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Friday, December 17, 2021

Community embraces a new tradition at Spencer tree lighting

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Local families were excited to experience the start of a new tree-lighting tradition at Powder Mill Park this past weekend.

The Dec. 12 event was organized by the family of the late Cole Victor. His family previously honored his memory by funding a project that rebuilt the Powder Mill Park pavilion, and much of the tree-lighting program took place at the new-look pavilion, with a large crowd showing its support.

Cole Victor, who passed away on Dec. 14, 2018—just one day after celebrating his 25th birthday—continues to inspire his community. He was always eager to assist friends and neighbors, and the local events held in his memory have carried on a legacy of positive community impacts.

The first ever tree-lighting ceremony featured Christmas carols provided by members

of the East Brookfield Baptist Church choir, as well as a visit from Santa Claus to discuss Christmas wish lists with local youngsters. Guests also held candles in memoriam as darkness settled over the park.

"We have a lot of close friends who have been very supportive through everything," said Mikaela Victor, Cole's sister. "We couldn't ask for anything more from the community. It was such a wonderful turnout."

Attendees also enjoyed warm refreshments on a chilly night. Even a few four-legged friends stopped by to enjoy the park.

Looking ahead, the family is excited about the possibilities for the new tree-lighting tradition. Family members are hopeful that the Dec. 12 event was the start of what will eventually become a longtime holiday favorite for area residents.

Family members thank all guests who attended the event to show their support.



Photo Kevin Flanders

The Landry family, of Spencer, attends the tree-lighting program this past weekend.

Spencer PD's K9 receives donated bulletproof vest



Photo Courtesy

Spencer Police Department K9 unit dog, Curtis, is now wearing his bulletproof vest that was purchased with local donations.

SPENCER – The police department's K9 unit dog, Curtis, recently received his new bulletproof vest that was provided courtesy of community

donations.

This past fall, the Hayden Masonic Lodge and the Spencer Firefighters Association each donated \$792.50 to purchase a vest for Curtis.

During a Select Board meeting last month, members of the Hayden Masonic Lodge and the Spencer Firefighters Association joined SPD Chief David Darrin and selectmen for a presentation.

"Everything we bring in [from local donations and fundraisers], we try to give back to the community. This is a great way we can do that," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons, who is also a member of the Spencer Firefighters Association, in a previous interview.

SPD K9 Officer Brandon Fullam has been working hard over the last year to train his partner Curtis. Police are thrilled by the added protection brought by the new vest, and they extend their thanks to the local donors who made the purchase possible. With budgetary challenges always facing local public safety agencies, first responders appreciate assistance from the community.

"It is always helpful when local groups step up with funding," Chief

Turn To **VEST**, page **A3**

December declared Shop Leicester First Month

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Committed to promoting local and small businesses this holiday season, the Select Board has proclaimed the month of December as Shop Leicester First Month.

To that end, the board is encouraging residents to consider supporting local businesses this holiday season. This includes attending the physical businesses and also supporting them by shopping at craft fairs and

festivals.

"These businesses support our community via tax revenue and donations to various local organizations. The holiday season offers a unique opportunity to shop these small businesses which make our community vibrant," read a statement released by the Select Board. "We hope you will consider shopping Leicester first this year."

Officials said it's always important to place an emphasis on shopping

local, but this year is particularly critical with pandemic-related challenges facing businesses. Many local business owners are coming off a nightmarish 2020 that saw them shuttered for many months, and others continue to see reduced customer traffic due to ongoing COVID-19 fears.

For small businesses that rely on craft fairs and festivals to augment their revenue, 2020 was a lost year due to COVID-

Turn To **SHOP**, page **A3**

EARLY DEADLINES FOR CHRISTMAS

To ensure that the Dec. 24 edition of the Spencer New Leader arrives in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week will be Thursday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Submissions are

welcome by e-mail at news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the New Leader thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.

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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. 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.



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Christmas comes early to Wire Village School



SPENCER – The holiday celebration once again arrived early at Wire Village School, with help from the Spencer and East Brookfield Police Associations.

On Dec. 9, officers attended the school to deliver gifts to students in grades pre-K to 4. More than 600 gifts were distributed to youngsters, and the event also included a magic show and a visit from Santa.

The event has been a popular holiday tradition at the school for years. Officials thank all officers who came together to make the event happen.

Photo Courtesy

Local students recently received a special holiday celebration thanks to the Spencer and East Brookfield Police Associations.



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SHOP

continued from page A1

19 closures. Owners have scrambled to make up for lost earnings this year, but attendances at many fairs have been down compared to normal years.

With these challenges in mind, selectmen are hopeful that residents will offer their support to local businesses this holiday season. And with the shipping delays that often occur when

buying online from larger businesses around the holidays, it's always a good bet to shop local for last-minute purchases, officials said.

"Many of the local businesses are run by our neighbors and everyday citizens, versus large corporations. They tend to contribute to their communities often in many different ways," said Selectman Allen Phillips. "These are the first businesses that often have financial difficulties

when issues such as pandemics arise. These types of issues can force the closure of small businesses who rely on the communities they serve. Shopping local will help to bolster the local businesses."

To learn more about how you can give back to the community and Shop Leicester First, visit www.leicesterma.org.

VEST

continued from page A1

Darrin previously told the New Leader. "Public safety is traditionally plagued with a limited budget – thoughtful donations such as these make all the difference."

Meanwhile, Officer Fullam

and his partner Curtis continue to sharpen their skills and readiness for all types of situations. They recently attended a pet CPR and first aid certification class at the House of Klein Dog Training Center in Spencer. The class was funded by the Spencer Dog Owners Association.

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PERSON of the WEEK

Kathy Sullivan of Spencer

Kathy has run the food pantry for the town of Spencer for over 30 years. It is located in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Church and serves anyone in the town who is in need of food. Kathy has donated all of her time and talent (and I am sure other things as well) and works tirelessly to insure everyone who needs it is fed with compassion and dignity. She is one of the most selfless and giving people that you could ever have the pleasure of meeting. Kathy does have a lot of help from some wonderful volunteers who also work tirelessly for our community, and we would be remiss by not thanking them also. But as in most aspects of life there is one person responsible for all of the daily management of this job and that person is Kathy. We are truly blessed to have this opportunity available to the people of Spencer and I believe we all owe Kathy a big THANK YOU for all that she does for us!

— Submitted by a grateful parishioner

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Spencer residents encouraged to decorate Mitten Tree

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Local residents are invited to join in the giving spirit of the season by decorating the mitten tree at Town Hall.

If you are interested in helping the community this holiday season, getting involved in the mitten tree project is easy. Simply visit Town Hall and place a new hat, scarf, mittens, or gloves on the tree.

The mitten tree is located in the rotunda of Town Hall (157 Main St., Spencer). All mitten tree items received throughout the month of December will be donated to Spencer schools to assist local children in need. Please

ensure that all donated items are new and unused.

Meanwhile, donations for Operation Undercover – a longtime community tradition of giving – are also being collected this month at Town Hall. Donations of new, unopened underwear for men and women are requested, with all items to be distributed to three local organizations serving residents in need.

Donations at Town Hall will be accepted until Christmas. Drop-off hours are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); Thursday (7:30 a.m. to noon).

Residents are thanked for their ongoing support of community members in need of assistance. With lost jobs, high-

er prices, and other challenges during the pandemic, this year’s donations are especially important.

For Operation Undercover leaders, it means a lot to receive strong support again this year. Donations of underclothes are being donated to Jeremiah’s Inn, Abby’s House, and a veterans’ shelter in Worcester.

“People in this area are so generous, and we have gotten a lot of terrific donations,” said Beth McPherson, who is helping to run Operation Undercover, which was established by her parents, Bob and Carol McPherson, over 30 years ago. “We appreciate all of the donations and everyone who continues to show their generosity. It’s fantastic.”

