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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, February 7, 2020

Local bride-to-be gets to “Say Yes to the Dress” on TLC



Courtesy Photo

From left, Cindy Choe, Karen Brown, Jennifer Choe, Jordan Green, Lindsay Anderson, and Mike Morais take part in “Say Yes to the Dress.”

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Choosing a wedding dress is always an unforgettable experience, but a local bride-to-be recently took the process to the next level on a popular television show.

Jennifer Choe, who will be married later this year, was chosen to be filmed in an episode of the hit TLC show “Say Yes to the Dress.” The reality show has featured brides from throughout the nation over 16 seasons, but Choe and her family brought a unique flavor to the program. Choe’s mother, Karen Brown, owns the Hanmi Tae Kwon Do Center in Worcester, and the family of martial artists – including Jennifer – help run the business.

Last month, dressed in their Tae Kwon Do uniforms, the family traveled to New York City to join Jennifer for the filming of the show, which will air in the upcoming fall season. Popular since its inception in 2007, “Say Yes to the Dress” features imminent brides searching for the perfect wedding dress. Several consultants help each bride-to-be look for dresses in various styles, and family members and friends also render their opinions.

For Jennifer Choe and her family, every aspect of the process was a thrill. After watching the show for many years, it was almost surreal for them to travel to Kleinfeld Bridal in New York on Jan. 24 and experience the program not as viewers but participants.

“Both of my daughters have been longtime fans of the show, and have always been dead set on going to Kleinfeld to do their wedding dress shopping,” Karen Brown told the New

Please Read **CHOE**, page **A9**

Special Town Meeting to address Senior Center’s fire code issues

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – At the upcoming Special Town Meeting, voters will be asked to support funding designs for fire code improvements at the Senior Center.

At minimum, the 68 Maple St. building needs a new fire detection system and fire suppression system, town officials said. Additional code improvements may also be required at the building, which previously housed Maple Street School and now serves as the Senior Center.

During the Feb. 13 Special Town Meeting (7 p.m. at Town Hall), Article 3 will seek an authorization to transfer monies needed to fund the designs.

“The other code improvements, which will likely be minor repairs, will be determined by the architect the town hires,” said Town Administrator Thomas Gregory. “I expect to sign a contract with an architectural firm after Town Meeting appropriates the money on Feb. 13.”

Preliminary estimates for the total construction cost are in excess of \$300,000, officials projected. Meanwhile, all Senior Center activities are still allowed to take place in the building as the funding appropriation process continues. However, if the design funds are not approved at Town Meeting, second-floor access to the building would likely be restricted starting in May, officials said. The first-floor capacity would also be capped at 100 guests.

The second floor features a yoga room, library, meeting room, and a handful of other rooms where seniors enjoy various activities. Officials want to ensure that funding is received so seniors can continue to have permanent access to all floors.

“This is the first decent building our seniors have ever had in terms of space and quality. We need to make sure it continues to function the way it was envisioned,” said Selectman Ralph Hicks.

Several seniors are expected to attend the Special Town Meeting. This past fall, seniors and their families packed Town Hall for a meeting to discuss the issue.

“It’s very important for the seniors to come out to the meeting and vote in favor of this article on Feb. 13,” said Senior Center Director Pamela Woodbury.

The Special Town Meeting will also feature articles covering...

Please Read **MEETING**, page **A7**

Leicester receives funding for new playground

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – A recent grant will pave the way for kids to play, as the town received funding to build a playground at Towtaid Park.

The community construction grant was provided through a partnership between Keurig Dr. Pepper (KDP) and the national nonprofit KaBOOM. The playground project is made possible by Let’s Play, a nationwide initiative launched by KDP to provide the funding, equipment, and play spaces to help kids and families make active play a daily priority.


Through the Let’s Play program, KDP and its partners are committed to helping create safe and inspiring places for kids to learn, explore, and have fun with friends. For Leicester officials, it’s a thrill to see the playground project slated for a park in dire need of improvements.

“We are excited to partner with Keurig Dr. Pepper and KaBOOM to bring a new playground to town as part of the revitalization of Towtaid Park,” said Town Administrator David Genereux.

Leicester families have endured many years of severely underfunded parks and recreation programs, which resulted in the near abandonment of Towtaid Park in the Cherry Valley section...

Please Read **PLAYGROUND**, page **A5**

Quaboag students represent Project 351 in Boston



Kevin Flanders Photo

Hanna Nemeroff and Dawson Kelly were chosen as Project 351 ambassadors for Quaboag Regional Middle-High School.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WARREN – A pair of Quaboag Regional Middle-High School students recently traveled to Boston as Project 351 representatives.

Held each year on the Saturday before Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, Project 351 unites eighth graders from across the state in a day of community service. One eighth grader from each town in the Commonwealth is chosen for participation in Project 351. At QRMHS, Hanna Nemeroff and Dawson Kelly were selected to represent the towns of West Brookfield and Warren, respectively.

On Jan. 18, the students boarded a bus to Boston and spent a day working on various service projects. The day of service began at Faneuil Hall, where the students listened to speeches from Governor Charlie Baker and several legislators. Students then fanned out in groups across the city, taking part in projects supporting such organizations as Cradles to Crayons, the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund, Greater Boston Food Bank, the Martin Richard Foundation, and Pine Street Inn, among others.

“It was really cool to be asked to do this. I didn’t know much about it before we went, but it was a great experience,” Nemeroff said.

Added Kelly, “It is a very rare opportunity. Only one person is chosen from each town.”

The students were also able to visit the JFK Library. One of their favorite parts of the journey was visiting historic sites and meeting new friends from across the state. All of the students bonded over a common interest in service and community involvement.

“My family has always been involved in many things, and I try to do as much as I can to help out,” said Nemeroff, a member of the school’s National Junior Honor Society.

Kelly said he is looking forward to joining more leadership programs in the future, in addition to...

Please Read **PROJECT 351**, page **A5**

Author Ed Londergan to host annual writing workshop

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD – From a teenager seeking to improve a short story, to a retiree embarking upon a memoir, everyone has a writing project in store. And an award-winning author has made it his mission to assist local writers with their next chapters.

Author Ed Londergan will host the fifth annual creative writing and publishing workshop next month. Set for Sunday, March 15, the workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Salem Cross Inn.

The event will provide writers with information on several topics. Whether you're seeking to get your novel published, or you just began penning your

first manuscript, there is something for every writer to take out of Londergan's presentation.

"The workshop will cover the entire writing and publishing process, including how to develop ideas, story structure, characters, and atmosphere and location. It also covers how to put together a chapter, creating authentic dialogue, the flow of the book, and how to hold readers' interest," Londergan said.

In past workshops, writers have asked Londergan about the many paths to publication available to today's writers. The author plans to dedicate even more time to that topic this year.

"With the great interest local writers have in getting published, I thought it's best

to spend more time on that aspect than I have in past workshops," Londergan told the New Leader. "Finding an agent, which is complicated and difficult, will also be addressed."

The dreaded writer's block will be covered as well. Having written multiple books and edited countless others, Londergan has plenty of tricks for busting through a bout with writer's block.

"The purpose of the workshop is to help those people who want to write but don't know where to start, or have had an idea for a story that's been bubbling in their head for years and finally want to put it on paper," Londergan said. "I also help people who have written something and need to know how to move ahead."

Past workshops have been attended by guests of widely varying ages. Many seniors' memoirs have benefited from the workshop, as well as local students' short stories and novels. Londergan takes guests through an engaging series of activities and writing prompts that get the brain thinking creatively.

"One of the things that past attendees have enjoyed and learned from is the writing exercises," Londergan said. "They write about everything from their favorite holiday memory, to their pets, to what they had for breakfast. Back-and-forth discussion is always a popular part of the day."

The workshop also provides a great opportunity for local writers to meet. Many of them continue to offer feedback on

each other's work long after the workshop.

"Attendees learn from each other. Individual issues or problems anyone is having with their writing are discussed, and the group helps them with suggestions and observations," Londergan added.

The cost of the workshop is \$95 per person, which includes lunch. The workshop is limited to 20 participants and registration is required. The registration deadline is March 7.

To register for the workshop, send an email to ed.londergan@gmail.com or call 508-864-8685.

Local Scouts hosting Pinewood Derby

EAST BROOKFIELD – It's off to the races for the second straight year, as Cub Scout Pack 148 members are once again inviting residents to attend a community Pinewood Derby.

The fundraiser will take place on Saturday, March 7, at East Brookfield Elementary School. Cars will be weighed in on race day between 10 a.m. and noon; the race will begin at 1 p.m.

The deadline to register for the event is Feb. 29. All ages are welcome to take part in the race, which costs \$15 per entry (cash only). The event will be limited to 100 racers, and you do not have to remain in the building after your car is weighed.

A pit area will be made available for last-minute adjustments. Cars may not leave the race area until all races are complete. Each car will receive four runs on the track, and specialized software will be utilized to randomly select each heat.

An awards ceremony will take place following the event. Last year, participants of all ages enjoyed the thrill of racing while giving back to the community. The event brought back fun memories for many former scouts who took part in similar events as children.

Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be available for purchase, beginning at 11 a.m. The event is being sponsored once again by Lamoureux Ford in town. Proceeds from the event will benefit the pack.

For more information about the event, call or text 508-450-4198. You can also check out Cub Scout Pack 148's Facebook page.

East Brookfield Elementary School is located at 410 East Main St.

Brookfield resident stars in Western NE's "Months on End"

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University's Stageless Players presented their fall production of "Months on End" by Craig Pospisil. "Months on End" is a comedy that follows the intertwined lives of a circle of friends and family over the course of one year, experiencing happiness and heartbreak. Enthusiastic audiences were moved to tears and laughs by the students' performance.

Members of the cast included: Jake Glass (Brookfield) as Ben, Aubrey Vargas (East Windsor, Conn.) as Phoebe, Marc Mitchell (Hudson) as Walter, V i c t o r i a Sebastian (Chelmsford) as Elaine, Nick Dana (Milford, Conn.) as Nick, Natalie Golden (Old Lyme, Conn.) as Paige, John Michael Rondello (Massapequa Park,

N.Y.) as Chris, Molly Doyle (Southbury, Conn.) as Gwen, Andrew Plante (North Attleboro) as Tony, and Kayla Curameng (South Windsor, Conn.) as Heidi.



The production, sponsored by Student Senate, the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, and the Department of Arts and Humanities, was directed by Western New England University students Marc Mitchell and Marissa DeMarco.

The Stageless Players are excited to start working on their next production, Mamma Mia, to be presented on April 3 and 4, 2020. This musical will be directed by professor Hillary Haft Bucs and Katelyn LaValley, with musical direction by Larry Picard. Mamma Mia follows the story of Sophie, a 20-year old, who is about to get married and wants her father to give her away. The only issue

is that she has no clue who her father is. With three potential fathers, Sophie's mother, Donna, is forced to rehash her past in this worldwide sensation told through the legendary music of ABBA. Mamma Mia is sure to have audiences dancing all through the night!

Celebrating its Centennial in the year 2019, Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Massachusetts, Western New England serves 3,974 students, including 2,629 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the School of Law.

Second Chance celebrates National Pet Dental Health Month



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NORTH BROOKFIELD — February is National Pet Dental Health Month, and Second Chance Animal Services is reminding pet owners to check their pet's teeth. Like in humans, dental health plays an important role in the overall health of pets. Dental issues can greatly affect a pet's quality of life.

Second Chance Medical Director Dr. Amy Alwood encourages pet owners to be aware of any changes to their pet's dental health.

"Bad breath is one of the more obvious symptoms, but excessive drooling, discolored teeth, changes in appetite or even dropping food when eating can be

cause for concern," she said.

Alwood recommends taking your pet to see the veterinarian whenever you notice these or any changes to your pet's behavior.

Brushing is an important part of maintaining good dental health and veterinarians recommend starting early so pets are accustomed to getting their teeth brushed. Dental treats can also combat tartar, but Alwood cautions pet owners to follow the suggested serving size.

"Too much of a good thing can be bad when it comes to any treats," Alwood cautioned.

During the month of February, all Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals are offering a 10 percent discount on dental cleanings. Interested pet owners should call one of the non-profit hospitals for more information on scheduling a dental consult. Second Chance operates full-service veterinary hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield and Worcester.



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SPENCER ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

SPENCER
\$205,100, 7 Martin Rd, Lammi, Ruth M, to Mathieu, Tommie P, and Mathieu, Victor.

BROOKFIELD
None.

EAST BROOKFIELD
None.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
None.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$330,000, 21 Hill Brook Dr, Petrin, Sylvia M, to Buelow, Gary.

LEICESTER
None.

Legion purchases new flag for Town House



Facing Main Street, a new flag hangs from the Town House thanks to American Legion Post 41 members.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Town House has seen improvements large and small in recent years, with several residents, officials, and organizations getting involved. Last month, American Legion Post 41 led the way by purchasing a new American flag to be displayed on the historic building.

Officials had reached out to the Legion and asked if members would be interested in leading a fundraising campaign for the flag. Legion members decided to forego the fundraising altogether and purchase the flag right away.

Facing Main Street from the front of the building, the flag is now displayed for all to see.

“It looks good. We try to help many

organizations in town, and it means a lot to do this,” said Don Smith, a member of Post 41 for 25 years.

Town officials thank the Legion members for their eager undertaking of the project. Officials have been encouraged by the alacrity shown throughout the community for renovating the beloved Town House.

“We want to thank them for this donation. We are grateful for local establishments contributing to the revitalization of the Town House,” said Selectman John Tripp, who has joined fellow Board members in personally working on improvement projects at the Town House.

Of course, Post 41 members are no strangers to giving back to the community in several ways. Members have assisted local students, scouting groups, organizations, and several other community groups in recent years.

“We always try to find ways to give back to the community,” added Smith, who serves as a historian for Post 41.

Officials also thanked Jeff Samuelson, who installed the flag on the front wall of the building. Samuelson has helped lead an array of improvement projects at the Town House, which was built in 1864. The building has served multiple municipal and social purposes over the years, and officials are committed to making it a hub of the town once more.

In recent years,

ACCURACY WATCH

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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 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.

painting projects and other upgrades have taken place at the building. Looking ahead, officials continue to seek grant funding for larger projects. The North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee hopes to tie in the Town House renovation with an overall revitalization of the town center.

To learn more about the Town House and ongoing efforts to improve it, visit www.FriendsNorthBrookfieldTownHouse.org.

Dillon Antonopoulos of West Brookfield makes Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its fall 2019 Dean's List for full-time and part-time students.

Among the students named to the list is full-time student Dillon Antonopoulos '20 of West Brookfield, who majors in Physical Education.

Recognition for the Dean's List is given at the end of each semester to matriculated students in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving 5,000 students annually at its Willimantic campus and satellite locations. In addition to

attracting students from 162 of Connecticut's 169 towns, Eastern also draws students from 34 other states and 19 countries. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 65 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal art foundation grounded in an array of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 30 public universities in the North Region by U.S. News and World Report in its 2019 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded "Green Campus" status by the Princeton Review 10 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

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LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2019-2020 school year.

8TH GRADE

High Honors: Jacob Altman, Molly Baker, Chloe Bouchard, Grace Bujak, Hannah Collette, Owen Collette, Michelle Dacri, Zachary Jackson, Peyton Knott, Meghan Le, Mason Letourneau, Charolette Libby-Toler, Jasmine Ngo, Nora Oliver, William Panepinto, Elizabeth Price, James Sweeney

Honors: Marcos Alfonso, Caden Birtz, Allie Blair, Shawn Bloniasz, Andrew Boisvert, Kiara Cavanagh, Jaelyn Conley, Sadie Connery, Michael Connly, Matthew Drenzo, Liliith Field, Lillian

Gachau, Elizabeth Gallagher, Mason Griffiths, Nicklaus Hellstrom, Selena Ho, Ireland Huff, Madelyn LoVerme, Logan Mandella, Jessica McCarthy, Thomas Moore, Jillian Morrison, Jayla O'Neal, Connor Parke, Gabrielle Pietri, Anthony Pintado, Logan Potter, Jackson Ricarte, Patrick Richards, Destiny Rivas, Amandah Rivera, Adam Skoglund, Gabrielle Stuart, Laylah Summers, Owen Underwood

7TH GRADE

High Honors: Kayla Bouchard, Dylan Delage, Ryan Delage, Kathryn Dolimount, Jason Fournier, Lorenzo Francis, Vivian Giles, Layla Gustin, Alexis Herbert, Jaden Jaillet, Coddan Nguyen, Nicole

Nguyen, Jordan Patterson, Sedona Richard, Elizabeth Sosa, Cooper White

Honors: Sean Alves, Phoenix Bates, MacKenzie Bowen, Jacob Cruz, Jacob Dolimount, Valerie Fanion, Aynslei Holmes, Benjamin LaPointe, Jack Ledbetter, Alexander Ngo, Gia Norcia, Tyler Pierce, Anais Pokua, Fatimah Robbins, Brenna Savoie, Jenna Savoie, Ella smith

6TH GRADE

High Honors: Tomas Acero, Avery Bullock, Brandon Escobar, John Gahagan, Shane Garrahe, Brody Grant, Emily Hunt, Natalia Kallio, Casey Knott, Isabella LePoer, Christopher Moffat, Claudia Moisan, Zoe Morales, Grace

Price, McKenzie Settle, Luke Soden, Tyler Williams, Dakota Zinkevich

Honors: Bayleigh Abdella, Kate Barbato, Kaylee Buckley, Nicholas Caforio, Lily Chartier, Hunter Clark, Collin Connor, Adam Corriveau, Jacob Cosper, Julia Dee, Sarah Dee, Owen Fadden, Jason Fuller, Arianna Gonzalez, Michael Hagglund, Rowen Hennessy, Hannah Martin, Reese Maxwell, Ryan McCarthy, Carlee McShera, Jacob Perry, Rhaegan Perry, Kassidy Poce, Maxavier Rust, Jack Skoglund, Justin Trainor, Jack Tuomenoksa, Nicole Tuson, Isabel van Lingen, Nathan Wilder, Jack Witkowski

5TH GRADE

High Honors: Aydan

Chartier, Nathaniel Kaiser, Kenneth Lane, Jeremy Ledbetter, Ryder Mandella, Kaydi Marttila, Gianna Panepinto, Ava Petruzzi, Sofia Renzoni, Hannah Spratt, Sabrina Wright

Honors: Brady Bates, Jacob Beaulac, Karsyn Bulak, Alexa Butler, Andrew Carpenter, Kayliana Chambers, Kelsey Cole, John Coleman, Margaret Dillon, Alexander Fournier, Taylor Gallant, Sierra LaCroix, Nikolas Lison, Luke Marjault, Valerie Maynard, Joshua McCormick, Kaidyen McDowell, Samuel Milgate, Ryan Myotte, William Nguyen, Jillian Rodrique, Taylor Rodrique, Madalyn Rose, Noah Smith, Adam Tebo, Harrison Thompson, Casey Waterman, Abigail Valinski, Mary Van Hazinga, Casey Waterman, Ainsley Whittemore



Richard Sugden Library

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February 10
Parent/Child Playgroup includes play with a craft , sensory and fine motor activities. Snack time followed by cir-

cle time with a story, calendar, weather & song/music & movement. Meets in the community room from 10:00 am - 11:30 am for infants-age 5 and their caregivers. Sponsored by Community Connections. A grant program funded by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Teen Mania: Artist in you, meets from 3:30-5:30. Teen Mania prepares for our first teen art show at the library! Try different art mediums each week. This week's theme is Clay: What can you sculpt using simple clay? Could this be the piece you enter in our spring art show? All levels welcome. Discover your inner artist and enter your favorite pieces in the show in April.

February 11
Toddler story time meets from 10:00 am - 10:45 am for ages 18-35 months and their caregivers.

