

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

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Friday, February 14, 2025

# LHS program provides critical training for aspiring nurses



Thanks to new programming, Leicester High School students are gaining valuable healthcare skills.

#### BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — As the nation faces critical staffing shortages across the healthcare system, Leicester High School is helping to train the next generation of health professionals.

With medical innovations continuing to advance, Americans are living longer than ever before, often requiring care well into their nineties and beyond. But after a nationwide wave of retirements and resignations following the pandemic, medical leaders are worried about the dire personnel shortage.

According to national projections, the

current shortage of registered nurses is expected to significantly worsen by 2030 as more Baby Boomers retire. This places a major emphasis on high schools and colleges across the country that are training students for heavily demanded positions.

LHS added a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program during the 2023-24 school year. This year, the school is offering a state-approved Chapter 74 Health Assisting Program.

"It is proving to be incredibly successful and one of the most popular programs at LHS," read a statement released by Leicester Public Schools

Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "Infact, other communities like Shrewsbury want to enroll their students at LHS."

LHS Principal Ted Zawada foresees the creation of waiting lists in the near future, as interest continues to grow in the program.

"The demand for healthcare professionals is strong, resulting in high salaries. Our program gives students a competitive advantage," Zawada said.

Melissa Ledbetter, a Leicester resident, RN, and Board of Health member, serves as the Health Assisting teacher at LHS. She credits the community for coming together to support the program. "Having new state-of-the-art equipment and newly renovated classroom

Turn To NURSING page A10

Local communities highlight upcoming election, town meeting dates

REGION — To help residents get ready for town meeting and election season, local officials have released schedules of important upcoming dates.

In Spencer, the last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election is Saturday, April 19, at the police department (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Spencer's Annual Town Meeting will take place on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. The election will take place on Tuesday, May 13, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Knox Trail students join Project 351 service program



BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER to Boston and represent their communities through participa-

Courtesy

REGION — Knox Trail Middle School's Project 351 ambassadors recently joined fellow representatives from throughout the state at a service program.

Tyler Josti (East Brookfield) and Irelyn Padden (Spencer) were chosen by KTMS staff members as ambassadors for the annual statewide program. During Launch Day activities held last month in Greater Boston, they worked with other student leaders to support multiple programs that give back to the community.

"As their Project 351 advisor, I am so impressed with their dedication and commitment to this program," said KTMS teacher Samantha Raphael. "They came back from Launch Day energized and excited to be a part of the program."

Each year, 351 eighth graders—one for every city and town in the Commonwealth—travel

Courtesv

tion in service projects.

Established in 2011, the Project 351 initiative brings together students who share a passion for giving back, helping those in need, and working with teams. Their leadership has inspired classmates and younger students to get involved as well.

During last month's day of service, Josti enjoyed distributing food at La Colaborativa, a Chelsea-based organization that supports vulnerable community members.

"It was exciting to meet new people. It was fun to go out and help people during our service project," Josti said. "I learned that there are a lot more people like me who want to help others and be a better version of themselves."

Padden and her groupmates *Turn To* **PROJECT 351** *page* **A10**  To access Spencer's complete election and meeting calendar, visit www.spencerma.gov.

Leicester's Annual Town Meeting will take place on May 6 at 6 p.m. at the middle school auditorium. The election is set for Tuesday, June 10. The time will be set by the Select Board, but the election is traditionally held from 12-8 p.m. All precincts will vote at Town Hall.

North Brookfield's Annual Town Election will take place on May 5, while the Annual Town Meeting is set for June 13.

The offices that will be on North Brookfield's ballot this year include *Turn To* **DATES** page **A10** 



Knox Trail Middle School's Project 351 ambassadors, Tyler Josti and Irelyn Padden, recently took part in a day of service.

### Exchange Club seeks applications for 18 Under 18 Award

### BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Exchange Club of Spencer is seeking applicants for its annual 18 Under 18 Award.

Established in 2021, this initiative honors individuals from grades 8-12 who make a meaningful impact in their community. Applicants must reside in, or attend school in, Spencer or East Brookfield.

Turn To 18 UNDER 18 page A10



Courtesy

A recent reunion brought together employees of the Spencer McDonald's from across the decades, including some who had been there when the Sellia Group first began in 1981. Laughter and nostalgia filled the restaurant as former team members reconnected, reminisced about their time working together, and shared stories from the past.

One attendee even wore her original gold McDonald's name tag — a symbol of the dedication and camaraderie that has defined the Sellia Group over the years. As the Sellia Group marks more than four decades of success, this gathering served as a testament to the impact of teamwork, customer service, and community.

# Local police praise new school bus camera law

### BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

REGION — Local police departments have a new tool to help catch drivers who illegally pass school buses.

Last month, Gov. Maura Healey signed legislation that will allow Massachusetts communities to install automated traffic enforcement cameras on school buses. These cameras will document vehicles that unlawfully pass buses while their flashing stop signs are displayed. Footage of offenders' vehicles can be sent to police departments for investigation.

The bill, championed by Second Worcester District Sen. Michael Moore (D-Millbury), followed a resolution passed by the Worcester School Committee in 2022 calling for local control over this issue.

For police leaders, the legislation provides an instrumental tool for addressing a safety issue that often goes unenforced. Although drivers in both

directions are required by law to stop for buses with flashing signs extended, police frequently receive reports of motorists ignoring the law and endangering kids attempting to get on and off the bus.

"This legislation will provide another enforcement tool to help keep our children safe," said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica. "A big part of the implementation will be promoting the changes to let people know that they will not get away with it anymore.'

In the past, lawbreaking drivers often evaded punishment because police weren't present. Now, with the new system in place, police have the authorization to investigate bus camera footage and follow up later with motorists ignoring the law.

"We have all seen firsthand the violations captured by the cameras already in place. Commuters must follow the laws to protect our students as they travel to and from school," said Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford.

communi-In ties that choose to employ the newly authorized technologies, the camera systems will take photos videos of and vehicles that are in violation of the law. When an incident is reported to police in a given town, investigators within that department will have the authority to review camera footage and decide whether a fine should be issued.

Buses equipped with automated traffic cameras must be clearly marked. Fines collected from violations will be allocated to the city or town in which violation the occurred.

"With the signing of this bill, we are taking a big step toward safer streets and more local control for communities across the Commonwealth," Moore said. "Passing a stopped school bus endangers our children and is against the law. In cities and towns that choose to use them, school bus mounted traffic safety cameras will help apply the law to those who violate it, evenly and without bias.'

Added Moore, "I'm thrilled that Massachusetts has joined over half of U.S. states in legalizing this type of automated traffic enforcement. I look forward to continuing our work to make our roads safer for all in the new legislative term."

To protect the privacy of drivers and pedestrians, the law requires the implementation of several measures to prevent the capturing of identifiable images of vehicle occupants, unless unavoidable.

Further, the law requires that all non-violation recordings be destroyed within 30 days of capture, while violation-related data must be deleted within a year of final case resolution.

All recorded data, including images and videos, will be owned by the given municipality and cannot be used for any other purpose by vendors.

Additionally, communities using the system must file an annual report to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation detailing citation statistics, outcomes, costs, and revenue generated.

In 2023, Peabody Public Schools launched a pilot program that outfitted ten school buses with automated traffic cameras. The district reported that, between Sept. 1 and Oct. 10 of that year, the cameras recorded 864 vehicles illegally passing stopped buses. Though this program was only used to collect statistics, not to generate police reports or issue citations, it illustrates the scale of the problem on Massachusetts streets, officials said.

The bill was approved by the state legislature on Dec. 30. Having received Healey's signature on Jan. 10, it is now law.

For local drivers who might be running late and considering passing a school bus, police warn against defying those flashing red stop signs. Even if an officer isn't in the area, the cameras are always watching.

"The violations are expensive, and the cameras will provide evidence in the cases. A picture is worth a thousand words," Antanavica said.

# Working to help women through inspiration

## SPENCER ALMANAC

**R**EAL ESTATE

### BROOKFIELD None

### EAST BROOKFIELD None

### LEICESTER

\$585,000, 4 Autumn Ln, Cooper Ft, and Cooper, Lisa A, to Zambrano, Alberto N.

\$435,000, 59 King St, 59 King St Rt, and Bowlin, Eric, to Ward, Jacob B, and Daniels, Nicole M.

\$417,500, 997 Stafford St, Bergin, Dennis M, and Bergin, Diane M, to Devlin, Connor.

\$334,217, 135 Henshaw St, Brogan Jr, James, and Us Bank TNa Tr, to Rcaf Acquisition T, and U S Bank TNa Tr.

\$192,000, 17 Redfield Rd, Power, Christopher J, and Wilmington TNa Tr, to Mora, Telmo.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$50,000, 27 Crooks Rd, Waytina, Mary, to Kennan, Richard, and Kennan, Karen.

### SPENCER

\$1,100,000, 8 Pine Dr, Ela Lt, and Ela Jr, David M, to Maclellan, Allan T, and Maclellan, Carolee B. \$560,000, 11 Kittredge Rd,

Berthiaume, Blaise P, and Mcdermott, Maureen, to Duquette, David P.

\$375,000, 30 Lake St, Booker Jr, Donald R, and Booker, Barbara A, to Graves, Chelsea S, and Derosier, Mark J.

\$360,000, 119 Hastings Rd, Beer, Barbara A, to Sargent, Kimberly, and Sargent, Christopher.

\$322,164, 5 Candlewood Dr #5, Stearns, Jonn, and M&t Bank, to Secretary Veterans Affair.

\$320,000, 26 Hastings Rd. Williams, John P, and Williams, Teresa K, to Spinney, Nicholas.

\$300,000, 103 Mechanic St, Yarosz Elizabeth B Est, and Teskrekas, Jodie M, to Tucker, Denis B, and Tucker, Sierra M.

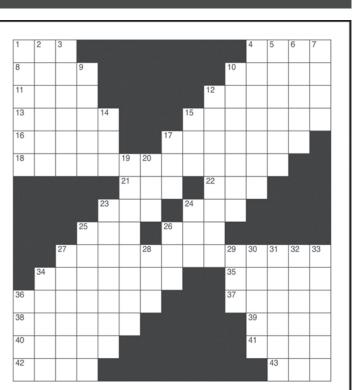
\$265,000, 26 Adams St, Fortin, Jeanette J, to Obrien, Devin.

\$230,000, 33 Temple St, Ltc Real Estate LLC, to Anderson, Steve.

\$50,000, Brooks Pond Rd #1, Sielis, James, to Craftsmen Homes LLC.

### WARREN

\$445,000, 33 Mechanic St, Oxford Deleading Inc, to Bloom, Amy. \$334,900, 57 Dean St #B, Aj Realty Group LLC, to Demoura, Robert C, and Fernandes, Amanda K. \$115,000,920 Old West Brookfield Rd, Lw Property Mgmt LLC, to Aj Realty Group LLC. \$90,000, 1113 Main St, First Landing Invs LLC, to Saadoon, Samah. \$60,000, 1113 Main St, Sheran Jr, Wilbert M, to First Landing Invs LLC.



