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Free by request to residents of

East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

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Friday, June 20, 2025

Walkthrough offers final tour of old DPHS academic wing



Courtesy

At a recent community walkthrough program, David Prouty High School alumni members took one last chance to walk the halls of their youth.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — In a program that marked both the end of an era and the beginning of a new one, the community said goodbye to the old academic wing at David Prouty High School last week.

The June 11 walkthrough event offered Prouty alumni members, current students and staff members, retired officials, and community members a final opportunity to reminisce and take photos before the facility’s demolition this summer.

The open house was attended by hundreds of guests from throughout the area. DPHS Student Council members provided tours, and guests received a small token for attending, along with light refreshments.

“It was a memorable evening for many of our community members and alumni, as they ‘took a trip down memory lane’, as one person told me as they left the school at the end of the night,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey.

Built in 1966, Prouty’s classrooms

have seen generations of students step through their doors before moving on to become doctors and attorneys, legislators and community leaders, even professional sports athletes.

Keith Servant, who now teaches mathematics at Knox Trail Middle School, taught at Prouty for almost three decades.

“I have so many wonderful memories of the building from the past three decades,” Servant told the New Leader.

Turn To **DPHS** page **A10**

Circus Smirkus coming to Spencer Fairgrounds

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The circus is coming to the Spencer Fairgrounds next month, and local residents are invited to help make the magic possible by hosting youth performers.

Circus Smirkus, a traveling youth circus celebrating its 38th year, will perform at the Spencer Fairgrounds from July 11-13. In advance of the program, organizers are seeking area residents interested in hosting troupers ages 12-18 during their visit to central Massachusetts.

“Circus Smirkus is the only traveling ‘tented’ youth circus in the United States. Its shows are among the most beloved arts events of the New England summer,” read a statement released by event promoters.

This year’s theme-based circus show, entitled “The 2025 Big Top Tour: Game On,” will feature an array of arts, including aerials, acrobatics, juggling acts, clowning performances, and many others. Guests will enjoy a dazzling display of performers, costumes, and several other fun surprises.

The 2025 Big Top Tour will take to the road on June 28, with performers scheduled to travel across New England with a tour caravan that requires multiple support vehicles and 80 people.

The full staff includes per-

Turn To **CIRCUS** page **A10**

Newly seated officials get to work after Leicester election

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Following an Annual Town Election that didn’t see a single contested race, new committee members are eager to get to work.

Kellie Wilson joins the Select Board, replacing John Bujak after he chose not to seek re-election.

“It is with deep pride and heartfelt gratitude that I accept the position on the Select Board for the town of Leicester, a community I have lived in most of my life,” Wilson said.

An RN currently working at UMass Memorial Hospital, Wilson previously served as a substitute school nurse in

Leicester. She has always had a passion for protecting the health and wellbeing of her patients, and she is committed to helping improve the quality of life for all residents through municipal service.

“To be entrusted with this responsibility is both an honor and a challenge I wholeheartedly embrace,” Wilson added.

“I am committed to listening to the voices of our residents, supporting local businesses, preserving our town’s characteristics, and working hard to ensure Leicester continues to thrive for generations to come.”

Wilson and her family have been heavily involved in their community through several organizations and roles. Her

husband, Mike Wilson, has spent years volunteering as an officer and coach for Leicester Little League, in addition to serving as a volunteer and on-call Leicester firefighter. He currently serves as Captain of the Leicester Fire Department, as well as the town’s Fire Inspector.

“Kellie is a natural fit to a Select Board that has shown determination to continue Leicester’s move forward,” said Selectman Doug Belanger.

“Her training as an RN, her lifetime of contributing to the community, her personal demeanor, and her commitment to problem-solving will be a welcomed addition to the town’s leadership team.”

On the school side, Nicholas Packard ran unopposed for re-election. He was previously elected to complete an unexpired term of a member who resigned, and he is looking forward to his first full term.

“I’m extremely excited to serve a full three-year term this time around. The committee is in the middle of some big moves that are putting Leicester on the map, making us a highly desirable school district in the very competitive world of education,” Packard told the New Leader.

“It means a lot to be a part of a group that wants to see the results of these moves and watch our students be successful.”

In another School Committee

item, newcomer John Higgins replaces Dylan Lambert, who did not seek re-election after completing his first term.

“I believe that the most important thing a town can do for its youth, as well as for the overall vitality of the town, is to provide the best education possible to every child, with curriculums that provide them with the ability to be successful in whatever career they choose,” Higgins said.

A full feature introducing Higgins to the community is slated for the next edition of the New Leader.

For complete results from the June 10 election, visit www.leicesterma.org.

Area residents attend Sheriff’s Office Senior Picnic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Residents from throughout the Route 9 corridor welcomed summer by attending the Senior Picnic offered by the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO).

For more than 1,000 seniors in Worcester County, the annual picnic is a highly anticipated event that kicks off the summer season.

This year, seniors from all corners of Worcester County attended the June 7 program at SAC Park in Shrewsbury. Many guests from Spencer, the Brookfields communities, and surrounding towns drove through the park to receive a free barbecue lunch and many other giveaways.

“The Senior Picnic is one of my favorite days of the year, and we strive to provide the best experience possible for attendees,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “In addition to the numerous treats and giveaways that we hand out, we also have over a dozen vendors on site to speak with seniors about programs, products, and services that they may benefit from.”

The program is made possible by teamwork from the WCSO, the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association, and various vendors and sponsors.



Courtesy

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis greets residents from the Brookfields communities during an annual senior picnic.

“Sheriff Evangelidis and his team have honored Worcester County’s senior citizens for over a decade,” read a statement released by the WCSO. “Each summer, more than 100 volunteers prepare barbecue boxed lunches and hand out other raffle prizes, goodie bags, Massachusetts state lottery scratch tickets, Chick-fil-A gift cards, and more. For all involved, it’s a special time filled with

fun and community spirit.”

This year, Janet Morin, Carolyn Boucher, Gen Cook, and Diana Perron—who live in the Brookfields communities and attend the picnic each year—enjoyed an opportunity to step out of their vehicle and take a photo with Sheriff Evangelidis. They even wore custom T-shirts celebrating the picnic.

Officials thank all volunteers who sup-

port local seniors each year at the event, helping to distribute products while also connecting guests with resources.

“It is the dedicated group of volunteers who make this event possible year after year. Despite the unfavorable weather forecast, Mother Nature granted a nice morning, which encouraged seniors to attend,” read the statement issued by the WCSO.

This year’s picnic was sponsored or supported by several community partners, including Table Talk Pies, Mercadante Funeral Home, Massachusetts State Lottery, Chick-Fil-A, Automatic Rolls of New England, JV Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Diamond Auto Group, Falcone Enterprises, NEPA Local 550, the Savickas Family, and the Worcester Housing Authority.

Vendors at the picnic included Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Central Mass Housing Alliance, Vickstrom Law Office, CareOne at Millbury, Rockland Trust Bank, The Overlook, the Worcester Red Sox, Tri-Valley, Inc., Saint Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Senior Connection, and Heart to Home Meals.

Students and staff members from Worcester Technical High School are also thanked for volunteering their time to help make the day memorable for attendees.

Every Thursday Night

Spencer Council No 118

Knight of Columbus Bingo

at the Spencer Senior Center

68 Maple St., Spencer, MA

Doors open at 4pm

Kitchen open at 4pm

Free Coffee

We start selling at 5:15 PM

Shotgun Games start at 6 PM

Regular Bingo start at 6:15 PM


Troll Game played at intermission

with a \$300 prize

We have Two Cover-All and Two Progressives

ALL ARE WELCOME





ARTHRTIS?

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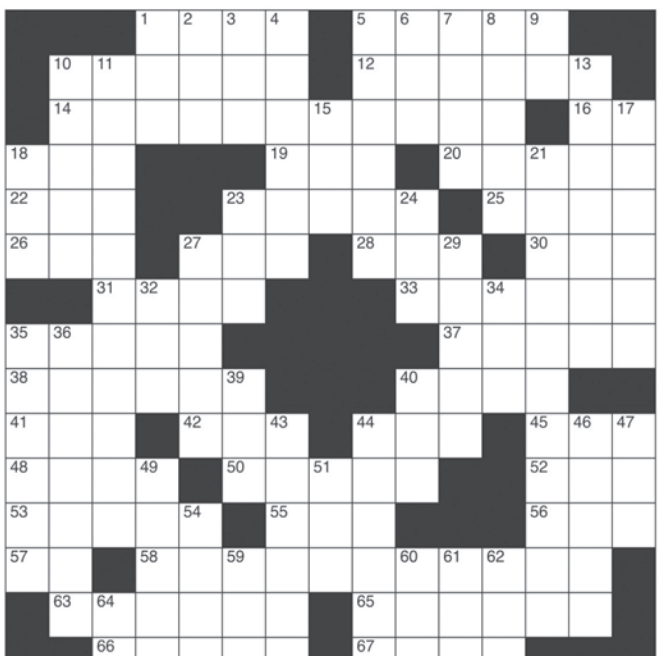
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Charles A. Birbara, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Umass-Chan Medical School

25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674

“Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis”



CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of bread

5. Range of mountains

10. Ended

12. Musical forms with a recurring theme

14. On the nature of being

16. Law enforcement agency

18. Australian flightless bird

19. Subway rodent

20. More dried-up

22. A beaver might build one

23. Suggestive of the supernatural

25. Art __, around 1920

26. American rocker Snider

27. Not or

28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man

30. Firearm

31. Tough outer skin of fruit

33. Alternative form of a gene

35. Low shrub some call “fat pork”

37. Plants in the chamomile tribe

38. Revolutionary War era spy

40. Portion of a book

41. Hoover’s office

42. Title of respect

44. Tax collector

45. Cool!

48. Real estate

50. Boy’s name

52. Airborne (abbr.)

53. Strongly recommends

55. Hit lightly

56. Bar bill

57. Atomic #54

58. Devotes again

63. Fish sauce

65. French stock market

66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

67. Tense

CLUES DOWN

1. Retired game show host Sajak

2. Equal (prefix)

3. Israeli city __ Aviv

4. Loved

5. A type of analyst

6. Ad __

7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

8. Ran without moving

9. Opposite of yes

10. Diffuse clouds of gas

11. Mentioning one by one

13. Instruments used to dilate

15. Freshwater fish

17. Remotely-manned flying objects

18. Doctor of Education

21. Renews

23. Not the start

24. Pitching stat

27. Small water buffaloes

29. Ceramic jars

32. I (German)

34. Something to toss on a fire

35. The process of flowing in

36. A series of acts at a night club

39. Egg of a louse

40. Inquire too closely

43. Travelers

44. Drink

46. Behave in a way that degrades

47. Electronic music style

49. Northern Ireland city

51. Upset

54. Stiff structure resembling a hair

59. Father

60. North Atlantic fish

61. 8th month (abbr.)

62. Make an effort

64. Commercial

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PUZZLE SOLUTION



Student enrollment open for SEBRSD

REGION — If you would like to register your child to attend the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District, please click the SEBRSD Pre-Registration Form link to begin the student registration process for your child(ren). This form is for all new, returning, and School Choice students. Once your form has been submitted and reviewed, you will receive an email from SEBRSD with instructions on setting up a PowerSchool account. You will need to create your account to be able to enroll your child.

The following documents are also required to register your child into the district:

- Copy of the Birth Certificate
- Medicals (including most recent physical and Immunizations)
- Two forms of Proof of Residency

Once you have created a PowerSchool account, you will receive a verification email that requires you to click the link to verify/activate your account. Once verified, you can login to your account and click on FORMS from the Navigation menu to the left. Across the top of the screen, you will select ENROLLMENT to find the forms that you will need to complete, starting with the DEMOGRAPHICS form first. Starting with this form will allow you to effortlessly transition from one form to the next until all required forms have been completed. If you miss any forms, we will email you and ask that you kindly go back and fill them out to complete the registration process.

