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SPENCER NEW LEADER

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

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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Friday, October 18, 2024

Peter Durant
 State Senate
 GETTING THE JOB DONE FOR US!
 PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT PETER DURANT

VOTE NOV 5TH



Massasoit Art Guild show spotlights work of local artists



Margaret Emerson earned "Best in Show" honors for her pastel entry titled, "Green Cascade."

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER
 SPENCER — The talent of several local artists was on display during the Massasoit Art Guild's 21st annual show and sale. Held on Oct. 12 & 13 at Town Hall, the weekend program showcased

artwork across several mediums. These include acrylics; drawings and prints; watercolors; pastels; traditional photography; and digitally enhanced photography. In total, 185 pieces were exhibited at this year's program. "We have amazing

work here. We continue to increase our membership and bring the culture of the arts to the community," said guild president Sandy DeCoff. As always, the show was judged by a pair of acclaimed artists. This year's judges included artist Jill Pottle and pho-

tographer James Hunt.

The program's "Best in Show" honor, determined by the judges, went to artist Margaret Emerson for her pastel submission titled, "Green Cascade." "I was very surprised," Emerson said of learning she had received the honor. "This is such a great group. Everyone bonds together and helps each other."

A lifelong painter and 12-year member of the guild, Emerson and her peers always enjoy welcoming new members. At this year's art show, submissions from long-time members and newer faces alike wowed guests of all ages.

"This year's show is tremendous. A lot of new members won ribbons this year," said Wendy Fulginiti, who serves as the guild's commu-

Turn To **ART** page **A10**

Collision between school van and cruiser under investigation

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD — A collision involving a State Police cruiser and a school transportation van remains under investigation.

On Oct. 7 at approximately 2:40 p.m., a Massachusetts State Police vehicle was involved in a crash with a van "functioning as a school bus", read a statement issued by the MSP.

East Brookfield Police Chief Joseph Lazarick confirmed that the van was operated by AA Transportation, Inc., which runs a bus yard in town on Route 9 and serves multiple area school districts.

At the time of the crash, the two vehicles were traveling in opposite directions on North Brookfield Road near Bogey Lanes. After the southbound van veered across the median marked by a double yellow line, it crossed into the path of the northbound cruiser.

"In an effort to avoid the van, the State Police vehicle pulled to the far right edge of the road. The van struck the front of the State Police vehicle on the driver's side," the MSP statement read.

Personnel from the State Police Brookfield barracks joined the East Brookfield Police Department and EMS

Turn To **COLLISION** page **A10**

North Brookfield's Eleanor Ryan honored on 101st birthday



North Brookfield's Eleanor Ryan, who recently turned 101, is honored by local officials.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER
 NORTH BROOKFIELD — Selectmen were joined last week by local legislators and community members in congratulating Eleanor Ryan on recently celebrating her 101st birthday.

North Brookfield's eldest resident. "I really enjoy being part of the tradition of honoring a community's oldest citizens, and I love hearing their tips and tricks for living to 100 or more," Sen. Durant told the New Leader. Ryan was joined at the event by her daughter and several friends. Asked by officials about her secret to living a long, healthy life, Ryan replied, "Growing up on a farm."

celebrate with Ryan and her family. Plenty of stories were shared about working hard at farm chores and eating fresh, nutritious foods. For local officials, it's always fascinating to learn from seniors and hear about their contributions to the community over many decades. Officials have also received some tremendous advice from area seniors over the years. "I've heard all kinds of things, and Eleanor Ryan told me that she believes she's lived to be

At the Oct. 8 Select Board meeting, Ryan received citations from the offices of State Senator Peter Durant and State Representative Donald Berthiaume. Ryan also received a plaque from the town commemorating her Golden Cane Award as

Selectman Vaughn Schlegel and several other town officials were also in attendance to cel-

lectman Vaughn Schlegel and several other town officials were also in attendance to cel-

Turn To **RYAN** page **A10**

Sheriff's Office launches winter coat drive

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

REGION — With winter on the way, the season of giving has started early for Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team.

Last week, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association held their annual Winter Coat Drive Kick-Off at Pepe's Italian Restaurant in Worcester.

The event raised money and awareness for the massive community coat drive initiative, which will keep area residents of all ages warm this winter.

"Many community members and representatives of local organizations have supported the coat drive in various ways," read a statement released by the Sheriff's Office.

Starting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, and continuing through the first week

of November, Sheriff Evangelidis and his outreach teams will distribute coats to community members at 20 nonprofit organizations and other local venues.

Their goal is to deliver a total of 4,000 new winter coats to those in need throughout Worcester County. Families, seniors, children, veterans, and other community members will all benefit from the program.

"Every year, we have the joy of handing out these coats, which symbolize much more than just a winter jacket. They represent a community that cares," said Evangelidis. "The people who receive these jackets are grateful for the gesture from the Sheriff's Office. This is a special time of year for the Sheriff's Department, and we're excited to connect with the community members we serve."

Since the pandemic, high prices and lost jobs have combined to place

a strain on residents nationwide, especially families and seniors. For Evangelidis and his team, it means a lot to help those seeking assistance in keeping their families warm this winter.

Officials thank all community members, businesses, volunteers, and local organizations who have stepped up and shown support for the annual coat drive.

"Thank you to all who have supported this initiative and joined us," read the statement issued by the Sheriff's Office.