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### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Racquet sport group (abbr.) 4. Norse god of thunder 8. Russian industrial city 10. What's good for the 11. Round-ish shape 12. Baltimore MLBer
- 13. French modernist painter
- 15. Burned with water
- 16. Intestinal issue
- 17. Take the lead
- 18. Prove oneself worthy
- 21. None
- 22. Tax collector
- 23. Swiss river
- 24. Gymnast Raisman

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Type of bomb 20. Space station 2. Polynesian island country 23. Disorder 3. Heavenly body 24. State of fuss 4. Hard workers 25. Footwear for babies 5. Covered 26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.) 6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder 27. Droves 7. Plant of the grass family 28. Affirmative 9. Island person of the Bering Sea 29. Male parent 10. Storehouse 30. Utter obscenities 12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub 31. Type of verse 14. A pituitary hormone 32. Unpleasant person 15. Female sibling 33. One who settles down 17. Monetary unit of Afghanistan 34. Founder of source-based history
- 19. Empowering



25. Baby's dining accessory

anning Group

Wealthcare Retirement Income

- 26. Canadian beer distributor 27. Iconic American tourist
- destination 34. More expansive
- 35. Alert
- 36. Popular boots Doc \_\_\_\_
- 37. Showings
- 38. Conclusion
- 39. Share a common boundary
- 40. Shooting sport
- 41. Popular side dish
- 42. Global energy firm
- 43. Chronicles (abbr.)

36. A way to snarl

### and connection at Cornerstone Bank

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is donating \$5,000 to She's Local, an organization working to empower women through local events that support, connect and inspire participants. The money goes toward the group's Central Massachusetts Conference for Women on May 15 at the AC Hotel by Marriott in Worcester.

"Our employees have gained so much insight from the conference in past years and we look forward to many more," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "We all rise together, so supporting our female colleagues makes us all better and positions us to best serve our clients.

Every year, She's Local brings as many as 300 women together for what has traditionally been a sold-out event featuring compelling speakers and special guests. The conference connects the region's vendors, sponsors, business owners and community leaders. In addition, the organization works to create affordable, lasting experiences for women throughout the year.

"At Cornerstone, we know women play a vital role in our economy," said Tallman. "We're grateful for the women in our own workforce and appreciate the resources She's Local offers to support their professional growth and development."



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### WEST BROOKFIELD \$695,000, 123 Tucker Rd, Bloom,

Geoffrey M, and Bloom, Amy L, to Ryan, John W, and Ryan, Meredith M.

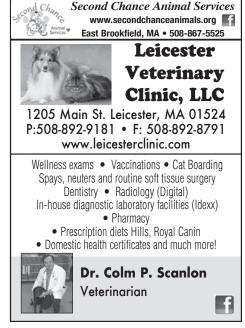
\$190,000, 3 Old Ware Rd, Shaddai Home Invs LLC, to Freedom Const & Inv LLC.

### **P.E.T. of the Week** Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

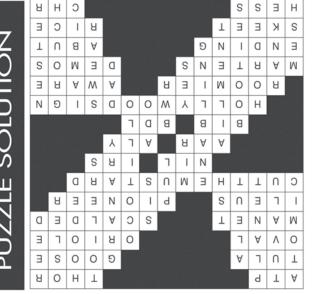
Meet Maxine, a spirited gal with a personality that shines! She's social and vocal, always ready to chat and keep you entertained. Maxine enjoys being around her people, though she prefers not to be picked up. She would like a home as the only cat and without young children. Maxine is quite content doing her own



thing, but when she wants affection, she'll make sure you know. Due to a history of urinary stones, Maxine needs to stay on a special prescription diet to keep her healthy and happy. If you're looking for a charismatic, confident cat with a spunky spirit and a bit of independence, Maxine could be the perfect match for you!



SOLUTION Ш PUZZL



# Coast Guard announces new boating education requirements

R E G I O N Massachusetts, along with 35 other states, has mandated some form of educational requirements to operate a motorized aquatic vessel on their waters. Safe Boating Certificate (SBC) requirements are different in each state with regards to age, type of watercraft, and exemptions for qualified operator license For visiting holders. boaters, all states, territories, and provinces will recognize cards that meet National Association State Boating of Administrators Law (NASBLA) requirements and Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator cards that meet Transport Canada's requirements; this is known as reciprocity. A new Mass. Law requires ALL powerboat operators to have an SBC approved by the Mass. Environmental Police (EP) onboard while operating.

Hanson-Milone The Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law Jan. 8, will now require all motorboat operators to complete an approved SBC course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on Sept. 1, 2026. Currently Mass. requires only boaters 12 to 15 years old to have a certificate from the EP after completing an approved course, allowing them to operate a motorboat without supervision, and 16-17 years old operating a Personal Watercraft (PWC) including motorized surfboards. PWC's cannot be operated by anyone under 16 years old. Boaters under 12 years old can only operate motorboats while directly supervised by a competent person at least 18 with an approved SBC.

In Connecticut and Rhode Island, an SBC is required to operate boats with motors over 10 horse- power and PWC's. RI requires boaters born after Jan. 1, 1986 and renters to have an SBC, regardless of residence, and anyone who is a resident for over 60 days; but has no minimum age to operate motorboats or PWC's. CT requires all operators of 10-plus-horsepower boats and PWC's to have a CT certificate; PWC operators 12 to 16 years old can be supervised onboard by an SBC boater over 18.

Mass. EP instructs a limited number of in-person courses; several organizations offer approved online or in-person courses with a cost associated to cover materials, handouts, and location fees.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts headquartered in Uxbridge offered several has boating courses to hundreds of students since 1961. They are ready to offer the NASBLA & Mass. EP approved Boat America Course (BA) in a one-day class format on Saturdays to meet the anticipated high demand for available in-person instruction. This course goes beyond the standard

textbook also including marlinspike seamanship (knots etc.) and detailed handouts. Most boaters find this one-day format the best way to certification over online classes. Completion of this BA course will certify boaters to current requirements in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, along with reciprocity where an SBC might be required. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of the BA course.

Whether you are an experienced boater or just starting out, the knowledge gained from a boating safety course will help keep you, your passengers, and our waterways safe. We currently scheduled four BA oneday certification courses in two locations this winter/spring. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian.

Space is limited, so register soon:

2025 Boat America Course -Milford High School – Saturdays – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

March 15, May 3, June 7

Milford High School courses offered at 31 West Fountain St., Milford.

Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program,

https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg. com/ss\_t2.wcs

Adult-Winter-2024/2025 and Spring 2025 – Educational - Boat America Certificate Class or call Laura Farrell (508) 478-1119, email lfarrell@milfordma.com;

The registration deadline is six days prior to course.

additional For USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon. net or (508) 478-3778.

2025 Boat America Course -Webster Fire Department

Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Webster Fire Department Classroom Thompson Rd., 55 Webster

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional

information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon. net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses (BA and BS&S) that will meet certification requirements go to: https://www.cgaux.org/ boatinged/class\_finder/ index.php

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

# Paxton Senior Explorers offering trip to Norway

PAXTON Ever wished to travel to Norway? Want to see the fjords, a place that must be seen to be believed? Experience Scandinavian foods like Reindeer, Moose, press dried meats, meatballs, Farikal (lamb stew), Norwegian cheeses, Arctic cod, Salmon, King Crab, and Lingonberries to name just a few of their dishes? All this while viewing the spectacular fall tundra colors?

If so, here's your opportunity to join the Paxton

Senior Explorers as we plan our trip to Norway this September.

- The main Norway trip highlights are:
- Fløibanen Bergen, Funicular
- Nordfjord Folk Museum
- Geirangerfjord Cruise Loen Skylift Flåm Railwav
- Borgund Stave Church, Oslo

The trip details are as follows:

Nine-day trip from

Sept. 12-20

Includes seven breakfasts and five dinners

There is an optional four-night post-tour trip to Iceland (Collette supplied)

If there is 10 people interested, we will offer an optional custom planned three-day pretour trip to Sweden:

Including flight to Stockholm, with transfers to Hotel and back to airport (included)

Tour of Stockholm sites (included)

Dinner (included) Breakfast (included) Archipelagos (not currently included in pric-

ing) Swedish smorgasbord supper (not included, but

price will be pre-negotiated) Breakfast (included) Flight to Norway

(included)

The trip currently has three options, pricing for each option, includes round trip air from Logan

Intl Airport, air taxes and fees/ surcharges, Hotel transfers and transportation to and from all airports. All prices listed below are only held until March 13.

Main Norway trip: Double \$5.299

Single \$6,399

Optional Post tour Extension to Iceland: Double \$2099 Single 2,699 Optional Pre tour Extension to Sweden price can not be published until we have 10

people interested, we currently have 8 people, so call me about prices if you are interested at 508-756-3193.

We have arranged a presentation by Collette about the trip details at the Paxton Senior Center 19 West St. (Route 31)

#### on Feb. 19 at 10 a.m. If interested, I hope you can attend! If you are interested but cannot attend the presentation, please contact Bill Murwin at (508)-756-3192.



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Ferry to 1 or 2



Courtesy

Congratulations to the Leicester Spencer raiders U10 cheery team, which placed third out of eight teams at Globals.



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# 🛉 🛉 Friday's Child



Skylar Age 12 **Registration # 6609** 

Hi! My name is Skylar and When I need time to be alone I like to color.

Skylar is a charming little girl. She loves to dance, listen to music, play musical instruments, and enjoys imaginary play. She is also described as social, outgoing, curious and very energetic. In great health and a good eater and sleeper Skylar is learning to advocate for herself and how to express her feelings when something is bothering her. Skylar thrives on positive nurturing and oneon-one attention. Skylar loves unicorns, foxes, dogs, cats and

says that someday she wants to be a veterinarian. https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/ child/6609

### Can I Adopt?

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

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

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





Leicester Elementary School students celebrate their winning entries in a drawing contest.

# LES students take part in drawing contest

LEICESTER — Third graders at Leicester Elementary School recently participated in a special winter-themed drawing contest.

Sponsored by Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian, the activity was a fun way for students to combine artwork with the spirit of the winter season

The four contest winners are Hung Pham, Olivia Liebman, Esmeralda Guzman, and Oceana Ceglia. The students each received certificates and special pens celebrating their accomplishments.

When, and if, a snow day is called, Superintendent Kustigian plans to share the students' artwork with the school community online," read a statement released by the Superintendent's office. "A special thank-you to LES art teacher Mrs. Pike and Acting Principal Mrs. Steiger for helping to organize the contest."

# Snow & ice storms impact region



# Grant will fund expansion of DA's youth diversion program

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS** STAFF WRITER

REGION The County Worcester District Attorney's Office received a \$50,000 grant to help expand its youth diversion program to additional communities.

The grant from the state's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) will allow the DA's Office, in collaboration with Choices, Inc., to expand the Early Diversion Worcester (EDW) initiative. This program helps divert vulnerable adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18 who might otherwise enter the criminal justice system due to the impact of school suspensions.

'By reaching kids early, we can work to adapt and modify behavior, while hopefully preventing a lifetime of involvement with the criminal justice system," said Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr. "This is crime prevention at its best.

The current diversion program has enrolled 60 youth participants since its implementation in Feb. 2024. Local families have spoken highly of the

program's impacts. "The Choices program is a supportive, accepting environment that has had a huge impact on my son and our family. In just a couple of months, he has made new friends and has found the motivation to strive for his dreams again. We are forever grateful," read a statement released by a parent of a program participant.

Thanks to the grant funding, the program will expand to the residents of Southbridge, Fitchburg, and other area communities.

Research conducted by Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CFJJ) indicates that young people are twice as likely to be arrested during periods of school suspension or expulsion. In response to this issue, the Healey-Driscoll Administration allocated nearly \$200,000 through the Title II Formula Grant Program. Funds will support nonprofit organizations, local police departments, and state agencies working to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

funding "The is designed to improve outcomes for adolescents through communi-

ty-based organizations that offer essential services and support," read a statement released by the DA's Office.