School Choice

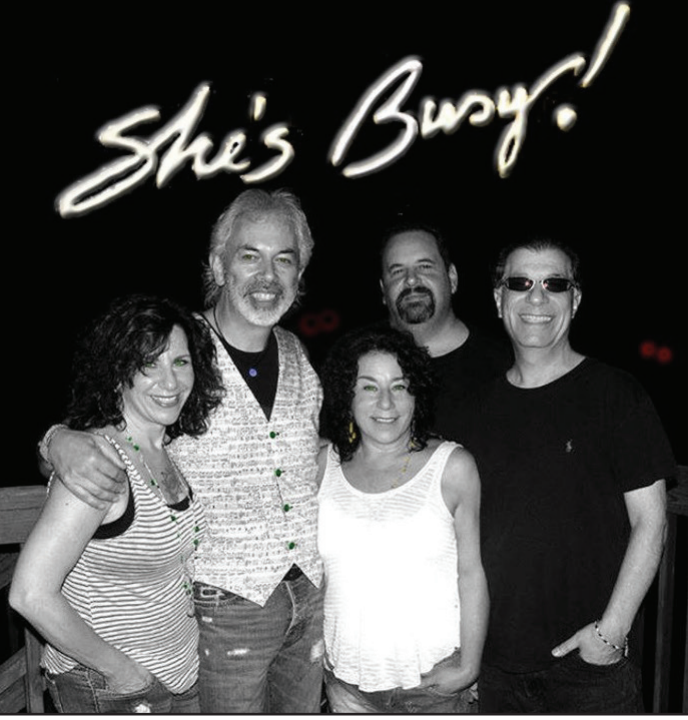
Please note that if you are applying for School Choice, all online forms must be completed, and required supporting documents must be submitted in order to be considered. Applications are not typically reviewed for approval until just before the start of school because enrollment for in-district students takes place all summer, and we need to accurately gauge what our enrollment numbers will look like to determine if there is space available in each grade to open them up to School Choice applicants. At that time, all School Choice applications are reviewed for approval. It is highly recommended that applications be submitted as soon as possible to be placed on the list, as they are date/time stamped in the order in which they are received.

In-office enrollment (for access to the kiosk to complete online registration forms)

Please note that if you do not have access to the internet or a computer or device that accesses an internet browser to complete the forms, we have a kiosk set up inside the Student Services office at David Prouty High School for families to use. You can call or email the District Registrar to schedule an appointment to come in to complete your application using the kiosk. An appointment is required so that we can ensure a staff member is available to assist you and to approve your pre-enrollment form at the time, which allows you to move on to the next step and create your account to begin completing the forms. The office is open for appointments Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Please call 508-885-8515 (opt. 7) or email pervierm@sebrsd.org to schedule an appointment.

Spencer Summer Concert Series kicks off June 29



SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission’s 2025 Summer Concert Series kicks off from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 29 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with She’s Busy.

She’s Busy is a popular classic rock band with exciting vocal harmonies, rolling rhythms and vibrant energy. Sisters Lisa and Selena Wilson originally formed She’s Busy in 1990 and had two critically acclaimed records – “Strange Bedfellows” in 1991 and “Thinkin’ Out Loud” in 1994. Songwriter/guitarist Brett Brumby came on board recording the third She’s Busy record in 1996 titled “Different This Time.”

The series runs every Sunday through Aug. 17 and continues July 6 with award winning country artist Kylie Harris, the duo Adams & Perry and Never Say Never.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. 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.



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P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER

TO THE EDITOR:

E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news

OR send to Spencer New Leader

P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

SPENCER NEW LEADER

PUBLISHED BY

STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) (ISSN 1945-6603) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changesto Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Homelessness | Foster care | Military transitions

For students who are experiencing homelessness and/or who are in foster care, as well as those experiencing a military transition, all registration forms must be completed, but supporting documentation requirements may be waived to prevent any interruption to the student’s access to an education.

P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Meet Fenway Frank!

Meet Fenway Frank - our big, goofy guy with a heart full of affection and plenty of love to give.

Fenway was found as a stray, so his history with dogs and cats is unknown, but we think he’d do best in a home without young children at this time. We do know is that he’s a sweet soul who enjoys attention and companionship on his terms. One thing Fenway takes seriously is his mealtime. He’s a true food lover, but he prefers to enjoy his meals without interruptions. Giving him a little space while he eats helps him feel safe and content. If you’re looking for a gentle companion with a big presence and an even bigger heart, Fenway Frank might be the perfect match. Come meet him and see if he’s the one for you.



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www.secondchanceanimals.org

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Dr. Colm P. Scanlon

Veterinarian

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

None

EAST BROOKFIELD

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LEICESTER

\$500,000, 3 Victoria Dr #34, Briarcliff Estates SV LLC, to Maclean, Karen.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

None

WARREN

\$442,000, 129 East Rd, Lone Oak Enterprises LLC, to Tripac, Radion, and Gorea, Vera.

\$100,000, 940 Old West Brookfield Rd, Marquis, Timothy, to Aj Realty Group LLC.

Advertisement

\$100,000, 950 Old West Brookfield Rd, Marquis, Timothy, to Aj Realty Group LLC.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None

Spencer officials greenlight safety changes at Pleasant Street/Meadow Road intersection

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Following a lengthy discussion, selectmen decided to create a four-way stop configuration with flashing signs at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Meadow Road.

The intersection currently features a two-way stop, but several accidents in recent years led to calls for changes. A MassDOT-authorized study of the intersection resulted in the recommendation of a four-way stop configuration.

With a 3-2 vote at the June 5 Select Board meeting, selectmen approved the adjustment to a four-way stop intersection. Select Board Chairman Jared Grigg joined Selectmen John Howard and Ralph Hicks in supporting the proposal, with Selectmen Gary Woodbury and Jonathan Viner voting against it.

“Over the years, we have had numerous accidents at that intersection—21 in the past five years,” said Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford. “Some of those crashes resulted in serious injuries—a fatality in 2024—as well as property damage.”

The new solar-powered flashing stop signs will be

funded by the state. The Highway Department will be responsible for the installation.

“There was a big study done, and this should help a lot with warning people about the intersection,” Howard said.

Added Hicks, “The experts reviewed it, and we received a very thorough report.”

In recent years, selectmen have received several requests from residents to improve safety at the intersection.

“The Board had asked Mr. Boria [Superintendent of the Office of Utilities and Facilities] to look at solutions for that intersection several months ago, after continually receiving complaints about the intersection,” Chairman Grigg said. “A survey was conducted, and the traffic engineers determined a four-way stop was appropriate.”

Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI), on behalf of MassDOT, completed a review of the intersection. The study included speed data, traffic data, and a detailed analysis of the intersection, among other components.

“This evaluation found that the intersection is recommended for moving forward with conversion

to all-way stop control,” the GPI report read.

Viner told the New Leader he would have preferred to receive more information on the proposal ahead of a vote.

“I’m disappointed that the Board didn’t bother to take a little more time to collect information and have some questions answered to ensure that we were making the correct decision,” Viner said.

Woodbury warned that a four-way configuration has the potential to cause unnecessary complications at the intersection.

“I’m all about increasing public safety, but I don’t see this as enhancing safety,” Woodbury said. “Putting in a four-way stop could end up causing more safety hazards than what we have right now. That is one of our heaviest truck routes, and bringing everyone to a stop could create delays and confusion.”

Public safety officials acknowledge that the transition to a new configuration will require an adjustment period for drivers. Delays are possible as a result of motorists learning to navigate the changes, officials said.

“The reconfiguration of the intersection, with the four-way stop signs, will

be a total change and an unknown,” Befford said. “Take into account that all vehicles will be at a

complete stop, so it should reduce the severity in the event of a crash. With the number of serious crashes we have encountered there, including a fatality, I believe that following the recommendation of the engineering study may prove beneficial.”

Looking ahead, police leaders will work with town officials to help drivers adjust to the changes.

“Once the intersection is updated,

we will post public service announcements to our social media pages,” Befford said.

Increased police patrols around the intersection are also expected following the conversion.

Varnum & Charbonneau Funeral Homes is seeking Funeral Attendants and Funeral Assistants to work independently and with our team on transfers, calling hours, and funeral services. Part of a rotating on call evening schedule and rotating on call weekends along with other Assistants.

Compensation is hourly plus stipend. Hours are scheduled or per diem as needed depending on role. Must have the ability to lift 100#, and have a friendly, professional, compassionate and courteous attitude with high ethical standards.

Contact Peter Masuzzo at 508-867-2885
or pmasuzzo@varnumfh.com

An entity of Milestone Funeral Partners

Paxton Area Seniors announce bus trip to John Brown House and Museum

PAXTON — What better way to spend a July day than touring Providence’s well-known John Brown House and Museum on Brown University grounds, having lunch at downtown Providence’s popular local chain Gregg’s Restaurant with home-style foods, wonderful pastries and wrapping up the afternoon with a gondola ride, a walk in the park and/or stretch out on a blanket or bench to enjoy the surroundings while waiting for your gondola ride.

This John Brown was the founder of Brown University, the builder of the mansion and a statesman, and gained his fortune in the slave trade, not to be confused with the other John Brown who led a slave revolt! We have heard rave reviews of this museum.

Gregg’s Restaurant is part of a local Rhode Island chain of restaurants featuring solid home-style meals and showy, delicious home-baked desserts. Entrees include mashed potatoes and gravy or penne and sauce and Vegetable of the Day (except for the Chicken Caesar Salad). You will have a broad choice between the Chicken Caesar Salad, Chicken Pot Pie, Baked Scrod with Crumb Topping, Steak Tips with Mushrooms and Onions, and Chicken Parmesan. For dessert we’ll be treated to Gregg’s lovely Chocolate Layer Cake.

The afternoon event is a 20-minute delightful experience with La Gondola Providence on authentic Venetian gondolas from Venice, Italy (traditional flat-bottomed rowing boats, asymmetrical and propelled by a single gondolier (rower) using a sculling technique with an unfastened oar. The gondolas unique shape and asymmetrical design make it maneuverable in narrow waterways.

Ride the gondola (six passengers per boat, and there are six such boats).

While waiting for your turn to ride one of the authentic Venetian Gondolas, you may choose to take a walk along the riverside near La Gondola Providence or you may choose to sit on a bench or stretch out on your own blanket and listen to the music provided for us when we ride the gondola. Tour cost is \$147, due by July 2. Payments are non-refundable unless ticket(s) can be re-sold. Each guest will receive an authentic Italian-style wine biscuit. You may bring your own beverage for La Gondola Providence if you choose.

Tour date is Wednesday, July 23 leaving Council on Aging, 19 West St. at 8:30 a.m. Today’s trip includes the guided tour of the John Brown House and Museum, the delicious lunch at Gregg’s Restaurant, a ride on the authentic Venetian La Gondola Providence and travel aboard Wilson Bus Motor Coach. Light walking on this trip. We plan to be back at Paxton’s COA at 5 p.m.

Tour cost is \$147, due by July 2. Payments are non-refundable unless tickets can be re-sold. Tour date is Wednesday, July 23. For reservations, please contact Deb Grensavitch at 508.754.6366 or email grensavitchd@aol.com. Please make payment out to Paxton FOCO and send to Deb at 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234.

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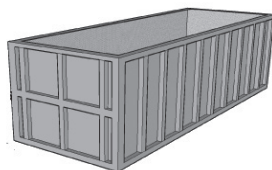
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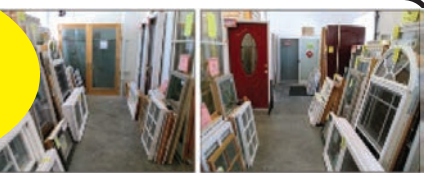
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Local residents earn degrees at Clark University's Commencement exercises

WORCESTER — Clark University awarded 468 undergraduate degrees and 1,014 advanced degrees during two ceremonies as part of the University's 121st Commencement exercises, held at the DCU Center in Worcester on Monday, May 19.

Ashley Leighton, of Spencer, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts.

Maddy Jane Kroot, of Spencer, graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy.

President David B. Fithian '87 urged the graduates to celebrate their accomplishments.

"For this day, smile upon yourself, applaud your achievements, reflect upon your growth, celebrate your friends and classmates and, perhaps most importantly, bask in the love of those here with you and for you," President Fithian said.

"All of us up here representing the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and alumni are so proud of you, especially for overcoming all that you have had to in the past four years. We are smiling upon you, we applaud you, we celebrate you, and we thank you for sharing these years with us."

