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Friday, June 6, 2025

Spencer selectmen to decide on next EMS contract

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Selectmen will meet next week to discuss the future of emergency medical services in town.

Following the rejected override requests at last month's election, town officials are facing difficult decisions involving emergency services.

The Spencer Rescue Squad, which has served Spencer for nearly seven decades, will see its contract with the town expire on June 30.

Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges said selectmen will soon decide between a few final options. These include signing a one-year contract for \$325,000 with the Rescue Squad, then issuing a formal request for proposal (RFP) for other ambulance services.

The town also has the option of contracting with Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc., for the same services currently provided by the Rescue Squad, while costing \$100,000 less per year, Bridges said. The cost of this contract is \$225,000 annually.

"The additional \$100,000 for the one-year contract with the Rescue Squad is one-time funds that would not be available in future years," Bridges told the New Leader. "The town did seek proposals from numerous providers, but the only one that provided a proposal was Cataldo."

Pat George, the President of the Rescue Squad's Board of Directors, presented at a Select Board meeting on May 21.

"We were organized for the sole purpose of providing emergency 911 ambulance service to the town. That service is provided at a cost much less than if delivered by the town itself," George told the New Leader in a previous interview.

On May 27, selectmen heard a presentation from representatives of Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc., a private company based in Somerville.

Selectmen have expressed concerns over the logistics involved with a potential switch from the Rescue Squad to a private provider; if the Board were to choose that route.

"For 66 years, the Rescue Squad has saved Spencer millions of dollars. They provide excellent service, and we know it works really well," said Selectman Ralph Hicks. "If we were to go with another option and things didn't work out as well, we wouldn't be able to go back to what we had with the Rescue Squad."

Hicks said the compressed timing of the situation would add extra challenges to a potential transition to a new provider.

"I thought Cataldo had a good presentation, and I'm not saying anything negative about them," Hicks

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Exchange Club honors 18 Under 18 Award recipients



Courtesy

The Exchange Club of Spencer recently honored its 2025 class of 18 Under 18 Award recipients.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Exchange Club of Spencer recently honored its fifth annual class of 18 Under 18 Award recipients.

The award celebrates young people in Spencer and East Brookfield who are making a meaningful difference in their communities.

This year's award recipients,

selected from a competitive pool of applicants, were honored during a May 30 Worcester Bravehearts game at Fitton Field.

"I'm honored to help recognize these individuals who lead with kindness, step up when it counts, and show us all what it means to make a difference—no matter your age," said Jennifer Wysocki Moschini, who co-chairs the

club's 18 Under 18 Committee.

This year's 18 Under 18 Award recipients include Morgan Kates, Sophia Lambert, Isabella Dixon, Grace Kates, Lucas Mateucci, Martina Ethier, Kinley Sauvageau, Clarence Hitchner, Olivia Hintlian, Victoria Zheng, Shilah Nokeo, Sophia Delvalle, Stella Hitchner, Brenna Stanley, Nadia Rondeau, Mason Russo, Alexis Huard, and Raegan Tatrow.

"Applicants submitted either an essay or a video describing how they have positively impacted their communities, schools, churches, clubs, workplaces, or neighborhoods," read a statement released by the club. "Together, these 18 young leaders have completed more than 1,100 hours of community service, a

Turn To **18 UNDER 18** page **A10**

Leicester police receive supplies to help children undergoing trauma

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Thanks to an initiative from the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, several local police departments recently received supplies that will help responders support children during traumatic events.

In recent weeks, the DA's Office has distributed crisis bags to law enforcement agencies across the county, including the Leicester Police Department.

The crisis bags are tailored to three different age groups: young children (ages five and under), elementary-aged children (ages six to 10),

and teens.

Each bag contains carefully selected, developmentally appropriate comfort items intended to reduce the psychological impacts of trauma and provide reassurance.

"With these bags, we're looking to remove the trauma, the anxiety, and the fears and tears of children in crisis," said Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr. "We appreciate our law enforcement partners, who are on the frontline when these traumatic events occur. We couldn't do this work without them."

The distribution of 1,500 crisis bags is part

of a national initiative designed to assist children impacted by substance use and related emergencies.

"Research has shown that giving children items or activities to engage with during an emergency can lessen the traumatic impact of the situation unfolding around them," read a statement released by the DA's Office. "These resources aim to offer immediate comfort and stability in times of crisis."

Law enforcement personnel and other first responders will distribute the bags in situations

Turn To **SUPPLIES** page **A10**



Courtesy

Leicester Police Department Assistant Ann Marie Parkinson displays a crisis bag received from the Worcester County District Attorney's Office.

WBES fifth graders complete program with Wickaboag Sportsmen's Club



Kevin Flanders

West Brookfield Elementary School fifth graders celebrate their first-place group project with members of the Wickaboag Sportsmen's Club.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — Fifth graders at West Brookfield

Elementary School recently completed an annual program cele-

brating local wildlife and natural resources.

Organized by the Wickaboag Sportsmen's Club, the research project and essay contest has been held at WBES for several

years. Fifth graders always look forward to the project, which kicked off with a February assembly featuring guest speakers.

The event's key-note speaker was

Massachusetts Environmental

Police Lt. Michael Lees. His presentation introduced this year's research topic for students: beavers and their habitats, life cycles, behaviors, and characteristics.

WBES students have spent the last few months completing their essays and research projects. Last month, students' presentations were judged by a panel of Wickaboag Sportsmen's Club members. Top selections in multiple categories were announced during a May 29 program held at the school.

"Not everyone will take home an award today, but you are all winners," said Paul Lapenas, a member of

the club's education committee who coordinates the annual project at WBES. "You all showed up on time, put in the hard work, and did your best. We were so impressed with the projects."

First-place honors for the group project category went to a team consisting of students Nathan Hampp, Thomas Charron, Madison Clark, and Kacey Camarda.

The team won several prizes for their hard work and comprehensive project, including gift certificates to Camp Marshall. Their project is also scheduled to be displayed at the library.

Meanwhile, student Bella Messier earned the

Turn To **WBES** page **A10**

Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive capstone research projects

WORCESTER — Almost 1,200 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) completed a senior capstone thesis that is required of all graduating seniors as part of the university's distinctive project-based educational experience. Known as Major Qualifying Projects (MQP), these are professional-level research experiences in the students' fields of study that challenge students to solve the kind of problem they would typically encounter in their professional discipline.

"It's inspiring to see the creativity and skills that our students bring to these hands-on projects, as well as the professionalism with which they present their research," says Arne Gericke, interim dean of undergraduate studies and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "Their experience managing a major project like this—including identifying a problem and researching all of the implications and possible solutions while also managing team dynamics over an extended period of several months—sets them up well for success not only in their first

jobs after graduation but throughout their careers."

WPI's innovative undergraduate education is centered around project-based learning, a hands-on approach that requires students to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to real-world, open-ended problems. During their time at WPI, all students complete two significant research projects that produce tangible results and often affect the quality of people's lives. These projects change both the student and their world.

MQPs are usually team-based and often focus on specific issues or needs of an organization that has partnered with the university to sponsor the students' work. In addition to providing practical work experience that proves valuable to future employers, MQPs often lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at regional and national conferences, patents, and entrepreneurial ventures. Others become useful innovations and products for their corporate sponsors.

The following students completed an MQP:

J o s e p h Berthiaume from Spencer, majoring in Chemical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "MQP: Renovating the Fluidized Bed Apparatus for Modern Uses."

Nicole Morris from Rochdale, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Tray Carry Assistive Device."

Spencer, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Characterization of A. annua Extracts."

Maksymilian Robidoux from Rochdale, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Battlebots for NHRL Competition."

Gavin Burkhardt from North Brookfield, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology and Environmental and Sustainability Studies, class of 2025, completed a project titled "Phylogeography and Invasion of Virile Crayfish in N. America."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

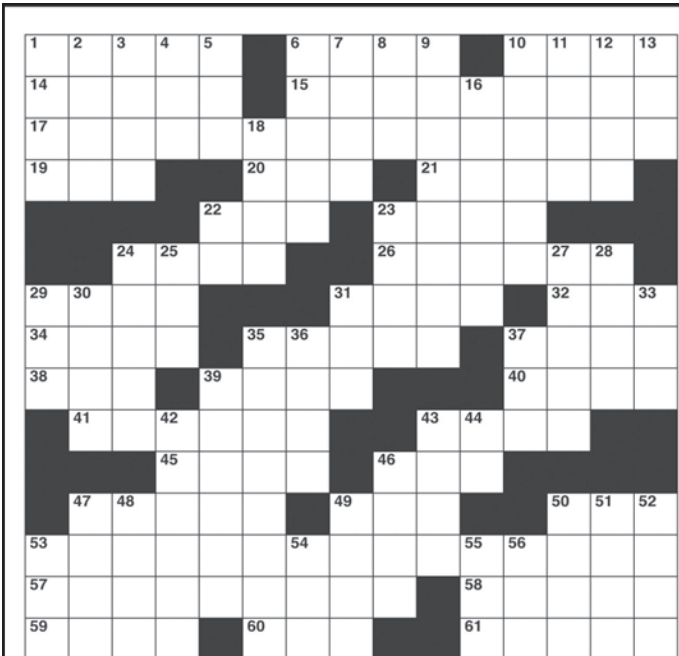


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Marsh plant
6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
10. Fogginess
14. Home to Fools' Day
15. Absence of the sense of pain
17. Popular November holiday
19. Consume food
20. Buddy
21. Long-haired goat-antelope
22. Japanese honorific
23. Actor Malek
24. One point south of southeast
26. Illegal acts
29. As fast as can be done
31. Prevents harm to young
32. Exclamation of satisfaction
34. African nation
35. Slow-moving animal
37. Oh, goodness!
38. A team's best pitcher
39. Cleanser
40. Radioactivity units
41. Expectorated matter
43. Cover a wide range
45. The central area of a church
46. California capital (abbr.)
47. Dutch painter Klaver
49. 007's creator
50. Impression of dishonesty
53. Northeastern sports rivalry
57. Cloths
58. Stalin's police chief
59. Hostleries
60. Bitterly regret
61. Anwar __, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

1. Satisfy
2. European health advocate
3. Expression of annoyance
4. Strong liquor
5. Large red deer
6. Holder of less common religious beliefs
7. West Indian shrub
8. Family of proteins
9. Wealthy, influential business leader
10. Low spirits
11. Approves food
12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
13. Mary __, cosmetics
16. Expressed in pithy maxims
18. Relaxing spaces
22. The NFL's big game
23. Proof of payment (abbr.)
24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
25. Indicates near
27. Minneapolis suburb
28. Herring-like fish
29. Doctors' group
30. Pouches
31. Bread dipping in sauce
33. Commercial
35. A reminder of past events
36. Affected by injury
37. Geological time
39. Stationary part of a motor
42. Brings together
43. Of sound mind
44. Personal computer
46. Without (French)
47. A bank might give you one
48. Agricultural testing organization
49. A small island
50. Type of gene
51. Murres
52. Card game
53. A measure of human health
54. Australian airline (abbr.)
55. One point south of due west
56. Affirmative

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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P.E.T. of the Week

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BROOKFIELD

\$651,000, 175-A Rice Corner Rd, Dudle, Jeanine D, and Dudle, Steven J, to Blais, Diane L, and Blais, Jeffrey R.