Jeremiah’s Inn was founded in 1982 by Deacon John Egan and a group of volunteers who wanted to help homeless men in Worcester. Abby’s House, meanwhile, is committed to providing shelter and affordable housing to homeless, battered, and low-income women.

Even though the deadline has passed to drop off Operation Undercover donations at the McPhersons’ house (always a favorite holiday tradition for many local residents), you can still make a donation at Town Hall.

To learn more about how you can help the community this holiday season, visit www.spencerma.gov. A Web page provides additional information on the mitten tree at Town Hall.

Funding still available for local microbusinesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local microbusiness owners struggling with the impacts of the pandemic are encouraged to continue seeking available funding.

Officials remind microbusiness owners in certain local towns that federal funds remain available to assist eligible microenterprises impacted by the pandemic.

Eligible businesses must have five or fewer employees currently working for the entity. Additionally, qualifying

businesses must be located in Leicester, Brookfield, Dudley, Millbury, North Brookfield, or West Brookfield. Finally, business owners must meet federal family income limits.

Grants of up to \$25,000 per business are available to aid qualifying businesses that have been impacted by the COVID-19 disaster and need financial assistance.

Funds may be used to offset lost income through reimbursement of certain past costs, or payment of current bills. The Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is assisting with the

process of guiding business owners through the application phases for funding.

Devastated by the effects of the pandemic since March 2020, several local microbusiness owners have already applied for funding and received relief. CMRPC leaders and area officials are urging others to apply as well.

“For eligible very small businesses, this program can be a great fit. It allows them to be reimbursed for eligible expenses, or it can cover a variety of current costs,” said Andrew Loew, a planning specialist with the CMRPC.

Grants are made possible by federal Cares Act community development funding.

If you are interested in learning more about this funding opportunity for microbusinesses, please visit www.cmrpcregional services.org/microenterprise.

You can also download the application form and learn about program eligibility requirements by visiting the aforementioned site.

“Applications are still being accepted for the microenterprise program, but we encourage interested businesses to contact us as soon as possi-

ble due to upcoming deadlines from the program’s funding source,” Loew added.

Locally, the microenterprise assistance program is funded through a Cares Act Community Development Block Grant disbursed to the Town of Leicester from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This federal agency is working in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

Police search for suspect in Warren

WARREN – Police continue to investigate following last week’s lengthy search for a suspect in West Warren.

At approximately 9 p.m. on Dec. 9, an alert was sent to residents indicating that police were searching for a suspect in the area of Main Street and South Street. Residents were urged by police to lock their doors and report suspicious activity to

police.

The suspect was described by police as a black male, approximately six feet tall with a mustache. Police also said the suspect was described as wearing a black Adidas sweatsuit with white stripes.

The Massachusetts State Police joined the Warren Police Department in a lengthy search of the area, which was eventual-

ly suspended.

A follow-up notification informed residents that there was no longer an ongoing threat to the public.

State Police continue to investigate the incident. As of press time, no additional information on the suspect was provided by police.

CLUES ACROSS

1. You fry food in it

4. Pesky insect

8. Gets older

10. __ Dern, actress

11. Uncouth man

12. One who sulks

13. Napoleon’s king of Naples

15. One who swims underwater

16. Make amends

17. Expressions

18. Document format

21. What a beaver makes

22. Limb

23. Photograph
24. Golf score

25. Moroccan mountain range

26. Wrinkled dog breed: Shar __

27. 20th century sex symbol

34. Remedy for all diseases

35. Bluish greens

36. Moved swiftly

37. Type of units

38. Madames

39. Indian religious god

40. Potentially hazardous asteroids

41. Leak slowly through

42. An association of criminals

43. A way to push content (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Town in central Brazil

2. Large burrowing rodent

3. Nerve cell

4. Estimating

5. Bakers use it

6. Regions

7. Small lake

9. Environmentalist nun

10. More kookie

12. Announce officially

14. Israeli city __ Aviv

15. Title given to friar

17. Inches per minute (abbr.)

19. Buildings
20. Pouch

23. They steal on the high seas

24. It’s mightier than the sword

25. Going off on a tangent

26. Monetary unit

27. Young woman

28. Type of bulb

29. Type of drug (abbr.)

30. City opposite Dusseldorf

31. Animal disease

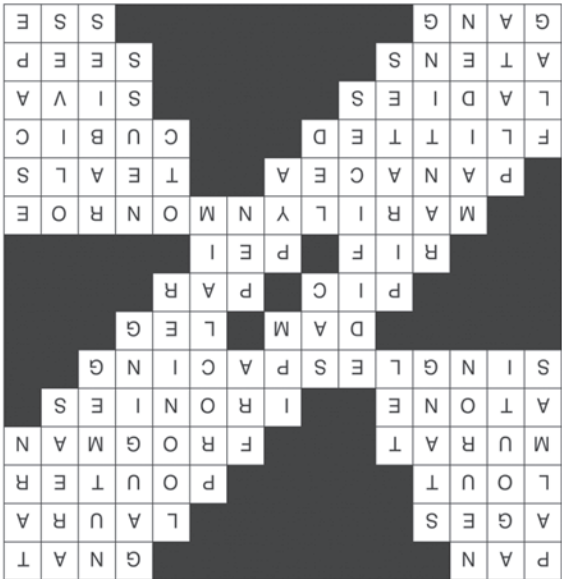
32. Martini necessities

33. Elude

34. La __: Buenos Aires capital

36. An oft-enduring symbol

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news

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

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

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

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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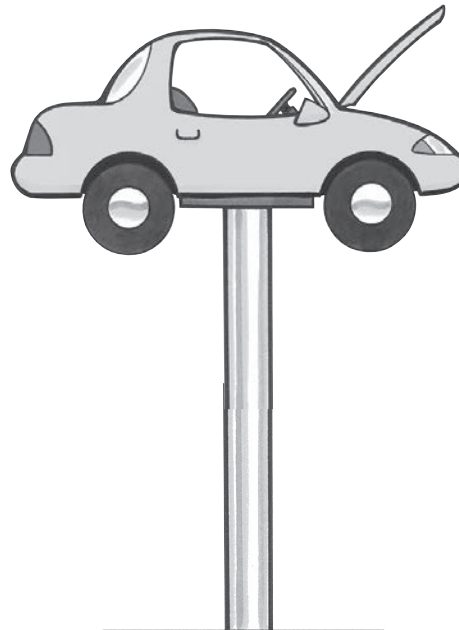
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EDITORIAL

An epidemic of ‘experts’

“Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge.”
— Charles Darwin

It seems as though in today’s society, everyone is an expert. It’s one thing to have a specific belief system or an educated opinion on a certain topic, (with the operative word here being educated) this to include all topics. However, it seems as though critical thinking has all but flown right out of the window. Common sense is used less and less with people making outlandish assumptions, believing misinformation and falling into line with outright absurdities. Social media doesn’t help. Unfortunately, some people will read a meme and take it as face value. Some people even think JFK, Jr. is coming back to life.

With that, let us make one thing clear. None of us are experts — unless, well, we are. It turns out there’s a name for this phenomenon, called the Dunning-Kruger effect. This is defined as a cognitive bias in which people think they are smarter and more capable than they are. So much so that people don’t recognize their own incompetence.

The Dunning-Kruger effect takes place when a person begins speaking at length about a topic they know nothing about, yet claims everyone else is uninformed and wrong. For an example, if a student fails a test, yet believes they should have received an A. They are incapable of seeing their own faults.

David Dunning, an American social psychologist who along with Justin Kruger discovered the phenomenon, described it as such: “Instead, the incompetent are often blessed with an inappropriate confidence, buoyed by something that feels to them like knowledge. The trouble with ignorance is that it can feel just like expertise.”

