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Friday, February 23, 2024

# LMS student accepted into Central District Concert Band



LMS student-musician Trevor Moorghen recently earned a major honor.

Courtesy

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Students and staff at Leicester Middle School congratulate Trevor Moorghen, an eighth grader who has been accepted into the alto saxophone section of the Central District Concert Band.

Moorghen plays the tenor saxophone in the LMS Symphonic Band. Prior to his audition, he spent time learning etudes, memorizing scales, and practicing his sight-reading skills. He then auditioned in front of a team of adjudicators at Grafton High School on Feb. 3.

“Trevor is a wonderful example of talent meeting with hard work and dedication. It was clear early on that he had an excellent ear for music, participating in both band and chorus in elementary school,” said LMS Band Director Kristina Looney. “He was even selected to perform with the Massachusetts All-State Treble Choir as a fourth grade student.”

In addition to his participation in the LMS Symphonic Band, Moorghen has also taken private lessons to augment his skills. This past December, he was featured on the piece “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” at the LMS Winter Concert.

“He is an essential member of the band here. His confidence and skills help all of his bandmates to build their own,” Looney added. “It is also clear to me that music is important to Trevor. He seems to have a lot of fun performing and making music with his friends.”

Reflecting on his audition process, Moorghen looks back on years of hard work and progression leading up to the momentous occasion.

“It took me about two years to prepare for this audition. I was going to try out last year, but I felt like I wasn’t ready yet,” Moorghen said. “I decided to audition because my music instructor, Samantha Raillo, told me that it would be an extra challenge for me. I also

## Voters support both articles at delayed Special Town Meeting

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Following a postponement due to weather, Special Town Meeting voters overwhelmingly supported both articles on the warrant.

The meeting was postponed from Feb. 13 to Feb. 15 because of a snowstorm. The warrant was highlighted by an article asking whether voters supported increasing the borrowing authorization for the David Prouty High School addition-renovation project.

By a wide margin, voters supported increasing the borrowing authorization by \$4.5 million. This will not result in residents paying additional taxes, as the \$4.5 million is part of a \$7.2 million grant approved for the district by the Commonwealth toward overall project expenditures.

The grant will be supplied by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

“There are a lot of good, caring, kind people who know it’s time for us to fulfill our promise of a project that meets the needs of not just Spencer and East Brookfield, but Southern Worcester County,” said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. “With this vote, we have the resources from the Massachusetts School Building Authority to do just that with the approval of the supplemental grant award of \$4.5 million.”

The supplemental grant is intended to cover unforeseen inflationary costs that affected the project. The grant addresses several “value-engineered” items that were taken out of the budget due to economic challenges.

Last month, the David Prouty High School Building Finance Subcommittee reviewed several value-engineered items to determine which overall budget needs would be eligible for restoration. The items were then presented to the School Building Committee and earned members’ support.

From there, the School Building Committee requested a Special Town Meeting in each community.

“I am so proud to be the Superintendent of Schools for the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District because of Spencer and East Brookfield’s unwavering support, partnership, and commitment to teaching and learning with purpose,” Haughey added.

The original borrowing by the district (\$111.6

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## Locals recognized for efforts to help the homeless

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Local leaders and organizations were recently recognized for their continued support of homeless populations.

Just over a year ago, in January 2023, Spencer Police Department Lt. Norman Hodgerney teamed up with Open Sky Community Services to conduct a “Point in Time Count.” The purpose of this initiative was to document the number of individuals living in town without a home on a single day.

The process helped give faces to the oft-overlooked homelessness crisis, officials said. Not only were local leaders able to make contact with homeless individuals

across town, but they also provided them with information on resources.

Over the past year, officials and organizations have continued their mission of ensuring that homeless populations no longer suffer in the shadows. Since the pandemic struck in 2020, homelessness has sharply risen nationwide due to high costs, lost jobs, substance use struggles, and mental health impacts, among others.

Recently, the following individuals and organizations were honored for their work in supporting those without a home: SPD Lt. Norman Hodgerney; Leah Bradley, CEO of the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance; Ron

Hayes, Ashley Leiton, and Laurel Brazao, of Open Sky Community Services; and April Caruso and Nicole Eccleston, of the Spencer Senior Center.

Lt. Hodgerney presented those listed above with a Spencer Police Department challenge coin as a token of thanks for their efforts.

“We reviewed our journey that started with a Point in Time Count a year ago,” read a statement released by the SPD. “On that day, we encountered 18 homeless. Over the course of the year, a total of 27 homeless individuals had been contacted by Spencer officers and offered assistance.”

Thirteen of those individuals have since gone on to secure housing,

officials reported. The community at large has also stepped up in several ways over the past year to show support.

“A heartfelt thank you to our community members who offered donations of clothing, food, and funds,” the SPD statement read.

For Senior Center Director April Caruso, it has been meaningful to partner with other local leaders toward a common goal. Many homeless individuals throughout the region are seniors, and officials are committed to providing them with resources on housing options.

“With the rising cost of rents and utilities, more and more people and families are falling on hard times. We are just doing

our small part in helping to provide resources to help,” Caruso told the New Leader. “It has been my pleasure to work alongside these other great entities.”

To learn more about the work being done by Open Sky Community Services, please visit [www.openskycs.org](http://www.openskycs.org).

Additionally, members of the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance and the South County Housing Assistance Program are thanked for their efforts in assisting homeless populations.

For additional information about programs and initiatives meant to reduce homelessness across Massachusetts, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

## North Brookfield students warned of online threats

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Each year, local students benefit from countless resources online, but there are also plenty of lurking threats, officials warned during a recent cyber safety presentation.

On Feb. 14, members of Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early’s Office visited North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School for an online safety discussion.

Students in grades 7-12 took part in the presentation.

“We are very grateful for the DA’s Office and Ms. Rudzinski for their presentation on cyber safety and bullying,” said NBJSHS Principal John Diorio. “This is something that affects all students in some way throughout the country. Our hope is to bring awareness to our students and empower them to stand up to bullying

and understand the ramifications of cyber security.”

Cyberbullying has ballooned into a major nationwide problem over the past decade, with students suffering harassment through social media pages, chat rooms, and text messages. It can be difficult enough for teachers and administrators to thwart in-person bullying, but threats and insults made online are even more challenging for officials to identify.

Additionally, students across the country are victimized online each day by predators and scammers posing as fellow teenagers in attempts to receive personal information, images, or financial data.

During the Feb. 14 presentation, students learned about how to stay safe online and recognize the many tactics of those seeking to do harm. Students also learned that, even though

a particular photo or post is deleted, it can always be recovered and cause future problems. Negative online behavior can lead to rescinded

scholarships, lost jobs, and even criminal charges.

Students are also encouraged to protect each other online by

reporting inappropriate posts and incidents of cyberbullying.

“The students said

Turn To **THREATS** page **A19**



Courtesy

North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School students recently attended an online safety presentation.







# Country Bank supports communities with 2023 donations exceeding \$1.2 million



REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, proudly reported more than \$1.2 million in donations for 2023. The bank's philanthropic efforts supported local non-profits throughout its communities, with 463 organizations receiving grants in 2023.

In addition to financial support, Country Bank's team members dedicated their time and expertise to make a difference. They volunteered 1,255 hours of community service, demonstrating their commitment to giving back. Furthermore, 37 team members served on 65 non-profit boards and committees, actively contributing to the success of these organizations.

As a community bank, it recognizes the importance of supporting financial literacy; Country Bank held four Credit for Life Fairs for 1,500 High School Seniors to educate them on credit, budgeting, and how their decisions impact their financial wellness. Classes were also held at Christina's House and within various schools throughout the community. In partnership with Greenlight, the bank launched a debit card for kids to support parents in teaching children early on how to spend, share, and save. The bank also introduced a new program to support financial literacy, Money School, to support local schools with educational opportunities for in-classroom teachings for all ages, and an online financial educational program on the bank's website.

One of the highlights of Country Bank's philanthropic efforts in 2023 was its partnership with the Wonder Fund during the

"Season of Difference" Campaign. This collaboration aimed to support kids and families in Central and Western Massachusetts' Department of Children and Families (DCF) system. By joining forces with the Wonder Fund, Country Bank demonstrated its commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families in the community with over \$30,000 in support.

Some of the organizations receiving donations were The Ronald McDonald House, Christina's House, The YWCA, The Boys and Girls Clubs, Behavioral Health Network, The United Way, Salvation Army, The Food Bank of Western Mass, The Worcester County Food Bank, Be Like Brit, Juniper Outreach, Springfield Revitalize CDC, Friends of the Homeless, and 21 Senior Centers and 19 Food Pantries across the region.

Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank, emphasized the bank's dedication to its communities.

He stated, "As a community partner, we care deeply about the sustainability of our communities. We are honored to support many organizations through donations and volunteerism to help them with their work. Supporting and enriching our communities is not only a part of our mission; it's who we are as an organization, and we know that it makes a difference for so many."



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Webster Senior Center 5 Church Street, Webster

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508-949-6640 Information and Referral Department



# North Brookfield library to hold children's theater workshop

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Haston Free Public Library will be offering a free theater workshop titled Theater Games for Tweens on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. The program, presented by Little Spark Theater, is aimed at children ages eight to 12. Learn the basics of improv and get some energy out while doing it! Ali from Little Spark Theater will help kids explore the basics of improvisation and acting through high energy games. This class promotes creativity, quick thinking, problem solving, and confidence.

Ali Coes founded Little Spark Theater to ensure that all children have access to theater education. She is a certified theater teacher, English teacher, and theatrical director, with 13 years of experience in traditional classroom settings. In addition to tween programs, she also offers creative drama classes for children as young as two years old.

To register for this event, please call the library at 508-867-0208 or email Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb at blamb@cwmar.org. Registration is highly recommended, as space is limited.

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# Grant funds safety equipment for Spencer firefighters

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The fire department will use a substantial grant award to fund new safety equipment for firefighters. The department was recently awarded \$18,735 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, as well as the Department of Fire Services. The funds will be disbursed through the state's Fiscal Year 2024 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. Fire departments from across the state applied for grants, with a limited number of applicants receiving significant funding. The grant funds will be used to purchase turnout gear for four new members of the department, among other expenditures. SFD leaders always strive to regularly update and replace the department's personal protective equipment to maximize safety during

responses. "This is a very competitive grant, and it means a lot that they gave us the full amount requested," said Fire Chief Robert Parsons. "This means the town will not have to pay for the gear." State officials congratulate Chief Parsons and his department on securing the grant. The new gear is expected to arrive a few months after the order is completed. "With each new challenge, the fire service in Massachusetts demonstrates its ability to adapt, overcome, and continue providing the excellent level of services that the citizens of the Commonwealth have come to expect," read a statement released by Gov. Maura Healey. The grant funds will be augmented by a \$12,500 earmark in state funding recently secured for the fire department through Rep. Donald Berthiaume's office. The SFD team thanks local leaders and state officials alike for their support

of firefighters and occupational safety. "From structure fires and water rescues, to hazardous materials and building collapses, firefighters never know what life-threatening risks the next call will bring," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "These grants will support the purchase of fundamental tools and specialty equipment to help them do a dangerous job more safely." The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program provides reimbursement on purchases of eligible equipment. These include hoses and nozzles, turnout gear, ballistic protective equipment, gear washers and dryers, thermal imaging cameras, hand tools and extrication equipment, communications resources, and hazardous gas meters, among several others. "The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health and safety of Massachusetts firefighters," said State Fire Marshal Jon Davine. "The flexibility of the program

is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources. It has become a vital part of the way the Massachusetts fire service prepares for the constantly evolving threats in the world around us." To learn more about various state grant opportunities available to fire departments, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

## Early in-person voting opens Saturday in Spencer

SPENCER — The town of Spencer has announced its early in-person voting schedule

|        |        |                        |
|--------|--------|------------------------|
| Sat.   | Feb 24 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.        |
| Mon.   | Feb 26 | 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  |
| Tues.  | Feb 27 | 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  |
| Wed.   | Feb 28 | 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  |
| Thurs. | Feb 29 | 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. |

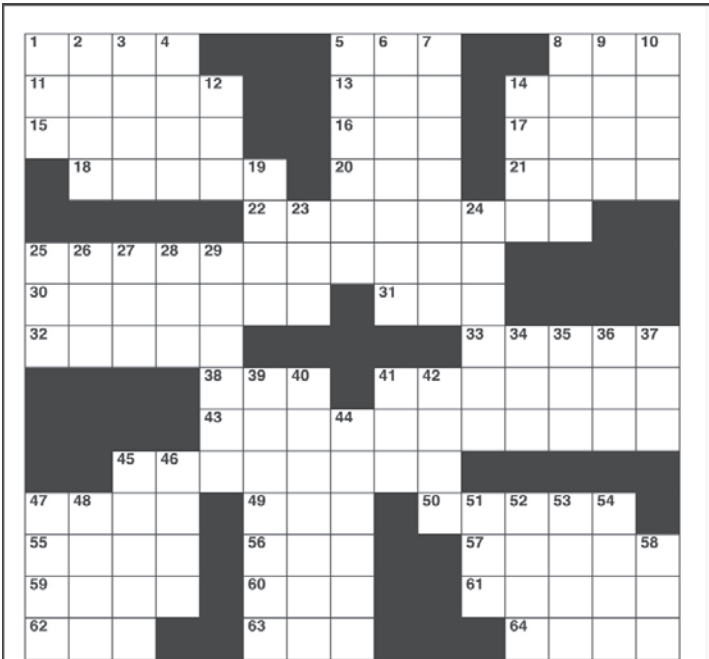
## Local residents named to Clark University Dean's List

WORCESTER — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Fall 2023 Dean's List: Miranda G. Bartley, of Brookfield was named to first honors. Abigail E. Gahagan, of Leicester was named to second honors. Ashley D. Leighton, of Spencer was named to second honors. Autumn H. Powers, of Leicester was named to second honors. Ana G. Ruggieri, of Leicester was named to first honors. Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its

greatest opportunities. With more than 45 undergraduate majors and major tracks, more than 30 advanced degree programs, a growing number of professional certificate programs and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark University fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

## Curry College announces Fall 2023 Dean's List

MILTON — Curry College congratulates roughly 800 students who were named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List. Kendra Aucoin of Spencer Meghan Niddrie of Leicester Michael Ouellette of Leicester Abigail Rambelje of North Brookfield Lily Smith of North Brookfield Elizabeth Tebo of Leicester About Curry College Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 90+ Majors, Minors, and Concentrations in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,050 students. The student body consists of 1,830 traditional students and nearly 220 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 17 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and visual arts program. Visit us on the Web at [www.curry.edu](http://www.curry.edu).



