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SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, October 11, 2024

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



Courtesy

As part of Homecoming Week 2024 festivities, David Prouty High School juniors and seniors lined up to greet students at Wire Village School. The "High Five Friday" program was memorable for the district's high school and elementary school students alike. Wire Village students were thrilled to be greeted by their older DPHS buddies as they entered school.

Spencer selectmen host representatives from proposed drug rehab clinic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Selectmen last week hosted representatives of a drug rehabilitation clinic proposed for Route 9.

Erin Belle-Isle and Laura Frangipane, representing the Habit Opco clinic, shared with selectmen on Sept. 30 the operational and safety plans for the facility at 401 East Main St.

Selectmen previously discussed the proposal during their Sept. 16 meeting, requesting that clinic representatives attend a future meeting to provide more information. The venue, a one-story building most recently occupied by Spencer Veterinary Hospital, is slated to service patients from throughout Worcester County.

Frangipane currently serves as a regional director for Acadia Healthcare, which oversees an outpatient treatment facility in Springfield for people with addiction disorders.

The proposed Spencer clinic would also be run by Acadia Healthcare. Because many of the patients at the Springfield facility are regularly driving nearly an hour from the Route 9 corridor to receive treatment, the Acadia leadership team picked Spencer as a convenient location between Worcester and points west.

"The goal is to open a satellite of the Springfield location here in Spencer to more adequately provide treatment services to folks who live closer to this area," Frangipane told selectmen.

The administrators of the clinic are licensed to provide opiate treatments, office-based addiction treatments, and day outpatient services. All medications provided are federally regulated, including methadone and suboxone, officials said.

Selectmen asked the representatives several questions about the operations and policies of the clinic, including those governing situations in which a patient struggles to transition away from street drugs.

"When I have an individual who is struggling in some capacity, especially early on in treatment, we meet as a team and find ways that we can better support that individual. We don't want any-

Turn To **CLINIC** page **A10**

SPD officer earns award from Exchange Club

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Exchange Club of Spencer has awarded the National Exchange Club's Blue and Gold Award to Lt. Norman Hodgerney, Jr., of the Spencer Police Department.

The award was scheduled to be presented to Hodgerney at an Oct. 8 ceremony during the Exchange Club's meeting at 308 Lakeside in East Brookfield.

"Lt. Hodgerney has been actively involved in initiatives to support the homeless community in Spencer. He has worked closely with Open Sky and the Central

Turn To **AWARD** page **A10**

Police warn of increase in scams

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Through outreach and education programs, local police departments are finding creative ways to protect residents from scammers.

Over the past decade, as scammers have become more cunning and expansive with their schemes, police have found that arming residents with knowledge is the best defense against relentless fraudsters.

"They're salesmen. It's a lucrative business—that's why

they continue to get better with their tactics," said Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford.

A large percentage of scammers operate from foreign countries, making it even more challenging for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

Scammers have also become increasingly adept at utilizing technologies, often preying on seniors through email, text, and social media.

During a recent Select

Turn To **SCAMS** page **A14**

Leicester Middle School to benefit from new partnership

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Staff members from Leicester Middle School recently joined Country Bank leaders to announce a new community partnership.

Jodie Gerulaitis and Kimberly Moore represented Country Bank during a recent visit to LMS to discuss a partnership that will benefit both students and the community.

To kick off the partnership, the Country Bank representatives presented LMS Principal Douglas Daponte with a \$250 gift card to support school projects and activities.

Additionally, Country Bank will fill a kiosk at LMS with school supplies and literature on financial advice, as well as other information for students and their families.

"Other initiatives that Country Bank will provide our students and their families include Money School and Mini Credit for Life," read a statement released by Principal Daponte. "Money School is an engaging and educational program that prepares students for a lifetime of financial wellness."

The Money School program is made possible by a partnership with Greenlight, an educational banking app and debit card designed specifically for young people. Parents or guardians set controls, receive spending notifications, and enjoy several other benefits to help youngsters learn

Turn To **PARTNERSHIP** page **A14**



Courtesy

Leicester Middle School officials join Country Bank leaders in celebrating a new partnership.

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Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center welcomes Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

WORCESTER — According to Robin Fitch High, Administrator at Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center, “it is our pleasure to welcome Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students and faculty.”

High said, “Several of our employees graduated from Bay Path!”

The facility located at 26 Harvard St., Worcester, indeed employs several LPN graduates of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director met with High

recently and was given a full facility tour. Bolandrina also met with Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumni Meghan Reidy, LPN (of Leicester) Nursing Supervisor and Khamphan Houatchanthara, LPN (of Southbridge) Charge Nurse. Full-time faculty Nicholas McElroy, BSN, RN facilitated the contract signing between Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center as a clinical site for the academic year 2024-2025. He will

serve as the clinical facilitator and is the liaison between the Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. He will assist nursing students with any questions they may have and evaluate students’ performance and effort.

“The expertise and passion for teaching of Professor McElroy will undoubtedly enrich our academic community and inspire our students to new heights,” said Bolandrina. “Together with the leadership at Lutheran Rehab, we will continue to foster a safe learning environment that values collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence.”

Clinicals can be scary, however, they are an essential part of learning in nursing. Along with classroom learning clinical experiences are important because it is where student nurses get direct experience. Nursing education is divided into three major components: didactic, simulation lab, and clinicals.



Photo shows, from left, Houatchanthara, Reidy, Bolandrina and High.

Didactic: In-classroom lectures that provide a fundamental layer of knowledge for students to apply in the clinical setting.

laboratory: Skills and simulation laboratory is where students practice various skills and tasks they need, in a safe, non-risk environment before touching real patients.

Clinicals: Hands-on, clinical facility-site, “in-the-field” portion of

nursing school.

At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, nursing students complete 546 clinical hours. Clinicals are designed to provide nursing students with

direct experience in the healthcare setting. It allows students to work on practical skills that

are needed to succeed at the bedside. Bolandrina added, “I look forward to seeing a successful clinical coordination with the Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and beyond.”

Courtesy

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Unsheared sheep
 - Rock TV channel
 - Streetcar
 - Concerning
 - Exclamation
 - Greek goddess of youth
 - Popular type of device
 - Alcoholic beverage
 - Ancient Olympic Site
 - Sharpshoots
 - Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
 - Pointed ends of pens
 - Measuring instruments
 - Midsection body part
 - Made a mistake
 - Adjusted
 - “Partridge” actress Susan
 - Yell
 - Civil rights city in Alabama
 - Young boy
 - Type of sea bass
 - To call (archaic)
 - Unfortunate
 - Separate oneself from others
 - Hero sandwiches
 - Spy group
 - Florida is famous for them
 - Irritating individuals
 - Luck
 - Hunting expedition
 - WWII diarist Frank
 - Peyton’s younger brother
 - Type of wrap
 - Type of overseas tax or levy
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Wake up

- CLUES DOWN**
- Works of body art
 - Israeli politician Abba
 - Renowned desert
 - Eat greedily
 - She didn’t make it through the Fr. Revolution
 - Beat
 - Bloodsucker
 - From a place already noted
 - Counted on
 - Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
 - Something one can make
 - One who abstains
 - Wild ox
 - Type of student
 - Bacterial infection of the skin
 - Expresses surprise
 - What engaged couples ultimately say
 - Crony
 - Where one begins (abbr.)
 - Architectural designation
 - “Matt Houston” actor Horsley
 - More (Spanish)
 - Autonomic nervous system
 - Indigenous peoples
 - Deflections
 - Circulating life force
 - Executes with a rope
 - Natives of an island nation
 - Girls
 - Logician and philosopher
 - Nocturnal hoofed animal
 - Relaxing spaces
 - From a distance
 - Form of Persian language
 - Amounts of time
 - Mathematical designation

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Local student graduates from Bemidji State University

BEMIDJI, Minn. — Jacob Hinman, originally from Spencer, has graduated from Bemidji State University and was recognized during BSU’s Spring 2024 Commencement ceremony.

Hinman earned a Bachelor of Science, Design.

In total, BSU’s class of 2024 earned:

- 84 Graduate degrees
- 807 Bachelor of Science degrees
- 82 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 53 Bachelor of Applied Science degrees
- 10 Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees
- 23 Associate’s Degrees
- 45 certificates

A total of 512 graduates were recognized for graduating with academic honors:

- 190 students graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors
- 189 students graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors
- 123 students graduated with Cum Laude honors

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EAST BROOKFIELD
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 \$625,000, 2 Traci Pl, Berthiaume, Jeffrey J, and Berthiaume, Tamara M, to Sullivan, Neal, and Moulin, Nanette.
 \$480,000, 3 Crestwood Rd, Wills, Christine A, to Vick, Corey L, and Vick, Keisha.
 \$440,000, 529 Pleasant St, Bereiweriso Jr, Lawrence, and Bereiweriso, Jasmine, to Fulton, Laura.
 \$429,500, 10 Victoria Dr #10, Lange Ft, and Lange, Edward R, to Trombly, Craig, and Trombly, Ann.
 \$295,000, 989 Stafford St #A, Giles-Golden, Jennalyn, and Golden, Erik, to Aning, Samuel.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
 \$332,000, 7 Chestnut St, Jbg Investments LLC, to Couture, Kayla A, and Couture, Willem E.
 \$260,000, 28 Elm St, Hart, Jaime, and Hart, Helen, to Dao, Than, and Tran, Trung.
 \$195,000, 43 Forest St, Paquette Irt, and Paquette Sr, Roland J, to Zepp, Michael, and Nichols, Sarah.
 \$160,000, 75 School St, 521 Grafton LLC, to Aum Blackrock Invs LLC.

SPENCER
 \$645,000, 71 E Charlton Rd, German, Adam M, and German, Brittnee, to Mellish, Thomas J.
 \$384,000, 47 Lincoln St, Ekleberry, Phyllis, and Ekleberry, William D, to Bates, Diana, and Tappan, Evan M.
 \$310,000, 47 Temple St, Meek, Lori A, to Bowen, Elliot A.
 \$299,000, 75 Mechanic St, Amado, Noel A, to Nnamah, Esther.
 \$250,000, Lyford Rd, Stan Kaitbenski Inc, to Jae Wor LLC.

WARREN
 \$474,250, 168 Oneil Rd, Brown, Scott H, and Brown, Rachel E, to Christie, Brandon.
 \$250,000, 269-281 Keys Rd, Lyons Gary K Est, and Lyons, Andrew, to Tadeo, Alejandro, and Sandoval, Yessika.

WEST BROOKFIELD
 None

Cornerstone Bank announces retirement of EVP, Chief Information Officer Thomas Dufresne



Thomas Dufresne

to ensuring our customers have easy access for all their banking needs, using cutting-edge technology in a way that's always user-friendly," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We appreciate his many years of dedication and hard work and wish him the very best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life."

Dufresne, who lives in Worcester, began his career at Cornerstone 27 years ago, a pivot from his early years working in the insurance industry.

"I wrote the first web page the Bank had," he said, adding that he is proud to have been part of the growth "that now has Cornerstone poised to move adeptly into the future."

Throughout his career, Dufresne was an integral

part of the Bank's technological evolution. This includes major initiatives such as implementing, managing and troubleshooting a full Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which allows voice calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of an analog phone line. He was also responsible for authoring IT policies, auditing internal systems and developing IT instructional programs, in addition to branch implementation and Enterprise Risk Management.

Dufresne also said that during his tenure, the Bank made it a priority to ensure customer information is secure.

"Finding quicker, better, faster ways to do business allows us to provide better services for our customers," he said.

An avid outdoor explorer, Dufresne plans to spend his new-found free time diving into the tranquility of nature, traveling across the country in a small camper with his wife. "I want to relax and be able to see the sky and the stars." He plans to fish, golf and visit family.

