



Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, January 21, 2022

School District adjusts COVID guidance

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Facing sharp increases in COVID-19 cases since the holiday break, Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District leaders have adjusted guidance for families.

Prior to the holiday recess, the district had 17 total staff members and 158 students who tested positive for COVID-19 since September. As of Jan. 12, the district jumped to 44 confirmed cases among staff members and 287 students testing positive. This brings the district's overall total to 331 confirmed cases of the virus.

Of all the district's schools, Wire Village School has seen the largest number of both staff and student cases since September (19 staff members, 120 students).

District leaders have also seen an alarming number of families with multiple members contracting the virus.

"Over the past several days, we have seen a pattern emerge in our

positive cases, and we are becoming concerned about the impacts this may have on the safety of our classrooms," read a statement released by SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. "The pattern that we have seen emerge is that children whose household family members test positive for COVID-19 but remain asymptomatic are testing negative for a while (often about two or three days), but then testing positive on the third or fourth day due to the continuous exposure at home. What makes this problem worse is that because these students have been allowed back in school as long as they remained asymptomatic, we are now seeing the potential for increased spread at school."

As a result of the heightened spread within families, district officials made slight changes to COVID-19 policies. Beginning on Jan. 13, the district is now asking household close contacts to quarantine for five days once a fam-

ily becomes aware of a positive case within its household. If there are multiple positive cases in a household, the district is asking close family contacts to quarantine for ten days.

This change in the district's safety procedures is effective for all four schools until further notice.

"I truly appreciate the flexibility and support of our parents and community as we continue to work hard to keep our schools open for in-person learning, even amidst the current Omicron case surge," Superintendent Haughey's statement read. "I have no doubt that together we can do it, and it will be each of us working hand in hand with our neighbors making these little adjustments that will make the big difference."

Families are reminded that school officials are required by the state to only use tests for students who become symp-

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Photo Courtesy

Eighth grader McKenzie Settle will represent Leicester Middle School as a Project 351 ambassador.

New Project 351 Ambassador looks forward to representing LMS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Project 351 ambassador McKenzie Settle is looking forward to representing Leicester Middle School at the annual tradition of service.

The eighth grader was chosen by LMS staff members as their lone representative for Project 351, which features one student per town in the Commonwealth each year. School staff members have been impressed with Settle's leadership in all facets.

"She exemplifies the

values of kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude," said LMS Principal Christopher Fontaine. "Every day, she ensures that she demonstrates a strong ethic of service while aspiring to make a positive change both in the school and in her community."

Settle was thrilled to learn that she had been chosen as a representative. Because only one eighth grader per town is selected, it is always a difficult choice for officials considering the level of service and community engagement students display.

"It was a huge honor," said Settle, a member of the Girl Scouts who also helps mentor girls in her sister's troop. "I hadn't heard of Project 351 at the time, but by the way Mr. Fontaine talked about it, I could tell it was a big deal. It was one choice out of about one hundred students."

Project 351 organizational leaders initially planned a virtual program followed by an in-person service event for vaccinated ambassadors on Jan. 15. Due to the COVID-

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Nick Ethier photos

Madison Leonard of Auburn follows through on a wrist shot taken between two Needham defenders.

Rockets lose to tough Needham team, but expectations remain high

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — Sure, playing Needham High in the battle of the Rockets at Horgan Arena on Monday, Jan. 17 and losing by a 5-0 final may not look the best on paper, but Auburn High's girls' varsity ice hockey team battled hard as they continue to compete at a high level game in and game out.

"They're probably our strongest opponent so far," Auburn head coach Peter LaPrad said of Needham. "They're a little deeper than us. They had three solid lines that kept coming at us. But I loved the grit of my girls out there, just going at it for three strong periods. We didn't have the legs to

keep up with them for the whole game, but I'm very pleased. It's good for us because that's a team up for us and we were competitive with them."

Auburn — a co-op that also includes student-athletes from Blackstone-Millville Regional, Burncoat High, Doherty High, Douglas High, Grafton High, Notre Dame Academy and Tantasqua Regional — is now an impressive 5-3 to start the season.

"I love my team right now. The girls are great," said LaPrad. "They're a true team with good chemistry."

Auburn and Needham were deadlocked in a scoreless battle for much of the first period, and the game remained tied

with seven minutes to play in the opening frame when starting goalie Victoria Horne made an aggressive poke-check save on a streaking Lily Schmalz of Needham.

But Needham took a 1-0 lead into the first intermission when they scored with 2:55 remaining. Maeve Hymovitz fed a pass to Maddie Ledbury, whose shot got past Horne.

Needham then grabbed a 3-0 lead early in the second period with two quick goals off the sticks of Sofia Berejik and Jill Peabody. Shortly thereafter, Horne (18 saves) gave way to Rachel Proulx (13 saves), who played the second half

Turn To **ROCKETS**, page **A17**

Spencer officials reinstate mask mandate at town buildings

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Selectmen voted narrowly last week to require masks in town buildings through the remainder of January.

At the Jan. 10 Select Board meeting, members voted 3-2 to institute the mask mandate for guests and employees entering town buildings.

Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury, as well as Selectmen Ralph Hicks and John Howard, voted in favor of the mandate. Selectmen Tony Pepe and Jared Grigg voted against it.

Chairman Woodbury said the surge of COVID-19 cases since the holidays made it necessary to require masks in town buildings.

"It's been spiking up, not only here but across

the country," Woodbury said. "We're hoping to get through the month of January and see if things start to get better."

Selectmen will review public health data and revisit the mask mandate at the end of the month. Officials said they understand residents' frustrations with having to continue wearing masks in town buildings, but they remain focused on keeping all members of the community safe this winter.

"Nobody likes wearing masks, but safety is paramount for our employees and the public as a whole," Selectman Hicks said.

Selectman Pepe told the New Leader he supports masks as a safety measure, but he doesn't feel town officials should

be implementing mandates on face coverings.

"I wear a mask to protect others, but I'm not comfortable with mandating it," Pepe said. "I respect everyone's opinion on this situation."

Selectmen also voted 5-0 on Jan. 10 to allow Council on Aging Director April Caruso to close the Senior Center through at least the end of January. Staff members and seniors had expressed concerns over remaining open amid the wave of COVID-19 cases.

No official reopening date has been announced for the Senior Center.

"It's the [Council on Aging] Director's decision on when to reopen, once she feels the numbers have improved and

Turn To **MANDATE**, page **A2**

The Gateway Process Part 1

How powerful is human consciousness? Can we influence matter and reality with our thoughts?

A couple of years ago, I read a document from the US Army and released by the CIA. It's a very complex document steeped in scientific language.

It delves deep into the powers of the human mind in a way that most books about positive thinking never do.

In 2003, this document was declassified by the CIA. It's named Analysis and Assessment of Gateway Process. The paper attempts to break down the nature of the reality that we live in. The PDF can be found at CIA.gov by googling, "The Gateway Process PDF."

It was written in 1983 by Lt. Col. Wayne M. McDonnell, whom we will refer to as Wayne. He was tasked with reporting back to the Commander of the US Army Operational Group at Fort Meade, Maryland, with all of his experiences learning the techniques of The Gateway Process.

During this period in time, the Military was interested in all sorts of psychic research in an attempt to keep pace and outdo the arch-enemy of the day, The Soviet Union.

A little history on The Gateway Process reveals that in the 1950s, a radio executive named Robert Monroe began to produce evidence that specific sound patterns affect the mind, including alertness, sleepiness, and expanded states of consciousness.

Robert Monroe formed a division inside his company to further study this phenomenon. The research continued for many years until, in 1962, he renamed his company to The Monroe Institute. The Gateway Process is a



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

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technique developed by The Monroe Institute, which recorded a series of audiotapes on practicing this technique.

According to this document, "The Gateway Experience is a training system designed to bring enhanced strength, focus, and coherence to ... brainwave output between the right and left hemispheres, moving it outside the physical sphere... to ultimately escape even the restrictions of time and space."

Wayne partnered with several different people to produce the report, including Itzhak Bentov, an American-Israeli scientist who helped pioneer the biomedical engineering industry.

From the outset, Wayne felt it was important to tell his Commander that it is his opinion that after having completed the analysis to point out that his conclusions "do not do violence to the fundamental eastern or western belief systems."

The document describes, in detail, matter and energy. Most of us think that everything around us is composed of energy and matter and that energy and matter are two different things. We think of matter as a physical substance like a rock or a piece of wood, and energy as some force, like electricity or fire.

Wayne writes, "matter and energy tend to be misleading if taken to indicate two distinctly different states of existence in the physical world... solid matter ... simply does not exist.

Rather, atomic structure is composed of oscillating energy grids surrounded by other oscillating energy grids..."

Again, it says, "Solid matter... simply does not exist." Starting to sound a little like the hit film The Matrix?

The scientific genius Nikola Tesla said, "If you wish to understand the universe, think of energy, frequency, and vibration."

Matter is just energy vibrating at incredibly high speeds. What we call matter is just variances in states of energy. Our body, and everything around us, in the entire physical universe, is an incredibly complex system of energy fields. Everything down to the smallest molecule is vibrational energy.

Albert Einstein said, "Everything in life is vibration."

Wayne goes on to describe that the entire universe is "one gigantic hologram of unbelievable complexity."

If that doesn't make your head spin, then read further. In extreme scientific language, Wayne describes that the only thing in the universe that isn't made of energy... is human consciousness.

He quotes psychologist Keith Floyd, "it may not be the brain that produces consciousness—but rather, consciousness that creates the appearance of the brain..."

If consciousness is the only thing in our universe that is not energy, what is consciousness? Can we use our consciousness to change our reality and manifest our dreams? Find out next week in Part 2 of The Gateway Process.

GUIDANCE

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EYE CATCHING

omatic while at school. Families are urged not to send potentially sick children to school.

"We simply do not have the testing availability to do this for all of our students each day," Haughey added. "Again, we realize the barrier that this creates for many families, but the reality is that we simply can't test every student, every day."

School leaders continue to express their support for pandemic-weary students, staff members, and parents. Over the last two years, the school community has dealt with mask

mandates, virtual learning challenges, and struggles with mental health. Looking ahead, officials are underscoring the need for continued teamwork and commitment to safety measures.

"Over the past few weeks, as we worked our way through this surge in COVID-19 cases together, we have noticed that anxiety has increased among staff, among students, and among families," the Superintendent's statement read. "It is during the most difficult of times that we need to lean into this pandemic and lean upon one another, rather than become more divisive.

Our schools remain safe and supportive places for our children and staff to be each day."

Officials emphasize the following measures to help reduce the spread: stay home from school when sick; wear your mask inside school buildings; frequently wash or sanitize your hands; and maintain social distancing when possible.

MANDATE

continued from page A1

it's safe for everyone," Selectman Hicks added.

Senior centers, libraries, and other town buildings in several surrounding communities have also been closed to the public during the winter surge of Omicron cases. In Leicester, Town Hall, the Senior Center, and the library are all closed to the public through at least Feb. 7.

Spencer's Richard Sugden Public Library remains open for regular hours, but masks are required for all patrons and staff members inside the building. No programs are being held in the library at this time; only virtual programming will take place until further notice.

For more information about COVID-19 regulations and updates in your community, check the town website. If you are unsure about the status of a particular building or department, call ahead to make sure it is currently open to the public.

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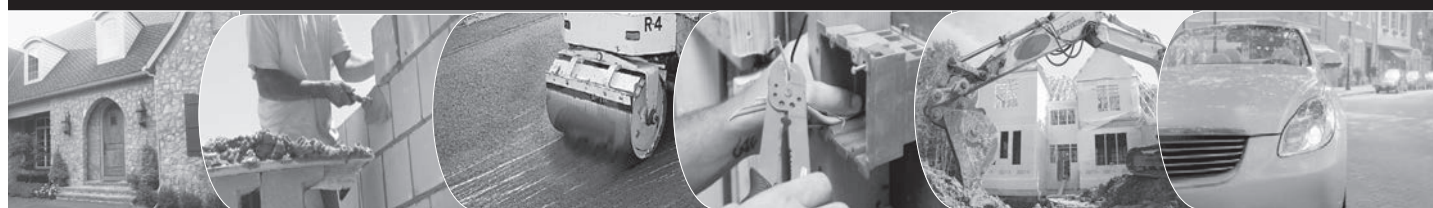
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An Array of Assorted Tips and Tricks

As we gear up for a new year, this week's column will highlight a medley of ideas to make everyday life just a little bit easier. And remember readers, your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge!

Simply send in a hint to be entered into the random drawing.

Practice Power Naps: Here's a quick lesson in Napology! A "power nap", which can clear your brain and increase productivity, is typically only fifteen to 20 minutes long. And, if you're catching 40 winks on a lunch break, set your cell alarm. A nap longer than a half hour can make you sluggish and defeat the power nap's purpose!

Candle Capers: Winter is the season for candles! The next time you light floating candles, place them in cold water and they'll burn longer! Here's a candle FYI: Candles don't just cover up odors? They eliminate them by burning off the tiny odor particles that permeate the air!

Bye Sniffles: Stuffy nose this season? Whip up this Vicks Stick clone to clear your sinuses fast! Place one quarter teaspoon of coarse salt in a small glass vial with a tight lid. Add five drops of eucalyptus oil. When the salt absorbs the oil, shake to activate, then open vial and inhale to clear nasal passages.

Kitchen Helps: Here are a couple of culinary shortcuts to cook up a storm in record time: If a recipe calls for clarified broth, simply pour regular broth through a coffee filter to clarify it quickly and easily! And here's the easiest way to



TAKE
THE
HINT
**KAREN
TRAINOR**

degrease cooled meat soups and stews: Just put a sheet of waxed paper directly on top of the liquid before refrigerating.

Tips to Reduce Cholesterol: Want to reduce your cholesterol? Try topping soups and stews with ground flaxseed to reduce heart attack risk. In a study, forty grams of ground flaxseed every day for three months reduced cholesterol by six percent.

Attention Do it Yourselfers: Did you know nonstick vegetable spray such as Pam can be used to lubricate sticky locks, metal gears, and even bicycle chains in a pinch? And never use oil for squeaky door hinges, use a dab of Vaseline - for a dripless job well done!

Wax Nostalgic: Remember wax paper? Try these creative uses: Rub a sheet on your counter tops after you clean. They'll not only have a nice gloss, but the finish will repel dust and dirt. And if you rub wax paper along your closet rod, even your metal your hangers will glide smoothly!

Hop to it: Can't sleep? An ancient insomnia tip calls for putting dried hops in a pillowcase. And if you have trouble sleeping on a regular basis, the answer

may be as simple as a multivitamin. Make sure you have enough iron, calcium and potassium, all which encourage a healthy sleep.

Shoo Flu: Want another weapon in the fight against colds and flu? According to several Japanese studies, gargling with black tea twice a day from October to March, significantly improved participants abilities to fend off the common flu.

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

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



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

PERSON of the WEEK

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If you would like to nominate someone or a group of people for 2022, please email your suggestion to June at jsima@stonebridgepress.news. Thank you.

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Open Sky Race Equity Leader receives scholarship from Providers' Council

WORCESTER — Stephen Osei-Bonsu, Manager of Race Equity for Open Sky Community Services, was one of four human services employees who recently received scholarships during the Providers' Council's 46th Annual Convention & Expo. The Providers' Council is an association of community-based human services providers in Massachusetts with more than 220 member organizations.