The cause of this effect, as described by Dunning, is that people are too incompetent to realize how incompetent they are. These individuals will fail to recognize the skill and expertise of others.

Also mentioned by Dunning is what’s called metacognition. This is the ability to look within and evaluate yourself honestly. Oftentimes, those who suffer from this syndrome hear a small amount of knowledge on a topic, and then think they are experts.

No one person is an expert at everything. Dunning pointed out that everyone has areas in which they are incompetent. Oftentimes, if a person is an expert in one area, they mistakenly think they are an expert in all areas. Dunning did point out that those individuals who are genuine experts in any given field, are more likely to see their own flaws in other areas, and are able to accept the knowledge and expertise in others who truly possess it.

If your car breaks down, you will not bring it to the dentist. If you have a toothache, you will not go see a florist. Further, with the divide in our country politically, let us remember, that politics has zero to do with anyone’s skill set. Our healthcare workers are being harassed daily by those who believe they are experts. There are doctors, nurses and healthcare providers who are both Republicans and Democrats or Independents. Car repair is car repair, healthcare is healthcare, creating a fine dining menu and becoming a top-rated chef is simply about food and creativity. We need to stop politicizing anything other than politics.

Common sense and critical thinking needs to find its way back into our society. Common sense is defined as the sound and prudent judgement based on a simple perception of the situation or fact.

As far as the political divide that has taken hold in this country. It’s ridiculous. There is no need for anyone, on either side, to be filled with so much anger, because their candidate lost, or because someone disagrees with your way of thinking. The beauty of our country is that we can all think differently and still respect one another, and still have the ability to laugh over beers and pizza on a Friday night. The angry political signs still strewn about on either side, are tacky, immature and unintelligent. We can do better.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make a list and check it twice

To the Editor:

As a news buff, I devote quite a bit of time to watching news, reading and posting comments, and weighing what I see and read against source, content, logic and history. One example would be when you are credited with over 30,000 untruths or partial truths, checking it twice is certainly prudent. When something sounds too good to be true, it usually is, and common sense, which is no longer common, defies logic, hence substantiation before passing it along is advised, else you may be guilty of believing a rumor that you started.

I know we are in the holiday season, but spending the time to research some things will serve us all better in the long run.

How much control does government, in a free market, have over the price of anything, gas and oil included? Is it likely that raising the minimum wage

Hiring of new superintendent was not predetermined

To the Editor:

I was dismayed to read the recent article by Kevin Flanders, “*Residents raise questions about hiring new superintendent*,” which had several inaccuracies that I would like to address.

The discussion of creating an assistant superintendent position has been ongoing for several years. This year, between addressing the myriad issues surrounding the pandemic and the additional support required as a result of the Becker College acquisition, the need for an assistant superintendent became even more apparent.

Because the job description of the assistant superintendent included overseeing curriculum instruction and assessment, it was decided that Mr. Joseph’s position was redundant. By law, the superintendent has the authority to determine the personnel needs of the school system and to create, hire and manage school leadership positions (MGL. 69.6; 71:38, 71:38G 71:45 BESE Regulations 603 CMR 7:00, 26:00 and 44:00).

Mr. Joseph had been informed well in advance of July 6 that the elimination of his position was a possibility. His executed employment contract also states that he is an employee at will and can be eliminated at any time, for any reason.

I never told Mr. Joseph that he shouldn’t apply for the assistant superintendent’s position nor that he would not get it if he did. In fact, Mr. Joseph did apply for the position and out of 30 applicants, he was one of the eight chosen by a committee of 14 parents, teachers, students and staff who narrowed the field. The eight candi-

Buy-dumb inflation

To the Editor:

It truly is amazing how clueless and ignorant so many of the people are that are backing the ‘Biden Buy Dumb Economics’ and the socialist ideology on how to jump start the economy. Let’s take a look at two of their key talking points.

Sit down in your office, living room, or kitchen. Look around. Everything is made from products derived from the oil industry. The plastics, the rubber seals, the nylon rugs, the paints, and the adhesives that hold everything together. These are all derived from oil and gas processing byproducts. Everything produced and transported is done by energy from oil and gas. So, what happens when you choke this industry and impose harsh restrictions? You got it — the price goes up, and everything that uses these goes up too. That’s called inflation. The dummy in the White House doesn’t seem to realize why this happens.

It’s all a direct result of Biden’s war on the American oil industry. Under Trump, America had used new technology to become energy independent for the first time in history. That means that all the profits and money generated went into American coffers. The workers in the industry were American workers. They spent the money in American communities, in American restaurants, and paid taxes to support programs for us all. The costs of our energy actually went lower. The cost to manufacture our products were lower because the raw materials were lower. Trump was a businessman, and he knew how to bring things to market.

Biden was elected because the Democratic socialist controlled news fed disinformation to the ignorant and clueless Democratic voters. They demonized the industries that produced these products at a low cost for

would not impact all prices? Is unemployment level up or down? Is economy up or down? I recall DJT calling a brief press conference to claim credit for the DOW exceeding 30,000, on the day Biden’s win was announced. It is now 20 percent higher. Why?

Do people have any responsibility for climate issues, or is it just weather (though clearly not as usual)? My prayers go out to those impacted by the recent weather events that scared our heartland and our hearts. Does increasing defense spending make us safer? Hasn’t the mantra that socialism will destroy us been around at least a century?

Let’s try something more traditional — peace on earth and good will towards mankind.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

dates were further narrowed down to the final two. Mr. Joseph did not make it to the final round of interviews.

Of the two most impressive and qualified candidates for the position, one chose not to move forward, leaving Mr. Richard Lind as the frontrunner who was offered the position and accepted.

In response to questions we received about this process, Superintendent Tencza and I created a public FAQ about this process and posted it on the front page of our school’s Web site in October. We also published our responses to the Select Board, who also asked us about the hiring process, which was open and transparent from the beginning.

Regarding Mr. Lambert’s inability to ask questions at a School Committee meeting, it is our policy (and has been for at least six years) that public comment be limited to agenda items only.

To insinuate this process was predetermined is ludicrous, and is merely a feeble attempt by a disgruntled former employee and several of his supporters to discredit a process where the most qualified candidate for the position was, in fact, selected.

We look forward to the Attorney General’s review that we expect will finally put an end to this nonsense.

Sincerely,

TOM LAUDER
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR
LEICESTER

Editor’s note: It should be noted that Mr. Lauder was asked to provide comment prior the publication of last week’s article, and declined.

us. Their tactics are to call you over-privileged rapists of the earth, and inherently racist. They took a natural process called Climate Change and weaponized it. You cannot discuss it in a rational way, or you will be shouted down by their activist. Their scientists are the only ones you can listen to, period. All others will be silenced as “disinformation.” Anyone with a brain knows this is a cute gimmick by the leftist socialist to stifle free speech.

His first acts were to kill Trump’s achievements. This wasn’t to save the environment or to keep inflation low. No, this was the purely political vengeful act of the socialist mob to destroy anything Trump did, at any cost to the American citizen. The cost of jobs or inflation to the people is irrelevant compared to destroying Trump’s legacy and inflicting pain on those who supported him. His first acts where to kill the Keystone pipeline, no new oils leases, and eliminate fracking. This effectively killed our oil industry. It is the sole reason we are seeing inflation. We now buy oil from the middle east. American money now goes to these bad actors to help fund terrorism. Isis and the Taliban are now growing strong again thanks to Biden. Omar and Talib are ecstatically happy on this point. The puppet Biden is trotted out by his handlers and dutifully tries to assuage these clueless ignorant people that the only way to fix it is to pass his \$2 trillion social equity bills. Any person with half a brain knows when you pump free cash into a system, it will increase inflation, not drop it. They know it, but they also know their voters are ignorant.