Dufresne said he will miss the Cornerstone family.

"This is the best, biggest family business I've ever worked for in my life," he said.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses

thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with

opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tag line, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, announces the upcoming retirement of Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer Thomas Dufresne.

"Tom has led the way

Bay Path alumna on volunteering



Courtesy

Photo shows Edgine Pierre-Paul, LPN flanked by, from left, Professor Virginia Dockstader and Dr. Adeline Healy.

mental health support to her clients at Brookside Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Webster since 2019.

In an email to Getheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Pierre-Paul stated, "my reason for volunteering is very simple. I figured it would be helpful to the students to meet someone who has been through the program. I've learned enough in 5 years to offer my skills and some knowledge."

Pierre-Paul's clinical experience as a nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy included clinical observations at the Harrington Wound Care Center in Charlton. Wound care management is one among many of Pierre-Paul's skills which includes but not limited to Tracheostomy care & management, Intravenous care & management, pain management, and post-surgical care. Aside from multi-lingual proficiency and skills competency, Pierre-Paul cares from the heart. Pierre-Paul added, "we need more nurses out there, so it was really great to see so many students. I gave a few words of encouragement to the students. I have also heard that volunteering allows nurses to practice and improve their communication and interpersonal skills."

While at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Pierre-Paul was an active member of the UNICEF Club, attended SafeTALK, and the Innovation Summit at Northeastern University in Boston. She was a district champion for SkillsUSA in Practical Nursing earning a Silver Medal. Pierre-Paul was also a nominee for the Clinical Excellence Award.

CHARLTON — Edgine Pierre-Paul, LPN of Dudley exclaimed, "thank you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer." A dedicated LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) with 5+ experience in delivering quality care to patients in Sub-acute and long-term unit, Pierre-Paul is eager to utilize her knowledge and skills to provide exceptional care, and by returning to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she aims to inspire the

PN Class of 2025. Pierre-Paul has native or bilingual proficiency in English, French, and Haitian Creole plus a professional working proficiency in Spanish. The 2019 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy includes general studies: healthcare from Quinsigamond Community College in her academic background. The multi-lingual Bay Path LPN provides direct care, emotional, psychosocial, and

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**NOTICE
HYDRANT FLUSHING
TOWN OF SPENCER**

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the eastern part of the distribution system starting September 30th thru October 31st 2024. Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website www.spencerma.gov each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2024). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

**Town of Spencer
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**ATTENTION
WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS
Hydrant Flushing**

The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants Oct 14th through Oct 25th, 2024 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate. Please plan water use accordingly.



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Lots of spooky season fun in store at Haston Library

Grant funding supports LHS programs

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — With only a few weeks until Halloween, guests of all ages are invited to check out plenty of spooky programs at Haston Free Public Library.

Craft Night for Adults returns on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 6 p.m. Guests will learn how to make needle-felted pumpkins. Please register for this event in advance by contacting the library by phone or email.

The library's Book Discussion Group will next meet on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. This month's featured book is "A Gentleman in Moscow," written by Amor Towles.

The library's Movie Discussion Group will next meet on Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. Group members will watch "Clue," a 1985 film rated PG.

Guests will also be able to attend several events this fall celebrating the library's 130th anniversary. Please check back regularly for updates on times and locations for various activities.

"Thank you for participating in our 130th celebration. Be on the lookout for added events," read a statement released by the library. "We have 'Turning Pages for 130 Years' T-shirts available for a small donation price."

Several October story-time programs will be offered to youngsters on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Halloween-themed books will be paired with craft activities covering such topics as autumn leaves, pumpkin painting, and scary stories, among others.

Additionally, the children's department of the library will host its fourth annual "Spook-tacular Halloween Party" on Saturday, Oct. 26. Set for 9 a.m. to noon at the library, the program will feature games, snacks, crafts, music, and more. Be sure to ask your youngsters to wear their Halloween costumes to the party.

Meanwhile, in an educational program for adults, local cemetery history will be explored on Monday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. Come check out The Gravestone Girls as they showcase history from around the Brookfields in a unique presentation.

Please register for this event in advance.

The library continues to host the Children's Art Club on the first and third Monday of each month. All sessions last from 4-5 p.m.

A Lego Club takes place every Thursday at 4 p.m.

In a special celebration, the library's 130th anniversary scavenger hunt will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon. Stop by the library on the day of the event to pick up a scavenger hunt list, filled with riddles you must decode. Answers will be hidden throughout the library.

Guests of all ages are welcome to participate in this program.

For more information about upcoming library events, or to register for an activity, call 508-867-0208. You may also send an email to: hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Patrons are reminded that the library's meeting rooms in the basement will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

The library is located at 161 North Main St.



Courtesy

Grant funding recently allowed Leicester school officials to purchase kitchen equipment and other items needed to help expand career training programs



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — With assistance from several grant awards, school officials continue to expand career technical education (CTE) programming. Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian credits his team of adminis-

trators for the district's recent success in earning grant funding. The Superintendent regularly meets with school leaders to identify new grant opportunities to further support students.

"Assistant Superintendent Rich Lind and Data and Reporting Specialist/Grant Writer

Neile Connery are incredible to work with," Kustigian said. "Their commitment, work ethic, and dedication to Leicester, combined with their desire to implement CTE education, is amazing. Great things are happening for Leicester students, and we would not be where we are today without their help."

School officials continue to see success in their pursuits of both entitlement grants and competitive grants. The application process is often comprehensive and time-consuming, and grants vary widely in the amount of money available.

When competing for a limited number of grants, school districts across the state and the nation must adhere to strict application regulations and deadlines. One missed item or incorrect figure could be the difference between receiving grant funding and losing out.

"This is where Lind and Connery have excelled, allowing Leicester to implement new programs," Kustigian added. "I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with people who constantly

raise the bar."

In recent years, Leicester has benefited from both entitlement grants and competitive grants.

One of the most impactful entitlement grants supporting CTE programming is the federally funded Perkins Grant. Named after Carl D. Perkins, this grant program assists schools across the country with improving their CTE offerings.

On an annual basis, each school district is entitled to Perkins funds. Prior to Superintendent Kustigian's arrival in Leicester, these funds were signed over annually to neighboring vocational school districts for educating Leicester's students. Now, the money is staying right here in town as the district builds its own CTE portfolio.

As for competitive grants, the Leicester Public Schools team was recently awarded a Capital Skills Grant in the amount of \$371,987. Lind and Connery authored this grant, and it is being used to support CTE programs at Leicester High School.

Specifically, the grant is helping to offset the costs of the school's new Building and Property Maintenance program, as well as its Nursing program, Culinary Arts program, and Early Education program.

To date, the three-year total received by the Leicester Public Schools for competitive grants is \$788,733.

"All of these funds are being used to grow Leicester's CTE programs," Kustigian said. "The best part is that we are just getting started. There is bigger news right around the corner, but it is not yet public. Stay tuned."

School officials thank all administrators, educators, students, and community leaders who have helped expand CTE programs.

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Local youth performers to appear in “The Nutcracker” at Hanover Theatre!

WORCESTER — Dancers from a wide range of surrounding communities including, Sturbridge, Auburn, Dudley, and Windham County, will grace the stage at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts in “The Nutcracker,” generously sponsored by Berkshire Bank, on Nov. 29 – Dec. 1.

Featuring live music from The Hanover Theatre Nutcracker Orchestra conducted by Eric Culver, this production of “The Nutcracker” will enchant you with dazzling lighting and scenery by Broadway designers, brilliant dancing and vibrant costumes.

Tickets are on sale now for Nov. 29 at 2 p.m.; Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 30 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Dec. 1 at 1 p.m.

“The Nutcracker” is a two-act ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky first performed in Russia in December 1892 and based on the stories of E.T.A. Hoffmann and Alexandre Dumas. The story revolves around Clara, a young girl who receives a nutcracker doll as a Christmas gift and then enters a fantastical world where the Nutcracker and other characters come to life.

“This is my 16th year as artistic director of “The Nutcracker” at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. I genuinely love working with all the dancers to put on a magical performance in front of our central Massachusetts community. I remember auditioning as a little girl for the Boston Ballet and the Pittsburgh Ballet at the Worcester Auditorium. It was a priceless opportunity, and I still think of that time every year we begin rehearsals for “The Nutcracker” at The Hanover Theatre,” shared Jennifer Agbay.

Tickets to “The Nutcracker” range from \$39 to \$59 depending on seat location, performance and availability. Discounts are available for Broadway subscribers. Please contact the box office at 877-571-7469 or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information.

Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more. To learn more about group rates call 508-471-1689 or email group-

sales@thehanovertheatre.org.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre’s facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory (THTC) provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 600 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with The Hanover Theatre Repertory (THT Rep) and on The Hanover Theatre’s world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra University, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.



Courtesy

Bottom row (l to r): Jillian Benoit, Kora Reale, Raegan Spencer, McKenna Barrows, Josephine Porter; 2nd row: Julia Ashton, Jamie Ashton, Nina Browning, Victoria Buffone, Liam Barrows, Olivia Aucoin; 3rd row: Olivia Merrick, Ella Hurley, Alexandra Holman, Nadia Boitchenko, Jacqueline Murphy; 4th row: Kiya Mc Cart, Alexis Savary, Clementine Doyle-Bouvier, Quinn McDowell, Olivia Schiavo; 5th row: Paiyton Carpenter, Sarah O’Donnell, Kira Boitchenko, Lila Appling, Paiyton Carpenter Top row: Katherine Totman, Brenna Kinnes, Madison Rizzo, Morgan Soulé, Finola Castiglione.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester

Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester’s BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Why fall is the best season of all

Fall in New England is something else. It's the kind of season that makes you stop and take it all in—the crisp air, the explosion of colors, and the cozy feel of it all. After a busy summer, it's the perfect shift into a slower, more connected way of life.

There's just a lot to love about a New England fall. The trees light up with reds, oranges, and yellows, creating landscapes that look straight out of a postcard. And it's not just the scenery, it's the traditions, too. Fall is when small towns come alive with festivals, harvest fairs, porch concerts, and outdoor markets. It's an invitation to gather with neighbors, whether around a bonfire, at a farm stand, or during a weekend spent raking leaves and chatting over cider.

Fall in New England also has that perfect balance. The days are cool but not too cold, just right for a hike, a stroll through town, or picking apples in a local orchard. As the leaves change, they remind us that nothing stays the same forever, and that's okay. This season encourages us to embrace change while appreciating everything we've got right now.

It's also a time for reflection. With winter coming, fall feels like a last big celebration of the year before things quiet down. It's a chance to be thankful for what we have and to focus on what really matters, time spent with family, friends, and neighbors.

So, while the pumpkins, apple picking, and Halloween costumes are fun, the real magic of a New England fall is how it brings people together. It's about enjoying what's around us, building connections, and making the most of this cozy season before the snow flies. That's what makes fall in New England so special.

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VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you want to save the Republican party, vote Harris

To the Editor:
 Liz Cheney knows it. Jeff Flake knows it. Generals Milley, Mattis, McCaffrey, and Kelly know it. Policy matters, yes — but so does character. Donald Trump, like a spoiled five-year-old, could not accept the fact that he lost, incited a riot to upend the results of a free and fair election,

and can't or won't admit he lost to this day Unfit. He doesn't believe in democracy. That is bigger than any tax policy or trade deal about which we might disagree. If you want to save the Republican Party from itself, vote Harris.

SEAN MULLIGAN
 BROOKFIELD

I'll stick with a secular Constitution

To the Editor:
 In my previous letter, I briefly mentioned a posting by Donald Trump that showed him next to the Holy Bible. The post was labeled Trump, endorsed by Jesus Christ. Trump, endorsed by Jesus Christ? That post deserves more commentary!