Esther Dufflo, the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, delivered the Commencement Address during the bachelor's degree ceremony and was presented with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

"I have no advice for you as you embark on this task, but I have one plea. Do not let anyone convince you that the world is a Hobbesian dystopia where everything is zero-sum and wealth is the ultimate metric of success. It's not a place where there is a concentric center of caring, and beyond some radius, the value of others is zero. Think about this day, about how you got here, remember the kindness of many, and ask yourself what you can do to keep that going," said Dufflo.

Temera De Groot, a first-generation college student who emigrated from Guyana when she was 10 years old and plans to pursue law school, spoke to her peers at the undergraduate ceremony.

NPR journalist Ari Shapiro spoke to the students receiving master's and doctoral degrees, and encouraged them to prioritize connecting with and helping those around them.

"All of us carry a baton that our ancestors handed us. And all of us will pass it to those who come after us. Wherever we are in that relay race, there are people we can help. So the question we need to ask is, 'How can I be helpful?'" Shapiro told the crowd.

Shapiro was presented with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the afternoon ceremony.

Kumar Gaurav, a first-generation college student from India who received his MBA, also spoke at the graduate ceremony.

President David Fithian concluded the day's celebrations and told the graduates, "I applaud you. I congratulate you. And I urge you to put to work - anywhere in the world you find yourself next - the knowledge you have developed and the skills you have honed here to address the challenges and opportunities we face as global citizens."

The University conferred 975 master's and 39 doctoral degrees to a class that included graduates from 41 states and 35 countries.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

Local students graduate from Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College proudly congratulates the spring 2025 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College's commencement ceremony on May 3 at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Anne F. Ackerley, a senior advisor to the retirement business at BlackRock and former head of the firm's U.S. Retirement Group, delivered the commencement address.

The following local students earned the degrees listed:

Local students named to Stonehill College Dean's List

EASTON — Stonehill College is pleased to recognize the students named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List. To qualify for this recognition, students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better. They must also have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered during the term.

Isabella Ortiz of Leicester
Shelby Wessell of Rochdale
Kelly Daige of N. Brookfield
Julianna Rondeau of Spencer

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for more than 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

Eastern student Julia Trainor of Rochdale makes Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester, in which 1,302 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is Julia Trainor of Rochdale, a full-time senior who majors in English.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

John Nichols, of Leicester, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Maria Rosado, of Leicester, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

We applaud these students for their achievement.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Area resident named to dean's list at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Molly Ledbetter of Leicester was named to the dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac University.

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

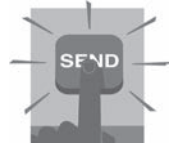
About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,400 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review's "The Best 388 Colleges." The university is in the midst of program expansion and renewal for both traditional and adult learners, attraction of diverse communities, development of innovative corporate partnerships and construction of an ambitious set of capital projects. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

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Bay Path nursing students volunteer at blood pressure clinic



CHARLTON — Michelle Drumm, C.D.P., Director of the Charlton Council on Aging, recently expressed her appreciation for the Practical Nursing student volunteers from the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's Class of 2025. The Academy has concluded its free blood pressure screening initiative for the academic year, which was held monthly at the Charlton Senior Center.

Throughout the school year, Practical Nursing students volunteered their time on the last Wednesday of each month, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Charlton Senior Center located at 37 Main St. These screenings provided seniors with valuable insights into their cardiovascular health.

"It is wonderful to see our Practical Nursing student volunteers complete another successful year of service at the Charlton Senior Center under Michelle's leadership," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Director of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. "Hypertension remains one of the most common chronic conditions in the U.S., and it's crucial for individuals to be aware of their blood pressure. Often, there are no warning signs or symptoms."

According to the American Heart Association, one in three U.S. adults has high blood pressure. Of those, 22 percent are unaware of their condition, 69 percent are receiving treatment, and only 45 percent have their blood pressure under control. The free screenings aim to promote awareness and encourage seniors to make regular blood pressure monitoring part of their healthcare routine.

The final student volunteers for this academic year were Bobbie Jo Smith of North Brookfield and Katelyn Smith of Charlton, both members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. Bobbie Jo has served as a Shift Supervisor with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over eight years, working in the North Central Group Homes. She was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Katelyn, a 2018 graduate of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School's Cosmetology program, is also a proud member of the current nursing class.

Both students are certified in Mental Health First Aid and Dementia Care and have completed specialized training in Domestic Violence, reflecting their commitment to comprehensive, compassionate care.

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church hosting Clothing Drive

BROOKFIELD — The Committee for Ecology and Social Action of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is sponsoring a clothing drive through Helpsy, the largest clothing collector in the Northeast. Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space, but 95 percent of unwanted clothing can be reused, repurposed, or recycled. Only 15 percent currently is.

From July 12 through July 19, the church will be open between 3 and 7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, underwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets, blankets, curtains, table linens and quilts). All items in any condition are acceptable if they are clean, dry, and odorless.

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 9 Upper River St., on the Brookfield Common, near the junction of Route 9 and Route 148.

For more information, contact Barbara Hale at blh.buuc@gmail.com.

Spencer Transfer Station stickers available

SPENCER — It's time to renew your Spencer Transfer Station sticker. Current stickers expire on June 30th.

Town of Spencer 2025-2026 Transfer Station stickers will be on sale at the Spencer Highway Garage, 7 Meadow Rd., on Saturday, June 28 from 8 a.m. to noon. Sticker fee is \$75. Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$30.

Berthiaume announces office hours

REGION — State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff invites Constituents and town officials to meet her to express any concerns, ideas, or issues that they may need assistance with. Please feel free to contact her if you would like a private meeting at (774) 402-4742.

Tuesday, July 8 — Ware Senior Center, 9 – 9:45 a.m.

Tuesday, July 8 — West Brookfield Senior Center, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, July 8 — Brookfield Town Hall, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9 — Leicester Town Hall, 9 – 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, July 9 — Spencer Senior Center, 10 – 11 a.m.- With Tammy Ruda from Rep. Marsi's Office.

Wednesday, July 9 — East Brookfield Senior Center, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, July 15 — North Brookfield Town Hall, 11 a.m.-noon

East Brookfield Library offers Summer Eats program

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library invites local families to take advantage of the Summer Eats breakfast and lunch program.

From June 30 through Aug. 14, all children are welcome to visit the library Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon and pick up a bagged breakfast and lunch.

Additionally, families are invited to attend the kick-off party for Summer Eats. The event is set for Tuesday, June 24, from 4-6 p.m. at Wire Village School (60 Paxton Rd. in Spencer).

QCC Math Team scores double victory

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has secured two first-place victories in regional mathematics competitions. The QCC math team has been awarded the Lois A. Martin Student Math League Award for placing first among all New England Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (NEMATYC) Student Math League teams, while simultaneously claiming first place in the entire Northeast Region of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Student Math League competition.

Under the guidance of Professor of Mathematics Ibar Delacruz, who served as the team's moderator, QCC students tackled complex mathematical challenges throughout the competition. The team's success reflects not only the students' mathematical abilities, but also the supportive learning environment of QCC.

"It's fun. I enjoy solving math problems," said Ben Carpenter, one of the top-scoring students.

With a background in IT, Carpenter found that math courses at QCC provide good practice

for how computers operate and hopes to pursue a career in cybersecurity. He shared how his mathematical talents were recognized by Professor of Mathematics Steve Zona, who invited him to help outside of class, eventually leading Ben to become a peer tutor.

"Now people I have tutored are becoming tutors as well," Carpenter noted.

Isabel Thies, another top performer, shared a different journey. She didn't enjoy math in high school and came to QCC as an undecided major. But Theis's professors noticed her abilities and encouraged her to explore mathematics. She ended up joining the Liberal Arts-Mathematics program and sees a future in scientific research and innovation.

For Thies, the competition provided unexpected opportunities.

"It was really exciting to represent QCC and our math program, especially because we were going up against some big competitors," Thies said, adding, "I've found a math community here, which I was not expecting."

Team member Quoc Le, who "really loves math and talking to people about math," expressed a similar sentiment of belonging between math-focused students. He plans to pursue mechanical or electrical engineering but expressed interest in keeping in touch with other QCC students.

Fellow team member Vijay Kesavan noted the alignment between their QCC coursework and what's offered at other renowned institutions.

"MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has open tests available. Looking at them, I saw a lot of overlap with Professor De La Cruz's class," he said.

All of these award-winning students have been accepted to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) for the fall semester, demonstrating how QCC's mathematics program serves as a foundation for continued academic success.

LMS student recognized for documentary on Frederick Douglass

LEICESTER — School officials congratulate Leicester Middle School seventh grader Nana Obeng on a major accomplishment.

Obeng received a special award at the National History Day state competition held in Winchester for her individual documentary on Frederick Douglass.

Additionally, Obeng was recently selected to be featured on the Massachusetts Historical Society Web site for the "Celebrating Juneteenth 2025 Exhibition."

She was invited to present her project at a June 24 program called "We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance." The event will feature historian and author Kellie Carter Jackson.

"Great job, Nana. I'm so proud of you and all your hard work," said LMS social studies teacher Renee Freeman.

Local students named to UConn Dean's List

STORRS, Conn. — The University of Connecticut congratulates the following students on being named to its Dean's List for the spring semester of 2025.

Auburn
Lily Derenas, Sydney Lamontagne

Charlton
Maria Bistras, Chloe Graves, Adeline Smith, Akshat Viswanath

Charlton City
Abigail Boria

Douglas
Kaylee Bolin

Dudley
Abigail Lepper

Fiskdale
Grace Connors

Grafton
Vishnuvardhan Mandepudi

Groton
Charlotte Digiovanni, Isabella Hutchins, Madelyn Kelly, Cameron McCretton, Treyton Palmer, Caroline Straw

Milford
Thomas Putnam

Millbury
Francesca Beyer

North Grafton
Shravya Aniseti, Alena Duval, Sunjeevni Patel, Athena Paul

Northbridge
Adriana Tillison, Keira Touhey

South Grafton
Audrey Karyabdi, Hanna Moy, Geeta Puli

Spencer
James Menicol

Sturbridge
Kathleen Cropley, Samuel Panek

Sutton
Margaret Jakubiak, Riley Towle

Upton
Marina Brockett-Delgado, Emily Pollen

Whitinsville
Melanie Bisbee, Ian Gahan, Noah Malkasian

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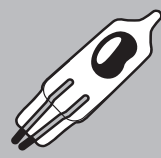
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

This is
your brain
on fun

When’s the last time you had some real, stupid, joyful fun?

Not the kind that’s scheduled on a calendar or costs \$85 a ticket. I mean the kind of fun that sneaks up on you and reminds you life isn’t all stress and headlines. A kitchen dance-off. A late-night ice cream run. A ridiculous game of charades where everyone ends up crying from laughter.

We forget how much we need that.

The world’s heavy enough. People are tired. Disconnected. But fun, real, low-stakes, no-reason fun brings us back to life. It connects us and reminds us we’re human.

And there’s science to it. Research from Harvard found that playfulness, humor, and spontaneous joy reduce cortisol levels, improve brain function, and increase our capacity for empathy and resilience. Even the Harvard Law Review has noted how community and levity can improve public well-being and reduce conflict which sounds pretty good right about now. Fun doesn’t fix everything. But it makes everything easier to carry.

Harvard Study on Happiness: A long-term Harvard study on adult development found that close relationships and shared joyful experiences are the strongest predictors of health and longevity more than money or fame. Fun, especially when shared, strengthens those bonds.

Stanford Neuroscience Research: Engaging in fun and playful activities increases dopamine levels, which improve mood, motivation, and focus. It’s your brain’s natural “reward” system.

National Institute for Play: This institute emphasizes that play reduces stress, boosts creativity, and improves overall well-being, especially when it includes laughter or spontaneous moments.

American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine: Reports that people who prioritize leisure and play have lower levels of cortisol (the stress hormone), improved immune function, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease.

More examples of everyday fun:

Hosting a “bad movie night” with neighbors and popcorn.

Setting up a spontaneous water balloon fight on a hot day.

Having a board game potluck everyone brings a snack and a game.

Organizing a “slow bike ride” zero competition, just cruising.