\$170,000, 81 Town Farm Rd, Howard, Steven O, to Pearl, Brian D, and Pearl, Bonnie M.

EAST BROOKFIELD
None

LEICESTER

\$840,000, 62 Lake Sargent Dr, Olivo, John F, and Olivo, Susan A, to Jakubiak, Keith, and Labrie, Stacy.

\$500,000, 60 Lake Sargent Dr, Arcm Properties LLC, to Franchi Jr, John A, and Franchi, Mireille S.

\$500,000, 99 Waite St, Bourassa, Brian, and Bourassa, Kim, to Peterson, Katelynn M, and Croteau, Casey A.

\$380,000, 9 Redfield Rd, Carmody, James P, to Kennedy, Jill.

\$140,000, 28 Crestwood Rd, Sweet, Sarah, and Banach, Kimberly, to Banach, Joshua J.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

None

WARREN

\$620,000, 2120 Southbridge Rd, Blais, Jeffrey R, and Blais, Diane L, to Kewer, William D.

\$105,000, Town Farm Rd #A, Angelo C Memoli T RET, and Memoli, Margaret R, to Fountain & Sons Const Co.

\$105,000, Town Farm Rd #B, Angelo C Memoli T RET, and Memoli, Margaret R, to Fountain & Sons Const Co.

\$105,000, Town Farm Rd #C, Angelo C Memoli T RET, and Memoli, Margaret R, to Fountain & Sons Const Co.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$680,000, 59 Snow Rd, Widen, Daniel R, and Widen, Christine T, to Mccuen, Shane T, and Mccuen, Amy.

\$633,333, 153 Ragged Hill Rd, Property Group Inc, to Figueroa, Luis, and Figueroa, Crystal.

\$329,900, 4 Foster Hill Rd, Seymour 3rd, Herbert F, to Caron, Hunter H, and Mallard, Tanya M.


\$250,000, 29 Burwell Ter, Obrien, Patrick D, and Obrien, Mary E, to Stangle, George, and Goodwin, Christana.

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Brookfield resident Madison Laflamme completes intensive research project at WPI

WORCESTER — Madison Laflamme, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled “Designing Accessible Activities and Outdoor Spaces.”

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university’s 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

“The WPI project-based curriculum’s focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. “Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture-from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today’s global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems,

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Local families invited to take part in School District’s Summer Eats Program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District invites local families to take advantage of its Summer Eats Program, which provides free, nutritious meals to children throughout the summer.

The Monday-Thursday program will run from June 30 through Aug. 14. Families can access convenient and free breakfast and lunch services at multiple community locations.

“All children 18 and under are welcome to participate in the free meals program, regardless of district enrollment,” read a statement released by Ashley Chevette, the school district’s food service director. “Our goal is to ensure every child has access to healthy meals during the summer, keeping them energized and ready for the upcoming school year.”

Adults who attend the sit-down meal sites with children will also have the option to enjoy a free meal on site.

This year’s Summer Eats Program will launch with a kickoff celebration on June 24 from 4-6 p.m. at Wire Village Elementary School. Enjoy free meals, raffles, lawn games, inflatables, and information about the program.

For additional information about the family-friendly kickoff party, check out the SEBRSD Food Services Facebook account.

As part of the Summer Eats Program, East

Brookfield Elementary School and East Brookfield Library will offer grab-and-go services (Monday through Thursday). Meals for Friday will be available at these sites on Thursday at lunch.

Breakfast will be provided from 8-9 a.m. Lunch services will be offered from 11 a.m. to noon. Additionally, Powder Mill Park and Richard Sugden Library in Spencer will provide sit-down sites for lunch (11-11:45 a.m.).

Meanwhile, the Bixby Road Apartments will offer a sit-down site. Breakfast will be offered from 8:30-9 a.m., while lunch services will take place from 11-11:45 a.m.

“Meals will be served in safe environments, making it easy for families to access healthy food during the summer break,” read the statement released by Chevette. “Let’s make this summer healthy, fun, and full of community spirit.”

For more information about the Summer Eats Program or the kickoff party, please contact Chevette at 508-885-8500 (ext. 5). You may also send an email to: Chevettea@sebrsd.org.

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Correction

LEICESTER — Due to erroneous information inadvertently provided to our reporter, in a recent edition of the New Leader, it was incorrectly stated that Leicester Middle School was sending its first group of students to the National History Day national competition.

This year’s group is, in fact, the second group to attend nationals, following the inaugural group of students who attended last year’s national competition.

The New Leader deeply regrets any confusion that may have resulted from this unintentional error.

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KNOX TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is a community committed to teaching and learning with purpose. To this end, we wanted to celebrate our Knox Trail Middle School scholars who earned the honor roll for Q3 of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The honor roll for Knox Trail Middle School will be calculated after each marking period for Grades 5 - 8. All courses in which students earn credit and receive a numerical grade will be used to determine the honor roll. The honor roll is based on the average a student achieves each marking period. The following averages will be used to calculate the honor roll:

High Honors - an average of 90 percent or greater

Honors - an average of 85 percent or greater

Knox Trail Middle School utilizes an unweighted average, which is the exact numerical average a student receives for each class in a marking period, to determine the honor roll.

Please join us in congratulating our Knox Trail Middle School scholars who made the 2024-2025 Q3 High Honors and Honor Roll!

Grade 5

Honors: Hadiya Azimi, Abigail Leary, Alayna Theurer, Amelia Lusignan, Anthony Rigiero, Anya Sarita, Augustus Black, Ayden Viens, Barbara Vasquez Guacaran, Benjamin St. Cyr, Catherine Warren, Daniella Estrella-Morales, Daxon Cadarette, Grace Olivo, Greyson Burt, Harleigh Bartkus, Isaac St. Louis, Lily O'Malley, Lorenzo Carofaniello, Luke Bergstrom, Ryder McGill, Silas Boivin, Xadrian Papp

High Honors: Annabelle Hanbury, Chloe Keenan, Cooper Keenan, Emma Nokeo, Hudson Belton, Hunter Viens, Hunter Wilder, Julianna Gillespie, Max Berthiaume

Grade 6

Honors: Abigail Graves, Adrian Clark, Ana Medina, Aria Hoffner, Avianna Cardoso, Cailyn Verity, Caleb Kozak, Gavin Prater, Jack Bjork, Jackson Brown, Julius Corrado, Keegan Day, Londyn Agyeman, Luis Mackenzie, Maeley Ellis, Mia Rocha, Patrick Bauce, Rylee Cusson, Tommy Pantojas, Trente

Bulak

High Honors: Aidan Doyle, Aiden Sigel, Allison Granger, Amazing Asensoh, Annabel Gillespie, Brayden Laliberte, Caiden Hathaway, Carleigh Huard, Emma Reilly, Emmett Edwards, Griffin Grenier, Hezekiah Kabbah, Isaiah Vega, Isabella Morazzini-Bolden, Jaxson Huard, Jonathan Navarro, Katherine St. Laurent, Kyle McCabe, Logan Pelchat, Mason Gariepy, Shaylie Moore, Stella Racicot

Grade 7

Honors: Allyson Wilder, Angeliz Guzman, Ayla Touchette, Brayden Day, Brayden Rodriguez, Brayden Roldan, Brayden Tetreault, Brayden Theurer, Colton Zwirko, Emery Leveille, Emma Graves, Emma Rose Njenga, Gabriel Cardona, Jackson Harney, Jackson McGill, Jackson Sampson, Landon Hoyt, Lillian Lavallee, Lily Walker, Lydia Clark, Madelyn Bjork, Mason Lusignan, Mason Marrier, Michael Bailey, Omayra Rivera, Shane Bayard, Taya Barry, Victoria Mulrain, Zachary Albano

High Honors: Brendan Bartone, Ella Monette, Jonah Schold, Karissa Cormier, Leo Wilson, Mason Garwood, Shelby Parsons, Wes Obrzut, Zuzanna Gladek

Grade 8

Honors: Aaron Bagrowski, Anthony Carofaniello, Anthony Latour, Ava Sandberg, Brody Hoffner, Camila Garcia-Montoya, Carl St. Cyr, Cason LeBeau, Christopher Gauvin, Dimitri McDermott, Divino Colon, Hunter Brodeur, Hunter Cusson, Jadaly Rivera Rodriguez, Jahzaian Torres-Benitez, Joseph Larson, Julieanna Tong, Lena Goyette, Madilynn Foresteire, Mason Toscano, Matthew Paquette, Olivia Roberts, Raegan Tatro, Sheyenne McConnell, Sienna Lewis, Zoe Barnett

High Honors: Anna Messier, Aubree Donaldson, Aviana Roberts, Connor Cormier, Elyse DaSilva, Irellyn Padden, Isabella Perchak, Jackson Roode, Jonathan Dehner, Kinley Sauvageau, Kylie Nelson, Landon Kaiser, Lillian Perchak, Lucas Mateucci, Madelyn MacDonald, McKinnon Pacheco, Mikayla Moorcroft, Sophia Delvalle, Sophia Lambert, Stella Hitchner, Tyler Josti

Chamber of Central Mass South remains open, ready to serve local businesses

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Chamber of Central Mass South Chamber (CMS) would like to assure its members, and local businesses that we have not closed and remain fully operational. Despite any confusion or rumors to the contrary, the Chamber is actively working to support economic growth and provide valuable resources to the businesses and organizations in our region.

“We want our members and the wider community to know that we are here, we are open, and we are committed to helping our region thrive,” said Erika Burrows, chair of CMS Board of Directors. “From networking events to advocacy and business support services, we are continuing to do what we do best—strengthening the business community.”

The Chamber encourages local business owners and entrepreneurs to reach out with questions or needs. Whether it's navigating resources, connecting with fellow professionals, or finding ways to grow, CMS remains a steadfast partner.

We are coming off of a very successful May Fun at Five at Rapsallion, and looking forward to our next Fun at Five at Scoops of Hope on June 17. Head to the CMS website to register and check out our other upcoming events scheduled for 2025.

Please visit <https://www.cmschamber.org/> or contact us at 508-753-2924 or info@cmschamber.org.

About the Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce The Chamber of Central Massachusetts South

(CMS) is committed to advancing the economic well-being of our Chamber service region and member businesses and organizations. Founded in 1945, the CMS service region includes the following municipalities: Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton, Brimfield, Holland, Wales, Warren, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Spencer, and Northern Connecticut. Moreover, the Chamber staff and Board will work to provide a robust schedule of programs and events for our members that is relevant to their needs. Additionally, the Chamber will be proactive in advocating for our members' interests, both individually and collectively, whenever possible, in the spirit of expanding the region's economic vitality.