I was raised in the Christian tradition. My father was a Methodist minister, and I witnessed many generous and caring people who chose to believe in a Christ who cared about the poor and downtrodden, who warned of the danger associated with the love of money, and who told a crowd ready to judge and stone a woman to death "He who is without sin cast the first stone!" That Christ would certainly not endorse a man who constantly lies, cheats, abuses women, who plans scam after scam to benefit himself, who discriminates against those with darker skin, who deliberately tries to divide us to gain power, and who would never admit his own weaknesses. Unfortunately, there are a substantial number of Christians and some Christian leaders who have endorsed and probably will continue to endorse such a man.

Our government is secular, welcoming people regardless of their theological beliefs or disbeliefs; but now we see an extremist agenda to convert our secular government into a Christian theocracy. Why are so many of our citizens accepting this agenda?

I think the abortion issue is the obvious answer. There are politicians like Trump who recognize this issue as a means to divide and conquer. Nothing I say will convince them to change course. But there are also many good people who cannot accept abortion for any reason, even to save the life of the mother. If they choose to believe that, they are free to follow their beliefs. But in a secular society, they are not free to force their religious beliefs on others. Laws recently enacted in some states have already had some severe consequences, as we witnessed recently in Georgia where a young mother died because of unnecessary delays to obtaining the care she needed.

Our policies impact the lives of women on a global scale, not just in this country. If Trump is re-elected, he will re-impose the global gag rule and attempt to eliminate international family planning aid. (Multiple studies have shown that the global gag rule has not decreased the num-

ber of abortions, but has resulted in an increase in the number of unsafe abortions.) We are currently adding a billion people every dozen years to a planet where 700 million people live in extreme poverty and millions of children are suffering malnutrition. Many of these desperate people from environmentally ravaged lands will be trying to escape to other lands. What should we do, enclose our country in a wall of barbed wire? Should population growth be controlled by disease, starvation, and war? I believe there is a much better alternative. The loss of reproductive services in impoverished regions of the world was particularly devastating for desperate women, many dying as a result of botched abortions. For example, this quote from a nurse from Nairobi, Kenya - "What happened in the slums during Trump's tenure is unthinkable... We lost so many girls..." From an obstetrician in Malawi - "They [the U.S. government] are giving a death sentence to our women in this part of the world." In our country, black women are at greatest risk of maternal mortality. Our policies clearly do not impact everyone equally. Wouldn't it make sense if those most impacted by a policy be allowed greater input? But Republican strategies to reduce voter participation from certain populations will have the opposite effect, especially for those who cannot drive to the polls on election day due to work or child care commitments.

There are some who would replace our laws with Biblical justice. I suspect that these people have read the Bible about as carefully as Trump himself has. Here is an example of Biblical justice. In Numbers 31 (King James version), Moses instructs his soldiers who (against orders) had spared women and children in their punishment of the Midianites. "Kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him. But all the women children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves." Personally, I am not particularly impressed with some Biblical justice, including the above example. If given a choice, I'll certainly stick with a secular, democratic society with a Constitution that helps guide us in developing a government "of the people, by the people, for the people."

DAVID W. BROWN
 NORTH BROOKFIELD

Simple math!

To the Editor:

\$35 trillion is the rapidly rising national debt!

Econ 101: Debt happens when spending exceeds revenues.

Econ 102: Eliminating debt requires reducing spending.

Since 1948 Israel has received \$158 billion in military aid from the US and total annual US foreign aid spending in 2022 surpassed \$70 billion!

The top 12 countries receiving US taxpayer dollars in the form of foreign aid are noted below: from a list of 181 countries benefitting from our working class!

Rank	Country	Economic vs. Military Aid	Grand Total
1	Israel	\$158,000,000,000	\$158,000,000,000
2	Saudi	\$4,908,401,418	\$4,908,401,418
3	Philippines	\$2,312,026,214	\$2,312,026,214
4	Algeria	\$1,992,812,500	\$1,992,812,500
5	Yemen	\$1,575,803,316	\$1,575,803,316
6	Egypt	\$1,568,911,296	\$1,568,911,296
7	Jordan	\$1,164,901,267	\$1,164,901,267
8	Nigeria	\$1,154,275,400	\$1,154,275,400
9	Somalia	\$1,122,292,450	\$1,122,292,450
10	South Sudan	\$1,122,182,276	\$1,122,182,276
11	Kenya	\$1,076,741,464	\$1,076,741,464
12	Congo (Kinshasa)	\$977,250,821	\$977,250,821

In the last four years, over 20 million illegal immigrants have crossed our border and have overwhelmed cities and towns from coast to coast. These invaders are being transported, housed, fed, provided public education and priority one medical care at our expense! The toll of the border crisis, a massive financial burden to taxpayers is upwards of \$400 Billion and rising!

The Governor of Massachusetts has spent \$1 billion already on the influx of migrants to Massachusetts, and she has praised the Biden-Harris administration for awarding her \$20 million in federal funding to support shelter costs.

The United States federal budget is enormous and complicated; I have only highlighted two radical spending

designations.

The current POTUS, aka the "mush minded beach dweller" has repeatedly attacked MAGA Republicans as extreme, racist and a threat to democracy!

The MAGA agenda is all about prioritizing the safety of America first, supporting the opportunities of the American people first, championing the choices of the American people first, protecting the freedoms of the American people first and enriching the pockets of the American people first!

The Democrat agenda is all about subsidizing the non-working class, funding the migrant stampede, sponsoring the climate scam, bankrolling bigger government agencies, defunding public safety, financing foreign aid and underwriting massive spending bills that cripple the working class!

I personally prefer to have my tax dollars spent in America first and for the benefit of Americans first!

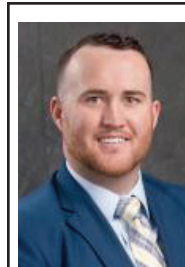
What is extreme, racist and a threat to democracy is the amount of American tax dollars being redistributed to 181 other countries and to 20 million non-working illegal immigrants!

Our country is \$35 trillion in debt, yet congress continues to spend money we don't have on countries other than America and on illegal immigrants rather than Americans!

This travesty is front and center as FEMA has no money to assist Americans in the states devastated by Hurricane Helene because the Biden/Harris administration has raided the funds to assist illegal immigrants!

JEN GAUCHER
 SPENCER

Do you need to fear retirement?



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If you're planning to retire in a few years, are you looking forward to it? Or are you somewhat apprehensive? Are you asking yourself: "What sort of retirement can I afford?"

It's a good question — because the answer can make a big difference in your ability to enjoy life as a retiree.

And retirement can indeed be enjoyable, exciting and fun. Consider this from a recent survey by Edward Jones and AgeWave: A majority of respondents said retirement should be looked at as a whole new chapter of life, and not just a time for rest and relaxation. In other words, people are viewing retirement as a chance for new experiences and new opportunities, rather than a time to simply wind down. But if you're going to make the most of your retirement — which could last two or even three decades — you need to be financially prepared.

This preparation can involve many steps, but here are some of the key ones:

Decide what your retirement lifestyle will look like. How you choose to spend your retirement years can make a big difference in the financial resources you'll need. For example, if you plan on traveling the world, you might need more income than if you were to stay close to home and pursue your hobbies. If you can envision your retirement lifestyle and estimate how much money you'll need to support it, you can help reduce some of the uncertainties you might face once you do retire.

Review your income sources. During retirement, you'll likely need to draw on all your income sources, so it's a good idea to know what you'll have available, such as your IRA, 401(k) and other investment accounts. You'll also need to decide when to take Social Security — if you wait until your full retirement age (probably between 66 and 67), you'll get much larger monthly benefits than if you started taking them at 62. And here's another variable: earned income. Even if you've retired from your career, you might, if you desire, use your acquired skills in a consulting or part-time position. The more you can earn, the less you may have to withdraw from your investment accounts and the better position you'll be in to delay taking Social Security.

Consider adjusting your investment portfolio. For most of your working years, you may have invested mostly for growth — to increase your assets as much as possible. But growth-oriented investments are also, by nature, riskier, so when you retire, you should review your portfolio to determine whether you need to move it toward a more conservative position. Also, more conservative investments may provide more current income in the form of interest payments. However, even in retirement, you may need some investments with growth potential if you want to keep ahead of inflation.

Retirement is certainly a major milestone in your life — and adjusting to it can take some time. But there will be much less to fear — and much more to enjoy — if you've done what you can to prepare yourself financially.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fact check!

To the Editor:
It seems like the Democratic controlled media such as CNN and ABC like to push back on everything the Republicans say by saying they are "Fact Checking." All that means is they are spinning it to fit in with the Biden/Harris agenda. Here are a few facts checks on current topics.

Fact Check 1: Who is the biggest threat to Democracy? It's clearly the Democrats. The Biden/ Harris were the ones that tried to create the Orwellian "Department of Disinformation". A department intended to curtail free speech and free thoughts of US citizens. The Democrats are also the party that would not let RFK Jr. participate in an open primary. This same group worked with Facebook and big media to kill free speech as "Disinformation." It's a fact that the Democrats are the biggest threat and are trying to create a one-party state.

Fact Check 2: Illegal immigration is being aided and abetted by the Biden/Harris administration. Illegal immigrants were flown into this country by the Biden/Harris administration by the thousands. These people were dumped into small towns like Springfield Ohio. They were granted Temporary Legat Status by the Biden/Harris administration. Upwards of 20 million illegal immigrants have been brought into the US. None of these immigrants have been vetted to see if they were criminals.

Fact Check 3: Kamala Harris claims we have an affordable housing problem. If fact we do not have a housing issue but an illegal immigration issue. One wholly of her causing as the border

Czar. When the Federal governments and their state lackey Healy spends your tax monies to buy and rent all the available housing to house the illegals it just increases the prices and hardships on American citizens. Her solution is a \$25,000 tax credit for 1st time buyers. Any moron except her knows that this will just raise the prices by another \$25,000 thus solving nothing while flaming inflation. But their experts at that!

Fact Check 4: The Biden/Harris cabal claim that none of your Social Security or FEMA funds are being spent on the illegals. They think you're a dope and their playing the shell game at the carnival on you. You see your Social Security money is borrowed by the Federal government to pay for other programs. One of those is assistance for the illegals. It's interesting that FEMA has billions to house and feed illegals but only a couple of million to help US citizens in crisis. It shows you who Harris prioritizes. Illegals over US citizens! When the government goes broke it doesn't matter which buckets the money was in! It's just gone!

You my friends don't need any "Fact Checking." We have seen the facts for the last 3 years. Job numbers are up because we now need two or three jobs just to afford to live in the Biden/Harris world of economic empowerment. Hardt working citizens being taxed to pay for those Democratic Newcomers who are getting subsidized off your hard work. As their boss it's time to tell Kamal "Your Fired!" by voting for Donald J. Trump on Nov. 7.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

Immigrants

To the Editor:
I have become increasingly concerned that so many people do not use the word immigrant without preceding it with the word illegal. My parents were immigrants from Nova Scotia, Canada. They each came to live with older brothers. They knew each other in Nova Scotia but their courtship took place in Massachusetts. Immigrants they were but they were not illegal! They came looking for opportunity as many immigrants do.

They married and eventually gave birth to my brother and me. My dad became a citizen within a couple years but my mother "dragged her heels" and I think I was in the fifth grade when she became a citizen. My parents were good citizens. Later they were able to buy a house. Home ownership was something they thought would never be possible. My dad made many renovations to the two-family house they purchased. By the time I was ready to enter college they sold that house and were able to get a brand newly built ranch house. They had it for many years together and my mother continued there for years after dad died. And by the way my brother and I are "birth right citizens". Naturalized or birth right we were all citizens. Right?

