 25% ownership share in a main land waterfront lot at 38 Point Pleasant Rd, in sheltered Mumford Cove! land provides boat slip & winter storage. A FAR AWAY PLACE NEAR BY! **\$389,900.**
WEBSTER LAKE - 1301 TREASURE ISL.

SORRY, SOLD!

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

 Oxford - 2 Merriam Rd 80 +/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton! Great Location for Horses! **ON DEPOSIT \$329,000.**

 Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**

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

 Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.**
OXFORD - 10 BEVERLY STREET

ON DEPOSIT

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg


SORRY, SOLD!

Webster Lake - 300 Killdeer Island

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sgl fam, 1,439 sf liv area, 0.339 ac lot, 5 rm, 2 bdrm, 1 bth, Worcester: Bk 31342, Pg 33

TERMS: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder. No CASH. No personal checks will be accepted. Cashier/certified checks should be made out to whomsoever is going to bid at the auction. The balance to be paid within thirty (30) days at the law offices of Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851, Attorney for the Mortgagee.

Auctioneer makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information contained herein.

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DUDLEY: Split entry, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage
 7 Nelco Ave. ~ **\$342,500**

ON DEPOSIT
OXFORD: Colonial, 3 bedrooms, sided, 2 baths, hardwood floors
 3 Elm St. ~ **\$329,900**

ON DEPOSIT
WEBSTER: Contemporary, cathedral ceiling, 3 plus acres, 2 car garage
 42 Rawson Rd. ~ **\$464,900**

WEBSTER: Motivated Seller! 3-4 bedrooms, Town water & sewer, Small barn/workshop, Offers considered.
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Solve the code to discover words related to autumn.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 26 = U)

A. 12 26 2 26 20 22
Clue: One of the seasons

B. 25 19 12 14 19 5
Clue: Parts of trees

C. 15 26 20 15 3 21 22
Clue: Orange gourd

D. 16 8 21 5 3
Clue: Cold but refreshing

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

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Family-friendly volunteering opportunities

Spending time with their families benefits children in myriad ways. Such quality time can strengthen bonds between parents and children, and one study from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that frequent family dinners make children less likely to use tobacco, consume alcohol and use marijuana.

Volunteering is a great way for families to spend time together. Children of various ages can reap the rewards of volunteering, and those rewards may be even more significant when kids give back alongside their parents. Children's ages and maturity levels should always be considered when looking for a volunteering opportunity. The following are some family-friendly options parents can consider as they look to volunteer with their children.

- Food drive: Participating in a food drive is a great way for families to give back together. Kids of all ages can pitch in on a food drive. Parents can take children to the grocery store and let them pick items to donate. Kids also can accompany their parents to pick up donated items and drop them off at the local food bank.
- Toy drive: Toy drives are popular come the holiday season, and children

of all ages may enjoy picking items that they know will help to make the holiday season special for other youngsters. If toy drive organizers don't request specific items, ask kids which toys they would recommend or encourage kids to donate lightly used items they no longer use. Children are enthusiastic givers, and toy drives are a great opportunity to illustrate how good it feels to help those in need.

- Park/beach cleanups: Human beings are stewards of the environment, so what better way to instill that lesson in children than to volunteer to clean up local parks and beaches? Kids will look forward to a day in the great outdoors, and they'll take pride in knowing they did their part alongside their parents to make their favorite green spaces and beaches cleaner for their communities.
- Soup kitchens: In 2020, Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks, cited a study that found 67 percent of food banks were in need of volunteers. Many volunteers, a significant percentage of which are seniors, stopped volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic out of fear of catching the virus. The successful roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines for adults and children over 12 has reduced the risk



of serious illness from the coronavirus. Though parents must consider various factors before volunteering in the era of COVID-19, fully vaccinated families can work with local food banks to safely offer their time. Such efforts can teach children valuable lessons about the importance of giving back, and many food banks have altered their operations to make it safe for volunteers to lend a helping hand.

Volunteering as a family can strengthen the bonds between children and their parents.

AGGREEMENT

continued from page A1

building, one room on the first floor is also expected to be used. The Senior Center operates on the basement level of the building. Selectmen received support for the relocation from the Council on Aging before moving forward with negotiations. Officials assure local seniors that their everyday activities and programs at the center will not be affected by the relocation.

"There will be no disruptions to anything happening in the Senior Center," said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury. "The Council on Aging supports this, and I am

very excited about it."

Per contract terms, the Office of the Trial Court will pay 38-percent of the building's utility bills. Court officials have also funded several upgrades to the building, including new communications lines, telephone system improvements, and painting projects.

Additionally, the court system will provide its own security personnel on site. Parking for court employees is currently being negotiated with Mary, Queen of the Rosary Church.

Officials said the temporary relocation of the court will also be a major benefit for local law enforcement.

"This is a great opportunity to help the local police departments so they don't have to go into Worcester," said Selectman Ralph Hicks.

Not only does the relocation come at no cost to the town, but the lease payments can also help improve the Senior Center, officials said. Once the payments are received, the funds must be approved at Town Meeting to be used for capital improvements. These might include the long-awaited upgrades to the Senior Center's windows.

"These projects would help improve the facility long-term for our seniors," Ross said. "Also, a lot of the equipment [used by the court] would remain in place once it leaves."

In other Select Board news, members unanimously finalized the contract for new Town Administrator Jeff Bridges. The vote was taken during the Board's Nov. 8 meeting.

Bridges is expected to begin next month.

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