This year's coat distribution sites are located in Southbridge, Webster, Worcester, Gardner, Fitchburg, and Leominster.

For more information about the coat drive, or to learn about several other programs the Sheriff's Office runs to support the community, visit www.worcestercountysheriff.com.



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team kick off their annual winter coat drive.

Courtesy

Spencer FD holds annual open house

SPENCER — Local families enjoyed several activities and programs at the fire department's annual open house.

Held on Oct. 6 at the fire station, the event included a bake sale; a fire safety information table; visits from Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog; and a demonstration by Remy, the ATF and State Police canine.

Guests also saw a demonstration of the

SFD's lifesaving rescue tools at work, as firefighters showcased how they cut apart vehicles during rescue operations.

Additionally, a UMass Memorial Life-Flight helicopter arrived on site for guests to enjoy.

Most popular of all, a free pancake breakfast was offered to guests. More than 350 community members stopped in for breakfast or activities.

"We had a great

crowd, and it was beautiful weather for it," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons. "It's always great for us to welcome in the community."

The event also enables kids and families to meet their first responders and see fire trucks on display. Several other emergency vehicles were featured as well.

Members of the Spencer Police Department also attended the event, offering car seat safety checks to guests.



Courtesy

The Spencer Fire Department's open house featured several highlights, including a helicopter landing.

Hometown Mortgage to host virtual first-time homebuyer seminar

REGION — Hometown Mortgage is hosting a three-day virtual first-time homebuyer seminar Oct. 22, 23 and 24 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join our experienced lending professional Shauna Roberts (NMLS# 303800) in partnership with NewVue Communities. This seminar will help you qualify for special mortgage products, provide tips to improve your credit, and prepare you as you approach this important life decision.

This three-day virtual seminar is \$50 per household. To register, visit <https://ow.ly/4Xeu50THXEW>.

About Hometown Mortgage

At Hometown Mortgage, we help potential borrowers unlock the right home financing solution for their unique needs. As a division of bankESB, a Hometown Financial Group company that also includes bankHometown, North Shore Bank and Abington Bank – a division of North Shore Bank, we leverage our combined strength coupled with shared services and technology to work with homebuyers across Massachusetts, Connecticut, and neighboring states to make homebuying simple and stress-free. At the same time, our commitment to community banking and local roots mean we can focus on the unique needs of those who live and work in the communities we serve. For more information, visit HFGmortgage.com.

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$320,000, 109 Town Farm Rd, Bruch, Stephen E, and Bruch, Darlene M, to Bettencourt, Alyssa J.

\$15,000, 96 Elm St, Dennison, Carmen M, and Dennison, Anothony, to Dennison, Carmen M.

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$375,000, 173 Lakeview Ave, Antinovitch, Tyler J, to Lafountain, Mark R.

SPENCER

\$575,000, 219 Paxton Rd, Difederico, Michael, and Difederico, Christine, to Daniels, Allison H, and Deleo, Colin T.

\$575,000, 4 Debbie Dr, Abdelmasih, Adel, to Johnston, Javon D, and Johnston, Brianna L.

\$260,000, 28 Adams St, Threshold Const Corp, to Lesperance, Eric P, and Lesperance, Ashley P.

LEICESTER

\$590,000, 4 Brickyard Rd, Dyson, Eric, and Dyson, Tracey, to Clairemont, Evan J, and Rotatori, Brittany L.

\$465,000, 44 Hemlock St, Roy, Dennis C, and Roy, Anna K, to Openshaw, Kenneth M.

\$385,000, 15 Ackley Dr, Benoit, Deborah C, to McCormack, Alex M, and Golemo, Juliana M.

\$65,000, 45 Burncoat Ln, Dirsa, Robert J, and Dirsa, Elisabetta A, to Dirsa, Robert J.

WARREN

\$305,000, 1124 Bemis Rd #A, Scherer, Alan, and Carr, Elizabeth, to Eagan, Katie.

\$289,900, 1124 Bemis Rd #A, Goulas, George P, and Goulas, Jennifer J, to Carr, Elizabeth, and Scherer, Alan.

\$143,000, Old West Brookfield Rd, Lw Property Mgmt LLC, to Marquis, Timothy.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$365,000, 82 Ward St, Blood, Michelle A, and Emery, Thomas L, to Gonsalves, Pamela J.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None