Then you got the real dopes who say we don’t need to buy any more planes, ships, tanks, or guns for our national defense. These people are the most

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A7**

What are your financial resolutions for 2022?



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

Here are a few ideas to consider:

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

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

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

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

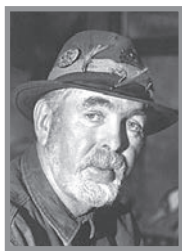
These aren’t the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with confidence.

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



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Deer season winding down



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The final three weeks of the Massachusetts deer season opened for primitive arms hunters this past Monday, ending on Dec. 31. There are still a lot of deer in local covers. Shotgun hunters reported a lot of sightings during the shotgun season, but were unable to get a good shot. Hopefully, a few inches of snow will give the hunters some great tracking conditions, providing the hunters with an opportunity to harvest a deer before the final day of hunting.

Most of the deer that were harvested during the shotgun deer season were in good shape, and had a good amount of fat that was observed during the skinning process. The large acorn crop should help many forms of wildlife survive the upcoming winter months. This past week, a package of venison steaks were dropped off at my home, which were quickly pan fried with a few onions and peppers the next day. A special thanks to the person that was kind enough to share some of his venison.

This week's weather was expected to stay warm, which is not good news for ice fishing. Shoreline anglers are still catching some impressive trout at local lakes and

ponds. Anglers that have not winterized their boats, are continuing to enjoy some good fishing for trout. Cape ponds are also producing some good late fall or early trout fishing. It is worth the trip to the Cape to enjoy some great trout fishing, if the warm weather continues. Hamblin Pond is this writer's favorite pond to fish for trout, and often produces some 18-plus-inch rainbow trout. This Kettle pond is a shallow sediment-filled body of water, formed by retreating glaciers or draining floodwaters in years past. There are numerous Kettle Ponds on the Cape.

Mass. Fish and Wildlife has implemented a new Recreational Permitting System for hunting and fishing licenses. The new system has been a bit of a pain for many first-time, users but they have managed to go through the process. You need to set up an account with a new MassFishHunt permitting system. You will also notice that all license and permitting fees have increased and will continue to rise every year, for the next few years. You will also need an e-mail address and password to log onto the new site.

This year, overall transaction fees will stay the same or decrease for most online customers. The previous online system charged an administration fee of \$1.34 per license and a 3 percent convenience fee on the total transaction. The new online system will charge an administrative fee of \$1.45 per license and 2 percent convenience

fee on the total transaction. It sounds like I am reading my electric bill or gas bill! It is what it is!

Canada goose season opened this past Monday in the Central District, with a daily bag limit of two birds. The season will run through Jan. 1. The late and final Goose season will open on Jan. 15 – Feb. 1, with a five-bird daily limit.

This past week, a few of the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club members observed a few trout poachers at their club pond. When they were confronted, they quickly left the area, but not until the damage was done. The culprits were extremely brazen, ignoring our shouting to leave the area. A family of otters were feeding on recently stocked trout at the club pond as they do every year, and when they have depleted the trout population, they move on to neighboring Rod & Gun Clubs, to feed on their trout.

With trout costing \$3 a pound or more from trout hatcheries, many anglers become a bit upset with the poachers, but there is not much they can do as very few trappers are left to keep their populations down. Even if we could find a trapper, the trapping season for mink and River Otter ended December 15, 2021. Someone must have sent the otter a copy of the Massachusetts trapping season, as they seem to show up after trapping season?

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club will be holding another Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, Dec. 19, from 8 till 11 a.m., and is open to the public. The club will also be hold-



Photo Courtesy

This father and son team are eagerly awaiting some safe ice for ice fishing. It may not be long!

ing another Founders Day Prime Rib supper on the third Saturday of January, 2022. Be sure to get your tickets early as ticket sales are limited to 80 reservations. It was a sell out last year and is expected to sell out early. The supper is also

open to the public. Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all. Stay safe and get your shots. Do not be foolish! Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Plant a terrarium for a unique winter garden or gift

Create a garden under glass to enjoy or give as a gift to new, experienced, and even reluctant gardeners. This self-contained system makes it easy to be a successful gardener with minimal care.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Purchase a terrarium or repurpose something hiding on a shelf in the basement, garage or shed. Even a cool glass container, cloche or bell jar turned open side down and placed on a shallow planting tray will work. Just glue a decorative doorknob or handle on the top for easy access.

Make it more festive for the holidays. Visit the ornament aisle in your favorite craft store. Create a mini terrarium from DIY Christmas orbs for holiday decoration or the perfect hostess gift.

Use closed terrariums like this when growing tropical plants. They thrive in the high humidity and moist soil.

Leave the top off or use open containers like glass vases, or mason jars for cacti and succulents. Use a cacti and succulent mix for these drought tolerant plants. They prefer the lower humidity and drier soil that open ter-

rariums and cacti potting mix provide.

Once you have the container, you need to fill it with potting mix, plants, and other decorative items. Consider a layer of decorative stone, twigs, sea glass or sand at the bottom for added color and interest. Some gardeners include a layer of charcoal to help absorb any odor. The key is not overwatering as the decorative stone and charcoal won't prevent waterlogged soil from killing your plants.

Consider covering the stone layer with black landscape fabric to prevent the potting mix from filtering through and covering up these items. Cover this with a layer of well-drained potting mix for tropical plants and cacti and succulent mix for drought tolerant plants. Add contours to the soil level if space allows for added interest.

Select a variety of plants of different heights, textures, and colors to create an attractive terrarium garden. Many garden centers now sell small specimens perfect for these mini gardens.

Low growing tropical plants such

Use open containers like glass vases for drought tolerant plants that prefer lower humidity and drier soil.

Photo Melinda Myers

as baby's tears, creeping fig, moss, and ivies make excellent groundcovers. Small specimens of dracaenas, crotons, palms and podocarpus make nice upright features. Fill in the middle ground with ferns, nerve plants, polka dot plants and more.

Once assembled, terrariums are relatively easy to manage. Moisten the soil and cover. Crack the lid open if condensation builds up on the glass. Then replace the cover and monitor the soil moisture and condensation. Add additional moisture carefully. A turkey baster is an easy way to water only the plants in need of a drink.

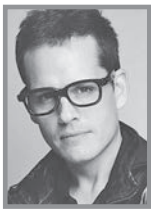
Place your terrariums in a bright location away from direct light. Heat can build up in this covered ecosystem and cook your plants when placed in a sunny location.

Now is the perfect time to gather or purchase fun glassware, planting and decorating supplies, and, of course, plants. Then take a break from the hectic holiday season to plant up a



few holiday decorations and green gifts for your loved ones.

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.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
.....
TOBY
MOORE

When I was a boy, my parents always told me, "Toby, you're so smart and handsome!" I didn't know any better, so I believed I was smart and handsome. When I started attending school, I heard something different. I heard whispers from my teachers to my parents about how they thought I had a learning disability.

Around that time, my parents started telling me, "Toby, you're smart, handsome, and you're a late bloomer." They

were putting a positive spin on the situation.

I took to heart what they said, whenever I didn't do well in school, which was often, my parents would worriedly look over my report card, and I'd reassure them, "Don't worry, I'm just a late bloomer, I'll get good grades someday!" which turned out to be true. A decade or more later, I started earning excellent grades while studying acting in college. To take my business to the next level, I recently graduated from a UCLA coding Bootcamp with almost all A's. I grew up with the expectation that one day I'd get

My own father, after a four-year stint in the marines, went to college on the GI Bill. Our family lived, when he got back, in the Curtiss apartment complex. Built in Worcester for returning Korean war vets. It's now a dump called "the projects" after no good deadbeats took over the place. My dad was hired as an engineer at Raytheon. He helped build the Pav-Paw radar systems; these were systems designed to detect incoming missiles so we could shoot them down. Systems for protecting all Americans. With the money he earned by doing the work, he sent seven children to college. As an American, I would rather see our money spent on American workers, building communities in America, and helping defend America. I do not want to see my tax money spent on paying people to stay home, pump out kids with no dads, and give a myriad of social programs to those too lazy to get off their butts. Under Buy Dum Economics, the plan is to empower or enemies

good grades, and it came to pass.