Someone in our neighborhood apparently didn't think so. She called one day and didn't bother to identify who she reached. She blurted out - "Why don't you go back to Nova Scotia where you belong" and hung up. My brother had answered so he went to tell our dad what the caller said and who he thought it was. Dad went to the neighbor and she admitted she made the call. Dad said it was careless for her not to be sure the call was going to him or his

wife. In the present day there are still those telling immigrants to "go back where they belong." We are a nation of immigrants. Diversity makes us strong. I wrote letters to several servicemen during WWII. This neighbor's son was one of them. It was my "war effort" as a second grader.

Knowing my parents were good citizens, it pains me to hear so many refer to immigrants as illegal.

Donald Trump has instilled such fear and resentment toward immigrants. He has vowed to deport them if he is elected again. He has even said that means the Haitians in Springfield, Ohio. He completely ignores the fact that they are here legally. When Trump was president, he separated children from their parents in his deportation efforts. He didn't bother to keep records but President Biden made it a priority to get children back to their parents when he became president. And now Trump has vowed to deport "Illegal immigrants" again.

I repeat - There was no problem in Springfield, Ohio until Trump and Vance concocted one. It is distressing that they have so little regard for the safety and well-being for the Haitians and citizens of Springfield. They seem to sow chaos and discord instead of community and working together. And have you readers noticed how incoherent Trump is these days? Moreso than ever. Trump claims Biden is frail and cannot do his job. President Biden is doing his job with many accomplishments to his credit. Can Trump promise the same? His mental decline makes me wonder.

PATRICIA JACKMAN
NORTH BROOKFIELD

A "Triple Decker" - Ballot Questions 2 & 3, indicted Democrats & references for Trump from those who know him best

To the Editor:

Like many others, I partly grew up in a "Triple Decker." This wooden house contained three floors, on which three families lived. To discuss three 2024 elect issues, I offer a "Triple Decker" letter.

The first floor — Ballot questions
Ballot Question 2: "Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement"

Brief Summary: "The proposed law would eliminate the requirement that attests student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) ...in mathematics, science and technology and English in order to receive a high school diploma ..."

What Your Vote Will Do: A yes Vote would eliminate the requirement that students pass the ...MCAS (test) in order to graduate high school ..."

No (public) fiscal consequences
I recommend voting "Against" for the following listed reasons

It "is unfair to kids and will increase inequality. Some school districts will just lower standards so students 'graduate' without the knowledge and skills they need to succeed."

"It's unfair to grant diplomas to kids who aren't yet ready to graduate.... we adults should do the hard work to get them up to speed...would abandon them. "

(It) "would remove the only state wide graduation standard..." and

(It) "it is a radical and untested proposal..."

To these reasons, I would add that the MCAS test is one of the reasons that our state education system ranks as not only as one of the best in the USA but also in the world. So don't dump it, just make learning and the test better.

Ballot Question 3: Unionization for transportation network drivers

"A Yes (which I favor) vote would give the Massachusetts rideshare drivers who work for companies like Uber and Lyft the option to join a union while also maintaining driver flexibility and independence. The option to join a union is guaranteed for most workers, but rideshare drivers currently don't have that choice."

For me, the "option" for drivers to choose whether or not to join a union deserves a "Yes" vote.

(Full information for all questions can be found in the Mass. Red Ballot Question booklet)

The Second Floor - Indicted Democrats (and Donald Trump)

During the Biden Administration the Justice Department has;

-Indicted and convicted of various crimes a Democratic Senator from New Jersey, Robert Menendez. His wife awaits trial

-Indicted Democratic Congressman Henry Cuellar for various crimes for which two of his consultants have plead guilty and

-Indicted the Democratic Mayor Eric Adams of New York city of multiple

crimes and soon likely a busload of his cronies,

Yet Donald Trump - a previously convicted felon and payer of numerous fines and settlements - describes his indictments "Witch Hunts" and tries every trick in the book to avoid trial or having to defend his claim of innocence.

Who should we believe? The Justice Department when they say he has been and will be treated just like Menendez, Cuellar and Adams or Trump an already convicted felon trying to avoid trial?

The Third Floor: "References" for Donald Trump, Part 1 - People who worked for Trump when he was President:

As part of any effort to consider hiring a potential job applicant, most companies check references. A highly regarded newspaper did just this for ex-President Trump. From mainly conservative Republicans, they secured 91 Trump "references."

The first included those who worked in the Trump 2016 - 2020 administration. Here's a dozen or so of these "references":

"He will always put his own interests and gratifying his ego ahead..." - Bill Barr his Attorney General

"He was extremely vulnerable to manipulation." - Fiona Hill a National Security Advisor

"His behavior has grown increasingly erratic & unnerving." - Betsy DeVos hos Secretary of Education

"A person who admires autocrats and murderous dictators." - General John Kelly his Chief of Staff

"I regard Him as a threat to democracy" - his Secretary of Defense Mark Esper

"Doesn't know the difference between the Truth and a lies." - his former Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats

"...he tries to divide us" - his Secretary of Defense, James Mattis

"I think he's a terrible human being." - another Chief of Staff, Mick Mulvaney

"literally everything I tried to do on cutting drug costs, you have killed it" - His Secretary of Health Alex Azar

"...renders coherent foreign policy unattainable" - his Former National Security Advisor, John Bolton

"you are using the military to create fear of in the minds of the (American) people" - his former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Miley

"Trump relentlessly puts forth claims that are simply not true" - his former White House lawyer, Ty Cobb; and

"Anyone that puts himself above the Constitution should never be President." - his former Vice President, Mike Pence

"References" like this strongly indicate the threat Trump is to democracy, our country and our families.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

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ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR,
SEE PAGE A-12

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Country Bank, Worcester Red Sox unite for 2024 Police Vs. Fire Baseball Classic

WORCESTER — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, and the Worcester Red Sox Foundation recently held the third annual, “POLICE VS. FIRE BASEBALL CLASSIC,” presented by the WooSox Foundation and Country Bank on Monday, Sept. 16, at Polar Park. A \$15,000 donation was made to the Worcester Fire Department Memorials Care Fund, a Worcester-based nonprofit that supports the perpetual care and maintenance of fallen firefighter memorials throughout the city and their families.

“At Country Bank, we are deeply honored to support our community’s police officers and firefighters through events like the Police vs. Fire Baseball Classic,”



said Mary McGovern, President and CEO at Country Bank. “These brave men and women

selflessly serve and protect, and it is a privilege to contribute to the care and maintenance of

memorials that honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Our commitment to this cause

reflects our ongoing dedication to strengthening the communities we serve and supporting the

heroes who safeguard them.”

“As this annual tradition grows, we find that the poignant ceremony and competitive baseball game are emerging points of pride in our community,” said WooSox President Dr. Charles Steinberg. “We give wholehearted thanks to Country Bank for continuing their outstanding community service. Our police and firefighters have found an extraordinary way to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and then to honor their memory with a fiercely competitive, marvelously entertaining performance of our national pastime. Our community is unique in the central role played by these front-line heroes.”

DA hosts discussion on grief, finding support after overdose death

SHREWSBURY — With a goal to support all families experiencing the loss of a loved one to an overdose, Worcester

County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. hosted an event last Wednesday focused on grief and how to find support.

The event featured a panel discussion with Deb Dowd-Foley, a long-time peer grief support group facilitator, Cheryl A. Juaire, founder and president of Team Sharing, Inc. a parent-support non-profit, and Dennis Bates, CEO of Washburn House.

“Each life lost to overdose creates a void of grief felt by the family, friends, and loved ones left behind,” said Early. “We want all those experiencing this grief to know they are not alone, and we want to help them find the support they need through the grieving process.”



District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., Washburn House CEO Dennis Bates, Peer Group Facilitator Deb Dowd-Foley, and Sully Roberts, Community Engagement Specialist at Veterans Inc.

The panelists discussed their own personal stories of loss and grief, as well as talked through the options for people to find support locally.

Before forming Team Sharing, Juaire talked about grieving the loss of her first son, Corey at the age of 23, to overdose alone for three years before later meeting with a small group of six mothers who had also lost children to addiction.

“I finally realized I am normal. I finally realized I am going to be okay. It was lifechanging,” Juaire said.

She also said the group rallied for her when she lost her second son, Sean, to overdose 10 years later. “This community is how I survived the loss,” she added.

Dowd-Foley agreed that participating in support groups was what helped her work through her

grief after losing her 27-year-old son Brian to an overdose.

“I can’t emphasize enough the importance of finding the support of people who understand what you are going through,” Dowd-Foley said. “There was guilt and shame that added to the grief...All the whys. Why didn’t I hear him come in? Why didn’t I save him?”

She said that finding support, whether it be a grief counselor, Facebook groups, or peer support groups, was a huge help in grief. She also advocated for people to practice self-care, including journaling and meditation, and said doing what’s right for you is important through the grief process.

“The courage of these parents who come here and say this is what’s really going on, I commend them. That is how we’re going to end the stigma,”

said Bates. “The beauty of what we have here is community. The people here who’ve been hurt the most are also the ones who can help the most.”

Grief support services referenced at the meeting included: Support After a Death by Overdose (SADOD), which can be found at sadod.org; The Sun Will Rise Foundation, which can be found at the-sunwillrise.org; and Team Sharing, Inc., which can be found at teamsharing-inc.org.

Early has been passionately committed to addressing the polysubstance use crisis, as well as trauma and mental health. In 2015, he formed the Central Mass. Opioid Task Force, which he renamed last year the Prevention and Support Network. There are more than 700 members in the network.

Boating safety always wins

REGION — US Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts held Vessel Safety Check stations at Wallum Lake, Douglas State Forest and Memorial Beach, Webster boat ramps in June; also, at various locations during 2024. All types of watercrafts are checked by qualified, volunteer examiners to see if they meet federal and state equipment regulations. Boaters are informed of concerns or any potential problems by consent, with no citations, or reports to any law enforcement agencies. Passing the check is rewarded by getting a VSC decal for the year. Some inland waters require boats to be examined and it could also result in a discount on boat insurance. Examiners are few around the local inland waters and not readily available, so getting the exam is a win.

For the second, and final year, as an incentive to get more boats examined, we again decided to request some great rewards from local safe boating supporters for a

drawing on September 24. Local establishments were more than generous in their support with nine certificates valued at \$400 rewarded to boat owners getting a VSC, and our flotilla examiners performing over 100 VSCs in this year’s program.

Andrius Mingela of Webster received a certificate from Hazard Marine in Oxford; Joseph Houde of Mendon and Anthony Rodriguez of Worcester both won certificates from Lakeview Marine in Webster; Melissa Philbrook of Uxbridge and Michael Smart from Cumberland RI both received gift cards from Indian Ranch in Webster; Hassan Elmaola of Worcester won a certificate from Waterfront Mary’s Restaurant on Webster Lake; Scott Foster of Whitinsville won a certificate from Bistro Eighty Ates Restaurant in Webster; Christopher O’Neil of Uxbridge won a gift card for Saloon No. 6 Bar & Eatery in Webster. Michael Pietrowicz of Dudley, a lucky boater also winning in last year’s

drawing, will enjoy a certificate from Point Breeze Restaurant on Webster Lake.