Liam Flynn of W. Brookfield graduates from Clarkson University

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Liam Daniel Flynn of West Brookfield, received a bachelor of science degree in engineering and management, project management minor from Clarkson University on May 10.

Clarkson University is a proven leader in technological education, research, innovation and sustainable economic development. With its main campus in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, Clarkson faculty have a direct impact on more than 7,800 students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business, science and health professions; executive education, industry-relevant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries among the top 2 percent in the nation: one in five already leads in the c-suite. To learn more go to www.clarkson.edu.

West Brookfield Flea Market seeking vendors

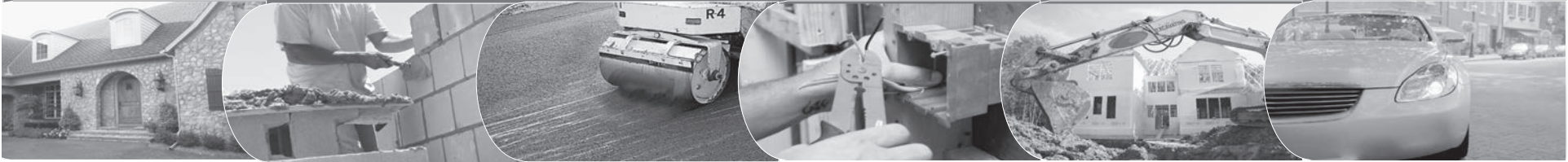
WEST BROOKFIELD — The Annual Flea Market on the West Brookfield Common is seeking vendors for their annual flea market, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Vendor sites are \$40 for a 20-by-20-foot grassy spot. Vendors must provide their own tables and clean up their space at the end of the day. Vendor check-in runs from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. For an application, please email fcofwbfeamarket@gmail.com or call 508-867-7078 and leave a voicemail.

This Flea Market is sponsored by The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield, UCC, located at 36 N. Main St.

Leicester Garden Club hosting Plant Sale

LEICESTER — The Leicester Garden club will hold their annual plant sale on Saturday, June 7. The sale will be held at the Leicester Rod and Gun Club located at 1015 Whittemore Street located in Leicester. The sale will feature many beautiful pots of annuals, vegetable plants, perennials and many other plants. The hours are 9 a.m. to noon. This is your chance to get that one more plant you need for your yard.

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Local residents receive degrees at WPI’s 156th Undergraduate Commencement

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated its 2025 Commencement with a series of ceremonies honoring the achievements of graduates across all degree levels. For the second year, commencement exercises were held at the DCU Center, where WPI conferred 1,298 bachelor’s degrees representing a diverse range of disciplines in science, engineering, technology, business, and the humanities. President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the 156th Commencement exercises on Friday, May 16.

Wang told members of the Class of 2025 they are entering a changing world filled with competing visions for how to solve challenges and advance society. But, she said, along with knowledge and technical competence in their chosen fields of study, WPI graduates have been equipped with the ability to think critically, to be resilient, to work in teams, and to do it all with a sense of ethics and global responsibility.

“Outside these walls today is a world that needs you,” Wang said. “Not just because of what you have learned to do in your chosen field, but because of who you are, and also because of the leadership qualities you built at WPI.”

Delivering the undergraduate Commencement address, Michelle Gass ‘90, president and chief executive officer of Levi Strauss & Co., reflected on her journey from student to global business leader to inspire the Class of 2025. Gass said she’s often asked how a chemical engineering graduate from WPI

became CEO of one of the most iconic apparel companies in the world. The answer, she told the graduates, lies in a handful of guiding principles she started refining in her years on the WPI campus.

“I’ve realized that to the extent I’ve been successful and able to engineer the kind of life I wanted for myself and my family, it’s largely because I learned how to approach problems and moments intentionally and productively, while keeping real people in mind at all times,” Gass said.

Gass and Mark Fuller, chair and treasurer of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, a significant supporter of WPI, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Dhespina Zhidro, a biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering double major, reminded fellow graduates about the community they formed for themselves, shaped by a collective experience that included struggle, doubt, and, ultimately, achievement.

“WPI has given us more than an education,” Zhidro said. “It has given us a blueprint for how to live, how to lead, create meaningful change, and leave every place we enter better than we found it.”

The following graduates earned BS degrees:

Brendan Halloran from Spencer majored in Biology and Biotechnology

Gavin Burkhardt from North Brookfield majored in Biology and Biotechnology and Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Joseph Berthiaume from Spencer majored in Chemical Engineering

Maksymilian Robidoux from Rochdale majored in Mechanical Engineering

Nicole Morris from Rochdale majored in Mechanical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI’s continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI’s project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor’s, Master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

St. Joseph’s hosting 32nd annual Strawberry Festival June 14

NORTH BROOKFIELD — St. Joseph’s Parish in North Brookfield will be having its 32nd annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 14 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The menu will offer baked ham, homemade baked beans, homemade potato salad, homemade cole slaw, rolls, iced tea, coffee, water, and the always delicious strawberry shortcake. Tickets can be obtained by calling the parish office at (508) 867-6469. Tickets: adults \$15 and children, five to 10 years old, \$7. Take out is also available. Location: St. Joseph’s Church Hall, 296 No. Main St., North Brookfield.

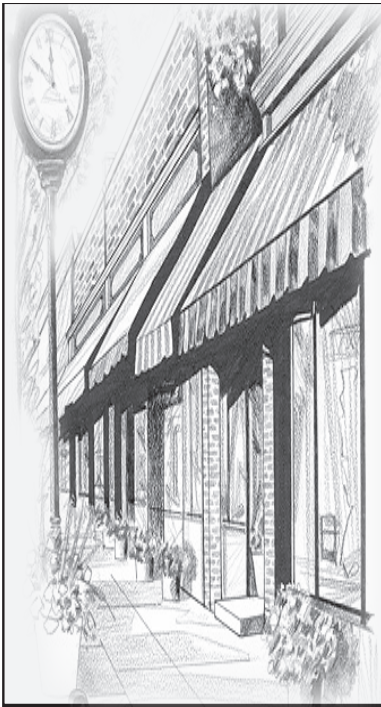
Christ Memorial Episcopal Church to hold annual chicken barbecue

NORTHBROOKFIELD — Christ Memorial Episcopal Church will hold its annual chicken barbecue this month.

The event is set for Saturday, June 14, from 1-2 p.m. The location is 133 Main St.

Offerings will include chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, a roll, drinks, and strawberry shortcake. Take-out and eat-in options are available.

Tickets (\$20 per person) will be sold at the door. You may also call Sandi at 508-867-3272, or Mary at 508-662-8174, to secure your tickets.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Pride Month —
a celebration of
freedom, love,
and basic human
respect

Pride Month isn't about parades for the sake of spectacle, or some imagined political agenda. It's about something much deeper and far more American: the right to live freely, love openly, and exist without fear.

At its core, Pride is a celebration of freedom of expression, a reminder that all people are created equal, and a protest against the idea that anyone should feel ashamed of who they are or who they love.

It's wild, honestly, that in 2025 we still have to say this out loud: LGBTQ+ people have every right to exist, to love, and to thrive just like anyone else. But the hate, the violence, the bullying is still happening. Most of it comes from people who seem to be bothered by lives that have absolutely nothing to do with them.

What makes someone furious about two women holding hands? Or two men building a life together? Why do some people fixate on other people's relationships as if they were their business to approve or condemn? It's strange, and it's telling.

A big part of it comes down to representation. For so long, gay couples and anyone who isn't straight were invisible in media, ignored in history, and left out of the everyday story society tells about itself. And when something seems different or unfamiliar, some folks decide it's wrong. But different doesn't mean wrong. It just means different.

Pride Month is about countering that invisibility. It's about creating a world where LGBTQ+ people don't have to wonder if they'll be safe in public, or if their identity will cost them their job, their family, or their lives. It's about telling the kid in the small town, or the adult who's finally coming out later in life: you are not alone, and there is nothing wrong with you.

Pride isn't about sex. That's a tired excuse opponents use when they don't want to confront their own discomfort. Pride is about love, the right to love without shame, without silence, and without asking permission.

LGBTQ+ people are more than who they love. They are teachers, veterans, parents, artists, first responders, elected officials, neighbors, and friends. They contribute to society in every way imaginable. The idea that some people's lives matter less because of their identity is not just wrong, it's un-American.

Pride Month is a time to honor courage, community, and the hard-won right to live authentically. It's also a time to remind ourselves that no one's existence is more important than anyone else's. We're all just trying to live.

And for those who still feel the need to tear others down because of who they love, perhaps it is time to ask what that says about yourselves, not 'them.' Because live and let live isn't just good advice — it's one of the bedrock principles of a civil society.

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

Keep following the money

To the Editor:

If you were not disgusted enough with Musk, his 19 year old cyber ninjas, and the devastation that the Department of Government Excuses has wrought by its design being to ignore value and consider cost cuts to be savings, then as a loyal cult member, you probably applaud cuts to the IRS, Social Security and the VA, who were already so understaffed that reaching them by phone, was already nearly impossible, saving the half billion dollar Consumer Protection Agency budget, that returned \$18 billion last year, cutting the National Park Services \$3 billion budget that had \$55 billion revenue last year, and the most disgusting and foolish, the world's richest man putting a halt to USAID, that provided our surplus food and drugs to the most destitute people in the world, and now causes devastating riots ,genocide and the environment that breeds terrorists. Even Musk, who drank the Kool Aid and thought he was part of Trump ending deficit spending, is in disfavor and walking away after seeing his butchering of government will result in justification to again put a giant addition on the deficit. When a final account audit is done, I doubt the balance sheet of his impacts and results produce any savings.

Are any of you actually buying the fact that the actions of the current POTUS, can be justified because they are done in open defiance of laws?

His violations of emolument laws prohibiting profiting from foreign sources, was ignored, tongue in cheek, in his first term.

In a recent “Meet The Press” appearance, he was asked if he would follow the constitution, that he had sworn to preserve and protect. (He used no Bible this time as they refused to use the China Bible he sells). His answer to the question was, “I will have to check with my lawyers.”

He really needs to get better lawyers, not just those who justify his illegal acts. He has stated that the courts are ruining a presidential power by declaring his tariff levies illegal. The courts pointed out that tariffs, are not , and never have been a presidential power and it says so in the constitution. By obtaining a stay on that ruling, he guaranteed to pay interest on monies illegally collected, thereby actually , both costing us money, but creating a climate where nobody who is not already doing business here, would consider starting to be prudent.

Qatar has now confirmed that the \$400 million “gift” plane was actually solicited by our DOJ, and Hegeseth has tried to accept it before the quid pro quo is spelled out. Trump had already ordered two new AF#1 planes in his first term, and it is a mystery why Boeing has not delivered, especially with China cancelling 30 planes, but the fact remains that this plane is 13 years old, would need massive costly upgrades and, like the other planes, carries \$135 million a year maintenance costs.