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Golf scores

5. Shock therapy

8. Ballplayer's tool

11. Quench one's thirst

13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)

14. Every one of two or more things

15. Member of Muslim people

16. Play

17. Type of cheese

18. Type of lounge chair

20. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician

21. Fellows

22. North, Central and South

25. In an early way

30. Foes

31. Georgia rockers
32. Cryptocurrency

33. Narrow path along a slope

38. Disallow

41. Joyousness

43. Inaccessible

45. Evoke emotions

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)

50. Sword

55. Actor Idris

56. Affirmative (slang)

57. Afflicted

59. One point north of northeast

60. Born of

61. Arabic name

62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)

63. Extremity

64. Post

### CLUES DOWN

1. Pacific Standard Time

2. Protruding ridge on nematodes

3. Indian king

4. Type of milk

5. One who brings home the bacon

6. More comprehensible

7. Connected with sense of touch

8. Red mineral

9. Breezed through

10. Therefore

12. Supplement with difficulty

14. Early kingdom of Syria

19. Satisfy

23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)

24. Brass instrument

25. Domesticated animal

26. Ribonucleic acid

27. Snake-like fish

28. Woman (French)
29. Economically-minded aircraft

34. When you hope to get somewhere

35. Tease

36. Actress Gretchen

37. Midway between northeast and east

39. Inoffensive

40. Yellowish cotton cloth

41. Consume

42. Does not tell the truth

44. Improved something

45. Spiritual leader

46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician

47. Fix

48. Evergreen tree genus

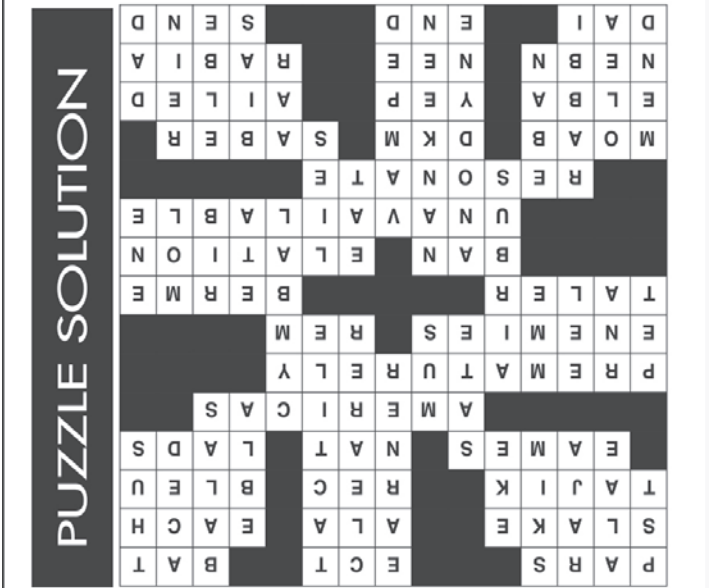
51. Swiss river


52. Prejudice

53. Major C. European river

54. Long, narrow strap

58. Male parent






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#### BROOKFIELD

\$437,500, 18 Maple St, Schlegel, Wayne A, to Fairweather, Ashley K, and Harvey, Samuel C.

#### EAST BROOKFIELD

None

#### LEICESTER

\$450,000, 9 Hillside Rd, Pah Properties LLC, to Mckiernan, Danielle.  
\$438,000, 11 Brookside Dr, Foley, Clayton M, and Foley, Kristen J, to Asante, Joseph, and Asante, Ama D.  
\$265,125, 50 Chapel St, First Landing Invs LLC, to 50 Chapel St LLC.  
\$225,600, 50 Chapel St, Desrosiers, Jane, and Imbody, Leonard, to First Landing Invs LLC.  
\$215,000, 442 Henshaw St, Sec Of Veterans Affairs, to Berisha, Linda.

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$128,750, 19 Oakham Rd, Mcdowell Elizabeth V Est, and Mcdowell, William N, to Everlasting Hm Soln LLC.

#### SPENCER

\$675,000, 60 Smithville Rd, Payette, Gwyneth G, to Reilly, Travis J, and Reilly, Jennifer M.  
\$330,000, 9 Old Farm Rd, Hamilton, Kenneth L, to Alden, Autumn R.  
\$285,000, 358 Main St, Nicas Evangeline H Est, and Nicas, James S, to Doray, Paul S, and Doray, James M.  
\$261,874, 4 Brown St, Smith, Tanya, and Markey, Shleby L, to Smith, Tanya.

#### WARREN

\$22,000, Cronin Rd #69, Ahmad, Waseem, to Higgins, Clayton.

#### WEST BROOKFIELD

\$52,500, 22 Church St, Merrill, Michelle O, to Merrill, Ann R, and Romaniak, Alice L.



# Knock on Wood rocks out at Sugden Library March 4

SPENCER — Howie Newman and Joe Kessler, also known as Knock on Wood, are anything but a typical folk combo, performing funny original songs (suitable for all ages) as well as well-known rock covers. Their varied repertoire includes everything from Tom Petty to Buffalo Springfield to the Stray Cats.

No matter what they play, it features excellent musicianship, pleasing vocal harmonies and ... lots of fun.

Knock on Wood ([www.howienewman.com/knockonwood](http://www.howienewman.com/knockonwood)) will be playing a free concert at Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer, on Monday, March 4, from 6-7 p.m.

This program is supported by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Newman (guitar, harmonica, vocals) is the songwriter and his engaging manner, which includes G-rated comedy and lots of audience participation, has charmed audiences all over New England. Song topics baseball, his wife's inability to parallel

park and not-so-graceful-aging. There are also heart-warming songs about his first grandchild and surviving the pandemic.

A former sportswriter for the Boston Globe, Patriot Ledger, Lowell Sun and other newspapers, he will also be performing one of his many baseball songs, which include "Why Did You Go, Johnny Damon?"

Kessler plays fiddle and mandolin with an energetic improvisational style that includes folk, rock, jazz and bluegrass. He has also toured extensively throughout the United States and Canada as well as eight other countries, performing with Morphine, Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, the Boogaloo Swamis and many others.

"We're not the traditional guitar-and-fiddle duo," says Newman. "Joe and I like to keep things up-tempo, do some rock covers and get the audience involved. The idea is to play some great music and have fun."

For more information about Knock on Wood, including videos and music samples, visit [www.howienewman.com/knockonwood](http://www.howienewman.com/knockonwood).



## Weaker than expected storm still causes trouble

REGION — Even though last week's winter storm was considerably weaker than originally forecast, it still caused plenty of headaches in local communities.

Just a few days prior to the storm's arrival, it was predicted to dump as much as a foot of snow across central Massachusetts. But after a late shift in the forecast, many local towns ended up seeing approximately seven inches, with higher amounts reported in Connecticut and mid-Atlantic states.

Nonetheless, the majority of area school districts canceled classes on Feb. 13. Meanwhile, Spencer's Special Town Meeting was pushed back two days to ensure that all voters could safely attend.

Municipal offices in several area towns were also closed on Feb. 13.

Last week's snow event didn't live up to initial projections, but it still left plenty of winter white across area communities.

# Local students make Dean's List at CCU

CONWAY, S.C. — More than 3,000 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students who make the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher (3.25 for freshmen) for the semester.

Alexander Demarski of East Brookfield  
Ryan Lemieux of Brookfield

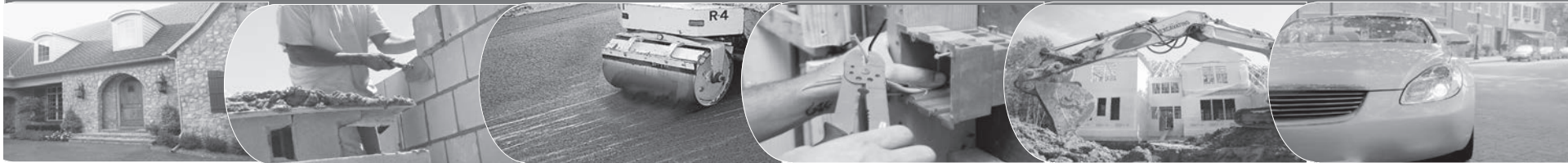
Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, located just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

CCU offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 100 major fields of study. Among the University's graduate-level programs are 27 master's degrees, one educational specialist degree, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs through Coastal Online.

More than 10,800 students from across the country and around the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 180 student clubs and organizations.

Visit [coastal.edu](http://coastal.edu) for more information.

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BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Longer,  
lighter  
days have  
returned!

At last, we are on the cusp of a seasonal change which brings with it a shift in weather, more light and more health benefits! The arrival of longer, lighter days indicates a time of renewal and rejuvenation, offering a wealth of opportunities to enhance our physical and mental well-being.

One of the most notable advantages of longer, lighter days is the increased exposure to natural sunlight. As the sun lingers in the sky for more extended periods, our bodies have greater opportunities to soak in its healthful rays. Sunlight is a vital source of Vitamin D, which plays a crucial role in bone health, immune function, and mood regulation. By spending time outdoors during daylight hours, whether it be through walks, outdoor activities, or simply enjoying a cup of tea on the porch, we can replenish our Vitamin D stores and bolster our overall well-being.

The arrival of springtime brings with it a palpable sense of renewal and optimism. Research has shown that exposure to natural light can have profound effects on mood and mental health, helping to alleviate symptoms of depression, anxiety, and seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

As the days grow longer and temperatures begin to rise, we find ourselves naturally drawn outdoors. Whether it's going for a jog in the park, cycling along scenic trails, or practicing yoga in the backyard, the extended daylight hours of late winter and early spring provide ample opportunities for physical activity and exercise.

Our bodies are finely attuned to the rhythms of the natural world, and exposure to natural light plays a crucial role in regulating our internal clocks. The increased daylight hours of late winter and early spring help to synchronize our circadian rhythms, promoting healthy sleep patterns and enhancing overall sleep quality. By exposing ourselves to natural light during the day and limiting exposure to artificial light at night, we can optimize our sleep-wake cycles and enjoy more restful and rejuvenating sleep.

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.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Truth or consequences

To the Editor:

Hopefully, you are using facts to form your opinions and not creating or accepting as facts things because they support your opinions.

In these times, these are very important distinctions to make, in large measure because the orange Jesus has pushed the envelope to new and outrageous levels. If the more than 30,000 alternate truths he recorded during his term of office, were not enough, he is breaking ground at levels even morons do not buy. He is spending a lot of time claiming the great stock market performance and low unemployment, are due to the high confidence in his re-election. People with any memory will recall that it started going up the day Biden's win and his loss was confirmed During the first year of any presidents term, performance will be what you inherit and end with what you did. Trump inherited the Obama/Biden recovery from the Bush crash, and left behind a closed country and wrecked economy. Unless you are really brainwashed, nothing he says can change those facts. He is trying to claim credit for Taylor Swift's success, because he signed a bill favorable to her that was written and pushed by Jerry Nadler, D of New York.

He congratulated the state of Kansas for the Chiefs win, though one might think he would know they are from Missouri. He says he offered Nikki Haley (his former UN rep) 10,000 troops for Capital security (he meant Nancy Pelosi, a name he dissed almost daily) although Capital security has nothing to do with congress.