Osei-Bonsu was selected as the first

recipient of the Council's Foreign-Born Leader Scholarship, given in partnership with the African Bridge Network. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at William James College.

Open Sky's President & CEO Ken Bates was delighted with Osei-Bonsu's selection, commenting "Stephen is an incredible role model for other staff in our organization. We are fortunate that

the human services industry has an extraordinarily diverse workforce. As we work towards achieving race equity for both our employees and the people we serve, we need to support the career paths of leaders like Stephen who bring a unique perspective to their work."

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Friday's Child

Ashlynn
Age 13

I love to draw!

Ashlynn is a shy girl of Caucasian descent who likes to draw and color. She can start off quiet with new people but warms up if given the time to develop a relationship. Ashlynn enjoys music, drawing, spending time with her friends, and swimming. She loves to spend time with her siblings and is very protective of them. Ashlynn is in the 5th grade and has friends at school. She can do 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. She does best with limitations and a structured routine. 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.

Grow herbs indoors for year-round enjoyment

Add garden fresh flavor to your meals year-round. Grow a few of your favorite herbs indoors, harvest and enjoy.

Select a variety of herbs you and your family enjoy and use for cooking, decoration, or fragrance. Basil, chives, cilantro, oregano, marjoram, mint, parsley, sage and thyme are some of the easier herbs to grow indoors. Purchase plants or seeds from your local garden center, favorite garden catalog or produce section of the grocery store.

Most herbs need six to eight hours of bright light each day. A south-facing window in winter is best but an east- or west-facing window may be sufficient. Increase success with artificial lights. Set the timer for 14 to 16 hours a day and keep lights six to 12 inches above the plants.

You will find lots of energy efficient and stylish options for just about any space. Sleeker designs like Gardener's Supply Micro Grow Light Garden can be placed on the kitchen counter or a small table. Furniture grade options like Bamboo LED Grow Light Garden (gardeners.com) make it easy to grow herbs in just about any room in the house.

Use a variety of plants to create an attractive display in a large windowsill planter. Combine plants that have the same growing requirements to ensure success.

Or place each herb plant in its own container. A four- to seven-inch pot is a good size when starting with smaller



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

plants. Growing individual plants in their own container allows you to provide the specific watering, care and transplanting they need.

Select containers with drainage holes or reduce maintenance and increase success with self-watering containers like Viva self-watering planters. Just fill the water reservoir that gradually releases water into the soil for the plants to use. You will need to water less often.

Fill the container with a well-drained quality potting mix. Many contain a slow-release fertilizer, providing weeks or even several months of nutrients for your plants. Just check the label for details and adjust fertilization as needed.

Water the containers thoroughly whenever the top inch of soil is dry. Pour off excess water so the plant does not sit in the excess and succumb to root rot. Or place pebbles in the tray to elevate the pot above any water that collects in the saucer or tray. This means less work for you and better growing conditions for the plant.

Incorporate a slow-release fertilizer or use a dilute solution of any indoor houseplant fertilizer once the nutrients in the potting mix are spent. Follow label directions and do not overdo as too much fertilizer can harm your plants.

Begin harvesting most herbs when they reach six to eight inches in height and as needed. Use a sharp pair of garden scissors, snips, or hand pruners. Make cuts above a set of healthy leaves so the remaining plant is neater



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Artificial lights ensure herbs receive enough bright light to successfully grow indoors.

and tidier in appearance. As the plant grows, you will be able to harvest larger quantities and more often.

Start with a few of your favorite herbs and expand your collection as you gain experience. Soon you will be confident and eager to try more challenging favorites.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, includ-

ing *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

BROOKFIELD
\$165,000, 36 W Main St, Leger, Robert J, to Smajkiewicz, Pamela J.

LEICESTER
\$320,000, 12 Cemetery Rd, Harmon, Doris M, and Harmon, Paul R, to Rivas, Edwin E, and Rivas, Armida L.

\$315,000, 17 Edward St #17, Cunningham IRT, and Rybczyk, Amy M, to Rosen, Stephen, and Rosen, Barbara.

\$300,000, 208 Auburn St, Klem, Eric E, to Dickerson, Garrett.
\$294,000, 14 Reservoir St, Jones, Tyrone, and Jones, Tracy L, to Rasool, Akhtar, and Bano, Sajida.

\$180,629, 358 Main St, Ryder, Gerald L, to Boyda, Jean A.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
\$1,500,000, 63 Donovan Rd, Huckins, Francis L, and Huckins, Bertina J, to North Brookfield Town Of.

\$1,500,000, 65 Donovan Rd, Huckins, Francis L, and Huckins, Bertina J, to North Brookfield Town Of.
\$395,000, 61 Hillsville Rd, Bristol, Lloyd G, to Blouin, Julia L, and Blouin, Richard D.
\$360,000, 26 Evergreen St,

Buzzbuck LLC, to Mannor, James, and Mannor, Joyce.

\$299,900, 19 E Brookfield Rd, Pereira, Norma, to Wilson, Carly, and Peck, Starr.

SPENCER
\$600,000, 18 Lake Ave, Olin, Gordon, to Lynch, Jeremy J.

\$568,000, 15 Lake View Dr, Davis, Douglas A, and Davis, Linda M, to Usher, J Anthony.

\$435,000, 6 Howe Rd, Vitkos, Todd, to Mcgee, Carl, and Mcgee, Deborah.

\$363,000, 72 Pleasant St, 82 Pleasant Street LLC, to Buckley, Joshua E, and Buckley, Jacquelynn.

\$350,000, 42 Bacon Hill Rd, Kinne, Arthur M, to Keyes, William, and Keyes, Pamela.

\$335,000, 20 Elm St, Wayne Street LLC, to 20 Elm Street LLC.
\$327,200, 54 Cherry St, Mcgee, Deborah L, to Boudreau, Ronnie, and Towle, Jennifer.

\$300,000, 121 Smithville Rd, Tompkins, Nicole N, to Rodriguez, Karla J.

\$265,000, 24 Chestnut St, Tang, Huy, to RBK Properties LLC.

\$250,000, 55 Mechanic St, Azov Corp, to 55 Mechanic LLC.

\$59,900, 1562 Lake Whittemore Dr, Rodney L Foisy 2020 RET, and Jamack, Judith L, to Norcia, Marie.

\$50,000, N Brookfield Rd #1, Hubacz, Frank, and Hubacz, Michael J, to Krusas, Kyle J.

\$50,000, N Brookfield Rd #2, Hubacz, Frank, and Hubacz, Michael J, to Krusas, Kyle J.

WARREN
\$460,000, Lyman Barnes Rd, Kifer, Mark E, and Kifer, Sandra J, to McCabe, Daniel, and McCabe, Barbara.

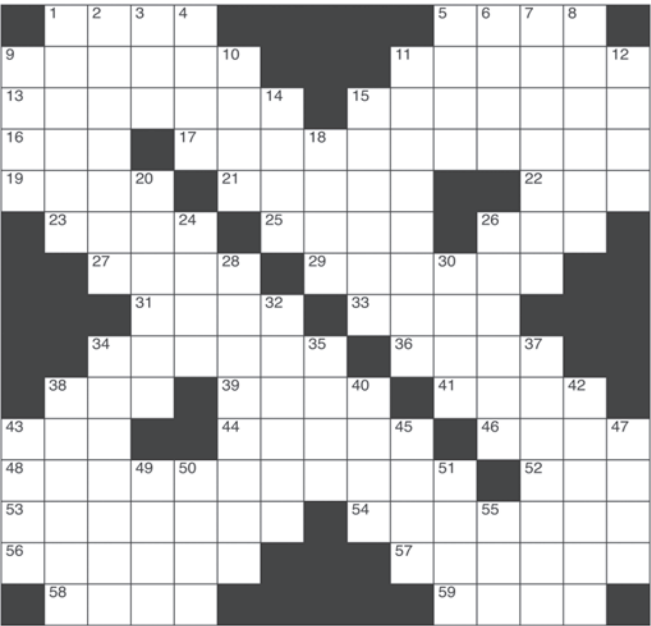
\$282,500, 26 Old West Brookfield Rd, Casello, Nicholas A, and Casello, Jacqueline J, to New Man Ventures LLC.

\$248,000, 308 Reed St, Gabanelli, David J, to Mawaka, Cameron J.

\$105,000, 125 High St, Sherman, Gail A, to Rhiron Realty LLC.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$125,000, 10 Hillside Dr, T Jacques LT, and Jefferson, Wendy V, to Cliffledge T, and Banosian, Kara J.

\$60,000, 85 Tucker Rd, Maskell, Daniel F, and Maskell, Lori, to Hilliker, Cody.

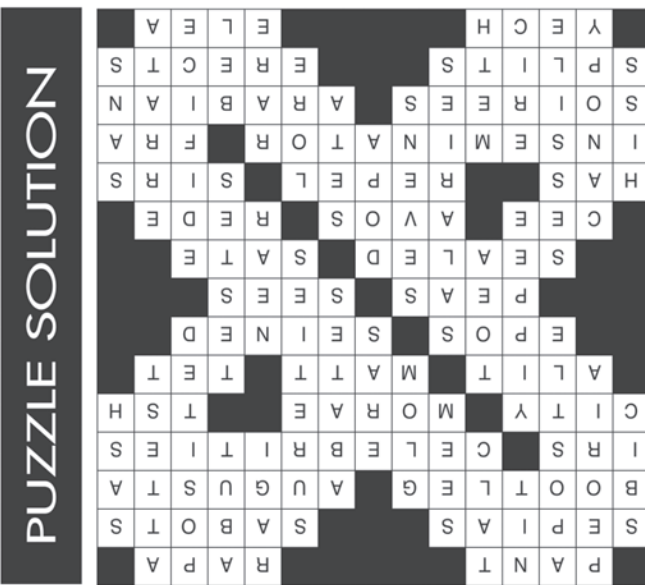


CLUES ACROSS

1. Breathe noisily
5. ___ Nui, Easter Island
9. Reddish browns
11. Simple shoes
13. Produce alcohol illegally
15. Home to famed golf tournament
16. Tax collector
17. Famous people
19. Urban area
21. Units of syllable weight
22. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
23. Dismounted
25. Actor Damon
26. Vietnamese offensive
27. Retail term
29. Netted
31. Partner to carrots
33. Witnesses
34. Caulked
36. Satisfy
38. R&B performer ___ Lo
39. Monetary units of Macao
41. Give advice, explain
43. Possesses
44. Turn back
46. Gentlemen
48. One who fertilizes
52. Italian monk title (prefix)
53. Parties
54. Type of horse
56. Cuts in half
57. Raises
58. Expresses contempt or disgust
59. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

CLUES DOWN

1. Illinois city
2. One of the original disciples chosen by Christ
3. Young form of a louse
4. Type of powder
5. Finger millet
6. Share a common boundary
7. Assumed as a fact
8. Provide clear evidence of
9. Invests in little enterprises
10. A way to be
11. Monies given in support
12. Fashion accessory
14. Steal
15. Becomes less intense
18. Geological times
20. Hooray!
24. Monetary unit
26. Male reproductive organs
28. Earnings
30. Close by
32. Small integers
34. Fixed in place
35. Used to treat Parkinson's disease
37. Large, imposing building
38. A rooflike shelter
40. Stiff, hairlike structure
42. Print errors
43. To show disapproval
45. Body of traditions
47. Without
49. ___ Clapton, musician
50. Dangerous illegal drug
51. Infrequent
55. Sound unit



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EYE OPENING

SETTLE

continued from page A1

19 surge this winter, the in-person event was postponed and moved to a virtual format at a later date.

Later this month, Settle will begin an online service leadership academy that features weekly exercises in team building, leadership, and civic engagement.

In April, Settle will begin her Project 351 service project by assisting Cradles to Crayons, an organization supporting children who are homeless or facing extreme economic challenges. This is the first of four statewide campaigns in which Project 351 student ambassadors will participate.

Settle will continue her service in May by working on a campaign for a Walk/Run/Bike event in her hometown. She will team up with friends and family members to raise funds in support of various nonprofit organizations.

Project 351 ambassadors will also assist such organizations as Hope & Comfort and the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund. Moreover, ambassadors will take part in a 9/11 tribute service and programs assisting food pantries.

In addition to her service as a member of the Girl Scouts, Settle also takes part in horseback riding, archery, and several other activities.

"I enjoy writing fictional stories, listening to music, watching Marvel and other movies with my family, and talking with friends," Settle added.



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Practical Nursing students receive training grant from MassHire Worcester Career Center



Photo Courtesy

MassHire Worcester Career Center announced the awarding of \$8,000 in training grants for each Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy students Sarah Garcia of Charlton and Rebecca Lorre of Oxford.

CHARLTON — MassHire Worcester Career Center announced the awarding of \$8,000 in training grants for each Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy students Sarah Garcia of Charlton and Rebecca Lorre of Oxford.

Garcia is an energetic and compassionate Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) whose knowledge is based on the accumulation of close to ten years of hands-on experience as a personal care attendant, home health aide, and CNA. She obtained her nursing assistant certification through the American Red Cross in 2011. Most recently she completed a course on domestic violence. Garcia is a member of the UNICEF Club, helping raise funds and spread awareness for children's advocacy. She participated in the recent Walk to end Alzheimer's in Worcester and the Out of the Darkness Walk in Natick for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

Lorre is an experienced school bus driver and holds a current CDL. She was with Durham School Services of Oxford. She holds an associate degree in communications from Becker College. Lorre is an officer of the UNICEF Club, spearheading fundraising activities and spreading awareness for children's advocacy. Recently, Lorre joined the PN Class of 2022 Mock Code Team (MCT). The MCT is a simulation-based interprofessional team training

to ensure high quality, safe patient care during code scenarios. Initiated in 2017, the Mock Code Day Program is a collaborative effort between faculty and communities of interest (volunteer nurses, alumni, EMTs, and Paramedics) to enhance communication and care in emergencies by practical nurses. The Mock Code Day Program consists of small-group simulation-based sessions organized by faculty and engages practical nursing students in a variety of roles. The program is unique because of its interprofessional nature and scheduled sessions.

As practical nursing students at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, both Garcia and Lorre have completed their Mental Health First Aid certification and Dementia Care certification. Both have also completed COVID-19 Contact Tracing through Coursera and Johns Hopkins University.

"We're grateful for the continued support of the MassHire Worcester Career Center," said Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN. "MassHire helps many of our practical nursing students consistently. The grant will help them through the ten months of rigorous training and ensure that they stay motivated and inspired to give their best."

Training grant funds encourage economic growth in the state and allows

for additional training for workforce. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Commonwealth Corporation encourage businesses to address workforce training needs. Interested parties are encouraged to visit www.commcorp.org/wtftp to learn more.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201, Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org.

Statewide school mask mandate extended

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With the surge of COVID-19 cases over the last month, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has extended its mask mandate in public schools.

The extended mandate runs through at least Feb. 28, DESE officials announced last week. State leaders will closely monitor health data and confer with experts over the next month-plus. Depending on COVID-19 metrics at the end of February, the mask mandate could be lifted or continued even further into March or beyond.

The mandate applies to all K-12 public schools in Massachusetts.

"The mask requirement remains an important measure to keep students, teachers, and staff in school safely at this time," read a statement released

by DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley. "The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with medical experts and state health officials, will continue to evaluate public health data."