Creating a temporary sidewalk chalk gallery on your street.

Starting a DIY music night a few instruments, no expectations.

Holding a “try something new” night. People teach each other random skills like yoyo tricks, juggling, or how to whistle with fingers.

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

It makes sense

To the Editor:

When you:
See Our American flag
Read an American classic
Give to charity
Taste victory
Hear the National Anthem
Smile during the day
Touch by shaking hands
Feel happy
Smell food
Accept a challenge
Make promises
Take time to relax
Receive good news
Attend church services

You get:
Feelings of pride
Inspired
Satisfaction
Rewards
Excited
Compliments
Connected
Pleasure
Hungry
Energized
Prepared
Comfort
Enjoyment
Spiritual nourishment
DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.
SOUTH HADLEY
FORMERLY OF BROOKFIELD

Nightmare on Your Street

To the Editor:

“ICE”
I = Idiots
C = Communistic
E = Evil

“Nightmare on Your Street”

One, two, they are coming for you
Three, four, better lock your door

Five, six, get your crucifix
Seven, eight, a world filled with hate
Nine, ten, where and when

Children are being taken from schools, playgrounds, homes, etc. Yours could be next!
Be afraid. Be very afraid.

NOREEN FERNANDES
WEST BROOKFIELD

Kings Day

To the Editor:

By now, Trump’s Birthday Pride Parade will be history. We can start to assess the damage from the multi-million-dollar extravaganza of running armored vehicles on the streets of the Capital that will need to be added to the \$45 million parade costs. These costs are said to be dwarfed by the expense of deploying Guard and Marines to LA, ostensibly to quell the no existent riots, in hopes that somewhere among our armed warriors, they will be sufficiently triggered to give a repeat performance of Kent State. (For those too young to remember, National Guard sent to quell protesting students, shot one dead.) I have stated previously that the Moron in Chief wants an excuse to declare martial law, and he is doing all he can to provoke our citizens, People will be carrying signs that are anti-king, but what you are actually seeing is our country becoming a banana republic with a dictator.

I would not venture to guess what Taco’s position is currently as you read this, but I was led to believe that the deportations were to feature the gang members, drug dealers and low life criminals illegal in our country. Given that Steven Miller was put in charge (the author of the complete Muslim ban, and in charge of rescue of our Afghan allies prior to finish of Trumps surrender to the Taliban), it should be no surprise that Tom HO-man, is now grabbing the low hanging fruit of day workers at Home Depot, Strawberry pickers from the field and 20 year sewing machine workers in garment factories. Last I heard, was that TACO wants his lap dogs, back on mission of deporting the millions of criminals (we would notice)

Yesterday, Crissy “Knome” was holding a presser to justify us having 2,700 military personnel in LA, doing nothing except “Maybe” getting paid. When the senior US Senator from California { Padilla replaced Kamala

in senate), attended that event to ask the homeland secretary some questions, he was removed, thrown to the floor and handcuffed. His comment later was “If this is how this administration treats a US Senator, how will they treat anyone else, citizen or not?”

If you thought the purpose of DOGE was to root out fraud and waste in government, or that we need a bill to do that for Medicare or Medicaid, you must really enjoy fantasy. Just as an FYI, there need be to legislation to root out and prosecute fraud, theft, or any other illegal activity. If you thought Musk and his Cyber Ninjas were auditing agencies to make corrections, you were defrauded. The richest man in the world ended the distribution of our surplus food, drugs to and disease, that you can count on coming to a theater near you. If you think shutting down the Consumer Protection Agency, that oversees him and returned 36 times its budget to consumers, you may think fraud is cured. If you think cutting VA and IRS staff is a smart savings, you obviously have not dealt with either.

If you are of the mistaken impression that these savings were real, and that the president who had already presided over the largest increase in the national debt ever, and now has a bill on the floor to beat that record, while closing small hospitals, nursing homes and cutting food and health-care to those who need it most, while committing to more in country military deployments, multiple millions to fix up, his 13 year old gift plane.

it clearly explains why Trump said, “If I ever run, it will be as a Republican, because the Dems are too smart.” Did you notice him flying Marine #1 to stand at a presidential podium, at a dinner for the largest purchasers for his new crypto grift? When you elect a criminal, you should not be surprised when he acts like one.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Cable Advisory Committee
needs your input

To the Editor:

The West Brookfield Cable Advisory Committee is hosting an Open Public Meeting on Wednesday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. We would encourage you to attend, ask questions, share concerns and offer ideas. This as a Community TV Station that is going to be rebroadcasting again, soon. Becoming involved will assure that it will serve you.

On behalf of the West Brookfield TV Cable Advisory Committee, I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the residents of West Brookfield for voting in support of funding of the studio for FY 25-26. The approved article presented at the Annual Town Meeting provided for a release of a portion of the accumulated franchise fees that had been received from the cable provider to fund content and operation of our broadcasting studio. It has been all too common these days that community TV broadcasting

has been dark for many years in some communities, ours among them.

Now it is more important than ever to increase community pride and involvement in local affairs that have daily impacts on us all. Confidence in our government hinges upon transparency, and our awareness of the sincerity and commitment that the elected officials, appointed employees and volunteers demonstrate every day. Community leaders that I have come to know, are people that I have come to respect for how and why they fulfill their job responsibilities.

Can’t make the meeting? Send us your thoughts.

Email: westbrookfieldcommunitytv@gmail.com or

Call: (508) 867-1421, ext. 432

PAUL LAPENAS
CHAIRMAN, CABLE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEST BROOKFIELD

Should you
trust a
‘finfluencer?’

In the age of social media, it’s easy to find advice on just about anything — including how to manage your money. Content creators known as “finfluencers” — short for financial influencers — use platforms like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram to share their takes on investing, budgeting, and building wealth. Many of them are charismatic and relatable, and they often speak from personal experience. But while their content may be engaging, taking financial advice from a finfluencer without digging deeper can come with significant risks.

While some finfluencers may have formal training or credentials, many do not. Instead, their influence stems from their popularity rather than professional experience. But popular advice may not necessarily be good advice. A 2025 study by the Swiss Finance Institute even found that unskilled finfluencers typically have larger followings than skilled ones.

Why be cautious?

For young or new investors, social media can make finance feel accessible. In fact, a 2022 FINRA study says that more than 60 percent of Americans younger than 35 get investing information from these platforms. But social media isn’t regulated the same way traditional financial advising is, so anyone, qualified or not, can offer financial tips.

Unlike traditional financial advisors, finfluencers don’t know your unique goals, financial situation, or risk tolerance. And likely, they’re not licensed (you can check here: Check Out Your Investment Professional | Investor.gov). Even well-meaning guidance might lead you down a risky path if it’s not tailored to your needs. And unfortunately, some finfluencers have exploited the trust they build with followers to promote questionable investments or outright frauds.

Warning signs to watch for

Here are a few signs that a finfluencer’s advice may be worth avoiding:

Unrealistic “get-rich” promises: Claims like, “Turn \$500 into \$50,000 in a year,” are highly improbable, and may indicate a scam.

Hurry, hurry: Be wary of advice that pressures you to act fast or plays on fear of missing out. Important financial decisions shouldn’t come with a countdown clock.

Flashy displays of wealth: Images of luxury cars, watches or cash can be more about generating views than offering sound advice. If a finfluencer is trying that hard to convince you to take an action, it often means they will profit — perhaps they’ll get paid to promote a product or service, or earn a fee for referring you, or are trying to boost clicks and followers to earn more.

What you can do

Do your own homework. Don’t take finfluencers’ advice at face value. Cross-check it with reliable sources. The finfluencer may even be under investigation by a federal or state securities regulator. Talking to a licensed financial advisor you trust can help you discern good advice from the bad.

Recognize conflicts of interest. If a finfluencer promotes a product or service, find out if they’re being paid to do so. And remember, online personalities make money by generating high viewership, not because their advice has a track record of success.

Use common sense. When something sounds too good to be true, it usually is. And of course, never disclose your bank or brokerage account numbers to a finfluencer, and never send money.

Finfluencers can make financial topics more engaging and accessible. But when it comes to your money, a social media video from someone who doesn’t know you is no substitute for informed, personalized guidance. Take the time to verify, research and, when in doubt, seek advice from a professional.

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.

Mix up These “Solutions” to Your Gardening Challenges

It's growing season and nearly every successful backyard gardener uses a few tricks of the trade to ensure success. But the average gardener is not without challenges this time of year, whether it is repelling pesky garden pets or curing black spot disease. With this in mind, the following tried and true “recipes,” made from ordinary household ingredients offer a creative solution to common garden problems.

Flower Deterrent

Made from pantry dry goods, this chemical free recipe has been used for generations of gardeners to repel pets from garden beds.

Ingredients: one part



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

cayenne pepper; two parts dry mustard powder; four parts flour

Directions: Mix in a large paper grocery bag by holing the neck of the bag and shaking it. Distribute generously in the beds. Repellent must be reapplied after watering.

Cut Garden Flower Preservative

The theory behind this recipe is that Listerine contains sucrose and a

bactericide to extend the life of cut flowers.

Ingredients: two ounces Listerine mouthwash; one gallon water

Directions: Mix together and pour into vase of cut flowers.

Green Lawn Cocktail
Give your lawn a healthy boost with this cocktail made from common ingredients.

Ingredients: one cup Epsom salts; one cup household ammonia; one can beer; two cups water

Directions: Pour into hose-end sprayer and apply. Covers and peeps up about 2000 square feet.

Black Spot Cure for Roses

Get roses back in tip top shape with this simple spray.

Ingredients: three tablespoons baking soda; one gallon water

Directions: Mix together both ingredients and spray roses. Pick up any fallen rose leaves and burn them or take them to the dump.

Exterior Mildew Wash

Extinguish mold on outside garden walls and other surfaces with this powerful mildew wash.

Ingredients: three quarts warm water; one quart liquid laundry bleach, such as Clorox; one quarter cup powdered laundry detergent; two thirds of a cup TSP (trisodium phosphate, available at paint stores)

Directions: Mix well and apply to surfaces with a stiff broom.

Let stand for one half hour. Rinse well with a garden hose to prevent damage to plants. Wear rubber gloves when handling.

Note: These recipes were collected from several different published sources. Use with care and at your own risk.

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.

Pretend

In 1979, a Harvard psychologist named Ellen Langer conducted a study that still raises eyebrows today. She gathered a group of men in their 70s and 80s and asked them to do something radical: pretend they were 20 years younger.

For five days, these men lived in a recreated environment styled entirely from two decades earlier. The furniture, the magazines, the music, even the way they spoke—all

designed to transport them back in time.

They didn't just reminisce about the past. They were asked to live it. To speak in the present tense, as if

“Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions,” said Albert Einstein.

What happened next sounds like fiction: Their IQ scores jumped by an average of 60 points. Their posture improved. They stood taller. Their posture and joint flexibility improved. Even finger length increased—an observable biological response. Some tossed their canes. A few played touch football on the lawn. All without medication. No surgery. Just belief, imagination,

and embodiment.

Draw from that what you will. But here's the question worth asking: Who are you pretending to be?

We don't always think of ourselves as actors. But we are. Every day, we step into roles—some conscious, many not. The tired one. The anxious one. The too-late one. The responsible-but-forgotten one. The victim. The almost-was.

We play them so well that we forget we're performing until it becomes our truth.

Some would look at that Harvard study and scoff, “They were putting on a facade.” But that's not what happened at all. I think they were peeling off the facade.

I think, for five days, they stopped pretending to be old—and remembered who they really were. They told a new story in their heads. And their bodies followed. Their minds led. And biology responded.

That's the power of identity.

“We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be,” wrote Kurt Vonnegut.

Because here's something most people never consider: every one of us is pretending. All the

time. Based on what we believe. Based on what we've agreed to about ourselves. Based on what we were told—and accepted—about what's possible.

So ask yourself: Are you really who you've been pretending to be?

Because if you want to know who you're acting like, just look at your results. Your life is the clearest revelation of who you've agreed to be. And if you want new results, you don't need to push harder—you need to play a new role.

That starts with changing your internal I Am. From “I'm too late” to “I'm right on time.” From “I'm stuck” to “I'm growing.” From “I'm not enough” to “I'm becoming.”