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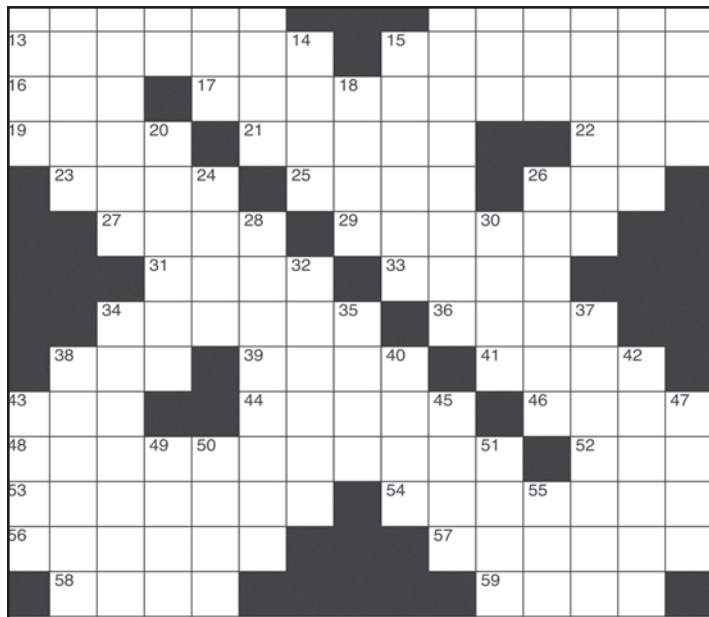
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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Tall, upright post on a boat | 33. Walk heavily |
| 5. Basics | 34. About a wood |
| 9. Used to refer to cited works | 36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate |
| 11. Folds | 38. Political action committee |
| 13. Former UK PM May | 39. SB19 hit song |
| 15. Cold region of Russia | 41. Scorch the surface of |
| 16. Standard operating procedure | 43. Moved quickly on foot |
| 17. Separating | 44. Sacred state for a Muslim |
| 19. Particles | 46. Growl |
| 21. A way to map out | 48. Pearl Jam frontman |
| 22. Referee declares | 52. Irritating person |
| 23. Beginner | 53. Something requiring a solution |
| 25. Water (Spanish) | 54. Firing |
| 26. Gov't lawyers | 56. Hazards |
| 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism | 57. Taiwan capital |
| 29. Spanish friends | 58. Impudence |
| 31. A type of tree | 59. Rock frontman Durst |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. One who rides an elephant | 26. A bend |
| 2. Absence of bacteria | 28. Fishes of the herring family |
| 3. Soviet Socialist Republic | 30. Antelopes |
| 4. Men's fashion accessories | 32. Chaos |
| 5. "Honey" actress Jessica | 34. Popular music app |
| 6. Round red root vegetable | 35. Cooking material |
| 7. Latin term for "charity" | 37. Musical instrument |
| 8. Doesn't smell good | 38. San Diego ballplayers |
| 9. Mental health issue | 40. Small amounts |
| 10. Millisecond | 42. Poured |
| 11. Hairstyle | 43. Fabric |
| 12. Edible starch | 45. Food option |
| 14. Middle Eastern military title | 47. Finger millet |
| 15. Protein-rich liquids | 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one |
| 18. Indian musical pattern | 50. Alberta, Canada river |
| 20. Cancer and Capricorn | 51. Canadian flyers |
| 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula | 55. Dry white wine drink |

JZZLE SOLUTION

D	E	R	F		S	S	V	S						
I	E	P	I	V	I	S	T	I	R	E	P			
G	N	I	K	C	V	S		W	E	T	B	O	R	P
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R	V	E	S		T	V	L	M		C	V	P		
	P	T	V	S		T	V	E	N	I	P			
		G	O	T	S		W	T	V	P				
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V	I	H	E	B	I	S		V	S	E	H	E	H	L

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Nursing students earn 100 percent on medication calculation test



Courtesy

Julie Peloquin and Bobbiejo Smith holding certificates of recognition for their successful hurdling of the MCT.

CHARLTON — Julie Peloquin of Southbridge and Bobbiejo Smith of North Brookfield practical nursing students at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025 earned a perfect score on their Medication Calculation test.

According to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Student Handbook, under Clinical Policies, “Students must demonstrate a level of medication calculation competence before administering medications to patients in the clinical setting. Students must pass the Medication Calculation Test (MCT) with a 90 PERCENT or higher before passing medication in the clinical setting. Students will have three opportunities to pass the MCT.”

Both Peloquin and Smith passed the MCT with a score of 100 percent on their first attempt.

Further, as stated in the Student Handbook, “Students will receive a different version of the test each time they take it. After each unsuccessful

attempt, the student MUST see an instructor for remediation before attempting to take the MCT again. If a student does not pass the MCT after the second attempt, a performance notification will be issued. Students who do not pass the MCT after the

third (3rd) attempt will be unable to pass medications and therefore be unable to meet the clinical objectives and ultimately unable to continue in the PN Academy.”

Peloquin, of Southbridge, is with the Department of Developmental Services DMR in Springfield as a developmental service worker caring for individuals with their daily needs in their homes. She was a residential counselor and a senior childcare specialist. Smith is a graduate of Tantasqua Regional Senior High School

as DSW II, providing direct care in a group residential setting for individuals with developmental, physical, and mental disabilities. As DSW II she acts as shift supervisor and guide staff in care and operation of the shift. She mediates issues and manages scheduling/house duties as necessary. Peloquin is a graduate of Southbridge High School (2004) where she was active in Show Choir, Drama Club, Chess Club (Vice President), and School to Career Program. Her project was with Dystopia Rising Massachusetts-setting guide. From 2015-2020 she studied at Worcester State University majoring in Psychology. She took four semesters of French (fluent in conversational French) and various visual/fine arts courses. Smith of North Brookfield is with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

(1989). She took courses at Mount Wachusett Community College (medical 2004-2005). Both Peloquin and Smith have a valid Health Care Provider/ Basic Life Support Provider CPR, Dementia Care Certified, and Mental Health First Aid Certified.

According to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director,

“I congratulate Jules and Bobbiejo on their success! Student engagement and collaboration is a huge part of student success. Thank you to Dr. Ana Olivar who teaches Pharmacology and is intentional in making sure our PN students are successful in doing what they love to do.”