The self serving crypto fiasco, speaks for itself. He is a mob boss and a crook.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Thanks to all who supported East
Brookfield’s Memorial Day celebration

To the Editor:

The East Brookfield Memorial Day Committee would like to extend thanks to everyone who made this day possible: The Boulette-Skyten American Legion Post, the veterans who marched in the parade, the fire department, police department, the Board of Selectmen, Father Don, Pastor Dennis, the David Prouty Marching Band, the Scouts, the Jacobs Family and Mark Carpentier and Marc Lamoureux for providing transportation to parade participants, and the teachers and students of East Brookfield Elementary School. We would also like to express thanks and gratitude to Dennis and Paul LeBeau for the set up and use of their sound system.

Thank you also to Amanda Lambert

for singing this morning and Peter McNeaney for playing Taps at Podunk Cemetery. Special thanks also to Joe Fish, Ed Gablaski, Carina Holt, Debby Silliman, Mary Wyne, Jordan Gablaski, Isabella Descenza, and Susan Lydick for their help and the members of the Senior Center for the use of their space. It takes many people working together to make this commemoration possible and my apologies if I have forgotten anyone. All veterans are invited to march in the parade each year and we hope to see you next year!

HEATHER GABLASKI
JAMES JOYCE
AMANDA LAMBERT
EAST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Democrat Follies

To the Editor:

Week after week, the K and K writers constantly send their Trump bashing letters in. Just once, I would love to read something positive about their “chosen” party! Honestly, I don't think they can find anything positive in that leftist, activist gone crazy party! This is why they choose to pick apart anything that President Trump has done these past 130 days or so. As the old saying goes, “Never get in the way of the enemy when it's destroying itself.”

We are watching the destruction of the once moderate, what I would call the JFK Democrat party who said at his inauguration, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!” Beautiful, well-spoken words that meant so much back in 1961, but no longer apply to this current, radical and extreme Democrat party! The Democrats care more about the illegals than American citizens! For example: In April 2025, Pressley, Markey, and McGovern-all legislators from MA traveled to Louisiana to an ICE facility to check on the well being of Mahmoud Khalil, the protestor arrested at Columbia University with direct ties to Hamas and Rumeysa Ozturk , the illegal from Somerville who has terrorist ties and a expired Visa. These Congress people are supposed to be working for US not

Illegal Alien Terrorists!!!!

In President Trump's first 100 days in office, he has accomplished more than corrupt President “Autopen” did in the four years he lived in the White House! Trump closed the southern border, initiated DOGE which has uncovered billions of government fraud and waste, executive orders to cut taxes, no tax on tips, no tax on social security, signed in Title IX, signed bill to stop child mutilation, working hard to bring peace in Middle East with Russia and Ukraine, Iran, Israel and Gaza, making huge deals to bring big businesses and jobs to US like Nippon Steel. Every day he is working hard against all the rogue judges, to deport the illegal alien criminals! This is why Americans voted Trump into office again to Make America Safe Again!

By the way — Mr. K stated in his letter that he felt Woke was the new word for patriot? I vehemently disagree with you, sir! Woke describes AOC or a Jasmine Crockett, both Democrats, and no way are they, or could they ever be, considered a patriot!

The only way we are going to Make America Great Again is to live by the words of our Pledge of Allegiance: We are one nation under God!

LINDA BUCKLEY
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Questions to
ask your
financial advisor



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You should always be able to ask as many questions as you'd like when working with your financial advisor. So, before you have your annual review, think carefully about what you'd like to ask.

Here are a few suggestions:

Are my goals still realistic? When you first began working with your financial advisor, you may well have articulated several financial goals. For example, you might have said that you wanted to pay for most of your children's college education, or that you'd like to retire at age 55, or that you hope to travel internationally every year during retirement. In fact, you could have many different goals for which you're saving and investing. When you meet with your financial advisor, you'll certainly want to ask whether you're still on track toward meeting these goals. If you are, you can continue with the financial strategies you've been following; but if you aren't, you may need to adjust them. The same is true if your goals have changed. You and your financial advisor will want to build a strategy to address any new or different goals such as emergency cash needs, having adequate insurance protection or estate planning.

Am I taking on too much — or too little — risk? Put market declines in perspective. The financial markets always fluctuate, and these movements will affect the value of your investment portfolio. Suppose you watch the markets closely every day and track their impact on your investments. You may find yourself fretting over their value and wondering whether you're taking on too much investment risk for your comfort level. Conversely, if during an extended period of market gains your own portfolio appears to be lagging, you might feel that you should be investing more aggressively, which entails greater risk. In any case, it's important to consult with your financial advisor to determine your risk tolerance and use it as a guideline for making investment choices.

How will changes in my life affect my investment strategy? Your life is not static. Over the years, you may experience any number of major events, such as marriage, remarriage, loss of a spouse, birth of children or grandchildren, changing jobs or illness leading to early retirement. When you meet with your financial advisor, you will want to discuss these types of changes, because they can affect your long-term goals and your investment decisions.

How are external forces affecting my investment portfolio? Generally speaking, you will want to create an investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. And, as mentioned, you may need to adjust your strategy based on changes in your life. But should you also make changes based on outside forces, such as interest rate movements, political events, inflation, new tax legislation or news affecting industries in which you have invested substantially? Try not to make long-term investment decisions based on short-term news. Yet, talk with your financial advisor to make sure your investment portfolio and spending strategy are not out of alignment with relevant external factors.

By making these and other inquiries, you can help yourself stay informed about your overall investment picture and what moves, if any, you should make to keep advancing toward your goals. A financial advisor is there to provide you with valuable guidance — so take full advantage of it.

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.



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

When planting your garden this season, why not choose a few plants that contain natural mosquito repellent properties? From catnip to lavender, there are several easy to grow flowers and herbs that have proven to repel the pesky insects – with some proving to be as effective as chemical commercial offerings!

Read on for a rundown of the most common garden favorites that keep the bugs at bay!

Mint: Mint is an easy to grow mosquito repellent. Thanks to the oils that the plant produce, mint does double duty: Not only does mint deter mosquitos, but dabbing the leaves it on a fresh mosquito bite can provide relief!

A popular mosquito spray recipe: Mix in a spray bottle, one cup freshly picked mint leaves with two cups of distilled

water. Add two tablespoons of Witch Hazel and shake.

FYI: Mint also deters flies and ants!

Marigolds: Marigolds are not only a bright spot in the garden and easy to grow, but their distinctive scent also repel mosquitos. The pompom flowers contain the natural chemical pyrethrum, which is an ingredient in some commercial mosquito sprays. (Last week, this column highlighted the health boosting prop-

erties of Marigolds.)

FYI: Plant marigolds in the garden as companion plants to deter common garden pests such as aphids and whiteflies.

Catnip: Catnip's secret weapon against mosquitoes is a natural compound, Nepetalactone. In fact, studies show that catnip is at least as powerful as the chemical DEET as deterring mosquitos. One early study from the American Chemical Society revealed catnip is ten times more effective at deterring mosquitos as DEET!

Basil: Basil is not only a favorite kitchen herb, but the plant also repels mosquitos (and flies)!

According to Metode.org, basil contains several volatile compounds, including estragole (also known as tarragon), methyl-nonyl-ketone, geraniol, citronellal, and limonene.

proven repellent properties.

To use, simply crush lavender (flowers and leaves) in your hand and rub on exposed skin.

FYI: Linalool is what gives lavender its calming properties.

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 renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump damages one of our country's, state's and Worcester area's greatest assets and sources of employment — universities

To the Editor:

Donald Trump likes to talk about how the United States needs to increase exports and payments the rest of the world makes to the USA.

At the same time, he and his people go about not only interfering with but actively trying to halt the success and contributions of one of our best-in-the-world and most sought after economic sectors, education.

As an example, the education sector contribution to the American economy. Let's just look an international student's spending and support to employment.

In the 2023 – 2024 school year, a well regarded analysis showed that students from other countries spent \$44 billion in the United States and supported 378,000 American jobs.

Our home state of Massachusetts earned and benefited from almost 10 percent of this total, nearly \$4 billion of

spending and over 35,000 jobs.

Estimates indicate that the dozen or so Worcester colleges and universities earn and benefit up to \$150 million and support 1,500 jobs.

Yet despite good student vetting and acceptance procedures, just two years later, the Trump administration, massively tries to limit and international student arrivals. It also brutally goes about cancelling student visas, and mostly without due cause, arresting and imprisoning legally here students and denying or discouraging the applications of admission of future students.

In this and other ways, the hate filled, self interested Trump administration seeks to damage or destroy an important part of what makes our "America Great."

Kevin Kane
Spencer

End liberals' corporate welfare also

To the Editor:

One of the things liberal Democrats have complained about for years, and they still do, is republicans taking care of their rich business leaders, corporate welfare they call it. "They always take care of the rich," liberals say, almost daily. You never hear of Democrats wanting to get rid of corporate welfare for their rich democratic donors though, or those getting rich off of the government. I believe that's what President Trump is trying to do.

One "corporation" Trump wants to cut federal funding to has between \$50 to \$60 billion in the bank, with threats to cut over \$2.2 billion in grants & over \$60 million in contracts. Another "corporation" has almost \$15 billion in the bank with threats to cut over \$450 million in funding. With that much money at their disposal, why spend their cash when they can spend our cash-tax dollars. Liberal democrats should be screaming about that, especially socialist Bernie Sanders, but they're not. Those two "corporations" are Harvard University & Columbia University respectfully, which charges their students over \$105,000/year & \$92,000/year respectfully. These endowment funds are used to generate income. With those rates why beg the government for any money?

Another corporate welfare target of Trump is NPR & PBS, both of which can be listed, in my opinion, as small fake news organizations. How many people actually listen to NPR on a daily, regular basis? What is the NPR station in Worcester? Is there one? Then there's PBS, the TV station famous for "Sesame

Street." With an estimated net worth of between \$33 million to \$45 million & yearly revenues between \$8 million to \$15 million yearly, they can clearly afford to go on regular TV and pay to have "Sesame Street" in Iraq themselves (\$20 million US tax dollars). The Boston Globe had a story citing almost \$6 million in total salaries for the top 16 executives at PBS's WGBH. This for a "nonprofit" TV station.

NPR & PBS receive their tax dollars from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which receives over \$500 million/year. With the varying forms of public communications now easily available (podcasts, etc.) why should the federal government fund this? They say they get only 1 percent of their budget from the federal government. If so, why complain about a 1 percent decrease of your budget when elderly citizens & veterans get larger "budget cuts" each year with increased medical costs?

DOGE recently announced they are in the process of removing 12.8 million people over the age of 120 from collecting Social Security benefits; not bad, considering America's oldest citizen is 115. So this cut will affect nobody "legally" collecting SSA benefits. Add these savings to the above-mentioned savings and the Trump Administration will be able to properly take care of veterans and the elderly without any cuts in services or additional costs to the American taxpayer. How can anyone be mad about that?

JOHN SHOCK
CHERRY VALLEY

We've all done it. Something goes wrong—a bad day at work, a fight with a friend—and the words come pouring out. Complaining can feel like a relief. But what if science says it's not helping at all?