It's not about faking it 'til you make it. It's about embodying what's already inside you. Athletes do it. Performers do it. Therapists teach it.

V i s u a l i z a t i o n . Rehearsal. Mental reprogramming. To the brain, there's little difference between real and vividly imagined experiences—when you're fully immersed, your biology plays along.

So, who you imagine yourself to be—over and over—becomes your lived experience.

Do you have the courage to be yourself?

Or have you been playing a role for so long you forgot there was a difference?

You don't need to wait for someone to recreate your environment. You don't need to wait for permission. You can create the shift now. Change the channel in your mind. Step into the role you were born to play. Speak differently. Walk differently. Believe differently. And soon, you'll see that your results follow your role.

If five days of pretending to be younger changed the lives of elderly men... imagine what six months could do for you.

“Live out of your imagination, not your history,” wrote Stephen R. Covey

The question isn't whether it works. The science is there. The results are real.

The real question is: Who have you been pretending to be?

And more importantly—Who are you ready to become?

Because in the end, identity isn't something you find.

It's something you choose.

Because your identity isn't written in stone—it's written in action. And today is as good a day as any to begin the rewrite.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can we believe the Democrats and the media anymore?

To the Editor:

One of the unforeseen benefits of the Trump election win is Americans are now starting to slowly see the number of lies and cover-ups both Democrats and their willing accomplices in the mainstream media shamelessly told the American people.

Going back to President Trump's first term, liberals lied and claimed that election was tainted by Russian collusion. After an extensive and expensive investigation being reported by the media almost daily, it has been determined to be a hoax, with claims of even the Clintons' financial support. How come there's been no disclaimer or “correction to the story?”

Trump lost his re-election bid in a heavily contested election to Joe Biden, who, even at that time, had questions about his mental capacity to do the job. Americans witnessed firsthand how leading Democrats, Biden's family and close aides, and the mainstream media covered up Biden's cognitive decline over time, falsely claiming his political opponents artificially created events showing Biden mumbling, bumbling, stumbling, and having to be physically directed by aides. With President Trump's decisive election victory this past November, he proved beyond any doubt the mainstream is becoming irrelevant, and they can't handle that.

Americans are now also seeing the disastrous results of the Democratic

liberal far left agenda, such as the open border policy, trans athletes competing in woman's sports with absolutely no regard to women's rights, and the failed green energy policies which helped lead to record setting inflation the poor are still trying to recover from, to name a few lies the mainstream media told us daily. I'm guessing they figured if you tell the lie enough, people will believe it. They were and are wrong.

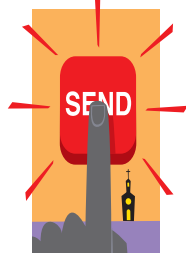
Recent polls show national media outlets like MSNBC and CNN are losing record numbers of viewers, while outlets like Fox and Newsmax are gaining viewers. Liberals are wondering why, but the simple fact is Americans don't like being lied to with their intelligence being insulted almost daily by what we know are false liberal lies.

Now, the question being asked by CNN and MSNBC is, how do we get viewership back? Most likely, you don't. Do you bring your car to a mechanic you trust, or do you bring it to one you don't? Simple — you bring it to the trusted mechanic because trust and truth are everything in any type of relationship. Same principles to news outlets — you trust them, or you don't. In a way, the same thing with politicians, you trust them, or you don't. Lately, it's been far too easy to see when the mainstream media and our liberal leaders are lying — their lips are moving. I'm not expecting that to stop anytime soon.

JOHN SHOCK
CHERY VALLEY

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EBES students and staff enjoy Field Day



East Brookfield Elementary School students enjoy Field Day activities.

EAST BROOKFIELD — Students and staff at East Brookfield Elementary School enjoyed a Disney theme at this year's Field Day program.

Held on June 6, the event featured thirteen stations that celebrated the theme. These included Hercules Hero Training (obstacle course); Mickey Mouse Bounce Club (bounce house); Snow White Poison Apple Blast (water blasters); Queen of Hearts Croquet; Luigi and Guido's Tire Roll (relay race); Captain Hook's Toss (ring toss game); Inside Out Door Field Hockey; Tiana's Lily Pad Lob (throwing rubber frogs into hula hoops); Ariel's Art (magnet art activity); Elsa's Ice Cream (provided by Jerry's Ice Cream truck); Belle's Ball (Russ Kennedy DJ station); Aladdin's Carpet Ride Race (belly scooter races); and Moana's Reef Cleanse (sponge water activity).

"The weather could not have been more cooperative, with a beautiful morning for the students to participate in a variety of activities created around a Disney theme," said EBES Principal Christine Lavin. "Russ Kennedy and his DJ company, Good Vibrations, provided the music for the event. The kids had a blast with their classmates, playing games and getting an ice cream treat from Jerry's Ice Cream truck."

The event was made possible by several staff members and parents who took time out of their schedules to volunteer at various stations. A few recently retired staff members also attended the event to say hello to students.

"We cannot thank all of our parent volunteers enough for helping make this such a memorable day for our students," Lavin added. "We would also like to thank our parent group (PIE) for helping to fund some of the activities."

Kevin Flanders



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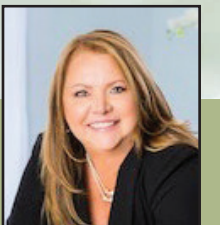
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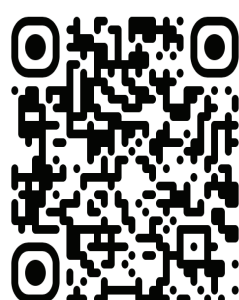
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Create, plant, and maintain a pollinator garden



A Hemaris Hummingbird Moth on a Monarda flower.

Celebrate National Pollinator Month this June by creating and maintaining a garden that attracts and supports these important members of our ecosystem. Pollinators are responsible for about 75 percent of the food we eat and play an important role in producing food, fiber, medicine and more. The European honeybee is the most well-known but our native bees along with moths, wasps, beetles, flies, bats, and some birds also help pollinate our gardens.

Just like the honeybees and Monarch

butterflies, many pollinators are struggling with their populations dwindling due to pesticides and loss of habitat. You can make a difference by creating pollinator gardens filled with their favorite plants.

Start helping all pollinators and the environment by reducing or better yet eliminating the use of pesticides. If you opt for a chemical solution, look for the most eco-friendly product and as always read and follow label directions to minimize the negative impact on the environment and pollinators.

As you create your pollinators' paradise include shelter from predators and the weather. Include trees and shrubs, if space allows, providing you with year-round interest and nectar, pollen, and tasty leaves as well as nesting sites and safe havens for the various life stages. Leave patches of open soil for ground nesting bees and some leaf litter to shelter some butterflies, bumblebees, and other pollinating insects.

Plant a variety of native plants, herbs and other pollinator favorites that provide nectar and pollen throughout the season. Spring bulbs, early blooming wildflowers and perennials provide essential food that is often in limited supply early in the season. Fall flowering plants provide needed energy supplies as the bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators prepare for winter.

Include plants with different colors and shaped flowers to attract and support a variety of pollinators. Plant flowers in mass. You will enjoy the display, the garden will require less maintenance, and



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

the pollinators will use less energy when they can gather lots of food from a smaller area.

Plant masses of flowers like columbine, sweet alyssum, annual and perennial salvia, cupheas, cosmos, phlox, zinnias, bee balm, liatris, sedum, asters and more to help attract these beauties to your landscape. Fuchsias, begonias and impatiens are perfect for shady locations. And don't let a lack of space dissuade you; even a window box of flowers can help.

Bigger flowers are not always better. Double flowers may be showy, but they have less nectar and pollen. The multiple layers of petals may hinder access to the nectar and pollen they contain.

Grow some herbs in the garden and containers for you, the bees, and other beneficial insects. Let some go to flower and watch for visitors on thyme, borage, oregano, and other herb flowers. Tolerate a bit of damage on parsley, dill and fennel as the swallowtail caterpillars dine on the leaves. These vigorous plants will recover once the caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies.

Add some native plants to your gardens whenever possible. They are a richer source of nectar and pollen than cultivated plants. Pollinators and other beneficial insects have evolved with

these plants, providing a mutual benefit.

Puddles, fountains, birdbaths and even a damp sponge can provide needed water. Include water features with sloping sides or add a few stones for the visitors to sip without getting wet. Sink a shallow container of sand in the ground. Keep it damp and add a pinch of sea salt for the butterflies and bees. Add a flat stone for warming and be sure to watch for and snap a few photos of visitors as they sip and sun in your garden.

If you create it, they will come. Be patient, make note of their favorites, and keep growing to attract, support and enjoy these important garden visitors.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the 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. Myers hosted "The Plant Doctor" radio show on WTMJ radio for more than 20 years and seven seasons of Great Lakes Gardener on PBS. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com which features gardening videos, free webinars, monthly gardening tips, and more.

DPHS continued from page A1

"The students, faculty, and staff who have walked those hallways will always cherish their time there and the connections that they made."

Added Servant, "Generation after generation have walked those hallways during their four years of high school. It'll be bittersweet to see the building no longer in its footprint, but I'm happy that the future high school students of SEB are getting a new high school."

Following the last day of classes on June 16, the old academic facility officially became a construction zone. Students will start the school's next chapter in the newly built classroom wing this fall.

But even though the old building will soon cease to exist, its memories and impacts will live on through the achievements of countless alumni Panthers.

"The Prouty of the 1970s and early '80s will live in my memory and the memories of my classmates. So many people walked these hallways and went on to do great things, but I will always remember one in particular, Brian Sweeney, who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on our country," said State Sen. Peter Durant. "Back in high school, I was just about to get into a fight in the hall when Brian, a football player who was a year older than me, pulled me away. He probably saved me from a lot of trouble. I was heartbroken when I heard he was gone, and he often comes to mind."

For those who attended the June 11 walkthrough, the program not only served as an opportunity to walk familiar halls one last time, but also to share stories and relive unforgettable memories. Several guests were able to see old friends for the first time in years, while others enjoyed meeting alumni members from classes that graduated decades later.

Former Prouty educators and staff members were also able to reconnect.

"Touring David Prouty one last time was a surreal reminder of the generations of students, families, and faculty that have passed through the halls, helping to shape our town," said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee Chairman Jeff Sauvageau. "I hope the decades of memories, moments, and milestones will stand strong as we turn the page and write the next chapter for our district."

Even though DPHS Interim Principal Sara Kinnas has only led the school for a short time, she continues to be impressed with the level of school spirit shown from current and past Panthers alike.

"The final community walkthrough was a great way to wrap up our time learning and working in this building. It is clear the community is deeply rooted in tradition and Prouty Pride, which was evident with those that attended," Kinnas said. "Many stories were shared, as several generations of Panthers gathered together."

School officials thank all student volunteers who served as tour guides, as well as Ms. Leveillee, Mr. Miller, Mr. Laflower, and Dr. Haughey for their efforts in coordinating the program.

Looking ahead to a promising new dawn for Prouty, but also taking time to reflect on days gone by, DPHS alums are filled with nostalgia and excitement.

"I guess I can quote the Steely Dan lyric, 'I'm never going back to my old school,'" Durant added. "But there's a good reason for that—because my old school is soon going to be an upgraded, incredible educational facility."

13th Food Truck & Craft Beverage Festival Rolls into Worcester Commons June 7!

WORCESTER — Food Truck Festivals of America (FTFA) is thrilled to announce the return of the 13th Worcester Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival on Saturday, June 7 from noon to 5 p.m. (with an exclusive VIP/Beer Lovers Hour from 11 a.m. to noon).

Join us at Worcester Commons as 25 of Massachusetts' favorite food trucks and the region's top craft beverages come together for a day packed with flavor and fun. From street tacos and succulent lobster rolls to decadent whoopie pies and chocolate dipped strawberry skewers, there's something to satisfy every craving. Pair your bites with a refreshing pour from a wide selection of local and national craft beverages.

But the fun doesn't stop at food and drink! Enjoy music, lawn games, and henna art, as well as an artisan market featuring unique local vendors — making it the perfect outing for friends and families alike.