TOWN OF POMFRET

PART-TIME FINANCE PROFESSIONAL/TREASURER

The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Finance Professional/Treasurer responsible for the management of Town funds. Responsibilities include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, investment of town monies, preparation of audit requirements and work with auditors during annual audits, perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Work in cooperation with municipal officials and provides financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently. Flexible work hours. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field or five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, municipal work is a plus. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 or email Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov Application and full job description is available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. Position is open until filled. EEO/AA

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NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING TOWN OF SPENCER

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the eastern part of the distribution system starting September 30th thru October 31st 2024.

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

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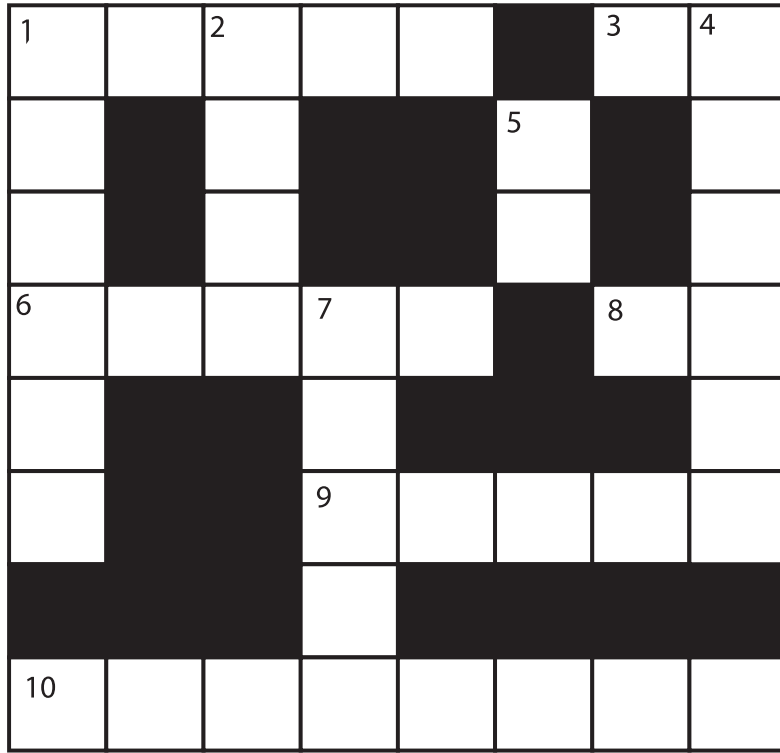
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Crossword Puzzle



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1878: The Edison Electric Light Company begins operations.

1956: FORTRAN, the first modern computer language, is first shared with the coding community.

1997: The Cassini probe launches from Cape Canaveral.

Health FACT:



It is important to have this done at least twice a year for good oral health.

Answer: Dental cleaning

ACROSS

- 1. Process of rotting
- 3. Opposite of "off"
- 6. They chew food
- 8. Older than Jr.
- 9. Use to drink a beverage
- 10. Cleaning in between teeth

DOWN

- 1. Relating to the teeth
- 2. Maintain or tend to
- 4. Thin or tight
- 5. Doctor's suffix
- 7. Examinations

1. Dental 2. Care 4. Narrow 5. MD 7. Tests
Down
10. Flossing

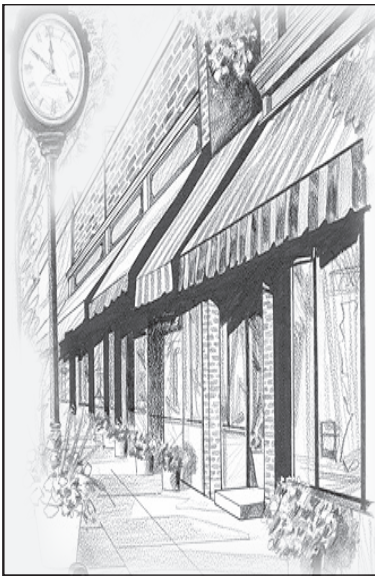
1. Decay 3. On 6. Teeth 8. SR 9. Straw
Across

Answers:

NEW WORD

AMALGAM

type of metal dental filling



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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy welcomes new adjunct faculty



Megan Redkey

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is pleased to welcome newly appointed adjunct faculty Megan Redkey, BSN, RN, CCRN of Gardner.

Professor Redkey is an experienced RN with a specialty in critical care. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science at University of Massachusetts Boston (December 2019) and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at MCPHS University, Worcester, MA (May 2021) where she was inducted to the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Her academic honors include Magna Cum Laude and Dean's List. She is expected to complete his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (Family Nurse Practitioner Track) in 2027 at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Her certifications include AACN CCRN, AHA BLS, AHA ACLS, and AHA PALS. Her work experience includes Critical Care Float Pool at UMass Memorial Medical Center University Campus where she provides care and management of patients to all ICU and special-

ty inpatient settings including surgical, transplant, trauma, neuro, cardiovascular, pulmonary, pediatric/PICU, PACU/SACU, cardiac step-down, and cardiac short-stay including maintenance of specialty education associated with each unit. She was previously connected with the Heart and Vascular Critical Care Unit at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where she precepted and was a back-up/trainee, shadow experience partner for new grads/students, dayshift. Professor Redkey volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps, Wachusett Unit.

"We are excited to have Professor Redkey join the Practical Nursing Academy," stated Gretheline Bolandrina DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "She brings with her expertise and experience that would greatly benefit the PN students and our Bay Path community."

