CER NEW LEADER

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

©2024, Issue #42

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Friday, October 18, 2024

Peter Durant State Senate ETTING THE JOB DONE FOR

Massassoit 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

The SPENCER talent of several local artists was on display during the Massasoit Art Guild's 21st annual show

Held on Oct. 12 & 13 at Town Hall, the weekend program showcased

artwork across several mediums. These include acrylics; drawings and 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 longtime 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 communica-

Turn To ART page A10

Collision between school van and cruiser under investigation

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

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 bonored on 101st birthday



Courtesy

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

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

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

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

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.

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

Turn To RYAN page A10

Sheriff's Office launches winter coat drive

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

of giving has started early for Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team.

the Last week, County Worcester 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 win-

community "Many 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

Evangelidis and his out-REGION — With win- reach teams will distribter on the way, the season ute 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

of November, Sheriff a strain on residents nationwide, especially families and seniors. For Evangelidis and his team, it means a lot to neigh 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 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.



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

Spencer FD holds annual open house

SPENCER 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.

had a great

crowd, and it was beautiful weather for it," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons. 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 Police Spencer Department also attend-

ed 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, visitHFGmortgage.com.

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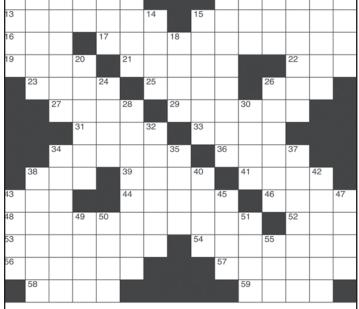
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tall, upright post on a boat
- 9. Used to refer to cited works
- 11. Folds 13. Former UK PM May
- 15. Cold region of Russia
- 16. Standard operating procedure 41. Scorch the surface of 17. Separating
- 19. Particles
- 21. A way to map out
- 22. Referee declares
- 25. Water (Spanish)
- 26. Gov't lawyers
- organism

- 23. Beginner
- 27. Non-reproductive parts of an
- 29. Spanish friends
- 31. A type of tree

- 33. Walk heavily
- 34. About a wood 36. Free-swimming marine
- invertebrate 38. Political action committee
- 39. SB19 hit song
- 43. Moved quickly on foot 44. Sacred state for a Muslim
- 46. Growl
- 48. Pearl Jam frontman 52. Irritating person 53. Something requiring a solution
- 54. Firing 56. Hazards
- 57. Taiwan capital
- 58. Impudence
- 59. Rock frontman Durst

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who rides an elephant
- 2. Absence of bacteria 3. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 4. Men's fashion accessories 5. "Honey" actress Jessica
- 6. Round red root vegetable
- 7. Latin term for "charity"
- 8. Doesn't smell good 9. Mental health issue
- 10. Millisecond 11. Hairstyle
- 12. Edible starch
- 14. Middle Eastern military title 15. Protein-rich liquids
- 18. Indian musical pattern
- 20. Cancer and Capricorn
- 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula

- 26. A bend
- 28. Fishes of the herring family
- 30. Antelopes 32. Chaos
- 34. Popular music app
- 35. Cooking material 37. Musical instrument
- 38. San Diego ballplayers 40. Small amounts
- 42. Poured
- 43. Fabric 45. Food option
- 47. Finger millet
- 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 50. Alberta, Canada river
- 51. Canadian flyers 55. Dry white wine drink

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BROOKFIELD

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

EAST BROOKFIELD

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

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.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

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

Spencer New Leade

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TO PLACE AN AD:

mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

kerri@stonebridgepress.news

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:

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P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

E-MAIL: news@st onebridgepress.news

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CALL: 508-909-4149

TO SUBMIT A LETTER

TO THE EDITOR:

MIKAELA VICTOR

 $(774)\ 200-7308$

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KERRI PETERSON

(508) 909-4103

E-MAIL

LEGAL NOTICES:

Dennison, Anothony, to Dennison, Carmen M.

SPENCER

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

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

\$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.

\$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.

WEST BROOKFIELD



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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK G. CHILINSKI

860-928-1818 ext. 103

frank@salmonpress.news

Business Manager

Ryan Corneau 860-928-1818 ext. 102

ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

JIM DINICOLA 508 - 764 - 6102

jim@stonebridgepress.news

Editor Brendan Berube

508-909-4106

news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Julie Clarke 860-928-1818, ext. 305

julie@villagernewspapers.com

For **Advertising** Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@ stonebridge press.news

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Nursing students earn 100 percent on medication calculation test



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 202 h5as 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 level of medication calculation competence before administering medications patients in the clinical setting. Students must pass 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 contin-

ue in the PN Academy." Peloquin,

Southbridge, is with Department the Developmental Services

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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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as DSW II, providing (1989). She took coursdirect 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. project was with Dystopia Rising Massachusettssetting guide. From 2015-2020 she studied at Worcester State University majoring in Psychology. She took four semesters French (fluent in conversational French) and various visual/ fine arts cours-Smith North Brookfield with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Springfield as a developmental caring for indi-

service worker viduals with their daily needs in their homes. She was a residential counselor senior childcare specialist. Smith is a graduate of Tantasqua Regional Senior High School

es 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 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