Pre-K story time meets from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm for children 3 years (by Sept 1st) to school age.

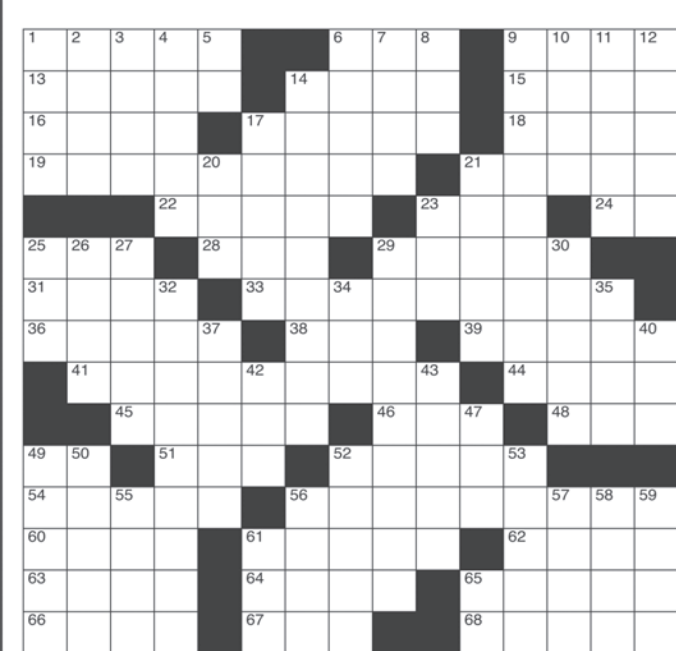
Happiness Trap Book Discussion continues with Wendy O'Leary. Come prepared to discuss the book from 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm.

Imagination Station! Let's use our engineering minds: build cars out of common cardboard tubes and other simple materials. We'll also read a book and share some jokes. See what you can create! Imagination Station meets in the Community Room on Tuesdays

from 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm. All children in grades K-5 welcome!

February 12
Pause: Mindfulness Meditation is held on the Library's Main Floor on Wednesdays from 8:30 am—9:30 am. Drop-in and learn about mindfulness. We will practice mindfulness, and discuss using these tools to enhance our relationship with ourselves and others.

February 13
Community Connections hosts Read, Build, Play, a STEM program for infants-age 5 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. This free program is provided by a grant through the Department of Early Education and Care.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates number of days
- 6. When you hope to get there
- 9. Hairstyle
- 13. Black (Spanish)
- 14. Expresses pleasure
- 15. Away from wind
- 16. Tech pros organization
- 17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- 18. Clean
- 19. Saints' signal caller
- 21. A way to hunt
- 22. Poetries
- 23. Automobile
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Short-billed rails
- 31. It pays to keep yours
- 33. On occasion
- 36. David __, US playwright
- 38. Slang for cigarette
- 39. Vaccine developer
- 41. Returned to health
- 44. Toni Morrison novel
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Veterans battleground
- 48. Gang
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Elaborate garments
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Checks
- 60. Horizontal passage
- 61. Steep hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Signs a name
- 65. __ Winger, actress
- 66. German river
- 67. Gov't lawyers
- 68. Take something somewhere

CLUES DOWN

- 1. __ Blyton, children's author
- 2. Colleague
- 3. "The African Queen" writer
- 4. Crater on the moon
- 5. Toward
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Identifies something close at hand
- 8. Sign language
- 9. Unbroken views
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Stretch out to grasp
- 12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- 14. Humorous stories
- 17. Long song for a solo
- 20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. City of Lights
- 23. A place to sleep
- 25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
- 26. The back
- 27. Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
- 29. Songs to a lover
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Disfigure
- 35. Stores grain
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. Catch
- 42. Promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Russian space station
- 49. Banking giant
- 50. Served as an omen
- 52. Drenches
- 53. Type of sword
- 55. Minor planet
- 56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 57. Japanese ankle sock
- 58. Obtain in return for services
- 59. Waste matter
- 61. A proposal to buy at a specified price
- 65. Unit of loudness



2020 off to a busy start for North Brookfield Democrats

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Democratic Committee has been busy in the new year! On Jan. 12, the group hosted a Regional Organizing Meeting for Congressman Jim McGovern. On Feb. 1, North Brookfield Dems worked with other area Democratic Town Committees to host a Central Massachusetts Candidates Forum at the Salem Cross Inn that drew over 100 residents from the Central Massachusetts area. Up next, the North Brookfield Democratic Town Committee will be holding its annual caucus at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Haston Free Library to elect two Delegates and 1 Alternate to the 2020 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. This year's state convention will be held May 30th at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, where thousands

of Democrats from across the state will come together to discuss Party business and celebrate successes as they prepare for upcoming elections. The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in North Brookfield. Pre-registered Democrats who will be 16 by Feb. 15 will be allowed to participate and run as a Delegate or Alternate. Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a Delegate or Alternate may apply to be an Add-on Delegate at the caucus or at www.massdems.org. Those interested in getting involved with the North Brookfield Democratic Town Committee should visit its Web site at www.nbdemocrats.org.

Jacob Fulmer of Spencer named to the University of Hartford Dean's List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Jacob Fulmer of Spencer has been named to its Dean's List for Fall 2019.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,800 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students representing all 50 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters.

Spencer man arrested on animal abuse charges

SPENCER — A man was arrested on animal abuse charges following a lengthy police investigation.

Leonardo Pagan Marrero, 48, of Pleasant Street in town, was arrested on Jan. 25 at his home. The arrest was made shortly after midnight on a warrant for animal cruelty.

The investigation began on Dec. 12, when Spencer officers were called to the Pleasant Street area around 1:30 a.m. for a report of a barking dog. The temperature was well below freezing when officers discovered the dog tethered with a wire cable behind 41 Pleasant St., Pagan Marrero's residence.

"The animal was tangled in the cable and clearly in distress, having no access to shelter, food, or water," read a state-



Leonardo Marrero

ment issued by the Spencer Police Department. "According to a neighbor, the owner was away and someone was allegedly checking on the dog."

Officers subsequently seized

the animal, placing it at the Spencer kennel, but the homeowner could not be located. Believing the dog to have been abandoned, it was transferred to the Siberian Husky Rescue League for adoption.

Following a veterinary exam, officers were advised that the dog was underweight and tested positive for Lyme, anaplasma, and hookworms.

No inquiries were made about the dog until Jan. 24, when a third party called police about the animal going missing. The caller also indicated that the owner was back in the area.

Following his arrest, the suspect posted \$2,000 cash bail and was released pending arraignment on Feb. 3.

Area residents named to dean’s list at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Aliya Zubi of Brookfield and Hannah Wickson of Leicester were named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2019 semester at Quinnipiac University.

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and

two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 7,000 full-time undergraduate and 3,000 graduate and part-time students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review’s “The Best 385 Colleges.” The Chronicle of Higher Education has named Quinnipiac among the Great Colleges to Work For(r). For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook at facebook.com/quinnipiacunews and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

Leicester Democratic Town Committee Caucus

LEICESTER — Registered Democrats in Leicester will hold a caucus at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27 in the meeting room at the Leicester Public Library, 1136 Main St., to elect Delegates and Alternates to the 2020 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention.

This year’s state convention will be held May 30th at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, where thousands of Democrats from across the state will come together to discuss Party business and celebrate our successes as we prepare for upcoming elections.

The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in Leicester.

Pre-registered Democrats who will be 16 by Feb. 15 will be allowed to participate and run as a Delegate or Alternate. Leicester can elect 4 Delegates and 4 Alternates to the Convention.

Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a Delegate or Alternate may apply to be an Add-on Delegate at the caucus or at www.massdems.org.

Those interested in getting involved with the Leicester Democratic Town Committee should contact Allan Johannesen at 508-847-5274 or email leicesterdtc@gmail.com.

PLAYGROUND

continued from page 1

tion of town. The limited existing equipment is rusty, outdated, and marred by graffiti – but officials are eager for a new beginning for the park.

“The town has set a goal of improving our local parks to benefit families in this community, and this is a fantastic first step,” added Genereux, who served as Leicester’s representative for the grant funding.

KDP donated \$38.5 million to the Let’s Play program through 2019, impacting parks and organizations across North America. Through the Let’s Play program, KDP partners with two nonprofit organizations – KaBOOM and Good Sports – to build and improve playgrounds in underserved communities. The program also awards grants to enable organizations to purchase sports equipment.

In Leicester, officials are hoping the new playground will bring families out to see what the park has to offer.

“This project will have a positive impact not only for neighborhood residents, but for the town as a whole,” read a joint statement issued by town officials, KDP leaders, and KaBOOM representatives.

With year-round grants available for new or improved playgrounds and sports equipment, the Let’s Play program helps kids achieve balanced, well-rounded lifestyles. The program has already provided more than 11 million kids with opportunities to put away the video games, get outside in the fresh air, and enjoy recreation activities with friends.

For more information about the Let’s Play initiative and how you can join the conversation about improving parks, visit www.LetsPlay.com. Information about several grant opportunities is available on the website.

KaBOOM is a national nonprofit association dedicated to providing safe play spaces for all kids, especially those living in financially challenged communities. To learn more about the association, visit www.kaboom.org.

PROJECT 351

continued from page A1

tion to mentoring incoming Project 351 students. For school leaders, it means a lot to see these two eighth graders getting heavily involved before even entering high school.

“They are so well-spoken and have great families. It is always important for our families to have a strong connection to the schools and a great partnership,” said Brett Kustigian, the Superintendent of the Quaboag Regional School District.

Both Project 351 students are also active in sports. Kelly takes part in skiing and year-round soccer, while Nemeroff is a field hockey athlete and dancer. Both students are looking forward to the next steps for Project 351, which include local springtime service projects. Next year, they will help inform new Project 351 students about what the day of service involves.

“We are really looking forward to staying involved and helping them,” added Kelly, who hopes to eventually study finances in college.

Added Nemeroff, “It will be fun to be part of the service projects.”

Since its inception in 2011, Project 351 service initiatives have benefited nearly 750,000 people across the state. To learn more about the Project 351 program, visit www.Project351.org.

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Office of Sen. Anne Gobi announces February office hours

REGION — Lucas McDiarmid, aide to Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), will be holding office hours throughout the district during the month of February. Constituents and town officials are invited to meet to express any concerns, ideas and issues they have. Attendants should RSVP to Lucas at Lucas.McDiarmid@MASenate.gov or by phone at (413) 324-3082. Town attendance is not restricted to residents of those towns, and Lucas is additionally available by appointment if you are unable to make any of the times listed.

Tuesday, Feb. 4
10-11 a.m. Warren Senior Center
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Brimfield Senior Center
1-2 p.m. Wales Senior Center

Wednesday Feb. 5
11 a.m.-noon West Brookfield Senior Center
12:30-1:30 p.m. New Braintree Town Hall
2-3 p.m. Brookfield Town Hall

6-7 p.m. Ashby Town Hall

Monday Feb. 10
10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Paxton Senior Center
Noon-1 p.m. Spencer Howe Village
1:30-2:30 p.m. East Brookfield Municipal Offices

Tuesday Feb. 11
10:30-11:30 a.m. Sturbridge Senior Center
Noon-1 p.m. Rutland Senior Center

Wednesday Feb. 12
9:30-10:30 a.m. Oakham Senior Center
11 a.m.-noon North Brookfield Senior Center
1-2 p.m. Holland Town Hall

Monday, Feb. 24
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Charlton Senior Center
2-3 p.m. Monson Town Hall

Madison Streeter named to College of Charleston Dean’s List

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Madison Streeter, of Spencer was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2019 Dean’s List. Streeter is a Hospitality/Tourism Management major.


To qualify for President’s List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours.

To qualify for Dean’s List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.600 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, S.C., the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized public liberal arts and sciences university. Founded in 1770, the College is among the nation’s top universities for quality education, student life and affordability. Its beautiful and historic campus, combined with contemporary facilities, cutting-edge programs and accessible faculty attracts students from across the U.S. and around the world.

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

Friday’s Child



Ashlynn
Age 11

Hi! My name is Ashlynn and I love to draw!

Ashlynn is a kind girl of Caucasian descent who likes to please and make others happy. She can start off shy with new people but warms up quickly. Ashlynn enjoys music, drawing, spending time with her friends, and swimming. She loves to spend time with her siblings and is very protective of her younger brothers. Ashlynn is in the 5th grade and has friends at school. She does well in class with extra supports.

Legally freed for adoption, Ashlynn will thrive in a home that can provide her with her own space and individualized attention. Her social worker is open to exploring homes with a mother and a father or two mothers. Ashlynn will do best as the youngest or only child in a family. Ashlynn has four brothers and two sisters in Massachusetts, and it is extremely important that she maintains a relationship with them.

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.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have “a permanent place to call HOME.”

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Be still and know ...

As regular readers of my column know, I'm being challenged in my life by a life-threatening health problem. A Neuroendocrine tumor is a rare affliction that is hard to diagnose by the average unexposed physician and medical facility. It is often identified with the late Apple founder and CEO, Steve Jobs, as this is the disease that took his life.

Luckily, my diagnosis was made and I'm hard at work with my insurance provider and family doctor to find the medical team/facility with expertise and experience to help me beat this affliction ... and beat it, I will.

I'll confess, that this health crisis challenges everything I've written and spoke of regarding the power of optimism. Yet it is my optimism, when I clear my mind, that helps me focus on the positive outcome that I believe I will achieve. My plan isn't to survive but to thrive.

I'll give you an occasional

and short update now and then, but this health-obstacle will not dominate my column moving forward. I'll go into some detail today because of the overwhelming response and well-wishes from readers, friends and family since my diagnosis. Make no mistake about this ... I will die some day because of something, but it's not going to be this.

Of all the incredibly supportive communications I've received, there was one short and negative response to last week's column. The reader said ...

"I am a three-time cancer survivor and the premise you can will it away is insulting. It doesn't just take your life away: it takes everything."

I responded that she should read the column rather than just reacting to the headline. I don't believe you can 'will

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

By GARY W. MOORE

simistically believe you cannot overcome, why would you go to the trouble of fighting?

There are more studies that I can count, verifying the powers of a positive mind in the treatment of disease. Believing in a positive outcome gives you the drive to have an increased focus on being part of the solution. With only 700 words available to me in this space, I won't take the time to list or footnote the studies, but if you go to the search engine of your choice, you will see countless studies by many of the most revered institutions in the world, showing the power of optimism on successful outcomes.

Once again, I'll say that there are some medical realities that

away' cancer or really anything. My point is always that optimism gives you a better chance of overcoming obstacles because an optimistic view gives you the encourage to fight. If you pessimistically believe you cannot overcome, why would you go to the trouble of fighting?

optimism cannot overcome. And in the case of almost every illness, optimism alone will have little positive impact. The power of optimism comes into play in partnership with modern medicine. You don't have to really do any research other than asking your doctor. Optimism will always give you greater chances for success than pessimism.

Vince Lombardi was often quoted as saying, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." I've learned over the last few weeks how true this is, as my mind works overtime with my diagnosis. When I'm rested, optimism is easy, but as fatigue sets in, my resistance to pessimism weakens. I'm finding two solutions. The first and obvious remedy is to get lots of rest. The second isn't as easy but even more powerful and that is to quiet your mind.

Depending upon your belief system or faith, you may look at this from different points of view. I've heard some say that only in silence your soul or

inner self will speak to you. Others say that through a quiet mind you can only create the solutions you seek. All good and I believe true. My experience in life takes me to Psalm 46:10. "Be still and know that I am God." It is those moments where I can force all the thoughts and words that I allow into my head back out, that I hear the voice that provides direction, comfort and healing.

So enough on cancer. Next week we'll return to my mission of helping others lead a more optimistic life. I'll keep you posted, and prayers are appreciated, but again, I'm not focused on just surviving, I plan to overcome this and thrive.

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

Flower Power: Legends and Lore of Blooms

With Valentine's Day around the corner, this week's column will focus on the symbolism of flowers. From romance to luck, flowers have long played a role in our everyday lives and according to folklore, perhaps even our futures. Read on for a review of the old fashioned legends and lore of beautiful blooms!

The "magical" power of blooms is legendary, as the following superstitions suggest:

Romance: Daisies: Perhaps the most familiar floral "predictor" of love is the daisy. Plucking off petals one by one while reciting "He (or she) loves me, he loves me not," has long served as an amusing indicator of requited love.

Bachelor Buttons: Folklore may explain how these bright blue and purple cornflowers earned their name. Legend has it that young suitors would place freshly picked flowers in their pocket while courting. If the "bachelor buttons" remained fresh and unwilted for the duration, it was a sure sign the relationship is on a steady course of success!

Roses: Romantic lore claims rose petals helped young ladies of earlier eras choose between two or more suitors. Writing the name of each prospective husband the petals and tossing them to the wind, it is said the last petal to hit the ground holds the name of the one she shall marry.

Luck: Primrose Etc.: Superstition has it that bouquets of flowers should always contain an odd number of blooms, lest bad luck be lured. This belief especially applies to primroses, as the English

believed the flowers should be only be brought into the house in groups of 13 to ensure good fortune.

Daffies: Perky yellow daffodils can be an instant mood booster, but according to Welsh folklore the flower can also bring wealth. It is said the first person who spots a spring daffodil will be rewarded with prosperity throughout the year!

Roses: To bring good luck into a home in days of yore, rose leaves were tossed into the fireplace flame.

Health and Well Being: White Flowers: White blooms are beautiful, but they can carry a melancholy message, according to age old folklore. Think twice before you send a bouquet of white flowers to a sick friend in the hospital as legend claims whites with a strong fragrance can worsen a sickness or even bring on death! Ditto for white flowers that show signs of wilting. And never pair white and red flowers in a bouquet for a sick person, as the combination is said to bring bad luck.

Day Lilies: These bright orange flowers, common to the New England landscape, were considered a lucky health charm when worn. It was believed wearing a lily would lighten one's worries and lessen distress.

Poppies: While wearing a poppy in the lapel on Veteran's day has long been a tradition to honor those who served and died for their country, poppies were also worn in the belief they help dispel worries and anxiety.

Valentine's Day: What does your gift



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

of flowers were used to express love and to signify a romantic message.

Number of Roses:
*A single rose means "I love you" and symbolizes unwavering devotion
*Two roses intertwined can act as a marriage proposal."
*A half dozen roses in a bouquet mean "to love and cherish." Six Roses signify a need to be
*Eleven roses confirm the recipient is truly and deeply loved. Thirteen roses indicate a secret admirer
*One dozen roses is a declaration of true love.

Color of Roses:
Red: Passion, Desire, love
Dark Red: Beauty and perfection
Pink: Romance and happiness
White: Innocence and purity
Yellow: Friendship and joy
Coral/Salmon: Desire
Purple: Devotion and enchantment
Red and Yellow mix: Falling in love
White and Red: Unity, endless love

Beneficial Blossoms
"Flower Power" takes on new meaning when you understand fresh flowers have the capacity to alter our energy and emotions. Why not take the benefits of the flower garden one step further

and plant specifically to improve both body and soul?

*Roses: No flower is more sentimental than the romantic rose. And it's no wonder. The scent of roses evokes nostalgia, which can recall happy memories from the past.

*Violets: Research shows violets enhance learning speed by 17%, and also improve concentration when used in study rooms.

*Lilies: Need an energy boost? The scent of Lily has been proven to increase wakefulness and help you stay alert.