What if instead of telling me that I was a late bloomer, my parents said, "you're dumber than a box of rocks." If they did, every time I got a bad grade, I'd say, "of course! I'm dumber than a box of rocks; I'll never get good grades. I'm an idiot!"

Some of you may have gone through life feeling like a loser because that's what you were told at home. I think we're all born to win in our own way. It's never too late to change what you're telling yourself.

I learned in college that it doesn't

(Taliban, ISIS, Iran) and reduce money on defense.

It should also be noted that one of the greatest achievements of the Trump administration was to revive the American steel and aluminum industry by putting high tariffs on cheap China and Indian steel imports. He knew for America to be the defender of freedom across the world, we had to have domestic producers of steel and aluminum to build the planes, ships, and tanks that are the arsenal of democracy. You cannot guard your freedom from thugs if they control your weapon source. It's just plain common sense, which Biden and his supporters clearly lack.

I just hope others out there, like brother Kimball, start free thinking, and can get the socialist brainwashing out of their minds. They have been bombarded with the disinformation and selective news to be effectively programed by the socialist. They have been duped into believing it is best to reduce money on

matter what other people say or think about you. What matters is what you think and say about yourself.

When I became an actor, I was surrounded by people who were more talented than me. I had never acted before, and it took me a few years to get the hang of it. I remember hearing how some people in my classes thought I was a terrible actor. It was a massive blow to my ego, but rather than telling myself, "I'm a terrible actor, I'll never get better," I told myself, "I will become a talented actor; they don't determine how

Turn To **MOORE** page **A13**

ROBILLARD

continued from page A6

clueless and ignorant of all. Due to the fact that these items are for national defense, and therefore have to be made by American companies, guess where every dime spent by the government goes? It goes into American companies such as Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed, and General Dynamics. Companies buying American made goods and services while employing American workers with veteran preference. These companies pay good wages to American workers. These American workers go out to lunch in restaurants, go shopping, and build houses around the plants. The money they spend builds communities, schools, and in turn employs many. In the end, we supply our troops with the very best tools of freedom and build strong communities. What could be better than that?

defense while those that would attack America are growing. (The Taliban, ISIS, Iran, etc.) They have been feed the vision of a USA as one big welfare state with no defense needed. Talk about rosy glasses. The socialist dogma imprinted in their psyche has made them not appreciate all that has been given and all that has been earned. The leftist socialists in the media want them to feel shame and guilt for their success.

I myself am a free thinker. I don't want any filter on my news. I want to hear all sides from all parties. I want to make my decisions based on what I believe. Personally, anyone saying you are being feed misinformation or untruths is either an idiot or someone trying to scam you. I may not be right, but I have the "right" to choose what I believe is the best version of the truth.

Mark Robillard
Spencer

Ode to Cranberries: A Festive Fruit Beyond the Holiday Table

New England cranberries are not just for the holidays anymore. The tart fruit, hailed as the “king of antioxidants,” are enjoying a surge of popularity as fans of the bouncy berries are finding new and delicious ways to work the wee wonders into a daily diet. From stalling a urinary tract infection, to preventing peptic ulcers, cranberries have been credited with an array of health helping benefits. Ongoing research also shows the fruit holds promise in the fight against such illnesses as cancer, heart and gum diseases and more. Add the fact the berries are touted as a powerful antioxidant and are high on the list of 20 anti aging foods and its no wonder the bowl of cranberry sauce could be the most important dish on the holiday table this year!

Humble Beginnings: Cranberries are native to New England, and the Northeast has long been credited with producing top quality bumper crops of the bright berries. Today, cranberries are grown commercially throughout the northern United States, but it was the early Native Americans who first unleashed the impressive properties of the humble, bitter berry.

The Indians used cranberries to make a poultice which proved an effective means to draw out the poison of arrow wounds. The dark, red juice of the fruit also provided an attractive dye for precious blankets and fabrics. In addition, cranberries mixed with dried venison and fat and dried in the sun formed staple food that could withstand the rigors of travel, providing Native Americans with a valuable food source when they were hunting.

The wild cranberry got its name from the early settlers, who dubbed the round fruit the “craneberry” for its pink blossoms that resemble the head of a crane. The Pilgrims adopted the Indian’s uses of the fruit and expanded its use in cooking to include meat sauces, tarts, jams and nogs. As the early New England settlements expanded, new applications for the berries were discovered including their role in relieving stomach disorders, gall bladder pain, as well as treating blood and liver ailments. The fruit, a rich source of vitamin C, was also credited with preventing scurvy in 17th century seafaring crew members.

Cranberry Cures
Can the common cranberry cures what ails you? Medical studies prove the fruit, until recently overlooked as a

health benefit in modern times, is packed with healing properties. Cranberries are perhaps best known for their role in preventing urinary tract infections. A bottle of cranberry juice is often prescribed as a first response approach to an impending infection. According to medical studies, the cranberries secret weapons are proanthocyanidins, nutrients which prevent certain bacteria from sticking to the lining of the bladder, thus preventing an infection.

Research reveals the same anti stick properties might help stall bacteria from adhering to teeth and gums, slowing or preventing cavity growth. The same components may prevent stomach ulcers by stopping H. Pylori from sticking to stomach cells.

Better yet, according to Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., the fruit may benefit the heart, as medical studies show cranberries can inhibit oxidation of low-density cholesterol, which is thought to be one way cholesterol becomes sticky, allowing it to attach to the blood vessel wall. In addition, early laboratory studies suggest cranberry juice cocktail may be as effective as red wine in benefiting heart health.

The impressive healing properties of cranberries include the powerful antioxidants, plentiful in the little red berries. These compounds, which include flavonoids and vitamins, are credited with boosting the immune system and reducing free radicals, which can lead to a healthier body.

Current studies indicate a daily dose of ten ounces of cranberry juice can effectively achieve the bacteria blocking benefits to help prevent such health problems as urinary tract infections, gum disease and ulcers.

Cranberry Recipes
The tart, bright taste of cranberries is always a crowd pleaser, whether the fresh fruit is cooked in a sauce, or served up a la mode at the end of a holiday meal. The following recipes are holiday worthy, but are versatile enough to be served up any time of year.

Apple Cranberry Crisp
Too busy with the hustle and bustle of the holidays to whip up a fresh, cranberry dessert? This crock pot



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

version cuts the effort, not the flavor of this cold weather favorite.
Ingredients: Three apples; one cup cranberries; three quarters cup brown sugar; one third cup rolled oats (quick cooking); one quarter teaspoon salt; one teaspoon cinnamon; one third cup butter, softened.
Directions: Peel, core and slice apples. Place apple slices and cranberries in cup. Mix remaining ingredients in separate bowl and sprinkle over top of apple and cranberries. Place a few paper towels over the top of the crock pot, then place an object (such as a wooden spoon) across the top of the pot and set lid on top. This allows the steam to escape. Turn slow cooker on high and cook for about 2 hours. Serves 4.

Cranberry Walnut Relish
A step up from ordinary relish, this sweet condiment is festive and fancy enough to serve at the yuletide table.
Ingredients: 12 ounces fresh cranberries; 3/4 cup white sugar; 1 (12 ounce) jar orange marmalade; 3/4 cup chopped walnuts; 1 tablespoon lemon juice;
Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour cranberries into a shallow 1.5 qt oven proof baking dish. Sprinkle with sugar, cover with tinfoil and bake for 30-35 minutes. Remove from oven and evenly distribute walnuts into the dish. Recover and bake another ten minutes. Stir in marmalade and lemon juice and combine well. Allow dish to cool at room temperature, then cover and refrigerate for several hours before serving.