Trump has instructed his minions in congress to kill a hard fought border security, and aid for Israel and Ukraine, believing his cult is dump enough to wait a year until he returns to office, to deal which was of high urgency until last week when it could be fixed. If nothing is done to aid Ukraine until then (not that he would help them, but Dems could retake control, likely in time to help NATO keep Putin from taking more countries

Does anyone else remember when we were happy to help Ukraine defend itself and degrade Putins military? Trump was waving Russian flags at CPAC on the day they commenced current war and complimented Putin ion his timing. If you are flying Trump flags and Ukraine flag, replace it with Russia's The big dummy who touted horse meds, is now saying we will not honor or NATO mutual defense pacts if you did not pay up your dues.

First came the editorial "Leading with purpose ....." In which the paper's Editor strongly and correctly says rather than paying too much attention to "cultural" differences among us, local leaders should concentrate on the far more fundamental problems such as homelessness, substance abuse, and opportunities such growing our local economies.

Next on the same page, look at "America cannot afford another Republican loss." While disagreeing with almost every other point made , I applaud two.

that Trumps "personality" – I would say his mental condition and total lack of morals – makes it unlikely he could

There are no dues. NATO membership requires spending levels against GNP on your own defense. We might well be the only country in NATO dumb enough to spend more than the next eight highest defense spenders in the world. Trump has invited anyone wanting to invade a "delinquent" country to go for it. With two grandchildren in uniform, nothing would disgust me more than seeing a draft dodger, who calls our wounded warriors losers and suckers, commander in chief.

I expect, like me, you are fed up with our court system not delivering a verdict on whether a leading candidate is a felon. I think it not unreasonable for these cases to complete before November. I have like zero faith in the worst Supreme court ever, facilitating that. What they are calling the 14th amendment, section #3 case hearing, is likely to punt and say Trump can be on ballot as they did not address his disqualification in a five-day trial in Colorado, hence the twenty other states awaiting that answer, may also disqualify him and keep him on ballots What happens if he wins but twenty states say he cannot serve? This court, that pretends they want to back away from taking any active stance, has changed more laws and regulations than ever and more than congress over the same period.

The consequences of another Trump presidency are dire. I fear he would use the same mob boss mentality that had him pardoning his posse last time, and a doubt we would even recognize the country after his wrecking ball destroys it. While Biden has delivered on his promises, he may well be as geriatric as Trump, but, I assure you, his checks and balances to steady the ship are far and away better than Trumps idiocracy8. Any vote that is not for Biden is a Trump vote. Neither RFK nor anyone else can, or will, win.

The GOP house is a total and complete clown show. Where over 200 bills passed is normal, and you only pass 28, and play musical chairs with speakers, let's put this circus behind us. A blue wave putting Dems in full control, would see Roe codified into law, NATO confidence in the USA restored, if Ukraine still hanging it, Russia defeated, Taiwan secured, reasonable gun legislation, even as simple as having to be 21 to own an assault rifle and maybe talking to a cop to confirm sanity. Seek truth — act accordingly.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

win the Presidency and because Nikki Haley has a sane personality, solid governing and foreign policy experience, voters should consider her over Trump in the Republican primary .

I could not agree more.

Finally, in last week's New Leader letter "Unbelievable," the "Trump for 2024" writer among the typically vast number of "keep them angry" untruths made a very good observation – Gov. Healy should not have nominated a former personal partner as a senior judge. While promoting some good policies and programs, in this, along with other closed shop approaches, she stands wrong.

As a people and a country, we need to push to improve and stand together whenever possible.


KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

To the Editor:

I am immensely grateful for the overwhelming support and trust of the voters of the 6th Worcester District in Dudley, Charlton, Spencer, and Southbridge in the Feb. 6 Special Election Primary. I am eager for the opportunity to engage with even more constituents, as I seek to comprehend the concerns and needs of all those across the 6th Worcester District.

As your State Representative, I will

What should you  
do with your tax  
refund?



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It's almost that time of year when many people start receiving their tax refunds. If you get one, what will you do with it?

Of course, the answer will depend somewhat on how big your refund is. Last year, the average refund amount was about \$2,750, according to the Internal Revenue Service's Filing Season Statistics report.

Whatever the size of your refund, you'll want to maximize its benefit. Here are a few suggestions:

Contribute to your IRA. If you were to receive about \$2,750, it would go a long way toward funding your IRA for the year — but any amount would help. You still have until April 15 to contribute to your IRA for the 2023 tax year, but if you've already "maxed out" on it, you could use your refund for 2024, when the annual contribution limit for a traditional and Roth IRA is \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older. And by getting an early start toward fully funding your IRA for the year, you can reduce the pressure of having to come up with large amounts later.

Build an emergency fund. Your tax refund could help you start or expand an emergency fund. It's a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account, separate from the funds you use for your daily expenses. You might need to draw on this fund for unexpected expenses, such as a major home or car repair or a medical bill that's not fully covered by your insurance. Without such an emergency fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your IRA or other retirement accounts to pay for these types of costs, and such a move could be expensive, resulting in taxes, penalties and lost opportunities for growth.

Contribute to a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren and you'd like to help them further their education someday, you might consider investing in a 529 education savings plan. With a 529 plan, earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. Based on where you live, your 529 plan may provide state tax benefits, too. (It is possible, though, that 529 withdrawals could affect financial aid packages, depending on who owns the account.) A 529 plan can be used to help pay for college, accredited trade school programs, some K-12 expenses and even to help repay some student loans.

Pay down debts. Most of us probably wish we could reduce our debt loads. Your tax refund may give you a chance to do just that. But which debts should you tackle first? You could follow the "snowball" method by paying off the smallest of your loans or debts as quickly as possible. Or you could choose the "avalanche" route by making minimum payments on all debts and using extra funds — such as your tax refund — to pay off the debts that carry the highest interest rates. Either method could help you save money in the long term.

Your tax refund can be a valuable asset — so use it wisely.

*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.*

I hope to earn your vote

from across the 6th Worcester District. If you have any questions about my candidacy, I encourage you to read out to me at John@MarsiForStateRep.com or visit my Web site at MarsiForStateRep.com.

I hope to earn your vote for State Representative on Tuesday, March 5. Thank you!

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# Fish & Wildlife prepares for spring trout stocking

There was limited ice fishing on dangerous ice conditions throughout the valley this past weekend, but conditions were much better north and west of the valley! A couple of members fishing the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club this past weekend, had a great time catching and releasing some impressive rainbow and brook trout.

Mass. Fish & Wildlife is busy repairing trucks for the upcoming stocking of trout this spring, as anglers are already fishing open water in the valley and on the Cape. This week's picture shows the success some are having on open water using spinning gear. This week's picture shows a big brown trout caught locally last



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The Bald Eagle population is rapidly growing in Mass., with new nests being built annually. Their breeding season is only a month away! Sightings of this majestic bird are almost a weekly occurrence, in the valley area.

Public hearings on the saltwater recreational fishing regulations are being held soon. Unfortunately, most anglers were disappointed after leaving the hearings in the past, with no changes to their recommendations. It is a waste of time! More cuts to

week and weighed in at Jerry's Bait & Tackle. Black bear dens are being visited by Mass Fish & Wildlife personnel to check on the bears' winter survival, and successful newborns.

recreational saltwater fishing limits and sizes are expected again this year, in both Mass. & Rhode Island. The public hearings have become just a formality.

The Springfield Sportsmen's show is scheduled to open this week, Feb. 23-25. It is a great way to enjoy a day with friends, before the spring fishing begins on both fresh & saltwater.

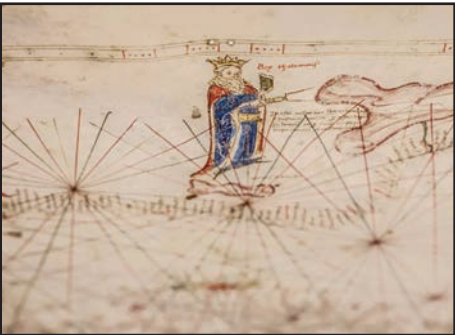
The New England Saltwater Fishing Show will open their doors at the Rhode Island Convention Center on March 8-10. If you fish saltwater, you need to attend this great show.

Rod & Gun Club renewals at many local clubs are now being held! Don't lose your membership. There is a deadline for renewing your membership at most clubs in the valley.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



A four-and-three-quarter-pound Brown Trout caught last week at a local pond in Mass. by Justin, on rod & reel.



It's been close to three months since my last update on antique and collectibles news. As you might expect, a lot has taken place since then. I'll focus on some major estate sale finds today.

In 2023, Jeanette Davies saw two antique teddy bears at a yard sale in South Wales. Teddy bears got their name when Teddy Roosevelt was hunting with (American bear hunter and sportsman) Holt Collier. Collier stunned and cornered a bear and Roosevelt wouldn't shoot it, believing it to be unsportsmanlike. Davies paid £130, or around \$155 for both yard sale bears. One turned out to be a World War II era teddy worth between \$92 and \$142 USD. Davies correctly believed the other bear to be a Steiff bear. Steiff began producing high quality teddy bears three years after the incident with Roosevelt. The 1905 Steiff bear was auctioned with a \$5,100 minimum bid.

Across the country, a California man recently found an old tin box of baseball cards that his dad collected. The man

## Latest antiques and collectibles news

identified only as John said his father Ed began collecting cards in the 1920s, according to Newsweek. Ed had shown John some cards occasionally, but John only saw the tin box with all the cards after Ed's passing. The collection includes 20 Babe Ruth cards, a Shoeless Joe Jackson, and many other Hall of Famers. The sale of the cards is expected to bring in the high six figures.

Also in California, a map dealer's keen eye and knowledge may have netted him millions. Alex Clausen was taking a virtual tour of oil heir Gordon Getty's estate sale and became focused on an old map, according to the Los Angeles Times. He spotted a map listed as a portolan chart and as being from 1500 to 1525. Portolan maps were hand drawn maps on animal skin created by navigators. According to the LA Times, they "often feature drawings of compass roses, flags, sea monsters and ships; unlike modern maps, interior details of land are not the key focus." The \$100,000 to \$150,000 estimate seemed reasonable for a 16th century map, but some clues led Clausen to believe it could be older. Granada in Southwestern Spain had a



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

different flag than other kingdoms in the Iberian Peninsula, making him think the map was at least from the 15th century before they would have adopted a new flag. After hundreds of hours of research, researchers dated the map to 1360. The chart is the only 14th century portolan known to exist outside of Europe. The map is being sold in a gallery where it is on course to bring \$7.5 million.

We are currently cataloging our comic books, sports cards, and collectibles auction. We are still accepting consignments of gold jewelry, sterling silver serving ware, art, coins, and other antiques, and collectibles for our early summer auction. I'll be teaching my antiques and collectibles

night class again on March 5 at the Bay Path Evening School in Charlton. I'll also be presenting at Learning in Retirement event in Danielson, Connecticut on May 6. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to other upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) or (508-612-6111).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Facts matter!

To the Editor:

Everything the Dem leftist controlled media and Joe Biden say can be proven to be a lie. To Americans that work hard and pay the bills, facts matter.

Fact No. 1: Joe Biden and his Progressive Democrat policies have caused over 300,000 men, women and children to have died in wars initiated by his policies. Ukraine had an agreement with Russia that they would have autonomy if they agreed not to join NATO. The whole conflict started when Obama and Biden started messing in Ukraine's internal politics. Biden encouraged Putin in 2020 with his weak leadership. The result is over 300,000 dead. Would not have happened under Trump. In 2020, Biden showed weakness by giving Iran \$10 billion and easing the Trump sanctions. This allowed Iran to fully arm their proxy terrorist groups. This was the go signal for Hamas to massacre the 2,000 Israelis and start the Gaza war. Biden has the blood of 28,000 men, women, and children on his hands. Under Trump, we were heading to Mideast peace. Voting for Joe means wars and death.

Fact No. 2: Biden's open border policies have ruined our cities and towns of the USA by filling them with illegal aliens and defunding the police. Donald Trump in 2019 had policies in place that kept illegal migration low. Stay in Mexico, building the wall, and deportation. On day one of 2020, puppet Biden was instructed by his Progressive handlers to remove these and fully open the border. As a result, we have any affordable housing being filled with illegals at taxpayer expense. We have illegals performing crimes, letting out of court without bail by progressive DAs, and flipping the bird to America. This policy is the Dem Progressive dream to have a one-party country where they can entrench themselves in power and exert control over US citizens. Under Trump US citizens mattered more than illegals invaders.