Your brain is like a hiking trail. Every time you walk the same path, it gets easier to find—and harder to avoid. Venting carves that path deeper. The more you fixate on what went wrong, the more your brain learns to return to that place.

Your brain can learn both positive and negative habits. And the more you replay either one, the more your mind is trained to stay in that state. So when you constantly focus on the negative—by venting, complaining, or reliving what went wrong—you're teaching your brain to live there. To expect it. To look for it. Constantly hiking that trail, so to speak.

When you vent without seeking a solution, your brain starts to believe the problem is bigger—and that you're smaller. Over time, you're not just describing the struggle; you're training your

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mind to feel powerless in the face of it. Complaining becomes less about release and more about rehearsal. Conditioning yourself for failure.

Contrary to popular belief, expressing anger without resolution doesn't release emotion—it amplifies it. It's like turning up the volume without changing the song. Each time you vent, your brain thinks the threat is still happening, flooding your body with stress and keeping your nervous system in a state of fight-or-flight. The more you relive the stress, the more your system stays on high alert. Not because of what happened but because you won't stop replaying it.

It's hurting your relationships. It turns conversations into dumping grounds, leaving listeners feeling drained or helpless—especially when they feel unable to make a difference. In trying to release stress, we end up spreading it. When grumbling becomes the main event, connection takes a back seat. Instead of a conversation, it's a monologue. The listener can't help, and you both walk

away less happy.

Conventional wisdom taught us that voicing our struggles helps us "get it all out," but research suggests otherwise. Studies show that it doesn't create clarity—it creates confusion. Instead of moving toward resolution, we circle around blame, frustration, and helplessness. This kind of repetitive negativity dampens our brain's ability to plan, prioritize, and think creatively. Complaining aimlessly doesn't unlock solutions—it shuts them down. The mind can't design solutions while it's stuck in survival mode.

Emotions are contagious! When we grumble, we're not just expressing—we're transmitting. Cortisol (your body's stress hormone) doesn't just stay in your bloodstream; it causes others to produce stress hormones, too! Dysregulating not just your nervous system but everyone else's as well. What feels like a release at the moment can leave others feeling anxious, irritable, or exhausted—and you even more out of sync.

Sadly, every time you vent, voice your pain,

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A11**



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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy celebrates 10th Annual National Technical Honor Society induction

DOUGLAS — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy proudly inducted fifteen students and one alum into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) during a scenic outdoor ceremony held on Sunday, May 11 at Douglas Orchard and Farms. Surrounded by blooming apple blossoms, the event marked the Academy's tenth annual induction and the sixth consecutive year it has been hosted at the orchard's picturesque pavilion.

The ceremony honors practical nursing students who demonstrate excellence in academics, leadership, service, and character. Eligibility for NTHS is based on grade point average, faculty recommendation, and involvement in extracurricular activities and volunteer service. The recognized qualities align with NTHS's core values: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership.

“Making it through nursing school and earning NTHS induction is a true feather in our students’ caps,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. “These students balance rigorous coursework with work and family responsibilities—it’s a remarkable achievement. We are incredibly proud



Courtes

Pictured here is the PN Class of 2025 NTHS Inductees are as follows: Elizabeth Achayo of Worcester (UNICEF Club Officer), Cynthia Agyeman of Worcester, Rachel Anane of Worcester (MassHire Grant Recipient, UNICEF Club Officer), Emily Bamberger of Wales, Sandra Celestin of Taunton (DDS Scholar), Maria DeAmorim Hentschke of Worcester, Chali Desrosiers of Oxford, Jason Houatchanthara of Fiskdale, Flory Muleka of Worcester, Loise Ngigi of South Grafton (MassHire Grant Recipient, P.E.O. Chapter N, UNICEF Club Officer), Grant Peterson of Millbury (MassHire Grant Recipient, MassAbility Grant Recipient), Natasha Rovon of Worcester (MassHire Grant Recipient), Gorret Rusoke of Springfield, Delene Sarsfield of Charlton (MassHire Grant Recipient, P.E.O. Chapter AA, UNICEF Club Officer), and Bobbiejo Smith of North Brookfield (DDS Scholar). The PN Class of 2024 Honorary NTHS Inductee was John Martin Wanjiru, LPN of South Grafton.

of their resilience and dedication.”

Bolandrina has organized the NTHS induction ceremony each year

since its inception and emphasized the importance of the tradition.

“What started during the COVID-19 pandemic

has grown into a meaningful annual event. Our students and their families look forward to celebrating in such a beauti-

Aaron Socrat, owner, architect, and builder of Douglas Orchard and Farms, expressed pride in hosting the event.

"I envisioned this pavilion with the orchard as the backdrop for moments just like this," said Socrat. "It's an honor to support the next gener-

ation of nurses in such a memorable setting."

The Academy expressed its gratitude to Douglas Orchard and Farms for its continued hospitality and support.

*QCC students
recognized at
all-state academic
team ceremony*

WORCESTER — Two students from Quinsigamond Community College were recognized earlier this month by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MACC) for their induction to the 2025 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-State Academic Team. QCC students Deanna Kelsaw and Vijay Kesavan joined 31 students from other community colleges throughout the state at the ceremony.

“It is an honor to have two of our outstanding PTK students, Deanna and Vijay recognized as members of the state’s All-Academic Team. Their achievements are a testament to what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication, and determination,” said QCC President Luis Pedraja, Ph.D.

PTK International Honor Society recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of two-year college students. Students nominated to the national All-USA Academic Team are automatically named to the All-State Academic Teams. To be eligible for nomination, students must have earned a minimum cumulative college-level grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale

Kelsaw, who recently received a certificate in medical assisting, recognized PTK as a support system that contributed to her success at QCC, in addition to her own strength and perseverance.

"At first, when I thought about a career, I was not sure what I wanted to do because I have cochlear implants and limitations," Kelsaw shared, explaining that support from PTK staff and other students helped her embrace both her strengths and weaknesses while guiding her academic and professional journey in healthcare.

"Once you become a Phi Theta Kappa member, you are never truly alone," Kelsaw added.

Kelsaw plans on continuing her studies to become a registered nurse, so she can pursue her passion for helping others.

Kesavan, who will be transferring to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall, has been involved in many extracurricular and academic pursuits at OCC.

"I was very happy to have been recognized. I had never been to the State House before, so getting to go there for an event like the recognition ceremony was an amazing experience," Kesavan said.

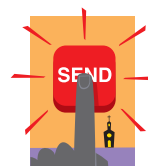
QCC's PTK Alpha Zeta Theta chapter offers students opportunities for growth through leadership and service programming and has won several regional and national awards.

For more information visit www.QCC.edu/PTK.

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Knox Trail band performs at Great East Music Festival

SPENCER — The Knox Trail Middle School Band, under the direction of Mrs. Christine Noble, performed beautifully last week at the Great East Music Festivals at the MassMutual Arena in Springfield. As a result of their efforts, they are bringing home the “Gold Medal Performance” plaque for the Knox Trail Middle School trophy case once again.

“We could not be any more excited for our music program, which has only grown in popularity and quality of performances over the past six-plus years,” said Superintendent of Schools Paul Haughey.

“Today’s gold medal performance speaks to the growth and development of talent that our young people have demonstrated, under the direction of Mrs. Noble,” added Haughey. “That makes a hat trick, three consecutive years of winning gold...The students performed beautifully, and I speak for many people in our regional schools when I say, ‘we could not be prouder’ of where we are and where we are going with our districtwide music program. Congratulations to Mrs. Nobles and the Knox Trail Middle School Band on a job well done!”



Courtesy

Robert and Claire Kresco recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a small gathering of family and friends. A special guest also stopped by to join the celebration, as State Rep. Donald Berthiaume provided a State House citation honoring the occasion. From all of us at the New Leader, congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Kresco, who were married on May 28, 1960.



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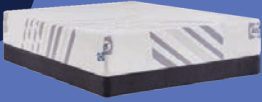
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18 UNDER 18

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true testament to their dedication and compassion.”

This year’s recipients represent both David Prouty High School and Knox Trail Middle School.

“Since its launch in 2021,

the 18 Under 18 Program has become a cornerstone of the Exchange Club of Spencer’s mission to promote youth excellence and community service,” read the club-issued statement.

Each year, the program highlights community involvement, work ethic, leadership, selflessness, and citizenship, among

several other categories.

Understanding that students are often recognized for academic and athletic success, Exchange Club members created the 18 Under 18 Program as a tool to celebrate youngsters whose achievements may have gone overlooked. These include volunteering at a local church or orga-

nization; assisting family members and friends in need; or serving as a leader in school.

The Exchange Club congratulates all students who were selected for this year’s 18 Under 18 Program. They join an all-time roster of several impressive local young people who have impacted their communities in

myriad ways.

Past 18 Under 18 Award recipients include Spencer’s Ryleigh Modig, who inspired the community with her journey on NBC’s The Voice. More recently, several local students have been selected for their community contributions. Whether it’s serving as a lifeguard, a camp counselor, a church

volunteer, or a mentor, area kids are staying active and involved. Exchange Club members already look forward to recognizing next year’s young achievers.

For more information about the 18 Under 18 Program and how to apply, send an email to: exchange18under18@gmail.com.

SUPPLIES

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involving overdoses and substance-related incidents where children are present. By providing these resources at the scene, responders can offer immediate support to vulnerable children.

For Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica and his team, it means a lot to receive ongoing support from the DA’s Office.

“The LPD received nine crisis bags from DA Joe Early’s Office,” Antanavica said. “We have placed these bags in all front-line police cruisers and supervisors’ cruisers. They will be utilized in any situation where a child might be in crisis. We will always have something on hand to help a child in crisis get through a difficult time.”

The number of crisis bags distributed to each community was decided by the level of need, as determined by data submitted to the DA’s Office regarding past emergency responses. Accordingly, Worcester’s Police and Fire Departments combined to receive approximately 400 of the 1,500 bags, with the remainder allocated to other municipalities across the county.

To learn more about other community assistance programs run by the DA’s Office, visit www.worcesterda.com.

EMS

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added. “The reality is that, when you come into a new community, you need a lot of time to properly prepare. There wouldn’t be enough time to do this the right way.”

Selectman Jonathan Viner said he supports utilizing a formal RFP process to determine the best option.

“Following a formal RFP process establishes a level playing field for all parties and provides the best opportunity for the town to obtain quality, cost-effective ambulance service,” Viner said. “Obviously that process takes time, and during the interim I’m in favor of extending Spencer Rescue

Squad’s contract on a short-term basis.”

The Rescue Squad receives approximately 2,200 calls for ambulance service annually, with more than two-thirds of those calls requiring hospital transport.

Additionally, nearly 80 percent of transports are for Medicare/Medicaid recipients, necessitating a write-off of nearly \$2.4 million in annual transport billings. The government reimburses less than 30 percent of the amounts billed for those transports.