*Lavender: Want to relax? Plant lavender. The scent of lavender prompts calmness. It's well known that studies report that the smell of lavender triggers alpha waves in the part of the brain associated with a relaxed state.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

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Brookfield Elementary School accepting kindergarten registrations

BROOKFIELD – Students who are five years old on or before Aug. 31 should sign up for kindergarten. Parents and guardians are encouraged to visit or call the Brookfield Elementary School office to pick up a registration packet as soon as possible. Along with the completed packet, the school requires two forms of identification to show proof of residency, a birth certificate and health/immunization records. Kindergarten screening will be held Monday, March 23, Tuesday, March 24 and Wednesday, March 25. Please call the school during the week of March 9 to schedule a screening appointment; children will not be screened without a complete file. For more information, or questions, please call Jennifer Grybowski, Administrative Assistant, at (508) 867-8774.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where’s Mikey?

To the Editor:

For lack of anything more productive to do, I like to send in letters to the New Leader knowing not only that perhaps a few readers will agree with the points I make, but, more importantly, that I can “reach out and touch someone” — in this case, the smug, arrogant, condescending, know-it-all “liberals” in the area who are astounded to learn that not everyone shares their brilliant ideas or appreciates the disastrous failures those ideas have brought about.

Of all my keyboard efforts, though, the only one that stands out as having received nothing but complimentary remarks to me from my friends and other readers was one I submitted a couple years ago, when I wrote about “Mike,” the young man behind the counter at Cumberland Farms in East Brookfield. I described him as the very model of what it means to be a great employee for a business such as Cumberland’s which exists to serve the public. A natural p.r.-type guy, Mike was always—I mean, always—smiling, cheerful, polite to one and all whether a lawyer from the court house next door or a person down on his or her luck going to or coming from their own court session and with hardly enough money for the bus trip back to Worcester; whether young or old, black or white, man or woman; everyone got the same genuinely friendly, quick and competent service from this likeable young man.

He had been there, I think, since the place opened maybe eight or nine years ago, and had outlasted all the managers and other employees by three or four times. Mike brought continuity and stability to a business whose defining characteristics do not include the permanency of staff. Except for times I was travelling away from the area, I did business there virtually every day since their inception. Mike was the biggest reason why I continued to go there on a habitual basis; I don’t mind spending money where I’m shown a little respect and appreciation.

In my previous letter about the kid, I joked that he ought to consider running for office as it was clear that he was more popular with the “regulars” at the store than any politician I know. He made a ton of friends in his work, and put a smile on many faces as folks grabbed their coffee and headed off for another day in the salt mine.

Now.... he’s gone. And I-and I’m sure many others-am shocked, dismayed, and bitterly disappointed to no longer see our old friend, “Mikey”, behind the counter or making sure the coffee is fresh, the bathrooms and the floor clean, and doing all the other things he did so well and with such a spirited and confident manner.

I never knew his last name, where he was from, or anything else beyond how he did his work (but, lately he did talk proudly of his two little ones at home), and yet I already miss him and cannot understand how Cumberland Farms could’ve possibly let such a superior contributor to their company just disappear, like the early morning sun burning off a heavy fog. No one wants to talk about it, he’s just... gone. Eight or nine years down the memory hole: no reasons, no explanations, nothing.

A recent incident will suffice to explain Mikey’s rare, invaluable and natural ability to read a situation regarding a customer and to do the right thing: only a week or so ago I had just pumped sixty-five dollars of gas into our company’s box truck (I fill it at least once, often twice a week at the store and usually spend between sixty and eighty dollars each

visit.) I grabbed a bag of hard candy and a coffee for the road, and took an empty Styrofoam cup which I needed. At the checkout counter I noticed the bill was twenty-five cents more than I had calculated. I asked the young cashier, “What’s the quarter for?” The response was “...for the empty cup...” I said, “You do know, don’t you, I just spent sixty-five dollars at the pump, and I’m spending another three or four dollars in here, and you want a quarter for a cup that probably cost the company a penny?” “Sorry, company policy”, came the response in an indifferent tone.

Not wanting to cause a scene by being argumentative or combative (I despise argumentative, combative people, don’t you?), I just said, “O.K., don’t worry about it.” But, on my way to the truck, I thought, “Well. I have a policy, too. It’s called, John’s policy, and it basically says I hate being nickel-and-dimed to death, especially in view of the fact that I, my family members, and the company for whom I work have, since the store opened, spent tens of thousands of dollars here for gas, coffee, milk, papers, treats, etc. and won’t be eager to let it happen again if that’s how our patronage is rewarded. That unthinking clerk’s decision is called, by the sages of old, being “penny-wise, and pound foolish.”

What’s that got to do with Mike? Just this: Mike, knowing what my business had meant to the company—that I was a valued customer—would’ve simply said, “You’re good with the cup, buddy. No problem.” But now, with that experience behind me, and without Mike’s smiling visage to cheer me up on a law, drizzly, windswept morning, I’m looking for other places to “spread the wealth.” I mean, after all, Sunoco just down the street has gas and cheap coffee. Why not try there, or any of a number of other places in the area?

I’ve remonstrated with Cunberland Farms before on the way they’ve treated great employees of that store, and gotten nowhere. They had a young woman-only knew her first name: Nikki—who was a fantastic manager. The place worked the way it’s supposed to: clean, long-term employees, friendly atmosphere, everything well-maintained and stocked, no long lines waiting to simply pay for a coffee, etc. Then, one day...gone. She just disappeared, no explanation, no reasons, nothing. And the place has never recovered. Ask people who go there regularly; they see, they know. But, if corporate management is too blind or uncaring about protecting proven, effective employees, what can a mere customer do to influence the situation?

So, if Mike reads this, I say, you were the best, Mikey. I know you will have landed smoothly somewhere and will continue to be a credit not only to yourself but to the company fortunate enough to pick you up as a new hire. Thanks for all the excellent service, for the smiles, for the little kindnesses to all your customers. We miss you already, and your departure may prove to be the reason we-hundreds of us-make our own departure in search of another place, one that values great employees like yourself. If you find work in a similar type of business, send me an email (the editor of this paper has my permission to give my address to you) letting me know where you’re doing your thing, and I’ll bring my business to wherever you are. And, at the same time, I’ll let your manager know how lucky they are to have you on board. God bless, Mike!

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

Senior Center offers self-defense program

SPENCER – The Senior Center will host a self-defense program geared toward elderly residents this month.

The event will take place on Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. at the center. Spencer Police Officer Valerie Morin will present tips and ideas to keep you safe.

All are welcome to attend this informational session.

MEETING continued from page 1

ing a utility easement and a proposed transfer of monies to Town Counsel Services. To read the warrant, visit the town Web site: www.SpencerMA.gov.

Is Christmas Biblical?

To the Editor:
The Catholic Church instituted the name and title of Christmas. Christ comes from Jesus Christ and mas comes from Catholic Mass, Christmas. The Romans, Roman Catholic Church, started the celebration of Christmas. The reason for that was because of the winter Solti’s and Saturnalia, a festival dedicated to the Roman deity Saturn. By celebrating Jesus birth on this day the church was able to merge the popular pagan festival as well as the winter celebration of the other pagan religion. So...is Christmas a pagan holiday? What I do know for sure is, it is not the birth of Jesus.

There are some scholars that believe that Dec. 25 is the conception of Jesus to Mary by the Holy Spirit. That seems about right; many scholars believe Jesus was born in September that makes it nine months from December.

The other way to help determine the birth of Jesus, Jesus was two years old when the wise men came to visit, pay homage to Jesus, this was the time and year most scholars agree that Herod ordained the murder of all infant boys up to the age of two years old because Herod learned from the Magi who come to pay homage to Jesus, that Jesus was a new born king.

The church scholars believed Jesus was born between 6 BC and 4 BC, this is from scripture that Herod the great the ruler of Judea ordered the death of all male infants in the year 4 BC in the attempt to kill the new born king Jesus. [Matthew 2: 16]

Another scripture we can determine the birth of Jesus is the presence of shepherds and their sheep in the field suggesting spring birth [Luke 2: 18-20]

I certainly do not understand the biblical years! B.C. stands for before Christ and A.D. stands for the year of our Lord [anno domini A.D.]

According to biblical years 4 B.C. Jesus is born! 27A.D. Jesus begins His ministry! 30 A.D. Jesus dies on the cross for us at the age of 33.

Luke 3: 23 informs us that Jesus was about 30 years old at the start of His ministry, 27AD and born 4 B.C. What were the months?

Apparently, the church offi-

cials yesteryear settled on December 25. At the end of the 3rd century, they wanted the date to coincide with the existing pagan festivals honoring Saturn [the Roman god of agriculture] and Mithra [the Persian golf of light] that way it became easier to convince Romans pagan subjects to accept Christianity as the empires official religion. Whatever their reasoning, Jesus was not born in December.

Through the years the celebration of Christmas spread throughout the Western world over the next several centuries, and some included the Puritans of Colonial New England, they began to ban its observance because they viewed its tradition, the offering of gifts and decorating trees as being linked to paganism.

In the early days of the United States, 1776 / 1789 celebrating Christmas was considered a British custom and fell out of style following the American Revolution. It wasn’t until the 1870s that Christmas became a “federal holiday.” Now! This should be a warning to you, the government got involved and made Christmas a commercial, retailers holiday. Christmas is not Biblical. The birth of Jesus is Biblical!

My wife and I do acknowledge Christmas in homage to Jesus. We do not support the paganism commercial retailers. We reflect on Jesus who is the reason for the season. We try to avoid the paganism activities and unnecessary retail spending contributing to the retailers and exhausting your self physically and financially.

If we are not able to celebrate the birth of Jesus on the appropriate month, December 25 should be giving homage, undivided attention to the birth of Jesus the reason for the season, not wearing your self out emotionally supporting commercial retailers.

We give each other undivided birthday attention, why not do the same for Jesus.

Is Christmas Biblical? No! Is it paganism? You decide! You do the research!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Please turn to A8 for more Letters to the Editor

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SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR FEBRUARY:

Deadline Feb. 21, 5pm - Pub date Feb. 28

if submitting by mail, please allow another week to be typed

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

HOW TO SUBMIT?

- May be mailed or dropped off to: June Simakauskas, Spencer New Leader, 25 Elm Street, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
- EMAILED TO jsima@stonebridgepress.news (preferred)
- FAXED TO: 508-765-0233

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We reserve the right to not publish essays for inappropriate content or to hold for a future publication. Early submissions are greatly appreciated.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Keeping the coronavirus in perspective

With the recent headlines surrounding the coronavirus outbreak, many Americans are petrified that they will somehow contract this disease that originated in China. Despite all the press being given to this new threat, however, the fact remains that many more Americans are likely to contract and die of the regular flu.

To date, the coronavirus has infected eight people in the country. Just this year alone, there have been roughly 19 million cases of the flu reported, resulting in 10,000 deaths. Across the globe, the flu takes roughly 650,000 lives per year, according to the World Health Organization. Compare that with the roughly 400 confirmed coronavirus fatalities to date, and it certainly puts the situation in perspective.

Doctors are telling those with concerns that if you have not traveled to Wuhan, China, or have not come into contact with an individual who has come from there, your chances of contracting the disease are extremely low.

So far this year, 68 children have passed away from complications stemming from standard influenza, including eight in the state of Tennessee. Many schools across the country have had to shut down, sterilize the facilities and give students time to recover.

Confirmed cases of the coronavirus in China number just over 14,000, resulting in 360 deaths as of our press deadline for this week's edition. Of the eight cases confirmed in the U.S., none have proved fatal. A 35 year old from Washington with a confirmed case of coronavirus did develop pneumonia, but has improved and is left with a mild cough.

Flu season is at its peak between December and February, and can take the lives of roughly 61,000 Americans each year. Medical professionals are quite rightly reminding people to be more concerned with flu prevention than the coronavirus — again, not to diminish its seriousness, but to be realistic about the magnitude of the threat it currently poses. While even one death is one too many, it is vital to avoid panic, and to remember that the overwhelming majority of those diagnosed with coronavirus, both in China and elsewhere, have been able to beat it back.

Vulnerable citizens are advised to get the flu shot; however, there are other ways to prevent the flu. Washing your hands regularly, avoiding those who are sick, covering your mouth when you cough, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs are spread easier this way and to clean and disinfect surfaces.

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VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A message for “Mr. X”

To the Editor:

There's a YouTube video I like to watch which shows a house cat with her back to the wall fighting off three coyotes for about 45 seconds until her owners hear the commotion and come out to chase off the varmints. Great job, kitty! An inspiration to us all.

Her plight reminds me of my own, lately, when I read the frothing-at-the-mouth (like rabid coyotes) assaults against me by all of the usual suspects, the Faux Five. Attacking, retreating, yapping, nipping, growling, jaw-snapping efforts to once and for all shut me down and my inconvenient (for them) habit of debunking their very existence and of continually offering these apparitions an opportunity to put to rest my well-founded claim that they not only don't exist but, rather, that their letters are the product of one angry, bitter, left-wing crackpot who consistently fails the tests of courage and honesty.

I am at a loss, when I consider that if these people did exist, not one of them has the intestinal fortitude to man up (even the two gals, Edie and Esther) and accept my invitation to come and chat with me. After all, here I am, an old man with a bad back, on four medications, with six hernia surgeries, a thrice-dislocated shoulder, and one who has been described on these pages (by friends, no less!) as a weak, frail, near-sighted, nearly deaf, pale shadow of the man I once was, and a threat to absolutely no one. Some friends. But, the point has been made: what do you have to fear, you fire-breathing, social justice warrior, street-fighting Democratic Socialists? I mean, it pains me to think that Beethoven may have had just such a wretch as myself when he penned the glorious Piano Sonata #8, the «Pathétique.” And you're not man enough to come and dialogue with me face-to-face?

But, readers may say, “John, old man, you haven't laid a glove on them. They, or he, old Mr. X, is still hanging in there. You haven't fazed him.” To which I respond, “I came not to faze the geezer, but to bury him.”

To Mr. X, the creative commie who writes the letters attributed to the nonexistent Yarak, Rosenberg, Cohen, Miller, and Bagg, I say this: see your physician, there's got to be some help for your collapsing levels of testosterone. Show just a smidgen of good old-fashioned male gonadial grit, and come out to see me at my place. You already know where it is, I'm certain. Isn't that you in that dinky little Prius with the “Resist!” bumper sticker that comes down my road late at night and goes by ever so slowly?

Yes, Mr. X, take a chance and come see me. We can sit by the wood pile and knock back a few brews, smoke a see-gar or two, and get to know each other. I'll explain why I cannot abide liberals, sorry, communists like you, and you can tell me why, despite your loathing of everything American, you continue to live here, suck up all the benefits of American freedom, do very well indeed under Trump's fantastic economy, and generally have a life nearly all the world's people can only dream of living. Oh, it would be so much fun...for me at least.

You could also explain to me why, when you dreamed up the five phony characters to be your messengers, you

assigned them all Jewish names for an area where, if there are any residents of that faith or culture, they have managed to keep a very low profile for the decades I've lived in the area. I suspect you made that cynical decision so that people who might wish to take issue with them and their views might be reluctant to do so for the real fear of being labelled “anti-Semites” by people like you, simply for disagreeing.

But, Mr. X, if you decide to take the bold step of calling on a bent, creaky old man, possibly a neighbor, to palaver, don't come at night. The Rotties go out at ten to patrol the perimeter until first light. Great dogs, Tristan und Isolde. Now, these are special dogs, not just your typical, mindless savage beasts who will tear your arm off if you look sideways at them. No, these kids are highly trained, motivated veterans of dog school in the Negev taught by retired IDF paratroopers. They don't bark—we have too much love and respect for our neighbors to keep them awake all night listening to howling dogs. No, they just growl to announce themselves. They have been taught to sniff out liberals, socialists, commies, and any other left wing infiltrators who are up to no good. After all, if the F.B.I. thug, Peter Strozck, can claim to be able to smell Trump supporters at the Walmart in Tidewater, Virginia, so can our kids sniff out liberal lowlifes: they can detect arrogance, smugness, superiority, and condescension from yards away. Once the listening devices pick up the growls, the whole place lights up brighter than Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin at 2 a.m. on a cold, misty night in 1965 (so the VOPOS-Volks Polizei—could see better to shoot East Berliners crazy enough to want to try freedom on the other side.) Oh, yeah, Mr. X, you've got to see it to believe it. But, don't push your luck, buddy.

Well, Mr. X, I've made you my best offer. Do with it what you will. But, surely you must know by now that your two-year long scam has fallen apart: most reasonable readers of this page know—whether they like your radical views or not—these five frauds only exist in your mind.

And, actually, I've changed my mind about Beethoven's masterpieces. Now I'm thinking he must've had someone like me in mind when he wrote his magnificent Third Symphony, the “Eroica.” No, you fools, I said Eroica, not Erotica. “Eroica”—Heroic. Although never a hero, myself, I, as a conservative would've liked to have been one. Maybe this prolonged battle I've had with the commie who writes these letters has required at least an heroic effort on my part to keep on pressing the point; it can get exhausting. But, as the Book says, “Do not grow weary in doing well.” I have fought my fight, I have run my course. I'm about done with you, old man Mr. X. I gave you every opportunity to establish your bona fides, but you weren't up to the challenge. Too bad, so sad.

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

Editor's note: The preceding letter was published in last week's edition, but due to a production error, a portion of it did not appear in print. It has been re-printed this week as a courtesy to Mr. McRae.

A note of appreciation

To the Editor:

Dear sir: Good news!

On Nov. 14, I had the good fortune of having a lockbox installed at my house by the Spencer Fire Department. The two firemen, David Hayt and Ben [whose last name I do not know], arrived right at the appointed time and helped me choose the best place to put it, which would be easily recognized by any emergency crew in the future. They were very pleasant and knowledgeable, explaining how it

Be aware of Social Security myths

FINANCIAL
FOCUS

JEFF
BURDICK

Social Security can be one source of retirement income for you and your spouse. To maximize your benefits, you'll need to make some key decisions and be aware of some common myths.

• Myth 1: Always take Social Security early. You can file for Social Security benefits as early as 62, but you could get 25 to 30 percent more if you wait until your “full” retirement age (likely between 66 and 67). You can receive even more if you wait until 70, at which point your benefits will “max out.” However, there's no right time to file for everyone – it depends on your situation, including factors such as your life expectancy, employment, financial need and spousal considerations.

• Myth 2: When you claim Social Security won't affect your spouse's benefits. This is not true. How much you receive in Social Security can affect your spouse's benefits while you are alive (spousal benefits) and after you've passed away (survivor's benefits). Your spouse could receive up to half of your retirement benefit, offset by his or her own benefit, so the longer you work before collecting Social Security, the greater the potential spousal benefits. For survivor benefits, your spouse would receive 100 percent of your benefit or his or her own, whichever is larger, so when you file affects how much your spouse would receive if you pass away early. In any case, you'll want to consult with the Social Security Administration about how much your spouse can receive, as his or her own benefits can also affect your decision-making.

• Myth 3: You can't work during retirement and collect Social Security. Yes, you can. But if you start receiving Social Security before your full retirement age (likely between 66 and 67), you can only earn up to \$18,240 in 2020 and still get your full benefits. Once you earn more than this, Social Security deducts \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn. But during the year you reach full retirement age, you can earn up to \$48,600 without your benefits being withheld. If you exceed this amount, \$1 will be deducted for every \$3 you earn during the months before you attain your full retirement age. Social Security will increase your benefits when you do reach full retirement age to adjust for the previous work-related withholdings. So, if you plan on working and receiving Social Security, it may not make sense to file if most of your benefits will be withheld. Once you reach full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing your monthly benefits, although your benefits could still be taxed.

• Myth #4: Social Security will provide for all my needs in retirement. Social Security will provide about a third of pre-retirement income, on average, according to the Social Security Administration. Consequently, you'll probably still need other sources of retirement income because Social Security alone most likely won't be enough to meet your needs. So, throughout your working years, contribute as much as you can to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Combining these income sources with Social Security can help improve your chances of enjoying the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

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.