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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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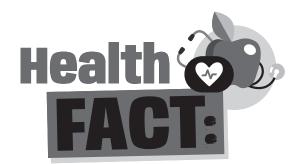
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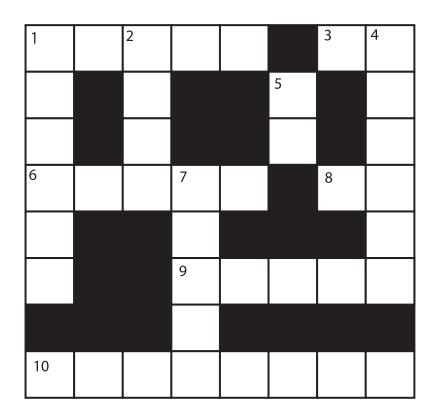




It is important to have this done at least twice a year for good oral health.

Answer: Dental cleaning

Crossword Puzzle

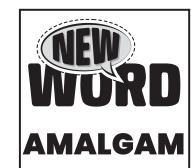


ACROSS

- 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



OCTOBER

1878: The Edison Electric Light Company begins operations.

1956: FORTRAN, the

computer language, is first shared with the coding communi-

1997: The Cassini probe launches from

Cape Canaveral.

first modern

type of metal dental filling

1. Dental 2. Care 4. Narrow 5. MD 7. Tests UMOM

10. Flossing

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

Answers:



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Solve the code to discover words related to Halloween. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 24 = A)

15 19 24 23 17

Clue: Spooky

В. 25 23 3 24 25

Clue: Something pleasant

26 5 5 23 6

Clue: Something to ring

19 24 11 26 17 D.

Clue: Sweets

- Spanner	2		6	9		7		8
	9	5		8	3		2	6
8		4			7			
		2		Amount	5			
4				6				
	8		4			9	6	5
		7		4			domo	2
5		8	2					
	4						8	9

Numbers Like puzzles?

Fun By The

Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

6	8	3	anah	G	L	9	ţ	2
2	1	9	6	W	2	8	ande	G
2	mh	ç	9	Þ	8	L	8	6
G	9	6	2	۷	Þ	F	8	3
queen	Z	2	8	9	ε	6	G	ヤ
Ţ	£	8	9	menda	6	S	L	9
S	6	unde	L	2	9	V	9	8
9	S	þ	3	8	mah	G	6	L
8	S	L	Þ	6	9	3	S	quan

:A3WSNA

QCC's Chief elevates responsiveness of public safety

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's Chief of Police, Stephen DiGiovanni, and Karen Hutner, executive director of Strategic Communications and Public Relations have successfully completed the FBI-LEEDA Master Public Information Officer (PIO) course. Hutner also acts as the Public Information Officer for QCC Police. This advanced, week-long program was held in Columbus, Ohio, and was designed to build on the foundational skills taught in FBI-LEEDA's Media and Public Relations course, which both Hutner and DiGiovanni completed last year.

"This Master PIO course provides critical tools and knowledge that is a vital component in effectively communicating to our college community, particularly in times of crisis," said QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni. "By adopting these advanced strategies, we're better equipped to support our college's communications and crisis man-

agement initiatives.'

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The Master PIO course is crafted to guide participants from tactical to strategic approaches in media and brand management. This four-and-a-half-day intensive curriculum covers a comprehensive approach to advanced media engagement, internal and external communications strategies, and story pitching. Additionally, attendees learned high-quality video production for social media, developed strategic messaging calendars and participated in scenario-based tabletop exercises aimed at creating a framework for crisis communication manuals.

"Our ability to connect effectively with our community hinges on a strong, proactive media engagement strategy, in addition to communicating effectively to our community," Hutner said.

FBI-LEEDA is a non-profit organization that provides leadership education for law enforcement professionals. The Master PIO course represents one of the organization's highest levels of training, advancing the skills and impact of participants nationwide.

Leicester Historical Society offers special program

LEICESTER—The Leicester Historical Society is holding a special program this month.

"Heirloom Apples of Our Area," by Christie Higginbottom, will take place on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Leicester Senior Center (40 Winslow Ave.). The event will also include a tasting.

Refreshments will be provided after the program.

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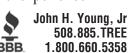
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Frank G. Chilinski

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

Editorial Celebrating the spooky season

As the air turns crisp and the leaves crunch beneath your boots, there's something about this time of year that feels both cozy and a little eerie. Halloween is upon us, and with it comes the unmistakable pull of ghost stories, pumpkin carving, and a sense that maybe—just maybe—we aren't as alone as we think.

Halloween has roots that go way back, all the way to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Imagine bonfires lighting up the dark, chilly night, with people in animal skins and masks, hoping to keep the spirits from noticing them. It was believed that the veil between the living and the dead was thin on Oct. 31, and the spirits were out and about. Fast-forward a few centuries, throw in some Irish immigrants bringing their traditions to America, and here we are—still dressing up, still feeling that touch of magic (and maybe fear) in the air.