The youth diversion program offers comprehensive, recovery-oriented behavioral health services to youth and their families. These services are provided at the Choices program center in Worcester, where participants receive individualized care.

Voluntary participants in the program undergo a full intake and assessment process, which guides the development of a personally tailored care plan.

Each plan takes into consideration a child's current risk status, history, available resources, and the needs of both the child and their family.

In addition, participants have access to daily programming and free transportation to the Choices center.

It is anticipated that the program will assist 20 to 25 young people through the duration of the grant.

To learn more about community outreach and assistance programs led by the DA's Office, visit www.worcesterda.com.

(11-64)

Seniors (65+) and Children (6-10) \$10

or Jason at (508) 713-1822to purchase advance tickets by Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Text or call Marie at (774) 239-5645

\$12

# Scout troop to host fundraising dinner

Tickets:

Adults

Children 5 & under Free

SPENCER — Boy Scout Troop 238 will host a pasta dinner fundraiser Saturday, March 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer.

The dinner menu will include meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, and beverage. Dine in or take out.

> University of Hartford students named to Dean's and President's Lists

Courtesy

Central Massachusetts communities have seen several snow and ice events this past week.

REGION — After an uneventful first two months of winter, February has given local residents plenty of reasons to keep the shovels and salt bags handy.

A busy week of winter weather kicked off with a Feb. 6 storm that spread a mixture of snow and ice across the region. The storm caused several local school districts to call off classes, including the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, the Quaboag Regional School District, and the Tantasqua Regional School District.

The speed limit on the Mass Pike was reduced as a result of the storm. No major accidents were reported across local roadways.

A larger snow event on Feb. 9 caused several spin-outs and minor accidents across the area. Local school districts, including the SEBRSD, canceled weekend activities.

Additional storms were expected this week, including a mixture of ice and snow on Feb. 13.

Local police departments remind drivers to clear snow and ice from their vehicles prior to traveling. Police in area towns have recently seen several snow hazards on vehicles.

To learn more about safety tips for traveling during winter storms, visit www. mass.gov. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency recently released an updated list of suggestions.

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,291 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the fall 2024 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better. Please join us in congratulating:

Alex Carter of W. Brookfield - Dean's List and President's List Hannah Collette of Leicester - Dean's List and President's List Patrick Harrington of Leicester - Dean's List and President's List Grace Karbowski of Spencer - Dean's List and President's List Casey Macaruso of Leicester - Dean's List and President's List

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters.





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### <u>Leicester High</u> SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

### 12th Grade High Honors

Kayla Bouchard, Maximus Casello, Sophia Danforth, Jacqueline Gallant, Madeline Milionis, Gia Norcia, Sedona Richard

### 11th Grade High Honors

Kate Barbato, Avery Bullock, Jacob Cosper, Brandon Escobar, John Gahagan, Eliannie Guzman Bueno, Lucas Sampaio

### 9th Grade High Honors

Matthew Magoun, Alivia Perry, Paula Roberts, Ryan Sweeney

### 12th Grade Honors

Jenna Abusalah, Giuliana Agassi, Sean Alves, Jayden Benton, James Colonies-Kelley, Bianca Corso, Jacob Cruz, Dylan Delage, Ryan Delage, Kathryn Dolimount, Lorenzo Francis, Vivian Giles, Alexis Herbert, Felix Landor, Jack Ledbetter, Ngoc Ly, Benjamin Milgate, Joseph Nelson, Alexander Ngo, Jordan Patterson, Kadienne Patterson, Angel Payano, Lucas Ricarte, Yadelie Rivera, Christian Rutter, Brendan Salek, Jenna Savoie, Elizabeth Sosa, Taylor Waterman, Cooper White

#### 11th Grade Honors

Tomas Acero, Alessandra Flores, Jason Fuller, Shane Garrahie, Brody Grant, Rowen Hennessy, Emily Hunt, Natalia Kallio, Jeremiah Kinsumba, Ava Lane, Vincent Lopez, Savannah Lumb, Crislary Martinez Castillo, Zoe Morales, Jemima Noel, Connor Reynolds, Luke Soden, Johanna Torres, Nicole Tuson, Tyler Williams, Dakota Zinkevich

### 10th Grade Honors

Chambers, Alexander Fournier, Taylor Gallant, Ty Gully, Ariana Gursky, Fillicity Kane, Joshua McCormick, Nayeli Merino Canas, Laila Paquin, Ava Petruzzi, Jillian Rodrique, Phuc Hoai Truong, Abigail Valinski, Mary Van Hazinga, Camron Wells

### 9th Grade Honors

Jack Albro, Matthew Alves, Anthony Andino, Brody Arnberg, Russell Baker, Rory Barrett, Emma Bernabei, Andrew Boucher, Jude Campbell, Allison Gagne,



### LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

### 8th Grade High Honors

Camden Beaudry, Elijah Belisle, John Derrick, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Kingston Nguyen, Nick Nguyen, Jaedyn Perry, Hunter Wright

### 7th Grade High Honors

Jolene Boudreau, Olivia Cardona, Avery Cole, Mila Cortes, Adalynn Grant, Haidi Hadi, Ava Johnston, Tyler Kularski, Fiona Liebman, Charlie Marttila, Cadence Medeiros, Sonya Potvin, David Sanborn, Joseph Ukoh, Leah Varney

### 6th Grade High Honors

Juliette Bellisario, Edmund Besse, Aubrev Bullock, Victoria Cardona, Anna Derrick, Rylee Garrahie, Raegan Higgins, Larissa LaFlamme, Nanakwasi Larbi, Nora MacDonnell

### 5th Grade High Honors

Skylar Backstrom, Vivienne Belizaire, Leah Cunningham, Angelica De Brito, Hunter Hayes, Aoife Kane, Kennedy Bates, Brady Bouchard, Zachary Couture, Benjamin Machado, Emmaline Milgate, Tylor Moorghen, Layla Mullins, Anna Nguyen, Donnell Sarpong, Taymiyyah Sullivan, Dylan Williams, Finian Wood Honors

### 8th Grade Honors

Jansen Benton, Ella Cassidy, Sophia Coghlan, Brody Dufries, Benjamin Hagglund, Avril Halbedel, Braydon Herbert, Liana LaFlamme, Natalie LaPointe, Ryan Lynch, Arilyn McNally, Lincoln Meloche, Thinh Pham, Gia Rigiero, Evelynn Stewart, Malin Stimson, Marielee Valentin, Robert Zinkevich

### 7th Grade Honors

Dianexiz Acevedo-Ortiz, Elisa Aguirre, Beverly Ampaw, Griffin Bayer, Maxwell Belizaire, Trey Blais, Annika Bowen, Landon Bullock, Justin Cai, Snow Campbell, Michael Cormier, Bridget Dillon, Gavin Ford, Shelby Grant, Christopher Harrington, Cameron Hipple, Emily Hipple, Juliette Hoekstra, Damien Kelley, Aaliyah Layne, Ayla Lis, Reagan Lyon, Benjamin Marjault, Hunter Martin, Francis Marubu, Chloe Mayotte, Emma Mercier, Andrew Michaelian, Cole Milgate, Owen Murphy, Sophia Muzzy, Isabella Nugent, Devin Robert, Hailey Rooney, Kayzen-Kalani Santana-Ernestburg, Lily Schrader, Zander Shepard, Jacob Soucie, Anthony Sullivan, Jackson Trainor, Liam Tremblay, Aaliyah Trought, Casey Tuomenoska, Oliver Underwood, Aiden Valinski, Amy Van Hazinga, Brady Walsh, Bordy Weber, Gianna Wooden

#### 6th Grade Honors

Brooklyn Bullock, Daniel Ciciliane, Celeste Couture, Logan Curren, Jayden Gleason, Alessandro Guzman, Damon Kobel, Kris Lapi, Andrew Lemerise, Olivia Maki, Jackson McKenzie, Benjamin Murphy, Ilaan Narcisse, Dominic Oldham, Ian Pennycook, Alexander Perez, Hugo Salas, Kason Ward

### 5th Grade Honors

Maxwell Alade, Gannon Arnberg, Cole Azier, Kaydence Beamenderfer, Nolan Beaudry, Summer Blais, Estefania Aguirre, Jacob Beaulac, Kayliana Stratton Bombard, Sadie Bosco, Huy Bui, Addyson Conway, Elizabeth Cooper, Khaleesi Dejesus, Tyler Dube, Giuliana Escobar, Draven Fernandes, Bailey Foley, Killian Foley, Calvin Fryer, Owen Giddix, Rosalie Hayes, Sophia Heguys, Haley Johnson, Adhuresa Latifi, Luke LeBlanc, Hunter Leclair, Jonathan Letourneau, Noah Loosemore, Olivia Mason, Jackson McCauley, Santy Melendez Vasquez, Dylan Mercier, Benjamin Miller, Addison Murphy, Lily Nguyen, Cobby Obeng, Hafsa Oubih, Bentley Payne, Blake Potvin, Dylan Rochette, Emilianna Rodriguez, Dominic Salas, Autumn Schimke, Helena Senko, Rayden Singharaj, Richard Spratt, Julianna Trainor, Branden Ukpong, Enzo Valente Senna, Anthony Walsh, Tristan Walsh, Scarlett Wells, Madison Westberg, Julian Wooden

# Annalise Guzman, Sarah Kozlowski, Haylee Kularski, Joseph Kulla, Brock Lopez, Kaylee Luby, Michael Lupien, Alena Martinkova, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros Charlotte Mercer, Max Milionis, Maia Mitchell, Trevor Moorghen, Brandon Nguyen Maryangelie Rivas, Nicholas Stuart, Jayke Williams



SPENCER NEW LEADER • Friday, February 14, 2025



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> **FRANK G. CHILINSKI** PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE Editor

## Editorial Reserve your judgment

We see it on Facebook, and other social media ac- counts — seemingly happy people carrying on about their lives without a care in the world. As we scroll, we tend to pass judgements on what is in reality, a blip in the lives of those who's photos we are current-ly looking at. A mere moment that perhaps lasted less than a second is captured, and in that moment, we feel that we are free to make a distinction on what that individual is going through in the moments and days prior, or what they may be feeling like in the moments just after. Don't do that.

The best way to find out how a friend, co-worker or family member is, is to simply ask them. With the past year being what it was, mental health issues and rates of suicide are sky rocketing. Is this really a time to pass judgement? Or is this an opportunity to lift those up around us and to make sure that we're all hanging in there?

As humans, some of us can handle any given situation with more grit than others. Some can carry on for just so long until it just becomes too much. Those that have that grit, are those who have the ability to extend their hand, tell someone that they will be ok and that they are not alone. Support for a person overwhelmed, depressed or anxious is paramount to their well-being. Sure, it feels good to act tough, and announce that X, Y, or Z doesn't bother you, but the world is not all about you and it never will be. Be kind, it just feels better.

When a person breaks their leg and can no longer work for a time, they are sent flowers, offered encouraging words of support, given sick time and sent Opinion and commentary from Spencer, Leicester and the Brookfields

toring, and transferring it to big broth-

I mentioned allies. Do we still have

any? Mexico and Canada are certain-

ly not a close as they were. During

Trump's last term, he ranted about NAFTA being terrible, so renegotiated

"the best trade deal ever." He is clearly

senile, because he now does not know

who made that terrible deal. Biden did

not say it loud enough - our econo-

my was soaring, low unemployment, inflation falling — an extremely robust trade atmosphere across all of

North America. Be careful what you

Remember when we were the leader

in the UN Charter, and defending border integrity? When we stepped up to keep Russia from violating the bilater-

al agreement that those borders were

set in stone, in return for Ukraine giv-

ing up their nuclear arsenal? Wasn't

this supposed to be resolved by now?