The decision to extend the mask mandate arrived as thousands of educators and parents across the state are calling for a return to remote learning during the surge of Omicron cases this winter. Other parents, teachers, and officials—including Governor Charlie Baker and Commissioner Riley—believe in-person instruction should not be disrupted again.

School officials across the state continue to have permission from DESE to lift the mask requirement if at least 80 percent of all students and staff members in a school building are vaccinated.

"Lifting the mask requirement through DESE's vaccination threshold policy is a local decision made

by school and community leaders in consultation with local health officials," added Commissioner Riley.

For public schools that haven't yet reached the 80-percent vaccination threshold, all students ages 5 and older are required to wear masks while inside school buildings, except when eating or during mask breaks. All school staff members are also required to be masked while indoors.

Additionally, all visitors to school buildings must continue to wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Masks are not required outdoors while on school grounds.

"It is strongly recommended that students younger than 5 also wear a mask in school, which is consistent with the Department of Early Education and Care's mask policy for childcare providers," Commissioner Riley's statement

read.

Exemptions from the state mask mandate are available for students and staff members who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, as well as students who are unable to wear a mask for behavioral reasons.

Masks are required at all indoor sporting events and other extracurricular activities held at schools, in alignment with guidance provided by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

Masks should be provided by families each day for their children, DESE guidance recommends, but disposable masks should be made available by schools for students who need them.

By federal public health order, all students and staff members are required to wear a mask while riding on school buses.

For more information about state mandates, visit www.mass.gov.





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QCC bids fond farewell to dynamic group of women

WORCESTER — As Quinsigamond Community College rang in 2022, it did so without its Board of Trustees Chair Susan Coghlin Mailman, who resigned at the end of 2021 after six years in the role, due to her recent election to the Worcester School Committee. Ms. Mailman's commitment to QCC is far-reaching. In addition to her time as Board Chair, she was a QCC Foundation Director for over nine years, and chaired the RISE (Regional Investment in Service and Education) Campaign, the College's most recent capital campaign.

The Board also bid farewell to Trustees Tammy Murray and Kimberly Roy, who both departed due to new work positions. Dr. Murray is the Director of Special Education and Itinerant Services at the Central MA Collaborative and Ms. Roy was appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to serve as a Commissioner on the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission.

"These inspirational, powerful and impactful women have made an indelible impression on our College and its students," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "It is with a heavy heart that we see them go but they are continuing to motivate and impact our student body by their successes, and we wish them the very best in their endeavors."

Each departing trustee has their own personal ties to QCC, and each has brought their own unique story

and expertise to the Board. Ms. Mailman is the Owner, Executive Chair and Treasurer of Coghlin Electrical Contractors, Inc. and Coghlin Network Services, Inc. in Worcester, Massachusetts. She and her family are strong advocates for public education. Ms. Mailman began her higher education at QCC and today holds an MBA from Northeastern University.

"As a former QCC student in my younger years, attending at night after work, I have always appreciated the College as a resource for working people to help jumpstart or further their careers. Many years later, it has been an honor to Chair the Board of Trustees and also to work on a capital campaign for the QCC Foundation Board," Ms. Mailman said. "Working with former President Gail Carberry and now current President Luis Pedraja, as well as getting to know so many talented education and workforce professionals in our region has been energizing and impactful."

Dr. Murray is also a QCC alumna who served as the alumni representative to the College's Board of Trustees for seven years. She is also a first generation college student, similar to many QCC students.

"It's easy to talk the talk, but it's different to walk the walk of a community college student. Students come to QCC from all different backgrounds and experiences and they require dif-

ferent levels of guidance and support. It's important to look at the whole person and get to know the students to determine how to help them succeed in college and in life," she said.

Commissioner Roy, the former director of External Affairs for Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's Department, served in a trustee capacity for four years.

"It is often said, education is the ultimate equalizer and I know many lives have been changed for the better after receiving an extraordinary education as well as vocational training here at QCC. For me as a QCC trustee, one of the most special moments was a graduation ceremony that happened off campus. Having worked at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office at the time, it was an extraordinary day to witness inmates from the Worcester County House of Correction graduate from the QCC Culinary Program. Now culinary-trained while earning college credits and four certifications, these individuals are on their way to a successful path to reentry, gainful employment and breaking the cycle of recidivism," she said. "Even behind the walls of a correctional facility, QCC touches so many lives for the better in so many ways. I am so proud of all we have accomplished in the past few years, and I have no doubt the Board will continue to expand upon these successes in the future. It has been an

honor to have served with Chairman Mailman, Trustee Murray, and all of my colleagues at QCC."

Dr. Murray said her most memorable experience from her time on the Board was the opening of the QCC's downtown Worcester location.

"As someone with a background in healthcare, I found this to be a pivotal point of growth for the College. As downtown Worcester has transformed, it's exciting to see QCC students have an opportunity to learn in such a beautiful building. In 1990, my occupational therapy classes were held in the basement of the gymnasium. I guess you could say we have come a long way since 1990," she said, adding, "QCC is important to the region as it educates and empowers its students to meet the needs of the central mass economy."

President Pedraja said he is excited to see what the future holds for QCC, thanks in no small part to the dedication of these women in making higher education accessible to everyone.

"Our college, our community, and our students are forever changed by the tireless work they have done to evangelize access to higher education," President Pedraja said.

For more information on QCC, contact Karen Hutner, Interim Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-2842 or khutner@qcc.mass.edu.

Community tips help to solve hit-and-run

SPENCER – Police thank the community for providing tips regarding a hit-and-run incident earlier this month. The driver involved in the Jan. 2 incident has been identified. Police expect to file charges after completing their investigation.

The incident occurred at approximately 4:10 p.m. A light-colored pickup truck crashed near 91 East Charlton Road, striking a utility pole and snapping it into three pieces. The truck then swiped a tree before continuing east onto Clark Road toward Leicester.

Photos of the vehicle were posted on social media by the SPD. Tips poured in from residents.

As of press time, no pending charges were announced by police.

Fire Departments receive grants for safety equipment

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

REGION – Several local communities were recently awarded funding through the Department of Fire Services Fiscal Year 2022 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announced the grant winners during a press conference on Jan. 12 revealing 306 Massachusetts Fire Departments would receive a share of \$5 million in grant funding to help purchase safety gear. The funding is part of a \$25 million bond the Baker-Polito Administration filed to support firefighter safety and health. Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, and Webster were just a few of the towns included on the list.

"Our communities and families depend on firefighters in difficult and

dangerous moments," said Baker. "This program is an opportunity to show our deep appreciation for their work by ensuring they have the tools they need to stay safe and healthy."

"While the last two years have been so difficult for all of us, firefighters and first responders throughout the Commonwealth have courageously continued to serve the public," added Polito. "We are grateful for their efforts and proud to be able to provide them with critical equipment and support."

The grants cover 118 different kinds of equipment purchases including protective gear, washers and dryers to maintain gear, thermal imaging cameras, extrication tools, communication resources, hazardous gas meters, fitness equipment and more all with the goal of helping firefighters be prepared either prior to or during an emergency situation. The grants will also help

departments comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards. The Governor's office listed boots and gloves as the most popular clothing purchase with the grants while hoses and assorted fixtures is the most popular equipment purchase overall with 1,033 hoses, nozzles, fittings and other associated equipment expected to be bought among all grants combined.

The program is providing the Charlton Fire Department with \$11,700.61, Dudley Fire Department \$10,213, Oxford Fire Department \$16,738.79, Southbridge Fire Department \$10,422.78, and Webster Fire Department \$16,059.73. Other local towns included in the list of grantees were Brookfield, Douglas, Leicester, North Brookfield, Northbridge, Spencer, Uxbridge, and West Brookfield.



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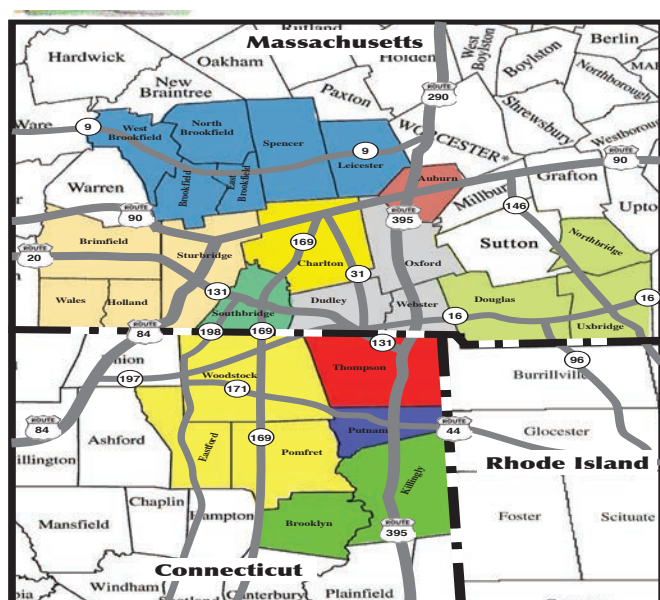
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Remembering the man behind the holiday

Offices were closed nationwide this past Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement from 1954 until his assassination in 1968. The federal holiday falls around the birthday of King on Jan. 15.

Republican President Ronald Reagan made the holiday official in 1983. In 1986, the first observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day took place. In the year 2000 the holiday was observed by all 50 states for the first time since 1986.

Labor unions in contract negotiations brought the idea of celebrating King via national holiday. Republican Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts and Democrat John Conyers of Michigan brought forth the legislation in 1979 where it was five votes shy of passing in the house.

Those in opposition of the day cited costs in that paying federal employees would be too expensive. Others stated that honoring a private citizen would go against tradition in that King never held a public office.

In 1980, Stevie Wonder released the single “Happy Birthday” to shed light on the campaign. The largest petition in favor of an issue in the history of the United States gathered six million signatures.

Two Republican senators from North Carolina (Jesse Helms and John Porter) opposed the bill because of King’s opposition to the Vietnam War, and also accused King of being a Communist. An FBI investigation dating back to 1963 turned up no evidence that King had been influenced by communists.

The bill passed the House of Representatives 338-90. Within the bill was language establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. King’s wife, Coretta Scott King was made a life long member of this commission by President George H.W. Bush in May of 1989.

Martin Luther King Day is seen as a day to promote equal rights for all Americans. While there are few traditions surrounding the holiday, many educators use the day to teach their students about the struggle against racial segregation and racism. In New Hampshire and Arizona, the day is combined with Civil Rights Day. In Idaho the day is referred to as Human Rights Day, and in Wyoming, Equality Day.

King, who was born in 1929, was an American Baptist minister from Atlanta, Ga. In 1963, during the March on Washington, he delivered his famous ‘I have a Dream’ speech. In 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in promoting nonviolent resistance and for advocating for Civil Rights.

King was assassinated at the age of 39 in Memphis, Tenn. by James Earl Ray. Ray, 41, was sentenced to 99 years in prison. The assassin died in prison in 1998 from hepatitis.

An excerpt from King’s famous speech:

“So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire; let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York; let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania; let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado; let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia; let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee; let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

“And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: ‘Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.’

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The questions continue

To the Editor:

So recently, Kevin Flanders wrote an article on the Leicester Public Schools, a letter with questions from the Board of Selectmen, the responses, and various other points. During the Dec. 20 selectmen meeting, I brought up that the validity of the answers given need to be questioned. This letter isn’t just a matter of one point not making sense considering existing facts, but frankly, most of the letter reeks of misinformation. Now, I didn’t go into every point when I was talking during the public comments that day, because frankly, that would’ve been a rather long speech. Even with a letter, it would be hard to properly dissect each issue with that letter at one time. That, frankly, would make for a long letter. So, where we have to start somewhere, let’s start at the beginning.

The first point here refers to a reorganization of the committee. The vote was held Sept. 15 to remove Donna McCance as the committee vice-chair and replace her with Stella Richard. Now in the responses to the select-board, there’s two claims here. The first is that there was no discussion without her present, and the second was that they felt they needed to reorganize in response to the Becker purchase. Frankly, neither make much sense in light of any available documentation.

To say there was no discussion regarding this without Donna present is frankly ludicrous. When the vote was held, there was no discussion. No one said anything when the opportunity for conversation came up, and then the vote was held. Later during public comment, one of the people in attendance ripped into it and in essence had her complaints waved off. And there’s no other records from pre-

vious meetings that support the idea that this was a long-term discussion that was had across multiple meetings. As such, to my mind, there seem to be three possible explanations that might account for these discrepancies.

There was a discussion during one of the meetings, but it was not recorded in the minutes or mentioned on any agendas

There was a discussion for this outside of the proper setting

There was no discussion at all, and the committee was reorganized on a whim.

Frankly, I think we can safely discount the third option, as on its face, it’s nuts. But there’s also nothing in the minutes to support the assumption that this was done the proper way. That there’s proper records, or frankly what the actual reason is. Why do I mention actual reason? Well, if you’re going to put someone into a leadership position because you believe that the individual’s skillset is important to a major project’s success, why is that individual not formally attached to that project. I refer to the Becker working groups. Stella Richard isn’t attached as the school committee member to any of them. So then if the stated purpose of reorganizing the committee leadership was the Becker purchase, and she was made the committee’s vice-chair, why isn’t her name attached to anything?

But to be frank, I’m leaning towards option 2. To be honest, that opinion is colored by my experience and the facts that thus far have been established in relation to, frankly, many of the questions surrounding what is being done with the schools.

DYLAN LAMBERT
LEICESTER

Misinformation has consequences

To the Editor:

The Big Lie! We hear that a lot these days. Donald Trump and some co-conspiring media pundits have clearly promoted a big lie. Joe Biden certainly did not steal the election, and no election has been so thoroughly scrutinized. A consequence of this big lie threatens the health of our democracy. A high percentage of our population (including many of you reading this letter) still believe the big lie. Some well armed extremists are even willing to engage in civil warfare to regain power and “make America great again.”

Propagation of false information can have serious consequences, not just in terms of our ability to rationally govern ourselves, but also in terms of our physical, mental, and environmental health. Failure to propagate vital information also can have deadly consequences, and the widespread suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is a clear example. I’ve written before about the importance of maintaining a higher Vitamin D level, at least double what most people currently have. I’ve written many letters to politicians asking them to address this easily correctible risk factor, but no response. Before the availability of a vaccine, this vital information could have helped people increase their resistance to the virus; and a good vitamin D status can improve vaccine efficacy and likely reduce risk of vaccine side effects. There are other risk factors besides low vitamin D status, most of them being related to a condition known as metabolic syndrome afflicting a high proportion of our country. This syndrome can progress to diabetes, but it can also cause problems well before the onset of diabetes. A big lie from mainstream medicine is responsible for the rapidly increasing rates of diabetes and obesity in this country. Even some young children now are developing a form of diabetes previously

seen only in adults. The cholesterol and saturated fat from animal sources has been demonized, and polyunsaturated vegetable oils touted as heart healthy. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are an inflamed nation, both mentally and physically, in part due to those inflammatory polyunsaturated oils. The huge amounts of sugar we are consuming are also to blame. Some are now claiming that belching cattle are major contributors to global warming- another big lie. If done right, restoring our grasslands and producing more grass-fed beef could benefit the health of both humankind and the environment.