As part of the override requests, officials were seeking to fund contractual expenses for the Rescue Squad. Additional funds were requested to cover the positions of four firefighters in

the Spencer Fire Department (replacing the expiring grant funds for these positions).

Both override questions were overwhelmingly defeated at the May 13 Annual Town Election, leading to uncertainty not only for EMS providers but also fire services personnel.

“The override vote to provide the Spencer Rescue Squad more funding failed by a two to one vote, as did the other funding requests that would have provided funds for keeping four firefighters and clearing a structural deficit caused by the funding requirements imposed on the town by the State Department of Education,” Bridges said. “It is clear that the taxpayers of the town have no appetite for increasing the levy limit,

and therefore the town must make choices that fit within its fiscal constraints, regardless of the fact that the town does not have control over large portions of those fiscal responsibilities.”

Selectmen will next discuss emergency medical services at their June 9 meeting. A final decision on the next contract could take place at the meeting, officials said.

“My biggest concern is ensuring that Spencer continues to have adequate emergency medical services without any gaps in coverage,” said Selectman Jared Grigg.

The New Leader was unable to reach officials with Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc., by our press deadline for this week’s edition.

WBES

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top prize for best expository essay, as determined by club members.

Several additional honors went to top achievers in various categories. Raffle prizes were also available to project participants.

School officials thank club members for taking the time to educate and inspire the students each year.

“I was incredibly impressed by the thoughtfulness and effort each student put into their work. It’s always impressive to see students engaging with big ideas and expressing themselves with such confidence,” said WBES Principal Melissa Provost. “Their dedication truly deserves recognition, along with their fifth grade teachers who helped to inspire them.”

During their research for the project, students discovered the critical role beavers play as a keystone species for area wetland ecosystems.

School officials and stu-



Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club members celebrate the completion of an annual project with WBES fifth graders.

dents alike enjoy the presentations each year. For staff members, it means a lot to welcome community leaders into the building to share their knowledge.

“It’s such a nice collaboration between the Sportsmen’s

Club and our school. It gives the kids a unique opportunity for a fun, educational project,” WBES fifth grade teacher Nicole Jones told the New Leader when the project began.

Officials thank all supporters of the project that contributed prizes, including Camp Marshall. An array of secondary prizes included T-shirts, blankets, puzzles, games, and stuffed animals, among others.

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✿✿✿✿✿✿



Bella Messier, a WBES fifth grader, earned the top prize for the expository essay category.

Investing in tomorrow: Fueling youth growth, leadership and resilience

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$25,000 to YMCA of Central Massachusetts for the fifth year straight. The money will support programs that build academic skills and help kids develop as future leaders.

“The YMCA is a place where children form lasting positive relationships with peers and mentors,” said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. “We’ve seen how powerful that can be.”

Thousands of teenagers attend the YMCA of Central Massachusetts’ many programs every year, including summer camp, after-school activities, internships, food assistance, education, mental health assistance and programs for cancer survivors. Cornerstone Bank’s donation will help ensure that children continue to have access to these life-changing programs regardless of their financial means.

“The Y gives children the tools they need to develop into healthy and socially responsible leaders,” said Tallman. “We’re proud to have a small part in uplifting that important mission.”

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

POSITIVELY

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your wounds, your “stuckness”—you strengthen the story that you are those things. Instead of helping your brain process the experience and move forward, constantly venting blends your identity with the version of you that’s still hurting. Over time, that repeated focus doesn’t lead to healing—it leads to entanglement. You stop being someone who had a challenging experience and starts becoming someone who is the experience.

Sure, complaining can feel good—for a second, like a steam valve hissing open. But long-term relief doesn’t come from circling the same complaints. It comes from breaking the loop. From reflection. From pattern interruption. From choosing to move forward, even when your feelings are still catching up.

So, the next time you feel the urge to vent, pause. Breathe. Ask yourself what you want—relief or repetition. The answer might change everything. The truth is that your brain is always listening.

Every word you speak shapes the path ahead. So talk like someone who’s going somewhere. Use words that push you forward, not hold you back. You’re not powerless—you’re learning, growing, becoming. You don’t need more drama. You need direction. You don’t need everything figured out—you need to stop looking back and start moving forward.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

The why and how of deadheading



Corona Tools – Courtesy

A gardener using an Ergocut dead header in the garden.

Keep your flowers blooming longer and your garden a bit tidier with deadheading. Removing faded flowers can promote repeat bloom on some plants, encourage fuller, more compact growth, and tidy up the garden.

Use a bypass hand pruner, garden snips or other dead-heading tool to remove faded flowers. Bypass tools have two sharp blades like scissors, resulting in a clean cut that closes quickly, leaving your plant looking its best. Corona Tool’s Ergocut dead header (coronatools.com) has a finger loop that provides better control and an ergonomic design for less stress on your hands and wrist.

The type of flower will influence how and where to make the cut. In general, remove the stem of faded blooms back to the first set of healthy leaves or nearby flower buds.

Remove the flower stem of salvias, speedwells (Veronicas), and snapdragons as the blooms begin to fade. Cut below the spike of flowers just above the first set of leaves or the side shoots where the new flower buds are forming.

Encourage additional blossoms and improve Shasta daisy’s appearance by removing faded flowers. Prune back just above a set of healthy leaves.

Cut the flowers of plants like Armeria and coral bells back to the base of the flower stems that arise from the foliage. This improves the appearance and encourages more blooms on some of this type of flowering perennial.

Plants like daylilies and balloon flowers require a bit different care. Remove the individual blooms as they fade if you don’t like looking at the faded flowers. Once all the individual flowers have bloomed out, you can cut the flower stem back at the base.

Removing fading flowers of fuch-

sia and lantana will prevent the plants from going to seed and encourage more blooms. Remove any berries that do form to keep these plants flowering throughout the growing season.

Deadheading peonies is strictly for aesthetics and won’t extend the bloom time. Remove the faded flowers or seedpods as they form. Cut just above a healthy set of leaves to keep the stems more upright and create a tidier appearance in your garden.

Prevent some flowers, like columbine, Amsonia, and Alliums from reseeding and spreading throughout the garden by removing the faded flowers. Even though it won’t promote additional blooms, it will help eliminate unwanted seedlings in next year’s garden.

Remove flowers as they appear on coleus, grown for its colorful foliage, to promote more compact growth. Late bloom-

ing, flowerless varieties and self-branching coleus hybrids reduce or eliminate time spent on this task.

Reduce time spent deadheading by including some self-cleaning, also called free-flowering plants, like impatiens, fibrous begonias, Calibrachoa, and moss

rose. Lobelia, many of the newer petunias, and verbenas are also self-cleaning but may benefit from a bit of grooming. Prune back heat-stressed lobelia and verbenas that get leggy and petunia stems that need to be kept in bounds.

Allow seedheads to develop on coneflowers, rudbeckias, and other plants that provide winter interest and food for the birds. And consider skipping the deadheading of late blooming perennials. This allows them to prepare for winter and form seedpods for additional winter interest.

And while you are out in the garden deadheading, pick a few flowers at their peak to enjoy in a summer bouquet indoors.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

OBITUARY

Douglas L. Fountain, 73



North Brookfield – Douglas L. Fountain, 73, of North Brookfield, died on Saturday, May 17, 2025, in UMass Memorial Medical Center – University Campus in Worcester following a brief illness.

He leaves his siblings, Sandy Bazley of Spencer, Bruce Fountain and his wife Sandra of Norwich, CT, Ronald Pociś of New Hampshire, and Gene Fountain of Brimfield, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Debra Lincoln and his brother, Norman Knaptown. He was born in Ware, son of the late Louis and Veronica (Pociś) Fountain and was a life-long resident of North Brookfield.

Doug worked as a talented and skilled Corian crafter and carpenter at Lavalloille Architectural Millwork, Inc. in Spencer for the past 31 years.

Along with his family, in his younger years, he was also part of the Fountain Construction Company originally founded by his father. Doug enjoyed fishing in many of the local waters throughout the area. He also liked trying his luck with the lottery daily – Mass Cash was his favorite game, and he would also give scratch tickets and Keno a try too. He was also an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots.

A Celebration of Doug’s Life will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the American Legion Hall, Post 41, in North Brookfield. A private Graveside Service for Doug will be held in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield at a later date.

Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with his arrangements. An online tribute page is available on his obituary at varnumfuneralhome.com

Send all obituary notices to
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LEGALS

On May 12, 2025, the Spencer Board of Health voted to enact revised regulations entitled “Town of Spencer Tobacco Regulations”. The regulation includes, but is not limited to, new policies in the 2019 state law, “An Act to Modernize Tobacco Control,” and 105 CMR 665.000. The regulation will go into effect on May 19, 2025. For a copy of these regulations, please call the Board of Health Office at 508-885-7500, Ext. 126, or you can review them on our website at www.spencerma.gov. June 6, 2025

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. WO25P1833EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Susan Rose Gervais
Date of Death: 02/08/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jessica R Leonard of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Jessica R Leonard of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised**

administration

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/17/2025.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 22, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 6, 2025

The Town of Brookfield invites sealed Bids for the Gay Road Improvement Project. The project consists of fur-

nishing all labor, tools, materials and equipment necessary for the installation of approximately 970-LF of 12-inch drainage pipe, drainage structures, full-depth pavement reclamation, 1,450 linear feet of asphalt berm, approximately 3,800 tons of hot mix asphalt, driveway aprons and all appurtenances. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with class of work as, Highway Construction, for the project with an estimated value of \$1,241,300 will be required.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. All bidders must complete and submit the electronic bidder registration form (Signature Authorization Form – hard copy) to BidDocs Online, Inc. at least three business days prior to the bid opening/ deadline for processing. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the “Tutorial” tab in the bottom footer).

Electronic bids for the Gay Road Improvement Project shall be submitted to BidDocs Online, Inc. until Friday June 13, 2025 at 11:00 AM EST, at which time they will be publicly opened online. Complete instructions for filing bids are included in the project manual. Contract Documents may be viewed electronically at www.BidDocsOnline.com and hard copies requested at Nashoba Blue, Inc., 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a refundable deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs Online, Inc. Deposits must be electronically paid or by certified or cashier’s check. Bidders requesting contract documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate non-refundable check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs Online, Inc., to cover mailing costs. Plan deposits may be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets within ten (10) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §26 to 27H, inclusive.

A bid bond with an acceptable surety, or a certified or bank check in the amount of 5% of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100% Performance Bond, and a 100% Labor and Material Payment Bond.

The Town of Brookfield reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive technicalities, and to award the contract as will best serve the sole interest of the Town of Brookfield.

Kyle Rutkowski
Kyle Rutkowski,
Highway Superintendent
Town of Brookfield

May 30, 2025
June 6, 2025

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, MAY 22
12:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:53 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 9:00 a.m.: trespassing (Henshaw Street), report taken; 10:49 a.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken; 12:05 p.m.: suspicious mv (Towtaid Street), unable to locate; 3:40 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:09 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unfounded; 5:21 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:46 p.m.: wires down (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered.