Is it because Ukraine is unwilling to

yield territory? I am sure if it were

us, we would readily part with a few

states. What are we doing instead?

Threatening to seize Panama and

Except for the noise and press, how

many are aware that about half of

seized immigrants are still here. They

will become more noticeable, because

after cutting feeding and housing

the streets, desperate and crime will

If anyone is familiar with Squid

Game or the child game- Red Light-

Green Light, and does not see the

resemblance, in this administration,

which walks through mine fields with

ear muffs on, cheer up. You are living

they will be homeless, on

### <u>LETTERS TO THE EDITOR</u> **Cheer up**

wish for.

Greenland.

them'

assuredly rise.

in interesting times.

Ken Kimball

Brookfield

To the Editor:

The old expression is "Cheer up, things could get worse." So, I did, and they did.

It becomes clearer every day why Trump was not sworn in on a Bible. He swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States, yet every day, new lawsuits are filed challenging his actions that violate it.

The man that John Bolton, Trump's one of his many righthand aides during his first term, calls an unqualified moron apparently thinks that because you elected him, the more inexperienced and unqualified, it makes you a prime Cabinet appointment. As I watch some of the hearings for these people, I am appalled that the felon in chief will be able to effortlessly press a cadre of spineless wimps to accept people who probably should not be allowed beyond a security checkpoint. Considering that you have elected someone who is banned from running a business, casino or charity in the state of New York to run the country, the strongest military in the world, and given him the nuclear codes, I doubt any ally (if we still have any), would consider sharing classified info with him, and by extension, us

After listening to years of complaints and outrage about inflation and grocery pricing, it was my impression he was promising lower prices. Well, it turns out he has delivered, not at the supermarket, as expected, but at the stock exchange, where my holdings are going down steadily. Interestingly, our shadow president, Elon Musk, is using the same style wrecking ball on our government agencies, that he did on Twitter. I am told X is to become the official government platform, at least until they create the new government financial arm, and purchase TikTok, thereby moving out of Chinese moni-

### The Project 2025 "Playbook" for America

### To the Editor:

In sports such as football, teams

with Government Departments such as Education and agencies such as

# Take steps to boost financial literacy



To achieve your financial goals, it's tremendously helpful to know as much as you can about issues such as saving, spending, borrowing and investing. So, what can you do to increase your own financial literacy?

Of course, the answer to this question depends somewhat on your own knowledge and experience. But it's worth noting that many people seem to have fallen behind in their financial know-how. In fact, only about half of U.S. adults say they are knowledgeable about personal finances, according to the Pew Research Center.

In any case, regardless of where you are in life, it's never too late to boost your financial literacy. Here are a few suggestions:

Read all about it. There's certainly no shortage of written material — books, newspapers, magazines, blogs, websites — on all manner of financial issues. The more you read about these topics, the more you'll understand them. However, you do have to be careful when doing your research, especially if you're looking at blogs and financial websites, some of which may appear to be educational in nature but are actually trying to sell you something or give you a "hot tip" on stocks or other investments.

Know yourself. Another part of financial literacy is self-knowledge. Are you naturally inclined to be a saver or a spender? Do you have a strong aversion to debt, or can you live with what is considered a reasonable amount? When you invest, are you willing to take on more risk for potentially higher returns, or do you prefer a more conservative approach? By knowing the answers to these and other key questions, you'll be better prepared to make appropriate financial decisions. Get some help. If you work with a financial professional, you'll gain access to all sorts of knowledge about investing, as well as guidance on creating strategies to help you achieve your short- and long-term goals. A qualified financial professional should take the time to learn your needs, family situation, investment preferences and feelings about risk — and along the way, you'll learn more about the financial markets and how events such as interest rate changes and new tax laws can affect your choices.

home with casseroles. If a person with a mental health condition takes time off to regroup and to seek the help and therapy that they need to, you know... live...it becomes an issue. Because you can't see the injury. What you might see is a smile that lasted a split second, and you pass judgement — "Oh they aren't really sick." Guess what — you are wrong. Make no mistake, we all go through challenging times, but that doesn't mean that we all handle them in the same way.

Discrimination against a person with any health issue, whether it be physical or mental, is illegal. Furthermore, it is morally wrong. Do we really want to be a society that has stopped supporting one an- other? We vote no. When we see a neighbor plow the driveway of the house down the street, or three neighbors pulling a stranger's car out of a ditch, we are reminded of how at our cores, we are all kind.

Take note — mental illness is not a character defect. There are many reasons a person may devel- op an issue, whether it's temporary, brought on by stress, illness or whether it's genetic. Some anxiety may resurface as an adult, due to childhood trauma. Either way, we don't know, unless we know.

When people do not understand mental illness, they tend to exhibit prejudice against those who admit they have an issue. Those people are often treat- ed as though they don't have a real health issue and are then discriminated against. This leads to shame in the person who openly admits that they need help, and so the stigma surrounding mental health is born.

Many workplaces have excellent support systems in place for employees who need help, these to include police and fire departments. These places are to be commended for looking out for one another.

Here are ways to decrease the stigma, be in the know and help your neighbors. Educate yourself, be aware of your attitude towards those who confide in you, pay attention to your judgements and choose your words carefully. When you do educate your- self, spread the word. Treat those around you with respect and offer encouragement, or a slice of pizza; anything goes. We say it often take care of each other, now more than ever. You will find that it's easy to be kind. often develop a "play book" or game plan for a particular game - like the playbook that the Philadelphia Eagles brilliantly put together to crush the Kansas City Chiefs in the Superbowl.

In such a way, right wing conservatives put together a playbook for the second Trump presidency. A key writer of this playbook, Russell Vought as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has become it's and Trump's "quarterback". for turning a "by and for the people" government to one looking to mainly serve the very wealthy and well connected few - that is not you, me or our children.

Drawing mainly from England's the highly regarded and neutral BBC, this playbook includes:

The entire national government bureaucracy, including independent agencies, such as the Department of Justice be placed under the direct control of the President,

Eliminating job protections for public servants allowing the President to hire and fire whoever and whenever he wants to

Reshaping the FBI to operate as the President wishes

By Presidential order doing way

### 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. our income from bad practices by bank and other finance companies,

Allowing the unelected, richest person in the world, Elon Musk - without required "advice and consent" to cut and gut programs needed by so many of us – and have access to much of our private personal and financial information.

Even though 2024 was the hottest on record (as was 2023) and January 2025 was even worse), pulling out like plugs of most if not all efforts to even slow global heating.and

Ordering big tariff taxes that as even Trump now says we Americans will have to pay on everything from tomatoes to TVs and SUVs

This Project 2025 "playbook" list could go on and on but I hope the point has been made and we don't wake up one day feeling like the Kansas City Chiefs now do.

#### KEVIN KANE Spencer





While it's great to improve your own financial literacy, you'll also want to help your children, or possibly grandchildren, get a good start on their financial journeys.

The earlier kids start learning about money, the better equipped they'll be to manage it when they get older. Any lessons you've learned — perhaps some the hard way — about saving and spending can be valuable to your young family members. And you can make their financial education fun, too — why not buy them shares of stock in a company with which they're familiar and follow its progress? Fortunately, you might also get some help from your local schools, as more than two-thirds of all states now require personal finance classes for high school graduation, according to the Council for Economic Education.

Everyone benefits from financial literacy — so add to your own and promote it to your loved ones.

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.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Will history repeat itself?

To the Editor:

After the election of Donald Trump, I succumbed to pessimism and questioned why I should bother fighting against the misinformation from Fox News and other far right propaganda machines posing as credible sources of news. Knowing what we knew about Trump, how could such a high percentage of Americans still choose that convicted sexual predator and lying cheat for President?

In the few days since Trump has returned to the White House, he has already done tremendous damage, starting with politically-motivated firings of inspector generals and horrendous nominations of unqualified, loyal sycophants to key cabinet positions. (MAGA merit translates as sycophantic loyalty.) It is very clear that the strategies put forth in Project 2025 are already well underway (cut programs for families, and borrow huge sums of money to provide a massive tax break for wealthy billionaires who are quickly gaining control of our government). Russell Vought, an extremist who played a major role in producing Project 2025, is Trump's nominee for the very powerful position of head of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). He was involved with the illegal withholding of funds from Ukraine that led to Trump's first impeachment. Existing law (the impoundment control act) makes it illegal to withhold funds that have been delegated by congress. During confirmation hearings, Vought refused to say that he would abide by that law.

Kash Patel, the nominee for head of the FBI, is clearly willing to dismantle the agency and purge it of anyone who investigated the many crimes of Trump. He has promoted violent insurrectionists as political prisoners, and has apparently created a list of individuals he would target for criminal prosecution in fulfilling Trump's desire for retribution. Approximately 6000 employees of the FBI are being targeted just for doing their jobs. If a list of such individuals is made public, innocent public servants and their families will be placed in danger, especially since a substantial number of violent felons have recently been pardoned by Trump and released from prison. These same FBI agents are involved in fighting a wide spectrum of crime; and organized crime would love to see such a list.

Leon Musk, a non-vetted and non-elected so-called head of DOGE (perhaps better named COUP), has illegally gained access to sensitive Treasury information, and his recent shut-down of operations at USAID will

result in considerable loss of life in poor communities throughout the world that depend on USAID for critical support in the form of food and medicine.

Threatening tariff wars with Canada and Mexico, and the threat of force to take Greenland from a NATO ally, renaming the Gulf of Mexico, wasting over two billion gallons of water in federal reservoirs in central California, what next? Trump now would like to take over Gaza and make a long term commitment of our troops to do so. I wonder what council Pete Hegseth, the new Secretary of Defense, will offer. What could go wrong having such an unprepared, alcoholic Trump sycophant in charge? It is hard for me to fathom how Trump can come up with such a constant onslaught of idiotic ideas.

Last week, we witnessed a tragic airline collision that took the lives of many, including a group of young skaters. In a press conference, Trump tried to blame DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and woke Democrats, without any investigation into the actual cause of the accident I would agree with one comment Trump made. Some very demanding jobs require great minds. I think the President of the United States is one such job. Trump's bragging about his performance on a screening test for Alzheimer's should have been a wake-up call. Does passing such a test meet the standard to lead the most powerful nation on earth? A normal response to a tragedy involves some expression of empathy for suffering friends and family members. Did Trump display any empathy during that press conference? As usual, he found personal tragedy a great opportunity to try to score political points.

Many Americans voted for Trump because of his promise to bring down the cost of living. He promised to achieve that in large part through the implementation of tariffs. Tariffs are basically taxes, ultimately paid by the consumer who buys the imported product; and tariffs can only be implemented through an act of congress. Unfortunately, Trump and many voters do not understand the nature of tariffs. The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act passed in 1930 is widely blamed for worsening the severity of the Great Depression in the U.S. and around the world. The tariffs collected during Trump's first term resulted in great losses to U.S. farms, and the loss of substantial amounts of the Amazon rain forest to the plow for a new source of soybeans for China. Will history repeat itself?

David W. Brown

North Brookfield

# Input = outputLife isn't just a straight path—it's felt bleak.

a series of bizarre, sometimes embarrassing, and unpredictable POSITIVELY phases. And when you think about SPEAKING it, every phase reflects whatever we're obsessing over.