LEGALS

**Town of Spencer
Request for Proposals
For the Leasing of an area
For a Wireless Data Transfer Facility
at the Site of the Former Lake Street School**

**17 Lake Street / 42 Highland Street,
Spencer MA**

The Town of Spencer is seeking proposals for a Wireless Data Transfer Facility on a portion of the former Lake Street School, located at 17 Lake Street / 42 Highland Street, Spencer, Massachusetts. Request for proposal documents including property information, the submission requirements, and the terms and conditions can be found at www.SpencerMA.gov/Bids. Responses to the Request for Proposals must be received by 11:00 AM, EST, on July 28, 2025. This request for proposal is issued by the Town Administrator's office, Spencer, MA.

June 20, 2025
June 27, 2025

**TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
FY26 ROAD MATERIALS**

The Town of Brookfield Select Board will receive sealed bids through the Highway Department on materials & equipment to be used in State Aid Road Construction work and general Town road maintenance work until 2:00 PM, Wednesday, June 18 2025, at the Brookfield Town Hall located at 6 CENTRAL STREET, Brookfield, MA 01506, at which time bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Late bids will not be considered. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Highway-Construction for the project with an estimated value of \$444,885.00 will be required.

The Highway Department office is located behind the Town Clerk's office. Hours are from 7:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday – Thursday. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting the Highway office by email Highway@brookfieldma.us or call 508-867-2930 x27

June 13, 2025
June 20, 2025

Tickets & Packages: Buy Early and Save!

General Admission:
\$5 online in advance | \$10 at the gate (Children 10 & under free)

Foodie VIP Package (\$20 online only):
Early admission (11 a.m.)
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Beer Lovers Package (\$41 online only):
Early admission (11 a.m.)
FTFA koozie
3 beer tickets
Unlimited bottled water (while supplies last)

CIRCUS continued from page A1

formers, coaches, cooks, tech support specialists, and tent crews. The award-winning circus company typically runs its annual tours into August, wowing approximately 35,000 patrons each summer.

But the show wouldn't be complete without the assistance of residents at each performance community.

"As a vital part of our tour, we rely on generous local families to open their homes to our troupers while they perform in your area," the promotional statement read. "By becoming a homestay family, you play a crucial role in making the magic happen while gaining a truly unique and enriching experience."

Host families assist

young performers in several ways. These include providing a safe and welcoming space for 2-6 troupers in your home; offering basic meals and access to laundry facilities; and helping with daily transportation to and from the circus site.

"Hosting Smirkus troupers is more than just providing a place to stay. It's about sharing in the magic of the circus and becoming part of an unforgettable adventure," the statement read. "Many of our homestay families build lifelong friendships with the performers they host, and year after year they tell us how rewarding the experience is."

Homestays in the Spencer area will run from Thursday afternoon on July 10 to Monday morning on July 14.

Host families will receive several benefits

for their participation and assistance, including complimentary tickets to a show; reserved seating and priority parking; and a behind-the-scenes look at the dedication and teamwork that make the show possible.

If you are interested in hosting troupers during their upcoming visit to Spencer, please send an email to: homestays@smirkus.org. A homestay application and other required materials will be provided to you.

Additional tour information can be found by visiting: www.smirkus.org.

Founded in 1987, Circus Smirkus is a non-profit arts and education organization based in Greensboro, Vt. The team is dedicated to promoting the skills, culture, and traditions of the traveling circus.

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Reliant Foundation's 27th Annual Drive for a Difference Golf Classic and Auction raises more than \$200,000 to support community grants



WORCESTER — It was another wonderful day on and off the golf course, as Reliant Foundation's 27th annual Drive for a Difference Golf Classic and Auction took place at Pleasant Valley Country Club on May 19, raising more than \$200,000 in support of its Community Grants program. The proceeds raised will be added to

the more than \$6.4 million raised through this event since its inception.

"This year's Drive for a Difference once again demonstrated the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners as we work to raise funds for critical mental health and behavioral health-focused programs across the Central and

MetroWest regions of Massachusetts," said Kelsa Zereski, President of Reliant Foundation. "Due in large part to the success of last year's event, Reliant Foundation was able to provide a record \$1 million in Community Grants last fall, and thanks to our supporters, we're hoping to do it again this fall."

Following the round,

more than 175 guests enjoyed a social reception, dinner, auction, and awards program. The event's auction offered supporters the opportunity to bid online throughout the day and featured exclusive get-aways, exciting concerts, exceptional dining experiences, great sporting events, and more.

Proceeds from Drive for a Difference will allow Reliant Foundation to continue supporting nonprofit organizations in the region that provide programs and services to address mental health and behavioral health (particularly for children and youth), recovery programming for individuals battling substance use, and initiatives aimed at eliminating the stigma associated with these issues.

More than 30 local organizations and individuals provided sponsorship of the event, including lead sponsors: North Bridge Wealth Management (Gold Sponsor); Robert and Jane Klugman

(Dinner Sponsor), Gene and Julianne DeFeudis (Lunch Sponsor), The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation (Golf Cart Sponsor), Mass General Brigham Health Plan (Snack Cart Sponsor), J. Michael Grenon, Grimes & Co. (Raffle Sponsor); Anna Maria College, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, FUJIFILM Healthcare Americas Corporation, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Imperial Distributors, F.W. Madigan Company, NAI Glickman, Kovago & Jacobs, SALMON VNA & Hospice, UMass Memorial Health, UniBank, Worcester State University (Deluxe Foursome Sponsors); Bay State Bank, Coghlin Companies, Cornerstone Bank, Kelleher & Sadowsky, and Stowe & Degon (Scoreboard Sponsors), among others.

Additional information about Drive for a Difference and lending support to Reliant Foundation can be found at ReliantFoundation.org.

About The Reliant Foundation

Established in 1988, Reliant Foundation is an independent public charity whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals of all ages in the Central and MetroWest regions of Massachusetts. As a 501(c)3 charity, the Foundation offers grants to non-profit organizations within its service area for the purpose of supporting programs that battle critical community health issues like substance use disorder, and children's mental health. Our charity partners work with thousands of individuals in our community to provide life-saving recovery coaching, mental health and behavioral health services, and impactful education and initiatives to reduce the stigma around these issues. For more information, please visit www.reliantfoundation.org.

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- Webster Times
- Auburn News
- Blackstone Valley Tribune

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log
THURSDAY, JUNE 5
12:11 a.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), report taken; 12:53 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 1:26 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 1:46 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), Mandy Sue Small, 43, 659 Stafford Street, Leicester, straight warrant, arrest; 2:58 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 8:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:16 a.m.: welfare check (Bunker Hill Road), services rendered; 11:20 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:06 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 2:10 p.m.: ambulance (Austin Street, Worcester), transported; 2:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, arrest; 3:17 p.m.: malicious mischief (Main Street), report taken; 4:35 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:02 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 10:39 p.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported.
FRIDAY, JUNE 6
3:04 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:29 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 3:53 a.m.: stolen mv (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:23 a.m.: ambulance (Cherry Street, Spencer), transported; 5:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 7:34 a.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 7:58 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:03 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:49 a.m.: ambulance (Pitcairne Avenue), transported; 10:58 a.m.: restraining order service (Paxton Street), served; 11:43 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main

Street); 12:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:50 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 12:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:56 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 1:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), transported; 1:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:59 p.m.: ambulance (Collier Avenue), transported; 3:27 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 3:33 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:18 p.m.: welfare check (Second Street), assisted; 4:39 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 5:55 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 6:58 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 7:11 p.m.: disturbance (Folsom Street), assisted.
SATURDAY, JUNE 7
12:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Colonial Drive), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, number plate violation, criminal application issued; 1:35 a.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), citation issued; 1:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:57 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 2:01 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 4:25 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 5:55 a.m.: welfare check (Moose Hill Road), assisted; 6:21 a.m.: ambulance (Carleton Road), transported; 9:38 a.m.: transport prisoner (Main Street, Spencer), services rendered; 11:50 a.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 1:53 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 4:36 p.m.: parking complaint (Rawson Street), spoken to; 4:56 p.m.: mv stop (Craig Street), spoken to; 5:15 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 5:25 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 5:47 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 5:57 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 6:13 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 7:54 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:57 p.m.:

ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:34 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:35 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:57 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:21 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.
SUNDAY, JUNE 8
12:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:30 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:10 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 8:39 a.m.: assist other PD (North Oxford Street, Auburn), services rendered; 12:00 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 1:57 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pine Street), resolved; 1:59 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street, Paxton), transported; 3:58 p.m.: mv stop (Warrant Street), citation issued; 4:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:17 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 4:28 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 4:31 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), spoken to; 4:36 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted; 4:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:19 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:54 p.m.: RV complaint (King Street Extension), spoken to; 7:21 p.m.: disturbance (South Main Street), spoken to.
MONDAY, JUNE 9
12:17 a.m.: disturbance (Woodland Road), spoken to; 1:34 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:58 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:25 a.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 7:53 a.m.: investigation (Atwood Road), report taken; 8:24 a.m.: transport prisoner (West Main Street, Spencer), services rendered; 9:43 a.m.: mv stop

(Main Street), spoken to; 9:49 a.m.: welfare check (Denny Place), assisted; 9:57 a.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), referred; 10:18 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:30 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:08 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 11:27 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 12:00 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 12:57 p.m.: disturbance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 1:03 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:08 p.m.: summons service (Pleasant Street), served; 1:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:33 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:43 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Ridge Drive), services rendered; 2:16 p.m.: mv stop (Peter Salem Road), spoken to; 3:47 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 3:58 p.m.: ambulance (Denny Place), transported; 4:19 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:55 p.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), unfounded; 6:20 p.m.: family problem (Ferncroft Road), assisted; 6:50 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival; 7:37 p.m.: hit/run accident (South Main Street), report taken; 8:25 p.m.: ambulance (May Street, Worcester), transported; 8:37 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), services rendered; 9:16 p.m.: transport prisoner (West Main Street, Spencer), services rendered.
TUESDAY, JUNE 10
12:17 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license/criminal subsequent offense, license not in possession, speeding, criminal application issued; 9:18 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), Felipe do Nascimento Figuei, 24, 133 Dorchester Street, #2, Worcester, op w/suspended license, arrest; 10:28 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 12:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:19 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:33 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:47 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 1:51 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 2:00 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation



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POLICE REPORTS

issued; 2:05 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 2:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 3:58 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:04 p.m.: ambulance (Maple Street, Spencer), transported; 4:49 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:10 p.m.: disturbance (Walbridge Road, Paxton), resolved; 9:09 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:29 p.m.: animal complaint (River Street), resolved; 10:44 p.m.: municipal security alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 11:33 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), peace restored.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11
12:08 a.m.: stolen mv (Stafford Street, Worcester), unable to locate; 8:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Waite Street), referred; 9:26 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 9:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:01 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:08 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:16 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), citation issued; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 11:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:08 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 12:18 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:00 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 2:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 2:17 p.m.: threats (South Main Street), spoken to; 2:58 p.m.: assist citizen (Balwin Street); 5:37 p.m.: ambulance (Chandler Street, Worcester), call canceled; 6:04 p.m.: investigation (Deer Pond Road), report taken; 7:31 p.m.: welfare check (Willow Hill Road), unfounded; 11:46 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken.

Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
12:46 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 12:49-2:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:00 a.m.: mv complaint (Church Street), resolved; 2:22 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 2:55 a.m.: disturbance (Bell Street), noise complaint/dog barking; 5:05 a.m.: medical/general (Lake Street); 7:25 a.m.: LTC issued (West Street), assisted; 7:54 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 8:45 a.m.: citizen complaint (Lake Street), c/o truck speeding; 9:49 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lincoln Street), no contact; 10:25 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 11:36 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 12:22 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 1:04 p.m.: restraining order service (West

Main Street); 1:28 p.m.: mutual aid (Paxton Road), assist Auburn PD; 2:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), re: dog in park; 2:23 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; 2:52 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 3:05 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; 3:47 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), open line; 4:04 p.m.: DPW call (R. Jones Road), re: hanging wires; 5:05 p.m.: residential alarm (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 7:59 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:30 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), neighbor dispute; 10:14 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 4).