There are some lessons we can learn from this pandemic. Politicizing simple health strategies, such as the wearing of masks and vaccination, can keep this pandemic alive and well, at the expense of millions of people. Ignoring strategies that involve addressing the risk factors associated with severe infection is equally foolish. How many people realize the serious threat excessive polyunsaturated fats and the fructose in sugar have on health. Excess consumption of fructose, like alcohol, can do extensive harm to the liver. Don’t you think that our population would benefit from that knowledge? But lobbyists in the processed food industry would not want you to know, since many of their products are loaded with sugar and vegetable oils. Who do politicians listen to, wealthy campaign contributors with a desire to maintain the status quo, or less affluent scientists and others with knowledge worth knowing but only modest means to contribute to campaign coffers? We cannot effectively address the health and political crises afflicting our country until we successfully confront the big lies that have inflicted so much harm.

DAVID W. BROWN
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Watch out for tax scammers

Sadly, identity theft happens throughout the year – but some identity thieves are particularly active during tax-filing season. How can you protect yourself?

One of the most important moves you can make is to be suspicious of requests by people or entities claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. You may receive phone calls, texts and emails, but these types of communication are often just “phishing” scams with one goal in mind: to capture your personal information. These phishers can be quite clever, sending emails that appear to contain the IRS logo or making calls that may even seem to be coming from the IRS. Don’t open any links or attachments to the emails and don’t answer the calls – and don’t be alarmed if the caller leaves a vaguely threatening voicemail, either asking for personal information, such as your Social Security number, or informing you of some debts you supposedly owe to the IRS that must be taken care of “immediately.”

In reality, the IRS will not initiate contact with you by phone, email, text message or social media to request personal or financial information, or to inquire about issues pertaining to your tax returns. Instead, the agency will first send you a letter. And if you’re unsure of the legitimacy of such a letter, contact the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

Of course, not all scam artists are fake IRS representatives – some will pass themselves off as tax preparers. Fortunately, most tax preparers are honest, but it’s not too hard to find the dishonest ones who might ask you to sign a blank return, promise you a big refund before looking at your records or try to charge a fee based on the percentage of your return. Legitimate tax preparers will make no grand promises and will explain their fees upfront. Before hiring someone to do your taxes, find out their qualifications. The IRS provides some valuable tips for choosing a reputable tax preparer, but you can also ask your friends and relatives for referrals.

Another tax scam to watch out for is the fraudulent tax return – that is, someone filing a return in your name. To do so, a scammer would need your name, birthdate and Social Security number. If you’re already providing two of these pieces of information – your name and birthdate on social media, and you also include your birthplace – you could be making it easier for scam artists to somehow get the third. It’s a good idea to check your privacy settings and limit what you’re sharing publicly. You might also want to use a nickname and omit your last name, birthday and birthplace.

Here’s one more defensive measure: File your taxes as soon as you can. Identity thieves often strike early in the tax season, so they can file their bogus returns before their victims.

To learn more about tax scams, visit the IRS Web site (irs.gov) and search for the “Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft.” This document describes some signs of identity theft and provides tips for what to do if you are victimized.

It’s unfortunate that identity theft exists, but by taking the proper precautions, you can help insulate yourself from this threat, even when tax season is over.



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LETTERS

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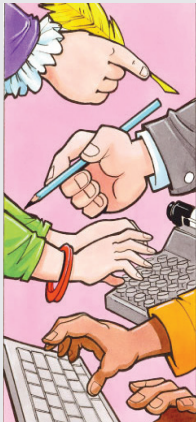
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So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Capitalizing on the Capitol

To The Editor:
Front page news... A vigil was held in North Brookfield to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the “attack” on the Capitol. “As I watched the mayhem on Jan. 6, 2021, I was struck with deep feelings of consternation, horror, and fear,” said one of the attendees of this somber event. Yes, that marauding mass of mischievous malefactors, who stormed the Capitol and stayed inside the velvet ropes, were an absolute force to be reckoned with. We can all agree, when listening to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez recount her harrowing experience as she hid in the bathroom... no, in an office by herself behind a door... wait... in another Congresswoman’s office as she could hear the shouts of the protesters outside and the hinges of the door creaking as they tried to force their way in, these dissenters pushed well beyond their legal limits. And, thanks to a complicit media, that is the narrative we are supposed to believe even today. Should these citizens have been inside the Capitol building? That would be a question better answered by the Capitol police that ushered them inside. If only Nancy Pelosi had accepted the offer of thousands of National Guard troops that would have kept the “protesters” at bay... almost as if they planned for the Capitol to be “invaded” (again, tough to call it an invasion when those standing at the gates moved them and said, “Come on in”).
If people snapping selfies and walking within the ropes causes you feelings of consternation, horror, and fear, then I really don’t know what else to say, other than eating prunes may help rid you of at least one of those issues.
Were there people who started to break windows or shove police? Yes, but what the Lame Stream Media won’t show is that for every unruly protester, there were a dozen more telling them to stop. For every one person calling for others to storm the

Capitol, there were another dozen calling them out for being ANTIFA, BLM, or a Fed and telling everyone to remain outside and stay peaceful. There is just so much that doesn’t add up on that day, just like the vertical spike former Vice President Biden needed in the wee hours of the morning on Nov. 4. It’s truly amazing that the impossible happened making Basement Joe the most popular candidate in presidential history. The Former VP currently holds a 33 percent approval rating only to be beaten by President (his words) Kamala Harris, who holds an astounding 28 percent. Hillary is chomping at the bit (literally), primed and ready to make her triumphant gallop back into the spotlight and claim her birthright as the first woman president of the United States of America... As if we already haven’t been through enough in just the first year of the Biden/Harris administration.
It’s been said that Satan is the father of all lies. I would like to add that the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. When all they listen to is the fear mongering from the talking heads on the left, it is no wonder why they believe that Jan. 6, 2021 was the worst thing that happened to this county in its 245-year history. Even the cackling Vice President claims that it’s right up there with the attacks on Pearl Harbor and 9/11. There is no coincidence that this is the narrative being taught to our children in schools by teachers who are nothing more than radicalized Social Justice Warriors determined to poison their minds. Just remember; White = bad, Black = oppressed. Keeping the races divided since 1792, brought to you by the Democrat party. This is the America that Biden is striving towards to Build Back Better. To quote Maxwell Smart, “Missed it by that much.”

MATHEW HERHOLZ
SPENCER

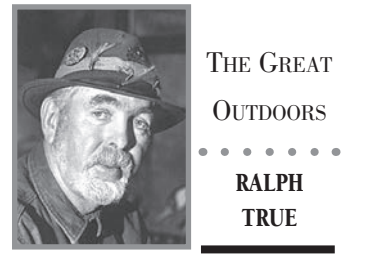
Dominoes, anyone?

To the Editor:
It now appears clear that Trump’s assertions of rampant fraud are true. The meticulous examination of Arizona ballots did unearth a few instances of dead people voting and some ballot harvesting. Since all the discovered instances favored Trump, yet had no impact on results, it is hard to see the justification of expending months and millions of dollars of taxpayer money, but might have served to make voters more confident when a highly Republican partisan audit confirmed what we already knew.
The combined effect of the Jan. 6 committee, and various justice department findings, are finding much more extensive evidence of fraud. In addition to the arrest of several ringleaders of the invasion force at the Capitol, I anticipate indictments to be forthcoming for the persons who signed and submitted fraudulent electoral votes from seven red states that Biden won. These submissions appear to be on a form which may well trace its source to the Trump White House. The purpose being to, with the help of VP Pence, throw the certification into sufficient doubt to trigger an ancient and original, Constitutional remedy that would replace electoral votes with one per state, and give Utah and Montana, equal count with California and New York, totally discarding all votes.
I believe that the investigation will yield evidence that Trump lawyers concocted this plan, and that the conspiracy included radical groups disrupting the vote counting at the Capitol, co-conspiratorial elected officials acting to accept a totally illegal set of electors and, when unable to do so, triggering the constitutional remedy the founders wrote for the 13 colonies.
Since the person who received the most votes has not won the office, twice in recent history, and technology has now advanced to the point where we know totals quickly, I have long advocated to eliminate the electoral system. Seeing that there can easily be actions to pervert that system, to such an extent that communism looks more like democracy, the time has come for a needed change.
For those who don’t know that the senate, was originally an appointed body,

sent by state legislatures, to make sure that the great unwashed in the people’s House could be controlled, take note, you are seeing that in action right now. If you think the founders sacrosanct, slavery and white male property owners were part of the plan, and women could not vote until 1920, 60 years after former slaves.
I would like to think we are smarter and better than this. The constitution has been amended many times, and laws that support and supplement it on an ongoing basis. It is past time to pass tweaks that will support the survival of our democracy, because if we don’t, then we can’t keep it.
It is my profound hope that those who do and have worn our uniform, will stand together to preserve the world’s greatest democracy, the only partisanship being to make sure that the rule of law stands above us all equally. Soon the dominoes will start to fall, and I can only speculate how far up they will go.
Because Brother Robillard has mentioned me, I feel compelled to respond. While we are in general agreement on many of his points, I expect that Manchin and his interests are doing a bangup job marketing coal to China. I i have been in Beijing and unable to see the Starbucks across the street, through the polluted air. The citizens there have been wearing masks long before it became fashionable here, but mainly for soot particles. we are considered mass polluters, because our 4 percent of world population, produces 15 percent of pollution. While their pollution is far worse and visible, their 3 billion population justifies it.
Without getting too far into discussing capitalism and its oversteps, there is much room for improvement. That said, if you really believe that \$15 an hour as a minimum to live is fair, but think prices should not go up as well, you have a severe lack of reality.
Lastly, your Bible references tend to remind me that men wrote the Bible and the Quran, and the view of family, lessoning women and children, closer to chattel than equality, offends me.

KENNETH KIMBALL
SPENCER

Ice conditions improve



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This past weekend saw a stampede of ice fishing anglers on many ponds and lakes, as the ice conditions improved dramatically. This past Saturday was extremely cold, and only die-hard anglers were fishing, but Sunday, although cold, had light winds and sunny skies. Reports of fast action on jig sticks and ice tilts was good news for fishermen. Many local bait shops also reported brisk sales, with some shops selling out of live bait early Sunday morning.
A report of a large 40-plus-inch Northern pike was made at a local tackle shop with the angler producing a picture of the huge fish. He claimed he caught the monster fish at the Arcade Pond in Whitinsville & releasing the fish after a photo shoot. I have no reason to question the angler, as to where he caught the huge fish, as they have been caught in many small ponds in the valley. Although it is illegal to take fish from one area, and restock them in another lake or pond, anglers continue to do it. It is unfortunate

that Mass. Fish & Wildlife has chosen to stop stocking ponds like Manchaug with juvenile fish that had produced a good amount of adult Northerns after they were stocked back in the ‘80s or so.
A lot of big fish were reported this past weekend by ice fishermen that braved the cold. Large pickerel and bass were caught by numerous anglers fishing with live shiners and jig sticks. The smell of a fire and venison cooking at many gatherings was noted. The heavy rain this past Monday should freeze, and make the ice even thicker, if the weathermen were correct in their forecast. This writer was shown a video of a car in truck falling through the ice in Maine last week. Driving vehicles on the ice can be dangerous, as these ice fishing anglers found out.
They decided to put all of their efforts into stocking areas like Brookfield, and even then, the Pike program was brought back by a single female angler whose name was Terry, an active member of the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club. Mass. Fish & Wildlife still stocks Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester & Shrewsbury with juvenile pike, but is considered by many to have low water quality, especially in the spring when waste water is released into the lake after heavy rain. Her and her friends raised the money to purchase a few thousand

juvenile pike, and had the MFW assist in the stocking. It was at a time that MFW was not buying or trading fish because of fish being infected with disease in other states.
Now that the deer season in Massachusetts is over, many sportsmen are in search of antler droppings from deer. The deer shed their antlers every year, and grow new ones starting in the spring. Antler hunting can become a family affair, and can reveal how big some of the bucks are that remain in their favorite hunting spots. Antlers are also considered a prize when one is located, and they are used to make knife handles, lamps, and many other things including jewelry. If the antlers are not found before spring, many are chewed on by mice, squirrels and other ground feeling animals.
The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club stocked their pond with some impressive trout this past Friday, and is now open to club members to fish. A fishing derby is being planned for this Saturday, but plans were not complete in time for this column’s deadline!
Cottontail rabbits are still fare game in Massachusetts, and sportsmen that own a good beagle, could find themselves enjoying an old fashion rabbit hunt. The increase in the cottontail rabbit population in the last couple of years was good to see,



Photo Courtesy

This weeks picture shows Eleanor and Dexter Briggs fishing with their dad at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club this past Saturday.

and hopes are high for another great year. Of course, local gardeners were not too happy with the increase in the rabbit populations, as many vegetables were eaten by these munchers before they could be harvested.
It is doubtful if any sports-

men’s shows will actually take place this year because of Covid fears. Covid has sure changed our lives dramatically!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

DA’s office offers mini grants for safe post-prom and post-graduation celebrations

REGION – Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., invites local schools and parent groups to apply for mini grants to support post-prom and post-graduation safety.
The grants will fund various events designed to keep local students safe and prevent drunken driving crashes following celebratory events. The spring months are often the most dangerous time on the roads for high school students, and DA Early is committed to promoting safe functions.
“This time of year is supposed to be a celebration for students and their families, but too often we see tragedies,” Early said. “We’re hoping these grants will assist more schools in offering safe options for students.”
Safe post-prom events, organized and overseen by adults, offer drug-free and alcohol-free alternatives to high-risk activities that often follow end of the year celebrations for high school students.
COVID-19 has made planning difficult

for proms and other celebrations this spring, but the DA’s office is proceeding with grant opportunities.
“While none of us know what the status of school activities will be in the spring of 2022 due to the COVID pandemic, we are cautiously optimistic and accepting applications for funding requests,” Early said. “Some celebrations looked different in 2021, but we were proud to continue

supporting these efforts and providing students with the fun and safe events they deserve.”
This is the fourth year the DA’s office has offered grants thanks to the support of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund. Prior to that, Early supported local post-prom and post-graduation events at high schools across the county through his

drug forfeiture funding.
Schools and parent groups can apply for these grants to either support existing events or to assist in establishing new events. Applications for funding requests are due by Feb. 17.
To request a grant application, contact Ellen Miller at ellen.miller@mass.gov.

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Open Door Arts receives Grants for Arts Project Award from National Endowment for the Arts

WORCESTER — Open Door Arts, an affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation, has been approved for a \$30,000 Grants for Arts Projects award to support the SPEAC (Supporting the Processing of Experience through the Arts during Crises) Professional Development Program for Arts Educators. This project, which is a collaborative effort with the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts and Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University, will address an unmet need for arts educators to explore how the artistic process intersects with students' social, emotional, and cultural needs. The project is among 1,248 projects across America totaling \$28,840,000 that were selected to receive this first round of fiscal year 2022 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects category.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects like this one from Open Door Arts that help sup-

port the community's creative economy," said NEA Acting Chair Ann Eilers. "Open Door Arts in Massachusetts is among the arts organizations nationwide that are using the arts as a source of strength, a path to well-being, and providing access and opportunity for people to connect and find joy through the arts."

"The SPEAC Professional Development Program provides arts educators and teaching artists with comprehensive training and supports aimed at building inclusive, anti-racist and trauma-informed teaching practices," said Nicole Agois, Managing Director for ODA. "SPEAC 2022 responds to the complex and evolving needs of students resulting from ongoing crises and highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are proud and excited to partner with the Eliot School and Wheelock Family Theatre to provide this much needed opportunity to arts educators."