CHOE

continued from page 1

Leader. “Just going there was already a dream come true for Jennifer, and actually being part of the show and filming an episode was taking this dream over the top.”

Unlike many reality TV shows that feature carefully scripted scenes, “Say Yes to the Dress” producers make every effort to keep the process natural. Each bride-to-be receives feedback from the consultants and family members as if there were no cameras rolling.

“We did all the things every other appointment did, except we had the cameras on us at

all times,” Brown added. “The feeling you get when you go wedding dress shopping was just as special and not taken over by the filming. We got to experience all the emotions involved in the process.”

A family of blackbelts, Brown and her children spend every day instructing hundreds of students at their school. When the close-knit group isn’t teaching or taking part in martial arts events, they enjoy playing games, going to the movies, eating at restaurants, or just sitting around watching TV. But when autumn rolls around, they will be on the other side of the television screen as “Say Yes to the Dress” fans around the world gear up for a new

season.

“Finding a wedding dress is a very emotional and wonderful moment in a woman’s life. Jen and our family not only got to share that experience together, but we get to share it with people around the world. You can’t beat that,” Brown said. “Plus, being the family that we are, we bring our own little twist to the show.”

During the application process, the family never expected to be chosen for participation. They already planned to do their dress shopping at Kleinfeld Bridal, but when news came in that they were being considered for the show, the entire family was stunned.

“Once my daughter got

engaged and found a venue for the wedding, I sent in an application for the show. I figured we were going to go there to shop for her dress anyway, so why not try to get on the show,” Brown recalled. “I answered all the questions on the application like I was Jen and sent pictures of all of us in our Tae Kwon Do uniforms – and included our school website information. They loved the idea of us being a Tae Kwon Do family.”

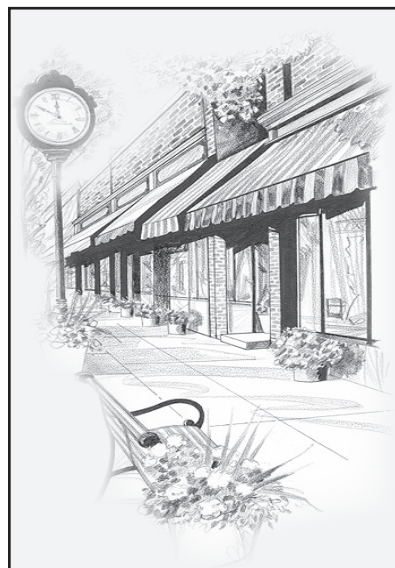
Jennifer’s entourage for filming included her maid of honor, Lindsay Anderson, her sister Jordan Green, sister-in-law Cindy Choe, mother Karen Brown, and stepfather Mike Morais. Undoubtedly, the fam-

ily’s arrival in New York was unlike any other in show history.

“When we arrived at Kleinfeld – Jen dressed in a traditional white uniform, the rest of us dressed in our bright red Tae Kwon Do uniforms – we certainly stood out,” Brown said. “But we were greeted with open arms by the star of the show, Randy Fenoli, and the TLC film crew.”

Spoiler alert: after eight hours of filming – and plenty of dress searching – Jennifer said yes to her dream dress.

“Working with Kleinfeld and the TLC crew was so much fun. They are an exceptional group of people,” Brown said.



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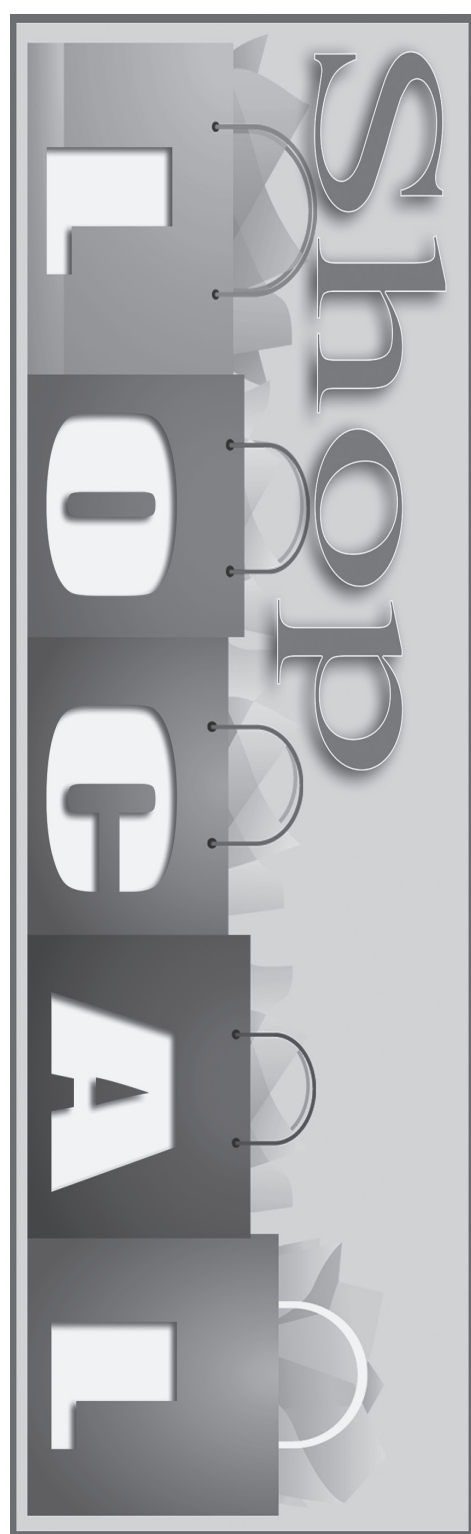
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SPORTS

Panthers pull away to beat Bartlett in fourth quarter



David Prouty's Jenna Petruzzi makes her way through Bartlett's defense en route to a layup.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER — With the game on the line in the fourth quarter, the David Prouty Regional girls' varsity basketball team was looking for a player to step up when the Panthers took on Bartlett High on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Prouty held a 36-25 lead through three periods and the advantage was down to eight

points (40-32) with five minutes to play.

Insert Liv Pepin.
The Panthers' freshman was the team's closer, scoring 12 of her game-high 22 points in the final frame as Prouty won a closer-than-the-final-score-indicated decision, 55-36.

"We needed Liv to step up in the fourth quarter and she realized it," said David

Prouty head coach Johanna Annunziata. "Overall, they got the job done."

The Panthers relied on sophomore Gabby Soter early — the team's point guard scored 11 of her 19 points in the first half — before Bartlett's defense buckled down on her. That freed up Pepin, who finished the game much like her sister Brooke did last season as a senior.

"It's nice her being younger, getting her earlier than I got Brooke, she works so hard," the second-year Annunziata said of Pepin.

Annunziata announced that Soter has helped Pepin throughout the season, an amazing achievement seeing as how she is only a sophomore.

"She plays a lot of AAU, she plays a lot in the offseason, and that's where her IQ comes from," Annunziata said of Soter. "She knows the game really well."

Annunziata called Soter the team's floor general and on-the-court leader.

"It's what your point guard should be. And she's such a good role model for Liv," said Annunziata.

The Panthers were able to out-rebound the Indians by a 37-25 margin, thanks in part to Jenna Petruzzi. The sophomore not only scored 12 points but also pulled down 14 boards for the double-double.

"She's a big presence," Annunziata said of Petruzzi, the Panthers' best interior player.

David Prouty is now 9-5 as the victory moves them a game away from qualifying for the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament for the second straight season.

Bartlett is now 5-10, but head coach Kashawn Hampton acknowledged that the game was much closer than the eventual 19-point deficit.



Gabby Soter of David Prouty drives into the lane on Bartlett's Breanna Ward.

"It was a tight one," he said. "They did have a little bit more firepower and we're missing two of our better players. They just had more gas than us."

It didn't help the Indians' cause that juniors Kayla Berthiaume and Gabriela Piwowarczyk both fouled out on back-to-back possessions, Piwowarczyk's coming with 4:38 remaining and Bartlett still in it, down by eight points. From there, Prouty ended the game on a 15-4 run.

Nonetheless, the Indians have already improved from last year's 4-16 campaign, a sign of good things to come under the first-year Hampton.

"I've been told that they've probably won three or four games the last couple years. We're just trying to slowly

change the culture around here," he explained. "We're putting things in [the game plan] that they're not used to doing, we're putting some high-intensity stuff that they're adjusting too, but it'll take some time. The majority of the team will be back next season."

Hampton was pleased with the scoring totals from sophomore Cam Heenan (19 points) and Berthiaume (11 points) but is looking for some complementary point producers.

"Those are our elite scorers on the team and we're looking for some other players to step up. We need those other ones to step up to capitalize," he said.

Piwowarczyk led the Indians in rebounding with 10 boards.



David Proutys' Erin Parenteau fires off a cross-court pass versus Bartlett.



Liv Pepin of David Prouty soars through the lane on her way to shooting an interior shot.



David Prouty's Raquel Ortiz battles against multiple opposing players from Bartlett for a rebound.

SPORTS

Warriors clamp down on defense to defeat Leicester



BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — After a quarter of play, it appeared as if the Tantasqua Regional and Leicester High girls' varsity basketball teams were in store for a tight, back-and-forth affair on Tuesday, Jan. 28. The score was knotted up at 10-10, but from there on out the Warriors' defense picked it up a notch.

Tantaska allowed just 14 points the rest of the way — 4 in the second quarter, 2 in the third and 8 in the fourth — and the offense accumulated 55 points in the latter three quarters as the Warriors won a 65-24 decision.

"Leicester's a good team and they came out with a strategy. It caused some problems for us at first, but then we overcame that," said Tantasqua head coach Tom Goyette. "We started doing the right things and started to execute a lot better. We picked up the intensity a little bit and worked on the boards a little bit. We started

attacking on offense, for sure,
and started attacking the hoop.

"Our defensive intensity picked up, too," Goyette continued. "We got in some passing lanes, got some steals and created a lot of turnovers, and that turned into some offense. We're ball-hawks on defense and they anticipated really well."

Leicester head coach Dave Padavano cited his team's turnovers as reason for not being able to keep up with the Warriors.

"Turnovers, too many; enough for the whole season," he said. "I think I lost 40 percent of my hair. That's a well-coached team, [Goyette] just won his 300th game, and we just didn't handle the ball well enough to compete with them for a whole game."

With the Wolverines holding a 12-11 lead early in the second quarter, Tantasqua then went to work. They picked their spots perfectly to double-team Leicester's ball-handler, turned those possessions into

steals and then transitioned into offense for easy baskets. As the halftime buzzer sounded, the Warriors found themselves ahead 22-14.

Then, in the first two minutes of the third quarter, Tantasqua let it be known that the scoring would continue when Lydia Boland scored five quick points and Ainsley Way added a basket as the Warriors surged ahead 29-14.

In all, Tantasqua won the third quarter 24-2. Then, with subs playing the final frame, they won that by a 19-8 count.

Boland and Way led the Warriors with 12 points apiece, while Haley Courtney and Erin Jensen each added 9 points. Ten Tantasqua players scored, and the team totaled 41 rebounds to Leicester's 27.

"We're in the Districts, so now we want to keep going and improve our District ranking," said Goyette of the now 12-1 Warriors as they prepare themselves for the Western Mass. Division 2 Tournament. "We're working toward the SWCL A title as well.

"We've got a lot of competitive games down the stretch. There will be a lot of competition the rest of the season," Goyette concluded, which includes the playoff-readying Westborough Invitational Tournament.

The Wolverines, who haven't been consistent this season, are still a strong 8-3 as they are nearing a berth to their postseason inside the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament.

"We've been like that all season," Padavano said of having strong games followed by weaker performances.

Alexa Dufries led Leicester with 8 points, while Jenna Soden pulled down 10 rebounds.



Nick Ethier photos

Leicester's Ayva Connor dribbles in transition versus Tantasqua.



Leicester's Jenna Soden dribbles past a pair of Tantasqua defenders.

*Tantasqua knocks off another Division 1 opponent,
this time St. Peter-Marian*



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Troy Lee competes with a St. Peter-Marian player during the game-opening tip.



Cam Varney of Tantasqua creates enough space to elevate toward the basket.



Troy Lee of Tantasqua works the baseline on a drive against St. Peter-Marian defender Hunter Johnson.



Joe Groccia of Tantasqua sends an inbounds pass to teammate Hunter Hill.

STURBRIDGE — In a game that was close throughout, the Tantasqua Regional boys' varsity basketball team couldn't find the lead at any of the first three stops versus St. Peter-Marian High on Friday, Jan. 31. The Warriors trailed 15-11 after the first quarter, 23-19 at halftime and 30-29 through three.

But Tantasqua won the all-important fourth quarter by a 14-8 margin to produce a come-from-behind 43-38 victory. The Warriors' defense, which forced the Guardians into just 30 percent shooting, forced 18 SPM turnovers.

On the offensive end, Cam

Varney led Tantasqua's charge with 14 points. Other scorers for the Warriors included Tyler Hall (8 points), Will Pieczynski (5), Griffin Polga (4), Troy Lee (4), Mikey Lucas (3), Joe Groccia (3), and Deshean Hutchinson (2).

The victory, Tantasqua's second versus a Division 1 opponent — they have defeated North High and St. Peter-Marian, and lost by a point to Doherty High — improved their record to 10-3. The Warriors have not qualified for the upcoming Western Mass. Division 2 Tournament.



ATHLETICS *of the* WEEK

Liv Pepin

The David Prouty Regional freshman came alive during the fourth quarter of her team's game versus Bartlett High on Wednesday, Jan. 29, scoring 12 of her game-high 22 points in the final frame. Pepin's effort helped the Panthers defeat the Indians, 55-36.

Athlete of the Week is sponsored by:



SPORTS

Southbridge takes back-and-forth game from Cougars



Quaboag's Derrick Shepherd shoots a free throw following a foul from a Southbridge defender.



Chris Paquette of Quaboag muscled his way to the basket against the defense of Southbridge's Jose Hiciano.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Zach Besse came up big when it mattered most, scoring four points in the final three minutes to lead the Southbridge High boys' varsity basketball team to a 54-51 win over Quaboag Regional on Monday, Jan. 27.

Besse, a junior who finished with 11 points, tied the game at 51-51 with 2:32 to play when he hit a pair of free throws. Then, with 23 seconds to play, he scored the winning basket to put the Pioneers ahead for good, 53-51.

"That was a huge play underneath the basket by Zach," Southbridge head coach Victor Colon said. "He was alert and aware. The ball got passed to him at the last second and he knew what to do with it."

On the game-winning play the Pioneers' Sam Ortiz drove to the basket from the right side and appeared to get caught

up in traffic. He stopped suddenly and somehow shoveled the ball to Besse who, with the 30-second shot clock getting ready to expire, quickly laid the ball in the basket off the backboard.

With 9.6 seconds to play Reniel Vazquez added a free throw to increase the Southbridge lead to 54-51. After the Pioneers missed a pair of free throws with 4.5 seconds to go, Quaboag had one final chance to tie the game, taking possession of the ball and calling a timeout with 3.4 seconds to play.

On the Cougars' inbound play Southbridge junior center Jose Hiciano blocked the entry pass, the ball bouncing harmlessly into the corner, where it was retrieved by a Pioneers' teammate as time expired.

"We always tell Jose to be ready to do that," Colon explained. "There was three seconds on the clock, so I put

my biggest guy on the guy inbound the ball on a spot possession. Jose is 6-foot-4 and has long arms. I'll take my chances with the 6-4 kid with long arms. Jose didn't do much during the game — he was out there, he was a presence — but he came up very big in that spot."

With the win Southbridge improved to 3-11 overall and 1-7 in Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) play. Quaboag dropped to 7-8 overall, 4-7 in the SWCL, with the loss.

In the first meeting of the teams this season, back on Dec. 22, 2019, Quaboag defeated Southbridge by 42 points, 67-25.

The entire fourth quarter was a back-and-forth affair.

The Pioneers led 43-40 to start the period and increased that lead to 45-40 on a pair of free throws by junior Izaia Roure (9 points). The Cougars, however, scored the next six points — two each by junior Chris Paquette (11 points), sophomore Brandon Valentin (4 points) and sophomore Alex Worthington (5 points) — to pull ahead 46-45 with 6:05 to play.

Southbridge went back in front on its next possession, 47-46, on a drive to the hoop by junior Jose Colon-Rivera (11 points). With 5:36 remaining Paquette's short jumper in the lane put Quaboag back on top, 48-47. The Pioneers answered back, going ahead 49-48 on a drive by Ortiz (a game-high 15 points) with 4:35 to play.

Sophomore Alex Rodriguez (a team-high 13 points) gave Quaboag a two-point lead, 51-49, when he dropped in a right-side 3-pointer with 2:58 remaining, setting up the last-minute heroics by Besse and Hiciano.

"Southbridge wanted it tonight," Quaboag head coach Chris Reilly said. "They deserved it. They out-hustled us, outmuscled us, outplayed us. It's a simple

as that."

Reilly said he wasn't surprised the rematch was as competitive as the first game was not.

"I told them coming in that this game would go just the way it went," Reilly said. "I told them that unless they had mental and physical toughness the result might be something we don't want."

Reilly scoffed at the notion his team may have put the Jan. 27 game in the win column prematurely based on the lopsided win in the first game back in December.

"I don't think that's the case, but if it is, maybe they learned a lesson tonight," Reilly said. "I knew that lesson already and I tried to convey that lesson to them all week. But, you know, kids are kids. What they thought it was going to be or not be, maybe they learned that the coach is right once in a while."

Quaboag's record went to 8-9 as of press time, and they must win their final two regular season games (at West Boylston High and Wednesday, Feb. 5 and versus Tantasqua Regional on Tuesday, Feb. 11) to qualify for the Central Mass. Division 3 Tournament.



Quaboag's Tyler Bond releases a jump shot from the corner.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Tantasqua swim competes in Midland-Wachusett League Invitational

Thursday, Jan. 30

Hosting league championships, Warriors perform well — The Tantasqua boys' and girls' swim teams competed hard and performed well. The boys took sixth place out of 12 teams, while the girls placed fourth out of 12, defeating Wachusett Regional by a point. Both teams produced a lot of sectional qualifiers.

The biggest highlight was Jonah Green placing first in the Diving event. The Girls' 200 Medley relay placed sixth (Kira Dambly, Erika Madden, Katie Wade, Sarah Kersting-Mumm), Kersting-Mumm took third in the 100 Freestyle, Daniel Sickenberger was fifth in the 100 Freestyle, the girls placed third in the 200 Freestyle relay (Katie Wade, Emily Owens, Zoey Zhu, Kersting-Mumm), and the boys were fourth in the 200 Freestyle relay (Green, Sickenberger, Adon Osimo, Andrew Wade).

SPORTS

Fast-paced action favors Beavers, who outlast Bay Path



Jason Mckay photos

Bay Path's Ben LaPointe searches for an open player on the court.



Cam Hafner of Bay Path is wide open and eyes the basket before launching a 3-pointer.



Bay Path's Matteo Capuano looks to make a pass while being double-teamed by Blackstone Valley Tech's defense.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — The Blackstone Valley Tech (BVT) boys' varsity basketball team may have lost the 3-point shooting contest in its game with Bay Path Regional on Tuesday, Jan. 28, but the Beavers still managed to defeat the Minutemen 91-75 in a game where the teams combined to make 23 shots from beyond the arc.

Bay Path, by the way, easily captured the three-point contest, hitting 17 long-range jumpers while BVT was "only" able to connect on six of its attempts from distance.

The Beavers, who improved to 6-5 overall and 5-1 in Colonial Athletic League play, were led by the three-headed monster that is junior Shea Finnegan and sophomores Josh Mateo and John Furno. Mateo finished with a game-high 27 points (one 3-pointer), while Finnegan checked in with 26 points and three 3s. Furno added nine points to the winning cause to go along with a game-high 23 rebounds.