MOORE When you're a kid, you go through the "Dinosaur Phase" because all your books, toys, and conversations revolve around velociraptors and stegosauruses. You have so much dinosaur knowledge that, if necessary, you could confidently give a TED Talk on the Jurassic period. Then comes the "Only Eats Chicken Nuggets Phase," where every meal had to be beige or else it was unacceptable. Don't forget about the "Think You Can Dig to China Phase" because you saw a cartoon where that seemed entirely possible, so obviously, it must be true.

When you thought you outgrew phases, adulthood sneaks up with a new set of weird obsessions. First, there's the "Mom, Drop Me Off a Block Away Phase" (because nothing is more humiliating than parental affection). Then comes the "Too Cool to Smile in Photos Phase," which, for some people, tragically, never ends. They probably saw a brooding Johnny Depp picture, noticed he never smiles, and thought, Yes. This is how I shall present myself to the world now.

Life keeps shifting, and so do our perspectives.

I remember a time when everything felt terrific—I was happy, positive, and convinced life was just one big, exciting adventure. And then, I got my heart broken for the first time.

Suddenly, my world went from a Disney movie soundtrack to an entire playlist of songs where it's always raining, and someone is whispering about lost love. That's when I entered my "Brooding Philosopher Phase," where I was sure no one had ever suffered heartbreak as profoundly as I had. I wrote deep, angsty journal entries. I stared pensively out of the windows. I considered getting into poetry.

And here's the thing: I stayed in that dark phase for a while. Until I realized something—I'd stay stuck there forever if I didn't consciously shift my focus. I wasn't just feeling negative; I was feeding myself negativity. Sad songs, dramatic journal entries, endless overanalyzing-it was no wonder my world

TOBY

That's when I noticed something: humans are like computers-what you feed in determines what comes out. The thoughts, media, and conversations we consume shape how we feel and respond to the world.

If you constantly feed your brain negativity, stress, and worst-case scenarios. don't be surprised when your mood and outlook reflect that. But if you intentionally focus on positive, hopeful, or even just humorous things, your mind starts processing the world differently.

Simply put, we have far more control over our mindset, emotions, and the phases we go through than we often realize. The inputs we choose—what we watch, listen to, and focus on-directly shape our thoughts, attitudes, and even our outlook on life.

I often listened to Zig Ziglar; he was all about positive input. He once said, 'You are what you are and where you are because of what has gone into your mind. You can change what you are and where you are by changing what goes into your mind.'

Basically, if you binge-watch bad news, scroll through negativity, and surround vourself with toxic conversations, don't be surprised when your thoughts follow the same pattern. But your perspective will shift if you flood your brain with encouragement, uplifting ideas, and solutions instead of problems.

Ziglar often compared the mind to a garden. "Whatever you plant is what you'll grow. If you plant negativity, doubt, and fear, that's exactly what will flourish. But if you plant positivity, hope, and gratitude, that's what will take root." In other words, your brain is like a stubborn houseplant—water it with good stuff, and it thrives. Feed it junk, and it shrivels.

So, the next time you catch yourself stuck in a negative loop, remember: you get to choose the phase you're in. All you need is better input.

Your mindset isn't about what happens to you. It's what you feed it. Fill it with negativity, and your world shrinks. Feed it hope, humor, and possibility; suddenly, life feels bigger, lighter, and full of potential.







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# Five Sheriff's Office Regional Resource Center clients receive HiSET diplomas



Courtesy

Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis and staff from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office pose for a photo with graduates after the recognition ceremony.

— On WEBSTER Thursday, Jan. 30, five clients of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Webster Regional Resource Center (RRC) were recognized during a formal ceremony for receiving their certificate of completion for the Sheriff's Department HiSET program, or high school equivalency program.

The HiSET program allows individuals to earn a high school equivalency certificate accepted in every state, Department of Education, and US Military programs. Individuals are tested in math, science, English language, and social studies.

The Webster RRC has provided free re-entry services to community members since it opened in 2015 and has helped nearly 75 individuals earn their HiSET. Services offered include trade programs guidance, employment search, parenting groups, housing referrals, and more. "The graduates before us today have put in a tremendous amount of work to get to this point," commented Webster RRC Director, Erica Jajliardo.

"As long as you keep striving to achieve the goals that you have set for yourself, success is bound to come to you."

Boyd Brown, an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Nichols College and US Marine Corps veteran, was the ceremony's keynote speaker. Professor Boyd Brown III started teaching at Nichols College in 2006 and became a full-time member of the Criminal Justice Program in 2012. He has a background in forensic anthropology and terrorism studies. Professor Brown also runs the Criminal Justice Internship Program.

"What we know about education is that it is the clearest steppingstone to financial security and success in the United States," explained Professor Brown. "Beyond the practical benefits, there are many other benefits. It prepares us for lifelong learning inside and outside of the classroom. It allows us to become better citizens and decision-makers." State Rep. Joseph McKenna participated in the ceremony honoring the program graduates

and presented each one with a congratulatory citation from the entire House of Representatives.

Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis addressed the graduates and explained that the Webster Regional Resource Center is not a place for people to be judged. At the center, the Sheriff's Office helps the people who want to be helped.

"Your education is unassailable," commented Evangelidis. "I'm confident that this is just the beginning for each of you and your families. While this center will always be available to you, I hope you strive to reach your full potential and accomplish everything you desire in life."

Evangelidis expressed his belief that regional resource centers like the one in Webster should be widespread throughout the country. He explained the positive contributions of this center and how it is an impactful place for the community. To learn more about how the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Webster Center may be able to assist you, please call 508-640-5044.





Calton

Spring into action and give me a call or check out my website www.lisacaron.com.

ZUR MOVE:

Estelle

# Nomination papers available in Spencer

SPENCER — Nomination Papers are available from the town of Spencer beginning Tuesday, Feb. 4, and are due back to the Town Clerk's office for Certification by Tuesday, March 25 by 5 p.m.



# **OBITUARIES**

### Robert N. Mominee, 74

Town Election are avail-

able at the Town Clerk's

Office. The following

offices and positions

are open to candidates:

term): Assessor (three-

year term); Planning

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year term); Planning

Board member (three-

year term); Elementary

School Committee mem-

ber (three-year term);

(one-year

(three-year

Regional

Select Board

Moderator

Tantasqua

cess

term);

member



Spencer MA-Robert N. Mominee age 74 passed away Saturday, January 25th, 2025 at his home. Robert leaves his sister Bernice P. Rheaume of Southbridge and his sister in-law Joanne LeBlanc of

East Brookfield. He also leaves aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Robert was born in Southbridge son of the late Alphonse W. Mominee and Pearl D. Mominee and is predeceased

### DATES

#### continued from page A1

Selectmen, Moderator, Town Clerk, School Committee member, Water Commissioner, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Cemetery Commissioner, Library Trustees, Planning Board, and Constables.

Brookfield's Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Town Hall (6 Central Street).

Nomination papers for

**18 UNDER 18** continued from page A1

"The Exchange Club of Spencer is proud to uphold its mission by celebrating the outstanding young members of the Spencer-East Brookfield through community the 18 Under 18 program," read a statement released by the club.

Understanding that students are often recognized for academic and athletic successes, Exchange Club members created the 18 Under 18 program as a tool to celebrate voungsters whose achievements may have gone overlooked. These include volunteering at a local church or organization; assisting family members and friends in need; or serving as a leader in school or the workplace.

When selecting each

by two brothers Ronald A. Mominee and Richard A. Mominee. Later Robert moved to Spencer as a young adult where he resided most of his life. He was retired from Novelty Tool Spencer, MA. Roberts interests included fishing, hunting and was also an avid puzzle maker. Robert enjoyed his daily walks to his favorite local spot Kostas cafe were he always felt welcomed. There are no calling hours and grave side services will be private. You can share a memory at www.pillsburyfuneralhome.com where you may post a memory or condolence.

the Brookfield Annual School Committee member (three-year term); Town Clerk (three-year term); Water Commission (three-year term); Board of Health member (threeyear term); Trustee for Merrick Public Library; Constable; Cemetery Commissioner (threeyear term); and Trustee for Shade Tree Funds (three-year term). To learn more about

elections and town meetings in your community, please contact your municipal offices.

### PROJECT 351 continued from page A1

worked with Cradles to Crayons, an organization impacting thousands of community members each year.

"I felt inspired to keep being a better person," Padden said of her Launch Day activities. "I made new friends and had fun meeting new people. I learned that not everyone is as privileged as I am, and doing service helps others."

Looking ahead, the students will use their experiences as Project 351 ambassadors to broaden their efforts to help the community. They are also excited to serve as mentors to younger students eager to learn about ways to give back.

"These two students amaze me with their commitment to not only their schooling, but to helping others. We definitely have some future leaders with these two," Raphael told the New Leader.

Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District leaders congratulate the students on their accomplishments. Officials look forward to seeing the students take the next steps in their community service journeys.

"Our current Knox Trail Middle School eighth graders from Spencer and East Brookfield, as well as our Project 351 alumni, have exemplified leadership and service every step of the way," said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. "I am super proud of our district's ambassadors, past and present, who have exemplified leadership through service projects aimed at lifting others up in our community."

State leaders congratulate all Project 351 ambassadors who represented their communities during the day of service.

"Project 351 ambassadors are more than just youth leaders. Together, they represent an unstoppable movement for positive change," said Gov. Maura Healey. "These ambassadors, who all

bring different backgrounds and experiences, serve as a reminder that we are a stronger state when we work together to solve problems."

During the day of service, ambassadors listen to guest speakers before fanning out across the city in support of community organizations.

In addition to the Project 351 day of service, ambassadors also spend a year leading community projects in their respective towns.

Additional service opportunities for ambassadors include alumni mentorship, enrichment programs, and participation in Project 351's Service Leadership Academy.

To date, Project 351 has featured more than 5,000 youth ambassadors who combined to assist over 1.3 million people.

To learn more about how Project 351 is helping the community while bringing together the next generation of leaders, visit www.project351. org.

### Local residents named to Clark University's Fall 2024 Dean's List

WORCESTER — Clark University announced students named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Ashley D. Leighton of Spencer was named to first honors.

Abigail E. Gahagan of Leicester was named to first honors.

Ava Elizabeth Paradis of West Brookfield was named to second honors.

Ellie M. Hills of Leicester was named to first honors.

Ana G. Ruggieri of Leicester was named to first honors.

Autumn H. Powers of Leicester was named to second honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. 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.

### Elizabeth Latour named to Elms College Dean's List

CHICOPEE — Elizabeth Latour of Brookfield was named to the College of Our Lady of the Elms Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Latour was among 500 students named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social

"Each year, the process of selection becomes more and more difficult, as the students have become comfortable with sharing their accomplishments that are more personal than a win on the field or grades that are earned," read a statement released by the Exchange Club in celebration of the 2024 class.

To be eligible to receive the 18 Under 18 Award, applicants must be in grade eight or older (up to age 18), as of June 1, 2025.

The Exchange Club congratulates all students who apply for this year's 18 Under 18 program. Award recipients will join an all-time roster of impressive local youngsters who have impacted their communities in myriad ways.

The inaugural 18 Under 18 class included Spencer's Ryleigh Modig, who inspired the community with her journey on NBC's The Voice. More recently, several DPHS KTMS students and have been selected for their community contributions. Whether it's serving as a lifeguard, a church volunteer, or a camp counselor, local kids are staying active and involved. And the Exchange Club looks forward to continuing to rec-

ognize them this year and beyond.