Two years ago, as the COVID-19 pandemic was adversely affecting communities, many students of color and students with disabilities were disproportionately impacted, experiencing exclusion, learning loss and trauma. Educators were held responsible for addressing the impact of these crises on students, often without adequate training and support. In response, the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, Open Door Arts, and Wheelock Family Theatre piloted the SPEAC Professional Development Program. Designed collaboratively with practitioners and experts in the field, SPEAC supported 70 arts educators to deepen their anti-racist, inclusive and trauma-informed arts teaching practice and utilize the arts as tools to help students process and cope with these experiences.

SPEAC 22 will continue to build on the initial program and incorporate evaluation

results to develop a sustained and in-depth course of study with arts-integrated activities, facilitated group work and individualized, ongoing support to make teaching practices and curricula more equitable, culturally responsive and accessible, therefore improving arts learning outcomes and wellbeing for students. SPEAC will expand to engage arts educators and teaching artists in Boston, Worcester, and Springfield through multi-session virtual training that includes expert-led workshops, facilitated peer discussion and homework assignments.

Open Door Arts works annually with more than 3,000 students, teaching artists, educators and leaders of cultural organizations through innovative and inclusive programming, training, events, and exhibits designed to improve access, expand participation, challenge the status quo, and share practices to ensure equi-

table representation by people with disabilities in the arts. Additionally, ODA has galleries in Worcester (Worcester Art Museum) and Boston (NonProfit Center -near South Station) that showcase the work of emerging and established artists with disabilities to advance career opportunities, increase visibility and representation, and serve as platforms for the community to have important conversations about disability, identity, and culture.

For more information on other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

For more information on Open Door Arts, please contact Nicole Agois, Managing Director at Nicole@OpenDoorArtsMA.org.

New exhibit examines American identity through contemporary art

WORCESTER — In February 2022, the Worcester Art Museum (WAM) will present its new exhibition "Us Them We | Race Ethnicity Identity," an in-depth look at how contemporary artists since the mid-1970s have used formal artistic devices in their work—such as text, juxtaposition, pattern, and seriality—to explore socio-political concepts. "Us Them We" will include works from 47 artists drawn from the Museum's collection along with several significant loans. The exhibition features photography, prints, painting, and sculpture, including major works by Edgar Heap of Birds / Hock E Aye Vi, Byron Kim, Roberto Lugo, Shirin Neshat, and Lorna Simpson, among many others. "Us Them We" is co-curated by Nancy Kathryn Burns, Stoddard Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at WAM, and Toby Sisson, Associate Professor and Program Director of Studio Art at Clark University. The exhibition opens Feb. 19 and runs through Juneteenth (June 19, 2022).

"With this exhibition we hope to generate a new conversation about how identity can be revealed through form

itself. An artist's decision to use certain visual motifs like repetition, movement, language, and contrast can serve to emphasize larger concepts about race and ethnicity," said Burns. "There's truth to the idea that 'The medium is the message'. Art allows us to receive certain messages. However, too often, big ideas like those of political protest allow viewers to bypass a rigorous critique of a work's individual elements."

Added Sisson, "As an artist and a professor, a thorough and thoughtful approach to media is essential. Teaching studio art is an opportunity to reveal the importance of formal concepts, which are important to artists, and ultimately to audiences, as is self-expression around issues of identity."

In tandem with "Us Them We" WAM will also present a second exhibition featuring eleven Clark University students whose work addresses themes of identity, often in very personal ways. Comprised of drawings, photographs, paintings, and collages, the students created responses to objects in Us Them We. These works are the outcome of Clark's studio course "Contemporary Directions," which was co-taught by

Sisson and Burns in spring 2021, and provided opportunities for students to speak with artists about their practice, use of different media, and their approach to creating visual expressions of complex ideas.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum creates transformative programs and exhibitions, drawing on its exceptional collection of art. Dating from 3,000 BC to the present, these works provide the foundation for a focus on audience engagement, connecting visitors of all ages and abilities with inspiring art and demonstrating its enduring relevance to daily life. Creative initiatives—including pioneering collaborative programs with local schools, fresh approaches to exhibition design and in-gallery teaching, and a long history of studio class instruction—offer opportunities for diverse audiences to experience art and learn both from and with artists.

Since its founding in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum has assembled a collection of 38,000 objects; from the ancient Near East and Asia, to European and American paintings and sculptures, and continuing with works

by contemporary artists from around the world. WAM has a history of making large scale acquisitions, such as its Medieval Chapter House, the Worcester Hunt Mosaic, its 15th-century Spanish ceiling, and the Flemish Last Judgment tapestry. In 2013, the Museum acquired the John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection, comprising two thousand arms and armor objects. It continues to commission and present new works, such as 2019's exhibition, With Child: Otto Dix/Carmen Winant. For more information about the Worcester Art Museum, visit worcesterart.org.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$14 for seniors 65+ and for college students with ID. Admission is free for Museum Members and children ages 0-17. On the first Sunday of each month, admission is free for everyone. Museum parking is free. Tickets may be purchased in advance at worcesterart.org.

Bay Path nursing students bring light on year's longest night



Photo Courtesy

The PN Class of 2022 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy observed the winter solstice and brought some honor to the year's longest night with the in-person Luminary Walk of Hope, Dec. 21.

CHARLTON — The PN Class of 2022 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy observed the winter solstice and brought some honor to the year's longest night with the in-person Luminary

Walk of Hope, Dec. 21. Traditionally, the winter solstice has been an important moment for ancient cultures related to their dependence on the sun for their survival. To everyone across the

Southern Hemisphere, the North Pole shifts almost directly facing the sun bringing the longest day of the year.

Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSNEd, RN, CRRN Academy Director received the luminary kits from Meghan O'Neil, manager, The Longest Day, Alzheimer's Association Massachusetts/New Hampshire. Bolandrina said, "We are excited to participate and be a part of the journey from The Longest Night to The Longest Day. The grounds at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School served as a beautiful setting for our luminary walk of hope."

The PN Class of 2022 was joined by PN faculty, Dr. Ana Olivar, Sarah Watson, MSN, RN and Silvia Medina, MSN, RN. Classmates and now friends, Melanie Pariseau of Ware, Darcey Howe of Palmer, and Rebecca Lorre of Oxford helped diminish the darkness and illuminate a path towards a world without Alzheimer's and other dementia.

The Luminary Walk of Hope included other PN students verbalizing who they are honoring as they light their candle. Photos and a video were taken and have been shared on social media via Bay Path Practical Nursing

Academy's Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.2820886974870205&type=3>

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 www.council.org Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201 Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 www.neasc.org

Local Assumption students named to University's Fall 2021 Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those students who have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester. Students named to the University's Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

Henry Cipro of Brookfield, Class of 2025

Matthew Escobar of Leicester, Class of 2023

Emily Fontaine of Leicester, Class of 2023

Erin Hazelhurst of Rochdale, Class of 2023

Aaron Marvin of Brookfield, Class of 2023

Lydia Petit of Rochdale, Class of 2023
Kaden Wells of Spencer, Class of 2024
Braedon Wood of Spencer, Class of 2023

"The University is proud of those students named to the Dean's List for the academic excellence they demonstrated in the classroom in their pursuit of a Catholic liberal education," said Assumption University President Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D. "Through their commitment to their studies during the fall semester, students named to the Dean's List have immersed themselves in their academic program as they are formed as individuals who will use the knowledge they have gained to

live meaningful and purposeful lives and careers."

Assumption University provides students with a comprehensive, Catholic liberal arts experience through curricular and co-curricular programs, including internship opportunities, recreational activities, and more than 60 on-campus clubs and organizations. An Assumption education forms graduates both intellectually and spiritually, inspiring wonder and purpose as they discover their vocation.

For more information, visit assumption.edu.

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality edu-

cation, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

New England Symphony Orchestra to feature music director, Roderick MacDonald, as trumpet soloist



Roderick MacDonald

WORCESTER — Tickets are now available for a concert by the New England Symphony Orchestra in Worcester’s Mechanics Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 12. Tickets are available through the orchestra’s Web site

(newenglandsymphony.org) or from the Mechanics Hall box office at 508-752-0888.

NESO Music Director Roderick MacDonald will be the featured soloist in Haydn’s trumpet concerto in E-flat major. Equally comfortable on the podium or in the principal trumpet seat, MacDonald began his career as Principal Trumpet of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, appointed by Music Director Kurt Masur upon completion of his Masters of Music at New England Conservatory. His career as a concert soloist began shortly after this appointment and he has since appeared worldwide as a trumpet soloist with highly regarded ensembles including: Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Japan Philharmonic, Virtuosi Saxonica, Bach Collegium Munich, Leipzig Bach Orchestra, Leipzig Chamber Orchestra, Concerto Leipzig, Kammerphilharmonie Leipzig, and the Super World Orchestra (Tokyo). With a discography of over 25 recordings with the Gewandhaus Orchestra, he can also be heard on recordings with the Leipzig Baroque Soloists, solo recordings, and numerous other chamber and orchestral albums. One of his solo albums was named “CD of the Month” by Naxos.

The program will also include perennial favorite Antonin Dvorak’s Symphony number 9, “From the New World.”

NESO President Ed Cyrus stated “Rod MacDonald brings a special kind of joy to his performances. The orchestra is excited to share his artistry with the audience.”

New England Symphony Orchestra continues to operate as a volunteer-led, non-profit professional symphony orchestra serving the people of New England. This season’s strategic plan includes a 3-concert series at Mechanics Hall, streaming performances as part of the NESO At Home series, and more. For information about volunteering or sponsorship, call 603-438-8920.

Our vision is “Connecting New England with Great Music.”

For more information about the orchestra please visit: NewEnglandSymphony.org

NESO general information: 603-438-8920.

Baker administration launches new tool for accessing digital vaccination record

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – The Baker-Polito Administration recently unveiled a new way for residents to access their digital COVID-19 vaccine card and vaccination history.

Known as My Vax Records, the resource allows individuals who received their vaccinations in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a digital COVID-19 vaccine card. This card will contain similar vaccination information to a paper CDC card.

Utilizing the SMART Health Card platform, digital vaccine cards generate a QR code that can be used to verify vaccination. State officials remind residents that they are not required to show proof of vaccination to enter public venues, but this tool will help residents who would like to access and produce a digital copy of their record.

To use the new tool, enter your name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email address associated with your vaccine record. After creating a four-digit PIN, you

will receive a link to your vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

“The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, date of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer,” read a statement released by Gov. Charlie Baker’s office. “It also includes a QR code that makes these same details readable by a QR scanner, including smartphone apps.”

Once the SMART Health Card is received, users are able to save the QR code to their phones or devices, such as the Apple Wallet. Users can then screenshot the informa-

tion and save it to their phone’s photos, or print out a copy for a paper record. The system follows national standards for security and privacy, officials said.

“This system provides an optional way that residents can access their vaccination information and a COVID-19 digital vaccine card,” read the statement released by Baker’s office. “This will provide residents with another tool to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, should it be requested by businesses, local governments, or other entities.”

The system leverages the Massachusetts Immunization

Information System (MIIS), the official database used by healthcare providers across the state to record vaccination information. The system relies on hundreds of providers inputting demographic and health information.

“Some users may not be able to immediately find their record, or may find an incomplete record,” the Governor’s statement read. “Residents whose record cannot be found or is incomplete can either contact their healthcare provider or contact the MIIS team to update their records.”

Massachusetts has worked on the technology with VCI,

a voluntary coalition of public and private organizations which developed the open-source SMART Health Card framework in use by other states. The VCI coalition is dedicated to improving privacy and security of patient information, officials said.

My Vax Records is one of many options residents have to obtain their COVID-19 vaccination records. Pharmacies that administered the vaccine, as well as many healthcare providers, are also making SMART Health Cards available.

To access the new resource, visit www.MyVaxRecords.Mass.gov.

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Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts kicks off 2022 Girl Scout Cookie season

WORCESTER—Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts kicks off the 2022 Girl Scout Cookie Season Friday, Jan. 14, when consumers can support local Girl Scout entrepreneurs by purchasing their favorite cookies. Girl Scouts are now selling all of your favorites including Thin Mints®, Samoas®, Tagalongs® and the new Adventurefuls – a brownie and caramel taste adventure.

This season, Girl Scouts are again selling cookies in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many Girl Scouts will run outdoor cookie booths that follow local, state, and CDC guidelines while still getting everyone's favorite cookies to their customers. If you know a Girl Scout, ask how she's selling cookies via the Digital Cookie online platform for direct shipment or

local delivery. And beginning February 18, consumers can enter their zip code to purchase cookies online from a local troop for direct shipment or donation to local causes.

Every Girl Scout Cookie purchase fuels local Girl Scouts' adventures throughout the year: exploring what interests them, discovering their passions, and taking action on issues they care about. Whether they're using their STEM skills to solve a problem on their robotics team, learning how to safely navigate the world of social media, having a courageous outdoor experience, or creating Little Free Libraries and food pantries, Girl Scouts build a better future for themselves and the world. And through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including by earning new Cookie Business badges, girls get a taste of being entrepreneurs and learn important online and offline

business skills that set them up for success in life.

To purchase Girl Scout Cookies this season:

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies in ways that meet local, state, and CDC safety protocols, including via the Digital Cookie online platform.
- If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org, text COOKIES to 59618*, or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app for free on iOS or Android devices to find socially distant or contact-free cookie booths if they are available in your area.
- Beginning Feb. 18, enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.girlscoutcookies.org to purchase from a local Girl Scout troop online for shipment to your door or to donate cookies to local causes.

*message frequency varies.
See Privacy Policy

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves over 4,500 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Since 1912, girls have explored new fields of knowledge, learned valuable skills, and developed strong core values through Girl Scouts. Today, Girl Scouts is, as it always has been, the organization best positioned to help girls develop important leadership skills they need to become successful adults.

Advocates seek bottle bill expansion

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — A few dozen people took a half-hour online Thursday to explore a current proposal to expand the bottle bill.

As presenter Kirstie Pecci noted, two identical bills – S.2149 and H.3289 – call for increasing the deposit to 10 cents and widening the number of products it covers to include most commercially-available beverages except milk and those selling under 100,000 units per year. It adds “nip” bottles, juices, water, and beverages such as “a new kombucha or some nonsense kids are drinking that doesn’t exist now,” she said.

Pecci is senior attorney and zero waste project director for the Conservation Law Foundation, one of the bill’s primary backers. Similar bills have been proposed since about 2009, and the Senate has passed two versions as amendments to other bills, but the House has never voted on one.

Co-sponsor Sen. Michelle Ciccolo

credited CLF’s “dogged perseverance” for getting the bill through a legislative joint subcommittee recently, but said it’d take a push from interested voters to “make it a priority” for House and Senate leadership. But she also noted “the closer that bill gets [to passage] as it moves through [the Legislature], the more the public tunes in and people get upset.”

Ciccolo warned some will object to paying more for products upfront. She and Pecci only mentioned Section 3 of the short bill in passing. It states “A redemption center or reverse vending machine is not obligated to count containers or to pay a cash refund at the time the beverage container is returned as long as the amount of the refund value due is placed into an account to be held for the benefit of the consumer and is funded in a manner that allows the consumer to obtain deposits due within two business days of the time of return.”

Afterward, Pecci said by email that section was added by a company called

Clynk. According to its website, the firm runs a bagged container collection program at certain Hannaford markets in which participants sign up online for card-based accounts. Its map did not show any Massachusetts sites; most of them are in Maine.