END OF SEASON GRILL SALE!

END OF SEASON BIKE SALE!

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DA hosts event to help survivors deal with overdose deaths



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Continuing his mission to support all families experiencing the loss of a loved one to an overdose, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., hosted an event last week focused on dealing with grief.

The program was highlighted by a panel discussion featuring several specialists. These include Deb Dowd-Foley, a long-time peer grief support group facilitator; Cheryl Juaire, founder and president of Team Sharing, Inc., a parental support nonprofit organization; and Dennis Bates, CEO of Washburn House.

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

The panelists discussed their own personal stories of loss and grief, then shared various resources enabling guests to find support locally.

Juaire lost her son, Corey, 23, to overdose. The grieving process inspired her to meet with a small group of six mothers who had also lost children to addiction.

“I finally realized I am normal. I finally realized I am going to be okay. It was lifechanging,” Juaire said. “This community is how I survived the loss.”

Dowd-Foley shared how participating in support groups helped her work through her grief after losing her 27-year-old son Brian to an overdose.

“I can’t emphasize enough the importance of finding the support of people who understand what you are going through,” Dowd-Foley said.

Panelists discussed multiple options for receiving support during the grieving process, whether it’s provided by

a counselor, social media groups, or peer support groups. Additionally, residents can benefit from self-care practices, including journaling, meditation, or finding new activities.

“The courage of these parents who come here and say this is what’s really going on, I commend them. That is how we’re going to end the stigma,” said Bates. “The beauty of what we have here is community. The people here who’ve been hurt the most are also the ones who can help the most.”

Grief support services referenced at the meeting include the following programs and agencies: Support After a Death by Overdose (sador.org); The Sun Will Rise Foundation (thesunwillrise.org); and Team Sharing, Inc. (teamsharinginc.org).

Looking ahead, the District Attorney will continue hosting several programs that connect residents with the services they need.

“Mr. Early has been passionately committed to

Courtesy

Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., left, hosted several panelists at a community program last week.

addressing the poly-substance use crisis, as well as trauma and mental health,” read a statement released by the DA’s Office. “In 2015, he formed the Central Mass. Opioid Task Force, which he renamed last year

the Prevention and Support Network. There are more than 700 members in the network.”

To learn more about programs offered or supported by the DA’s Office, visit www.WorcesterDA.com.

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OBITUARY

Joan DePauw, 90



West Brookfield - Joan (Van Dyke) DePauw, 90, of West Brookfield, died on Monday, July 29, 2024 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center following a brief period of declining health.

She was predeceased by her husband Raymond who passed in October of 2017. Joan was born in Passaic, NJ, daughter of the late James S and Nellie (Hummel) Van Dyke. She graduated from Clifton High School Class of 1951.

Shortly after graduation, in July 1951, Joan married Raymond, from Paterson, NJ, starting a lifetime marriage lasting 66 years, which Joan lovingly referred to as a life-time sentence without pardon or parole. Joan and Ray lived and worked in the Paterson area for several years before moving to Worcester in 1953, the same week that a destructive tornado hit the city. Joan worked for Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and then as a secretary at Mechanics National Bank, and later as a Kelly Girl on various temporary assignments for local businesses.

Joan was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Ware for many years and will be greatly missed by all her friends there. She was known to be a fervent student of the Bible and used her knowledge to encourage oth-

ers. Joan and her husband Ray were devoted to helping people to learn Bible truths and they conducted many home Bible studies.

Joan leaves her brother James Van Dyke and his wife Kathy of Madison, NJ, their children, James, Amy and Andrew, and six grandchildren living in New Jersey and Virginia. Joan enjoyed knitting, crochet, and sewing—being an accomplished seamstress making many of her own clothes including her high school prom and wedding dresses. Joan was an avid letter writer with beautiful penmanship. She shared a weekly correspondence with her mother Nellie and culminated in an annual visit each fall, around October, when Nellie would come for a week or two and bake pies from apples they picked from local Brookfield Orchards much to Ray's appreciative liking for desserts.

A Memorial Service for Joan will be held on Saturday November 16, at 3:00PM in the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 124 Gilbertville Rd., in Ware.

Memorial donations may be made to the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 540, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varumfuneralhome.com

ART

continued from page A1

tions officer.

The 21st annual show also featured a special challenge category for submissions titled, "Monochromatic." In the spirit of its definition, the category challenged artists to enter a single piece using only one color. Submissions covered a range of mediums.

Additionally, the show included a raffle table offering prizes donated by artists. Meanwhile, a sales table enabled guests to purchase fine art prints and cards.

Live music was provided by P. E. James.

Guild leaders thank everyone who contributed to this year's event in support of local artists and their work, including the judges, volunteers, and residents who attended the program.

"We also want to thank the Town of Spencer for opening up the hall for us to prepare for the show—

and for the use of the Town Hall facility," read a statement released by the guild.

Additionally, the guild's Art Show Committee is thanked for its countless hours of preparations.

"These members worked tirelessly all year long to make this event the success that it is," the guild's statement read.

The art show is supported in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Looking ahead, guild members are eager to explore options for further community exposure. Several area venues already display members' work, and leaders are seeking additional establishments whose owners are interested in showing their support.

"It's important for community members, especially young people, to see the arts," DeCoff added. "We try to have our art-

ists featured in as many local venues as possible."