The application submission deadline is March 31.

To obtain an 18 Under 18 Award application, or to view a full list of program requirements, visit www.spencerexchangeclub.org.

If you are selected as an 18 Under 18 recipient, you will be invited to attend an award ceremony on May 30 at the Worcester Bravehearts game. The Exchange Club will provide each winner with two tickets to the event. Additional tickets may be purchased to attend the catered event, game, and ceremony.

All applicants will be notified of their selection status by May 1, 2025.

All supporters and sponsors of the program are thanked for their recognition of local young-For additional information on sponsorship opportunities, visit the Exchange Club Web site. "As a sponsor, your business will be celebrated as a vital partner in supporting the next generation of leaders. Join us in empowering local youth and fostering a brighter future for Spencer and East Brookfield," the club's statement read.

year's class of award recipients, program leaders focus on achievements in the following categories: community involvement; work ethic; leadership; caring and selflessness; and citizenship.

committee of Α Exchange Club members reviews the applications each year, with the names of applicants redacted to ensure an unbiased pro-

### NURSING

continued from page A1

space and clinical lab space mimicking hospital settings are a recipe to inspire future healthcare workers," read a statement released by school district leaders.

Ledbetter grew up in Cambridge before moving to Medford. Her mother was instrumental in helping her choose a career path.

"My mom was a phototherapy technician at Mass General, and she guided me to Simmons College, where I graduated. I hope to inspire my students in similar ways to how my mother inspired me," Ledbetter said.

Ledbetter's first job was at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and she also worked at Tufts New England Medical Center. She later started her school nursing career at Mystic Valley Charter prior to moving to Leicester.



"She volunteered in the Leicester School System nursing department and eventually transitioned to the Leicester Primary School as a full-time school nurse," read the statement released by district leadership.

Nurse Ledbetter said that her class prepares students for a variety of career options, even if they aren't in the medical field.

'Some students will go into the medical profession, like me, and my hope is that they help others and contribute positively to society. However, some students will decide that healthcare is not for them, and it is better to learn it now than to spend thousands for a college degree only to decide it is not for them,' Ledbetter said. "All students will benefit. Everyone gets sick and everyone has to, at one time or another, take care of friends and/or family. It is imperative to know how to respond in an emergency."

Superintendent Kustigian is thrilled with the nursing program and Ledbetter's inspiration of her students. He looks forward to seeing the program continue to guide the next wave of students interested in medical professions.

'We have the perfect person teaching the program, and it is comforting to know that the next generation of Leicester Wolverines will be there to care for us in the future," Kustigian added.

> Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@ stonebridgepress.news

obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

### Victor Moisan earns faculty honors at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. — Victor Moisan of Leicester earned the distinction of Faculty Honors for Fall 2024 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

Read about other accomplished scholars on Gold Letters: A Spotlight on Student Achievement and learn about Georgia Tech's goal to attract, retain, and inspire more students by visiting Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is one of the top public research universities in the U.S., developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The Institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees, as well as professional development and K-12 programs for fostering success at every stage of life. Its more than 53,000 undergraduate and graduate students represent 54 U.S. states and territories and more than 143 countries. They study at the main campus in Atlanta, at instructional sites around the world, and through distance and online learning.

As a leading technological university, Georgia Tech is an engine of economic development for Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation, conducting more than \$1 billion in research annually for government, industry, and society.

### Spencer resident named to SUNY Dean's List

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), the most distinguished institution in the nation that focuses on the study of the environment, is proud to recognize its high academic achievers with its Dean's and President's lists.

Congratulations to Alex Pinkowski of Spencer on achieving the Dean's List with your excellent academic records. We commend you for your work!



### JUNIORS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BAY PATH

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 11 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

### High Honors

Helena Rowan Adkins, Adriana Nataly Alicea, Jacob John Archambault, Violet Renee Aucella, Vincent Paul Bedard, David Betancur, Isabella Aria Bitar, Dominic Dewayne Boyd, Aleah Claire Brink, Brianna Livia Brink, Emily Ann Corey, Jacob William Creeron, Valentina Ashley Culberson, Nathan Robert Dube, Jocelyn Elizabeth Evans, Jordan Mariah Ferreira, Jayla Marie Fowler, Aliyah Marie Goneya, Grace Winifred Huehls, Natalie Rose Ingles, Joshua William Irons, Nicholas Edward Jalbert, Samuel Arjun Kittredge, Lawendowski, Alyson Phoebe Cullen Gregory MacLeod, Ava Rose Mastrototaro, Alexis McGee Messina, Chase Patrick Newman, Mariah Lynn Pereira, Kayleigh Jean Ramm, Nathan Alexander Rouille Montoya, Jordan Joyce Russell, Sawyer Luke Schultz, Luke William Smolski, Yandel Omar Torres, Anne Turcotte, Esmerelda Velez, Ava Qyiyn Wall, Noah Williamson

### Honors

Bayleigh Alexis Abdella, Addison Emily Aho, Sarah Rebecca Appiah Kubi, Victoria Rose Bachand, Emma Theresa Baldyga, Logan Amanda Barriere, Arianna Rose Belanger, Megan Lucy Bell, Emma Nicole Berry, Ryan Michael Berthiaume, Edward Stephen Blash, William Stephen Blash, Dominic Raymond Brodeur, Lucien Stephen Brodeur, Alissa Lynn Burlingame, Dimitri Anthony Burtt, Liam Michael Carlson, Samuel Elia Ceppetelli, Lily Sabina Chartier, Nathan Louis Chenevert, Frederick James Cieprich, Ellie Rose Clark, Aiden Matthew Coleman, Charles Michael Congdon, Hunter Matthew Coombs, Bordy Lawrence Cunningham, Connor Anthony Czechowski, Joseph Michael Daige, Abigail Taylor Dejong, Treyton Joseph Dery, Cody Daniel Dombroski, Savannah Jane Dubois, Christopher Michael Dufresne, Heidi Lynne Ebbeling, Yandel Feliciano, Jayden William Filadelfo, Ethan Alexander Ford, Leia Marie Foster, Rylee Rose Fulmine, Bridgette Anne Gaudreau, Aiden Mark Giroux-Provencher, Anthony Mark Gonya, Kylie Dorothy Greska, Anna Rose Guay, Isaiah Terrence Harris-Harrington, Luke

Robert Heller, Liam Wayne Hesselton, Lillian Elaine Horner, Hannah Jean Ingalls, Christian Michael Johnson, Zackery Collin Kelleher, Ayden Matthew Kennedy, Allison Hemenway Klar, Cassie Lee Kotomski, Marshall Thomas Lafond, Nia Mya Laforest, Joel Carlos Landor, Zacharv Raymond Landry, Gabrielle Ruth Lapan, Michael Wayne Lapointe, Miranda Kate Linde, Nicolas Sebastian Londono, Alyssa Ivellisse Lopez, Michael Anthony Lulu, Mia Marie Lussier, Lucas Scott Lyons, Philipos Nastasio Makrodimitras, Emily Jean McDonald, Madeline Beverly McDonald-Trimby, Felix Casey Menard, Kyle Joseph Mondor, Sebastian Luke Moniz, Alexis Paige, David Antonio Morales, Gianna Marie Morelli, Tyson Joseph Moriarty, Liam Macrae Nicoll, Sebastian Alexander Nieuwenhoff, Benjamin Francis Nocchi, Connor James O'Brien, Matthew Thomas Obrycki, Kelsey Lynn Olson, Cole Henry Paradis, Maddox James Parente, Niti Nilesh Patel, Amari Audrey Pereira, Adam Jason Phaneuf, Jacob Paul Pratt, Samuel Joseph Prefontaine, Samantha Jeanne Reseigh, Grace Elizabeth Retallic, Vincent Timothy Rose, Jaxon Russell Sitko, Nathan Adam Steen, Gaige Charles Thompson, Ashley Mikayla Tingle, Josiah Felix Torres,

Sebastian Paul Vargas, Gabriela Nikol Vazquez Hernandez, Elias Manuel Vega, Natalie Helen Vigeant, Harley Ann Wilson Wadden, Ethan John Wall, Marcanthony Justin Weld, Hunter Earl White, Trey Stephen Wilkin, Harrison Riley Wilson, Haylee Marie Zurowski

### Principal's List

Alexander Tyr Audunsson, Rhianna Anne Balliet, Roger Joseph Bishop, Maxton Anthony Cournoyer, Myiah Kiara DeLaRosa, Carla Janety Diaz, Max Andrew Domineck, Basil Doud, Grace Elizabeth Dumas, Zya Frechette, Tristan Alexander Garcia-Cruz, Arianna Jazmarie Gonzalez, Jocelynn Rose Gordon, Molly Elizabeth Grant, Aiden Alexander Grigware, Sadie Lynn Hawley, Kolton Trevor Hemenway, Tabian Marschall Keegan, Callie Mae Lambert, Elyse Louise Laramie, Matthew James Lopez, Bradley Anthony McCarthy, Eli Mitchell, Angelo Michael Montiverdi, Aydan Julia Nanigan, Kamryn Leigh Nourse, Taylor Lynn Richard, Charles Peter Rollins, Yasmilette Santana, Jorge Santiago, Jared Robert Senosk, Brianne Marie Sentence, Wyatt Glenn Snay, Keagan Robert Standring, Zaylie Elaine Whiteman, Olivia Grace Willis



# LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. W024P2344GD NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal of Guardianship of a Minor In the interests of Walter A Soutra of Spencer, MA Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED

PARTIES **1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian filed by Tina M Mansfield on January 30, 2025 will be held **03/04/2025 08:30** 

### AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Worcester Probate & Family Court

**Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

**5.** Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice. Date: January 31, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate February 14, 2025

### LEGAL NOTICE Fiscal Year 2026

Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Howard Goldstein of North Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/25/2025.** 

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

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 3, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate February 14, 2025

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing meeting on Thursday March 6, 2025, at 6:00pm at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Clifton Safford, 97 Old East Brookfield Rd. requesting a variance for a farmers porch which does not meet the setbacks by Towns Zoning Section V, Table 1 for the R30 zone. Nicholas Lewis of 49 Smith Hanson Rd is requesting a special permit as prescribed in section VI, B 4 of zoning bylaws for expansion of a nonconforming already existing deck. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St, North Brookfield, MA. February 7, 2025 February 14, 2025

repruary 14, 20

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

A Public Hearing will be held Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. in Meeting Room A, Memorial Town Complex, on the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. as follows: Podunk Road - National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Podunk Road beginning at a point approximately 20 feet Southeast of the centerline of the intersection of West Street @ Podunk Road and continuing approximately ~86 feet in a South direction. Installing new pole P3-50 approximately ~661 South of P3 on Podunk Rd. East Brookfield MA. Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. February 14, 2024

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts Worcester Probate & Family Court WO25E0004P

### Petition to Partition Citation (A.C. 92A)

To **Brian E. Fritze** and to all other interested persons.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Dianne E. Lincoln of Fiskdale in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in North Brookfield in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows:

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 157 School Street, North Brookfield, Massachusetts

The land and the buildings thereon situated on the northerly side of School Street in North Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot #7 on a Plan of Land Owned by Brian K. Marvelle, dated November 3, 2000, by Donald A. Para Land Surveyor, Inc. and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 762, Plan 41, and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at drill hole in a stone wall at the southeasterly corner of the lot to be described on the northerly side of School Street, also being a corner of Parcel B shown on Plan Book 555, Plan 15 no or formerly owned by Christi Cournoyer;

THENCE South 65° 41' 29" West along a stone wall on the northerly side of School Street, eighty-seven and ninety-four hundredths (87.94) feet to drill hole;

THENCE South 63° 53' 18" West along a stone wall on the northerly side of School Street, ninety-four and sixty one hundredths (94.61) feet to drill hole;

THENCE South 48° 04' 18" West along a stone wall on the northerly side of School Street, sixty-eight and three hundredths (68.03) feet to a point;

THENCE North 16° 08' 13" West along Lot #2, two hundred fifty(250.00) feet; THENCE North 65° 17' 27" East along Lot #2, three hundred eighteen and forty-five hundredths (318.45) feet to a point at land of said Cournoyer.