THURSDAY, JUNE 5
12:57 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 7:09 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:45 a.m.: vandalism (Maple Street), report taken; 8:16 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), car part in road; 8:37 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:57 a.m.: larceny (South Spencer Road), report taken; 9:23 a.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), c/o truck passing; 9:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Donnelly Road), re: evacuation drill; 10:35 a.m.: medical/general (Paula Bay); 10:59 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 12:07 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:27 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street), 12:37 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 1:23 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 2:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 3:13 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:23 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Main Street), rep. mulch smoking; 3:45 p.m.: juvenile matter (Walnut Street), rep. kids in pool; 4:31 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), opossum in road; 4:42 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 5:36 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 6:14 p.m.: fire alarm (Meadow Road), referred; 7:13 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), open line; 10:06 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; (total daily mv stops – 4).

FRIDAY, JUNE 6
2:03-2:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:49 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:02 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 4:09 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist Leicester PD; 4:17 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 6:07 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), apt. lockout; 7:14 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 8:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), mv hit stop sign; 8:49 a.m.: DPW call (Old East Charlton Road), tree on wires; 8:51 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:14 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Fitchburg PD bolo; 9:21 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 9:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), rep. water leak; 9:57 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), req. welfare check; 10:23 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 12:40 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), accidental; 12:41 p.m.: fraud (Wall Street), report taken; 1:45 p.m.: suspicious persons (Candlewood Drive), Terminix salesman; 3:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dogs; 3:38 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 3:49 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street); 5:37 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street);

6:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 7:00 p.m.: residential alarm (Kingsbury Road), services rendered; 7:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), spoken to; 8:08 p.m.: fire alarm (Meadow Road), referred; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road), Michael J. Lacroix, Junior, 38, 5 Marble Road, Spencer, OUI liquor, negligent operation, lights violation, arrest; 8:56 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 9:41 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), North Brookfield PD bolo; 10:10 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), accidental; 10:30 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (total daily mv stops – 8).

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
2:53 a.m.: building checked, secure; 3:05 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 3:19 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police; 3:38 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 5:44 a.m.: accident (Donnelly Road), report taken; 7:22 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD; 8:07 a.m.: vandalism (Chestnut Street), report taken; 11:19 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo/welfare check; 11:53 a.m.: animal complaint (Martin Road), loose dog; 11:54 a.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), injured squirrel in road; 3:37 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 4:14 p.m.: 911 call (Greenville Street), child w/phone; 4:50 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; 5:48 a.m.: residential fire alarm (Pearl Street), referred; 6:02 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 6:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Sherwood Drive), bobcat in yard; 7:19 a.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 8:22 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), investigated; 9:07 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 9:42 p.m.: medical/general (Holmes Street); 10:05 p.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); total daily mv stops – 1).

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
12:27 a.m.: 911 call (McDonald Street), accidental; 12:39-2:19 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:00 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), e-bikes in traffic; 2:24 a.m.: disturbance (Lake Street), c/o hearing noises; 3:59 a.m.: commercial alarm (Donnelly Road), services rendered; 8:06 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:18 a.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), tenant/tenant issue; 8:53 a.m.: accident (Highland Street), report taken; 8:59 a.m.: officer wanted (Kingsbury Road), noise complaint; 9:38 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 12:03 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Thompson Pond Road), loose dog; 1:06 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Cherry Street); 1:52 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 2:04 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist State Police/accident; 2:10 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 3:02 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:14 p.m.: 911 call (Chickering Road), accidental; 3:32 p.m.: medical/gener-

al (Howe Village); 3:45 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 5:32 p.m.: lost/found (Wire Village Road), license plate found; 6:28 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 6:46 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 7:30 p.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), neighbors fighting; 7:48 p.m.: RV complaint (Smithville Road), dirt bike in intersection; 8:46 p.m.: fire alarm (Paxton Road), referred; 9:54 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), c/o someone at basketball court; 10:08 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 10:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), flagged down/spoken to; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, JUNE 9
12:43 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), req. welfare check; 1:24-3:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:17 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:01 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:42 a.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 9:36 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:21 a.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), lg. branch blocking road; 10:46 a.m.: citizen complaint (North Spencer Road), c/o road closed; 12:01 p.m.: fraud (Jolicoeur Avenue), report taken; 2:25 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 3:29 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), c/o items left on property; 3:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), req. help ascending stairs; 4:04 p.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), c/o stolen bike; 6:30 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:46 p.m.: 911 call (R. Jones Road), open line; 8:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Garrette Lane), re: missing dog; 10:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), req. assistance; (total daily mv stops – 0).

TUESDAY, JUNE 10
12:10-2:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dogs found; 9:20 a.m.: suspicious persons (Smithville Road), services rendered; 9:21 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:34 a.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), mv speeding; 11:25 a.m.: medical/general (Bacon Hill Road); 12:40 p.m.: fuel/chemical spill (Main Street), diesel spill; 3:30 p.m. accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:59 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 4:21 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 5:03 p.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 5:34 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lake Street), investigated; 5:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), red light at Wall not working; 5:53 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no response noted on police log; 8:45 p.m.: larceny (Pleasant Street), report taken; 8:57 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), hydrant test; 9:02 p.m.: juvenile matter (Hastings Road), DA referral; 9:02 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 9:24 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; 11:36 p.m.: mv repossessed (Bixby Road), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops – 1).

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Cornerstone Bank supporting efforts to serve vulnerable populations

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is donating money to support Wellstorm, Inc., a Southbridge-based charity providing resources to families facing homelessness, mental health challenges and food insecurity. The \$5,000 contribution goes toward the organization's Christmas in July event scheduled for July 12.

“This event is a really fun way to uplift the important work Wellstorm does every day,” said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. “We know the high cost of housing has left some families in crisis, and the emotional impact can be devastating. Wellstorm offers a lifeline.”


According to Wellstorm, the Christmas in July event is a crucial fundraising platform allowing for the expansion of its services, including “the bridge fridge,” a well-stocked community refrigerator full of pantry essentials for both humans and pets. The organization also provides mental health services, peer support programs and educational support for underserved populations such as those in BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, the elderly, veterans, people with disabilities and those facing homelessness.

“A helping hand can go a long way in times of need,” said Tallman. “We hope people find some comfort knowing their neighbors care, and they are not forgotten.”

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, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tag line, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [CornerstoneBank.com](https://www.cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

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✿✿✿Friday's Child✿✿✿



Rowan
Age 13
Registration #9215

Rowan is a funny, playful, and high-spirited young boy who keeps everyone around him smiling. Always on the move, Rowan enjoys staying active with sports like football, karate, and even waterskiing—a passion he's proud of from his time in a water skiing club. He's especially proud to have earned his boating license at a young age! In addition to his athletic interests, Rowan has a creative side. He loves writing fictional stories and sharing them with others, using his vivid imagination to bring characters to life. He's always dreaming big—right now, he's determined to master a backflip to add to his growing karate skills. Rowan is also a big country music fan and enjoys jamming out to his favorite tunes. His mix of energy, humor, and creativity makes him a truly unique and unforgettable kid.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/26230361683>

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Pictured, from left, are Welcome, Arsenault, and McFadden.

South County Pediatrics celebrates Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy nurses

WEBSTER — Each year, from May 6 through May 12, the healthcare community formally observes National Nurses Week—an occasion dedicated to honoring nurses for their exemplary service and unwavering commitment to all dimensions of the profession, including patient care, education, and research.

In celebration of this year's observance, Nurse Supervisor Kelly J. Arsenault, LPN, of South County Pediatrics, shared a special message with Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN, RD, RN, CRRN, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton. Arsenault wrote, "It would be fun to share that all three of the nurses at South County Pediatrics graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy!"

In response, Dr. Bolandrina expressed her pride and appreciation: "We are truly proud to learn that all three nurses at South County Pediatrics are graduates of our program. I congratulate Kelly on her supervisory position and commend her leadership. Please also extend our sincere congratulations to Alicia McFadden and Tianna Welcome for their professional achievements and ongoing commitment to pediatric care. As pediatric nurses, they embody a deep understanding of child growth and development, pediatric-specific illnesses, and the unique challenges associated with caring for young patients. We salute their service."

Tianna Welcome, LPN of Oxford and a graduate of the PN Class of 2021, holds certifications in Mental Health First Aid and Dementia Care. She has completed professional development courses such as COVID-19 Contact Tracing (Johns Hopkins University) and Vital Signs: What the Body is Telling Us (University of Pennsylvania). During her time at Bay Path, she was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and received several honors, including the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. Scholarship, Random Act of Kindness Award, MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League of Nursing) Scholarship, and the Hannah Harwood Fund Scholarship. Tianna was also an active member of the Admissions Panel, the Mock Code Team, and the UNICEF Club.

Alicia McFadden, LPN of Webster and a graduate of the PN Class of 2017, distinguished herself as a SkillsUSA District Bronze Medalist in Medical Math. She was an engaged member of the UNICEF Club and served as the UNICEF Representative for the UNICEF USA Boston Children's Champion Award Dinner.

Bay Path Continuing Education launches fall term preview

CHARLTON — Bay Path Continuing Education announced their Fall Term preview Sunday, June 8. This season promises to be the most engaging yet, featuring over 80 brand-new classes designed to spark creativity, build skills, and bring families together. In total, this makes more than 140 classes offered.

Registration opens July 7 — no catalog needed. Starting Monday, July 7, people can register online for a wide range of courses without needing the Fall Catalog, which will be released in late July/Early August. Classes officially begin on Monday, Sept. 9.

A focus on family collaboration and hands-on learning. This fall, the Evening School is emphasizing interactive, hands-on experiences, with a major expansion of adult and child collaborative classes, especially in art and cooking.

From Cake Decorating and Pasta Making to Zentangle workshops, Soap Making, and Clay Tile Making, families will find numerous opportunities to create side by side and share meaningful experiences together.

Cooking classes are receiving a flavorful boost with enhanced offerings, including Asian cuisine workshops featuring Pad Thai, Korean BBQ, and more. Themed pasta nights—such as Candy-Shaped Pasta, Flower Petal Pasta, and Santa Hat Pasta—add a creative twist to traditional favorites.

Additionally, new this season is the Evening Delights series, where participants can craft their own charcuterie boards and take home their edible masterpieces.

Whether you're kneading dough, shaping soap, or sculpting clay, this fall's lineup offers countless ways for families and individuals to learn, connect, and create.

Diverse offerings across categories. The Fall lineup spans a wide range of interests, careers, and skills, ensuring there's something for every learner.

Down to Business. Business and finance: Explore the world of real estate with the new Let's Talk Real Estate series, designed for aspiring investors and homebuyers looking to build knowledge and confidence.

Career and licensing: Advance your career on your schedule with a self-paced Electrical Motor Control lab. Dive into the world of bookkeeping, or sharpen your beauty skills by Perfecting the Art of Lashing.

Fun & Play. Hobbies and crafts: Get creative with hands-on workshops in rubber duckie soap-making, Floral Design body balms, sugar scrubs, quilled paper pendants, pottery, modern calligraphy, and In need of a change of scenery? Try Watercolor in Nature, a series of painting classes held at scenic outdoor locations.

Sports and leisure: Get certified with Boat America, a course that meets boating education requirements and ensures you're safe and prepared on the water. Build confidence with Paddling Safety workshops, express your creativity in Songwriting sessions, and learn the timeless strategy of the classic card game Cribbage.

Mind & Body. Growth & development: A new resilience-building workshop for parents focusing on self-compassion and emotional well-being.

Health & fitness: New Yoga for All class designed for individuals of backgrounds and experience levels.

Opening new doors. Explore a trade: Take your first step into a skilled trade with introductory courses in leather working and blacksmithing. Forge your own full-tang knife, learn the basics of auto body work, or get practical, hands-on training toward becoming an electrical apprentice.

Home & Garden: Prepare for a thriving garden with Seed Starting 101 and Gardening with Native Plants—ideal for both beginners and seasoned green thumbs looking to plan ahead for the growing season.

Register early and secure your spot. With so many new classes, participants are encouraged to register early starting July 7 to secure their spot at www.baypath.net/bpce to explore the full course catalog and sign up.

This fall promises to be a season of discovery, learning, and family bonding—don't miss out!