Pecci said one key impetus behind the bill is that a 10-cent refund can make it “practical and economic for beverage companies to do a refill system” for glass bottles, hopefully getting away from “nasty and polluting” plastic. Many of them are now just hauled with curbside trash or recycling, adding tonnage and cost to municipal budgets. Often, they end up ground into road base or similar uses, not truly recycled, she noted.

As with the current system, the refund money includes a handling fee (2.25 cents for retailers and 3.25 cents for redemption centers). Any money that’s not refunded goes to the state’s General Fund (it used to go to environmental uses). Pecci estimated the proposed expansion would send an extra

\$80-90 million to state coffers annually. But she said she doesn’t think it’ll have an impact on prices, noting products are typically the same price in states without bottle bills.

CLF’s Lauren Fernandez said she recently contacted 150 communities and got responses from 60 regarding curbside recycling costs. About half have seen “a drastic increase” in recent years and “were using it to haul off things that aren’t even being recycled anymore,” she said.

Pecci said that’s in part because haulers benefit more from landfilling and incineration than recycling. They’re likely to oppose bottle bill expansion because they “don’t want that tonnage to decrease.” Similarly, she noted retailers tend to see it as “a pain in the neck” but are coming along, and the beverage companies dislike it but have “softened a lot” in recent years.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Nichols College students named to Fall 2021 Honors List

DUDLEY — Many hard-working students at Nichols College in Dudley, have achieved Dean’s List or President’s List honors during the fall 2021 semester.

The Dean’s List and President’s List give recognition to those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B-

will receive President’s List honors.

The following students have received academic honors.

Emma Barnes of East Brookfield received Dean’s List honors.

Jayne Dowd of Spencer received President’s List honors.

Meghan Fuller of Spencer received Dean’s List honors.

Connor Niddrie of Leicester received President’s List honors.

Cody Roberts of North Brookfield received President’s List honors.

Julian Torres of Rochdale received President’s List honors.

Jenna Albro of Rochdale received President’s List honors.

Anthony Hernandez of Spencer received Dean’s List honors.

About Nichols College

The mission of Nichols College is to educate and enlighten students to capi-

talize on their ambitions and to become impactful, forward looking global leaders.

SNHU announces Fall 2021 Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2021 Deans List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 cred-

its in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

Thomas Bolduc of Spencer

Justina Hicks of East Brookfield

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 89-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 160,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the «Most Innovative» regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 12 North Brookfield Road, Spencer, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John R Sherman Jr to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), its successors and assigns, as nominee for Santander Bank, N. A., said mortgage dated September 5, 2014, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 52783 at Page 13 and now held by U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust by virtue of an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Lodge Series IV Trust to U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust dated October 23, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63794, Page 167, previously assigned by Santander Bank, N.A., to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Lodge Series IV Trust dated February 4, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62095, Page 20, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), its successors and assigns, as nominee for Santander Bank, N.A., its successors and assigns, as Santander Bank, N.A., dated January 16, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53301, Page 11 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **February 9, 2022 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in said Spencer, with the buildings thereon, on the Northerly side of North Brookfield Road and being

shown on a plan of land entitled “Plan of Land in Spencer, Massachusetts owned by Joseph R. and Susan C. Foley, surveyed by John & Francis Dowgielewicz,” dated November 1972, John W. Dowgielewicz, R.L.S., said plan being recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 379 Plan 35 bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point at an iron pin in the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road, said point being the Southeast corner of the tract herein described, as shown on said plan;

THENCE N. 81 degrees 22’ W., 262.3 feet along the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road, partly along a stone wall, to a point;

THENCE N. 70 degrees 00’ W., 296.9 feet still along the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road and partly along a stone wall, to a point at other land of the grantors;

THENCE N. 20 degrees 00’ E., 76.7 feet along said other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin at a stone wall;

THENCE N. 70 degrees 00’ W., 87.9 feet along said wall along other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin;

THENCE N. 20 degrees 00’ E., 633.0 feet partly along other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin at a stone wall;

THENCE S. 84 degrees 00’ E., 242.0 feet along said stone wall to a point at a corner of walls;

THENCE S. 5 degrees 03’ W., 659.5 feet along said stone wall to a point at an iron pin at a corner of walls;

THENCE S. 83 degrees 46’ E., 216.3 feet along said wall to a point at a corner of walls;

THENCE S. 8 degrees 23’ W., 135.5 feet along said wall to the point of beginning. The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagors’ Title see deed dated

August 26, 2014, and recorded in Book 52783 at Page 10 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage (860) 677-2868

January 7, 2022
January 14, 2022
January 21, 2022

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Frank Riedle and Aline G. Riedle** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Countrywide Bank, FSB dated March 21, 2008, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42607, Page 288; said mortgage was then assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by virtue of an assignment dated March 29, 2011, and recorded in Book 47288, Page 344; and further assigned

to Green Tree Servicing, LLC by virtue of an assignment dated June 18, 2013, and recorded in Book 51147, Page 140; and further assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF10 Master Participation Trust by virtue of an assignment dated December 5, 2018, and recorded in Book 59879, Page 8; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 12:00 PM on **February 10, 2022**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 76 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, MA 01562. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

A certain tract of land situated in Spencer, Massachusetts on the Westerly side of the Paxton and Spencer Road and on the Southerly side of Marshall Street bounded and described as follows to wit: BEGINNING at the Southeasterly corner of the within described premises in the said Westerly line of Paxton and Spencer Road at land formerly of Maurice Barsky and now of Nelson Bros; THENCE N. 7 Degrees 30’ E. fifty-six (56) feet to a point; THENCE N. 7 Degrees 30’ W. sixty (60) feet to a point; THENCE N. 43 Degrees W one hundred forty (140) feet to corner of stone walls; the last three courses being along the said Westerly line of Paxton Spencer Road and on the said Southerly side of said Marshall Street; THENCE S 45 Degrees W. by other land of Maurice Barsky two hundred ninety (290) feet, more or less, to land of said Nelson Bros at a pine tree; THENCE S 87 Degrees E. by land of said Nelson Bros., three hundred ten (310) feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. Containing an area of one (1) acre, more or less, and being Lot

LEGALS

#16 as shown on a revised plan dated September 2, 1952, made by Joseph Swartz, Civil Engineer. For title see deed in B. 17765, P. 153.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale-date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The premises is to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, leases, tenancies, and rights of possession, building and zoning laws, encumbrances, condominium liens, if any and all other claim in the nature of liens, if any there be.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder, providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorneys, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein. If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property at the amount bid by the second highest bidder. The foreclosure deed and the consideration paid by the successful bidder shall be held in escrow by DG&L, (hereinafter called the "Escrow Agent") until the deed shall be released from escrow to the successful bidder at the same time as the consideration is released to the Mortgagee, whereupon all obligations of the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to have been properly fulfilled and the Escrow Agent shall be discharged. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF10 Master Participation Trust
By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 55346 (RIEDLE)
January 14, 2022
January 21, 2022
January 28, 2022

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NO. 22 SM 000054
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: The Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Rhea Leahy a/k/a Rhea A. Leahy, Doreen M. Brooks, Daniel F. Leahy, Jr., Susan J. Mallette, Coleen R. May and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, for ABS REO Trust V claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 11 Dale Street, given by Daniel F. Leahy, Sr. and Rhea Leahy to Fleet National Bank, dated April 4, 2003, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 30287, Page 212, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 27, 2006, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 40664, Page 323, and further affected by Judgment dated February 29, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 63013, Page 308, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants'

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 02/21/2022 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 1/10/2022.
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
January 21, 2022

The Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
Town of Brookfield
Brenda Parish, Collector of Taxes
Office of the Collector of Taxes
Notice of Tax Taking

To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned

You are hereby notified that on Monday the 7th day of February, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collectors's Office, 6 Central Street, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Brookfield the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Assessed To BERRETT MARY C
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 31 Acres located and known as 42 MOLASSES HILL RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 003.B-0000-0005.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 10351 on page 0304 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2019 Tax \$2,537.41

Assessed to BRULE ILSE R And SNOW BRIAN
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.721 Acres located and known as 1 GREEN ST shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 006.C-0001-0094.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 18738 on page 202 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$726.90

Assessed To COOK ALBERT A JR
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.2 Acres located and known as 9 HOWARD ST shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 006.C-0002-0116.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3201 on page 405 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds. Supposed Present Owner BIRKBECK, MICHAEL & MARY F.
2021 Tax \$619.09

Assessed to CREVIER SHIRLEY And MOORE CHERIE P
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.26 Acres located and known as 18 MAPLE ST shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 006.C-0001-0103.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 34865 on page 383 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$100.90

Assessed To CURTIS MARC D JR
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.617 Acres located and known as 99 WEBBER RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 002.A-0000-0060.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 56393 on page 292 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$1,946.70

Assessed to DANIELS EDWARD R And DANIELS PATRICIA J
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.31 Acres located and known as DEVILS ELBOW RD A shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 008.C-0000-0014.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 38321 on page 297 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2019 Tax \$7.50

Assessed To FARRELL MARK R
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 14.763 Acres located and known as 80 TOWN FARM RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 004.A-0000-0004.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 29350 on page 0326 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2018 Tax \$1,113.26

Assessed to FINNEY RICHARD D SR And FINNEY NANCY L
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.91 Acres located and known as 3 MAIN ST shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 006.C-0001-0040.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 23186 on page 0340 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2020 Tax \$3,866.53

Assessed To GAUMOND FRANCIS G
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 4.79 Acres located and known as 50 FISKDALE RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 005.C-0000-0063.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 93 on page 60 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
Supposed Present Owner TROTTO MICHAEL A JR & TROTTO BRUCE R TRUSTEES SEVEN TS RT
2021 Tax \$207.12

Assessed To HAMMOND MARK
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.838 Acres located and known as 117 RICE CORNER RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 002.C-0000-0053.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 51261 on page 251 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2019 Tax \$3,806.14

Assessed To HAMMOND MARK D
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.16 Acres located and known as 6 LINCOLN ST EXT shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 006.C-0001-0086.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 52070 on page 212 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2019 Tax \$1,092.12

Assessed To HAMMOND MARK D
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.48 Acres located and known as 30 RICE CORNER RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 004.C-0000-0023.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 47352 on page 320 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2019 Tax \$2,209.74

Assessed to HOLMES FREDERICK N JR And HOLMES KAREN
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.01 Acres located and known as 88 TOWN FARM RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 004.A-0000-0006.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 11201 on page 198 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$370.68

Assessed to KIDA JASON And ODAY-KIDA SHAWNA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.61 Acres located and known as 28 WEBBER RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 003.A-0000-0006.A and being part of the premises recorded in book 53961 on page 384 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2018 Tax \$1,309.18

Assessed To KING LISA ARELLO
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.61 Acres located and known as 70 MOLASSES HILL RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 003.B-0000-0025.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 23194 on page 265 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$50.47

Assessed To LEBLOND GARY A
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 36.2 Acres located and known as 43 RICE CORNER RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 004.C-0000-0016.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 22765 on page 146 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$2,664.72

Assessed To MADELLE CHERYL A
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 8.53 Acres located and known as 102 TOWN FARM RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 004.A-0000-0027.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 21481 on page 385 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$499.88

Assessed to MORIN ARTHUR L And MORIN ROSABELL M
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.5 Acres located and known as 47 RICE CORNER RD shown on the Town

of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 004.C-0000-0015.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 04445 on page 0442 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2018 Tax \$2,092.00

Assessed To MURRAY CHRISTINE A.
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.3 Acres located and known as 10 LANE 21 A shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 003.E-0000-0012.A and being part of the premises recorded in book 54478 on page 18 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2019 Tax \$284.77

Assessed To NELSON MARIE JOHN Q ET AL
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.77 Acres located and known as 9 LAKE RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 005.B-0000-0022.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 60982 on page 146 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
Supposed Present Owner CHAFFEE RICHARD A
2020 Tax \$3,782.42

Assessed To POWERS N DOUGLAS
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 31.03 Acres located and known as 57A MOLASSES HILL RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 003.B-0000-0066.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 60662 on page 359 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
Supposed Present Owner PECORE JOSEPH E & BLOMGREN ROSE
2020 Tax \$1,295.22

Assessed to SNOW BRIAN J And BRULE ILSE
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.092 Acres located and known as 4 OAK AVE shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 005.D-0000-0093.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 18854 on page 3 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$1,089.91

Assessed to SNOW BRIAN J And BRULE ILSE (BARNES)
A parcel of registered land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.23 Acres located and known as 5 OAK AVE shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 005.D-0000-0057.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 67 on page 169 on document number 65037 and certificate of title number 13369 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$355.85

Assessed to SNOW BRIAN J And BRULE ILSE R
A parcel of registered land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.168 Acres located and known as 12 MARSH VIEW RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 005.D-0000-0070.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 67 on page 169 on document number 65037 and certificate of title number 12098 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2021 Tax \$58.40

Assessed To TOBEY MELINDA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.56 Acres located and known as 19 CENTRAL ST shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 006.C-0001-0031.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 48639 on page 303 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2020 Tax \$1,672.09

Assessed To WILLETTE PATRICIA A
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.92 Acres located and known as 38 TOWN FARM RD shown on the Town of Brookfield Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 004.B-0000-0034.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 29335 on page 0171 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
Supposed Present Owner MUTLICK, JOHN & MANDI
2019 Tax \$1,772.82
January 21, 2022

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on January 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Brookfield Police Dept. 55 School St., No. Brookfield for an NOI filing and associated activities at 36 Lake View Rd., North Brookfield. Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing.
January 21, 2022

OBITUARIES

John J. Petruzzi, Sr., 88

EAST BROOKFIELD- John J. Petruzzi, Sr., 88, of West Main St., died Friday, Jan. 14 at home. He leaves his



daughters; Noreen Quinn and her husband Paul of Worcester; Patricia Giguere of East Brookfield, Susan Lacroix and her husband Joseph of Spencer and Christina Petruzzi Lavallee and her husband Richard of East Brookfield, with whom he lived, his sons; Peter Petruzzi and his wife Heather of Savannah, TN, and Jeffrey Petruzzi and his companion Melissa Begley of Spencer; 18 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Doris June (Bledsoe) Petruzzi after 66 years of marriage, who died in 2018, his son John J. Petruzzi, Jr., his daughter Lori Ann Petruzzi, his son-in-law Gary Giguere and his 8 siblings, brothers; Louis, Ralph and Francis Petruzzi and sisters; Florence Allen, Mary Petruzzi, Alma Sleeper; Theresa Edens and Rose Burgos.

He was born in East Brookfield, the son of Luigi and Margaret (Ficociello)

Petruzzi and graduated from David Prouty High School Class of 51'. John worked in the construction industry for over 50 years and was co-owner of Petruzzi-Forrester Construction Inc. of East Brookfield. He was a member of the Local 478 International Union of Operating Engineers, Town of East Brookfield Assessor, a member of St. John the Baptist Church and co-owned horses "Skipper Gene" and "Doctor's Dinah".