Curious about Cranberries?:
*Did you ever wonder why cranberries have the ability to bounce? Tiny pockets of air inside the fruit allow the berries to bounce off hard surfaces. It is this same air that makes cranberries buoyant in water!
*Think cranberries grow in water? Think again! Cranberry vines grow in marshes and sandy bogs. Because cranberries float, producers flood the bogs at harvest time to ease the chore of collecting the cranberries.

*It is widely reported that fresh cranberries were served at the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

*Cranberries are almost 90% water.
*Cranberries helped fight the war? During World War II, American forces were supplied with about one million pounds of dehydrated cranberries each year.

*The United States boasts eight townships in the USA named “Cranberry” or a variation of the name.

*Cranberries pack a big punch! There are over 4,000 cranberries in each gallon of cranberry juice.

*It took until 1994, but that year the native Cranberry was declared the official state berry of Massachusetts.

*History traces cranberry juice back to 1683, where the tart drink was first made by American settlers.

*The first commercial cranberry sauce was marketed in 1912.

*Believe it or not, cranberry beds over a century old are still producing healthy berries!

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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TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2021-2022 school year.

Grade 4
High Honors: Celia Ladd, Heer Swadia
Honors: Nicolas Gauvin, Olivia Kentley Freeman, Joshua McManus, Ella Sawyer, Alexio Yacavace

Grade 5
High Honors: Layla Beu, Lucas Cournoyer

Honors: Chloe Cahill, Sarah Clark, David Gil, Sofia Henao, Lily Nellis, Kylar Norris, Anthony Postale, Kerstin Smaltz

Grade 6
High Honors: Alivia Gauvin
Honors: Jameson Durocher, Aedyn Esser, Heather Kennedy, Isabella Lamica, Oliver MacDonald, Olivia Neuenschwander, Matilda Paradis, Nolan Smeltzer

Grade 7
High Honors: Michael Gasperini, Apollo Logan, Yashvi Swadia
Honors: Jeremy Figueroa, Melany Ngo, Nico Yacavace

Grade 8
High Honors: Colin Ladd
Honors: Charles Congdon, Anika Ferrantino, Cole Paradis, Amari Pereira

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Friday's Child



**Jessica
Age 10**

Hi! My name is Jessica and I love the color pink!

Jessica is a sweet and respectful, young girl who likes unicorns, anything Barbie, and her favorite color is pink. Jessica loves to color, especially with gel pens. Although described as shy at first, once she gets to know someone, she will talk about anything and everything! Jessica is aware of maintaining her appearance and loves her hair.

Legally freed for adoption, families of all constellations

will be considered for Jessica, including homes with older children. A family with a trauma-informed approach will help her to thrive in her new setting. Jessica continues to have contact with her previous foster mother and she is an important, positive, life-long support for Jessica that will need to be maintained. Jessica is open to meeting new people and will benefit from a loving and patient home where she can develop a sense of safety.

Who Can Adopt?

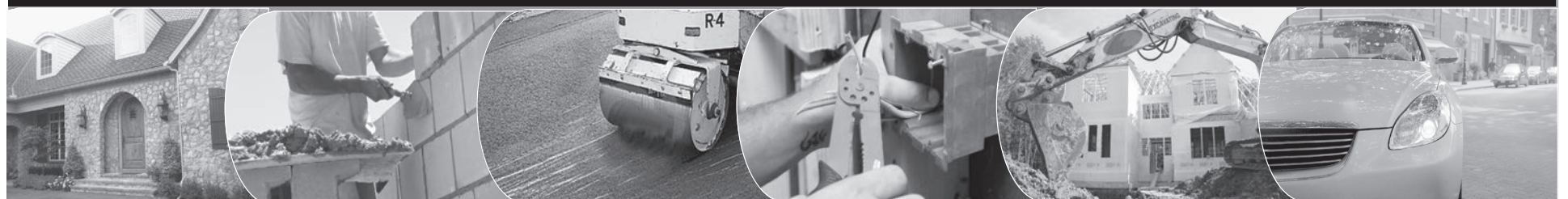
Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners;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



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December 10, 2021
December 17, 2021

**A.C. 75A
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS**

**19P374EA
PROBATE COURT**

To all persons interested in the estate of Marilyn F. Gouin late of Spencer in said County, deceased.
A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell at private sale certain real estate of said deceased.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-eighth of December 2021, the return day of this citation.
Witness LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-ninth day of November 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
December 17, 2021

**A.C. 75A
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS**

**19P3747EA
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Register of Probate
December 17, 2021

North Brookfield PTO Craft Fair returns

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Guests recently enjoyed the return of a Friday night holiday favorite, pouring into North Brookfield Elementary School for the PTO’s craft fair.
Held on Dec. 3, the event featured dozens of local vendors lining the school’s halls, gymnasium, and cafeteria. Children’s activities, raffles, and music added to the flavor of a fun night, and crafters appreciated the opportunity to promote shopping local for the holiday season.



North Brookfield’s Christine Walsh welcomes guests to her table.



Members of the North Brookfield PTO enjoy their event.



Mother-daughter duo, Jenn and Lucy Morse, represent North Brookfield Youth Soccer.

Photos Kevin Flanders



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SPORTS

Minutemen — improving as game wears on — march past Southbridge

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — When Bay Path Regional hosted a varsity boys' basketball game on Friday, Dec. 10 for the first time in close to two years — it came against Southbridge High — head coach Al Greenough knew that in the early going the quality of play may not be superb.

"For not having played in a couple of years, I kind of expected that it was going to be a lot rusty. There's only so much in two weeks you can get in for the first game," he said. "I was proud of the guys because they battled through the first half...but in the third quarter they pulled away. They got the lead and in the fourth quarter they took care of the basketball late in the game."

The Minutemen trailed after the first quarter, 14-12, and held a slim lead of 28-25 at the half. But Bay Path outscored the Pioneers in the second half, 40-33, to emerge with a 68-58 victory.

Dylan Cotton, a senior for the Minutemen, scored a game-high 30 points, with 20 of those coming in the second half. In fact, Cotton got better by the quarter. He scored three points in the first quarter, seven in the second, eight in the third and 12 in the fourth.

"He's been around on varsity for four years and he's our go-to guy when we need a basket, and he did that tonight. Every time we really needed one, he delivered," Greenough said of Cotton before mentioning how he, like the team, improved in the second half. "He really struggled in the beginning. I think he was rushing his shot. He settled down as the game went on and we did a better job of moving the ball, getting openings for him to shoot. As a result, he had better looks at the basket and he started making more."

As much as it looked like Bay Path may run away with the victory in the third quarter when they grabbed as much as a nine-point lead, Southbridge hung tough. Five late points from Angel Morales gave the Pioneers life, as they only trailed by a 40-36 margin heading into the final frame.

But too many "hiccups," according to head coach Victor Colon, did Southbridge in. He noted that "turnovers," "not



Bay Path's Cam Hafner soars toward the basket.

Nick Ethier photos



Southbridge's Kevin Loftus goes up and in for an uncontested layup.

rotating," and "not finishing at the basket" as the key elements that didn't allow for the comeback to be completed.

Cotton also had something to do with Bay Path maintaining the lead, as his 3-pointer with 6:07 to play put the Minutemen ahead, 48-38, for their first double-digit advantage of the

night.

"We knew Cotton was going to go and just shoot. A lot of the times they went to the high post and everybody collapsed. I had to call a timeout to adjust that, and they still did it. Once they collapsed into the high post, that wing is wide open. That's where he got the major-



Zack Fritze of Bay Path sizes up a 3-point shot.