But there's something special about Halloween here in New England. Maybe it's the old houses, some of which seem to creak with secrets of their own. Maybe it's the fog that rolls in just right, making everything feel like the opening scene of a ghost story. New England has been the setting for some of the most chilling tales—stories that seem to hang in the cool, still air this time of year.

Take the eerie tale of the "Lady in White" of Union Cemetery in Connecticut. Picture it: a moonlit night, and a woman in a flowing white dress wandering the cemetery's edge. She's been spotted by countless people over the years, always disappearing into the mist just as quickly as she appears. Then there's "Emily's Bridge" in Vermont, where the ghost of a heartbroken young woman is said to linger, her presence felt by those brave enough to walk the bridge at night. And in New Hampshire, we have the haunting of the Mount Washington Hotel, where guests still report seeing the ghost of Carolyn Stickney, the original owner's wife. She's often spotted in Room 314, brushing her hair, or simply strolling the halls as if still watching over the grand hotel she

But Halloween isn't just about the ghosts; it's about that cozy feeling that comes with the bright foliage and chilly air. There's something magical about this time of year. The world feels like it's slowing down, wrapping itself in the warm colors of fall—heavy sweaters, mugs of hot cider, the crackle of a fire. And yet, even as we snuggle in, we can't quite shake the feeling that we're sharing this season with something... otherworldly.

As you settle into the comforts of fall, don't forget to indulge in a few good ghost stories. Whether it's huddling around a bonfire or sitting by the fire with friends, these tales are as much a part of the season as the turning leaves. Maybe it's because they remind us that even in the coziest of moments, there's always a little bit of mystery in the air.

Enjoy your cider, carve your Jack O'Lanterns, and pull your sweater a little tighter, remember that you're part of something much bigger and older. And if you happen to catch a shadow out of the corner of your eye or feel a chilly breeze sneak in through the window, well, maybe that's just New England reminding you it's not just the living who love this time of year.

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.

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pro-choice is not an option

To the Editor:

That title comes from the authority of God's moral law. This generation seems to have more sympathy for the cruelty to animals than for the life of an unborn child.

Some of you may not agree and/ or believe what I am sharing with you; however, it is still a fact — God is speaking to us, warning us that an unborn child (abortion) is sin, murder.

How much clearer, explicit can God's Word be — "you must not murder." (Exodus 20:13). Too often, children are seen as lia-

Too often, children are seen as habilities rather than assets, and God is teaching us children are a heritage from Him (God) who is the creator and Lord of all life. Psalm 127:3-5; also, God's character goes further into His creation of every person, and we should have as much respect for the unborn child as we have for ourself and we need to express respect for God

the Father and all God's creation as God has for us (Psalm 139:13-16).

God is teaching us that hands that shed innocent blood is murder (Proverbs 6:17).

God is warning us we need to rescue those being led away to death; we need to hold back those children who are being led to the slaughter (Proverbs 24:11).

God is teaching us that before He formed us in the womb, He, God, knew us (Jeremiah 1:5). Tell me again abortion is OK!

God is not willing that any of those little ones should be lost, murdered, killed (Matthew 18:14).

There are many of you do not believe what I have shared; that is your choice. It is still a face.

Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS BROOKFIELD

Shea is the man for the job

To the Editor:

I am writing to humbly ask that you consider voting for Independent Cornelius Shea for U.S. Congress. Mr. Shea is running against Jim McGovern.

Mr. McGovern has been a member of the United States House of Representatives since 1997, representing Massachusetts's 2nd Congressional District since 2013. I believe it is time to let someone else

take the reins. After conversations I've had with Cornelius Shea while he was campaigning, I am convinced he is the man for the job. To find out more about his campaign. visit www. shea4congress.com and his face book page https://www.facebook.com/shea4congress.

Thank you.

Mark Soojian Leicester

Vote no on the Community Preservation Act

To the Editor:

Spencer residents will soon be voting on adopting the Community Preservation Act which would provide a 1 percent surcharge on your property taxes. The money collected would be matched from the state to be locally administered to protect open space, support local affordable housing development, preserve historic buildings, and other uses. It all sounds so good but what would it actually entail for Spencer taxpayers? The act does exempt low income property owners and elderly homeowners (within certain limits). Those people seeking exemptions would need to provide their financial information to the town. The idea of the town government compiling financial information on me is scary. In addition, they would have to file an exemption every year. It would appear that the Assessors, Tax Collector, and possibly the Town Clerk's office would have a lot of additional work to do to process exemptions, figure taxes, and keep track of funds. There's a good possibility that the town will need to hire additional help-costing taxpayers not only salary but very possibly benefits, too. The matching grants from the state also come from taxpayer

(our) money. It seems like this entire program is geared toward getting more money from the taxpayer. Does anyone who lives in Taxachusetts really believe that the 1 percent surcharge will remain at 1 percent? Not likely.