In a game that, at times, looked more like an indoor track meet, BVT started quickly, opening leads of 11-6 and 22-17 before finishing the first quarter with a 27-22 advantage. Just when one thought the pace of the game couldn't get any faster, Valley Tech slammed its offense into another gear, the result of which was a 46-36 halftime lead.

"In the first quarter we did shoot well, however we did not defend well," explained Brew Cupid, BVT's second-year head coach. "The message going into the second quarter was to increase our pace of play because we knew coming into this game that Bay Path is a team that enjoys shooting 3-pointers; that's how they want to play.

"But, as is the case with any shooter, if you're having to defend speed on the other end of the floor, speed kills," Cupid added. "If you have to defend speed it doesn't matter how great a shooter you are, when your mind tells you you're fatigued, your body slows down and you start to miss shots. So, our defensive approach after the first quarter was to play faster on offense."

That concept was fine with Mateo, who scored 20 points in the first half, and Finnegan, who scored 21 points in the second half.

"We played a little sloppy in our last few games, so we came into this game wanting to get back to playing basketball the way it's supposed to be played — fast, strong and physical," Mateo

said. "That's the way we've been playing for most of the year."

Finnegan credited Mateo for his offensive pyrotechnics in the second half.

"The first half started a little slow for me, but in the second half Josh found me for some open shots and that helped me get back in my groove," Finnegan said. "Basketball is really all about mental toughness. If you miss a shot, you can't get down on yourself. That's where my teammates really help my game; they're always bringing me up and keeping me up."

When either team missed shots, it seemed like Furno was there to snatch the ball out of the air. He was simply a rebounding machine, grabbing seemingly every uncontested rebound as well as several contested ones.

"Rebounding is all about effort, and I'm all about effort," the 6-foot-4, 240-pound Furno said. "I like crashing the boards and being as tough as I can be underneath the basket. I've played that way my whole life and it's worked, so why change it?"

The Beavers continued to push the tempo of the game in the third quarter and led 68-53 as play headed to the final period. BVT led by as many as 24 points, 90-66, with three minutes remaining in the game, which is when both teams liberally subbed in their reserves.

Cam Hafner led Bay Path, pouring in a team-high 26 points and hitting four 3-pointers. Dylan Cotton added 17 points and Jomar Torres 16 points. Cotton and Torres each drained five treys.

"We're very young, but these kids can play," Bay Path head coach Al Greenough said. "I know our record is 2-10 but every single game that we've had this year — except the first one, at Bartlett where we just weren't ready to play — we've been right there, in the game. We've lost a lot of games in the fourth quarter that have been tied with a minute to go or two minutes to go.

"But being young and inexperienced, sometimes what comes with that is not being able to make that big play to win the game and get your team to the next level. That's what my team is learning right now, the hard way, with losses," Greenough added. "The development this team has shown through the course of this year is actually ahead of where I thought they'd be. I'm excited about this team going forward, but we need to play better defense as a team. We're giving up too many points. We're scoring a lot, but we're giving up too many."



Bay Path's Dylan Cotton sizes up a shot from the left corner of the court.



Anthony Barbale of Bay Path lets go of a 3-pointer versus Blackstone Valley Tech.



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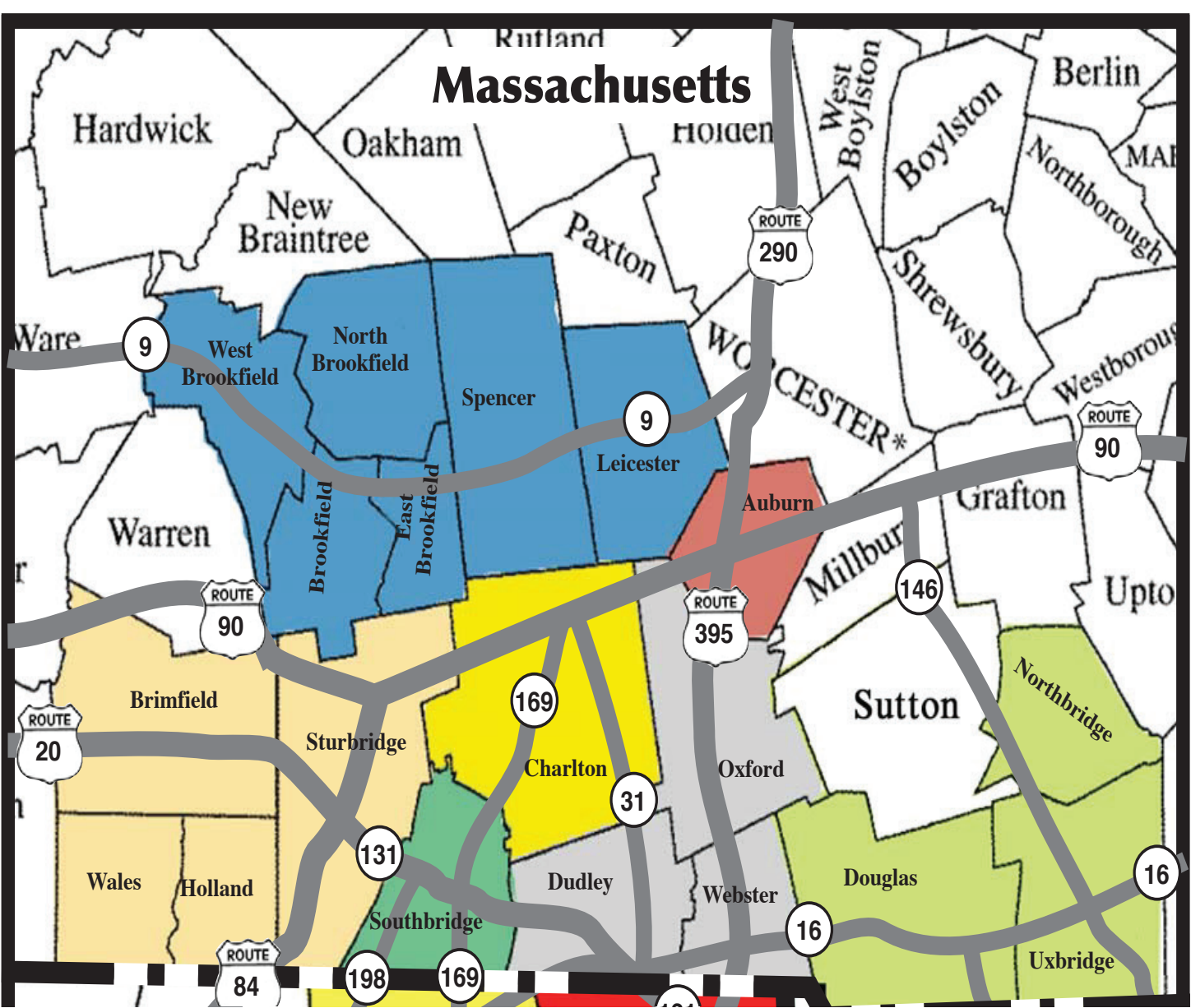
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Global warming is for real



Global warming is sure showing the nonbelievers that it is for real. The unbelievable weather conditions that we are now experiencing are sure nice to see, but the overall picture is not good for our planet. Ocean water temperatures continue to rise, which have some species of fish migrating into new England waters that we rarely see. On the positive side, seabass numbers are increasing annually as well as their size in our coastal waters, but at the same time fish that are native to our waters are moving out. Lobsters are also heading out to cooler waters.

The effects of climate change are staggering, and are sure to change the planet in a negative way for many years to come. We depend on our elected politicians to make sensible changes in the laws that will slow down the threat of global warming. Emissions from cars and factories are the larg-



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est polluter. The way we dispose of our waste is another big problem. Hazardous waste is a serious threat to our planet.

Plastic bottles and bags need to be phased out and replaced with reusable bags. All plastic bottles need to have a nickel deposit on them including water bottles, detergent bottles, etc.! Tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year. Our fresh water lakes and ponds are becoming so polluted that eating fish from them could cause serious health risks. Lead in our drinking water supply in many states is unacceptable. I sure hope that we start cleaning up the mess that previous generations left behind, as well as our own continued dumping of waste today.

With all of the warm weather we are experiencing, ice fishing has been put on hold by most anglers. There are a few anglers taking the risk to fish on unsafe ice, but most sensible anglers are playing it safe. This past week, an 11 year old girl fell through thin ice locally, and was fortunate enough to

be pulled from the icy waters by rescue teams. Most fishing derby's have been canceled in the valley until further notice. Inviting anglers and their family's onto unsafe ice would be foolish and dangerous. If you want to go ice fishing bad enough, head North. Maine has plenty of ice. Start getting the fishing rods and reels ready! It is going to be an early spring, no matter what the groundhog predicts.

The Big "E" Sportsmen's show (OSEG) will open their doors on Feb. 21-23, and is the largest show in the Northeast. Doors open at noon on Thursday. Hunting and fishing guides from all over the United States will be on hand to take reservations for their upcoming seasons. Numerous seminars by hunting and fishing professionals will be held all three days. For a complete list of seminars and other activities, go to their Web site at osegsportsmen.com!

Striper fishermen are anxious to hear the final regulations on the 2020 striper season in Mass. & Rhode Island, which should be finalized by March. Big changes are expected to include a slot size

limit this year, with a one fish per day limit. Taking the big trophy size stripers could be off limits this year. The circle hook regulation required to fish for stripers with chunk or live bait, will not take effect until 2021.

This is the time of year for Rod & Gun Club membership renewals. Every year, members at some clubs forget to pay their annual dues. Do not let it happen to you! Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club started taking renewal memberships this past Sunday. The next three Sundays will be the last chance for renewals at Uxbridge starting at noon to 4 p.m. After that date, the club will start to take in members on the waiting list.

This week's picture shows Earnie Lavallee of Uxbridge in front of a huge mount at the Springfield show last year. The second picture shows another huge bear mount at the show. There is a lot to see and the kids will also enjoy the show, so take them along.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Keep houseplants healthy while keeping pets safe



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You love them both – your pets and houseplants – but it can be challenging to safely raise them together in the same house. Reduce the risk by selecting pet-safe plants and safely managing houseplant pest problems.

Avoid problems by selecting plants suited to your home's growing conditions and gardening style. Then narrow the list further to plants that are non-toxic specifically to the type of pets you own. Consult with your veterinarian and visit the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website for a list of pet-safe and toxic plants.

Create a list of all the plants you are growing. Include both common and botanical names for accurate identification. Do a bit of research on the care they need and their toxicity to your pets. If you suspect your pet has ingested a toxic plant, you'll have the proper plant name when contacting your veterinarian.

Match the pet-friendly plants you select to their preferred light conditions. An east- or west-facing window provides enough light for most indoor plants. Keep those that need



Melinda Myers Photo

Baby tears plant (Soleirolia) is safe for pets and should be grown in brighter light conditions.

brighter light within two feet of the window. Those that prefer lower light can be grown near a north-facing window or up to six feet back or off to the side of an east- or west-facing window.

For low light situations, consider cast iron plant, Lady palm, and parlor palm or add artificial lights when growing other pet-friendly plants in lower light situations.

Grow grape ivy, spider plants, baby tears (Soleirolia), peperomias, prayer plants, Boston ferns, ponytail palm, and hoyas in brighter locations. Save the brightest locations for Norfolk Island Pine, lipstick plant and haworthia.

Add some color to your indoor garden with popular flowering plants like African violet, Christmas cactus and moth orchid. These are also listed as non-toxic on the ASPCA Web site.

Water plants thoroughly as needed. Tropical plants prefer slightly moist soil, while cacti and succulents like it drier. Always pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Allowing plants to sit in water can increase the risk of disease and lead to root rot.

Regularly groom and wipe dust off the leaves of your indoor plants to help reduce the risk of insect damage. Remove spotted leaves when they appear and adjust watering. This is often enough to correct fungal disease problems.

When pest problems require control, always select pet-friendly options. Start with a strong blast of water

to dislodge pests like aphids and mites. Follow with an application of a lightweight horticulture oil such as Summit Year-Round Spray Oil (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com). This organic spray controls aphids, mites, immature whiteflies and all stages of scale and mealybugs.

And if those tiny fruit-fly-like gnats are too annoying to tolerate, consider treating the potting mix with a Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis product such as Summit Mosquito Bits labeled for controlling fungus gnat larvae. Just sprinkle it on the soil surface and this naturally occurring soil bacterium kills the fungus gnat larvae in the soil. It's an organic insecticide safe for people, pets and plants. No matter the product you select – organic, natural or synthetic – be sure to read and follow label directions.

Proper plant selection and maintenance can help keep your indoor plants healthy and pets safe from harm.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Logs

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
12:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:21 a.m.: mv stop (Route 49); 2:10 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), info taken; 2:15-3:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:12 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lincoln Street), accidental; 6:47 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 7:24 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:10 a.m.: mv stop (North Brookfield Road); 8:58 a.m.: fraud (Depot Road), scam call; 10:00 a.m.: officer wanted (Route 49) poss. accident; 10:52 a.m.: bad checks (Main Street), check bounced X 2; 11:16 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Delude Avenue), info taken; 12:21 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street), lift assist; 1:12 p.m.: accident (West Main Street); 1:21 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operation; 1:45 p.m.: animal complaint (Thompson Pond Road), poss. mistreatment/dog; 2:53 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:04 p.m.: DPW call (Dale Street), glass in road; 3:27 p.m.: fraud (Main Stree), scam SS call; 3:37 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), services rendered; 3:56 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), shoplifting; 5:00 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 5:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 5:24 p.m.: mv stop (Cherry Street); 7:28 p.m.: buildng checked, secure; 8:40 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), loose dog; 8:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:43 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:16 p.m.: mv lockout (North Spencer Road), assisted; 11:45 p.m.: medical/overdose (Maple Street).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
12:28-12:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 12:53-1:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:24 a.m.: medical/general (Bell Street); 1:50-2:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:00 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 6:02 a.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 6:27 a.m.: fraud (Mechanic Street), poss. confidence game; 8:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:51 a.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found; 9:21 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), secondary address; 9:25 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 10:08 a.m.: DPW call (G.H. Wilson Road), low-hanging wire; 10:33 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), daughter missing; 10:44 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:30 a.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 12:20 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), North Brookfield PD bolo; 1:22 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 2:32 p.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 2:47 p.m.: fraud (Fairview Drive), scam SS call; 2:49 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), info taken; 3:25 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:26 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), social media issue; 3:48 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 4:40 p.m.: accident (Greenville Street), info taken; 5:43 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 6:37 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 6:51 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operation; 7:14 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 7:23 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street); 7:36 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:38 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Cross Road), kids scream; 7:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:14 p.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 9:01 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 10:20 p.m.: suspicious mv (Sunset Lane), info taken.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
12:14-12:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Briarcliff Lane), welfare check; 12:50-12:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:15 a.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), assisted; 2:20-2:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:38 a.m.: parking violations (Mechanic, Church streets), tickets issued; 2:45-3:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:17 a.m.: 911 call (Lambs Grove), accidental; 6:42 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:45 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 8:08 a.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), bent stop sign; 8:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; medical/general (West Main Street); 10:57 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:24 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:57 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), spoken to; 12:21 p.m.: residential alarm (R. Jones Road), services rendered; 12:25 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), tenant/landlord dispute; 12:42 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:04 p.m.: mv complaint (Ash Street), speeding; 1:25 p.m.: medical/general (Woodland Lane); 3:15 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road); 3:27 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), log-hanging wire; 4:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 5:00 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Valley Street), no contact; 5:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operation; 6:04 p.m.: lost/found (Donnelly Road), backpack found; 7:34 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 7:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 7:53 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 8:25 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), services ren-

dered; 8:28 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), info taken; 8:46 p.m.: mv alarm (Main Street), investigated; 8:53 p.m.: 911 call (High Street), open line; 9:13 a.m.: mv stop (Smithville Road); 9:23 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Oxford PD bolo; 9:30 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 9:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:55-9:56 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 10:13 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 10:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 10:39 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street).

SATURDAY, JANAURY 25
12:13 a.m.: warrant service (Pleasant Street), Leonardo Pagan Marrero, 48, 41 Pleasant Street, Spencer, served, arrest; 2:08-3:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), poss. illegal bonfire; 10:33 a.m.: animal call (West Main Street), items left for ACO; 12:04 p.m.: accident (North Brookfield road), hit/run; 12:46 p.m.: citizen complaint (Maple Street), info taken; 12:47 p.m.: parking complaint (Bell Street), info taken; 2:26 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), scam call; 3:06 p.m.: 911 call (Lincoln Street), accidental; 5:32 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operation; 6:10 p.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), poss. sewer line problem; 6:30 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 6:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), motorist/tow operator dispute; 7:09 p.m.: parking complaint (Chestnut Street), info taken; 8:07 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 8:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), poss. transformer explosion; 8:35 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Bixby Road); 9:52 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), unoccupied; 10:23 p.m.: medical/general (North Brookfield Road); 10:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
12:41 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Cherry Street), spoken to; 1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 1:14 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), family issue; 1:19 a.m.: medical/general (Lake Avenue); 6:55 a.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), icy conditions; 10:03 a.m.: 911 call (Donnelly Road), hang-up; 10:13 a.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 10:17 a.m.: DPW call (Donnelly Road), sign down; 11:05 a.m.: 911 call (Grant Street), open line; 11:21 a.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), dog left in mv; 11:22 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 11:35 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 11:53 a.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), unwanted party; 12:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 12:45 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lake Street), skateboarding/school property; 3:08 p.m.: trash dumping (Main Street), info taken; 3:15 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Norcross Road), scam calls; 3:47 p.m.: medical/overdose (Condon Drive); 5:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), loose dog; 5:36 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), investigated; 9:09-11:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

MONDAY, JANURAY 27
12:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 12:18-1:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 1:39 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), info taken; 5:47 a.m.: commercial alarm (South Spencer Road), services rendered; 7:27 a.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), info taken; 9:03 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:47 a.m.: 209A service (West Main Street); 11:23 a.m.: intelligene/criminal (Bixby Road), info taken; 11:47 a.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road); 11:54 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 12:35 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:42 p.m.: suspicious persons (Ash Street), child approached by male in mv; 1:37 p.m.: larceny (Ash Street), earbuds stolen; 1:52 p.m.: bylaw violation (West Main Street), investigated; 3:22 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:22 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), info taken; 4:34 p.m.: juveile matter (Valley Street), 15-year-old OOC; 4:42 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 4:51 p.m.: animal complaint (North Brookfield Road), bear in yard; 5:02 p.m.: fire (Main Street), pkg. marked 'explosive'; 5:20 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:22 p.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 6:33 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Douglas PD bolo; 6:34 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operation; 9:12 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 9:47 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 10:36 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), investigated; 10:55 p.m.: building checked, secure.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
12:58-2:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:35 a.m.: mv stop (Greenville Street); 2:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 6:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 6:26 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:46 a.m.: citizen complaint (Hastings Road), road blocked/Unitil; 11:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 11:44 a.m.: 209A service (West Main Street); 12:37 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:12 p.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 1:13 p.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), spoken to; 3:00 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 3:40 p.m.: animal complaint (North Brookfield Road), bear in yard;

4:19 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road); 4:26 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Road); 4:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (Linden Street), info taken; 4:49 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Vista Lane), open line; 6:03 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Browning Pond Road), no contact; 6:16 p.m.: citizen complaint (Mechanic Street), hit/run; 6:26-6:36 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:07 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 7:33 p.m.: suspicious mv (G.H. Wilson Road), info taken; 7:35 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet lost; 7:42 p.m.: disabled mv (Elm Street), mv in no parking zone; 8:14 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info given; 8:22-8:32 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:49 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operation.