Open to artists age 18 and up, the guild is home to members of multiple generations. These include artists in their eighties who continue to inspire the next wave of young creators.

"They bring so much experience, and they want to share it," DeCoff added. "The combination of their talent and experience can't be duplicated."

The guild is always on the lookout for new members interested in getting involved. To learn more about opportunities to join, please visit the guild's website: www.massasoitartguild.com.

The guild's studio in East Brookfield is open to members for painting sessions on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to noon. Additional sessions are held on specific Saturdays of each month. Check the website or contact guild officials for more information.

COLLISION

continued from page A1

personnel on scene.

The driver of the van and one juvenile passenger were transported to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries, police said. The driver's name was not released by authorities as of press time.

The driver of the State Police vehicle was also transported to the hospital with minor injuries. The driver's name was not released.

The incident remains under investigation by the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, as well as the State Police Crime Scene Services Section.

As of press time, no charges had been filed in connection with the accident.

School officials confirmed that the van was transporting students enrolled in North Brookfield Public Schools. It remains unclear which school and grade levels the passen-

gers represent, as well as the total number of passengers aboard the van.

"Everyone involved has been medically checked and is safe. At this time, there are no further comments on the issue," said North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick.

AA Transportation officials referred the New Leader's inquiries to the company owner, who did not respond to requests for comment regarding the incident by press time.

RYAN

continued from page A1

more than 101 because she grew up on a farm," Durant said. "I imagine she had a pretty healthy lifestyle living on a farm, and that still shows a century later."

Of course, Ryan isn't the only member of the town's centenarian club. World War II veteran Edmund Decoteau was honored by local officials in August, a little over two months after his 100th birthday on June 11.

Like Ryan, Decoteau

was celebrated by family, friends, and officials during a Select Board meeting on Aug. 13.

"It was an honor to meet Mr. Decoteau last year, on his 99th birthday. I told him last year I would see him on his 100th, and I can't wait to give him a citation for his 101st birthday," Berthiaume said.

After serving his nation in the Army during WWII, Decoteau spent the majority of his career as a truck driver. He was married to his late wife Jean for over 75 years.

Ryan, the town's senior-most resident, is receiv-

ing congratulations from throughout the community following her ceremony. Both local and state officials look forward to celebrating with Ryan and Decoteau again next year.

"The board is honored to have been part of both Mr. Decoteau's and Mrs. Ryan's birthday celebrations and recognizing them for their long life of achievements," Schlegel said. "I personally hope the both of them have many more wonderful years to share their experiences with friends and loved ones, and to create new ones as well."

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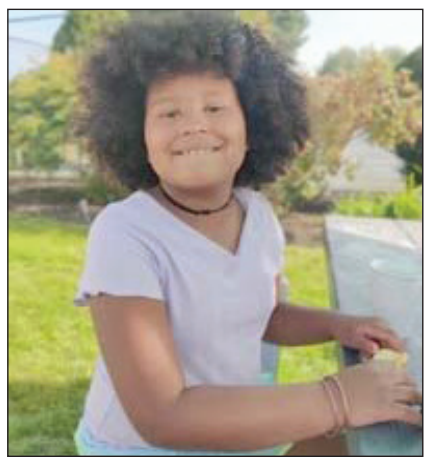
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Registration # 6966

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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.



St. Joseph's Parish Christmas Fair set for Nov. 2

NORTH BROOKFIELD — St. Joseph's Parish, 296 North Main St., North Brookfield, will hold its annual Christmas Fair Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., featuring a bake sale, handmade crafts, jewelry, and raffles galore! Lunch is served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. with homemade soups, great sandwiches, and delicious apple pie.

Come one, come all!

North Brookfield Legion hosting fall harvest fair

NORTH BROOKFIELD — American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 will host a Fall Harvest Craft Fair and Bake Sale Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. featuring local handcrafted items, homemade baked goods, a white elephant table and great raffles!

Post 41 is located at 163 North Main St., North Brookfield (behind Subway).

All We Know Is Local



StonebridgePress.com

Country Bank donates \$10,000 to American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to demonstrate its unwavering support for those affected by recent hurricanes, with a generous \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. This contribution reflects the bank's commitment to its motto, "Made to Make a Difference," by providing

assistance during times of need. As Florida communities face the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene and the impending landing of Hurricane Milton, the urgency for support and relief efforts is paramount. Country Bank, under the leadership of Mary McGovern, President and CEO, is standing by those greatly impacted during this recent event.

"We believe in supporting those greatly impacted during these weather-related events, especially when it matters most," said Mary McGovern. "Our donation to the American Red Cross is not just a financial contribution; it's a commitment to helping those in dire situations rebuild their lives and restore hope." The American Red Cross, a key player in disaster response, pro-

vides shelter, food, and emotional support to individuals and families affected by hurricanes. Country Bank's donation is aimed at supporting the American Red Cross's ability to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery services to impacted communities. Country Bank encourages other local businesses and community members to join in the effort to support hurricane relief.

Together, we can make meaningful difference and help those impacted recover from these challenging circumstances. Learn more at redcross.org. About Country Bank Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton,

Charlton, Springfield and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at country-bank.com.