There are people in Spencer who are pushing for this act. These are fine people who have a different vision of Spencer's future. I just hate to see the town create added bureaucracy, red tape, and unnecessarily tax property owners any more. Our government is already too big.

May I offer a free market solution? At least 55 people voted for this at the town meeting. If they really believe the Community Preservation Act is such a good idea, they could form a non-profit organization, pool their resources, and spend the money on projects that they want. They could recruit others to voluntarily contribute and do what they want with the money and not saddle the Spencer taxpayers with another tax. Win-Win for everyone.

veryone. Please vote no on this money grab.

BERNARD NOWAK, JR. SPENCER

CPA adoption will increase property values

To the Editor:

Go ahead, be selfish!

That's not what we were taught by our parents and it's not what most of us practice. But sometimes, being selfish and doing the right thing are one and the same. That's exactly the case with voting for ballot Question 6, the Community Preservation Act on Nov. 5.

I've been a homeowner and taxpayer in Spencer for 40 years. My wife's family owned their farm for 40 years before that. That's long enough to have seen how development and loss of open spaces are changing this beautiful place. Adoption of the CPA can help to preserve the character of the Spencer we know and love.

If you own a home or land here, understand that the projects funded by the CPA won't just make this a better community, they'll also increase

the value of your property. Projects to protect open spaces; preserve historic buildings; provide affordable housing and recreational areas are a sound investment.

Do the math. The 1 percent CPA assessment is a tiny fraction of the growth in value of your property over the past five years. Sure, the CPA isn't the only thing supporting and increasing property values in Spencer, but it sure makes a difference. A 1 percent CPA surcharge on property assessed at \$380,000 is just \$32 per year.

So go ahead, be selfish. Compare the very modest cost of the CPA surcharge on your property tax against the future growth in the value of your home with the CPA in place. And then vote for your self-interest and the self-interest of everyone who lives in Spencer.

ROGER FOSS SPENCER

We need Peter Durant in the Senate

To the Editor:

We need to keep Peter Durant in the Senate. He is a voice of reason, and he isn't afraid to speak up for us.

When our communities started to see an influx of illegal immigrants, Sen. Durant spoke up and tried to find out how much taxpayer money was being spent to house, feed and give medical care to these folks. It turned out to be almost a billion dollars a year and there are other costs we don't know about yet.

\$1 billion would go a long way to

draws immigrants here and we have to provide them shelter under that law. He is exposing more and more of the costs which are being paid by us! Sen. Durant is watching out for the

help solve existing problems in

Massachusetts, and Peter has tried to

get the legislature and the governor

to change our status as the only sanc-

tuary state in the country because it

Sen. Durant is watching out for the taxpayers, and we should re-elect him in November.

JOHN J. McNaboe Leicester

Watch out for investment scams



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

When you invest, you'll find that knowledge is power. The more you know about your investment choices, and who is offering them, the better prepared you'll be to make good decisions. And this diligence can also help protect you against investment scams.

How widespread is this activity? Consider this: Investment fraud losses totaled more than \$4.5 billion in 2023, according to the FBI's Internet Crime Report.

Here are some common types of scams:

Cryptocurrency – Not all cryptocurrency offers are scams, but many are. The scammers will contact you via social media, claiming they've made a lot of money in crypto and are willing to help you do the same. They may direct you to a website or app to invest, but the "company" taking your money may not even exist, and, after taking your money, may disappear.

Investment programs – These programs claim to have "proven" strategies that can enable you to get rich by investing in financial products. But these strategies are dubious at best and can cost you thousands of dollars that could otherwise go into an investment plan based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Real estate – Typically, a real estate scam tries to get you to invest in a "world-class" or "luxury" property development, but these properties may take years to build, if they're built at all. Also, various real estate "seminars" claim they can teach you how to get wealthy by buying and selling real estate, but these programs are expensive and usually worthless.

Gold and other precious metals – Scammers who call themselves "rare coins" merchants may try to sell you gold coins, bullion or other types of precious metals, claiming that these assets will always go up in value (which isn't true) and that "now is the best time to act." You can find legitimate ways to invest in precious metals, possibly through mutual funds, but you'll need to determine whether these assets can be an appropriate part of your investment portfolio.

So, how can you avoid these scams? Here ae some suggestions from the Federal Trade Commission:

Don't be pushed into snap decisions. Scammers will pressure you to act quickly because "space is limited" in an investment offering or a "special deal" won't last long. If someone won't give you time to consider an offer, it's not worth considering.

Be suspicious of "risk-free" claims. All investments carry risk, and no variable investments can claim to provide "guaranteed returns." If an individual or organization downplays the risk of an investment and doesn't want to provide risk disclosures, just walk away.

Ask about licensing or registration. Legitimate investment professionals must be registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and be licensed by your state's securities regulator before they can sell you any investment product. You can check the status of an individual or firm by using FINRA's BrokerCheck tool at brokercheck.fina.org.