THENCE South 0° 56' 23" West along Parcel B said Cournoyer land, two hundred fifty (250.00) feet to the point of beginning.

Containing an area of 1.473 acres according to said plan.

BEING the same premises as conveyed to the Gilbert Bailie by deed of Richard E. Kennan and Karen Kennan dated June 29, 2004 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 34039, Page 51.

setting forth that he/she desires that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than Four Hundred Thirty Thousand (\$430,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the Eleventh day of February, the return date of this citation. Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fifteenth day of January. Stephanie K. Fattman **Register of Probate** January 31, 2025 February 7, 2025 February 14, 2025

(508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO25P0399EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of:

Molly L High Also known as: Molly Lee High Date of Death: 09/04/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nathaniel W Peters of Tacoma WA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Nathaniel W Peters of Tacoma WA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/04/2025.** 

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

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

Date: February 06, 2025 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate February 14, 2025

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

A Public Hearing will be held Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A, Memorial Town Complex, on the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. as follows: Podunk Road - National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Podunk Road beginning at a point approximately 5 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Bridge Street@ Podunk Road and continuing approximately 284 feet in a Southwest direction. Installing new pole P35-50 approximately ~65' Northeast of P36 on Podunk Rd. East Brookfield, MA. **Board of Selectmen** February 14, 2024

### SCHOOL BUDGET HEARING Leicester Public Schools Notice of Public Hearing

Date of Public Hearing: Monday, March 3, 2025

### Snow Date for Public Hearing: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

In accordance with Chapter 71 Section 38N of the General Laws, the Leicester School Committee will hold a public hearing on its proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget on Monday, *March 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.* in the Leicester Town Hall, in the Select Board Room, Leicester, MA. February 14, 2025

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND INSTALLATION OF A FIBER OP-TIC MUNICIPAL AREA NETWORK (PHASE 2)

The Town of Spencer will be taking proposals for the design, engineering, and installation of a Fiber Optic Municipal Area Network (Phase2) until March 19, 2025. Interested parties must access the full Request for Proposal by visiting the Town's website at www.SpencerMA.gov/bids. Questions can be sent to Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator at JBridges@Spencerma.gov. February 14, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** The Trial Court Probate and Family Court **Worcester Probate** and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO25P0275EA **CITATION ON PETITION FOR** FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of: Elinor R Goldstein Date of Death: 11/21/2024 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Per-

sonal Representative has been filed by

Howard Goldstein of North Brookfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Board of Selectmen February 14, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO25P0198EA INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Estate Of: Charles D Anderson, Jr.

**Date of Death: Auguat 19, 2024** To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of : Petitioner

#### Bryan E Anderson of Spencer MA Petitioner

Gergory S Anderson of Upton MA a Will has been admitted to informal Bryan E Anderson of Spencer MA Gergory S Anderson of Upton MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without Surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and

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

A Public Hearing will be held Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. in Meeting Room A, Memorial Town Complex, on the petition of Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. as follows: Podunk Road - National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Podunk Road beginning at a point approximately 15 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Terry Lane @ Podunk Road and continuing approximately ~85 feet in a Northeast direction. Installing new pole P56-50 approximately ~65' Northeast of P57 on Podunk Rd. East Brookfield, MA.

Board of Selectmen February 14, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 25 SM 000343

ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

Amanda M. Davin

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): Guild Mortgage Company LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 10 Jones Street, given by Amanda M. Davin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC, dated July 11, 2022, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67888, Page 298, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been,

in the <u>active</u> military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the abovementioned property <u>on that basis</u>, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before <u>March 24,</u> <u>2025</u> or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on <u>February 6</u>, <u>2025</u>. Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson Recorder

February 14, 2025

# The Famous Brands behind Private Label Grocery Products

While doing research for canned goods for National Canned Good Month, I found myself down an internet rabbit hole and ended up on websites and message boards that purported to reveal the famous brands behind some store brand/private label goods. Keep in mind, while some of these items may be exactly the same (as one worker noted, "we just slap on a different label," many have slight differences in ingredients, and/or quality and quantity of ingredients.

While not all the sources below can be confirmed, as claims are made from both those who worked at the companies and those that were convinced by taste testing, the results are nonetheless interesting. Although store brands occasionally switch up its sources, the following store brand items have at one time or another been linked to a popular national brand:

Adirondack orange soda: Fanta ALDI's Millville cereals: General

Mills.

ALDI's Soft Pretzels: Super Pretzel

ALDI's Applesauce: Musselman's

ALDI's Tuscan Garden Italian

Dressing: Olive Garden Kirkland Batteries: Duracell

Kirkland Signature Supreme diapers: Kimberly Clark (manufacturer of Huggies)

Kirkland Tuna Fish: Bumble Bee

Kroger bagged salads: Dole Red Thunder Energy Drink: Red Bull

GmbH (the same company that makes Red Bull)

Stop & Shop milk: Garelick Farms

Trader Joe Pistachio nuts: Wonderful Pistachios

Trader Joe Smoothies: Naked Smoothie

Trader Joe Pita Chips: Stacey's Simply Naked Pita Chips

Trader Joe's Vegetarian Chili: Amy's Organic

Trader Joe's Organic Shells & Cheddar Macaroni and Cheese: Annie's Brand

#### Walmart bagged salads: Dole

Wegman's Chicken: Tyson Foods White House Applesauce: Musselman's **Original Applesauce** 

Kirkland Signature Coffee: Roasted by Starbucks; Green Mountain; San Francisco Bay Coffee, Rogers; Keurig, etc.

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you know that Walmart Did owns all five of the top private label brands? According to Supermarketnews. com Walmart's private label brands dominate the competition.

Five Walmart brands had over 50% U.S. household penetration in the past year, including Great Value (86% purchased), Equate (75%), Mainstays (70%), Marketside (69%), and Freshness Guaranteed (67%). 47% of U.S. households purchased Pen Gear from Walmart. Dollar Tree,

Aldi, Target, and Costco rounded off the top 10 private label brands by household.

While Walmart doesn't disclose all of the suppliers behind its Great Value line of products, workers on the front line of unpacking product and stocking shelves revealed the following findings:

Great Value bread: Sara Lee Great Value yogurt: Dannon

Great Value cheese: Kraft

Great Value fruit juice: Dole

Great Value peanut butter: Post Consumer brands (makers of Peter Pan Peanut Butter)

Great Value canned ravioli: Conagra (which also makes Chef Boy-ar-dee canned ravioli

Great Value Vienna Sausages: Conagra Great Value ice cream: Well's Dairy

Great Value ketchup: Conagra (which makes Hunts)

Great Value applesauce: Musselman's **Original Applesauce** 

Great Value chicken: Tyson

Still curious about what name brand companies also produce for store labels? Pay attention to recalls. When product recalls from national companies that produce store brands happen, the list of items includes all of the names that product was sold under, which can be very revealing!

While off brand products are utilized every day, the impact of nationally advertised brand names are so powerful that through the years, some common grocery items are known by its brand name, rather than the product. It's so common, we barely notice it anymore! Ponder the following:

Kleenex: tissues; Tylenol: acetaminophen; Benadryl: allergy medication; Tylenol: acetaminophen, Q tips: cotton swabs; Chap Stick: lip balm Band-Aid: bandages; Crock Pot: slow cooker; Jacuzzi: hot tub; Tupperware: plastic storage containers; Scotch Tape: transparent tape; Duct Tape: fabric tape; Saran Wrap: plastic wrap Thermos: insulated container; Sharpie: permanent market; White Out: correction fluid; Cool Whip: dairy free whipped topping; Stetson: cowboy hats; Rollerblades; inline skates. Feel free to share your favorites that

aren't listed here! TAKE THE TRAINOR

LDI's Applesauce: Musselman's ALDI's Tuscan Garden Italian Dressing: Olive Garden

Kirkland Batteries: Duracell

Kirkland Signature Supreme diapers: Kimberly Clark (manufacturer of Huggies)

Kirkland Tuna Fish: Bumble Bee

Kroger bagged salads: Dole

Red Thunder Energy Drink: Red Bull GmbH (the same company that makes Red Bull)

Stop & Shop milk: Garelick Farms Trader Joe Pistachio nuts: Wonderful

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Walmart bagged salads: Dole

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Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Organic insect pest control in vegetable and flower gardens

HINT

KAREN



GARDEN MOMENTS MELINDA **MYERS** 

You can have a beautiful, productive garden while working with nature to manage insect pests. As you incorporate various eco-friendly pest management strategies, you will encourage songbeneficial birds.

insects, and pollinators to visit your gardens.

You will find slight variations of definitions, but most organic gardeners agree the focus is on cultivating a system that supports and sustains all its members. This includes plants, soil microbes, and other beneficial organisms.

As with any garden, it starts with creating a healthy soil foundation, selecting the plants best suited to the growing conditions, and providing them with proper care. When you do these things, you will be able to grow healthier plants that are more tolerant of pest attacks and more resilient when damaged.

Removing weeds from garden beds is an important pest management strategy. These uninvited plants compete with your desirable plants for water and nutrients. Many also attract and harbor plant-damaging insect pests and disease organisms in the garden.

No matter how well you plan, plant, and care for your gardens, insect pest problems can arise. Include nature's pest managers in your organic garden approach. Ninety-six percent of terrestrial North American birds rely on insects for part of their diet. They also add color, motion, and entertainment to our landscapes.

Many beneficial insects eat or parasitize insects. Lady beetles, green lacewings, young and old, eat hundreds of aphids a day. Parasitic wasps, depending on the species, can attack specific or a variety of insects including caterpillars like the tomato hornworm, aphids, leafhoppers, scale, beetles, and true bugs.

Attract more beneficial insects, both pollinators and pest managers, to your gardens with plants. Grow plants like sweet alyssum, columbine, thyme, lavender, goldenrod, sedum, asters, and other plants that attract beneficial insects to your garden.

Be proactive by regularly monitoring your gardens. Look for emerging pest problems and the good guys stopping by to dine on them. You will need to tolerate some damage so there will be food to attract and feed the predators in the garden.

If intervention is needed, look for the most eco-friendly control options. Barriers of lightweight floating row covers protect against cabbage worms,



Melinda Myers

#### A cabbage worm feeding on mustard greens.

Japanese and bean beetles, cucumber beetles, squash bugs, and squash vine borers on susceptible plants. Just cover the plantings with row covers immediately after seeding. Since basil and beans do not need to be pollinated to produce the harvest, leave them covered for the season. Uncover squash, pumpkins, melons, and cucumbers when they begin flowering so pollinators have access to the blossoms. Research found vine crops in this manner limited damage by squash bugs, squash vine borer, and the cucumber beetles that can infect and kill cucumber plants with bacterial wilt.