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Auction news

It's been nearly a month since my last auction news update. Since then, a range of collectibles have hit the auction block, some items dating as far back as 1776 and some as recent as last month. I'll start by discussing an 18th century coin that just sold.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

The coin dating back to the beginning of our nation just sold at a British auction house. The 1776 coin was found in a toffee tin and sold earlier this month. It was a Continental Currency dollar which was one of the earliest U.S. coins. The coin features a sun and sundial and was designed by Benjamin Franklin. It was found in the toffee tin along with "jewelry, objet d'art and curiosities," according to Fox News. Around 6,000 of the pewter coins were minted and only around 100 are believed to exist

now. It sold to a U.S. collector for \$25,000 (approximately \$32,000 U.S.). Moving to an item from much more recent times, one of two Macintosh #M0001 prototype computers from 1984 is heading to the auction block this month, according to NewAtlas.com. The computer used a proprietary 5.25 "Twiggy" drive instead of the 3.5 drive that had previously been used. It's believed that Apple co-founder Steve Jobs ordered the pre-production computers to be destroyed because the Twiggy drives were error prone. A group of software developers had saved this PC from the crushers. This machine was exhibited at the Mac@30 Anniversary in 2014 where it was booting up by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. When an M0001 prototype last

sold in 2019, it brought \$150,075, setting the record for a Macintosh computer. This sale is expected to surpass that previous auction record. Other Apple computers have brought even higher auction prices, though. A Lisa 1 sold for \$882,000 and an Apple-1 brought \$945,000.

A baseball from a game played last month is already making auction news. On September 19th, LA Dodger Shohei Ohtani hit his 50th home run of the season. He had already stolen 50 bases, making him the first Major League Baseball player to reach the 50/50 milestone. The ball was quickly put up for auction.

The ownership of the home run ball is in dispute though. When the ball left the park in Miami, Florida, fans scrambled for it in the stands. As the ball rolled between some flipped over lawn seats, video footage shows Chris Belanski on his knees holding the ball

while 18-year-old Max Matus has his left hand on the ball. Belanski eventually stood on his feet and raised the ball to the crowd. Matus filed a lawsuit claiming that he had the ball first and that Belanski took it from him. The court has ruled that for now, "the ball cannot be sold, concealed or transferred until there's a ruling in the case," according to ESPN.

Previously, the ball from Barry Bonds' 73rd home run of the season was the subject of a lawsuit and the \$450,000 it sold for was split between two owners. It will be determined whether the auction proceeds will be split again this time, but there is much more at stake than with the Bonds ball. As of Oct. 13, bidding had reached \$1.7 million. Some experts believe bidders will hit it out of the park and the ball will fly up to \$3 million or more.

We currently have two auctions running online.



The auction with an eclectic mix of historical memorabilia, gambling memorabilia, glassware, and other items ends Oct. 22 and the art, jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, watches and coins auction ends on Oct. 23. We will next be auctioning antiques in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all

types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Missing 411

Well, if you read my column last week, you'll know that for this Halloween season, I decided to venture into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious—a bit of a departure from my usual focus on the positive. But I have to admit, I've always been intrigued by mysteries. And what better time than spooky season to dive into the things that freak me out?

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

Many of you will start looking for a logical explanation as soon as I bring up this topic. Our brains want to rationalize the strange and unusual. But sometimes, things defy explanation, and that's what drew me back to 2015 when I first heard David Paulides on "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory.

Paulides, a former police officer turned

researcher after his retirement. His focus? Missing person cases, often in the middle of nowhere and in our National Parks. As an avid hiker, I've been to many remote areas and forests, and I've only ever experienced their beauty. But according to Paulides, something else lurks in these wildernesses—a series of cases that are as baffling as they are unsettling.

Now, I know what you're thinking—people get lost, wander off the trail, or are attacked by wildlife. And while these situations happen, a subset of missing person cases don't fit those typical explanations.

In his "Missing 411" series, Paulides doesn't speculate or offer wild theories. He presents the facts—just like a detec-

tive—and leaves the conclusions up to the reader. His work is compelling because he doesn't rush to label any disappearance as a "Missing 411" case. A specific set of criteria must be met before a case qualifies.

These are the disappearances where people seem to vanish without a trace—no signs of a struggle, no evidence of an attack, no clues. Search and rescue teams comb the area, and dogs are brought in—but in some of these cases, the dogs refuse to track the scent.

One case that stands out for its oddness is the story of Keith Parkins, a two-year-old boy who disappeared on April 10th, 1952, near his grandfather's cattle ranch in Ritter, Ore. Keith was playing outside with his older brothers near a barn when he sudden-

ly vanished. A frantic search began when his mother realized Keith hadn't returned for lunch with his brothers. The conditions were cold, with snow patches still on the ground.

Initially, locals and family members searched, quickly spreading out in a line, covering as much ground as possible. As the day wore on, the search grew larger, and by nightfall, more than 200 people were involved, combing the area in hopes of finding the boy. Despite the cold and rough terrain, they were confident they'd see him nearby. But the search dragged on through the night, with no sign of Keith.

Then, at around 7 a.m. the next morning, searchers found footprints three miles away, walking through a herd of cattle—one set of footprints. Hours later, a search-

er found Keith 12 miles away in Skull Canyon, lying face down in the snow, his hat and coat beside him. Remarkably, he was alive but suffering from exposure, unable to move because his body was stiff from the cold. His face was covered in scratches, and his clothing was torn. Keith made a full recovery, but his case left many unanswered questions. How did a two-year-old travel 12 miles in freezing temperatures overnight without shoes, food, or water? Yet, against all odds, he survived. I have a hard time believing he could do this without help from someone or something.