Do some research. You can search online for the name of the company or individual offering you an investment opportunity. By entering terms such as "review," "scam," "fraud" or "complaint," you may well find that other people have experienced problems or been victimized.

To achieve your financial goals, you'll likely need to invest for decades — so, be wary of scammers who claim to offer a shortcut to success.

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 we allow the continued suppression of inconvenient truths?

To the Editor:

I admit that my memory has not improved with age. On the plus side, I get to enjoy some of my favorite movies and TV shows as if for the first time. On the negative, I often have to study the same material multiple times to finally get it stored in my memory banks for at least a bit longer.

Short and long term memory loss appears to plague many in our country. Recent weather events have prompted me to remind you of a few facts that may have failed to remain in your long term storage.

Way back in September of 2022, Hurricane Ian struck the west coast of Florida. My wife and I loved to go bird watching at a well known bird sanctuary on Sanibel Island, and we were particularly dismayed to see the massive destruction to the island. Florida Gov. DeSantis referred to Hurricane Ian as basically a "500-year flooding event." Well, another "500-year flooding event" hit Florida again a couple weeks ago, and Hurricane Helene continued its path of destruction and death across the Southeastern U.S. This week, Hurricane Milton rapidly became a powerful threat and again struck the west coast of Florida. Another "500year flooding event?"

No, "they" (Democrats?) are not creating the hurricanes, as recently suggested by MAGA star Marjorie Taylor Greene; nor did they start the disastrous fires in California using space lasers (as she claimed in 2018). Hopefully, whatever the outcome of Hurricane Milton, people of all political persuasions will work together to help those in need of disaster relief. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to control the current weather consequences of global warming; but we do have the ability to reduce the frequency and severity of future disasters by addressing the very real, man-made contributions to global warming.

Back in 2000, Vice President Al Gore nearly won the Presidency. The vote in Florida was essentially tied. If only one fifth of the electoral votes of Florida had gone to Gore, he would have won the election. His loss has had

greater consequences than many realize, and the recent onslaught of "500vear flooding events" that is hammering Florida may well have been avoided if our nation had heeded Gore's warning about the impending global warming crisis, and responded appropriately. His lectures on "an inconvenient truth" were not favorably received by those who chose to believe we could continue our glutinous use of fossil fuels without consequence. His ideas are still available to the public through a film and book (2006) by the same name.

Carl Sagan (a popular astronomer and science communicator) once said "The suppression of uncomfortable ideas may be common in religion or in politics, but it is not the path to knowledge, and there is no place for it in the endeavor of science." has called climate change a hoax, and billionaire donors from the fossil fuel industry continue to find a policy to develop alternative energy sources inconvenient for their profit margin. Are we going to allow such suppression of uncomfortable ideas or inconvenient truths to continue?

In 2024, the Presidential election could once again be determined by a very few votes in some battleground state. Trump, the candidate, has already demonstrated his willingness to cheat the system, and our current electoral system actually encourages such cheating by a man so motivated to win by any means. Without the proportional allotment of electoral votes rather than winner take all rules in these battleground states, will we have the honest, non-partisan officials we so desperately need to safeguard our democracy? climate change denier and his followers again block our progress in confronting the perils of global warming? If so, the consequences will be even more severe, and we will continue to see a Florida and Southeastern U.S. devastated by hurricanes, storm surges, and tornadoes, and a Western U.S. plagued by scorching temperatures with its beautiful forests in ashes.

> DAVID W. BROWN NORTH BROOKFIELD

Join me in voting for Richard Neal

To the Editor:

By now, everybody should know it is an election year. Thus, I am writing to ask for your vote to re-elect Congressman Richard Neal. As a selectman, I can attest to why he has earned your vote. Although he hails from the City of Springfield, he always remembers the many smaller communities in his sprawling district.

Earlier in the year, I contacted him pipes which are crumbling as many were installed in the 19th century and made of clay. This allows water to infiltrate the system and causes millions of gallons of ground water to be treated at the town's sewer plant. This costs the

sewer customers additional costs that are tacked on their quarterly bills.

Congressman Neal intervened on the town's behalf and helped us secure a federal grant to help defray the cost of replacing those old crumbly pipes. The grant was for over \$954,000 or almost a million dollars. I have also personally seen Congressman Neal help many area Washington to obtain what they were

Please join me in voting to re-elect U.S. Representative Richard Neal when

No, no, no, no to Massachusetts' five ballot questions

To the Editor:

#1. State Auditor's Authority to Audit the Legislature...No!

Massachusetts does not need more bureaucracy for legislators to grow ever

bigger government! The people audit the legislature with their vote.

2. Elimination of MCAS as a High School Graduation Requirement...No!

The MTA advocates a yes vote. The MA Teachers Association is "a union that promotes the use of its members' collective power to advance their own professional and economic interests.'

3. Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers...No!

Let Uber & Lyft operate under their own rules; keep politicians out of private enterprises!

Unions will pilfer the pockets of drivers and ride fees will increase!

Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Psychedelic Substances...No!