You can still participate in this program to make sure that your vessel is safe on the water by going to <http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org/> and click on GET YOUR SAFETY CHECK to locate an examiner and request a VSC. Make sure that you check out our Facebook.com/ 61565626541391 or our website <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=013-10-02>

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Bay Path Academy Director, Executive Assistant learn about simulation and moulage

SPRINGFIELD — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, (formerly of Dudley) and Executive Assistant to the Academy Director, Donna Pope, LPN of Southbridge represented Bay Path at the recently concluded Springfield College Mini-Sun Event sponsored by Laerdal. The event was held at the Health Sciences Center of Springfield College, Springfield, Friday, Oct. 4. Dr. Doherty of the Massachusetts General

Hospital Institute of Health Professions discussed advancing interprofessional collaboration through simulation-based learning. Other speakers included Dr. Gladys Fernandez of Baystate Medical Center on using quality and patient safety data to develop simulation programming. Dr. Chris Scott of Springfield Technical Community College on integration simulation, lessons learned from accreditation, and debriefing with video by Katie Maxie-Brock, RN, a

SIMCapture Ed specialist. Participants had the opportunity to work with moulage firsthand led by Jorge Yarzebski of UMass Chan Medical School Icelis Program.

Pope, a graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Class of 2017, felt encouraged with the training. Pope was with the STDH Program at Center of Hope Foundation in Southbridge prior to joining Bay Path as the executive assistant to the Academy Director. She briefly worked as a Flu Clinic Nurse at Maxim Healthcare in Worcester. While a student at Bay Path, Pope was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society. She represented Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy at SkillsUSA District competition earning a Gold Medal and at State competition earning a Bronze Medal both for Health Knowledge Bowl. Pope is Mental Health First Aid Certified and volunteered for multiple events at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy such as the Admissions Panel Interview, Blood Pressure Clinics, and mentorship. She also volunteers for the Baptist Haiti Mission.



Courtesy

Pictured: Regina F. Doherty, OT, OTD, OTR, FAOTA, FNAP with Donna Pope, LPN.

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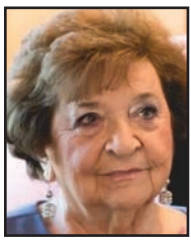


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OBITUARY

Marilyn M. McGuirk, 95



CHARLTON- Marilyn M. (Cormey) McGuirk, 95, of 88 Masonic Home Rd., died Friday, Oct 4th in Overlook Masonic Home.

She was the wife of James F. McGuirk, who died in 1997. She leaves her sons; James M. McGuirk and his wife Janice of Worcester and William B. McGuirk and his wife Lauren of Auburn, her daughters; Karen F. Carlson of Oxford and Pamela A. Cassanelli of Boston, her brothers; Wesley and Wayne Cormey

of N.J., 11 grandchildren, Abbey Carlson, Patrick Carlson, Alexis VanderPoel, Cara Gregoire, Jenna Mahoney, Anne Vargas, Sloan Cassanelli, Colton Cassanelli, Dr. Bryan McGuirk, Caitlin Piche, and Chelsea Ceffalo, 22 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by brothers; Donald, Sherwood, and Wendell Cormey and sisters; Thelma Travers and Shirley Dragon.

She was born in Spencer, the daughter of Garfield and Stella (Fowler) Cormey and lived in Spencer before moving to Charlton in 1987.

Marilyn graduated from Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Worcester as an RN, she was a member of St. Joseph's Church and was a long-time golfer at Bay Path CC in E. Brookfield and Hillcrest CC in Leicester. She was a life member of the 16th Armored Division Association Auxillary.

Marilyn was most happy when surrounded by her children, whether grandchildren or great grandchildren. She loved to play piano and she had a beautiful singing voice. She kept her sense of humor right until the end. She will be greatly missed.

Private funeral services were held at St. Joseph's Church in Charlton with burial in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Side by Side Charitable Org., 8 Rice Rd., Auburn, MA 01501, sidebysideus.org or St. Joseph's Catholic Church, H. Putnam Rd Ext, Charlton, Ma 01507.

The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family.
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CLINIC

continued from page A1

one falling through the cracks," said Belle-Isle, a member of the Acadia Healthcare leadership team who is slated to oversee the Spencer clinic. "Any time there is an individual we see who is still coming up positive and having struggles, we try to meet them where they're at and provide further supports."

At the Springfield facility, which serves a significantly larger patient population than that projected for the Spencer clinic, only 13 calls for emergency personnel were made as a result of incidents over the past year, officials said. None of these responses involved an act of violence, and the lone overdose incident did not involve an active patient of the clinic.

"Most of our responses to overdoses are for folks who come to us because they're having a crisis and they know what we do. We offer help to them," Frangipane said. "Often times, those folks then return to us and become patients."

The decision on final approval for the clinic will be made at the state level.

"No Planning Board, Zoning Board, or Board of Selectmen approvals are required, as a medical clinic is a permitted use in the zoning district," said Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges in a previous interview. "They have building permits for renovations."

At both the previous Select Board meeting and the Sept. 30 meeting, Selectman Anthony Pepe expressed his opposition to the clinic operating in Spencer.

"I'm disappointed because the last fifteen years, at the request of our citizenship, I've tried to clean up the town, bring new businesses in, and bring families into

town," Pepe said. "I don't think we have the infrastructure for either the presumed or substantiated issues that come along with the clinic."

Clinic representatives ensured selectmen that police details are not necessary at the site. Police were initially installed at the Springfield location, but they were removed after being deemed unnecessary by all involved parties, officials said.

Acadia's rehab clinics do feature uniformed security personnel who monitor foot traffic and vehicular traffic around the facilities, the representatives told selectmen.

"We have turned public perception completely around," Belle-Isle said of the Springfield clinic. "I have very close relationships with all community entities, including the police department, fire department, and Town Hall. If they see an individual struggling on the street, they have no qualms about giving me a phone call. The police will come and drive to my door to bring an individual in need, and they know we will get them into treatment."

Clinic officials also work with other community partners to assist patients with additional struggles, including housing and food insecurity.

"We have forged close relationships, and we are appreciated and valued in the community," Belle-Isle added. "When you have an individual who is struggling on the street, maybe they're engaging in illegal activities and other addictions. Being able to get them into treatment helps mitigate those behaviors. I have folks graduating from my program every week who are finding success."

Pepe told the representatives he is concerned about potential problems presented by individuals arriving at the clinic from other towns and cities. He would prefer to see the facility feature police

details.

"My major concern is drawing from outside of our area," said Pepe, who emphasized that he understands the need for treatment clinics but feels Spencer isn't the right location due to several factors. "We've fought hard for other items like making sure solar doesn't hurt this town. I'm worried this will hurt our town."

Added Selectman Gary Woodbury, who also expressed concerns at both meetings, "The last thing we want to do is burden our other departments. That's a big concern for me."

Prior to beginning treatment in Spencer, patients would be required to sign an agreement to a clinic policy preventing loitering on the property or in the vicinity, officials said.

Selectman Ralph Hicks, who supports the clinic coming to Spencer, said he believes the facility's security staff will be adequate to handle potential issues that arise. He has reiterated at meetings that most residents know at least one person who has struggled with some type of addiction, and that the facility will help transform lives in a convenient, accessible setting.

"I really see it as a plus for the community. Part of the problem is that people get scared of what they don't know," said Hicks, who listed several benefits he foresees emerging from the clinic. "Some of the patients, once they get cleaned up, might stop and buy a tank of gas, go to one of the restaurants in town, shop in town, and bring a little more commerce into the community."

Hicks also envisions the entire area by helping patients navigate their struggles and prepare to become productive employees and taxpayers.

No date has been announced for the opening of the clinic.

AWARD

continued from page A1

Mass Housing Alliance to provide services and housing for the local homeless population," read a statement released by the Exchange Club.

Since early last year, when Hodgerney began working with area volunteers and organizations to provide assistance, several homeless residents have been able to secure housing.

"Upon issuance of a troubling annual homeless census by Open Sky in 2023, the Spencer Police Department took an active role in helping this population. With the leadership of Lieutenant Hodgerney, the Spencer Police Department initiated their partnership with Open Sky and Central Mass Housing Alliance," the Exchange Club's statement read.

In addition to his work in the community assisting homeless populations, Hodgerney and members of his department also regularly attend meetings to identify new strategies for assistance. These

include working with members of the Senior Center and other departments eager to help.

"We are extremely proud to have Hodgerney as a member of the Spencer Police Department. His level of community involvement goes well beyond public safety to include helping those most in need," said Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges. "He is a role model for those who wish to be in public service."

The Blue and Gold Award is presented by Exchange Clubs across the country to recognize law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responders for their outstanding service to their communities.

"The award acknowledges bravery, sacrifice, and dedication to protecting their citizens and ensuring public safety," the club's statement read. "This award celebrates those who go above and beyond in service to their community."

Local Exchange Clubs can nominate and acknowledge individ-

uals for the Blue and Gold Award based on acts of exceptional service in the line of duty. The National Exchange Club is a service organization founded in 1911 in Detroit, Michigan. The organization is dedicated to promoting community service, leadership, and civic responsibility.

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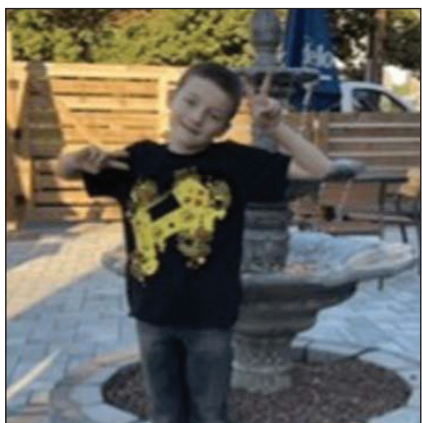
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week. Alex would prefer his pre-adoptive family support him in maintaining these connections.

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To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.





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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police

Log THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:27 a.m.: ambulance (Dale Court), transported; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 6:36 a.m.: accident (Main Street), mv towed; 9:13 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:52 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:04 p.m.: ambulance (River Street), services rendered; 3:28 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Troy Michael Latino, 31, 126 Long Hill Road, Brookfield, shoplifting by concealing merchandise/3rd offense, straight warrant/Worcester District Court, trespass, arrest; Linda Cook, 45, 1050 Main Street, Worcester, shop-

lifting by concealing merchandise/3rd offense, trespassing, arrest; 4:03 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:37 p.m.: ambulance (Willow Hill Road), transported; 5:35 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), no action required; 5:40 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), spoken to; 6:45 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 9:17 p.m.: disabled mv (Folsom Street), investigated.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

12:34 a.m.: threats (Main Street), report taken; 1:05 a.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), investigated; 2:28 a.m.: mv alarm (Main Street), investigated; 5:26 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 6:04 a.m.: investigation (Main Street, Spencer), report taken; 8:02 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:13 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, obstructed/nontransparent window, criminal application issued; 8:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:21 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:41 a.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), report taken; 8:46 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford

Street), citation issued; 9:08 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv; name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, number plate violation, mv towed; 10:33 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:52 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:01 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, citation issued; 11:23 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:47 a.m.: ambulance (Redfield Road), transported; 1:26 p.m.: assist citizen (Chesnar Drive); 2:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Timothy James Williams, 37, 139B Broadmeadow Street, #7, Marlborough, op w/suspended license, improper operation, op w/suspended license, arrest; 3:19 p.m.: suspicious activity (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:21 p.m.: ambulance (Knowles Road, Worcester), transported; 4:35 p.m.: family problem (Green Street), spoken to; 5:00 p.m.: parking complaint (Mulberry Street), spoken to; 5:24 p.m.: ambulance (Oxford Street, Worcester), transported; 5:52 p.m.: debris in road (Beech Street), services rendered; 6:11 p.m.: suspicious activity (Mulberry Street), spoken to; 6:30 p.m.: ambulance (Second Street), transported; 6:31 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 6:43 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 8:13 p.m.: accident (Hemlock Street), report taken; 8:50 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:10 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:16 p.m.: mv stop (Shady Lane), Xuan Thanh Ta, 54, 39 Lakewood Street, Worcester, op w/suspended license, straight warrant, arrest; Brendan Ly, 48, 2017 Lowe Street, Macon, GA, lights violation, failure to stop for police, unregistered mv, unlicensed operation, arrest; 10:01 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), unable to locate.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