Leicester Logs

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
12:28 a.m.: suspicious person (Mannville Street), spoken to; 1:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/revoked registration, uninsured mv, speeding, mv towed; 5:15 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:58 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:50 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 11:15 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), written warning; 11:26 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:38 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 12:07 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:57 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 1:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:07 p.m.: ambulance (Franklin Street), transported; 3:06 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), unable to locate; 3:36 p.m.: mv stop Man Street), written warning; 4:06 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 5:03 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:16 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 7:23 p.m.: drug violation (South Main Street), report taken; 9:13 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
12:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Alicia Marie Passarelli, 36, 145 Randall Street, Worcester, OUI liquor, negligent operation, speeding, arrest; 4:30 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 8:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:24 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 12:46 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:02 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 1:06 p.m.: investigation (Peter Salem Road), services rendered; 2:27 p.m.: trespassing (SOuth Street), spoken to; 3:35 p.m.: assist citizen (South Street), advised civil action; 4:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:16 p.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), services rendcered; 4:24 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 4:51 p.m.: mv stop (Man Street), citation issued; 7:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:39 p.m.: mutual aid (Fort Hilll Road, Oxford), assisted; 10:25 p.m.: welfare check (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 11:35 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
12:07 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 2:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Sreet), verbal warning; 2:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:02 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 11:30 a.m.: invesgtigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 11:39 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 1:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:24 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 2:06 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:18 p.m.: assist other PD (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 4:16 p.m.: malickous mischief (Huntoon Memorial Highway), investigated; 4:24 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, mv towed; 7:57 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Tobin Road), investigated; 9:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 11:56 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), John M. Boyle, Junior, 51, 15 #10 Schoolhouse Road, Charlton, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, speeding, arrest;

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
2:08 a.m.: suspicious person (South Main Street), Brandon Norman Madore, 23, 163 Peter Salem Road, Leicester, possession Class C drug, possession Class E drug/2 counts, arrest; 2:17 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:29 a.m.: arrest warrant service (South Main Street), Christopher D. Clark, 33, 82 Rawson Street, Leicester, failure to appear upon recognizance, arrest; 9:01 a.m.: accident (Chapel Street), report taken; 10:06 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:32 a.m.: mv stop

(Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:38 a.m.: debris in road (Pleasant Street), removed; 1:32 p.m.: accident (Charles Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, report taken; 2:39 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Jose Ramon Oliveras, 40, 26 Kosta Street, Worcester, op w/suspended license, arrest; 6:48 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 8:32 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27
1:25 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:00 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:03 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 10:42 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, 11:18 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street), services rendered; 11:36 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:01 p.m.: fire/CO detector (Virginia Drive), unfounded; 12:58 p.m.: parking complaint (Washburn Square), citation issued; 2:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:18 p.m.: fraud (Pleasant Street), report taken; 3:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 4:11 p.m.: suspicious mv (Collier Avenue), no action required; 5:03 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), mv towed; 5:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Virginia Drive), unable to locate; 5:54 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), 6:34 p.m.: assist other PD (Douglas Road), services rendered; 7:58 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no action required; 8:14 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 8:17 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), unable to locate.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
12:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, speeding, mv towed; 1:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:17 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), no action required; 8:31 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:44 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:01 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 9:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:23 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 11:05 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 11:42 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:43 p.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), transported; 1:44 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafrord Street), no action required; 2:05 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), no action required; 2:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:53 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), mv towed; 3:09 p.m.: ambulance (Gleason Way), transported; 3:50 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 4:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:26 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:43 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:51 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:14 p.m.: mstop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:35 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 7:08 p.m.: keep the peace (Pine Street), peace restored; 7:59 p.m.: assist citizen (Spring Street); 8:19 p.m.: assist other PD (Lexington Avenue), unable to locate; 9:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:57 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 10:09 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), unable to locate; 11:18 p.m.: noise complaint (Charlton Street), peace restored.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
12:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Green Street), no action required; 2:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:32 a.m.: ambulance (Redfield Road), transported; 5:56 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:31 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:33 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:59 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 10:38 a.m.: mutual aid (Smithville Road, Spencer), transported to hospital; 10:52 a.m.: fire/CO detector (Mayflower Road), services rendered; 12:57 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), Daniel M. Carlson, Junior, 46, 17 Mechanic Street, #5, Spencer, op w/suspended license, uninsured mv, number plate violation to conceal ID, arrest; 4:38 p.m.: ambulance (Lake Sargent Drive), transported; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:39 p.m.: welfare check (Maple Street), spoken to; 5:44 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 5:54 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 6:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 6:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Cricklewood Drive), no action required; 7:41 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported.



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With this ad. Exp 3/31/20

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1 lb. cut w/pot & veg. \$17.99

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Valentine's Day SPECIALS MENU FEB. 14 & 15

APPS
Deep Fried Brussel Sprouts
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All dinners come with salad, rolls and dessert

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Happy Valentine's Day 25% Off All In-stock Jewelry
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Love is in the Air

Sat., Feb. 8 • 9pm-12am

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Free Valet Parking Friday & Saturday Nights

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Feb. 14 & 15

4 COURSE DINNER
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Make Sweet Memories at Five Loaves!

By Reservation Only
Friday & Saturday: 5-8pm

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— Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 3/7/2020. You must set your appointment by 2/29/2020 and purchase by 3/7/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$325 off each window and \$700 off each patio door and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 2/1/2020 and 3/7/2020. 3% off your entire order, minimum purchase of four (4) required, if you purchase by 3/7/2020. 3% savings offer applied after initial discount. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *National Replacement Window Month is not a Congressionally-approved designation. **See limited warranty for details.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH @ 9AM
10 Meadow Road, Spencer MA 01562
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Take 10% Off Your Purchase
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 QUALITY DISCOUNT FURNITURE SINCE 1984

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND
4 - DAY SALE!

ADDITIONAL 10% OFF
ALL STORE MERCHANDISE
Friday, Feb. 14 through Monday, Feb. 17
10AM-4PM



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Bedrooms • Sofas • Tables • Entertainment • Cabinets
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 Call or Just Stop By, But DO NOT Miss This Incredible Day!



PATIENT & COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DAY

THURSDAY
 February 13, 2020 from 9AM-6PM
 1103 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524

Giving Away
 • 2 Galaxy Tabs
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FREE RAFFLE Everyone Who Attends is Automatically Entered!
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****NO DOT PHYSICALS**

WHY? Leicester Spine & Wellness Center Wants to Thank All of You for Helping Make Us A Success & Hope You Will Tell Everyone You Know of Our Gratitude & Invite Them Into Our Chiropractic Circle

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STOCK UP NOW!

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Look inside this section for The Write Stuff

B Section

Friday, February 7, 2020

RESCHEDULED


West Brookfield Boy Scout Troop 118
44th Annual Memorial Ice Fishing Derby
 Lake Wickabong Public Boat Ramp - West Brookfield, MA

Sunday, February 16, 2020 7:30am-3:00pm

Trophies 15 yrs & under • Four \$50 prizes - Adults
Many Door Prizes (don't have to fish to win)
Tickets \$1 by Scouts or at derby

In Remembrance of: Mark Cook, Peter Coulthard, J. Irving England, Michael Higgins and Dick Shepardson

Ad Libs by June



The Write Stuff for January was supposed to run last week but, unfortunately, I forgot to schedule it. So, the good news is that it's running today! Please check it out inside Section B. Thank you LAMOREUX FORD for continuing to be our champion sponsor for this section! Need a car? Great time to buy! Visit the great folks at LAMOREUX FORD...you won't be disappointed!!

Dr. Pete Antanavica of LEICESTER SPINE AND WELLNESS is having a Patient & Community Appreciation Day on Thursday, February 13 from 9am-6pm. There will be free giveaways, raffles, food and beverages, consults & exams for new patients, including free consults for whiplash, neck pain, headaches, back pain, carpal tunnel...and more. See the ad this week for more info. They are located at 1103 Main Street in Leicester.

Mortgage rates are super low! Thinking about buying or refinancing? Call Ron at FACE-TO-FACE MORTGAGE at 508-892-8988 and he'll help you get the lowest rate possible. He also has a special loan for veterans. See his ad on the top of the front page. Like this placement? Call or email me if you'd like to advertise on the front page of this newspaper, or any of Stonebridge Press newspapers...buy 4 papers, get 3 free (on the front page).

Lots of choices for Valentine's Day....check out this week's Dining & Gift Guide. There are gift ideas, and dining take-out (KAROL'S CORNER TAKE OUT has a Valentine's special), and dine-in options that may need reservations. A delicious way to celebrate Valentine's Day with the family is with an ice cream cake from the DAIRY QUEEN! There is a \$3.00 off coupon in their ad this week. Or give your sweetheart a gift certificate for a relaxing massage from SAMANTHA'S THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE ...a great gift for a busy mom! A little black box from CORMIER JEWELERS is always very much appreciated. How about gorgeous roses or a beautiful gift or plant from APPLEBLOSSOMS in Spencer! There's a 15% off coupon on gifts from TALK OF THE TOWN in Ware. They also do couples tarot readings, in addition to their unique gifts, and more! See their ads on the Dining Page and Community Connection page.

Save the date for SARGENT'S BARN's upcoming President's Weekend 4-day sale, Friday February 14 through Monday, February 17. In addition to their already discounted prices, there's an additional 10% off all store merchandise. They are located at 18 Sargent Street in Leicester, just off Route 9. They also have a one-of-a-kind bargain basement. Stop by and tell them you saw their ad in the Spencer New Leader!

For those of you confused about two "2 downs" in this week's Crossword Puzzle. Please just ignore the 2nd one. Thank you to all who have already sent it in. Please support our ABC's of Winter businesses! Have a great week!

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



TRUST



Trust Your Neighbors
StonebridgePress.com

OBITUARIES

André J. Bourbeau, 77



WEBSTER-André J. Bourbeau, 77, died Thursday, January 30, 2020, at Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in Providence. He is survived by his children Dennis Bourbeau and his wife Catherine MacLeod of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Edward Bourbeau and his wife Shellie of Philadelphia, Nicole Bradley and her husband Sidney of Southbridge, and Lisa Ulerly and her husband James of Ellington, CT, 4 grandchildren Noelle Bourbeau, Matthew Ulerly, Remy Bourbeau, and Gabrielle Bourbeau. He also leaves 3 sisters Charlotte McGlinchy of Brooklyn, CT, Lorette Richer of Brimfield, and Aline Pennino of Paxton, many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother

Laurent L. Bourbeau, Jr., who died in 2010. He was born in Southbridge, son of the late Laurent, Sr., and Alice H. (Whitton) Bourbeau and lived in Webster for several years. He graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in 1960, and also received his BA in History. He was an US Air Force veteran serving from 1964-68. He retired from the Home Depot in Oxford, where he worked for 20 years. André enjoyed history, horticulture, fishing, and was an avid reader. Calling hours were Sunday, February 2, 2020, at Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 from 1-3PM. Burial will be private. www.sansoucyfuneral.com



Joan M. Robidoux, 89



LEICESTER-Joan M. (Volpicelli) Robidoux, 89, in the Rochdale section of Leicester, died Tuesday, January 28, in Knollwood Nursing Center, West Boylston after an illness. Her husband Norman A. Robidoux died in 2005. She leaves two sons; David B. Robidoux and his wife Carol of Leicester and Neil A. Robidoux of Spencer, two grandchildren; Brian Robidoux and his wife Jennifer of

Leicester and Brandy Robidoux of Los Angeles, CA, two great grandchildren; Casey & Paige Robidoux of Leicester. Joan was born in Milford, daughter of Fred and Esther (Sargachi) Volpicelli. She enjoyed travel, trips with her husband to Florida and especially Hawaii. Funeral services and burial are private. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to a charity of one's choice. MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main Street, Leicester is directing funeral arrangements. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Marjorie E. Larson, 91



SPENCER-Marjorie E. (Hultberg) Larson, 91, died peacefully Wednesday, January 29, surrounded by her loving family in Care One Millbury. She was the wife of John Larson, Sr. who died in 2012. She leaves her son John Larson, Jr. of Spencer, her daughters Doris M. Larson of Spencer, Joyce C. Thebeau and her husband Leo of Spencer, and Pamela A. Larson of Worcester, a brother Edward Hultberg and his wife Merle of Southbridge, grandchildren; Michelle Troy of N.Brookfield, Cherie Thebeau of Enfield, CT., Christopher Thebeau of Oxford, Melissa Violette of Spencer, Scott Whitcomb of Leicester and Jodie Krueger of Spencer, 16 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She is

predeceased by brothers George and Clement Hultberg and sisters Olive and Grace Hultberg. Born in Worcester, she was the daughter of George E. and Olive (Johnson) Hultberg. Marjorie's whole life was her family! The family would like to thank the staff at Care One Millbury for their compassionate care of Marjorie throughout her extended stay and Ascend Hospice in her final days. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer. Burial will follow in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. A calling hour preceded the service on Saturday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Care One Millbury Patient Activities Account, 312 Millbury Ave., Millbury, MA 01527. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

William E. Jones, Jr., 60



CHARLTON-William E. Jones, Jr., 60, a longtime resident of Charlton, died Friday, January 31, 2020. He is survived by his son William E. Jones, III of Gardner, Sherri A. Jones of Lawrence, and Emily Jones of Brookfield, and 7 grandchildren. He also leaves a sister Linda Jones of Mashpee, a brother Michael Jones of Ogunquit, Maine, and several nieces and nephews including Brian McGee of Mashpee, and Sean McGee of New York. He was predeceased by his sister Christine Dumas.

He was born in Worcester, son of the late William E. Jones, Sr. and Catherine (Moore) Jones, and lived many years in Worcester before moving to Charlton. He graduated from Worcester Vocational Technical High School. He was employed at A. J. Letourneau as a machine operator. He enjoyed fishing, mostly salt water fishing. There are no calling hours, and services will be held at a time to be announced. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the charity of one's choice. Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 is directing the arrangements. www.sansoucyfuneral.com

Claire R. Small, 96

SPENCER-Claire R. Small, 96, a life-long resident of Spencer MA, passed away peacefully on Friday January 31, 2020 in Southbridge Rehab and Health Care Center. She is predeceased by her husband, William R. Small and her sister, Rita Gregory. She leaves behind two sons, Lester Small and his wife Nancy of Dayton Ohio and Timothy Small and his wife Susan of Spencer MA, 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Claire was the daughter of Joseph

and Parmelia Boudreau and was a graduate a David Prouty High School. She worked for many years as a book-keeper at the former Berger Fuel Company in Spencer. Claire enjoyed line dancing and continued dancing till the age of 90. Funeral services are private and there will be no calling hours. Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer is assisting the family. For an online tribute and guestbook please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

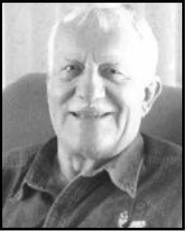
Judith A. Farrell, 81



SPENCER-Judith A. Farrell, 81, of Howe Village, died peacefully, Monday, Jan. 27 in Quaboag Rehab & Skilled Care Center in W.Brookfield. She was the wife of William J. Farrell, Sr. who died in 1993. She leaves her step children; William Farrell, Jr. and his wife Kathy of Hubbardston and Sandra Gorman and her husband Jim of Sharon, NH, her sister Sandy Martin of Floral, Ind., several step grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by a step son Denis Farrell and a brother Arnold

Benoit, Jr. Her longtime friend Al Huard died in 2017. Born in Spencer, she was the daughter of Arnold and Doris (Pollard) Benoit. She was a longtime waitress in the area. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, February 7 at 1 p.m. in the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer. A calling hour will precede the service from 12 to 1 p.m. Burial in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Second Chance Animal Services, P.O. Box 136, E.Brookfield, MA 01515. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Ronald H. Benson



ROCHDALE / DUDLEY-Ronald H. Benson, of Dudley, MA, formerly of Rochdale, MA, passed away peacefully on January 16th, 2020. Ron was predeceased by his wife of close to 60 years, Nancy, his parents, Barbara and Harry Benson, and his brother, Roger C. Benson. He is survived by his son Michael R. Benson, two grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and his second family, Christina Remuck, who he lived with and was lovingly cared for by in recent years until his passing. Ron was born in Worcester. He worked as a licensed electrician and owned and operated Benson Electric. His life passion was working the prop-

erty and farm, Circle B. Ranch, he owned with his wife. For many years he raised llamas and showed them at state fairs throughout the Northeast winning numerous awards. Ron also enjoyed his 27 years as a volunteer fireman with the Leicester Fire Department. Ron was a very gifted woodworker. He enjoyed carving and whittling beautiful wooden signs, cars and figurines which he gave to his family and friends. There are no calling hours, and burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making memorial donations in Ronald's name to the Leicester Fire Department or charity of your choice. Condolences may be left at www.sansoucyfuneral.com or mailed to the family c/o Kristen Benson at 6120 Gaspe Lane, Cicero NY 13039.

Wayne K. Smart, 71



WARE-Wayne K. Smart, 71, of Ware, died on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at Western Massachusetts Hospital after a long period of declining health. He leaves his son, Eric Smart of West Warren, two daughters, Melissa Wildman of Belchertown and Jennifer Smart of Springfield, five grandchildren, Jacob Smart, Anna Harrington, Kaila Hiersche, Chelsea Smart, and Grace Smart. He also leaves his three sisters, Susan LaValley, Kathy Jurczyk and Gloria Chaplin. He was born in Ware, son of the late Kenneth and Annette Smart and was a life-long resident of Ware. After just turning 20 years old, Wayne enlisted in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, and served on the U.S.S. Little Rock, Guided Missile Cruiser. He loved his time in the Navy and spoke often of how he was able to see the world traveling throughout Europe and the Middle East. After leaving the Navy, he remained a member of the National Guard for 15 years.

Wayne worked as a machine operator at FLEXcon in Spencer for over 25 years where he made many friends. He enjoyed researching and following war history and biographies, as well as other historical documentaries on television. Most of all though, he loved his children and grandchildren. He was a former member of All Saint's Church in Ware. Calling hours for Wayne will be held on Thursday evening, February 6, 2020 from 5 to 7PM in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant Street in Ware. Pending weather, a Graveside Service will be held on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 11:30AM in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery, Greenwich Road in Ware. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to DAV Disabled American Veterans at www.dav.org. An online guest book is available at charbonneauhf.com



**To place a Card of Thanks
In-Memoriam, Birthday
or Anniversary Greeting,**



**the deadline is Friday noon
for the following week.**

(Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3")
or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3").
You can add a photo at no additional cost.

**To send by mail, please mail or drop off to
June Simakauskas, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm St.,
Southbridge, MA 01550.**

Personal checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover and AMEX are accepted.

**For more information,
please call June at 508-909-4062
or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news
and she'll be happy to help!**



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NEWS**

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 13

LEICESTER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FAMILY DINNER: 6 p.m., 91 Manneville St., Leicester. Choices are stuffed chicken or baked fish. Cost is \$12, and includes salad, rolls, entrée, dessert, and coffee. Please call for reservations by Wednesday, Feb. 12 at (508) 892-4528.

Wednesday, February 19

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

Wednesday, February 26

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

Thursday, February 27

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

ONGOING EVENTS

GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP: Community members who have experienced the death of a loved one are invited to attend our GriefShare support group. This program features Biblical teaching that focuses on encouragement, comfort and hope in grieving. GriefShare will be held on Tuesdays for 11 weeks total, beginning Feb. 4 at the East Brookfield Baptist Church, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

in the Chapel. A registration fee of \$15 will cover the cost of a workbook. This ministry is a collaboration of both E. Brookfield Baptist Church and the Brookfield Congregational Church. For questions, please call 508-867-7725.