FRIDAY, MAY 23
1:15 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 1:50 a.m.: family problem (Peter Salem Road), resolved; 8:01 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:28 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 8:38 a.m.: summons service (Willow Hill Road), served; 8:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:21 a.m.: mv stop (Dale Street), spoken to; 9:30 a.m.: commercial alarm (Wind in the Pines Way), false alarm; 9:32 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:47 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unfounded; 10:01 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:28 a.m.: mv stop (Bottomly Avenue), spoken to; 10:43 a.m.: suspicious mv (Deer Pond Road), gone on arrival; 10:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:02 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 12:18 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:44 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Street, Spencer), transported; 12:49 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:05 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation/3rd offense, trespassing, criminal application issued; 1:07 p.m.: animal complaint (Pryor Road), referred; 2:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:34 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street, Worcester), transported; 3:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), referred; 4:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), referred; 4:54 p.m.: ambulance (Ingram Road), transported; 4:57 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:34 p.m.: suspicious person (Pleasant Street), unable to locate.

SATURDAY, MAY 24
12:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:36 a.m.: suspicious person (McCarthy Avenue), gone on arrival; 5:08 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 8:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:34 a.m.: stolen mv (McCarthy Avenue), report taken; 9:14 a.m.: stolen mv recovery (McCarthy Avenue), report taken; 9:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:37 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), gone on arrival; 10:07 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), gone on arrival; 12:27 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), investigated; 12:39 p.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), assisted; 1:52 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 2:04 p.m.: suspicious activity (Hammond Street), gone on arrival; 3:05 p.m.: investigation (McCarthy Avenue), report taken; 4:36 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival; 6:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:52 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:34 p.m.: trespassing (Main Street), resolved; 9:09 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 9:20 p.m.: ambulance (Pond Court), transported; 9:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:12 p.m.: investigation (McCarthy Avenue), report taken; 11:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unin-

sured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued.

SUNDAY, MAY 25
12:40 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 8:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:05 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 9:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:59 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:09 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:18 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:33 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 11:10 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:46 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 2:10 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street, Oxford), investigated; 2:11 p.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), citation issued; 4:53 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 5:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 5:34 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:41 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:56 p.m.: disturbance (Woodland Road), assisted; 8:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:49 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:13 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 9:15 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 9:28 p.m.: malicious mischief (Brook Street), spoken to; 9:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, MAY 26
1:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:42 a.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street), removed; 7:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:09 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:16 a.m.: keep the peace (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 10:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:17 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 3:17 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), gone on arrival; 4:47 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:07 p.m.: residential b&e (Maighan's Way), report taken; 7:31 p.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street), spoken to; 8:20 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

TUESDAY, MAY 27
8:40 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:21 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:49 a.m.: residential b&e (Main Street), report taken; 11:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 11:36 a.m.: commercial alarm (Paxton Street), false alarm; 11:46 a.m.: accident (Rawson Street), report taken; 1:46 p.m.: ambulance (Birchwood Drive), transported; 2:21 p.m.: welfare check (Salminen Drive), unfounded; 3:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred; 3:17 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:04 p.m.: malicious mischief (Grove Street), report taken; 5:36 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 6:20 p.m.: family problem (Rawson Street), assisted; 6:23 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:47 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:28 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lakeview Drive), resolved.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28
7:53 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 10:36 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 11:32 a.m.: ambulance (Jay Hammond Road, Charlton), transported; 12:00 p.m.: mv stop (Rawson Street), verbal warning; 12:08 p.m.: mv stop (Rawson Street), spoken to; 1:06 p.m.: investigation

(Main Street), report taken; 1:44 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), call canceled; 1:52 p.m.: ambulance (Worcester Road, Charlton), transported; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 2:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), unfounded; 5:41 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), spoken to; 7:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 7:51 p.m.: debris in road (Mayflower Road), removed; 8:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21
4:34 a.m.: domestic (Church Street), c/o feeling unsafe; 4:43 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 5:35 a.m.: residential alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 7:03 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Route 49), rep. injured deer; 8:42 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), VIN verification; 9:28 a.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), re: dogs; 11:38 a.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 11:56 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: father/power of attorney; 12:35 p.m.: fire alarm (Bellevue Road), referred; 1:09 p.m.: DPW call (Gold Nugget Road), tree on wires; 1:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. speak to chief; 2:07 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Road); 2:14 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), re: previous incident; 2:15 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 2:29 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 3:36 p.m.: building checked, secure; 3:59 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), re: road rage incident; 4:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), welfare check; 5:15 p.m.: mv lockout (Greenville Street), assisted; 5:34 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator/mc; 6:19 p.m.: 6:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Road), req. regular property check; 6:37 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 10:26 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:45 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), c/o DoorDash order; (total daily mv stops – 7).

THURSDAY, MAY 22
12:20 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Terrace); 12:56-2:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:58 a.m.: 911 call (Richland Avenue), response not recorded on police log; 6:21 a.m.: intelligence/parole (Meadow Road), info rec'd; 7:13 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:25 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 9:21 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 10:41 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), rep. address change; 2:28 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 2:31 a.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), tree limb in road; 4:27 p.m.: parking complaint (Pope Street), trailer partially in road; 4:34 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 5:15 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. harassment/stalking; 5:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), rep. dog left in rain; 7:10 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 8:26 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: son's behavioral issues; 8:26 p.m.: DPW call (Donnelly Road), tree on wires; 11:43 p.m.: 911 call (East Avenue), open line; (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, MAY 23
12:06-2:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:09 a.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 5:00 a.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), assisted; 5:28 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:05 a.m.: 911 call (Wilson Street), open line; 7:19 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), re: sick cat; 7:40 a.m.: accident (Water Street), report taken; 7:52 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 8:22 a.m.: illegal dumping (South Spencer Road), resolved; 8:36 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 8:48 a.m.: fraud (Howe Village), report taken; 9:10 a.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 9:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), req. welfare check; 9:50 a.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 11:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Valley Street), dog locked in mv; 11:09 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 12:06 p.m.: parking complaint (Valley Street), resolved; 12:21 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 12:39 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:32 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 3:17 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 3:52 p.m.: vandalism (Lakeshore Drive), report taken; 3:59 p.m.: fraud (Grove Street), report taken; 5:38 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:37 p.m.: juvenile matter (High Street), rep. kids pour-

ing gas on poles; 10:50 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Road), Trent Michael Auretto, 28, 35 Pleasant Street, Spencer, OUI liquor, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, negligent operation, arrest; (total daily mv stops – 3).

SATURDAY, MAY 24
12:00 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 1:39 a.m.: hit/run accident (High Street), report taken; 2:46 a.m.: medical/general (McCormick Road); 6:07 a.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 6:11 a.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), mv vs deer; 6:52 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 6:56 a.m.: disturbance (Kingsbury Road), noise complaint; 7:03 a.m.: fire alarm (Hastings Road), referred; 9:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Gold Nugget Road), loose dogs; 11:41 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo/stolen mv; 11:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Avenue), rep. aggressive dog; 1:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), speeding/tailgating; 1:11 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hastings Road), investigated; 1:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), citizen making report; 2:34 p.m.: suspicious persons (School Street), investigated; 3:41 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), mv driving in BDL; 3:58 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 4:29 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), erratic operator; 4:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), spoken to; 6:07 p.m.: RV complaint (Howe Road), reckless operation/dirt bikes; 7:28 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:06 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), c/o people playing basketball; 9:17 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 10:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 11:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), req. welfare check/child; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SUNDAY, MAY 25
12:58 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:19- 2:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:22 a.m.: commercial alarm (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 9:44 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 10:04 a.m.: RV complaint (Ash Street), c/o dirt bikes on road; 11:07 a.m.: medical/general (McCormick Road); 12:06 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; 1:43 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 1:50 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:07 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 4:17 p.m.: parking complaint (Adams Street), mv in no parking zone; 4:54 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 6:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Lyford Road), rep. dog bite; 6:45 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 8:59 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), rep. melee; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, MAY 26
2:35-3:19 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:24 a.m.: threats (Maple Street), report taken; 6:20 a.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), tx light not working; 7:03 a.m.: disturbance (Kingsbury Road), noise complaint; 7:40 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bixby Road), accidental; 8:38 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:47 a.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 10:54 a.m.: juvenile matter (Adams Street), services rendered; 11:48 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 11:55 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:31 a.m.: citizen complaint (Briarcliff Lane), c/o cutting trees on holiday; 12:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), c/o loose goats; 1:45 p.m.: RV complaint (South Spencer Road), ATVs on rail trail; 2:09 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 2:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), spoken to; 2:45 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Chestnut Street), illegal burn; 2:45 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 2:49 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 4:20 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), rep. no water; 5:56 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:28 p.m.: medical/general (Wilson Avenue); 9:10 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), poss. alcohol/mental health issue; 9:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), req. welfare check; (total daily mv stops – 0).

TUESDAY, MAY 27
1:04-2:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:01 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:56 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:02 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:52 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:29 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 9:46 a.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), re: strange phone call; 9:53 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 10:00 a.m.: identity theft (Chickering Road), report taken; 11:52 a.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), found dog; 12:23 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), neighbor dispute; 1:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), rep. neglect of dog/bird hoarding; 4:12 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: bird nest; 5:25 p.m.: medical/general (Ledge Avenue); 5:44 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), concern re: kittens/cats; 6:06 p.m.: lost/found (North Spencer Road), lost wallet; 7:06 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Roys Drive), illegal burn; 8:08 p.m.: mv complaint (Brooks Pond Road), c/o mc speeding; 9:56 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:33 p.m.: suspicious mv (East Charlton Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 6).

###

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US Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus brings free concert to Mechanics Hall

WORCESTER — Mechanics Hall presents the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus in a free concert Monday, June 16, 2025. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Army, the Concert Band and the Soldiers' Chorus will honor past, present, and future military service with a powerful and patriotic program in the Great Hall of Mechanics Hall.

Based in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Army Field Band is known as the "Musical ambassadors of the Army." Made up of active-duty soldiers, the elite musicians connect with communities across the country and around the world through live performances and digital outreach, inspiring patriotism and honoring those who have served with every note. The U.S. Army Field Band is considered by music critics to be one of the most versatile and inspiring musical organizations in the world.

The Concert Band is the oldest and largest of the Field Band's four performing components. The 65-member instrumental ensemble

have performed for over 100 million people since its founding in 1946, performing diverse and powerful programs that include marches, overtures, pop music, and patriotic selections. The group have performed in a wide variety of settings, from world-famous concert halls and presidential inaugurations to fairgrounds and school gymnasiums. Regardless of the venue, the pageantry and professionalism of the Band's performance have entertained audiences for nearly 80 years, creating emotional experiences and instilling pride in American heritage.

The Band will be accompanied by the acclaimed Soldiers' Chorus, a 24-member vocal ensemble with a rich performing history. The Chorus have performed internationally and throughout all 50 states, with top symphony orchestras including the Boston Pops, and at significant events including the Kennedy Center Honors, the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, and State funerals of U.S. Presidents. With repertoire ranging from classical and opera to

Broadway, pop, and Americana, the Chorus showcases both ensemble excellence and individual artistry.