Fact No. 3: Bidenomics is destroying the American dream with inflation and green policies. It's estimated that total living costs went up 33 percent in Biden's three years while real wages went up only 4 percent. On day 1 Biden instituted his war on American oil. This cut high paying jobs here while we enriched countries like Venezuela and Qatar by buying their oil. This caused our gas and heating oils to double the costs. Electric bills doubled and tripled as strain was put on the systems. Housing and rent costs skyrocketing for US citizens while illegals (future

Dem voters) get it for free, solar panels and electric batteries purchased from our adversary China. Parents that send your kids to community college know they are paying \$6,000-\$8,000 per year while Healy gives it free to illegals. You are, in effect, subsidizing their freebees. When Trump was in office your costs were lower and your buying power went a lot further. This allowed you to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Not with Biden. The illegals are enjoying your fruit instead.

Fact No. 4: Biden has weaponized the DOJ to go after Trump. Other countries see it as it is. A dictator going after their political opponents using the states police forces. As president of the United States Trump was privy to all sorts of classified documentation. After all he was President and almost every former one took some for their libraries, Joe Biden had them for 20 years. He wasn't even allowed to have them as senator. He claims he didn't know he had them. What a crock! If you had boxes of them in your garage for 20 years you would know when you went to get in your car. So, Trump gets charged by Bidens DOJ and Biden gets nothing. In fact, the special counsel investigating Biden says he broke the law, but is mentally incompetent to stand trial! So, the Garland appointed special counsel is saying President Biden is a to mentally incompetent to stand trial! The truth and facts matter! Alzheimer's inflicted Biden is mentally incapable of being president, and now it's proven by the DOJ.

Facts matter! In three years under Biden, we have wars, inflation, increased crime, and hordes of illegals invading our country. These invaders are from China, Afghanistan, Palestine, and other countries hostile to the US. If we were ever in a conflict, these countries effectively have a fifth column to riot and disrupt our country. The Progressive Dems here in Massachusetts are trying to gut your Second Amendments rights so you cannot defend your country or family. The only solution is to bring back honesty and truth in 2024. A man who cares more about US citizens than illegals. A man who has the mental capacity to be a competent leader. A man that projects strength and vitality to our friends and enemies alike! Vote Trump in 2024 and put Joe in the nursing home he belongs in!

Spencer

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# A Peek into Flowering Signs of Spring

Nothing brightens up the cold, white, winter landscape like the annual arrival of early spring buds. From crocuses to lilacs, nostalgic perennials are the staple of New England gardens. Plentiful and easy to grow, this week's column will spotlight a few common flowers that usher in the arrival of spring each year.

**Crocus** (The little princess of the garden): Crocus has a long heritage in New England, as the favored flower is among the first to be brought to North America by settlers. Popping up in gardens in mid-March, the sight of crocus bulbs are cause for celebration by winter weary Easterners. In fact, the crocus has been known to bloom while snow is still on the ground, offering a visual promise of the upcoming season.

The humble flowers, boasting an array of hues from pale yellow to deep purple, open their cup shaped blooms fully only on sunny days. Perhaps the popularity of the humble flower is attributed to its easy going nature. Requiring only a light alkaline soil and plenty of sunlight, and it will reward the eye with many colorful, low growing flowers that multiply each spring.

**Crocus in Mythology:** The crocus famously appears in a legendary Greek tragedy of Crocus (Krocus) and Smilax. According to the



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

legend a young mortal named Crocus headed into the Athens forest in pursuit of the nymph Smilax. Catching her attention, Smilax is smitten but only briefly, by the handsome Crocus. Soon she becomes bored and spawns his amorous advances. When crocus persists in pursuing the beauty against her wishes, the gods transform him into a saffron Crocus flower; its orange stigmas symbolizing his undying passion for her.

**Planting Crocus:** Spring crocus bulbs are best planted in the fall when the soil is below 60 degrees, but well before the first hard frost. Plant pointy side up about four inches apart. For the best visual affect plant in clumps of about a dozen bulbs. Water well and cover with a few inches of mulch for cold weather insulation. Since moles and mice are also attracted to crocus, those who have such pests in the garden are advised to plant in buried wire cages or other devices designed to repel the hungry critters.

**Daffy Delights:** Daffodils' sunny yellow flowers make this perennial a delightful

and most welcoming sign of spring. The hearty bulbs have been known to survive in the ground for well over a century, offering decades of flowing blooms. There are more than 27,000 cultivated varieties of daffodils, so it's no wonder the daffodil is one of the most popular spring flowers!

**Mythology and History:** The botanical name for the daffodil is "Narcissus," which is named after the youth in Greek mythology who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water. The bending flowers represent Narcissus looking into the water; it is said that when he died in that position, a daffodil grew.

Daffodils have a rich history beyond the mythology. The Romans were known to have planted narcissus in memory of those fallen in battle. Daffodils were eventually transported to England by the Romans who hailed the flowers' healing properties. Early settlers brought the precious daffodil bulbs with them to America as a reminder of their homeland.

Today, Daffodils represent new beginnings, rebirth and joy. In China, the daffodil symbolizes good fortune.

**Planting Daffodils:** Plant bulbs in the fall two to three weeks before the ground freezes for spring blooms. Bulbs need proper drainage; therefore, the bulbs require a large hole

and loosened soil; plant pointy side up about six inches deep. Bulbs should be thoroughly watered at the time of planting and again in the spring when they begin to grow. Most gardeners agree planting daffodils in clumps of five or more creates a most pleasing garden landscape.

**Note:** Nothing adds a ray of sunshine to your indoor space better than a pot of miniature daffodils. The bright, yellow blooms are perfect for the desktop, whether you're in a spacious home office or a crowded cubicle. At just a few dollars per pot, they are an inexpensive pick me up that keeps on giving. After the blossoms wilt, the bulbs can be replanted in the ground to rebloom outside for years to come!

**Lovely Lilacs** Fragrant clusters of lilacs adorned colonial yards and gardens of early America. Lilacs were grown both for their beauty and their medicinal properties. In fact, in the late 18th century, both Thomas Jefferson and George Washington wrote about their lilac plants. The species is so hardy that early lilac bushes, in a testament of survival, have continued to thrive in colonial homesteads, long after the homes were abandoned or destroyed. Lilacs have been known to survive hundreds of years, making them a true heirloom flower. The Governor Wentworth Estate in Portsmouth, NH boasts the oldest surviving lilac

bushes, said to have been planted circa 1750. While there are many strains of the flower, the most nostalgic is the common lavender hued lilac (Syringa vulgaris), which was brought to America in the mid 1700s from eastern Europe.

**Lilac Legends:** Legend has it lilac drives away evil wherever it is planted or strewn. It is said that lilac bushes were planted on the homestead by colonists in an effort to protect the inhabitants from bad forces.

Immigrants from Europe brought tales of lilac folklore from the "old country" to America, including the belief that finding a white lilac blossom with five petals is a sign good fortune would follow. Meanwhile, in certain sections of England it was considered bad luck to bring blooming Lilacs into the house and all white Lilacs were especially banned from display inside the home.

**Growing Lilacs** New England is the perfect climate to grow lilacs, as it is very cold hardy, requiring a frost to prompt bud blooming. For optimum blooms, a lilac bush should be planted in areas that receive full sun (at least six hours per day). Lilacs like a slightly alkaline soil. Spread roots out vertically and cover with topsoil. A newly planted lilac bush should be kept well watered. Add a loose mulch above the

roots to help with water absorption. Keep in mind different varieties of lilacs bloom at different times. When lilac flowers have finished blooming, prune the dead flowers back to just above where new buds are forming. Be prudent with pruning, as over cutting can result in a decrease of blooms next year.

**Win Dinner for Two** at the Publick House

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

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

## Starting over

Starting all over again often feels like carrying the weight of an ending. It's challenging to move forward when your thoughts are tethered to the past, making each step into the unknown feel heavier with the memories and efforts that once defined your path.

These moments, usually fraught with dread and disbelief, carry the essence of beginning from square one and feeling like less than zero. It's hard to see that the seeds required to embrace a new start are sown within these moments of defeat.

Consider the story of a love that once felt like destiny. Two souls intertwined, embarking on a journey that seemed certain to withstand the test of time. But as the chapters unfolded, the narrative shifted, leaving one in despair and forced to

enter the dating world again.

It reminds me of a quote by J.K. Rowling: "Rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life."

Picture the entrepreneur who charted a path from a local franchisee to a high-flying executive at the national headquarters. This journey, marked by first-class travels and the trappings of success, comes to an abrupt halt with a dismissal that cuts deep. The aftermath was a maelstrom of emotions—anger, sadness, anxiety—confronting the harsh reality of sustaining a lifestyle without the security of a steady income and facing an unwelcome choice between giving up or reinvention.

C.S. Lewis: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

Imagine the diligent student whose academic endeavors were fueled by the promise of a fulfilling career. Years of sacrifice and sleepless nights culminate in achieving a coveted degree, only to discover the chosen path is filled with dissatisfaction and the realization that one's true calling lies elsewhere. It is a terrifying dilemma.

F. Scott Fitzgerald said, "It's never too late to become who you want to be. I hope you live a life that you're proud of, and if you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over."

Consider the journey of an artist whose every performance was a testament to a life dedicated to the craft. Creating art that resonated with audiences far and wide. Yet, the unpredictability of the business, the constant

rejection, and the fleeting nature of fame began to erode the joy once found in the spotlight.

The emotional toll of years spent chasing the next opportunity left our artist feeling disillusioned. The passion that once fueled late-night rehearsals had dimmed, leaving behind a yearning for something more, something different. The decision to stay where it feels comfortable or to start all over doing something new is paralyzing.

"Fall forward. Every failed experiment is one step closer to success. You've got to take risks." —Denzel Washington.

Life, in all its uncertainty, shows us that the comfort of security isn't truly secure. The tales of love lost, career dissatisfaction, and the quest for reinvention are chap-

ters in a story familiar to many of us. These narratives underscore the universal journey of starting anew.

No doubt you've been in similar situations, with no other option than to choose a relentless pursuit of a new beginning. Trudging forward after a significant setback. It's an awful feeling, but what's the alternative? Become bitter and resentful? No thanks.

Human beings may crave security, yet the truth is that everything carries a risk.

As Jim Rohn eloquently said, "Everything in life is risky; I'll tell you how risky life is... you're not going to get out of life alive."

This acknowledgment can help us to face the unknown with an open mind. Your mindset can significantly influence

whether the journey ahead leads to a positive transformation or becomes a hurdle too challenging to overcome.

Starting over again presents a unique chance to reevaluate our mental patterns and expectations, setting the stage for a shift that can either uplift or challenge us, depending on our perspective.

Within the realm of uncertainty, we uncover something truly extraordinary: the power to reshape our destiny. Here lies the potential for reinvention, for altering our paths, and for reconstructing our lives from the ground up. Learn to embrace your new beginnings and unlock the promise of tomorrow.

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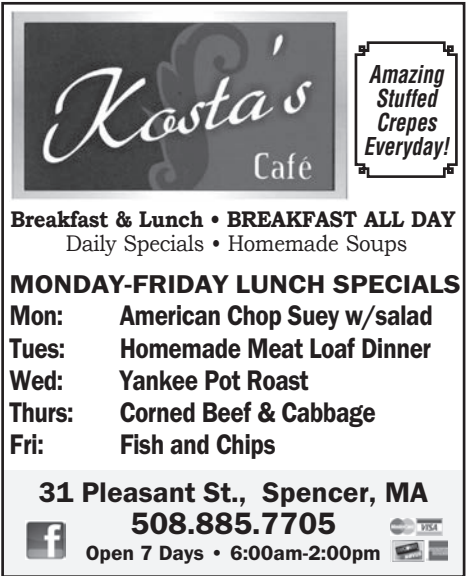
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# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
6:02 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Upton Street), transported to hospital; 8:37 a.m.: animal complaint (Auburn Street), referred; 10:41 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital; 11:25 a.m.: suspicious person (Hyland Avenue), unfounded; 11:56 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:48 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 1:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:35 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 1:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Woodland Road), assisted; 3:20 p.m.: ambulance (Woodland Road), transported; 4:59 p.m.: assist other PD (Ingram Road), services rendered; 5:00 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Road, Spencer), transported; 5:06 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
12:29 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:16 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 5:02 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:16 a.m.: debris in road (Auburn Street), services rendered; 9:27 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 12:15 p.m.: restraining order service (Salminen Drive), served; 2:53 p.m.: ambulance (Victoria Drive), transported; 4:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:57 p.m.: residential alarm (Chesnar Drive), false alarm; 6:51 p.m.: welfare check (River Street), investigated; 7:17 p.m.: harassment (McCarthy Avenue), report taken; 10:10 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 11:59 p.m.: mv stop (Sargent Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
12:52 a.m.: disturbance (Town Beach Road), call canceled; 2:02 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 10:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:56 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Young Street), referred; 12:50 p.m.: assist citizen (Watson Street); 1:42 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 2:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 3:52 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), William A. Soucy Junior, 34, 3 Broadmeadow Avenue, Millbury, op w/suspended license, possession Class B drug, arrest; 5:14 p.m.: assist other PD (Burncoat Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
12:31 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, carrying a dangerous weapon, criminal application issued; 1:16 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 2:31 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 2:47 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 9:15 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 10:00 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 10:14 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 10:34 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 11:27 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:38 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 11:50 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Bottomly Avenue), Sonia E. Crespo, 46, 1 Bottomly Avenue, #1R, Cherry Valley, intoxicated licensee carrying a firearm, arrest; 12:06 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 12:45 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:56 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), resolved; 1:13 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Lake Avenue), services rendered; 1:55 p.m.: accident (Rawson Street), report taken; 2:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), criminal applica-