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

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

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

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

Preschool story time is geared for children aged 3 to 5 years old. It runs from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30a.m. Seasonal songs, poems, and gross motor activities are part of this program, as well as a story and craft that encourages fine motor skills. Both programs are held on Thursday mornings. Parents and caretakers are asked to remain with their children. For more information or to register by phone call (508) 867-7928. You can also like us on Facebook and visit our website @ www.eastbrookfieldLibrary.com. We look forward to seeing you!

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

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: On the third Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. at the Overlook Independent

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

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

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

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

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

SIT AND KNIT: knitting group every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Merriam Gilbert Library, West Brookfield. Bring your sewing, embroidery, knitting or crochet and enjoy some socializing while you work on your project.

STAY HEALTHY: The VNA Care Network and Hospice is holding a free Keep Well Clinic to residents 60 and older from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Spencer Fish and Game Club on Mechanic Street. Local residents may have their blood pressure checked and learn about health concerns. Blood sugar, weight monitoring and other

health assessments may also be available. VNA Care Network and Hospice clinics are funded in part by the United Way, local boards of health, private foundations. For up-to-date clinic information visit www.vnacarenetwork.org or call (888) 663-3688 x 5603.

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

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

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

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

BEREAVEMENT GROUP IN W. BROOKFIELD: The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC has partnered with Faith and Family Hospice of Marlborough, MA to offer a local bereavement group for individuals who are living with the loss of someone they care deeply for. This program honors the reality that there is no perfect way to grieve or say goodbye to someone that we love—we each have our own process and our own time. Grief is not something that we “get better” from or that ever leaves us. Rather, we build coping skills to help us carry it through our lives. This group is open for all ages and all kinds of losses. It is a circle that strives to be mutually supportive and free of judgment. Sessions are held on Fridays at 5 pm in the church office at 36 North Main Street, West Brookfield, MA. Please call the church office to indicate you will be attending (508)867-7078 or email 1stcongo.westbrookfield@gmail.com. There is no charge for this group. This group has recently started and wishes to welcome others in joining them. Sessions will be offered for six weeks with a two-week break between the next. (There is no limit to the number of times any individual can sign up for this program.)

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

“THE LAKE IN WINTER” EVENT.
2:30: Ken Ethier: Presentation on Ice harvesting
East Brookfield Town Hall
3:30: Bonfire, Music, Skating and S’mores with DJ and concessions. Lake Lashaway Town Beach
FREE -snacks for sale

PETTY LARCENY
9pm-12am
308 Lakeside
308 East Main Street
East Brookfield, MA 01515 774-449-8333

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9



6AM - 2PM FISHING DERBY -
Details to come! See Facebook
@EB100th or tinyurl.com/EB100th!

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/RR/Art Guild/ Boy Scouts) 108 School Street FREE 1:00-3:00

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

RE-ENACTMENT of signing of town bill and unveiling of Anniversary Quilt
Senior Center, Pleasant Street. 6:30pm FREE

SATURDAY, APRIL 4,

ROARIN’ TWENTIES DANCE
at Sturbridge Host Hotel \$35, 5:00pm
Tickets @EventBrite.com or at the library

SATURDAY, APRIL 11,

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield 1:00-3:00. FREE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18,

HISTORICAL TALK - Ed Londergan -
The First and Second Settlements
East Brookfield Town Hall 9:30 FREE

TOWN WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY
Meet at East Brookfield Town Hall 9:00

SATURDAY, MAY 2,

EAST BROOKFIELD NATURE WALKS
at Pelletier Woods
Howe Street, East Brookfield 2:00. FREE



SATURDAY, MAY 9,

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR).
108 School Street, East Brookfield. 1-2:00 FREE

SATURDAY, MAY 16,

7K RUN AND FUN WALK
Timberyard Brewery, East Brookfield
10:0am. \$30.00 adults, \$15.00 kids

SATURDAY, MAY 30

HISTORICAL TALK -
Ed Londergan - Murder in the Brookfields
(Spooner / Newton Murders)
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

HISTORY & DESSERT
at Podunk Chapel, East Brookfield
2:00 & 3:30 seatings. \$5.00 pp

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

COAST GUARD BAND
East Brookfield Elementary School, 7:00 FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield 1:00-3:00. FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 20,

OPEN HOUSE
at Camp Frank A. Day (archery, boating, basketball, mini golf, lunch) Rain Date: June 21. 125 South

MONDAY, JULY 6

SUMMER READING KICK OFF -
EB Library - continues for five weeks.
East Brookfield Town Hall. FREE

SATURDAY JULY 25

HISTORICAL TALK - Heather Gablaski -
East Brookfield: 100 Years a Town
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE

SATURDAY, JULY 11

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
Parade & Fireworks
Connie Mack Field East Brookfield

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield,
1:00-3:00. FREE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

PARADE AND FAMILY FUN EVENT!
Route 9, East Brookfield,
9:30 -7:00. FREE. Rain date Sept 13

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00. FREE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 3:30

BUS AND CEMETERY TOUR,
ending in dinner at Podunk Chapel.
Meet at East Brookfield Town Hall.
\$15-\$20.00 pp

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

HISTORICAL TALK - Guy Morin- Central
Massachusetts during the Revolution
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30 FREE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00. FREE

HISTORICAL TALK -
Ken and Tina Ethier - “Trolley Talk”
East Brookfield Town Hall, 9:30. FREE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

OPEN HOUSE
at Hodgkins Building (Museum/ RR)
108 School Street, East Brookfield, 1:00-3:00. FREE

ONGOING

MARIACHI BAND

First Thursday of the month
5-8 p.m.
MEXICALI MEXICAN GRILL
Webster location
41 Worcester Rd., Webster,
MA
508-461-5070

TRIVIA SATURDAY

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

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

THE CENTRAL MA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
meets the first Monday of every month from September through May. We discuss a variety of conservation programs to improve the local cold water fisheries, local fishing opportunities. Our annual High School Fly Fishing Championship (open to all MA high school students) And our annual fund raising banquet.
Auburn Sportsman's Club
50 Elm St., Auburn, MA

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
July/August every Thursday 6:00-8:00
Connie Mack Field East Brookfield. FREE - Food and Drinks for sale.

The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.
Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

Thank you to our writers this month and to LAMOUREUX FORD for sponsoring this special section each month! I'd like to invite teachers and students, including home schoolers, tweens and teens, adults and grandparents to share your thoughts, funny anecdotes, poems, short stories, and essays.

For those of you who prefer suggested topics, here are a few for February:

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

THE NEXT WRITE STUFF WILL BE PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 28.
Deadline is Friday, Feb., 21. Please email your submission to jsima@stonebridgepress.news.
If sending your submission by mail, please send by February 14 to
The Write Stuff, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Thank you.

Ice Storm Magic
BY RICHARD M. TRAUSCHKE

After the ice storm had ended
The next morning was a sight to behold
It was clusters magnificent crystals of red
As the sun shone on tree-tops of gold

The cold red sum-rays of morn
Reaches the tops of trees;
The ice-coated branch dance is born,
Like red fairy lights in the mild breeze

Just like glitter in electric red
The sun's rays make the ice shimmer
Then disappear behind a cloudy bed
And return again, with sun aglitter.

The morning now is January crisp
The sun is ultra bright
Your step will be extra cold and brisk
In the frosty morning light.

Your cheeks are cold and rosy pink
From the windy seasons chill
Your eyes are a constant watery blink
From the sun's glaze and morning still.

The morning sun is higher now
The red glitter turns to white
Diamonds abound as the branches bow
In the wind, causing ice-coat to take flight.

Falling to the ground then swept away
By the breeze, tinkling on the crust;
Waiting on the warmth of day
And melting if it must.

~~~~~

**TIME**  
ANONYMOUSLY SUBMITTED,  
NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

Happy New Year One and All!

We are so fortunate to be alive and see what the year 2020 brings forth. I am thinking that we will see great accomplishments in the medical field. Maybe a cure for cancer, diabetes, MS, ALS and the rest of the horrible diseases that are taking our loved ones.

What is time, and how do we spend our time? Time is measured in seconds, minutes, hours, day or night. We need time to eat, sleep, work, and play. We also need time to take care of our commitments. It takes time to be with family and

friends. Do we use our time wisely, to our advantage, or do we just think about or worry about what is next?

What a mixed-up crazy world it would be if there was no time for anything. It would be a very confusing, jumbled up chaotic world. More than it is now. We get caught up in our timeline going to work doing the same stuff. First we punch a timecard to show what time we arrived bright and cheery. Then we take time to fill out the project sheet for materials. Then we take time to get the materials. Now we are ready to spend our working time on this new challenge. This project may take a day or many days. How much time? That is a big question. At the end of the day we punch out on the timecard, ow we can go home to rest. At the end of the week we pass in our timecards so we will get paid for the work and hours we toiled. Now with a few days off we will use our time to help out at home, the children's school, older people, or our church.

Doing volunteer work has many heartwarming experiences. Taking an elder out for a ride around the block will bring back memories. Stop at the library, they may want a book to read. How about shopping? Just stop in to visit, talk over old times, or get them interested in a new invention. They may have some good input. Best of all you are giving the gift of time.

This is a wonderful way of using your "spare" time. You'll be surprised how great you will feel when you crawl into bed at night.

Pray that your New Year brings you love, good health, happiness, sunshine, laughter and peace to fill your heart. Be brave and try something new in this new year. Maybe something you have wanted to do for a long time.

Peace to the world.

~~~~~

BRING IT ON
BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

As the past year quietly slumbers away into a deep sleep, a new year awakens filled with hopes, wishes, and promise.

We all wish, at times, the year gone by had been different, but now that opportunity is here, we have limited yet, some ability to make the new year better. We need to

be positive about our upcoming days. We must act on our desires and dreams, grateful for what we have and thankful for a fresh palette to paint our lives on. It's up to us to fill in the blank areas. Will it be a Happy New Year? What will you do to make it so? I say, Bring It On.

~~~~~

**WINTER HEAT**  
BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

Winter burns the light at both ends of the day. It darkens life outside, but more importantly it dims the brightness in our hearts and souls. Our energy is drained and our emotions are singed. The winter heat is a grueling season. Many people leave the area, but most have to stay and trudge thru the deepest of snow and ice. There is a fierce battle of the elements, both internally and externally. Our only hope is that Spring will extinguish this winter heat.

**BIG PAPI**  
BY SUE ANGELA HEALY,  
NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

Out of all the sports – none am I a big fan  
Something a fanatic could never understand  
I am a glitter individual – sparkles and shine  
Although for myself I never have time  
Then why Big Papi am I writing you this poem?  
For all the world knows you're never alone  
On a hot night you got shot in your own hometown  
With many people gathered all around  
Why of all people would this ever happen to you  
For everyone would love to walk in your shoes  
Maybe we will or will not find out a reason why  
As millions of individuals for you they cry  
The outpouring of love for you was unbelief  
One by one as they heard the news  
their hearts filled with grief  
From family members – the Red Sox, politicians, strangers – silence and prayer  
The admiration others

have for you  
maybe you're unaware  
Your wife Tiffany right there by your side

Thanking everyone with dignity and pride  
Something and everything about you just captured my heart  
Your first day in Boston – a beginning – new start  
Never about you did I ever hear a negative word  
Only praise and affection is every day heard  
And now my dear friend I am your biggest fan  
For you are not only a celebrity but a genuine man  
Having it all but never forgetting where you came from

In everyone's eyes – always and forever number one.  
Doing your shopping in mom and pop stores  
Having your clothes cleaned in a small business and much, much more  
Donations to the less fortunate – you give of your self  
Never acting better than anyone because of your fame and wealth  
Treating all equal no matter their nationality or last name  
You shall eternally be remembered in the Hall of Fame

Going to hospitals and shelters to visit the homeless – the sick  
David Ortiz you are our idol – our hero – we decided to pick  
Yes you are a good man and the reason God made you live  
And I'm sure one day your shooter you will decide to forgive  
As you recover at Mass General the nation sends you prayers and love  
Along with the angels from up above  
All across America each standing hand in hand  
For you we salute – your presence in great demand  
So until we all see you again  
One day all united at Fenway Park  
I want you to know Big Papi – you are "Our shining lite in the dark."

~~~~~

SUICIDE
BY SUE ANGELA HEALY,
NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

Why do people commit suicide?
Feelings within desperately trying to hide
Unless you suffer from the unknown
You'll never understand
A hug – support – listening in such great demand
It all began many years ago
Emotions – dignity – self-esteem at a very low
I hid everything from all the world and my family to see
Because I didn't know what was happening to me
Feeling sad, lonely, lost – a ragged ol' soul
This emptiness – pain – uncertainty - no one can know
Not eating – sleeping – crying all the time
Peace in my heart – my life – I am trying to find
Not knowing where to go or how to begin
Please let me sample joy, hope, happiness within
Day after day I never want to leave my bed
Closing the shade – covers pulled over my head
There are moments I can't think – speak – feel – concentrate
My heart pounding at a very high rate
Maybe I'll feel better if I go for a walk
Or go over to a relatives – a friends – just to talk
But what if they don't comprehend what I'm trying to say
In time this will pass and simply go away
I didn't want to be a burden – I don't mean to be a pest
All I want right now is tranquility, calm, some much needed rest
Go to the mountains – the lake or the shore
But every little movement feels like a chore
Buy something different to feel my best
A new top – slacks – a sweater – new dress
In my lounge chair I can relax in the sun
What does it feel like to be number one?
All my life being bullied – harassed – tantalized – yelled at – criticized
a no one - ridiculed – I just wanted to commit suicide
And there is only one reason I'm still alive today
It's because from heaven I didn't want to see tears in my mother's eyes
If you read this poem – and wonder if it's true
Yes – years ago – I once walked in your shoes
So when all your dreams seem shattered and you're at a place where you can no longer cope
Close your eyes, say a prayer – keep your faith – and never give up hope.

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ments as well as student interests and achievement needs.
Responsibilities and Duties:

- Development and facilitation of after-school and summer programming
- Reporting to and abiding by the NBYC Board of Directors
- Establishing and maintaining a positive relationship with school administration and personnel
- Attending relevant trainings in order to gain competency and new techniques for success
- Writing grants to acquire funds and support for programming

Qualifications:

- Experience working with children from grades 2-12
- Knowledge of brain-based learning principles a plus
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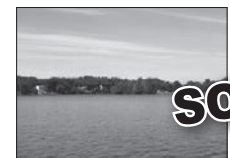
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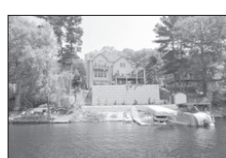
WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! Extremely Conveniently Located just off Exit 1 of 385! Loads of Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Applianced Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Walk-in to Wall over Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 1st Flr Bdrml w/Commode Closet! Recent Furnace! Recent Roof! **\$169,900.00**



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<p>WEBSTER - 3 STEFANIAK AVE.</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Cute 2 Bedroom Ranch! All hardwood floors, gas fireplace living room! 2 baths. Appliances included. 2 zone heat. Large deck! Young asphalt roof. Walk out lower living level. Town Water & Sewer, City Gas \$219,900.</p>	<p>WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, w/Jetted tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. Radiused walkout on upper level! Walk up attic. Walk out lower level! The third garage is accessed from the lower level. Generator hookup. One beautiful property! assisted sale \$499,900.</p>	<p>WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS</p> <p>Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Possible potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer, City Gas! Nice level lot. \$70,000</p> <p>Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest \$132,900</p> <p>Webster - 3 Lots Cooper Rd. Attention Developers! 3 abutting house lots, potential to divide into 5-6 Buildable lots! w/water/sewer access \$129,400</p> <p>Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre, artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. \$130,000.</p> <p>Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. \$99,900</p>	<p>HOLLAND - 6 MAIDEN LN</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>A nice place to call home! Houses situated perfectly on the lot to promote privacy on this .44 acre Lot! 6 room 2 bedroom 1-1/2 Bath. 2 brick fireplaces! Furnace and roof approximately 6 years old. Plus a guest house! assisted sale \$229,000.</p>	<p>WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD</p> <p>LAND FOR SALE ATTENTION DEVELOPERS</p> <p>Available 10,000+ sq. ft. of Land. Zoned Lake Residential. Potential to divide into 2 Buildable Lots. Town Water & Sewer Available. \$49,000.</p>

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DUDLEY 71 Mason Rd	S 11-1	\$319,900	ReMax Advantage 1 / Joanne Szymczak 508-230-5044
SOUTHBRIDGE 20 Hartwell Ter.	S Noon-2	\$219,900	Aucoin Ryan Realty/ 508-765-9155
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LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Tuesday February 18, 2020** in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, on the following item(s) starting at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Major Site Plan Review/ Stormwater permit – Applicant/ Owner: Town of Spencer, Location: 14/18/20 Mechanic Street; Spencer Assessor’s Map U 07-35/36/37. The applicant is requesting a Minor Site Plan Review under Section 7.4 of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw Zoning to construct a new municipal parking lot. The property is located within the Town Center zoning district.

Interested Parties may review these applications at the Office of Development & Inspectional Services in Memorial Town Hall located at 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562, during regular business hours from 7:30-4:30 Monday-Wednesday and Thursday 7:30-12:00.

The Planning Board is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Should you require auxiliary aids, services, written materials in other formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, please call 508-885-7500 ext. 180 in advance of the scheduled meeting.

January 31, 2020
February 7, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Marjorie S. Rohde to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank, dated July 8, 2016 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 55610, Page 98 (the “Mortgage”) of which mortgage USAA Federal Savings Bank is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns to USAA Federal Savings Bank dated August 21, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 59336, Page 133, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 190 Northwest Road, Spencer, MA 01562 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on February 20, 2020, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with improvements situated at Northwest Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts 01562 and being shown as Lot 10A on a plan entitled “Division of Land Northwest Road, Spencer, Massachusetts owned by Theodore Dowgielewicz” dated March 11, 2005. Scale 1”=80’ Prepared by Andrews Survey & Engineering, Inc., P.O. Box 312, 104 Mendon Street 01569 and being recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 824, Plan 115. Containing an area of 3.18 acres. Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor (s) by deed recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 55609, Page 126.