Webster Five Foundation awards \$101,000 in largest-ever quarterly grant cycle

AUBURN — The Webster Five Foundation is proud to unveil its latest round of charitable giving, awarding \$101,000 in grants to 32 nonprofit organizations across Massachusetts. This cycle marks the Foundation's largest single-quarter distribution, both in total funding and number of recipients, since its founding in 1996.

With 29 of the 32 grant recipients located in Worcester County, this record-setting second-quarter cycle reinforces the Foundation's deep-rooted commitment to addressing local needs and building stronger communities where Webster Five has long served as both a financial institution and a community partner.

Each quarter, the Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations or programs that support expanding or improving access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities and community development.

The following organizations received grants in this cycle:

- African Community Education Program, Inc. — \$1,000
- Apple Tree Arts, Inc. — \$2,000
- The Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc. — \$2,500
- Bottom Line, Inc. — \$1,000
- Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance — \$5,000
- C . H . E . E . R . S . (Community, Health, Equity, Empowerment, Resources, and Service) — \$1,000
- City to Saddle, Inc. — \$1,000
- Crocodile River Music, Inc. — \$2,500
- Dismas House of Massachusetts, Inc. — \$5,000
- Dress for Success Worcester, Inc. — \$3,500
- EcoTarium — \$3,000
- Family Health Center of Worcester — \$10,000
- Girls on the Run Worcester County, Inc. — \$1,000
- Greater Worcester Community Foundation — \$7,000
- Habitat for Humanity Metro West / Greater Worcester — \$3,000
- Jewish Healthcare Center, Inc. — \$5,000 for 3 years
- Main South Community Development Corporation — \$5,000
- Mustard Seed Catholic Worker Community, Inc. — \$2,500
- Nativity School of Worcester — \$5,000 as the second installment of a \$15,000 multi-year grant
- Overlook Food Awareness Resource of Mass, Inc. — \$1,000 with a \$1,000 match
- Pathways for Change, Inc. — \$4,000
- Rainbow Child Development Center — \$6,000
- Rawkstars, Inc. — \$1,000
- RCAP Solutions, Inc. — \$1,500
- Reach Out and Read New England — \$2,500
- Senior Connection, Inc. — \$3,000
- Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, Inc. — \$8,000
- Webster Water Ski Collective — \$2,000
- Worcester Area Mission Society, United Church of Christ — \$3,000
- Worcester Children's Chorus — \$1,000
- Worcester Education Collaborative — \$1,000
- Worcester Symphony Orchestra — \$1,000

"At Webster Five, we've always considered it a privilege to be part of this community — not just as a bank, but as a neighbor," said Don Doyle, President/CEO, Webster Five. "Through the Foundation, we're able to celebrate and support the meaningful work happening all around us. This grant cycle, the largest in our history, reflects our deep belief in community organizations and the impact they continue to make."



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Cornerstone Bank steps up: donations fuel life-changing mentorships

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has made two generous donations totaling \$30,000 to support children in need through individual mentoring. The contribution will help fund programs run by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts & Metrowest.

"We know that mentoring helps children realize their potential," said

Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Role models can set kids up for success. We're grateful to be able to support this wonderful mission."

Cornerstone donated \$25,000 as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Celebration which was held on Saturday, April 5. The bank was the main "Big Vibe Sponsor" and Tallman was an honoree, being recognized for 10 years of service and his commitment to the organization. Tallman serves

as treasurer of the board of directors.

An additional \$5,000 contribution is going toward the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts & Metrowest Golf Fore Kids tournament at the Marlborough Country Club, coming up on Monday, May 19.

"We hope the financial support allows for even more partnerships between children and adults in the communi-

ty," said Tallman. "It goes both ways. Littles are empowered while their Bigs are also fulfilled in ways they couldn't have imagined. That's the magic of Big Brothers Big Sisters."

About Cornerstone Bank

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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 cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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WEBSTER
4 PERRYVILLE RD



That Cozy "I'm so Happy to be Home" Vibe! Move In Ready/Updated Kitchen w/stainless appliances. Formal Dining Rm, Living Rm (18x13) Great Rm. 3+ BRS & full updated Bath w/Tub. Classic hardwood floors, rounded archways... wood burning fireplace. Quality Owens-Corning finished basement system with 3 large LL rooms & 2nd Full Bath w/Shower, kitchen area w/cabinets & refrigerator. Morton Barn Style Garage (24x24) w/open lean-to-roof. Property well kept & has loads of character. .39 acre +/- cleared lot w/179' Rd Front! **\$435,000**

Featured New Listing
WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD



NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/ Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Open Concept Plan. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the 2-1/2 Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath w/5' Tiled Shower, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed for future expansion. FHA Heat & Central AC! Garage. **\$649,900.**

Featured Listing
Snug Harbor Villa!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING!



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! THIS 4000+/- SF ** THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE of ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding - whatever Floats Your Boat ->) Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! **NEW PRICE \$1,150,000****

WEBSTER - 8 VICTORY DR.



WELCOME to this Charming & Well Maintained Ranch Style House! The Layout is Versatile - Perfect Blend of Comfort & Functionality! New Appliances, "Mahogany" Cabinets! Hardwood Wood floors! "Walk up" attic...Future Expansion! Fully Fenced in back yard for your Furry Friends or Active Kiddos :) **\$359,900**

Featured New Listing!
WEBSTER - 18 GRAYSTONE AVE



Welcome to this "CLASSIC CAPE" offering the perfect blend of modern amenities. Recently remodeled open concept kitchen living room & dining area featuring granite countertops, new flooring & recent appliances. Updates include roof, windows, doors, Roth oil tank & Hot Water Heater (2021). New heating system in 2023. This is a "GEM" Possibility of a 4th bedroom/home office. 1 car under **\$405,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



Webster Lake Waterfront
88 Union Point
Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline-Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Winterized cottage Fireplaced living room! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! **\$660,000**



SORRY, SOLD!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!
15 CEDAR POINT RD
100+/- feet of Pristine, Sandy Shoreline! Boasting 6 Large rooms, 2 Baths, 3 Bedrooms, Garage. All on a Private road **\$1,000,000**

Webster Lake Waterfront Lots
Bates Point Rd

In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*
Lot# 1003R Natural Level Shore line 3800 +/- Sq Ft **\$180,000 SORRY SOLD!**
Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore line 5000+/- Sq Ft **\$350,000 SORRY SOLD!**
Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line 7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000 SORRY SOLD!**

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*Proximity to All Major Highways
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*Hardwood Floors throughout
*2400 sq. ft. not including Lower Level
10 Tobin Drive \$685,000

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Workshop13 hosts Seventh Annual Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition!



«Yet We Sleep, We Dream» by Eliza Moser, NEFAE 2024 Best in Show award-winner.

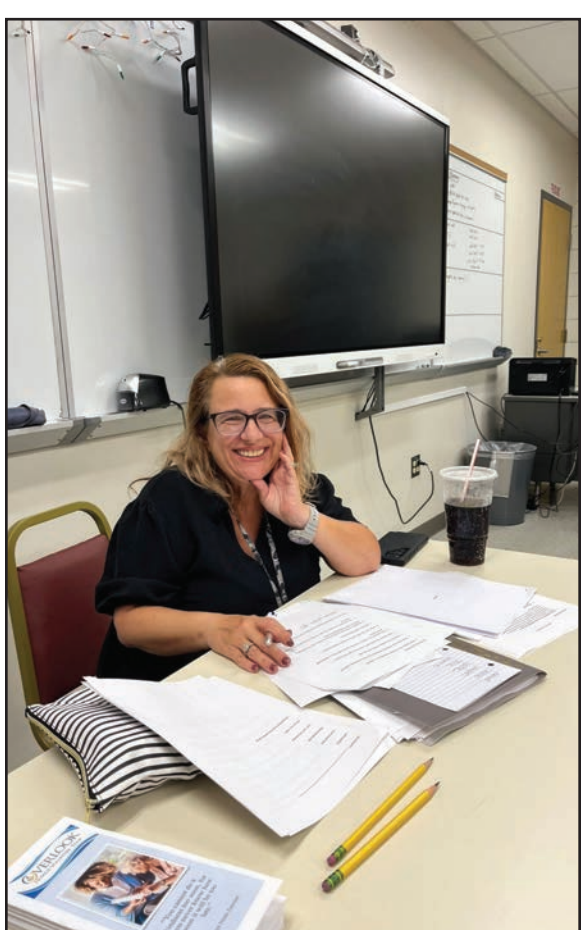
WARE — Workshop13 invites artists from throughout the northeastern US to participate in the seventh annual juried Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition. This exhibition aims to showcase art that embodies the principles of realism, highlighting the beauty of precise representation. Submitted artworks should fall into one of the various styles of realism from traditional to imaginative. Works are welcomed in the following categories: Oil Painting, Watercolor, Sculpture, Drawing/Graphics, Acrylic (includes casein & egg tempera), Pastel, and Mixed Media. Awards will be granted in multiple categories, with Best in Show receiving \$1,000.

The deadline for entry is July 15 by midnight. Visit workshop13.org for full details and the entry form. This annual exhibition is held in the unique Grand Hall gallery of Workshop13, a non-profit cultural arts and learning center located at 13 Church St. in Ware. The exhibition will be on display from Aug. 23 to Sept. 7, and can be visited on Fridays from 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. The show will open with a reception from 1-4 p.m. on Aug. 23, with awards announced at 3 p.m. The juror for the seventh annual NEFAE is David Gray. Gray's award-winning works have been covered by major art publica-

tions including Southwest Art, Art of the West, and American Art Collector. His signature style reveals a personal and contemporary expression of beauty and order which pays homage to Western European Classical Tradition in its craftsmanship. About Workshop13 Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware, Massachusetts and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.

Bay Path Practical Nursing students sharpen interview skills through mock sessions with healthcare leaders

CHARLTON — Dana Aspero, Director of Hospice at The Overlook, recently conducted mock interviews with the Practical Nursing (PN) Class of 2025 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. This annual tradition allows students to engage in realistic job interview simulations with actual members of the healthcare community, providing essential practice before they begin their careers. Each year, members of the graduating PN cohort participate in these mock interviews — a “trial by fire” designed to replicate the experience of interviewing for an entry-level nursing position. This year, Aspero was so impressed with the students that she remarked, “They are all so nice — I would hire them!” The interviews are held on campus and are a key component of the Transition into Practice course, led by Professor Melissa Zeien, BSN, RN, WCC. Professor Zeien not only prepares the students for the interviews but also manages the logistics — from scheduling volunteer interviewers to guiding students in refining their résumés and cover letters.



Mock Code Team. The mock interview experience is made possible thanks to generous volunteers from the healthcare field. These professionals see their participation not only as a way to give back but also as a vital part of strengthening the nursing pipeline and supporting the continued growth and reputation of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Their involvement is deeply appreciated by faculty and students alike.

Bay Path Practical Nursing students attend prestigious Women's Leadership Conference on scholarship

CHARLTON — Seven students from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy — Elizabeth

Achayo, Rachel Anane, and Natasha Rovon of Worcester; Chali Desrosiers of Oxford; Ashley Rincon and Giselle Rosario of Southbridge; and Delene Sarsfield of Charlton — attended the esteemed 2025 Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Worcester Women's Leadership Committee (WWLC) Conference on scholarship. Stefanie Silva, Programs and Events Coordinator for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, personally congratulated the students via email upon their acceptance to the event. “We are SO excited to see you all at the DCU Center to celebrate our Sweet 16!” Silva wrote, referencing the conference's 16th anniversary.



Held on Thursday, June 12 at the Worcester DCU Center, the one-day conference drew more than 700 attendees, primarily women professionals from across the region. Now in its 16th year, the Worcester Women's Leadership Conference is the largest event of its kind in Central Massachusetts, offering participants invaluable opportunities for business networking, professional development, and personal growth. The conference aims to empower and inspire women by addressing issues that impact both their personal and professional lives. “Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors, The Hanover Insurance Group Inc. and UMass Memorial Health, for their continued support, along with all of our incredible sponsors who help make Central MA's largest women's conference possible,” added Silva. The scholarship opportunity provides an inspiring platform for the Bay Path nursing students to broaden their leadership skills and connect with a diverse network of women leaders throughout the region.

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