Along with June he enjoyed traveling, going to the casino, playing cards and going to the races. Above all his family was most important. The funeral was held on Wednesday, Jan. 19 from the J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer with a Funeral Mass at 11:30 AM in St. John the Baptist Church, No. Brookfield Rd., East Brookfield. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery, East Brookfield. A calling period will precede the Mass from 9:30-11:00 AM in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to either the East Brookfield Fire Co., 273 East Main St., East Brookfield, MA 01515 or to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN. 38105. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Patricia J. "Patti" Minasian, 63

NORTH BROOKFIELD/AUBURN- Patricia J. "Patti" (Cuddy) Minasian, 63, passed away on Wednesday, January



5, 2022 in UMASS Medical Center after a long battle with liver disease, with her husband and her three sisters by her side. Born on March 26, 1958, the daughter of Owen and Theresa (LeBlanc) Cuddy and grew up with her three sisters in North Brookfield. Patti graduated from Bryant College in 1978 with a degree in Business. She worked for several companies before she found her home in the family business, Cuddy Insurance Agency in 1987 and she worked there until her retirement in 2020, co-owner for the past 20 years.

Patti will be remembered for her overall kindness of spirit, her great sense of humor, and her capacity to make people feel happy and loved. Patti shared an incredible bond with her mom and her three sisters and was always happy spending time with them, especially the annual girl's weekends. She had an infectious laugh and smile and people always felt better in her presence. Patti's happy place was the beach at Westerly, RI where she and Mark spent most summers entertaining family and friends. Patti had a fierce love for the Red Sox that knew no bounds. This was instilled in she and her sisters at a very early age by their dad, Owen. She was always positive until the very last out.

Patti leaves behind her devoted husband of 24 years, Mark Minasian, her loving sisters, Elizabeth Martinelli & her husband Tom of Petersham, Kathleen Keable of Dover NH., Jane Daigneault & her husband Mike of Auburn, MA, her brother-in-law, Robert Minasian & his wife Linda of Burlington, MA, her sister-in-law Carole Minasian & her wife Anita

Bowden and her lifelong friend, Martha Warren. Her life was centered around her adored nephews, Tom Martinelli & his wife Amy of North Brookfield, Joe Daigneault & his wife Michelle of Colchester CT, Tony Martinelli & his wife Britt of Rutland, MA, Christopher Keable of Dover NH, and her adored niece, Aimee Daigneault & her fiancé, Matthew Bilodeau of South Easton, MA. She had two great nieces and one great nephew whom she was absolutely in love with, Mya Martinelli, Harper Daigneault, and Jack Martinelli. She also leaves behind her dear Aunt Snappy and her favorite Murphy cousins. Patti was predeceased by her parents, Owen and Theresa (LeBlanc) Cuddy, her in-laws, Robert and Marie (Porazzo) Minasian, her much loved brother-in-law Steven Keable, and her very good friend, Jean Murphy.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Savant Mehta, nurse Kelly and the caring staff at UMass for the exceptional care offered to Patti and her family during this difficult time.

Family and friends were invited to honor and remember Patti's life by gathering for calling hours, Saturday January 15, 2022 from 10:30-12:30 in Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield. The funeral Mass followed at 1:00PM in St. Josephs Church 296 N. Main St. North Brookfield.

Donations in Patti's memory can be mailed to Jonny Cake Center of Westerly, 23 Industrial Dr, Westerly RI 02891 www.jonnycakecenter.org or UMass Memorial in support of Liver Transplant Program. Gifts can be made online at give.umassmemorial.org or mailed to: UMass Memorial Office of Philanthropy, 365 Plantation St, Biotech One, Worcester, MA 01605. Checks should be made out to UMass Memorial in support of Liver Transplant Program and should note that the gift is in memory of Patricia Minasian. For an online tribute please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

Catherine P. Hopkins Lamothe, 94

SPENCER- Catherine P. (Mayo) Hopkins Lamothe, 94, of High Street died Saturday, January 8th in her home with family by her side.



She leaves her husband Paul A. Lamothe, a daughter Melissa H. Walsh of Spencer; two step-daughters: Marilyn Shriver and her husband Brian of Walpole, NH and Emily Colson and her husband Barry of Fayetteville, NC. She was proud of her 17 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by two brothers: Robert Mayo of Kansas City, MO and Father James Mayo of Hinesville, GA and three sons: John, Stephen & Thomas Hopkins.

Catherine was born on Nantucket Island, daughter of Augustus and Ellie (Murphy) Mayo. She was a teacher for many years for Worcester

Public Schools as well as Director of Career Education. She worked in Administration at Applewild in Fitchburg, MA until her retirement. She enjoyed spending time with her family, traveling and reading. She especially enjoyed vacations spent with family on Nantucket.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, January 23 at 12:30 PM in J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer. Burial in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer will be private at the convenience of the family. A calling period will precede the service from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Masks are required due to Covid 19. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Worcester County Food Bank, 474 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Family appreciates the caring support from VNA Hospice & Palliative Care.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Pauline L. Secor, 89

SPENCER- Pauline L. (Jette) Secor, 89, formerly of Mechanic St., died Sunday, Jan. 9 at UMASS Medical Center, Worcester. She was the wife of Ronald R. Secor, Sr. who died in 2016. She leaves her sons; Ronald R. Secor, Jr. and Daniel C. Secor and his wife Laura and their child, Beetle Secor; all of Worcester; her brother-in-law Richard Secor and his wife Teruko of Queens, NY, several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her brothers; Bob and Carl Jette and sister Elaine O'Neill. She was born in Spencer; the daughter of Albert

and Rhea (Cournoyer) Jette. She was a member of Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish and worked as a retail clerk for the Spencer CVS for many years. At Pauline's request there are no services planned. Burial will be private in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer alongside her husband. J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family. Memorial donations can be made to VNA Care, 120 Thomas St., Worcester; MA 01608.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

SPENCER - Brother Roger Taillon, O.C.S.O., a Trappist lay brother of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, died very peacefully in the monastery's infirmary on January 4, 2022. Born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island on May 6, 1925 to Donat Taillon and Anna Belanger, after school he worked for a while in his father's barber shop. He was



later employed at a textile dye works company in Woonsocket. Some years later he entered the postulancy of the Capuchin Franciscan Order, but in 1954, desiring a more cloistered life, he entered St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer where he made temporary profession of vows in 1957 and solemn vows in 1960. As a licensed electrician, Brother Roger installed electrical wiring in the newly built monastery and provided roofing for dormitories, painting, and remodeling services throughout the monastic complex. For several years he was in charge of the monastery's laundry and refectory. During that period in the 1960s he also served 3 years as maintenance manager at the Order's headquarters in Rome.

Brother Roger was noted for his earnest religious dedication, his crisp orderliness in the workplace, his solicitude in distributing devotional material to friends, as well as his quite endearing sense of humor. In addition to his religious brothers at the abbey, Brother Roger is survived by the children of his only sister; Lucille Dusseault; his nephew Norman Dusseault of Woonsocket, RI, and his nieces, Denise Hart of Sidney, Maine, Ann Beattie of Cranston, RI and Jeanne McMorrow of Wrentham, MA, as well as numerous grandnephews and grandnieces.

The monks wish to thank the brothers and lay staff at St. Joseph's Abbey Resident Healthcare Facility, the abbey's infirmary, for the compassionate care they afforded Brother Roger in his final years. With gratitude for his congenial presence among us, the brothers commend Brother Roger's soul to your prayers. There are no calling hours. Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 protocols, services and burial are strictly private. J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terrace, Spencer; 508-885-3992, is directing arrangements.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Temporary relocation of court running smoothly

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER - Just over a month into the East Brookfield District Court's temporary stay at the Senior Center building, officials are pleased with the smooth transition.

The relocation was needed due to renovations at the East Brookfield courthouse. With the support of the Senior Center Director, Spencer officials invited court leaders to relocate certain services to the 68 Maple St. building (formerly the Maple Street School). The court moved its operations into the building on Dec. 13. Several court services take place on the second floor of the building, with no disruption to the seniors using the lower floor.

"You wouldn't even know they're here. It's been seamless," said Council on Aging Director April Caruso. "Everything has worked out great."

Prior to the relocation, Spencer officials entered into a lease for the court's use of the building. The state department in charge of the court is also paying 38 percent of utilities at the Spencer location, in addition to funding minor projects like air condi-

tioning, the installation of fiber-optic cables, and upgrades to the building's telephone lines.

"Everything is running smoothly, with no disruption to the seniors," said Selectman Ralph Hicks.

Court operations taking place at the Spencer location include arraignments and preliminary procedures, among others. No trials or jury activities are taking place at the Maple Street building.

"The court officials have been easy to work with. They are very helpful, and they do a great job at keeping everything separate," said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury. "A lot of the court operations have been done remotely and don't have an impact on the building."

The renovations to the East Brookfield court are expected to take approximately 18 to 24 months. Selectmen said the temporary relocation not only benefits residents, but also local law enforcement departments. Rather than drive to the Worcester courthouse, they can conveniently access court services in town.

Officials thank Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish leaders for allow-

ing court employees to park in the church's upper lot, adjacent to the Senior Center. This has helped free up parking spaces around the Senior Center.

For the remainder of January, the Senior Center will be closed to the public due to concerns over the winter surge of COVID-19 cases. As of press time, no reopening date has been announced.

In other Senior Center news, Senator Anne Gobi secured \$55,000 for repairs to the elevator at the center.

"In working to temporarily move the courthouse to the Maple Street location, I became aware of the problems the elevator has," Gobi said. "There were times it would get stuck and be out of service. The seniors deserve to have an elevator that operates properly, and this funding will provide for that."

Chairman Woodbury is thrilled by the upgrades made to the building by the court, plus the funding secured by Senator Gobi for the elevator improvement.

"These upgrades will benefit the town long after the court leaves the building," Woodbury said.

SNHU announces Fall 2021 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2021 President's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in the fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5

& EW6.

Nicholas LeBoeuf of Rochdale
Sarah Risotti of North Brookfield
Lauren Wilcox of West Brookfield
Donna Richer of Spencer
Denis Leo of Spencer
Erin Parenteau of Spencer
Rebecca Field of North Brookfield
Meghan OConnor of West Brookfield
Isabella Cloward of West Brookfield
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with an 89-year history of edu-

cating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 160,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the «Most Innovative» regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

Local students named to Holy Cross' Fall 2021 Dean's List

WORCESTER — A total of 1,375 students were named to College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2021-22 academic year. The following local students made the list:

Rigoberto Alfonso of Leicester, member of the Class of 2024, majoring in Undeclared

Brenna St. John of Leicester, member of the Class of 2023, majoring in Psychology
About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5
12:37 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 12:48 a.m.: open door (Cherry Street), secured; 1:12-1:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:54 a.m.: medical/general (South Street); 3:04 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), structure fire/Charlton; 7:31 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), icy conditions; 8:10 a.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), icy conditions; 8:21 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 8:29 a.m.: accident (Paxton Road), report taken; 8:31 a.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 8:35 a.m.: accident (Chestnut Street), report taken; 8:39 a.m.: accident (Donnelly Cross Road), services rendered; 8:50 a.m.: accident (Clark Street), services rendered; 8:55 a.m.: accident (Paxton Road), services rendered; 8:58 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 9:07 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 9:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Wire Village Road), info taken; 9:19 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), services rendered; 10:02 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 10:15 a.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 10:25 a.m.: medical/general (Bell Street); 10:49 am.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 12:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Cottage Street), loose dogs; 12:45 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), money found; 1:26 p.m.: restraining order service (Ash Street); 1:29 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 1:36 p.m.: medical/general (Old Farm Road); 2:06 p.m.: harassing calls (Bond Street), series of annoying calls; 3:47 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), line of sight blocked; 4:06 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), landlord issue; 4:26 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 6:51 p.m.: warrant service (West Main Street), Jessica M. Arguin, 38, P.O. Box 401, Spencer, warrant/2, arrest; 7:50 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 9:00 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bell Street), no emergency; 10:08 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 11:03 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); (Total daily mv stops – 3).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
12:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:08 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), ice conditions; 12:13 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:21 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 12:23 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:26 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), req. MassDOT notification; 12:55-2:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:29 a.m.: parking violation (Pleasant Street), ticket issued; 8:00 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 9:14 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. prints; 9:52 a.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 9:58 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), re: dangerous trailer; 11:59 a.m.: officer wanted (Bacon Hill Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 12:31 p.m.: residential alarm (Clark Street), services rendered; 12:41 p.m.: assault (Main Street), re: incident on 12/14/21; 1:21 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 2:15 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Sherwood Drive), spoken to; 2:58 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 3:37 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 4:17 p.m.: parking complaint (Wall Street), mv parked on property; 4:25 p.m.: accident (Main Street), rep. earlier accident; 4:30 p.m.: mv fire (Northwest Road), referred; 5:19 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 6:45 p.m.: lost/found (Wall Street), keys found; 7:35 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 7:45 p.m.: DPW call (Howe Road), icy conditions; 8:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 8:20 p.m.: larceny (Grove Street), c/o contractor; 8:30 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 8:43 p.m.: 911 call (Bell Street), misdial; 8:45 p.m.: threats (G.H. Wilson Road), email threats fr former employee; 8:55 p.m.: mutual aid (Lloyd Dyer Drive), req. welfare check; 9:58 p.m.: 911 call (Kittredge Road), child w/phone; 10:08 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
1:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Buteau Road), notification fr UMass; 1:47-1:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:01 a.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), spoken to; 2:10-2:22 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:25 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 2:30-2:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:20 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), roads snow-covered; 3:41 a.m.: fire (North Spencer Road), referred; 3:48 a.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 4:02 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 4:57 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 7:25 a.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 7:41 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), info given; 9:03 a.m.: disabled mv (South

Spencer Road), services rendered; 9:24 a.m.: citizen complaint (Charron Street), end of street not plowed; 9:38 a.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), plow hit bldg.; 10:16 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), raccoon on porch; 12:58 p.m.: 911 call (Wilson Street), misdial; 1:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 1:17 p.m.: medical/general (Woodland Lane); 2:01 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), spoken to; 2:43 p.m.: 911 call (South Spencer Road), accidental; 2:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), snow removal issue/neighbors; 3:05 p.m.: fire alarm (Norcross Road), referred; 3:18 p.m.: animal complaint (Howe Village), issue w/dog; 4:45 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 8:23 p.m.: commercial alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 8:30 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 8:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check/refuse assistance; 9:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), mv check; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
12:03-12:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 12:40 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:44 a.m.: suspicious persons (Mechanic Street), investigated; 12:59-1:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:55 a.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 1:57-2:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:07 a.m.: parking violation (Pleasant Street), ticket issued; 2:09 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 2:17 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:39 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), rep. of accident on 01/07; 9:08 a.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), services rendered; 10:28 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 11:21 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 11:40 a.m.: medical/general (Highland Street); 12:06 p.m.: medical/general (Franklin Street); 1:27 p.m.: mutual aid (Ash Street), Leicester PD req. check for moving truck; 3:26 p.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 3:58 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 5:16 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 6:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), spoken to; 6:49 p.m.: medical/general (Ethier Drive); 6:49 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), swatting call; 7:54 p.m.: medical/general (May Street); 8:17 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:52 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:57 p.m.: suspicious mv (Gauthier Road), mv on tracks; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9
12:11 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:14 a.m.: suspicious mv (Lyford Road), info taken; 12:23 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:26 a.m.: disturbance (Elm Street), noise complaint; 1:07 a.m.: building checked, secure; 3:00 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 4:53 a.m.: mv complaint (North Street), mv in street; 6:14 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 8:17 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:34 a.m.: accident (Brooks Pond Road), services rendered; 10:50 a.m.: larceny (Crestview Drive), bank acct. hacked; 11:33 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 11:50 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:26 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 1:19 p.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln Street), rabid raccoon; 3:55 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), accidental; 4:17 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:42-7:47 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:49 p.m.: DPW call (Temple Street), icy conditions; 8:09 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:13 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Spencer Road), no contact; 9:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Carlos M. Saez, 20, Chestnut Street, Spencer, number plate violation, unregistered mv, lights violation, warrant, arrest; 9:28 p.m.: medical/general (Norcross Road); 11:43 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 11:50 p.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), loud m/f argument; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