There are enough psychos in this world, let's not encourage more! Anyone who wants a magic mushroom experience can get them; red tape and regulation will not yield a better high!

Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers...No!

Keep government out of the free market and out of small businesses!

Massachusetts state government's ulterior motive is to financially benefit in the form of higher income tax col-

Servers who provide good service consistently exceed minimum wage. This law is not for the benefit of tipped workers; it's for the benefit of bigger govern-

> JEN GAUCHER SPENCER

A Democrat stinker!

To the Editor:

There used to be a prank done by teenagers in the past. They would take a stinky diaper and wrap it up in nice paper with a ribbon to look like a nice present. They would then place the present in the open somewhere where people frequently walk by. They would then hide and wait until a person walked by and found it. The person would think someone lost it and they had found a treasure. They would then unwarp it and find a stinky diaper full of pooh. The teenagers would howl with laughter as the face the person makes when they realize they have been tricked.

We see this happening with the Democrats and their propaganda news networks, ABC and CBS. They are wrapping the stinky last three years of the Biden/Harris in a nice wrapper and putting a bow on it. They do this by throwing softball questions to her without criticizing her failures. In fact, CBS on "60 Minutes" reedited her interview and changed her answers to make them seem better. That is the ribbon and bow. Harris changes her positions to whatever she thinks voters want to here. That's the diaper full of poo. On illegal immigration on which she was in charge of she let an estimated 20 million in. Many flown in directly to northern cities and towns. How do 20 million people survive in the US? On assistance from the Federal and state governments. For a person to live it costs a minimum of \$10,000 each a year. 20 million times \$10,000 comes to about \$200 billion. So, Kamala Harris has taken 200 billion of residents cut through the red tape in your tax money and transferred it to

support the illegal immigrants. Here's another way of looking at it. In our town of Spencer, we are being taxed to build a \$60 million school. If we closed the border and stopped the illegals, we could use that money to build 5,000 new high schools in our cities and towns without forcing tax overrides on the back of our citizens. You have to ask, if they have this money to fund their illegal immigration plans, then why did they say we didn't have the money for schools and teachers? The answer is they did, but they had other plans.

With Donald Trump you aren't being tricked. He tells it like it is. The monies the Dems have stolen to fund the illegal migration is money taken that could be used to make the lives of US citizens much better. Believe in him that on day one if is elected you will see the greatest deportation. With apartments getting emptied this will solve the affordable housing issue. Prices of gas, oil, health insurance, and food will also drop as supplies will be increased. He will end the war in Ukraine and economically crush Iran to end the war in the Mideast. He doesn't need to put a pretty wrapper on diaper. He just tells you what he will do. The truth and Trump will set you and your towns free. A vote for Kamala will leave a stink for the next four years. Don't be fooled and laughed at by the Dems! Vote Trump in 2024 for the best gift ever!

> MARK ROBILLARD SPENCER

voting to re-elect ichard Neal when RALPH E. HICKS SPENCER WWW STORD TO THE STORY OF THE STORY

Fall Lawn and Garden: What to Do & When to Do It

As the chill in the air and falling leaves signify the autumn season is well underway, mid October gardens still require care and upkeep. As many a backyard gardener will attest, chores don't end at harvest time. From planting to pruning, efforts now will be celebrated next year. It is the anticipation of these future crops that sustains weary gardeners through the roster of fall chores.

Fall Garden Chore

Roster **OCTOBER**

October Stats: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): 54°; Possibility Sunshine: 58%; Precipitation: 4.7".

October is the month to:

Plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, crocuses and daffodils.

Prune roses to prepare for winter. Cut non-blooming roses back half way.

Rake leaves from lawn; add to compost pile. Make sure evergreens have a good deep watering before the ground freezes. They

THE HINT

Take

KAREN TRAINOR

should receive at least an inch of water a week, preferably more.

If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting in spring.

Cut back and mulch fall chrysanthemums after blooming.

Christmas cactus should rest in a cool, dim room with little water. Bring it back out November 15 for holiday bloom.

Protect pumpkins from frost.

As leaves begin to fall, remove them long before snow arrives. They not only shade the grass during late fall, but become wet and mat down to smother the grass over winter.

Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden They can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil.

Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snow mold dis-

Other Fall Garden Chores and Pleasures

S t o w i n g the Stash: Proper storage of your bountiful harvest will ensure your family the fruits of your labor throughout the New England winter. Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple. Today, the temperature can be achieved via a little creativity. Whether you are growing your own root vegetables or are buying in bulk from a local farm or farmers market, proper storage is imperative to its flavor and quality.

Here's the rundown on proper temps to keep vour harvest safe and flavorful: Potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips, turnips, cabbage and celery should be kept in a humid atmosphere at about 3540 degrees. Squash and pumpkins should be stored in a dry area at 4060 degrees. Onions and dry beans should be kept at 33 degrees in a dry area.

Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple; today some improvising is in order. As noted in a previous column, those with unheated basements report success creating a substitute root cellar by partitioning off one corner, installing insulation and a heavy, solid door. Keep in mind the temperature inside the root cellar will be coolest near the floor, so place roots there atop an old door or boards.