tion issued; 2:51 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued, juvenile arrest; 3:33 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:24 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 6:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Winslow Avenue), investigated; 9:42 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chapel Street), resolved; 10:42 p.m.: ambulance (West Street), transported.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
12:14 a.m.: ambulance (Pearl Street, Spencer), transported; 12:15 a.m.: suspicious mv (Chesnar Drive), investigated; 1:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:55 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:29 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:34 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), Hector Vladimir Salazar Trigueros, 29, 155 River Street, #02453, Waltham, unlicensed operation, speeding, arrest; 8:24 a.m.: threats (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, possession Class E drug/2 counts; threatening to commit a crime, criminal application issued; 8:38 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:03 a.m.: mv stop (Lake Avenue), spoken to; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:44 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:11 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:22 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 11:32 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:15 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 12:21 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 1:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:46 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 1:55 p.m.: assist citizen (Henshaw Street); 2:08 p.m.: mv stop (Whitemore Street), verbal warning; 2:19 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 2:37 p.m.: ambulance (Beech Street), transported; 2:43 p.m.: disturbance (Laflesh Lane), transported; 3:53 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:12 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:43 p.m.: restraining order service (Baldwin Street), unable to serve; 6:30 p.m.: lock-out (South Main Street), services rendered; 6:31 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 7:13 p.m.: residential alarm (Stafford Street), false alarm; 9:09 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:16 p.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 10:41 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), investigated; 11:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:52 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
12:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:27 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), citation issued; 12:39 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), citation issued; 12:43 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:10 a.m.: welfare check (Chesnar Drive), investigated; 3:35 a.m.: family problem (Dale Court), report taken; 4:05 a.m.: ambulance (Dale Court), transported; 4:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:46 a.m.: fraud (Dale Street), report taken; 10:44 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:00 p.m.: investigation (Dale Street), report taken; 1:22 p.m.: residential alarm (Pleasant Street), resolved; 1:51 p.m.: debris in road (Marshall Street), referred; 6:58 p.m.: ambulance (Charles Street), transported; 7:42 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:54 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 2:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:24 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:24 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 1:27 p.m.: restraining order service (Green Street), served; 3:09 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 4:04 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:09 p.m.: welfare check (Virginia Drive), services rendered; 4:30 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), mv towed; 9:51 p.m.: suspicious mv (Rochedale Park), resolved; 11:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 11:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued.

##

## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
8:21 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Main Street), resolved; 10:25 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. welfare check; 10:41 a.m.: trespassing (Main Street), no trespass order violation; 11:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), sick raccoon; 12:23 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), resolved; 12:43 p.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 1:26 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 2:19 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), call re: sister; 3:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Duggan Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 4:02 p.m.: 911 call (Northwest Road), misdial; 5:43 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:48 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 5:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), req. welfare check; 7:39 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 9:21 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:29 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 11:22 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops - 8).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
12:03 a.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 2:12-2:44 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:07 a.m.: medical/general (Pond Street); 7:21 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:48 a.m.: medical/general (Crown Street); 9:17 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 9:20 a.m.: illegal dumping (Thompson Pond Road), rep. items side of road; 10:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Laliberte Lane), loose dog; 11:33 a.m.: larceny (Smithville Road), report taken; 11:48 a.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 12:21 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 12:50 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), rep. panhandler; 1:36 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:59 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:11 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. being followed; 2:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Clark Road), req. welfare check; 2:43 p.m.: disabled mv (Howe Road), resolved; 4:18 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 4:29 p.m.: vandalism (Donnelly Road), rep. vandalism to cell tower; 4:55 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 5:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), rep. threats; 5:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), concerned re: mother; 5:32 p.m.: medical/general (West Avenue); 6:29 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Wall Street), Jared M. Perron, 44, homeless, Spencer, warrant, trespassing, arrest; 6:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), erratic operator; 8:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 10:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. welfare check; (total daily mv stops - 0).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
12:31 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Bixby Road), Janet LaJoie, 38, 25 Belmont Street, Southbridge, disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct, arrest; Yanexis Smith, 29, 19 Bixby Road, Spencer, warrant, arrest; Zenon Rosa, 35, 10 Everett Gaylord Block, Worcester, warrant, arrest; 9:30 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 10:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), assist other agency; 12:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), re: mv sale; 12:45 p.m.: restraining order service (Browning Pond Road); 12:48 p.m.: counterfeiting (West Main Street), rec'd counterfeit \$100 bill; 12:58 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:09 p.m.: restraining order service (Spring Street); 3:06 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 3:15 p.m.: restraining order service (Smithville Road); 3:49 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Worcester PD; 4:03 p.m.: restraining order service (Bixby Road); 5:00 p.m.: juvenile matter (Howe Road), kids on ice; 5:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Lloyd Dyer Drive), barking dog; 6:26 p.m.: medical/general (Borkum Road); 8:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), welfare check; 8:50 p.m.: mv lockout (Chestnut Street), assisted; (total daily mv stops - 6).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
12:25-2:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:43 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), issue w/neighbors; 2:20-2:44 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Mechanic, Church, Valley streets), tickets issued; 3:33 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 4:08 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 11:30 a.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), services rendered; 11:44 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), loose dog; 1:00 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:23 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:54 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), c/o speeding; 2:04 p.m.: accident (Mechanic Street),

report taken; 3:10 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 3:39 p.m.: fire (Lincoln Street), referred; 5:37 p.m.: fire (Lyford Road), referred; 6:42 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), low-hanging wires; 6:47 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), req. welfare check; 9:32 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:10 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); (total daily mv stops - 2).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
12:01-1:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), re: assault/North Brookfield; 3:00-3:09 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic, Church streets), tickets issued; 3:36 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 3:53 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:36 a.m.: residential alarm (Cooney Road), services rendered; 8:32 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), re: mv in accident; 9:08 a.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), re: neighbors drilling; 10:27 a.m.: disturbance (Paxton Road), c/o construction work in area; 11:38 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:41 a.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), re: restraining order; 11:42 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 12:01 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 12:06 p.m.: 911 call (Church Street), open line/hang-up; 12:24 p.m.: 911 call (Dustin Street), open line/hang-up; 3:31 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 4:10 p.m.: elderly matter (Duggan Street), in need of services; 5:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 5:32 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:18 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), loose dog; 10:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant View Road), barking dogs; 10:20 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. info; 11:37 p.m.: medical/general (Candlewood Drive); (total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
12:08-2:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:08 a.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 1:31 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 2:28-2:43 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Brown, Sullivan streets), tickets issued; 5:04 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:31 a.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), Kenneth J. Chiapulis Junior, 53, 19 Cherry Street, Spencer, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, arrest; 7:00 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 10:38 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:24 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (Bixby Road); 12:14 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist State Police; 1:15 p.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), accidental; 1:39 p.m.: suspicious persons (Collier Circle), investigated; 1:54 p.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 3:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), req. welfare check; 4:25 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), re: erratic operator; 4:26 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), noise complaint; 4:50 p.m.: DPW call (Elm Street), re: leaning utility pole; 5:11 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:16 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), pkg. tampered with; 5:24 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 5:33 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 5:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), stray cat; 8:01 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:31 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. welfare check; 9:18 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (Valley Street), info rec'd; 9:36 p.m.: suspicious persons (Grove Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
12:48-1:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:54 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:14 a.m.: building checked, secure; 4:42 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:18 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:46 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 11:47 a.m.: disabled mv (Prospect Street); assisted; 12:14 p.m.: citizen complaint (Mechanic Street), neighbor blowing snow into road; 1:05 p.m.: disabled mv (Chickering Road), services rendered; 1:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Mercury Drive), spoken to; 6:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 7:50 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 8:04 p.m.: parking complaint (Pearl Street), van parked in road; (total daily mv stops - 0).

##

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~~REGULARLY \$549~~

~~REGULARLY \$549~~

STAINLESS STEEL BOTTOM FREEZER

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~~REGULARLY \$899~~

~~REGULARLY \$899~~

~~REGULARLY \$899~~

DELUXE WHIRLPOOL WASHER

#MDB4949SKZ

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~~REGULARLY \$499~~

~~REGULARLY \$499~~

~~REGULARLY \$499~~

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~~REGULARLY \$569~~

~~REGULARLY \$569~~

~~REGULARLY \$569~~

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~~REGULARLY \$1599~~

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10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER

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~~REGULARLY \$439~~

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~~REGULARLY \$699~~

~~REGULARLY \$699~~

~~REGULARLY \$699~~

~~REGULARLY \$699~~

AMANA GAS RANGE

#MDB4949SKZ

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~~REGULARLY \$599~~

~~REGULARLY \$599~~

~~REGULARLY \$599~~

GE FRONT LOAD WASHER

#MDB4949SKZ

~~REGULARLY \$749~~

~~REGULARLY \$749~~

~~REGULARLY \$749~~

~~REGULARLY \$749~~

20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER

#MDB4949SKZ

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~~REGULARLY \$899~~

~~REGULARLY \$899~~

~~REGULARLY \$899~~

LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE

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~~REGULARLY \$729~~

~~REGULARLY \$729~~

~~REGULARLY \$729~~

G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE

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What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Man is wearing tie 2. Extra milk in cart 3. Price on sign is different 4. "Shop" missing from the back wall

THIS DAY IN...



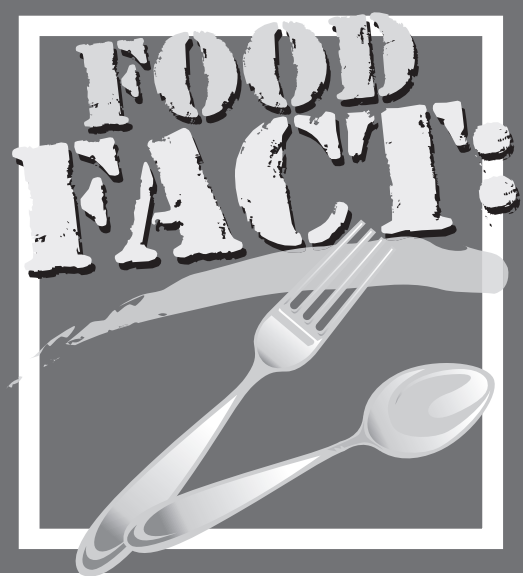
HISTORY

- 1815: NAPOLEON BONAPARTE ESCAPES FROM EXILE.
- 1919: PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON SIGNS AN ACT OF CONGRESS THAT ESTABLISHES THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK .
- 2008: THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC PERFORMS IN NORTH KOREA.



CHECKOUT

a point at which goods are paid for in a store



THIS TYPE OF STORE IS WHERE MOST PEOPLE BUY THEIR FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES.

ANSWER: SUPERMARKET



- ENGLISH: Aisle
- SPANISH: Pasillo
- ITALIAN: Corridoio
- FRENCH: Allée
- GERMAN: Gang



THE FOUR LARGEST GROCERY BRANDS IN NORTH AMERICA INCLUDE WALMART, AMAZON, KROGER, AND COSTCO.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHECKOUT COUNTER

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to time management. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = A)

A. 11 13 9 4 22 14 17 4

Clue: Intended timelines

B. 13 3 17 4 23 22 3 8

Clue: System of organizing days

C. 5 17 3 23

Clue: Proposal to do something

D. 22 7 11 2 8 3 13 2

Clue: Pull attention away

Answers: A. schedule B. calendar C. plan D. distract

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



# Starting plants from seeds indoors

Keep your green thumb in shape this winter while getting a jump on the growing season by starting your favorite or hard-to-find plants indoors. It's fun, simpler than you think, and can help stretch your plant budget.

Start with some clean containers that you purchase, recycle, or make from newspapers. Be sure to add drainage holes to any repurposed yogurt or similar containers you are using for starting seeds to avoid water-logged soil. Always clean used pots by soaking them in a one-part bleach and nine-part water solution for ten minutes then rinse with clear water. This helps reduce the risk of disease.

Fill the containers with a moist well-drained potting mix or a sterile seed starting mix. Once the containers are filled,

check the back of your seed packets for planting directions. Most contain all the information you need for when and how to plant the seeds. Some seed companies now provide this information on their website instead of the seed packets.

Most seeds are planted about twice the seed diameter deep while smaller seeds are often set on the soil surface and gently watered in place. Once again, check the seed packet for the seeds you are growing. Plant two seeds per container just in case one of the seeds fails to sprout.