12:46 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:46 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), no action required; 3:01 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 3:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:00 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 9:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:00 p.m.: fraud (Homestead Lane), report taken; 3:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:02 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:33 p.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), citation issued; 4:55 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:14 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:11 p.m.: ambulance (Atwood Road), transported; 6:24 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), resolved; 6:31 p.m.: ambulance (High Street), transported; 6:35 p.m.: family problem (Henshaw Street) peace restored; 7:33 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 8:10 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Oxford), transported; 8:42 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:33 p.m.: debris in road (Bond Street), report taken; 11:20 p.m.: assist citizen (Waite Street), call canceled.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

12:29 a.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken; 7:45 a.m.: investigation (out of town/no destination recorded on police log), report taken; 1:27 p.m.: disturbance (South Main Street), resolved; 1:42 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street), transported; 2:06 p.m.: harassment (South Main Street), assisted; 2:15 p.m.: family problem (Henshaw Street), peace restored; 6:39 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street, Oxford), message delivered; 7:39 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

12:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:39 a.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), call canceled; 10:54 a.m.: ambulance (Southbridge Street, Auburn), transported; 10:58 a.m.: ambulance (McCarthy Avenue), transported; 11:29 a.m.: residential alarm (Bond Street), false alarm; 11:39 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:04 p.m.: ambulance (Bunker Hill Road), transported; 1:20 p.m.: fraud (Henshaw Street), report taken; 2:16 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 7:37 p.m.: welfare check (Redfield Road), assisted; 7:45 p.m.: debris in road (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 8:05 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), services rendered.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

12:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:55 a.m.: mv stop (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered; 6:46 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 7:01 a.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 7:52 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 8:47 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), transported to hospital; 10:04 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:06 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), no action required; 2:12 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 3:31 p.m.: fraud (Clark Street), report taken; 3:36 p.m.: gunshots heard (Charles Street), unable to locate; 4:29 p.m.: arrest war-

rant service (Main Street), unable to serve; 4:38 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 7:13 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 8:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:57 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

4:50 a.m.: assist other agency (Main Street, Worcester), services rendered; 5:32 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 6:29 a.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), unfounded; 8:32 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 10:56 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:09 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:32 p.m.: ambulance (Washburn Square), transported; 1:23 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), spoken to; 1:37 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 1:41 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), spoken to; 1:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:22 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 4:23 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 4:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), no violations listed on police log, criminal application issued; 5:57 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), spoken to; 6:07 p.m.: harassment (South Main Street), report taken; 6:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:00 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 7:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:44 p.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 8:05 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 8:12 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 8:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:32 p.m.: suspicious mv (Memorial School Drive), investigated; 11:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to.

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Spencer Police

Log WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

12:06 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), family issue; 12:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Street), dispute over credit card; 1:03-2:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:37 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:02 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), East Brookfield PD bolo/dump truck; 9:01 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), c/o mvs on sidewalk; 10:07 a.m.: fraud (Greenville Street), report taken; 10:25 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 10:33 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 10:48 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), failure to register; 11:22 a.m.: fire alarm (Marble Road), referred; 12:46 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), missing dog; 2:07 p.m.: embezzlement (Lincoln Street), report taken; 2:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Bell Street), req. VIN verification; 3:22 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 4:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. welfare check; 4:46 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), c/o kids playing football on basketball court; 4:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: problem w/scooter; 5:11 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 5:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), rep. threats; 6:12 a.m.: mv complaint (Deer Run Road), party doing stunts/mc; 6:29 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. poss. theft; 6:40 p.m.: fire alarm (Donnelly Cross Road), accidental; 9:05 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 9:44 p.m.: mv repossessed (Adams Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops - 0).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:11-1:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:47 a.m.: accident (Northwest Road), abandoned mv; 1:51 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:30-2:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:34 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 4:35 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), c/o tailgating; 4:59 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 7:04 a.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), resolved; 7:10 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 10:24 a.m.: parking complaint (Chestnut Street), mv blocking sidewalk; 1:52 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pearl Street), misdial; 1:59 p.m.: restraining order service (Chestnut Street); 3:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), req. welfare check; 5:28 p.m.: accident (Chestnut Street), report taken; 7:24 p.m.: mutual aid (Paxton Road), assist Holden PD; 8:37 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 8:42 p.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 8:49 p.m.: officer wanted (North Brookfield Road), req. welfare check; 10:14 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pearl Street), status not recorded in police log; 10:45 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Donnelly Cross Road), transformer blew/branches sparking; (total daily mv stops - 1).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

12:40 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 12:59-2:13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School is back in session

To the Editor:

The thing about alternative news is mainly relevance. I was in Tianamen Square. It was Mao's birthday, so it was just my wife and I and many thousands more people. The jumbotron came on, and it announced that Beijing had been awarded the 2008 Olympics. I bought a 2008 Beijing Olympics hat two steps later, for a dollar. Was that actually the first announcement? Did it make a difference that Tim Walz did not arrive there until the week after the protestor was run over by a tank? How about when a national campaign announces that the Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio are eating cats, when that cat had been found in the cellars, days before, and resulted in death and bomb threats, school closings, and people against the drama and lies moving away? Vance later claimed that he made it up to get attention. I hope it got yours.

When Stefanie Grisham asked her boss, Donald Trump, why he lied so much, he explained that his "cellar dwellers" would believe anything he tells them, as long as he gets it repeated enough. His cadre definitely cooperates, because the influx of misinformation we are being inundated with, from Russia, China, North Korea and Iran, loves it when actual Americans participate in spreading the equine dung.

Among the posts I see so many of are "Were we better Off four Years Ago" and "Do You really want another Four years of this?" People with actual memories will remember that four years ago, we were largely closed, schools, and businesses, and there was a toilet paper shortage. Gas and groceries were cheaper because nobody was going anywhere or doing anything. The gouging we are getting at the grocer, gas pump, housing market, is greed, pure and simple. Government is limited in what can be done to change it, unless legislation can be passed and we have done none of that since the Clown show took over the house

How many of you remember that an immigration bill was passed when Trump controlled house and senate? Or that a Fox News host talked him out of signing it? How many of you know that a serious bipartisan bill was crafted to address our immigration issues, and that Trump commanded his minions, to kill it? The addition of additional border agents, drug detection equipment and immigration judges, would have gone a long way towards addressing issues and in a far more timely manner. Asylum claims, that leave people hang-

Vote yes on Question 6

To the Editor:

In less than a month Spencer voters will have the opportunity to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA). It will be Question 6 on the Nov. 5 ballot. Please vote Yes.

Most Spencer residents care deeply about preserving our open spaces and upgrading our outdoor recreation areas. The CPA will help by providing dedicated funding for those two areas. (Imagined what can be done to improve O'Gara and Luther Hill parks if the funding were in place.) Historic preservation projects and providing affordable housing are also funded thru the CPA.

Investing in the CPA creates a revenue stream through partnership with the State. This partnership has been so successful that 196 Massachusetts communities have adopted the CPA since 2000. Our town will use a 1 percent surcharge based on property assessment. Those funds will be augmented by the State.

ing on our dime, for years, would have been judged in six months, less fentanyl and other drugs would get in. Mitch McConnell called it the best bill the GOP could have hoped for but voted against it with the Trump flock.

Gym Jordan hauled the justice committee to NYC to spotlight crime rate, that had dropped lower than that of Columbus, Ohio in his constituency. How many bogus impeachment and investigations of anti-Trump politicians have we funded? If these clowns can't even elect a speaker, why would anyone think serious meaningful legislation would happen?

I have mentioned resumes before, but it is worth repeating. One party has nominated a former District Attorney, Attorney General of second largest justice dept in the world, former U.S. Senator and vice president, whose education culminated with a doctorate in juris prudence. Her VP is a former teacher, coach, 25 year vet Sgt. Major, congressman and governor, who went to college on the GI bill.

The other candidate is an heir wh80 received over \$438 million from his father, inherited the family real estate business, was a game show host, has 34 felony convictions for fraud, one for rape, 6 bankruptcies (his version of loan forgiveness)5 kids by three wives, all of whom he cheated on, and has a restraining order about ever releasing the stable genius's grades. His VP candidate is a silver spoon Yale grad, whose biographical novel and years as a California hedge fund management, is his pre-purchase of an Ohio US Senate seat resume.

I told you how repetition works. I do not ask you to take my word for any of this, but like with the other letters that you may see her, do us all a favor and seek facts from reputable sources. There is a reason why over 40 of Trumps presidential aides, many prominent Republicans, and even retired admirals and generals (who are staunchly apolitical), have not only not endorsed him, but are working for Harris. While not a fan of John Bolton, who is too far right for me, when he says Trump is the moron who cut his hour security briefing down to 15 minutes, which he only tolerated if it had pictures or graphs, and who used our classified documents for dinner conversations with foreigners — take the lesson.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

The first \$100,000 of assessed property value will be exempt from the surcharge. Low-income families will also be exempt, protecting the most vulnerable in our community. For the average property owner in Spencer, the surcharge will be \$32 per year.

The impact of CPA funds is in our own hands. A Community Preservation Committee consisting of both Town officials and residents will be established to review and recommend CPA projects. These projects will be either approved or disapproved by the voters at Town Meetings.

Question 6 can be found on the front page of the town's Web site under "News - November 5th 2024 Election Info."

If you would like to display a lawn sign promoting passage of the CPA please contact me through our Facebook page, "Yes for a Better Spencer."

ROGER FOSS
SPENCER

It's Pumpkin Season!

Although we think of pumpkins as a vegetable, it is officially classified as a fruit since it grows from a flower and has seeds. Pumpkins contain 90% water, and they float!

Pumpkins are very popular this time of year and consumer demand for pumpkins remains high, with last year's U.S. pumpkin production up to 15.97 cwt (hundred-weight), almost double the amount produced just three years earlier! It's no wonder people love pumpkins – not only are they an autumn decorating staple, pumpkins have many virtues beyond their aesthetics: they are delicious, are a rich source of both fiber and vitamin A and naturally low in calories. Best of all pumpkins are very versatile, which have made them the spotlight of many Autumn feasts via pumpkin soups, casseroles and hearty pies.

Read on for a roundup of pumpkin tips, tricks and ideas:

Keep in mind when choosing pumpkins that the variety you select should fit your need. For example, if you desire a pumpkin for pie, a medium sugar pumpkin, which is typically small and sweet with a dark orange color, is the best choice. For carving, look for well rounded pumpkins that have good color with stem intact. Pumpkins earmarked as Jack-O-Lanterns are usually larger and contain too many strings and seeds to be practical for pie making. Choosing a proper pumpkin for your table is important. Pumpkins should be mature and

firm, with taut skin and a nice orange hue. Select pumpkins that feel solid and are heavy for their size. If still growing on the vine, look for stems that are solidly attached to the pumpkin. A general rule to test for maturity is to scratch the skin slightly with a fingernail. A mature pumpkin will resist scratching.

Preserving and Preparing Pumpkins: Pumpkins can be successfully stored for up to six months, as long as conditions are favorable. Storage temperature should not exceed 50 degrees and should be stored in a dry, frost free environment.

Whole pumpkins keep better if picked leaving two inches of the stem on the fruit. Dry them in the sun for a few days before storing. For safety's sake, wipe pumpkins down with a common disinfectant such as Lysol before storing. Whole pumpkins should not be allowed to touch each other in storage. And be sure to keep an eye out for rot spots that may form. Any pumpkins that are found to be decaying should be promptly removed from the storage area.