This case has a happy ending—Keith was found alive—but he was two years old, and two-year-olds don't walk 12 miles, especially barefoot in the snow.

Parkins' case isn't an

isolated incident. There are hundreds of cases that are even stranger and far more terrifying.

Mysteriously, these cases often occur in clusters—specific locations where disappearances appear more frequently. The patterns suggest that something strange is at play in these regions, though no one has been able to pinpoint a solid explanation.

The forests, mountains, and wilderness may hold more mysteries than we care to admit. So, as you carve pumpkins, watch scary movies, and enjoy Halloween, understand that real-life mysteries can be far more frightening than any old ghost story.

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

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I earned an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, & 2 master's degrees. My daughter is a Doctor of Physical Therapy in a local hospital.

Over the last **"30 YEARS"**, I was elected 5 times for the Millbury Planning Board, and served on the Local Housing Partnership, Ponds & Lakes Commission, Master Plan Committee, Fair Housing Committee, EMF Study Committee (Electromagnetic Fields), Youth Commission, Water Study Committee, & CMRPC Planning Board delegate (Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission).

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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy staff learn about simulation and moulage

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

Maxey-Brock discussed debriefing with video while Dr. Doherty of the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions discussed advancing interprofessional collaboration through simulation-based learning. Other speakers included Dr. Gladys Fernandez of Baystate Medical Center on using quality and patient safety data to develop simulation programming, and Dr. Chris Scott of Springfield Technical Community College on integration simulation, lessons learned from accreditation. Participants had the opportunity to work with moulage firsthand led by Jorge Yarzebski of UMass Chan Medical School Icelis Program.

Bolandrina completed her Doctor of Health Administration degree at the University of Phoenix. The curriculum for the Doctor of Health Administration builds on master's programs by providing education and training in management theories and methods applicable with a variety of healthcare organizations. Focusing on the development of decision-making, communication, and critical thinking skills, topics covered in the course work include health care resource management, health care marketing techniques, global and U.S. health care systems, economics of health care services, federal regulation processes, and care



Courtesy
Dr. Bolandrina with Katie Maxey-Brock SimCapture Education Specialist of Laerdal Medical.

management. In 2001, she completed CREA Journalism at Harvard Extension School, one of the university's 12 degree-granting institutions. She previously earned her Master of Science in Nursing Education also from University of Phoenix and Bachelor of Science in Nursing at University of Santo Tomas, Manila Philippines. She is a registered nurse and a certified rehabilitation registered nurse (CRRN) with 37 years of nursing experience in the classroom as full-time faculty, managerial as charge nurse and nursing supervisor as well as Director of Quality Improvement, and as an adjunct at Massachusetts Bay Community College. As the Academy Director, she worked with students, faculty, and staff in implementing various

initiatives such as the establishment of the Community Service Award, the creation of the Mock Code Team, implementation of Mock Code scenarios per term culminating in Mock Code Day during Nurses' Week celebration, establishment of the National Technical Honor Society Chapter (NTHS), the NTHS annual induction and alumni homecoming, creative funding for SkillsUSA, the UNICEF Club, participation in the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), class certification in Mental Health First Aid Training and Stop The Bleed, Alumni Mentorship and Peer tutoring, Nurses Art Therapy, initiatives for Food Insecurity, recognition of Kindness Acts, and the annual participation in the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

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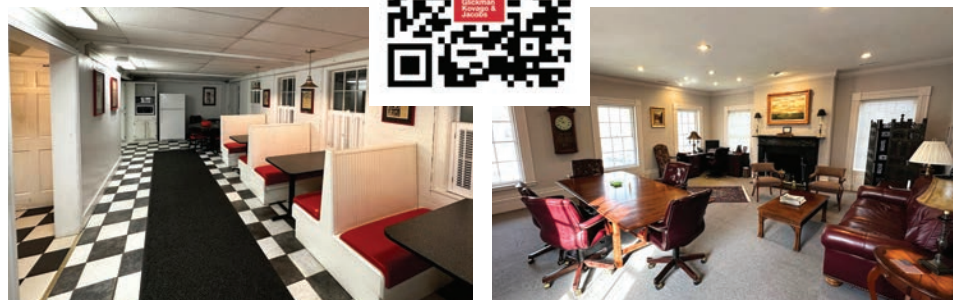
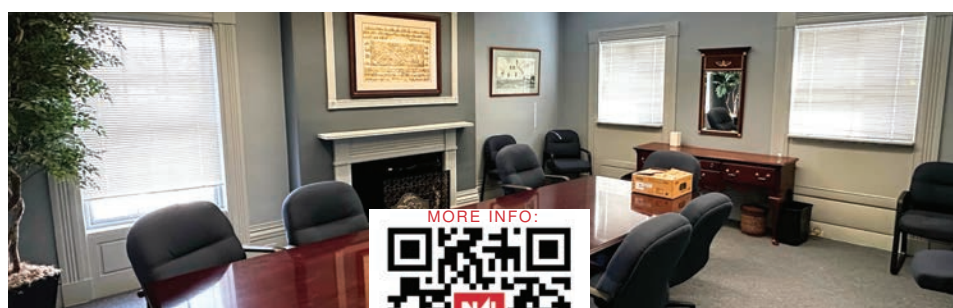
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