Once planted, move the containers to a warm location. Many gardeners use heating pads designed for germinating seeds to help speed sprouting. Covering the containers with a sheet



GARDEN MOMENTS  
• • • • •  
MELINDA MYERS

of plastic or one of the prefab domes will help conserve moisture so you will need to water less often.

Check the soil moisture daily and water often enough to keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy wet. Remove the plastic and move the containers to a sunny window or better yet, under artificial lights as soon as any green appears.

Regularly rotate plants that are growing in sunny windows to promote more even growth. Adjust artificial lights as

plants grow. Most seedlings benefit from keeping the lights four to six inches above the top of the seedlings. Leave the lights on for 14 but no more than 16 hours a day. Using a timer is an easy way to make sure the plants receive the right amount of light each day.

Once the seedlings develop two sets of true leaves (these will look like the leaves of the plants you are growing), it is time to do some thinning. Remove the weakest seedling in each pot so only one strong seedling remains. Trimming the weaker seedlings back to ground level instead of pulling avoids damage to the remaining seedling.

Once seedlings have been thinned and are actively growing, use a fertilizer labeled for this

use. Continue to water thoroughly and often enough to keep the planting mix slightly moist but not soggy wet.

Check the weather and seed packet to determine when it is safe to move your plants outdoors. You'll need to prepare them for their new home outdoors with a technique called hardening off. Start by moving the plants to a sheltered and shaded location after the danger of frost has passed. Stop fertilizing, and check soil moisture daily but allow it to dry just slightly before watering thoroughly.

Gradually increase the amount of sunlight the plants receive each day. Cover or move them indoors when frost is in the forecast. Your transplants are ready to move to their permanent loca-

tion after a week or two.

Start gathering your supplies and seeds now. And before you know it, you will be enjoying the beautiful blooms and tasty vegetables you started from seed yourself.

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 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](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## LEGALS

**Town of North Brookfield  
Notice of Public Hearing**

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:15PM at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received regarding two proposed corrections for Zoning Map and two amendments to the Zoning Bylaws regarding fences and detached accessory dwelling units. Fences will amend Section VI. General Regulations by adding a new subsection K. Detached accessory dwelling units will amend Section IV. Use Regulations by adding subsection A.2.t. A definition for an accessory dwelling unit is also proposed. Any person interested in being heard or seeking information should appear at the above stated hearing. A copy of the proposals are on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., No. Brookfield, MA. William King, Chair  
February 23, 2024  
March 1, 2024

**NOTICE OF TIER CLASSIFICATION  
69 WEST MAIN STREET  
SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS  
RTN 2-0022222**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. The site has been classified as TIER II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On **February 13, 2024** the **Town of Spencer** filed a **TIER II** Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact **Todd Kirton, LSP of Tighe & Bond, Worcester, Massachusetts, 413-572-3222**. The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) **2-0022222** at <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/SearchableSites2/Search.aspx> or at **MassDEP, Central Region, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, 508-792-7650**. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.  
February 23, 2024

**Town of Spencer**

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in Conference Room A of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

**Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**

Special Permit– Applicant/Owner: 126 OP LLC; Location: 126 Main Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U07-01. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 6.1.1 (Off Street Parking & Loading Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to designate parking to an existing mixed use building, containing 12 dwelling units and one commercial unit . The property is in Town Center (TC) zoning district.  
February 22, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**The Brookfield Board of Health is holding a Public Hearing at 6pm on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> located in the Town Hall Banquet Room at 6 Central Street, Brookfield MA, for the following proposed Local Upgrade Variances regarding a Title V septic absorption system (SAS) repair located at 12 Pleasant Street in Brookfield: 1) 310 CMR**

**15.211(1) The proposed (SAS) does not meet the required setback from a property line. 10 feet required; 5 feet provided. N/F Wilcox and 2) 310 CMR 15.211 (1) The proposed (SAS) does not meet the required setback from a property line. 10 feet required; 5 feet provided. N/F Landine**

February 16, 2024  
February 23, 2024

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 113 Northwest Road, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Alfred Magnone Jr. and Christine M. Magnone to Citizens Bank of Rhode Island, and now held by **Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m Citizens Bank of Rhode Island**, said mortgage dated September 30, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31882, Page 34, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on March 28, 2024 at 11:00 AM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *The land in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in the Town of Spencer, County of Worcester, on the westerly side of Northwest Road and shown as Lot 2 on a plan by BryLee Civil Engineering Company titled, "Plan of land in Spencer, Massachusetts, owned by Lucien L. Tetrault" recorded in the Worcester County District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 659, Plan 71 and to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description. Subject to all restrictions, conditions, rights and easements as set forth in deed recorded in Book 17489, Page 078.*

*Being the same premises as conveyed to the Mortgagor by deed recorded with Worcester County Registry of Deeds, in Book 17489, Page 078 and which premises is subject to a mortgage held by Bay Finance Company, Inc., dated November 22, 1995, recorded with Worcester County Registry of Deeds, in Book 17489, Page 081. And for consideration, Alfred Magnone, Jr., hereby release unto the mortgagee all rights of homestead and other interest in the mortgaged premises and do hereby specifically release and discharge unto the mortgagee all rights to homestead for themselves, their family and their minor unmarried children acquired by virtue of a Declaration of Homestead dated November 24, 1995, recorded with Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Book 17491, page 026.*

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated November 22, 1995 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 17489, Page 78.

Said mortgage is subject to a certain mortgage given by Alfred Mangone, Jr. and Christine M. Mangone to Bay Finance Company, Inc. dated 04/23/2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29844, Page 364. Further assigned by Assignment of Mortgage from Bay Finance Company, Inc. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., its successors and assigns, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns dated April 23, 2003 and recorded in the

Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 29844, Page 381, further assigned by Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., its successors and assigns, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP dated June 29, 2010 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46002, Page 68, further assigned by Assignment of Mortgage from Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated April 2, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 51169, Page 128, further assigned by Corrective Assignment of Mortgage \*\*\*This Assignment is being recorded to correct and replace the Assignment recorded on 07/08/2013 as Book/Page/Instrument# 51169/128/2013/00082185 in the records of the Clerk of Worcester South County, MA to correct the assignor\*\*\* from Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing L.P., F/K/A Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated February 13, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57110, Page 257, further assigned by Assignment of Mortgage from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to MTGLQ Investors, L.P. dated January 13, 2017 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56971, Page 63, further assigned by Assignment of Mortgage from MTGLQ Investors, L.P. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Tiki Series IV Trust dated November 18, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64139, Page 285, further assigned by Assignment of Mortgage from U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Tiki Series IV Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Bungalow Series IV Trust dated March 26, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64917, Page 180.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m Citizens Bank of Rhode Island  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701  
February 16, 2024  
February 23, 2024  
March 1, 2024

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

**Docket No. W012P0500GD  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF  
PETITION TO EXPAND THE  
POWERS OF GUARDIAN  
In the Interests of:**  
Elaine E Vallee  
of North Brookfield, MA  
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept Of Developmental Services of Worcester, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the posers of a Guardian

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M.** on the return date of **03/05/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: February 02, 2024  
StephFnie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
February 23, 2024

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SPORTS

Tantasqua tops Rams before both sides head to impressive tournaments



Maya Gidopoulos looks up court as she works the breakaway for Tantasqua.

STURBRIDGE — Positive regular season schedules closed for the Tantasqua and Shepherd Hill girls' varsity basketball teams on Thursday, Feb. 15, as the 13-4 Warriors, the Southern Worcester County League A Division champions, hosted the 11-6 Rams, the Midland-Wachusett B Division winners.

Shepherd Hill Head Coach Maura Hackenson said before the game, "We have always had strong games with (Tantasqua) and assuming this will be the same this year. Both teams have winning records and we are looking to move up the State

Power Rankings."

Hackenson recognized that their opponents have some tough, physical, experienced players, adding, "We are playing well together as a team. We have an even balance of guard and forward play and they do as well. We will hope to continue our style of play this game. Our team is focused late in the season and everyone is improving. I couldn't ask for much more."

Andrew Haley, head coach of Tantasqua, was looking forward to the matchup with the Rams. He said before the game, "Shepherd Hill are a good, well coached team



Tantasqua's Sophie Webb works her way between two Shepherd Hill defenders.

who play a tough schedule. This should be a fun game for both teams. I expect both teams to play their best."

Halfway through the first quarter, this evenly paced game had Tantasqua ahead 9-7. Both teams traded baskets while feeling out what their opponents were going to bring to the court. Tantasqua showed their intentions first, doubling their score, holding Shepherd Hill to just 2 additional points through the quarter. Tantasqua led 18-9 at the end of the frame.

The Rams were not going quietly, they settled into the game, coming within one point, 20-19, after 4 minutes of second quarter play. The Warriors held their lead with aggressive defense, gaining control of some miss-timed Ram passes. The Hill kept within

striking distance, but the Warriors held the lead going into halftime, 29-25.

The Rams put pressure on the Warriors with their full-court press, but Tantasqua found outlet passes quickly and capitalized on many fast breaks. Coming out of the third quarter, the Warriors extended their lead, 39-27.

Tantasqua pulled ahead and never looked back, out-scoring Shepherd Hill 16-12 in the final 8 minutes of play. Tantasqua took the regular season finale win, 55-39.

Shepherd Hill went on to play in the Westborough Invitational Tournament, which Coach Hackenson and the Lady Rams were looking forward to taking part in.

"As for a tournament, this one has great competition, it is well run and respected," said



Tantasqua's Gabby Scanlon keeps her eyes on the hoop as she goes in for the layup.

Hackenson, adding, "It is our home away from home (as we have played there so much.) They have successful teams from all divisions in the state and we have to mentally prepare for competition we know and competition we don't face normally. This tournament prepares each team for the postseason, and we will face Westborough again in the first game."

Playing the Rangers for the third time this season, the fourth seeded Rams defeated No. 5 Westborough in the rubber match, 57-55. Shepherd Hill was then slated to play No. 1 Medway in the semifinals, after press time. Once the Rams finish up play in the Westborough Tournament, the Division 2 State Tournament is up next.

Tantasqua went on to play in the Clark

Large Schools bracket before participating in the Division 3 State Tournament. Haley believes that the Clark Tournament is a good test for his team before going into States.

"Don't worry about the seeding and just look forward to the experience," Haley told his players.

The top seeded Warriors defeated No. 8 Oakmont in the first round of the Clark on Saturday, Feb. 17, by a final of 33-17 at Grafton High. Tantasqua then played No. 4 Millbury in the semifinals at Clark University on Monday, Feb. 19. The Warriors were able to defeat the Woolies for the third time this season, this time by a final of 30-26. Tantasqua will take on No. 2 Northbridge in the Clark final on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7:45 p.m.

Tantasqua, Shepherd Hill headline late slate of Clark Tournament

WARRIORS TAKE DOWN OAKMONT, WHILE RAMS FALL SHORT AGAINST MILLBURY



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Bryce Tessier works the ball into the paint on an Oakmont defender.

WORCESTER — A packed Kneller Center was rocking on Sunday evening, Feb. 18, as a pair of Clark Tournament Large Schools semifinals took place. Local teams from Tantasqua and Shepherd Hill took part, as the Warriors and Rams won a day before at Shepherd Hill in the quarterfinal round. In those first round games Tantasqua, seeded sixth, upset No. 3 Westborough (80-47), while the top ranked Rams got past No. 8 Groton-Dunstable (59-45).

At Clark, the Warriors played No. 7 Oakmont in the opener, while Shepherd Hill took on No. 4 Millbury in the nightcap.

Tantasqua 52, Oakmont 30 — The Warriors weren't able to score at such a high rate like they did against Westborough, but the team's pressuring defense — which they say

is their calling card — stood out again against the Spartans.

"Yesterday, we were playing on a little bit more of a traditional high school basketball court, so our pressure was able to generate some offense for us. Today, our pressure didn't generate offense, but it kept them on their heels," explained Tantasqua head coach Scott Dion. "They play with a lot of guards and spread the floor; they're really good at drive-and-kick, and I thought our pressure slowed them down, even on a larger floor. So, it was pretty impressive for our kids."

The Warriors grabbed a 9-0 lead at the end of the first quarter, with Bryce Tessier being the biggest beneficiary of the start. Tessier scored the game's first seven points and pulled down three quick rebounds. Tessier ultimately finished with a game-high 15 points.

"I came in pretty fired up today. We wanted to



James Sciaraffa of Tantasqua keeps his eyes glued on Oakmont ball handler Sam Curtis.

get a big win today, and I kind of felt like today was my day. I knew that they were a little undersized and it was kind of my spot to get in there," said Tessier before weighing in on the defense.

"Our strong point is our defense and just being able to hold a team low, especially scoreless in the first quarter like that, raises energy to the offensive side. It just revs the motor and gets us going on both ends of the floor."