If you want to store pumpkins beyond several months, you will need to preserve them. Several methods of preserving pumpkins are used. Freezing cooked, pureed pumpkin is a favored way to preserve the taste and texture of pumpkin. Sugar or pie pumpkins are ideal candidates for freezing as the pulp is

thicker and firmer. To easily prepare a pumpkin for pureeing, simply place the whole fruit in the microwave for about a minute or so to soften the skin. This will make the pumpkin much easier to peel. Cut the pumpkin in large slices, peel the skin and remove the strings and seeds. Then cut the slices into smaller pieces. Boil the pumpkin pieces until tender, then mash or process the pumpkin pulp until it forms a smooth, thick puree. Those who are considering home canning pumpkin should be advised pumpkin puree cannot be canned due to its thickness, and although some people successfully can chunked slices of the pulp, it is safer to avoid the risk altogether.

Pumpkin can also be dried, which was a favored method of the colonists. Drying pumpkin must be done carefully in order to kill all the germs that would make it spoil. Here's how to do it the old fashioned way: Split the pumpkin in half and remove the seeds. Remove the skin and cut the fruit into thin slices. Steam for about six minutes. Spread on a tray and dry in the sun (it will take at least two days, and it will take about two days. If flies are a problem, cover with

red sands mix with rain clouds, creating a reddish downpour. This phenomenon, known as "blood rain," is fairly common and has been analyzed to show high iron oxide concentrations, giving it a rusty hue. But what Charles Fort documented is far stranger: We're not talking about dusty rain, but actual blood-like rains—thicker, darker, and containing organic matter that defies simple explanations.

One of the most unsettling accounts of red rain comes from Fort's research on an incident in France on October 16 and 17, 1846. During this period, a vivid, crimson rain fell across several towns, staining the streets, rooftops, and fields in a disturbing shade of red. Locals were terrified, describing it



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

as if the sky itself were bleeding.

Scientific journals of the time, such as Comptes Rendus, noted that the rain was so vividly colored that it looked more like fresh blood than mud or dust.

Two separate chemical analyses were conducted to determine the nature of the strange rain. One scientist reported the presence of "blood-like corpuscles" in the samples, while another confirmed that up to 35 percent of the rain's composition was made up of organic matter—substances usually associated with living organisms. This appeared to be no ordinary storm.

Despite these findings, it was dismissed as a natural event, attributing it to dust swept up from the earth.

Was it really blood?

netting. Pumpkin needs to be dried in hot sun so that it dries quickly before it spoils.

Or, you can dry pumpkin quicker and easier in the oven or microwave; here's how to do it in the microwave, which is the fastest method:

Arrange thin slices on a microwave safe tray or glass pie plate. You must leave space between the slices so air can circulate around them. Cook on high for 15 to 20 minutes. Check the pumpkin; if it is not crispy; cook again for five minutes, and continue until the dried slices are crunchy. Allow to cool before storing.

Did you know that dried pumpkin can also be made into a flour, which can be used just as you would all purpose flour in cooking and baking? To do, simply pulverize the dry pumpkin in a food processor.

Perfect Pumpkin Seeds: Many Halloween traditions include gathering the seeds from a carved Jack-O-Lantern to toast in a warm oven. The snack is both healthy and delicious, and the addition of spices gives the humble treat a flavorful punch. Plus, roasting up a batch of pumpkin seeds is not only an annual treat, it's a great way to use up every bit of the vegetable:

To properly toast pumpkin seeds, remove all pulp and clean strings from the seeds. Place seeds in a bowl and stir in melted butter or olive oil and salt to coat the seeds. Spread

seeds on a cookie sheet and bake in a 275 degree oven for about an hour or until the seeds are golden brown and crisp. Avoid overcooking as seeds can become hard and tough. Prefer crisper seeds? Prior to toasting boil the seeds in salted water for about ten minutes, drain and prepare for roasting. Pumpkin seeds:

Pumpkin Sprouts: Pumpkin seeds can even be sprouted to use on sandwiches and in salads. Pumpkin seeds are a healthy snack as they are over 30 percent protein and are high in and oil-soluble vitamins A, D, and E. In addition, pumpkin seeds are rich in iron zinc and magnesium.

To sprout pumpkin seeds, place the seeds in a glass jar (Mason jars are ideal) and cover with water just to cover. Secure a piece of cheesecloth over the top with a rubber band. Soak seeds overnight. The next day, drain the water out and place the jar in dark area that is room temperature. Rinse the seeds in the jar at least four times a day. After a few days, you should see the seeds sprouting. Rinse them again and place the jar in the sun for a day or so until tiny leaves form. They are now ready to use as a tasty garnish or salad addition.

Pumpkin Hummus: Pureed sugar pumpkin adds just the right flavor to this hummus. To do:

Mix together in a food processor until smooth: two cups pureed sugar pumpkin; one 15 oz can of garbanzo (chi chi) beans;

one tablespoon tahini, two teaspoons vegetable oil; one teaspoon cumin; one teaspoon salt; one eighth teaspoon cayenne pepper; one crushed garlic clove, and three tablespoons of water. Adjust thickness by adding a little water if it is too thick. Makes two cups. Serve with pita bread or crackers.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Blood rain

While I focus on the positive, I'm a fan of the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious. Who doesn't love a good mystery? I'm dedicating a series to some unsettling tales for this year's spooky season. There's no better way to start than with the chilling phenomenon of blood rains, documented by the legendary Charles Fort.

Fort once wrote, "There have been red rains that, in the Middle Ages, were called 'rains of blood.' Such rains terrified many persons and were so unsettling to large populations that Science has sought to prove that 'rains of blood' do not exist."

Scientists have documented red rains caused by sand and dust particles from the Sahara Desert. When strong winds sweep the desert,

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

records show that blood rained again in the same town months later.

Twice, in the same location—each time with no sign of birds, storms, or any logical explanation. Could some unknown atmospheric phenomenon cause these bloody downpours, or are they evidence of something much darker?

Whatever the cause, the tale of the blood rains remains one of the most disturbing and unexplainable mysteries in Fort's work. So, the next time you find yourself caught in a storm and notice something red in the raindrops—don't assume it's mud or dust. Look closer: You might be witnessing something that has terrified and baffled people for centuries: blood from the sky.

Use fresh herbs to flavor holiday meals

Grow, harvest and season your holiday meals with fresh herbs grown indoors in a windowsill garden. Add to the experience by using potted herbs and a few holiday adornments to dress up the table. You and your family will enjoy snipping a few fresh herbal sprigs to season your meal to your own taste.

Include herbs your family likes, those that complement your menu and are easy to grow indoors like basil, oregano, parsley, chives, thyme, and sage. Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest for the holidays. Many garden centers now carry herb plants year-round; some grocery stores sell them in their produce department.

Grow plants in individual containers or plant several in one larger decorative pot. Select a container with drainage holes and one that

complements your table setting. Use a quality, well-draining potting mix when transplanting herbs into another container.

Place a saucer or tray under pots with drainage holes to protect your furniture. Or double pot plants when using a decorative container that lacks drainage holes. Plant herbs in a smaller pot with drainage holes or set several pots in a larger container. Place pebbles in the bottom of the decorative pot. This elevates the inner pots above any excess water that collects in the bottom of the decorative pot, helping avoid root rot and the need to empty the water in the saucer.

Dress up any meal by creating an edible centerpiece with your herb plants. Set them on a decorative placemat to protect the tabletop and add a few seasonal items to



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

complete your display.

Grow herbs in a sunny window such as an unobstructed south-, east-, or west-facing window when they are not decorating the table. Consider adding artificial lights if sunlight is limited and the plants have leggy stems and pale leaves. Keep the lights about six to 12 inches above the tops of the plants and leave them on for six to eight hours if supplementing the natural light. Leave them on for 14 hours a day, if this is the only light source. Set the plants on a reflective surface to help shine light back up into the bottom of the plants.

Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and water thoroughly as needed. Some herbs like basil, oregano, parsley, and marjoram like soil to be slightly moist but not soggy while chives, thyme, and sage like it a bit drier.

Grow basil to dress up a pizza, salad, or soup with a few leaves. Add some oregano to season any tomato-based dishes such as pizza and pasta. Use fresh thyme to flavor cheese, eggs, tomatoes, and lentils.

Chives' mild onion flavor is great on potatoes, but consider adding it to soups, dips, seafood dishes, and omelets. Just snip a few leaves and cut them into smaller pieces before adding them to your dish.

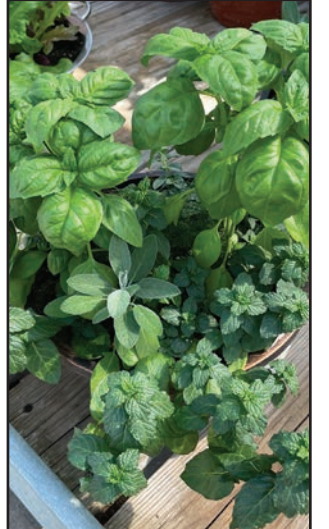
Parsley is high in Vitamin C, and is often added to soups, pasta, salads, and dressings.

Harvest a sprig at the end of the meal to freshen your breath.

Add several pairs of snips and let everyone add their favorite herbal seasonings to their meal. You may need to show your guests how to harvest and use the herbs to get them started. Let them know that harvesting the herbs encourages new growth for future use.

Make this year's holiday meals memorable. Invite your guest to enjoy the fresh flavor and fun of seasoning their meals right at the table.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and



Melinda Myers

Grow herbs that complement your family's favorite recipes and are easy to grow indoors.

the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

SCAMS
continued from page A1

Board meeting, Spencer Selectman Ralph Hicks described dealing with an aggressive scammer over the phone, ultimately hanging up when the caller persisted with requests for personal information.

"They try to get your trust by asking very simple questions. Once you're in the water, they try to drag you down and get as much information out of you as they can," Hicks said.

In Leicester and other surrounding towns, police have seen significant increases in scam reports since the pandemic.

"Scams are at an all-time high," said Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica. "If you have any doubts, call a friend or call the police. We would much rather help you sort out the facts to prevent a scam."

Email phishing scams and texting scams are both on the rise. Scammers often attempt to gain information on potential victims through social media and other online resources prior to contacting them.

"Protect your cell phone number just as you would your email address. Don't add it to any sites you don't have to, and only click on links within text messages if you expect something from a personal friend," Antanavica said. "Hackers will use phishing links directly through texts to steal your identification and passwords."

Residents are urged to notify the police right away if they have been victimized by a scammer, rather than try to handle the situation by themselves. The quicker authorities become

involved, the better the likelihood of a successful investigation, officials said.

"If you are the victim of a scam, there is no shame in that. These villains have perfected their methodology," Antanavica said. "Report it to your local police. Sometimes we can recover stolen money, and any information police receive can be combined with similar cases and help solve these crimes."

Looking ahead, local police departments will continue to provide outreach and education. Since senior populations are heavily targeted by scammers, police place an emphasis on reaching that demographic with resources and information.

"We make it a priority to educate our senior citizens on scams by regularly sending officers to the Senior Center to provide updates and safety tips," said Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert. "This is becoming more and more prevalent, and the scammers are becoming more sophisticated in their methods."

One of the tips police often convey to seniors is taking the time to confirm information—and not making rushed decisions over the phone. Scammers are known to pressure victims into providing information right away, often using threats or incentives.

"I always try to tell people, if it sounds like it is too good to be true, it probably is," Dessert added. "If someone calls reporting a loved one has been in a crash or arrested and they need money, call the loved ones directly and check with them. It is sad that so many people are victimized by these scams every day."

PARTNERSHIP
continued from page A1

about financial literacy and responsibility.