For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 55609, Page 126.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cash, 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 (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign writ-

ten Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable in cash or by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

USAA Federal Savings Bank
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Rohde, Marjorie S., 18-033043
January 24, 2020
January 31, 2020
February 7, 2020

Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District FY2020 SCHOOL BUDGET

Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District FY2021 School Budget. The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee, in compliance with Massachusetts General Law on the proposed FY2021 School Budget on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at Wire Village School, 60 Paxton Road, Spencer, MA. Immediately following the hearing, there will be an open discussion of the budget. Copies of the budget are available for examination at the Office of the Superintendent, 306 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and on the District’s website: www.sebrsd.org. Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee January 31, 2020
February 7, 2020

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by John M. Townsend and Lourdes S. Townsend to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated June 20, 2012 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 49185, Page 368, subsequently assigned to NewRez LLC f/k/a New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 61043, Page 16 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on February 28, 2020 at 106 Drake Lane, East Brookfield, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

Lot Number 7 and the Westerly part of Lot Number 6 as shown in a plan of a portion of the property of Harold P. Andrews, located near Lake Lashaway in East Brookfield, which said plan is said to be recorded with Worcester District Deeds in Book 2686, Page 15. Said premises are more particularly bounded and described as follows: A triangular tract of land situated in said East Brookfield near Lake Lashaway and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the most Westerly point thereof, in a 20 foot Right of way leading to Lake Lashaway; Thence S. 63 degrees 45’ E. about 152.5 feet by a 7 1/2 foot Right of way to angle; Thence S. 40 degrees E. 60 feet to the easterly part of Lot Number 6, as shown on the above mentioned plan; Thence N. 10 degrees 50’ E. about 228.5 feet by the East part of Lot Number 6, to another Right of way; Thence S. 76 degrees 30’ W., about 32.3 feet by said Right of way to an angle; And Thence S. 60 degrees 50’ W., about 213.5 feet still by said right of way to the point of beginning. Granting also Rights of way as shown on the above mentioned plan from the granted premises to the public highway and also from the granted premises to Lake Lashaway. Being the same parcel conveyed to John M. Townsend and Lourdes S. Townsend from Robert T. Salem, by virtue of a Deed dated 05/06/2005, recorded 05/06/2005, in Deed Book 36278, Page 146, as Instrument No. 2005 00071326_ County of Worcester, State of Massachusetts.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
19-010212
February 7, 2020
February 14, 2020
February 21, 2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO20P0167EA Estate of: Elizabeth L. Robitaille Also known as: Elizabeth L. Crockett Date of Death: December 17, 2019 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jennifer Patterson of Brookfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Petitioner **Jennifer Patterson of Brookfield, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representatives of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representatives under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
February 7, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 20 SM 000040 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Tara Legere and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 3901 (et seq) Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency claiming to have an interest in a mortgage covering real

property in Spencer, 179 Charlton Road, given by Tara Legere to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Southbridge Savings Bank, dated July 8, 2014, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52527, Page 144, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before March 02, 2020 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on January 15, 2020 Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 02/07/20
February 7, 2020

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Eric and Kathy Scheriff, for the property located at 223 Shoreline Drive, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to build a 24’x24’ garage, in Rural Residential District. This requires a special permit as per section, -1.5 Nonconformity, \$1.52 Nonconforming Structures (a) (et al).

The public is invited to attend.

Renee Adams White
Clerk

February 7, 2020
February 14, 2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO20P0299EA Estate of: Howard D. Forte Date of Death: January 3, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robert Varnum of Ft. Myers FL** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Petitioner **Robert Varnum of Ft. Myers FL** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representatives of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representatives under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

February 7, 2020

Town of Spencer, MA Tree Hearing

A public hearing will be held at the Spencer Memorial Town Hall, Conference Room A, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the proposed removal of the following trees: Northwest Rd. 26 trees various sizes, Kittredge Rd. 1 tree, Donnelly Cross Rd. 9 trees various sizes, Paxton Rd. 1 tree, Pleasant St. 4 trees various sizes. Ray Holmes
Tree Warden
February 7, 2020
February 14, 2020



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VALENTINE’S DAY

Tips for buying jewelry this Valentine’s Day

Valentine’s Day is rife with tradition. Couples may have their own unique traditions, but others, like Valentine’s Day date nights, are widely popular.

One Valentine’s Day tradition many couples embrace is the exchange of gifts. Shoppers might not need much advice when purchasing heart-shaped boxes of chocolates or flowers for their sweethearts. However, when shopping for jewelry, Valentine’s Day celebrants may feel as though they’re in over their heads. The following tips, courtesy of the Better Business Bureau®, can help shoppers as they navigate the potentially confusing process of buying jewelry.

DIAMONDS

The BBB notes that diamonds’ value is based on color, cut, clarity, and carat. Often referred to as the “4 Cs,” this criteria refers to the grade of the color (color), the way the diamond is finished (cut), how flawless the diamond is (clarity), and its weight (carat). When shopping for diamonds, the BBB advises



asking jewelers if they have the most up-to-date testing equipment, which makes it easier for them to distinguish between diamonds and lab-created gemstones. That’s important, as lab-created gemstones resemble diamonds and may not be detectable if jewelers are

using testing equipment designed to identify cubic zirconia.

COLORED GEMSTONES

Colored gemstones are very popular, and the BBB notes that various new stone treatments have been developed to

improve their appearance and durability. However, the BBB also notes that such treatments may adversely affect the value of the gem and necessitate special care in order to maintain the gem’s appearance. When shopping for colored gemstones, ask the jeweler if

an item has been treated and if there’s any special maintenance required. Imitation or assembled stones may look like natural stones, so shoppers should ask if a stone is natural, synthetic or imitation before purchasing anything.

GOLD

When used alone, the word gold implies an item is all gold or 24 karat gold. But the BBB notes that gold is naturally soft and, as a result, is typically mixed with other metals to improve its hardness and durability. The karat-quality marking indicates what proportion of gold is mixed with other metals. For example, the most common mark for gold jewelry is 18K of 750, which signifies an item is 75 percent gold. Lower-karat gold jewelry may include copper, silver, zinc, or other metals. Consumers should ask about these alloys and determine if the item’s ultimate recipient is allergic to certain metals or if he or she has a high acid content in their bodies. People with high acid content in their bodies may have their jewelry turn black as a result.

Buying jewelry can be intimidating. However, jewelry buyers can work with their jewelers to find a beautiful piece their sweethearts will be proud to wear this Valentine’s Day. More information on buying jewelry can be found at www.bbb.org.

Red gemstones for your sweetheart

The world is awash in red come Valentine’s Day. Red is considered a passionate and warming color, which is why it often is tied to the emotions of love and desire. Red also symbolizes heat, longing and strength. In some cultures, red is viewed as good luck and used to ward off bad spirits.

Gift givers who want to embrace red hues even further during Valentine’s Day can dote on their sweethearts with red-colored precious and semi-precious gemstone jewelry. Rubies may come to mind, but there are quite a few stones that offer rosy appeal.

- Agate: Red and red-banded agate can be attractive stones. They are a translucent variety of microcrystalline quartz. These stones have a smooth sheen and are relatively durable.
- Garnet: Garnets tend to be a darker red

than rubies and are not very expensive stones. They’re easy to find and can be beautiful in jewelry. Garnets are somewhat soft, so they can be scratched or damaged easily, necessitating caution with their handling.

- Red topaz: Like other stones, topaz comes in different shades. Red is one of the hues. Durability, being plentiful and possessing a vibrant luster make red topaz ideal in all types of jewelry.
- Red zircon: Pure red zircon stones are unique. Zircon is one of the oldest known minerals on Earth, so zircon stones in varying colors have been around for quite some time. Zircon is quite hard, so it can be worn daily, making it an ideal stone for rings.
- Ruby: Rubies are often expensive and highly sought after gemstones. Natural, untreated rubies are very rare. They are made of corundum and

are the red versions of sapphires. Rubies are hard and durable and will hold up to daily wear.

- Spinel: Much like fool’s gold looks like gold, spinel resembles a ruby so much that it is often mistaken. This stone often has high levels of clarity and a high refractive index.
- Tourmaline: This is another stone that comes in all different colors of the rainbow, including red. It has a pinkish-red hue, and may be called rubellite. Rubellite is commonly cut into long shapes, but it can be made into many common jewelry styles and faceted to maximize the reflection of light.

Red gemstones may be the perfect fit for Valentine’s Day. Always work with trusted jewelers to find quality, authentic stones that will retain their value.

Jewelry buyers’ guide



Jewelry is a common gift for Valentine’s Day. Customers should know before they buy to get the best value.

You can’t buy love, but on Valentine’s Day those in love certainly like to treat the special people in their lives to some lavish tokens of affection. According to the National Retail Federation’s Valentine’s Day Consumer Spending Survey, Americans spend an estimated \$19 billion on gifts, flowers, dinners, and more come Valentine’s Day.

In addition to chocolates and flowers, jewelry is a popular Valentine’s Day gift. Since jewelry is often a personal taste, much like a fragrance, it can be challenging to find the perfect item. With so many different styles, colors and pieces, it’s no surprise that so many jewelry shoppers feel overwhelmed. Some expert advice can make the process go more smoothly and ensure you’re getting the best value for your money.

The Federal Trade Commission suggests thinking before you shop. Since jewelry is a major purchase, shop-

pers should first establish a budget. Consider the gift recipient’s style and look at other jewelry he or she wears. The more informed you are before visiting the jewelry stores, the easier it will be to find a piece he or she will like and one that you can afford.

Take the time to become educated about diamonds and other gemstones. Diamonds’ value is based on four criteria: color, cut, clarity, and carat (often referred to as “The 4 Cs”). Color ranges from the diamond being nearly white to graded down to yellow. The cut is the way the stone is fashioned. Clarity informs consumers if the stone is flawless or has specs or scratches inside of it. Carat refers to the weight of the diamond.

Diamonds and gemstones can form naturally or be manufactured in laboratories. Lab-created gemstones may look like natural gemstones but be of lesser value.

Shop around and get referrals for reputa-

ble jewelry stores. You can consult the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been lodged about a particular store. Many consumers are most comfortable purchasing jewelry made in-store so they can verify the merchandise and retailer.

Check for the appropriate markings on gold, silver and platinum jewelry that indicate their authenticity. Make sure the jeweler will include certification or a grading report with the jewelry and your receipt.

No matter how much research you do, realize that there’s a chance the jewelry you purchase will not prove the perfect fit. So make sure you understand the store’s return policy and if there is a charge to have rings or other items resized.

Jewelry is a classic Valentine’s Day gift. With the right approach, shoppers can make the process of buying jewelry a lot less intimidating.



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VALENTINE’S DAY

Top gifts for your valentine

Valentine’s Day is an opportunity to show the ones you love just how much you care about them. This is achieved through various gestures, including giving heartfelt gifts.

Research from Business Insider found that 51 percent of Americans now celebrate Valentine’s Day. While a recent poll from Insights West found that although many Canadians view Valentine’s Day as overly commercial, 75 percent still plan on celebrating it. People are still spending big bucks on making Valentine’s Day special. The National Retail Federation indicates Americans spent more than \$20.7 billion on the holiday in 2019 and forecasters predict similar spending in 2020.

Every Valentine’s Day, certain gifts emerge as the most popular. While certain gifts are common, there are ways to make them seem fresh and exciting. Here are some ideas for Valentine’s Day gifting.

FLOWERS

The National Retail Federation estimates that people spend around \$2 billion on flowers for



gifts. While roses are much sought after, thinking outside the bouquet can produce unique results. Choose different blooms, perhaps a loved one’s favorite flower or something regional. Potted plants also will last longer than cut flowers, giving them more staying power. Skip bouquets in favor of table

centerpieces, which can be eye-catching.

JEWELRY

Gifting jewelry can be tricky because it is such a personal gift that must tie into a sweetheart’s style. It may be tempting to go with something large and flashy or full

of diamonds, but a better option is to take inventory of what your loved one wears on a daily basis and try to mimic the size and scope in your gift. Other thoughtful jewelry gifts include understated pendant necklaces or bracelets engraved with key dates or the names of their children. Colored gemstones in lieu of dia-

monds also may be a striking choice.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dinner and a movie is a classic date night, but on Valentine’s Day restaurants and theaters may be overcrowded and only offer limited menus. An alternative can be to

arrange for a gourmet meal to be delivered and wrap up a new streaming movie/TV device already primed with a subscription to his or her favorite streaming service. Then all you need to do is snuggle on the sofa for a romantic night in.

CHOCOLATES AND CANDY

Roughly \$1.8 billion is spent on candy each Valentine’s Day, says the National Retail Federation. A box of chocolates certainly can fit the bill, but other options abound. Perhaps a sweetheart has a favorite candy that recalls his or her childhood or prefers a chocolate maker from his or her hometown. Purchase those items to add a bit of nostalgia. Make the holiday magical by setting up a candy bar right at home, where your sweetheart can pick and choose from candies displayed in eye-catching bowls and canisters. Another novel idea is to use candy molds to make your own sweet treats.

Thoughtful Valentine’s Day gifts can make the day even more special for sweethearts.

How did “XO” come to symbolize kisses and hugs?



Love letters are a great way for couples to express their affection and devotion to each other. The sentiments expressed in love letters are as unique as the couples who write them. However, love let-

ters often contain one particular turn of phrase regardless of their authors.

When signing a love letter, it’s customary for writers to include at least one “XO” near their names. “XO” is widely

recognized as symbolic of wishing “hugs and kisses” to a letter’s intended recipient. This tradition is such an ingrained part of romantic letter writing that few may stop to pause and wonder just how the letters

“XO” came to symbolize hugs and kisses.

The origins of “XO” are not definitively known, though many historians note that signing letters with “X” dates back to the Middle Ages. Few people could read and write in the Middle Ages, but signing “X” did not require either of those abilities. Christianity played a big part in many people’s lives during the Middle Ages, and “X” was seen as a representation of the Christian cross. So when people signed “X” on legal documents, they were essentially stating the contents of the document were true in the name of Jesus Christ.

While Jesus Christ’s teachings are rooted in showing compassion for one’s fellow man, signing a letter with “X” did not symbolize love in the Middle Ages. In fact, that development did not come about until much later. The Oxford English Dictionary attributes the first use of “X” to symbolize love and/or kisses in a letter to English naturalist Gilbert White. However, some historians debate the accuracy of that attribution, saying White’s use of the letter “X” in

his letter was likely meant to convey blessings on the letter’s recipient.

Researcher Stephen Goranson found many uses of the letter “X” to convey love and/or kisses in or after the 1880s, so it’s very likely that this was the first time that including the letter “X” at the end of a letter took on the meaning so many people give it now.

As for “O” symbolizing hugs, even less is known about how that came about. The late American writer Leo Rosten, whose writings included 1968’s “The Joys of Yiddish,” suggested that including “O” at the end of a letter might have a similar origin story to “X.” Rosten theorized that “O” was used by Jewish immigrants who did not want to sign a document with “X,” which they, like the people in the Middle Ages, interpreted as symbolic of the Christian cross.

Exactly when “O” was paired with “X” and came to symbolize hugs is unknown, though various historians suggest the two were not paired until the latter half of the 20th century.

8 sweets for your sweetheart

Few things can elicit “oohs and aahs” on Valentine’s Day as much as decadent desserts. Sweets and romance seem tailor-made for each other. That’s why heart-shaped boxes of chocolate and other sweets are snatched up in droves and handed out like, well, candies, come February 14.

According to Nielsen Product Insider, Valentine’s Day chocolate sales reached nearly \$11 billion in 2018, and candy generated \$695 billion in sales. In terms of baked goods, the top-selling items sold during Valentine’s Day included dipped/covered treats, message cookies, iced cookies, cupcakes, and two- to five-count doughnuts. Wine, chocolate and strawberries also are very popular Valentine’s treats.

Those pondering giving something sweet this year can consider the following desserts.

1. Bananas Foster: This treat is made from bananas and vanilla ice cream. A sauce made from butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, dark rum, and banana liqueur is placed over the cooked bananas and ignited like a flambé to create a caramelized dessert.

2. Black forest cake: This chocolate cake marries layers of chocolate sponge cake with a rich cherry filling. It is based on the German dessert, schwarzwälder kirschtorte. Whipped cream often tops off this rich cake.

3. Cannoli: These Italian pastries orig-



Dessert can be the way to that special someone’s heart this Valentine’s Day.

inated on the island of Sicily. They consist of tube-shaped fried pastry dough filled with a ricotta cheese-based cream.

4. Cheesecake: Cheesecake often is made with a crust of crushed cookies, graham crackers or sponge cake. A thick layer of batter made from sour cream, cream cheese, eggs, and sugar is cooked into a semi-soft consistency. Some cheesecakes are light and fluffy, while others are dense and decadent.

5. Chocolate truffles: Not to be mistaken for their fungi cousins, chocolate truffles are made by forming balls out of chocolate ganache (made from heavy cream and melted chocolate), and rolling them in cocoa powder.

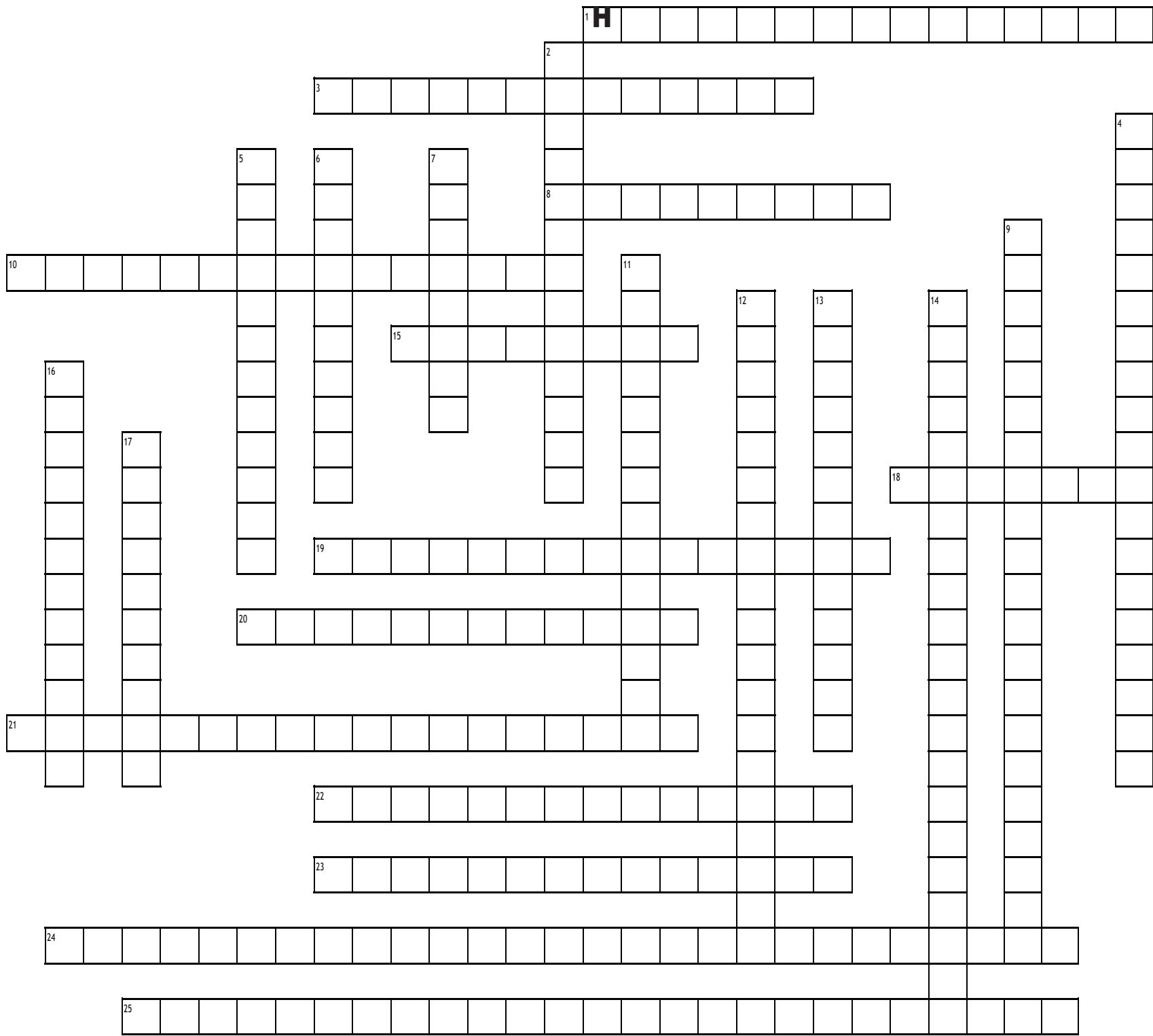
6. Cream puffs: These tasty morsels are made from a French choux pastry dough filled with a moist filling of sweet cream or custard.

7. Napoleon: The French offer a layered dessert, and it comes by way of mille feuille, also known as a Napoleon pastry. Puff pastry dough sandwiches vanilla custard or cream in various layers.

8. Tiramisu: Meaning “pick me up,” tiramisu is the Italian take on a layered dessert made from ladyfingers cookies dipped in coffee and a whipped mixture of mascarpone cheese and cream, topped with cocoa.

Dessert and other sweets are often a part of Valentine’s Day celebrations.

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