MONDAY, JANUARY 10
3:46 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 5:15 a.m.: 911 call (Elm Street), accidental; 6:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 7:17 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), icy conditions; 7:43 a.m.: threats (Crestview Drive), online threats; 9:06 a.m.: medical/general (Deer Run Road); 9:17 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), c/o various issues; 11:55 a.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), inquiry re: power outage; 12:22 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 1:24 p.m.: parking complaint (Wm. Casey Road), snow removal hindered; 1:25 p.m.: harassing calls (Mechanic Street), calls/texts from landlord; 1:38 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 1:46 p.m.: medical/general (Old East Charlton Road); 1:51 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), investigat-

ed; 2:05 p.m.: fraud (Norcross Road), scam calls; 2:47 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 3:18 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Brooks Pond Road); 5:02 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 5:04 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), re: missing person/Worcester; 6:45 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:47 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Debbie Drive), no contact; 7:04 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:47 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 9:29-9:36 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:43 p.m.: elderly matter (Main Street), req. welfare checks; 9:47-10:00 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), investigated; 11:38 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), misdial; 11:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11
12:33 a.m.: disturbance (Wall Street), noise complaint; 1:04 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 1:09-2:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:32 a.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 5:07 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 6:00 a.m.: residential alarm (Thompson Pond Road), services rendered; 6:53 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:04 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 9:46 a.m.: fraud (Temple Street), hacked email/bank acct.; 10:11 a.m.: odor of gas (Mechanic Street), referred; 11:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), senior center closed; 11:07 juvenile matter (Adams Street), kids on ice/poss. unsafe; 12:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Wire Village Road), inquiry re: fundraiser; 12:44 p.m.: citizen complaint (Temple Street), snow pushed onto sidewalk; 1:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), c/o issue w/mv; 1:46 p.m.: medical/general (Sherman Drive); 2:01 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), cat attacked by hawk; 3:07 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbor issues; 4:24 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 4:42 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 5:38 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lloyd Dyer Drive), req. welfare check/children; 6:20 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 6:43 p.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 9:12 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:18 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:47 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:46 p.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), services rendered; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6
12:08 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:11 a.m.: malicious mischief (Water Street), spoken to; 8:06 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Drive), transported; 8:45 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Lehigh Road), all details withheld from police log, transported; 11:27 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), summons served; 11:29 a.m.: suspicious mv (Rawson Street), spoken to; 2:20 p.m.: assist other PD (McCarthy Avenue), resolved; 2:45 p.m.: ambulance (Mayfield Street, Worcester), transported; 4:15 p.m.: welfare check (Lake Drive), no action required; 4:30 p.m.: welfare check (Deer Pond Road), no action required; 5:35 p.m.: family problem (Park Lane), report taken; 5:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred to ACO; 7:54 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 8:06 p.m.: assist other agency (South Main Street), report taken; 8:40 p.m.: municipal security alarm (Winslow Avenue), false alarm; 10:29 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), unable to locate.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
1:07 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 1:11 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:00 a.m.: accident (Auburn Street), report taken; 1:21 p.m.: assist citizen (Hankey Street), spoken to; 2:12 p.m.: ambulance (Sylvan Street, Worcester), transported; 2:13 p.m.: family problem (McCarthy Street), spoken to; 3:03 p.m.: ambulance (Carleton Road), transported; 3:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Towtoid Street), referred to ACO; 3:57 p.m.: investigation (Mannville Street), services rendered; 3:58 p.m.: accident (West Street), resolved; 4:53 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 5:13 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Pleasant Street), advised civil action; 6:07 p.m.: ambulance (Enfield Street, Worcester), transported; 6:21 p.m.: fraud (Wesley Drive), no action required; 7:54 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
12:59 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 7:45 a.m.: ambulance

(Lake Drive), transported; 9:52 a.m.: investigation (West Street), services rendered; 11:54 a.m.: ambulance (King Street, Worcester), transported; 1:02 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), services rendered; 1:07 p.m.: accident (Cricklewood Drive), report taken; 1:33 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), services rendered; 2:14 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 3:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:28 p.m.: residential alarm (Collier Avenue), investigated; 3:36 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 3:41 p.m.: investigation (Wesley Drive), spoken to; 8:17 p.m.: ambulance (Summer Street, Worcester), transported; 10:01 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), unfounded; 10:31 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:50 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv, report taken; 11:13 p.m.: disturbance (Boyd Street), resolved; 11:39 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), resolved.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9
2:11 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 4:28 a.m.: welfare check (Winslow Avenue), resolved; 4:38 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 5:35 a.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 8:04 a.m.: ambulance (Burncoat Lane), transported; 8:06 a.m.: water/sewer problem (Towtoid Street), referred; 1:10 p.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), resolved; 1:54 p.m.: ambulance (Ingalls Street, Worcester), transported; 3:35 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:56 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), services rendered; 10:11 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10
4:24 a.m.: commercial alarm (Winslow Avenue), false alarm; 8:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:35 a.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), services rendered; 9:45 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Crystal L. Goncalves, 34, 53 Saint Louis Street, Worcester, straight warrant, arrest; 11:33 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 11:45 a.m.: accident (Main Street), assisted; 1:15 p.m.: ambulance (Woodland Drive), transported; 1:24 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 1:50 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO; 4:40 p.m.: investigation (Mannville Street), services rendered; 5:40 p.m.: ambulance (Somerset Street, Worcester), transported; 6:48 p.m.: investigation (Warren Avenue), resolved; 7:12 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), resolved; 11:28 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11
10:40 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), report taken; 5:31 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 5:43 p.m.: accident (Peter Salem Road), report taken; 5:48 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:19 p.m.: investigation (Collier Avenue), services rendered; 8:45 p.m.: animal complaint (Auburn Street), referred to ACO; 8:56 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 9:02 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 9:19 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), assisted.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12
1:02 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 9:59 a.m.: accident (Main Street), resolved; 10:45 a.m.: ambulance (Green Street), call canceled; 11:35 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), resolved; 11:48 a.m.: abandoned mv (Soojians Drive), resolved; 11:56 a.m.: restraining order service (Waite Street), served; 12:04 p.m.: summons service (Hankey Street), unable to serve; 1:13 p.m.: ambulance (Keen Street, Worcester), transported; 1:19 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:11 p.m.: ambulance (McCarthy Avenue), transported; 2:20 p.m.: assist citizen (Hankey Street), resolved; 2:40 p.m.: summons service (Pleasant Street), report taken; larceny (Soojians Drive), resolved; 3:59 p.m.: harassment (Pleasant Street), resolved; 4:21 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), report taken; 4:35 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 7:16 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:45 p.m.: investigation (Collier Avenue), resolved; 7:59 p.m.: welfare check (West Street), resolved; 9:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), resolved; 9:31 p.m.: welfare check (West Street), resolved; 9:36 p.m.: ambulance (Litchfield Street, Worcester), call canceled; 10:45 p.m.: arrest warrant service (South Main Street), unable to serve; 11:04 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), resolved.

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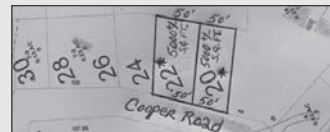
Cape with 3 bedrooms, gleaming hardwoods, stone fireplace. Septic (2019), replacement windows, family and dining room, fresh paint throughout! Generator hook up, and updated Buderus boiler with holding tank. Garage under. This one maybe for you! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

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SPORTS

ROCKETS

continued from page A1

of the game in net for Auburn.

"My goaltenders are fantastic," LaPrad said of Horne and Proulx. "They're both playing great."

LaPrad noted that Haley Vadenais, Avery Knott and Madison Leonard help out the goalies as part of "a really deep and solid defensive core."

Needham (6-1-2) finished off its 5-0

victory with a pair of third period strikes. Hymovitz and Ellie Keenan (Erika Stanton assist) had the goals.

Auburn had its chances, but Needham goalie Mina Brown finished with 16 saves for the shutout. Auburn's best opportunity came very late in the first period when freshman Olivia Viens hustled down the right wing. She then fed a centering pass onto the stick of freshman Izzy Spencer, who shot back toward the right side of the net. Her

laser missed the top corner by mere inches.

"We have a couple of freshmen out there that are really doing well, putting points up," LaPrad said of both Spencer and Viens.

Auburn also had three power play chances and generated five shots during those six minutes, but to no avail.

Despite the loss, LaPrad likes the way his team is progressing and noted that the Rockets are 3-1 in Central Mass.

Conference games against the likes of Woodstock Academy (2-0), Leominster High (1-0) and Oakmont Regional (0-1).

"The program is really getting stronger," LaPrad said of what is now his 12th year coaching at the varsity level, which he has done since Day 1. "It has taken many, many years to get to the point where we've got the depth that we have. We can go out and compete with anybody right now. The future looks bright."



Auburn's Madison Meyer digs at the puck during a faceoff versus Needham.



Auburn's Avery Knott curls around the net with possession of the puck.



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SPORTS

Panthers complete important three-game sweep over Northbridge, Bartlett and Tantasqua

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

SPENCER — After defeating the likes of Pathfinder Regional and West Boylston High to close out 2021 an even 3-3, the David Prouty Regional boys' varsity basketball team had a tough stretch within Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) play to open the calendar year. And, in an impressive display that will likely put the league on notice, the Panthers prevailed in each situation.

Prouty defeated Northbridge High (56-41), then Bartlett High (83-70) and finally Tantasqua Regional (56-48), that game taking place Friday, Jan. 14 as the Panthers improved to 6-3.

"I'm proud of our guys because for David Prouty to say we just won at Northbridge, at Bartlett and beat Tantasqua, I'm really happy for the boys," said head coach Pat O'Connor after the win over the Warriors.

Prouty's recent 5-0 stretch says more about the team than the 1-3 start to open the season, O'Connor noted.

"We had a player who wasn't able to play for personal reasons. He's back, and ever since he's been back we haven't lost," he said of Alec Fournier. "He's a huge piece. We really struggled without him. We have a good, solid group, but we're a small school so we don't have a lot of depth."

That group includes both Alec (5 of 6 free throws in second half) and Evan Fournier (9 points), Byron Tippins (12 points), Chris Murzycki (9 points) and team leader Braeden White (17 points).

"He just loves basketball and works at his game the right way more than any player I've ever been around," O'Connor said of White, the team's floor general at the point guard position. "He makes life easy as a coach. He puts other players in positions that makes it easy for everybody else."

The Panthers held leads of 19-12 after one quarter; 32-21 at halftime and 45-35 through three



Nick Ethier photos

David Prouty's Alec Fournier drives the ball around a Tantasqua defender.

periods. But Tantasqua regularly chipped away at the deficit, including the start to the fourth quarter.

There, the Warriors scored the first five points as Liam Hubacz netted all of his points in a one-minute stretch. But Tantasqua (led in scoring by Hunter Hill and Dylan Thompson, both with 10 points) could get no closer, as head coach Scott Dion explained a crucial sequence following his team's rally.

"I think we had the game down to [five] points and we gave up a rebound on a free throw, they hit a 3," Dion said of a trey from the corner by Murzycki. "We came down and made a shot, and then they come down and [Murzycki] made another 3. That brought their lead up to 10 and we just couldn't overcome that."

The Warriors could not inch the deficit closer than the five they had to open the quarter; as they dropped to 2-6.

Dion had kind words for O'Connor and the Prouty program, a program he coached at before taking the job at

Tantasqua four seasons ago.

"Obviously, I know Prouty very well. Coach O'Connor and I are very close. I was coach here for 11 years, [including] his senior year," Dion said of the 2007-2008 season. "Both of his assistants on the bench played for me, Kyle Driscoll and Matt Pillsbury. You get a relationship with kids and you know they're going to play their tails off. He has really good pieces and he has a phenomenal point guard. Our team right now is still trying to find itself."

O'Connor, who cut his teeth coaching at North Brookfield High originally, has been the Panthers' coach since Dion departed.

"I graduated from here, live in Spencer and now I teach eighth grade math here. I always wanted to be part of Spencer-East Brookfield," O'Connor said before stating how big it was to defeat Dion — "one of my best friends," according to O'Connor — and the Warriors.

"We're now the smallest school in the SWCL by a lot and beating the biggest school in the SWCL is



Braeden White of David Prouty dishes a bounce pass closer to the basket.



David Prouty's Byron Tippins finishes off an inside look for two points. a huge deal. What it does for the kids is unbelievable," he said.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Monday, Jan. 10

David Prouty 52, Bartlett 28 — Olivia Pepin led the way for the Panthers' girls' basketball team with 24 points, while Gabby Soter chipped in 14. David Prouty led, 22-0, after the first quarter on their way to defeating the Indians.

Tantasqua 102, Worcester 67 — In a coed swim meet, the Warriors defeated Worcester. The medley relay team of Kira Dambly, Ethan Korenda, Zoey Zhu and Max Sullivan got Tantasqua started with a win. Other winners included Dambly (200 IM), Sullivan (50 freestyle, 100 backstroke), Korenda (100 butterfly), Jonah Scherer (500 freestyle), and the 400 freestyle relay team of Dambly, Zach Hilborn, Scherer and Sullivan ended the day with a victory.

Wednesday, Jan. 12

Shrewsbury 72, Tantasqua 54 — Ethan

Korenda (50 freestyle, 500 freestyle), Max Pitcher (diving) and Jonah Scherer (100 butterfly) were all winners for the Warriors in a boys' swim meet, but it wasn't enough against the Colonials. Tantasqua is now 3-3.

Shrewsbury 101, Tantasqua 62 — Similar to the boys' meet, the Warriors also lost in girls' swimming. The winners for Tantasqua (3-3) included Kira Dambly (200 freestyle), Zoey Zhu (500 freestyle) and Katie Wade (100 breaststroke).

Thursday, Jan. 13

Tantasqua 48, David Prouty 37 — The Panthers played a hard-fought girls' basketball game versus the Warriors, but they fell 11 points short. Prouty's Gabby Soter led the way with 25 points, including a 12 of 14 performance from the free throw line.

Friday, Jan. 14

Tantasqua 100, Gardner 43 — A great meet

was turned in by the Warriors as the girls' team triumphed and improved to 4-3. The 200 medley relay team (Kira Dambly, Tori Stendrup, Zoey Zhu, Makenna Pentoney), Katie Wade (200 freestyle, 100 butterfly), Stendrup (200 IM, 100 breaststroke), Zhu (50 freestyle, 100 backstroke), Pentoney (100 freestyle), Dambly (500 freestyle), the 200 freestyle relay team (Stendrup, Marana Gentile, Molly Bilodeau, Wade) and the 400 freestyle relay team (Zhu, Gentile, Dambly, Wade) all turned in winning performances.

Gardner 69, Tantasqua 48 — Despite winnngs swims turned in by Ethan Korenda (200 freestyle, 100 breaststroke), Jonah Scherer (500 freestyle) and the 200 freestyle relay team (Zachary Hilborn, Max Pitcher, Cameron Giroux, Korenda), the Warriors lost their boys' meet and are now 3-4.



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