The joining of these two ensembles allows them to offer unparalleled versatility of programming, ranging from orchestral masterworks and operatic arias to Sousa marches, jazz classics, pop hits, and Broadway musicals.

Registration and tickets are not required for this Mechanics Hall concert - entry is free and open to the public. Cabaret-style seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 11:30am, and the performance will take place from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Attendees may bring their own lunch, and additional food and beverage options will be available for purchase.

Mechanics Hall is located at 321 Main St., Worcester. The Great Hall is on the 3rd floor, which is accessible by elevator from the Waldo Street entrance, or by stairs from both the Main Street and Waldo Street entrances.

Sheriff's Office prepares to host annual Senior Picnic Saturday

REGION — Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and members of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) look forward to their annual Senior Picnic this month.

The event is set for Saturday, June 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SAC Park in Shrewsbury.

"Due to the success of previous years, the picnic will once again be held as a drive-thru and feature a BBQ boxed lunch, goodie bags, music, giveaways, and raffle prizes," read a statement released by the WCSO.

The free event is open to all seniors who are residents of Worcester County. Pre-registration is required to attend.

To pre-register for the picnic, send an email to: Nydia@WorcesterCountySheriff.org. You may also call 508-796-2638.

"The Senior Picnic marks the beginning of summer for many in Worcester County," Evangelidis said. "I am excited to reconnect with friends and familiar faces we see throughout the year at local senior centers and community events."

This year, the picnic is sponsored by the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association. Additional community supporters include Care One at Millbury, The Overlook, Table Talk Pies, Mercadante Funeral Home, Worcester Red Sox, Automatic Rolls of New England, JV Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Diamond Auto Group, Falcone Enterprises, NEPBA Local 550, The Savickas Family, Worcester Housing Authority, and House Hangers.

"As Sheriff, it is my mission to support the communities we serve. Our older generations deserve to be celebrated for all they have accomplished and continue to contribute to our communities," Evangelidis said.

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Math Blocks

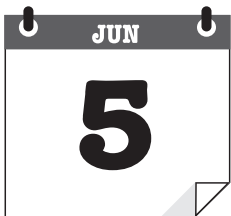
Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

		2	31
	6	10	27
5	16		35
36	31	26	

14	91	5
10	6	11
2	9	20

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1817: The first Great Lakes steamer, the Frontenac, is launched.

1883: The first regularly scheduled Orient Express departs from Paris.

1976: The Teton Dam in Idaho collapses.

Nature FACT:

These parts of Earth affect and regulate the planet’s climate, among other things.

Answer: Oceans

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

B E B N D A L W O F

Answer: Ebb and flow

NEW WORD

MARINE

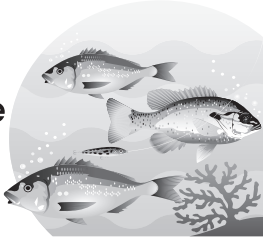
found in or produced by the sea

How they say that in...

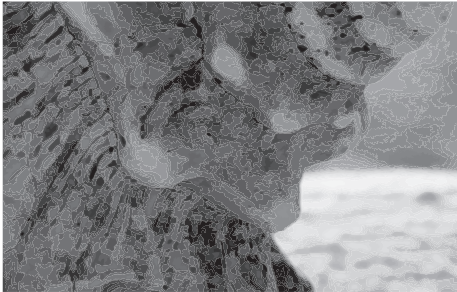
- English: Saltwater
- Spanish: Agua salada
- Italian: Acqua salata
- French: Eau salée
- German: Salzwasser

Did You Know?

The precise number of species that live in the ocean is unknown. However, some studies estimate there are about 2.2 million marine species.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Seashell

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to dairy.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 7 = D)

- A. 7 1 16 22 4
Clue: Foods containing milk of mammals
- B. 17 14 16 21 21 25 7
Clue: Kept cool
- C. 17 13 24
Clue: Bovine
- D. 7 16 25 6
Clue: Foods you eat

Answers: A. dairy B. chilled C. cow D. diet

SUDOKU

				2		3		7
	7				9			5
8			4			6		
	8							
			1			4	6	
		2		9				3
3		6	8				9	
	1							
						2	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!

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

ANSWER:



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Leicester Superintendent receives glowing review



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — For the second consecutive year, Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian heads into summer vacation with the

Courtesy

Following another spotless evaluation, Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian is looking forward to building more momentum for the district next year.

highest possible marks on his report card.

Kustigian’s annual performance evaluation, prepared by the School Committee, once again featured the highest overall rating of “Exemplary.” The Superintendent exceeded all expectations for his goals and objectives, committee members unanimously agreed.

The evaluation results were announced during the May 20 School Committee meeting. Kustigian received a standing ovation from guests in attendance.

“Dr. Kustigian is a very skilled and experienced leader. His passion for what he believes in shines above all,” said School Committee Chair Donna McCance. “He truly cares about the success of our students and the town of Leicester, and he has the talent and ability to bring people together.”

Kustigian, who grew up in town, has been

instrumental in the transition of Leicester High School to the campus of the former Becker College. Under his leadership, several academic buildings and athletic facilities were transformed into venues tailored to high school offerings.

Additionally, Kustigian and his team have significantly expanded Chapter 74 and Innovation Career Pathway programs that are preparing students for career opportunities while still in school.

In his annual evaluation, Kustigian was described as having exceeded expectations in all categories. These include professional practice goals; student learning objectives; and district improvement practices.

Kustigian was also commended for his achievements in family and community engagement; management and operations; instructional leadership; and professional culture.

“Dr. Kustigian’s performance as the Superintendent of the Leicester Public Schools most certainly serves as a model of practice regionally or statewide,” the evaluation read in part. “He is a brilliant leader, and his talents, skills, and experiences have helped drive the Leicester Public Schools in a new, positive direction that will not only benefit our students, but the town of Leicester and surrounding towns as well.”

State officials, including those at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), are also impressed with Kustigian’s leadership.

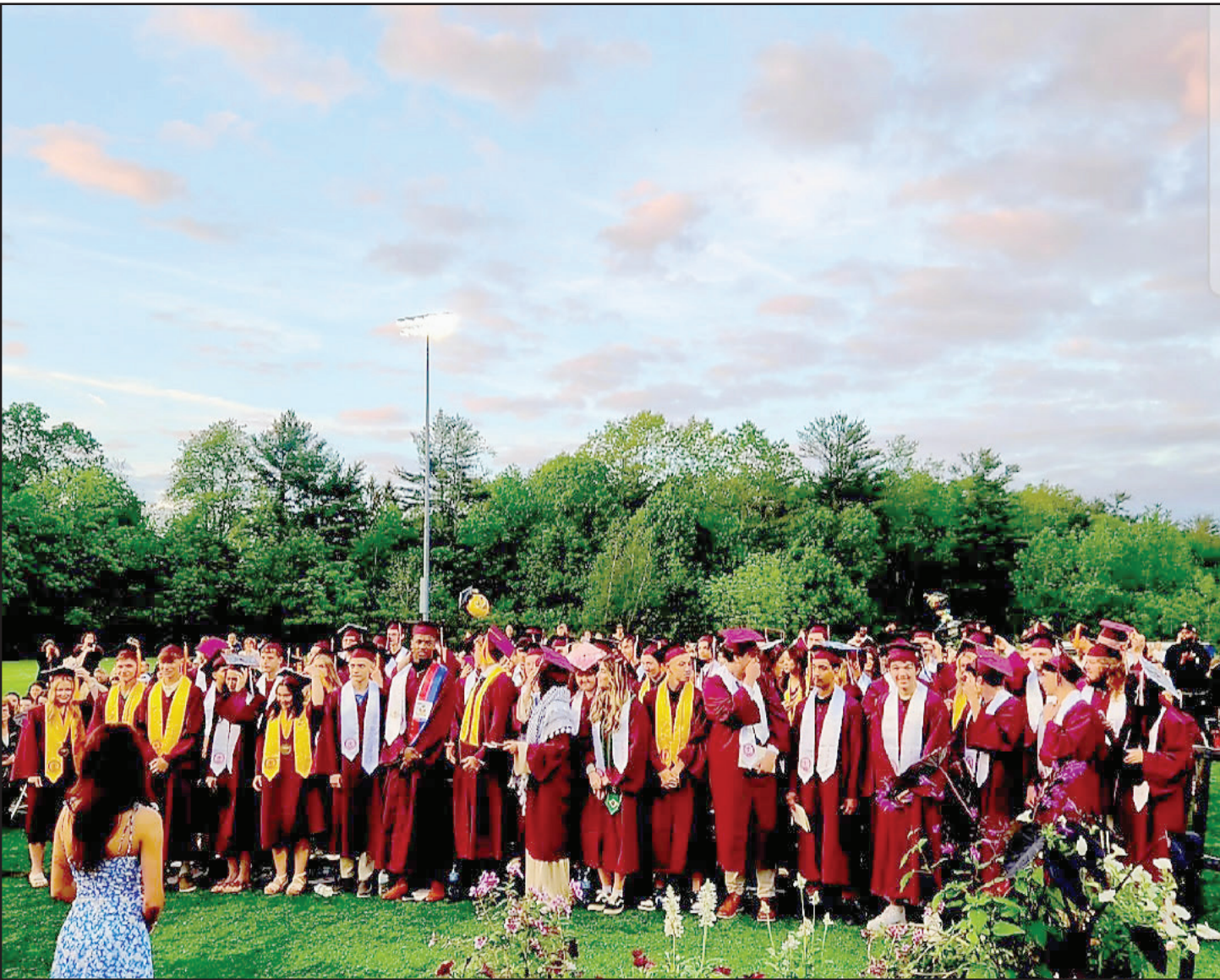
“Because of his efforts, MA DESE is taking notice of the Culinary and Electrical Chapter 74 applications for the 2025-2026 school year and has asked LPS to host a meeting in June,” the evaluation read. “The Building and Property Maintenance Program is getting stronger each day, with students gaining life experiences through landscaping school grounds.”

Kustigian also played a critical role in LPS receiving a \$966,561 grant to support an electrical lab and classroom space under the Electrical Chapter 74 application, updating the building with new construction and improved drainage.

“The Chapter 74 programs are doing so well that their popularity has brought Shrewsbury and Clinton on board, which is going to bring in over a quarter million dollars a year for the next four years, while spending less on tuition going out,” the evaluation read.

Kustigian thanks all School Committee members, district officials, educators, parents, and students for their support. At the time of Kustigian’s hiring in 2022, parents and community members were seeking stronger leadership for the district following a challenging stretch under the previous administration. Three years later, officials are thrilled with the direction and momentum of the district.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to give back to my hometown that has done so much for me. I am also grateful for a strong staff and countless passionate people who believe in Leicester,” Kustigian said. “The best part is that we are just getting started, and there is much more to come.”



Congratulations to the Leicester High School Class of 2025, which held its graduation ceremony last week.

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