Another strategy shared in a past column is to create a root box by filling a large, sturdy cardboard box with a few inches of sawdust or sand. Place a layer of roots such as carrots, leaving two inches along the sides. Cover lightly with sawdust and alternate layers, adding a final three inches of sawdust on top. Store in a cool

lar bulkhead area. Roots can touch each other in storage, just don't pack them in tightly, as some moist air must be able to circulate.

Lawn Care: New England lawns can be a challenge, but there are some shortcuts to ensure a lush lawn come spring. Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden as they can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil. Or add them to the compost pile. Some people prefer to run over the leaves with a rotary mower, shredding them into fine pieces.

Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases, often sometime in October. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snowmold disease.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick basement or in the cel- 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.

For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

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 specialty 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."





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DA hosts event to help survivors deal with overdose deaths



RY KEVIN FI ANDERS 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 longtime 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-yearold 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 Additionally, groups. 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 (sadod. 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.

Worcester Jr., left, hostseveral a community program last week.

Courtesy addressing the polysubstance use crisis, County District as well as trauma Attorney and mental health," Joseph Early, read a statement Jr., left, host-released by the DA's Office. "In 2015, he panelists at formed the Central Mass. Opioid Task Force, which he renamed last year

the Prevention 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.





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• Oct. 15, at 2 PM

East Brookfield

The Salem Cross Inn 260 West Main Street

• Oct. 24, at 2 PM

Southbridge

Harrington Hospital 100 South Street, Conference Rm 1

- Oct. 22, at 2 PM
- Nov. 19, at 10 AM

Sturbridge

Publick House Historic Inn

277 Main Street

• Oct. 16, at 10 AM

Uxbridge

Tri-River Family Health Center

281 East Hartford Avenue

• Oct. 28, at 2 PM

Webster

Webster Senior Center

5 Church Street

• Oct. 17, at 10 AM

Virtual Seminars

via Zoom (online)

- Oct. 21, at 2 PM
- Oct. 26, at 10 AM

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OBITUARY

Joan DePauw, 90



Brookfield West Joan (Van Dyke) DePauw, 90, of West died Brookfield, on Monday, July 29, Quaboag 2024 at 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 others. 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 des-

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

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.

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-

COLLISION

of press time.

not released.

RYAN

tury later."

continued from page ${f A1}$

to local hospitals with

non-life-threatening inju-

ries, police said. The

driver's name was not

released by authorities as

The driver of the State

Police vehicle was also

transported to the hospi-

tal with minor injuries.

The driver's name was

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 cen-

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

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-

The incident remains

Collision Analysis and

Reconstruction Section,

as well as the State Police

Crime Scene Services

As of press time, no

charges had been filed in

connection with the acci-

School officials con-

firmed that the van

was transporting stu-

dents enrolled in North

Schools. It remains

unclear which school and

grade levels the passen-

Public

investigation

State Police

under

by the

Section.

dent.

Brookfield

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.

personnel on scene. An online guest book is available at The driver of the van varumfuneralhome.com and one juvenile passenger were transported

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two months after his 100th birthday on June

Like Ryan, Decoteau

ly, 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.

Jean for over 75 years.

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

was celebrated by fami-

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

Ryan, the town's seniormost resident, is receivthroughout 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

ing congratulations from

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."

* * Friday's Child



Izabella Age 9 Registration # 6966

Hi! My name is Izabella and I love nature and the outdoors!

Izabella, who also goes by Izzy, is an inquisitive, outgoing, and outspoken girl in search of her forever family. She loves to explore the outdoors and nature, which include various community activities, gardening, and collecting small insects for her "bug sanctuary" that she advocated to have. She always willing to try new things and new foods. Izzy also enjoys arts and crafts and going to the library to pick out books to read. Her biggest strength is her ability to advo-

cate and speak up for herself. https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/ child/6966

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.

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. -2p.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

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



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

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Western Central and 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

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 leader-ship of Mary McGovern, President and CEO, is standing by those great-ly impacted during this recent event.

ing 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, proemotional 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. meaningful difference and help those impacted recover from these challenging circumstances. 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, 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 countrybank.com.



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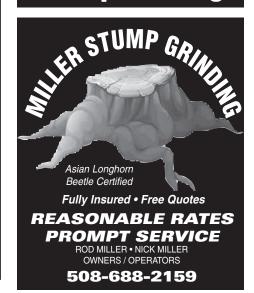
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Get the most out of your pumpkin

It's pumpkin season and time to select and decorate pumpkins for vour fall display. Keep pumpkins and Jack-o'lanterns looking their best longer with proper selection and care.

Harvest or purchase pumpkins free of holes, cuts, and soft

spots for decorating. Damaged fruit tends to rot faster, ruining your fall



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GARDEN MOMENTS

> MELINDA **MYERS**

dled in your arms, not by the stem. Once the stem breaks away from the fruit, the pumpkin is more susceptible to rot and its beauty

Store carving pumpkins in a cool location until you are ready to start cutting. Extend

the beauty of carved pumpkins by washing them with warm water and letting them dry before making the first Try leaving the top intact and scooping the insides out through a hole in the back. This limits water entering the carved cavity and helps extend the life of your Jack-o'-lantern.