Additionally, the Mini Credit for Life program allows students to learn more about life beyond school through a unique process. Students are able to create a simulated budget and then research different career fields to

discover how they would afford their chosen lifestyles.

"The Credit for Life Fair is a financial literacy exercise where high school seniors are asked to make decisions on how to spend their money," read a statement released by Country Bank. "Students role-play the position of a 25-year-old adult with a career,

a salary, and a credit score. They are assigned a mock checking and savings account balance and possibly a student loan payment, depending on the career choice they selected."

The Mini Credit for Life program is nearly identical to its high school counterpart, except its target audience is the middle school demographic.

LMS officials are excited about the opportunities the Country Bank partnership is creating to introduce students to financial literacy at a young age.

"Our newsletter will contain a section with relevant information about financial literacy for our families and students," the Principal's statement read.

Please don't sell me things

BY CHRISTOPHER J. MALLON
SVP, PROGRAM MANAGER
THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

can make my own decision. And this approach applies to more than just car shopping.

When it comes to the financial service industry, too many advisors try to "sell" things before understanding their prospective client's needs. Instead of building a relationship based on trust and value, their tactics focus on products or pricing. Are products and pricing important? Yes, but that's not where the conversation should start.

The primary role of a professional financial advisor is to understand each client's unique situation. He or she should understand your savings, cashflow, income, expenses, social security, and risk tolerance. Together you should prioritize your short and long-term goals such as retirement, downsizing your home, funding a child's college tuition, or leaving a legacy for your family. Only after those discussions have occurred should product recommendations be given.

Often, the best financial advisors approach their practice like a doctor: Would a doctor

prescribe a treatment or medicine before performing a series of tests? Not likely. They'll ask you questions, conduct physicals, check blood pressure, order lab work, and any multitude of other items. They'll present their findings and explain the pros and cons of various treatment plans. And ultimately, the patient will choose which route they want to take.

It is for reasons like these that an ongoing personal relationship with your financial advisor is so important. While the emergence of discount online investment firms may appeal to some, they typically lack this major ingredient — a genuine client-advisor relationship. To shift your focus away from this issue, online investment firms focus on low pricing. Or, if your account gets large enough, an advisor (from their revolving door of employees) may try to sell you something.

The goal of a financial advisor is to identify client needs, not to sell things. Advisors should approach their job as educators and provide information. They

help their clients make informed decisions. They craft financial plans and offer recommendations based on their analysis and findings. That is where the true value of a financial advisor is found — not in products or price.

This article was actually written by the author, Christopher Mallon.

About The Capstone Planning Group

The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. They utilize an independent business model and do not sell proprietary products. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstonegroup.com or call 508-764-0046.



LEGALS

Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:

Robert & Shari Frigon have filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to demolish a single-family home and construct a new home located at **121 Wilson Avenue, Spencer, MA.**

Taylor Family Irrevocable Trust has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove a tree located at **5 Washburn Drive, Spencer, MA.**

Brenda Helleberg has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove two trees located at **7 Washburn Drive, Spencer, MA.**

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
October 11, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200

Docket No. . WO21P3420EA Estate of: Eunice Li Jones Also known as: Eunice Li Date of Death: 09/26/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Brenda Dacey of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, and first account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00**

a.m. on the return day of **10/29/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court
September 27, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
October 11, 2024

Notice of Public Hearing for a Zoning Amendments – Planning Board
The Spencer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on 10/24/2024, in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562 and the hearing will be conducted in-person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as can be heard.

- 4.2 Use Table, Principal Uses; A.6, Accessory Apartment**
- 4.4.1C Accessory Uses**
- 4.8 Special Use Regulations, Amendments: Zoning Bylaw Article**
- 4.8.1 Accessory Apartments**
- 4.9.2 Non-Conforming Structures: A.2**

Interested parties may review the proposed bylaw at the Office of Development & Inspectional Services and Town Clerk's office, located in Memorial Town Hall, during regular business hours. Proposed amendments are also available at <https://www.spencerma.gov/planning-board>
October 4, 2024
October 1 2024

THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. in Meeting Room A, Memorial Town Complex,

on the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid as follows:
Rice Road - National Grid to install 3 SO poles on Rice Road beginning at a point approximately 125 feet North of the centerline of the intersection of Oakwood Drive. Install 3 new poles and anchors on Rice Road to extend primary and power to new residential home in East Brookfield, MA.

All interested parties are invited to attend this hearing.

Board of Selectmen
October 10, 2024

THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A, Memorial Town Complex, on the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, as follows:

Shore Road - National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Shore Road beginning at a point approximately 75 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Red Gable Road and continuing approximately 1200 feet in a west direction. Install a new pole and anchor for customer owned UG, East Brookfield. All interested parties are invited to attend this hearing.

Board of Selectmen
October 11, 2024

(SEAL) Commonwealth of Massachusetts Land Court Department Trial Court

WORCESTER, SS. CASE NO. 24 MISC 000549 (MDV) Hussein Alomran, et al. v. Susan J. Zuidema, et al.

TO: Kenneth J. Roux, deceased, formerly of Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts or his known and unknown heirs, assigns, devisees or legal representatives

You are hereby notified that a complaint has been filed by the above-named plaintiff in which you are named as an interested party. This complaint concerns a parcel of land in Spencer, Worcester County, in said Commonwealth being known as and numbered 26 Wilson Avenue, being more particularly described in deed dated December 8, 2022 and recorded on December 12, 2022 in the Plaintiffs, are the current owners of the Property. Plaintiffs allege that title to the Property is clouded by a prior questionable conveyance chain of title. Kenneth J. Roux, Susan J. Zuidema, and Martha M. Boucher took title to the Property as joint tenants by deed recorded with the Registry in Book 35397, Page 37. Kenneth subsequently granted a power of attorney to Susan. By deed dated December 20, 2007 and recorded with said Registry in Book 42212, Page 340, Martha and Susan individually and pursuant to the power of attorney granted by Kenneth conveyed the Property Anne M. Canavan (the "Deed"). Plaintiffs allege that deed contains a scrivener's error which was a mutual mistake in the at the grantor of the Deed is stated at "Susan J. Zuidema... Individually, and as power of attorney for Kenneth J Roux," instead of

listing "Kenneth J. Roux" as one of the grantors of the Property. Plaintiffs further allege that at the time of the sale there was no affidavit from Susan stating that the power of attorney was still in full force and effect and had not been altered, amended or revoked recorded with the Registry. Plaintiffs seek a judgment to quiet title to the Property, that they hold title to the Property free and clear of any claims of the defendants, and for such other relief that this Court deems just and appropriate.

This complaint may be examined at the Land Court, Boston, Massachusetts, or online at www.masscourts.org. Information on how to search Land Court dockets is available on the Land Court website: www.mass.gov/how-to/find-a-land-court-case-docket. A copy of said complaint may also be obtained from plaintiff's attorney.

If you intend to make any defense, you are hereby required to serve upon the plaintiff's attorney, Kurt R. McHugh, Esq., whose address is First American Law Group, 800 Boylston Street, Suite 2820, Boston, Massachusetts, an answer to the complaint on or before the eleventh day of November, 2024, next, the return day, hereof, and a copy thereof must be filed in this court on or before said day.

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for relief demanded in the complaint. Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you may have against the plaintiff which arise out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the plaintiffs' claim, or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action.

It is ORDERED that notice be given by publishing a copy of this notice once in the Worcester Telegram, a newspaper published in Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts, at least thirty days before the eleventh day of November, 2024.

It is ORDERED that notice be given by publishing a copy of this notice once in the New Leader, a newspaper of general circulation in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, at least thirty days before the eleventh day of November, 2024.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of the Land Court, the fourth day of October, 2024.

Attest:
/s/ Deborah J. Patterson
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Land Court Department
Trial Court
October 11, 2024



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Anthony Drenzo named to Dean's List at University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. — Anthony Drenzo of Leicester was named to the Dean's List for the summer 2024 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 125 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

POLICE

continued from page A14

a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:32 a.m.: DPW call (McCormick Road), re: lg. tree stump; 1:46 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:56 a.m.: parking violation (May Street), ticket issued; 2:07 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 7:45 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), UMass/Memorial CT down; 8:03 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln Street), req. ACO; 10:50 a.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 11:17 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:19 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), re: Shrewsbury Street closure; 11:21 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:28 a.m.: 911 call (Jolicoeur Avenue), accidental; 11:43 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 12:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 2:03 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 2:26 p.m.: harassing phone calls (West Main Street), c/o threatening texts; 2:26 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Smithville Road), Douglas J. Witt, 69, 100 Wire Village Road, warrant, arrest; 3:05 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:13 p.m.: larceny (South Spencer Road), report taken; 4:00 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:18 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), open line; 4:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), c/o withheld mail; 5:00 p.m.: threats (Mechanic Street), report taken; 5:15 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 5:35 p.m.: mv theft (Ash Street), r/e stolen km; 6:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Elm Street), loose dogs; 6:19 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Main Street), smoke in area; 6:43 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), re: diabetic problem; 7:39 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:19 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; between 8:25-8:52 p.m.: no location or time of incident recorded on police log, Arthur J. Perron, 70, 40 Wall Street, Spencer, possession Class B drug, arrest; 8:52 p.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 10:51 p.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), assisted; 11:42 p.m.: suspicious mv (Condon Drive), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 3).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

12:20-12:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:59 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 2:24 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 7:14 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 11:43 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 11:48 a.m.: animal complaint (North Brookfield Road), cows in solar field; 12:14 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 12:37 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Washburn

cer wanted (Church Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 6:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 7:39 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 7:56 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 9:13 p.m.: disturbance (G.H. Wilson Road), rep. screaming from residence; 9:31 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chickering Road), investigated; 11:00 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 11:45 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:50 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:06 a.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 9:21 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 11:34 a.m.: mv complaint (Northwest Road), c/o trucks speeding; 11:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), rep. dog bite; 1:41 p.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), referred; 2:05 p.m.: disturbance (Browning Pond Road), car alarm/20 minutes; 3:41 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no status recorded on police log; 3:45 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 4:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), caller trying to reach family; 5:20 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:56 p.m.: medical/general (Town House Court); 9:11 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; (total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

12:15 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:38-2:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:44 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), spoken to; 2:15 a.m.: medical/general (Spinnaker Drive); 5:26 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:59 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 8:21 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:33 a.m.: parking complaint (Municipal Drive), services rendered; 10:52 a.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), rep. harassment; 10:52 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 11:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Dondon Drive), skunk under trailer; 11:33 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), no contact; 12a:36 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 12:45 p.m.: restraining order service (Church Street); 12:56 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:27 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), req. stop sign; 1:35 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Woodside Road), resolved; 1:45 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 3:17 p.m.: suspicious persons (North Street), investigated; 3:31 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), c/o speeding; 5:02 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), open line; 5:56 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 6:05 p.m.: juvenile matter (Norcross Road), out-of-control child; (total daily mv stops - 3).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

12:32-3:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:46 a.m.: mv repossessed (Mechanic Street), info rec'd; 3:23 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:38 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:05 a.m.: medical/general (Borkum Road); 7:12 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:01 a.m.: medical/general (Sampson Street), lift assist; 10:46 a.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), rep. homeless person; 11:32 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 1:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: former tenant; 1:28 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 3:02 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), rep. poss. stalking; 3:53 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 4:34 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), altercation at basketball court; 5:49 p.m.: juvenile matter (Temple Street), kids/bikes blocking road; 6:38 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 7:00 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), wants kids rem. from basketball court; 7:27 p.m.: mv complaint (Wilson Street), trucks "burning rubber"; 7:52 p.m.: medical/general (Water Street); 7:59 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), rep. harassment; 9:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 3).

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