Tantasqua took a 21-12 lead into the halftime break and then won second half scoring by a 31-18 count to win by 22 points. The Warriors' rebounding advantage was also monumental. The taller Tantasqua side won the battle of the boards, 41-10.

"Bryce Tessier was awesome. Elijah Webb is a good shooter, but he's also tall and they were trying to take away his outside shot and he got down there and really did well around the basket, as did Sam Pieczynski coming off the bench,

and Jack Rapose," said Dion. "We made it a conscious effort to try to score around the basket, and it paid off."

In addition to Tessier's 15 points, Pieczynski added 13 points, and Webb (10 rebounds) and Rapose both finished with 9 points.

Millbury 51, Shepherd Hill 48 — Whenever the Rams and Woolies have met in the recent past — last year's Clark Tournament title game and this winter's regular season matchup — it has gone down to the wire. The same can be said this time around, except the end result was different. Shepherd Hill won each of the first two games, but Millbury exacted its revenge.

"You know going into it that it's going to come down to the last possession," said Mike Rapoza, head coach of the Rams.

Aside from a 4-3 lead, Shepherd Hill was playing catch up during the game. The Hill trailed



Tantasqua's Colm McGrath heads down the floor dribbling the ball while on the fast break.

after the first quarter, 11-4, at the half, 19-14, and through three periods, 32-25.

"I give our guys credit because we could have folded. We didn't. We played hard," Rapoza said. "Starting slow in the first half definitely cost us. Obviously you want a different result, we'd love to get a win, but I'm proud of our guys."

The Rams' fourth quarter rally was nearly enough to win, as they trimmed the deficit down to a single point (42-41) following one free throw from Alex Lanpher, an offensive rebound from Reid Szela and a 3-pointer from Lucas Miglionico.

"Our guys battle every single game. That's all we ask," said Rapoza.

Miglionico led Shepherd Hill with 24 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter.

"He gets up for these moments," Rapoza said of Miglionico. "He makes big plays when the team needs him to."

Zachary Wennerberg

(10 points) and Lanpher (9 points) were the other high scorers following Miglionico's output.

Now in the game's final seconds, Millbury's Kenny Donnelly hit one free throw and, following his missed second attempt, Miglionico grabbed the ball. After a few dribbles, he passed down the court to Luke Poirier. As Poirier was about to shoot a 3-pointer, the final buzzer sounded as the Woolies celebrated their victory.

"You've got to regroup. You've got to take lessons from tonight because hopefully we're playing games like this the rest of the way and we've got to find a way to come out on the other side," Rapoza said of the Rams' next endeavor in the Division 2 State Tournament, as Millbury will tangle with Tantasqua for the Clark Tournament Large Schools championship back at the Kneller Center on Friday, Feb. 23 at 7:45 p.m.



# SPORTS

## Minutemen rain down 3-pointers to defeat Narragansett, qualify for State Tournament



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Corey Scovil elevates to win the game-opening jump ball versus Narragansett.



Peter Barbale of Bay Path, left, tries to block a shot from the interior taken by Narragansett's Maxim Kauffman.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — Just eight seconds into their contest with Narragansett, Peter Barbale of the Bay Path boys' varsity basketball team drained a 3-pointer. And, after Joseph Denis hit a triple for the Warriors, Zack Moody and Dale Nussey followed Barbale's lead with back-to-back 3-pointers in a Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association (CMADA) non-playoff game played Friday, Feb. 16.

The Minutemen never lost their lead from there, and they combined for 12 made 3-pointers as they surged past Narragansett, 66-38.

"That has been a focus of ours because we have

struggled to score this year," Bay Path head coach Al Greenough said of the successful shots from beyond the arc. "We spent a lot of time at practice doing a lot of shooting drills and they seem to be responding to that."

The Minutemen have now gone 8-2 following a 2-7 start to the season. As a result, Bay Path has automatically qualified for the upcoming Division 2 State Tournament with its 10th victory.

"We knew that we were going to grow as the year went on, it's kind of what we've been building for. We just went from 2-7 and now we're in the Tournament, which is great," explained Greenough. "They earned it, so we're excited about that."

Greenough noted that losing Trent Szela before the season started was a huge blow to the team.

"We lost one of our best players due to a season-long injury, Trent Szela, our senior captain," said Greenough, as Szela was injured during the final soccer game in the fall. "He was our defensive stopper, probably one of the best defenders in Central Mass., actually. When you lose a player like that, I think we kind of lost a little bit of our identity at the beginning of the year because he was one of our only seniors."

Losing a great defensive player, plus about 10-14 points per game, put more emphasis on Barbale to score, and opposing teams did what they could to lock him

down.

"I think the kids took a little time to adjust. I also think with Peter Barbale on the team, he's one of the better players in Central Mass., and teams all year long have been double-teaming him, triple-teaming him, box-and-ones, and it took our team a little bit of time to find their identity with that and to have other guys step up and have confidence to make their shots," Greenough explained.

The Minutemen have certainly found their confidence, as all 11 players who played versus Narragansett scored at least one basket.

"I'm glad we're playing our best basketball right now, which is great. We're a young team — we're a junior laden

team — so next year is what we've been building for. In the meantime, we want to win this year," said Greenough. "In my 30 years here, this is the most difficult schedule we've had top to bottom, and front heavy. I knew that if we could weather that storm, we could come on strong."

Against the Warriors, Bay Path led after the first quarter, 19-12, at halftime, 39-18, and through three quarters, 55-33, before winning by 28 points. Barbale hit five 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 23 points. And although no other member of the Minutemen reached double figures, Moody, Nussey, Luke Smolski and Colin Plante all hit treys. And, on the glass, Bay Path outrebounded Narragansett

by a sizable margin of 40-23, with 10 of 11 players pulling down at least one board.

"They know me as a coach and I'm a defensive coach, and I want every loose ball and every rebound," said Greenough. "If they're doing that and the little things in the game, they're going to give themselves a better chance to win."

And the Minutemen — who concluded their regular season schedule with a 51-46 victory versus Quaboag in another CMADA non-playoff matchup on Monday, Feb. 19 — have certainly done their fair share of winning recently as they now prepare to tangle in the Division 2 State Tournament.

## 'True team effort' helps Rams get by 'tough' Bay Path

### NORTHBRIDGE AGAIN TOPS MINUTEMEN IN CLARK TOURNAMENT REMATCH



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Hannah Cavan hoists a long pass down the court.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

NORTHBRIDGE — It was Senior Night at Veterans Memorial Field House on Thursday, Feb. 15, as the Northbridge girls' varsity basketball team hosted Bay Path. The Rams' five seniors — Delaney Mahoney, Macie Allen, Natalie Zborowski, Rachel Sawyer and Erika Dresch (10 points) — all started, all contributed, and junior Molly Gahan chipped in with a double-double (14 points, 14 rebounds), as Northbridge topped the Minutemen, 36-25.

"On Senior Night, it was a true team effort," said Jeff Kozik, head coach of the Rams.

Northbridge improved to 13-5 on the season, while Bay Path slipped to 14-4.

"Bay Path is a very tough team. They keep coming at you. I thought a couple times we were going to put some distance between us, and they just crawled back. There's absolutely no quit in that team," Kozik said of the Minutemen. "That's only their fourth loss of the season, so that's a very good team that doesn't get the respect it deserves in the State ranking."

"For our girls, being able to mentally stick with it — it's tough when you're trying to put a team away and they keep

coming back — so to be able to make timely baskets and big defensive stops was huge," Kozik continued.

Bay Path head coach Randy Schulman mentioned that it wasn't the type of game his team has been accustomed to playing as of late.

"I just think we didn't come out and play our game. We didn't play as aggressive as we had all season. We had more turnovers than we usually do, and our defense usually leads to offense," said Schulman. "We've been shooting well the last three or four games, but not tonight. I think we only made one 3 tonight."

The Minutemen — who

were paced by Annika Ferrantino's 9-point, 9-rebound effort — had little time to worry about the loss to the Rams, as Bay Path and Northbridge met again on Saturday, Feb. 17 in the first round of the Clark Tournament Large Schools bracket at Grafton High before the tourney moved to Clark University for the semifinal and final rounds.

"It will be a tough game on a neutral floor," Kozik said of the upcoming rematch. "We'll watch the tape, I'll cut it up and we'll watch it as a team, and I don't think either team will drastically change much, you just try to fine-tune, see where your mistakes were."

"There's a fine line of what you want to show and what you don't want to show," Schulman added of the two games in three days situation. "I know we lost, but I'm encouraged with what we saw here tonight. It was a seven- to eight-point game for most of the game. We closed it to 25-20 and then we had one defensive lapse."

With the score at the aforementioned 25-20 just seconds before the third quarter concluded, Gahan gathered two offensive rebounds and made a post move for a bucket at the buzzer. Then, in the final period, Gahan again had a situation play out where she had two offensive boards and then made a basket. That time it made the score 32-25 in the Rams' favor.

"We know that they're a



Annika Ferrantino of Bay Path focuses on the rim ahead before shooting a free throw.

good team and they work around Molly," Schulman said of Gahan. "She got a lot of put-backs and when she got the ball in the paint, she made us pay for it."

Both coaches had positive thoughts about the Clark Tournament, which Northbridge took part in last season.

"That's the goal, play at the Kneller Center," Kozik said of trying to defeat Bay Path and then make it to the Clark floor for the later rounds. "Our girls got to play two games there (last year), so I think it could be in our advantage."

The Clark is a new experience for the Minutemen, as it is the girls' debut in the tournament, while the boys haven't taken part in over 30 years.

"Bay Path hasn't been in the Clark since 1992,

so we're excited," said Schulman. "The goal is hopefully to win one game so we can actually play at Clark."

In their second matchup, No. 2 Northbridge again defeated seventh seeded Bay Path, this time by a final score of 44-39. The Rams then took on No. 3 Hudson at the Kneller Center on Monday, Feb. 19. There, Northbridge topped the Hawks, 36-28. The Rams will now play No. 1 Tantasqua for the Clark title on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7:45 p.m.

The Minutemen then played Lunenburg in a consolation game on Monday, Feb. 19. They lost that contest, 49-45. Before the Division 2 State Tournament, Bay Path will host Lynn Voke in the State Vocational Large Schools Tournament on Friday, Feb. 23 at 5:30 p.m.



SPORTS

David Prouty powers by Pioneers in Clark Tournament opener

PANTHERS THEN DIG PAST DOUGLAS TO REACH CLARK FINAL



David Prouty's Jay Jay Neiray scans the floor while dribbling the ball.



David Prouty's Alec Fournier moves the head while on the fast break versus Southbridge.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — With the David Prouty boys' basketball team, the No. 2 seed in the Clark Tournament Small Schools bracket, struggling to score early versus No. 7 Southbridge in a quarterfinal matchup played Saturday, Feb. 17 at Oxford High, senior Alec Fournier took it upon himself to put some points on the board.

"I saw my team needed a lift, so I tried to go make the play," said Fournier.

Just past the midway point of the first quarter, the Panthers had only totaled seven points, but all seven were from Fournier.

"Even in the first quarter, shots were not actually falling, but we were very happy with the shots. We just knew if we kept getting those, they're going in and it's only a matter of time," said head coach Pat O'Connor.

Fournier added one more basket in the first quarter, and 3-pointers off the fingertips of Noah LaTour and Jayden Rubio propelled Prouty ahead, 15-6, as play moved to the second quarter.

There, Fournier took over — again. Fournier opened the frame with a free throw, a layup, and then a steal and coinciding layup as the Panthers went up, 20-6.

"We were just really ready to play," said O'Connor, pointing to the senior leadership provided by Fournier and Jay Jay Neiray. "You could just see it in the kids' eyes. Our goal was focus. We've had times where we can't focus for 32 minutes. I thought the kids were really mentally prepared. We took care of what we could control, and that was the key because we're a really

good team when we do that."

Fournier ultimately scored 15 of his game-high 17 points in the first half, most while attacking the rim, as Prouty built a 38-15 lead with two quarters to play. The Panthers ultimately won in convincing fashion, doubling up Southbridge, 72-36, as they defeated the Pioneers for the third time this season.

"He's so unselfish, but he is really talented and can score when we need him to. It just doesn't happen a lot," said O'Connor of Fournier. "He's really strong getting to the rim. Alec just wants to win. His record for the last three years is ridiculous. It's like our 58th win in three seasons. He's the ultimate warrior, the ultimate high school player."

Helping Fournier and Neiray (9 points, 8 rebounds) to victory were Rubio (15 points, including four 3-pointers) and LaTour (14 points, including four 3-pointers), as nine total Panthers scored.

By defeating Southbridge (10-9), Prouty improved to 16-3 and earned the right to play at Clark University's Kneller Center for the semifinal round.