Bay Path's Dylan Cotton saves the ball from bouncing out of bounds.

ity of his points," explained Colon. "We knew he'd be a lethal shooter."

In addition to Cotton, seven other Minutemen registered at least three points and Corey Scovil pulled down double-digit rebounding totals to aid in a total team effort.

"Wearing these masks, it's a very difficult situation — breathing on the court, and so on and so forth — so I knew going into this year we're going to have to rely on the whole team to get it done. The good news is this is one of the deepest teams I've had in years. I was proud of the whole team effort tonight," said Greenough.

Similar to Bay Path, the Pioneers also had contributions all around the floor. Morales and Kevin Loftus both scored 12 points, while Sam Ortiz added 10 more. A total of 12 players either scored or

grabbed a rebound, which is familiar for a Colon-coached club.

"That's the way I like to play," he said of playing all the substitutes and then giving more time to the top producers. "Angel Morales, he sprained his ankle in practice [two days prior] so he iced it, iced it, iced it — he was determined to play — I didn't go to him in the first quarter and I don't even think in the second quarter. At half-time I asked, 'are you sure you want to do it?' and he said, 'put me in.' He went in there and he did work."

Colon isn't overly concerned about losing the first game of the season, either.

"I saw a lot of good things — obviously a lot of bad things — but it's just lessons. Tomorrow we go and hit practice again," he said.

Auburn ice hockey hangs tough, but ultimately falls in season-opening loss to Nashoba

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — With Auburn High having not competed in winter season athletics during the 2020-2021 season due to COVID-19, it had been quite a while since the Rockets took to the ice for a game.

"This is like starting a whole new program," explained head coach Glen Bombard. "We didn't have any hockey last year. It's like starting from scratch."

Additionally, Auburn had three tryout dates and just five practices before hosting Nashoba Regional at the Horgan Arena on Thursday, Dec. 9 for a first round matchup in the Dana Willard Memorial Tournament. The Rockets — who co-op with Millbury High, Shepherd Hill Regional and Tantasqua Regional — played well in spurts but committed too many turnovers in a 4-2 loss.

"I was expecting more. I thought we had a good week of practice and a good week of prep," explained Bombard. "It came down to four key, big mistakes. That second one in the second period with 20 seconds left when we pinched, that was a tough one."

Bombard spoke of a goal off the stick of the Wolves' Billy Johns, which made it a 2-0 game at the second intermission. Johns broke down the left wing uncontested and fired off



Auburn's Dillon Winkelmann controls the puck over the blue line and into Nashoba's defensive zone.

Nick Ethier photos

a wrist shot that got underneath the arm of Rockets' goalie Nate Brown. Kameron Pierce and Joseph Quinn were credited with the assists.

That trio struck first for Nashoba just two minutes into the game when Pierce scored, and Pierce and Quinn grabbed assists.

Auburn righted the ship in the third period when it took just one minute and one second to slice the deficit in

half. On the power play, Dillon Winkelmann snapped the puck from the slot, and it got up and over goalie Jack Peterson (18 saves) for the goal.

Then, just over three minutes later, the Rockets tied the score thanks to a strong individual effort from Braden Rich. Rich stole the puck in the offensive zone, and it slipped down to Jack Gaudette. From there, Gaudette sent the puck back up to Rich, who turned and shot



Gavin Groh of Auburn zeroes in on crunching a Nashoba player into the boards.

into the net.

"It was hard work. If you do that all the time — you know as well as I do — you're going to get good results," said Bombard.

Although Auburn had all the momentum, it only took four minutes for the Wolves to regain their two-goal advantage.

"We didn't work hard every minute; we didn't play 45 minutes," said Bombard. "Then

we go out and make two more mistakes. We'll learn and put it behind us."

On the winning goal, Nashoba's Marcus DiBello was the beneficiary of a nice pass from Joseph Scanlon. Adam Balewicz had the secondary assist.

Then, with 6:45 to go, the Wolves put the game away when Quinn scored off a rebound. Scanlon and Johns

SPORTS

Strong defensive showing propels Warriors past Northbridge

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

NORTHBIDGE — The Tantasqua Regional girls' varsity basketball team is at its best when it can set up a pressure defense, hoping to produce turnovers. But the Warriors can only get into that formation following made baskets, which they struggled to do at Veterans Memorial Field House versus Northbridge High on Monday, Dec. 13.

Tantasqua did score enough, however, and played stellar 'D' en route to winning a 35-30 decision.

"We want to run up and down the court and we want to press. We can only do that if we get the ball in the basket," explained first-year head coach Tony Giuggio, who came from Minnechaug Regional in Western Mass. "These kids have never played that way before and they're still learning it. It's a process."

But the pressure defense was effective when it was able to be implemented.

"We saw glimpses of it. When we scored and pressed, we can kind of go on those runs," Giuggio said.

The latter half of the third quarter was when Tantasqua played its best, as they turned a 20-16 deficit — thanks to the Rams opening the quarter with seven straight points — into a 30-24 lead thanks to a 14-4 run.

"I give Tantasqua credit. They haven't played in two years and they came out with intensity, especially on



Tantasqua's Angelina Reno drive around Northbridge's Liz Quimby.

the offensive boards that we did not match," said Northbridge head coach Matt Gauthier, whose team was outrebounded by a 51-30 margin. "Out of those 51, I bet 25 or 26 were offensive rebounds."

Despite the loss, Gauthier did appreciate his team's never quit mentally.

"I liked that they battled, they didn't give up," he said. "Down nine, that's nothing in basketball. I liked that we fought back."

The Rams cut the deficit down to 33-30 in the final minutes, but the Warriors' Dayna Lorenz — who led her team with 12 points — calmly connected on a pair of free throws with 22 seconds

Tantasqua's Dayna Lorenz fires off a pass down the court.

to play. Her teammate, Kelsie Wotten, added 7 points and 10 rebounds.

"We think we can be really good," Giuggio said of team expectations. "We're in Division 3 this year. We think we can go a long way, get to the State Tournament and do some damage if we get to that point."

On the Northbridge side, Abby Fraser led the way with 15 points, and Molly Gahan contributed 7 points and 9 boards.

The Rams are now 2-1 following a two-game victory in the Marlborough Tip-Off Classic.



Gabby Scanlon of Tantasqua releases an outside jump shot attempt.



MOORE
continued from page A7

good of an actor I will become - I do." No matter how insecure I felt, I kept telling myself, "I will become a talented actor!" For all the roles that I've booked on TV, Film and the Stage, I've never received a bad review.

I used to hear a former co-worker tell herself, "I'm so stupid!" whenever she did something wrong. Interestingly, I never heard her say, "I'm so intelligent!" when she did something right.

If you call attention to your mistakes by telling yourself that you're

stupid, more stupid mistakes will follow.

I had a close friend who sarcastically told himself dozens of times a day, "I hate my life!" coincidentally, he was depressed and suicidal. His life seemed great; he had a great family and personality; why did he hate his life? Is there a connection between how he felt and what he told himself?

When you create a negative narrative about yourself, you're putting yourself into prison. It's a trap, and you'll become ensnared by your words.

I know people use their words to describe how they feel, but what if we

used our words to change how we feel? What if you used your words to change the direction of your life?

Next time you feel insecure, tell yourself, "I'm talented, I'm secure, I'm valuable, I have everything I need to succeed!" Next time you feel like a failure, tell yourself, "Tomorrow will be better; my future is bright, I am a champion, I will accomplish my dreams!"

As you move forward, don't use your words to imprison yourself. Use them to set yourself free! Use them to set into motion the type of life you always wanted.

HOCKEY
continued from page A12

added assists.

Despite the four goals against, Bombard was pleased with Brown's play in between the pipes. Brown finished with 18 saves, including a breakaway stop against Johns that kept the game tied at 2-2 for the time being.