If you forget to cover your cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts, enlist the help of a naturally occurring soil bacterial called Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk) found in SummitÒ Biological Caterpillar and Webworm (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com). It only kills true caterpillars and webworms and can be applied to edible plants right up to harvest.

A strong blast of water is a great first step in managing mites and aphids. It knocks them off the plant, helping minimize the damage. If needed, apply lightweight horticulture oils, like organic SummitO Year-RoundO Spray Oil according to label directions. It kills a wide variety of soft-bodied insects in all stages (including eggs) on contact and poses few risks to beneficial insects that land on the treated plant.

Over time these eco-friendly strategies become part of your gardening routine. And the more we work with nature, the better it is for you, your plants, and the environment.

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 and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry St. Mary's Church 4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 Distribution: Wednesday 9 AM-11 AM: Saturday 9AM-11AM

#### CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry McKinstry Building 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

#### LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish 759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524 Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM Noon-1:15PM Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469. St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County ood Bank

#### ROCHDALE

The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry Greenville Baptist Church 674 Pleasant St. Rochdale, MA Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 -2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

#### SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint John Paul II Food Pantry Saint Vincent de Paul 279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550 Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM -11 AM

Southbridge Food Share 446 Hamilton St. (508) 764-6583 M,W,F 10-11:15 a.m.

#### SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -

RESIDENTS ONLY Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry 60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562 Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

#### STURBRIDGE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry Located at St.Anne & St. Patrick Church 16 Church St. iskdale, MA 01518 Distribution: By appointment 508-347-6398

16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518. Located in the Saint Anne Church basement and stocked by donations. Open to the public by appointment. Contact: Business Office, 508-347-7339, stannestpatoffice@gmail.com

#### WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry First Congregational Church 36 North Main Street, W.Bookfield, MA 01585 Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM Malacter



# POLICE REPORTS

### Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

2:14 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), call canceled; 5:35 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 6:43 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Street), referred: 8:24 a.m.: my stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:55 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:07 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:33 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation of mv/straight warrant, arrest; 12:11 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 12:16 p.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street), referred; 1:12 p.m.: m stop (Main Street), verbal warn-ing; 1:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:02 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street, Worcester), call canceled; 3:06 p.m.: parking complaint (Bottomly Avenue), resolved; 4:23 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:27 p.m.: welfare check (Glen Ellen Lane), report taken.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

12:45 a.m.: runaway (Collier Avenue), report taken; 8:16 a.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 8:27 a.m.: ambulance (Crestwood Road), transported; 8:51 a.m.: harassment (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, criminal harassment, criminal application issued; 9:11 a.m.: investigation (Dale Street), report taken; 9:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:16 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Chinayder Lino deAlmeida Santos, 24, 2 Maple Street, Basement, Leicester, unlicensed operation, arrest; 10:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:15 p.m.: accident (Marshall Street), report taken.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

1:07 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 1:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 2:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:38 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 5:33 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 8:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, criminal application issued;8:46 a.m.: ambulance (Whittemore Cove, Spencer), transported; 8:50 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:04 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), message delivered; 9:25 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:54 a.m.: mv stop (McCarthy Avenue), verbal warning; 9:59 a.m.: assist citizen (Waite Street); 10:10 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 10:27 a.m.: suspicious person (Pleasant Street), report taken; 10:53 a.m.: hit/run accident (Pine Street), report taken: 11:13 a.m.: my stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), report taken; 12:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:13 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 2:29 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, misleading a police investigation, criminal application issued; name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, carrying a dangerous weapon, criminal application issued; 7:28 p.m.: ambulance (Asnebumsket Road, Paxton), no action required; 10:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Auburn Street), referred. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 7:57 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 9:33 a.m.: abandoned mv (Stafford Street), services rendered; 9:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:33 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:54 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 11:48 a.m.: keep the peace (Marshall Street),

assisted; 11:58 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 2:14 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:39 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 4:46 p.m.: fraud (Mannville Street), report taken; 4:55 p.m.: suspicious activity (Green Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 8:31 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:04 p.m.: accident (Dale Court), report taken.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:19 a.m.: missing person (Main Street), report taken; 3:49 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 4:04 a.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 7:22 a.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), services rendered; 7:33 a.m.: debris in road (Pleasant Street), referred; 8:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Joseph Anthonny Belfort Lopez, 30, 301 Main Street, #316, Southbridge, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, arrest; 10:01 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 10:48 a.m.: ambulance (Crestwood Road), transported; 11:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:34 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 11:50 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 11:34 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 11:50 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 11:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:00 p.m.: ambulance (Brookside Drive), transported; 12:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 1:12 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), Jancarlos Jimenez Colon, 21, 59 Main Street, #3, Southbridge, op w/ suspended license, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured my, no inspection sticker, lights violation, arrest; 4:06 p.m.: investigation (North Lake Avenue, Worcester), report taken; 4:24 p.m.: investigation (North Lake Avenue, Worcester), report taken; 6:08 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Town Beach Road), spoken to; 6:30 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unfounded; 7:53 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 10:04 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (King Street), services rendered; 10:25 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), call canceled; 11:22 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4** 

2:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 10:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Yeury Ezequiel Cuevas de la Rosa, 24, 80 Boylston Street, #3, Worcester, warrant out of Worcester District Court, arrest; 11:59 a.m.: fraud (Gleason Way), call canceled; 12:08 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), transported to hospital; 12:21 p.m.: hanging wires (Pleasant Street), resolved; 12:54 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 1:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, speeding, criminal application issued; 3:20 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), resolved; 3:38 p.m.: fraud (Gleason Way), report taken; 3:45 p.m.: debris in road (Locust Street), resolved; 6:25 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:05 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:26 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered.

Street), written warning; 12:07 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:22 p.m.: assist other agency (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:49 p.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), verbal warning; 6:17 p.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 6:26 p.m.: disabled mv (Peter Salem Road), assisted; 10:59 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street, Worcester), transported.

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### Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

12:14-2:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:03 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:31 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), rep. screaming/req. assistance; 7:40 a.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 8:47 a.m.: disturbance (South Spencer Road), rep. harassment; 10:36 a.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 10:58 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 11:57 a.m.: animal complaint (Bay Path Road), c/o neighbor's chicken growling; 12:57 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:44 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 2:09 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 2:11 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 2:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), concerned for husband; 3:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), c/o dog tied to bldg.; 3:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), rep. animal bite; 4:16 p.m.: restraining order service (Sunset Lane); 5:36 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 6:25 p.m.: commercial alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 8:42 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 8:47 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Main Street), req. welfare check; 8:47 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), c/o being followed; 11:43 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Spencer Road), hang-up; (total daily mv stops – 6).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

12:03-2:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:52 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 1:18 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 4:06 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Athol Hosp. CT down; 4:09 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 6:09 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. welfare check; 7:10 a.m.: medical/general (Deer Run Road); 8:27 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Auburn PD bolo; 9:32 a.m.: medical/ general (Prospect Street); 10:13 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 10:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), req. check on O tank; 12:25 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:26 p.m.: mv complaint (Cherry Street), req. damage repair; 1:30 p.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Cross Road); 3:19 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 4:19 p.m.: suspicious mv (Charlton Road), investigated; 6:32 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 6:57 p.m.: disabled mv (East Charlton Road), assisted; 9:08 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), rep. stolen firearm; 11:05 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. assistance; (total daily mv stops -2). FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 12:37 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 2:35-3:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:50 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street), lift assist; 9:12 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 11:03 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:06 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), trailer hitch in road; 11:45 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 12:49 p.m.: DPW call (Wilson Avenue), icy conditions; 1:17 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Spencer Road), no action required; 2:31 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 3:08 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 4:52 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:00 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), some roads icy; 6:20 p.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), domestic dispute; 8:49 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 9:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), c/o mv speeding; 10:15 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; (total daily mv stops -2).

medical/general (Maple Street); 9:41 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), accidental; 9:57 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), Leicester PD advises speeding; 10:44 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 1:09 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 1:58 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 2:10 p.m.: DPW call (Wilson Avenue), icy conditions; 2:31 p.m.: accident (Prouty Street), report taken; 2:43 p.m.: DPW call (Browing Pond Road), icy conditions; 6:10 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 11:46 p.m.: buildings checked. secure; (total daily mv stops - 6).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

12:33-2:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:10 a.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); 9:39 a.m.: medical/ general (Lincoln Street); 10:14 a.m.: DPW call (High Street), assist w/water shutoff; 10:57 a.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), restraining order inquiry; 11:21 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 11:44 a.m.: 911 call (Roberta Bay), req. assistance getting money; 11:54 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:53 p.m.: medical/general (Pope Street); 3:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 5:39 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 6:44 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 9:17 p.m.: residential fire (Cherry Street), referred; 11:19 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:28 p.m.: accident (Thompson Pond Road), report taken; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: parked/unoccupied mv; 12:06 a.m.: officer wanted (School Street), re: male in roadway; 12:32 a.m.: accident (Briarcliff Lane), report taken; 12:35 a.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 1:26-1:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:52 a.m.: medical/ general (Lake Whittemore Drive); 6:42 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Prospect Street), resolved; 7:26 a.m.: residential alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 7:46 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:06 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:13 a.m.: parking complaint (Cherry Street), mvs on sidewalk; 12:51 p.m.: medical/ general (Church Street), lift assist; 1:01 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 2:24 p.m.: medical/ general (Thompson Pond Road); 2:24 p.m.: DPW call (Adams Street), rep. water main break; 2:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Duggan Street), c/o locked out of home; 3:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Wire Village Road), c/o bullying on school bus; 3:57 p.m.: fire alarm (McDonald Street), referred; 4:10 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 4:12 p.m.: fire (Pearl Street), referred; 4:51 p.m.: animal complaint (Church Street), rep. dog bite; 7:20 p.m.: harassing calls (Meadow Road), being harassed by male party; 7:51 p.m.: 911 call (Meadow Road), services rendered; (total daily my stops - 8)**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3** 12:14-2:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:14 a.m.: 911 call (G.H. Wilson Road), accidental; 4:57 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 6:23 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 7:56 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:59 a.m.: DPW call (Adams Street), street shut down; 9:28 a.m.: fraud (Paula Bay), report taken; 10:32 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), no response noted on police log; 11:34 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:39 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:06 p.m.: 911 call (Grove Street), accidental; 1:14 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:35 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 2:05 p.m.: missing person (West Main Street), report taken; 2:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Water Street), rep. injured hawk; 3:35 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), re: flashing lights/unable to reset; 3:45 p.m.: fire/ woods/grass (Donnelly Cross Road), referred; 3:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), power line hit mv; 3:56 p.m.: DPW call (G.H. Wilson Road), tree on wires; 4:02 p.m.: restraining order service (Chestnut Street); 4:47 p.m.: DPW call (R. Jones Road), rep. power out; 5:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), rep. male stumbling in road; 6:17 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 7:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), needs help getting into apt.; 8:47 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 9:52 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:36 p.m.: mv repossessed (Mechanic Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops -6).

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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6:22 a.m.: ambulance (Fielding Street, Worcester), transported; 6:55 a.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 9:15 a.m.: fraud (West Street), report taken; 9:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:11 a.m.: investigation (West Street), report taken; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 11:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:10 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:14 a.m.:

> mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 11:20 a.m.: abandoned mv (Soojians Drive), resolved; 11:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:49 a.m.: mv (Stafford stop

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**Hiring?** Reach More

12:02 a.m.: mutual aid (Lincoln Street), assist Sturbridge PD; 1:29 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 1:44 a.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 7:55 a.m.:

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