"It's the best feeling. To get to do it again this year is just so fun," said Fournier, as the Panthers are looking to defend their Clark Small Schools title.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, David Prouty played No. 3 Douglas in the semifinals. The Panthers will get a chance to defend their championship, as they defeated the Tigers, 56-37. Prouty will play No. 1 Maynard back at Clark on Friday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. for the Clark title.

Friday's Child



Jordan  
Age 9

Hi! My name is Jordan and I love snuggles!

Jordan is an active boy that is looking to be cared for and snuggled. He likes one on one attention and benefits from both structured and unstructured time with the adults in his life. He loves to climb ladders, poles, and any playground jungle gym. He loves building forts outside, playing video games, and swimming. Jordan is hoping to continue swimming lessons, gymnastics, and karate when he moves to his new home. Socially, he does very well in his afterschool program and in his current placement.

Jordan is in elementary school and is doing well. He thrives in structured, consistent environments with routines. He is supported by staff in school and is working on further developing his social and academic skills. Teachers say he is actively

engaged in the classroom and makes friends quickly.

Jordan also has a brother with whom he has a strong relationship with that he wants to continue when he is adopted. Jordan will do well in either a one or two parent household where he can be the only child or the youngest child. Jordan will need some individual one on one time with an adoptive placement, so that love and trust can be built with his new family.

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Can I Adopt?

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](http://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.



Jayden Rubio of David Prouty finds room in Southbridge's defense to attack the basket.

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# OBITUARIES

## Herbert E. Whitworth, 85



LEICESTER - Herbert E. Whitworth, 85, died Wednesday, February 14th at the Jewish Healthcare Center, Worcester. He was raised and spent his adult life in the family home in Leicester.

For the past nearly two years he resided at Tatnuck Park in Worcester where the wonderful staff cared for him and where he was able to make a new set of dear friends in the last years of his life. Herbert leaves a brother, David P. Whitworth and his wife Doris of Paxton, a sister, Dianne E. Hare and her husband, Stephen of Leicester. He also leaves nieces and nephews, David Whitworth Jr., Michelle Gallant, Sherri Ferguson, Michael Hare and Tracey Christopher. Herb also leaves several great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his great-nephew, Zachary Hare, who was a promising baseball pitcher.

Born in Worcester, Herb was the son of Herbert H. and Dorothy E. (Kincaid) Whitworth. He was a graduate of Leicester High School, Worcester Junior College, and Clark University. Herb worked as an estimator at Riley Stoker Company in Worcester, retiring in 1994. For many years he worked in a part-time capacity at Becker College. Herb filled several roles over the years from instructor to sports writer, but the role he was most proud of was that of assistant basketball coach for Becker's Women's Basketball National Championship team. The winning

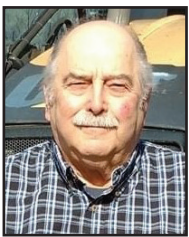
game was among Herb's favorite topics of conversation. Herb also devoted much of his time to coaching Babe Ruth Baseball in Leicester and Worcester. He was especially proud of his Eagle Scout award and of his status as a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army.

No remembrance of Herb would be complete without mentioning his beloved dog, Bobo. They were constant companions for years. Among his other interests were his love of gardening, especially raising gladiolus, trips to the town library, ice cream, Memorial Day parades, reading, spending holidays with his family, and most recently watching his great-nephew, Jack Christopher, play basketball. Herb will be dearly missed by his family. He truly was a kind and generous individual who always had a word of advice or encouragement.

Herb's funeral services were held on Monday, February 19th at 10a.m. in the Greenville Baptist Church, 674 Pleasant Street, Rochdale. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. Calling hours were Sunday 4-6 PM in the Morin Funeral Home, 1131 Main Street, Leicester. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Make a Wish Foundation, One Bulfinch Pl., 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 01202 in Memory of Zachary Hare.

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## David A. Vandale, 81



SPENCER - David A. Vandale, 81, died Sunday, February 11 at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester after an illness.

He was the husband of Linda M. (Blodgett) Vandale who died in 2011. He leaves his daughter Amy L. Vandale of Spencer and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Marie Vandale in 2016.

David attended St. Mary's School in Spencer and was a graduate of David Prouty High School. He earned a degree from UMass Lowell in physical chemistry, he also attended Assumption College for engineering. He was a master plumber, working for his father at Vandale Plumbing in Spencer. He was a skilled heavy equipment operator and the President/Owner of Vanco Sand & Gravel & Concrete in North Brookfield for 35 years, retiring in 2012. He also built and designed many homes in the area.

He was a firefighter in the Spencer Fire Department for over 25 years, reaching the rank of Captain. He was a member of the Norco Sportsman's Club

in Princeton and enjoyed fishing and shooting. He had a love for baseball since he was a boy, excelling as a pitcher. He was a longtime member of the Spencer Exchange Club.

He had a great fondness for his black labs; Sheba, Daisey, Lucy and Claire.

The funeral was held Saturday, February 17 from the J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer, with a Mass at 10 A.M. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church St., Spencer. Burial followed in Mary, Queen of the Rosary

Cemetery, Spencer. Calling hours were Friday from 4-6 P.M. in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers contributions in Dave's name can be made to the Spencer Fire Dept. Relief Fund, 11 West Main St., Spencer, MA 01562.

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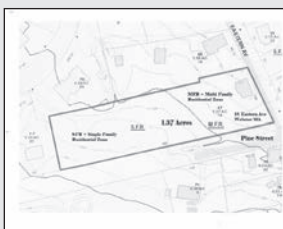
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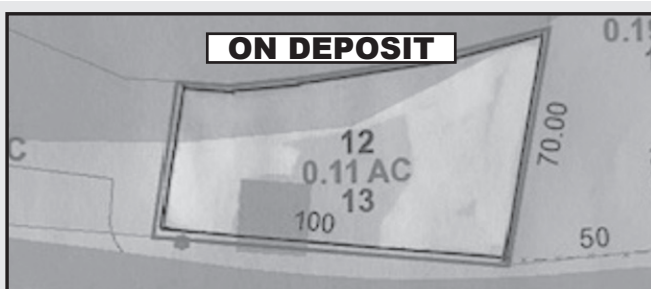
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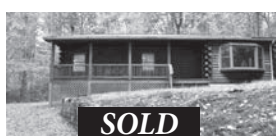
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TREVOR  
continued from page A1

decided to audition this year because I wanted to prove to people that I was a talented musician.”

Despite the challenges facing Moorghen at his audition, he rose to the occasion and impressed the panel of judges with his performance.

“At the audition, I was extremely nervous. I kept thinking that I was going to mess up in front of the judges and get a bad score. When I walked into the room, it was completely silent. I could feel my stomach twisting and turning,” Moorghen recalled. “I practiced so hard to get to this moment. It feels great to be accepted into the Central Districts Band. I always enjoy events where I am able to represent my town in any way.”

Moorghen’s next task is to learn new music that he will rehearse along with other accepted students throughout the district. A pair of four-hour rehearsal sessions will take place in April at South High School in Worcester.

The process will culminate with an April 27 performance at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School.

“I want to give special thanks to Samantha Raillo, my music instructor. She was the one who introduced me to this competition and helped me practice for this audition. Without her, I probably would not have even known about this competition,” Moorghen said. “I also want to thank my parents. They always encourage me to follow my dreams and never give up.”

School leaders look forward to not only seeing Moorghen continue his success this year, but also through the remainder of his career in Leicester and beyond.

“Wherever music takes Trevor in his future, I hope he always remembers to work hard and have fun,” Looney added.

Leicester, along with many surrounding towns, belongs to the Central District of the Massachusetts Music Educator Association, which sponsors ensembles for musicians in grades 7-9. The association also sponsors a chorus, jazz band, and orchestra.

MEETING  
continued from page A1

million) was approved by STM voters in 2022.

Projects at the DPHS work site have continued throughout the winter: Jones Whitsett

THREATS  
continued from page A1

the presentation was helpful and gave them a better understanding of the importance of inter-

Architects, Inc., is serving as the architect for the project. The general contractor is Fontaine Bros., Inc.

The construction plan calls for a renovation of the football field and track this spring. The

net safety around social media,” Diorio added.

Committed to reaching students of all ages, the DA’s outreach team attends events at schools throughout central Massachusetts.

facilities are expected to be ready for use in 2026.

The spring and summer of 2025 are slated to see a renovation of the baseball field. The project will include upgrades to the concession stand, and use of the facilities is

Additional presentation topics include avoiding distracted driving; the dangers of drugs and alcohol for young people; and teen dating safety.

“The District Attorney’s Office is com-

scheduled for 2027.

The tennis courts will be renovated in the summer of 2026, with use of the facilities expected in the fall of that year.

The summer of 2026 will also feature the demolition of Prouty’s current classroom building.

By then, the new classroom wing will be fully constructed and ready for student use.

To learn more about last week’s Special Town Meeting warrant, visit [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov).

To learn more about presentations and outreach programs offered by the District Attorney’s Office, visit [www.WorcesterDa.com](http://www.WorcesterDa.com).

# The rules about leap years

It’s widely accepted that a year is 365 days long. However, that statement is not entirely accurate. In fact, it takes Earth a little more than 365 days (365.24223 days to be precise) to orbit the sun. A calendar cannot accommodate that small distinction every year. In order to ensure that seasons do not start drifting from the difference between the Earth’s rotation and the time it takes to get around the sun, leap years were established to keep the calendar more consistent and working like clockwork. The first modern leap year took place in 1752.

Certain guidelines were established to determine which years would be leap years. A leap year typically arrives every four years. However, in terms of end-of-century years, they must

be divisible by 400. That is why the year 2000 was a leap year but 1900 was not, according to Royal Museums Greenwich.

This approach is not an entirely foolproof plan since there still may be very small discrepancies in time. Leap seconds have been added to keep time ticking correctly at various points throughout the years. This occurred on December 31 in the years 2005, 2008 and 2012, and also on June 30, 2015.

In terms of adding a day to the calendar for the leap year, it is placed in February, which already is the shortest month. While February is typically 28 days, in leap years the month features 29 days. A leap year next occurs in February 2024, and then again in 2028, 2032 and 2036.



## Leap into these Leap Year facts

Leap Year typically takes place every four years. The process of adding a day to the calendar every four years was designed to realign the clock and calendar more closely with how long it takes the Earth to rotate around the sun, which is slightly longer than the 365 days attributed to a year. If not for Leap Year, the seasons would slowly shift out of place.

There are many interesting facts to learn about Leap Year, and February 29 is the perfect time to explore them.

- It takes the Earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds to circle once around the sun, says Time and Date. Without leap years, we’d lose almost six hours every year. After a century, the calendar would be off by nearly 24 days.
- Despite 2100, the next turn of the century, being divisible by four, it will not be a leap year. That’s because it is divisible by 100 but not 400, which means it will not be a leap year. This exception to the rule pertains to new century years.
- Forbes reports that it’s likely the calendar will need to be changed again since the Earth’s rotation rate, the axial tilt orientation and the Earth’s orbital motion around the sun is not constant. Various effects, such as earthquakes and something called tidal braking, affect the passage of time.
- Legend states that on February 29 it is alright for a woman to propose to a man, a custom attributed to St. Bridget. Bridget complained to St. Patrick that some women had to wait too long for their suitors to pop the question. As the legend goes, Patrick supposedly provided women this day to propose to compensate.
- Some cultures view February 29 as an unlucky day. In Greece, couples are warned against planning weddings during leap years. In Italy, the phrase, “Anno biseto, anno funesto” (“leap year, doom year”) is uttered.
- Individuals who are born on February 29th are known as leaplings or leapers.
- Leap Day is not considered a legal day. Those who are leaplings have to choose February 28 or March 1 for their official and legal birthdays.
- Individuals who are paid fixed monthly incomes often work for free on February 29th because their wages will not be calculated to include the extra day.
- Guinness World Records indicates the only family it could verify as producing three consecutive generations born on leap days belongs to the Keoghs. The elder Patrick Anthony Keogh was born in 1940, his son Peter Eric was born in 1964, and his granddaughter Bethany in 1996.



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# Leicester police, Scouts team up for K-9 presentation



Leicester Pack 123 Scouts greet members of the LPD's K-9 Unit.

## Timothy St. John named to College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List

WORCESTER — Timothy St. John of Leicester was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2023 Dean's List.

A member of the Class of 2026, St. John was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

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LEICESTER — The police department recently teamed up with local Scouts for a fun and informative program.

The Leicester Police Department's K-9 Unit enjoyed a visit from the Scouts of Leicester Pack 123. Youngsters learned about several resources and programs the police department utilizes to keep the community safe.

"A big thank you to the LPD for hosting our Pack 123 Scouts," read a statement released by the organization. "The Scouts got a great presentation on what the K-9 unit does. They got to meet K-9 Cooney, and also got a tour of the police station."

Police leaders thank the Scouts for stopping by and showing their interest in community policing.

"Such a well-mannered group of young future leaders. Thanks for stopping by to say hello," read a statement released by the LPD.

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