"I thought he played well. The goals they got were all good goals," the coach said.

Despite the season-opening setback, Bombard is optimistic for the games ahead.

"There's a lot of good signs. For the first game, it's just the mistakes. I think we'll be all right in the long run. We have to grow and get to know each other, and we'll go from there," he concluded.

Update: Nashoba went on to win the Dana Willard Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 11, defeating Worcester 6-3 in the championship game. Auburn won its consolation game versus East Longmeadow, 7-1.



Auburn's Nolan White stick-handles the puck through Nashoba's defense.



Goalie Nate Brown of Auburn makes the save with Nashoba on a breakaway.

POLICE LOGS
continued from page A11

5:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:35 a.m.: commercial alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), call canceled; 7:41 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 10:55 a.m.: ambulance (Chatham Street, Worcester), transported; 11:02 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 12:33 p.m.: ambulance (Carleton Road), transported; 12:49 p.m.: ambulance (Carleton Road), transported; 1:33 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:43 p.m.: assist other PD (Meadow Lane), unfounded; 4:25 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 4:26 p.m.: assist other PD (Lexington Avenue), unfounded; 4:34 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:48 p.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 4:53 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:55 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 7:01 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:06 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 7:59 p.m.: disabled mv (Soojians Drive), mv towed.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7
12:45 a.m.: open door/window (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 3:13 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 7:01 a.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), services rendered; 8:05 a.m.: family problem (Park Lane), resolved; 9:33 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 12:40 p.m.: family problem (Park Lane),

resolved; 1:24 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 3:48 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:01 p.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 6:52 p.m.: disturbance (Bottomly Avenue), spoken to; 7:19 p.m.: suspicious mv (Cricklewood Drive), resolved; 7:26 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:41 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8
2:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 3:29 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), resolved; 7:12 a.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), referred to ACO; 8:59 a.m.: ambulance (Woodland Road), transported; 9:59 a.m.: animal complaint (Huntoon Memorial Highway), referred to ACO; 10:02 a.m.: hold-up alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), false alarm; 11:29 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:43 p.m.: wires down (Rawson Street), resolved; 4:31 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), gone on arrival; 4:45 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 5:00 p.m.: suspicious mv (Memorial School Drive), services rendered; 5:15 p.m.: disturbance (Rawson Street), services rendered; 5:49 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Drive), transported; 6:33 p.m.: slippery road/icing (Mulberry Street), referred; 8:07 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 9:00 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 11:02 p.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 11:38 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street).

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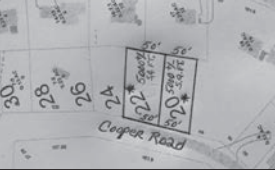
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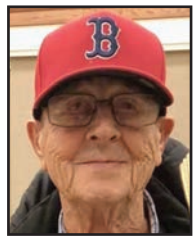
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OBITUARIES

Jerome Marshall Spencer, 78

Jerome Marshall Spencer, 78, of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully November 27, 2021, at his daughter's home, surrounded by his loving family.



He was born February 5, 1943, in Worcester, Massachusetts, the son of the late Leda and Russell Spencer. He was one of ten children. He was preceded in death by 2 sisters and 2 brothers, and left behind 4 sisters and a brother.

He married Barbara Ann Ward on October 26, 1971, in Kentucky. Mr. Spencer was preceded in death by his

wife, Barbara and a son, James Ward. He is survived by 4 daughters; a son; 7 granddaughters; and 9 grandsons.

His favorite pastimes included traveling around in his Jeep with his daughter Shelley, especially trips to Maine where he always enjoyed a fresh lobster, in addition to Sunday drives with his sister Jennifer.

He enjoyed watching his favorite game shows, especially Price is Right and Wheel of Fortune. He also loved participating in the annual chili cook-off at his daughter's church, where he proudly took home the "People's Choice" award three years ago.

At Mr. Spencer's request, no funeral services will be held. A celebration of life service will be planned at a future date.

Norman R. Pelchat, 90

Brookfield / Spencer- Norman R. Pelchat, 90, died peacefully on November 23rd, 2021, at his daughter's home in Brookfield.



His wife of 67 years Helen (Benoit) Pelchat died March 27, 2019. He leaves behind his daughters, Mary Pepin (Robert) of Warren; Patricia Pelchat (Ken Uracius) of Brookfield; son Norman Pelchat (Wendy) of Spencer; grandchildren Jeffrey Newell of Gloucester; Morgan Pelchat and Logan Pelchat of Spencer; and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by a grandson, Patrick Newell in 2004.

Norman was born on July 25th, 1931, the only child of Joseph and Albertha (Baribeault) Pelchat. He was the owner/operator of Auburn Motor Sales until his retirement and owner of

the former Spencer Social Club and the Busy Bee bar and restaurant. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. Norman enjoyed cigars, country music, and never missed an episode of Saturday Night Live.

Norman's presence will be greatly missed but will remain in our hearts forever. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St Jude's or the Second Chance Animal Shelter, East Brookfield, MA. There are no calling hours. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral home, Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Estate jewelry is bringing strong auction prices

Recently, estate jewelry has been bringing some of the strongest prices we've seen. In today's column I'll define exactly what estate jewelry is and share more about prices for this desirable item.

Even estate jewelry dealers' opinions differ on what estate jewelry is. However, the consensus is that estate jewelry is simply jewelry that was previously owned by someone else. There seems to mainly be agreement that costume jewelry isn't estate jewelry. It's generally believed that estate jewelry is fine jewelry crafted from precious metals like gold or platinum. Estate jewelry often includes gemstones like diamonds, opals, rubies, emeralds, jade, sapphires, etc.

Estate jewelry can be broken down further by the age of the pieces. U.S. Customs defines an antique as an item that's 100 years old or older. Therefore, jewelry made 100 or more years ago is considered antique. But what is con-



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sidered vintage varies. Some consider vintage to be 50 years old or more. Others consider vintage jewelry to be 30 or even 20 years old. Some describe jewelry that isn't old enough to be antique or vintage as pre-owned.

Age is just one of the factors that determines the value of your estate jewelry. Most collectors want antique or vintage pieces as the value is typically higher for them. As with most items, the craftsmanship with older jewelry is often much better than with newer pieces.

The designer also makes a difference with estate jewelry. People will pay more for well-made pieces by companies like Cartier and Tiffany. Further, the size and weight are important factors. Larger, heavier pieces are worth at least the value of the gold they contain. Diamonds and other gemstones can have significant value. In one of our auctions several years ago, a three and a half carat diamond



sold for over \$30,000. Whether you have an old mine cut, Marquise cut, oval cut or any other diamond cut, the 4 Cs of diamonds still apply (color, cut, clarity and carat.)

Our November auction featured estate jewelry, gold coins and watches that brought nice results for the consignors. A newer 14-karat gold Italian 20-inch serpentine necklace sold for \$650. An 18-karat jade ring brought nearly \$900. A 14-karat gold with two and a half carat old mine cut diamonds and sapphire ring went for over \$1,000. An 18-karat seven-inch turquoise bracelet with small diamonds reached over \$2,100. A men's platinum moonstone ring with two small diamonds on the side sold for nearly \$3,000. A Tiffany 18-karat white gold, platinum, emerald and diamond ring fetched over \$4,000. A jeweled 18-karat gold dagger cut through all other items to reach the top auction

price when it sold for over \$8,000.

We will be running Session 5 of the model railroad, die-cast cars and models next month. We are now accepting quality consignments for our next multi-estate auction including estate jewelry, sterling silver, coins, art, comic books, sports cards, advertising signs and other valuable antiques and collectibles. I'll be teaching my "Evaluating your Antiques" class again on March 23 at the Bay Path Evening school in Charlton, Mass. Please sign up for our email list on our website or follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming events.

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

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