Coat the cuts with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil to seal in the moisture and prolong your display. Take it one step further and use a commercial preservative or peppermint oil to keep your Jack-o'-lantern looking its best for as long as possible.

Don't give up when your Jack-o'lantern begins shriveling. Instead, give it a cold bath to freshen up its appear-

Or put away the knives and break out the paint, beads, decorations, crayons, and your imagination to further extend your pumpkin's beauty. Turn your pumpkin into a creature, movie character, pet, or fun object. You'll find lots of creative inspiration in magazines and online.

Don't worry if you have limited artistic ability. Create a multicolored crayon-dripped pumpkin. Wipe the pumpkin's surface clean and allow it to dry before you start decorating. Remove the labels from the crayons and break them in half if needed.

Glue the crayons to the top of the pumpkin to prevent them from rolling off while you work. Place one end of the crayon against the stem and the other end pointed away from the center of the pumpkin.

Cover your work surface and use your hair dryer to melt the crayons so they drip down the sides of the pumpkin, creating a colorful waxy covering. A high heat setting will speed up the process but may make a bigger mess by splashing the melted wax all over the

To further dress up your landscape consider converting a few pumpkins into fall planters. Remove the top. Cut a hole large enough to accommodate the pot you'll be inserting. Remove the seeds and flesh, cut a few drainage holes in the bottom, and then set a pot of pansies, asters, mums, or ornamental peppers inside.



Extend the life of pumpkins by creating crayon-dripped pumpkins rather than carving.

Or plant the flowers directly in the pumpkin planter filled with potting soil. When your pumpkins start to rot, move them, plants and all, to the compost pile. They will break down into a wonderful soil amendment for next year's garden.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site is www. MelindaMyers.com.

LEGALS

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024, at 7:00pm Cafeteria, Brookfield Elementary School, 37 Central Street, Brookfield, MA

In accordance with provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40, the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Cafeteria of the Brookfield Elementary School located at 37 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506, regarding proposed regulations intended to protect the public health and environment by ensuring the sanitary and safe operation of marijuana businesses and the sale of marijuana; and to regulate marijuana businesses to prevent nuisance within the Town of Brookfield. The proposed regulation can be reviewed by contacting the Brookfield Board of Health at (508) 867-2930 extension 22. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposed regulation should appear at the time and Brookfield Board place designated. of Health October 18, 2024

Town of West Brookfield

Zoning Board of Appeals A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit. Susanne Russell 50 Birch Hill Road, West Brookfield. wishes to build a carport. A Special Permit is required -4.2 Schedule of Dimensional Requirements.

October 18, 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. WO24P3217EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR

Estate Of: **Ann Louise Dzindolet** Date of Death: 03/06/2024 To all interested persons:

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Anthony P Dzindolet of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Anthony P Dzindolet of Spencer MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/29/2024

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: September 27 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate October 18, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS **LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**

Docket No. 24SM003548

ORDER OF NOTICE

Sharon H. Parmenter

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

PHH Mortgage Corporation

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 31 Clark Street, given by Sharon H. Parmenter to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Liberty Home Equity Solutions, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated January 29, 2014, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52006, Page 377, 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 active 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 above-mentioned property on that basis, 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 11/18/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 10/7/2024.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder October 18, 2024

In the matter of:

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. W024C0503CA CITATION ON PETITION TO **CHANGE NAME**

Zackary Scott Keith IMPORTANT NOTICE

has been filed by

Zachary Scott Keith

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10/29/24 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

A Petition to Change Name of Adult

Zachary Scott Keith of West Brook-

field MA requesting that the court en-

ter a Decree changing their name to:

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 01, 2024 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate October 178 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. W024C0510CA CITATION ON PETITION TO **CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of: **David Michael Robbie** A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by David Michael Robbie of East Brook-

field MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Teskailia Fgdots Spratt**

IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 11/05/24 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 03, 2024

Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate October 18, 2024

NOTICE OF FILING, REQUEST FOR COMMENTS, AND PUBLIC **HEARING**

D.P.U. 24-107 Petition of the Town of Spencer for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.

On July 25, 2024, the Town of Spencer ("Town") filed a request with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for approval of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134. General Laws c. 164, § 134 authorizes a municipality to procure electric supply on behalf of consumers within its municipal borders through a municipal aggregation program ("Program"). Eligible electricity consumers not already enrolled with a competitive electric supplier would be automatically enrolled in the Program unless they chose to optout, in which case they would continue to receive basic service provided by their electric distribution company, National Grid. The Department docketed this petition as D.P.U.

The Town has retained MassPower-Choice to serve as its consultant in this

proceeding and to assist in the implementation of the Program.

The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Town's filing. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on Monday, November 18, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, https://us06web.zoom. us/j/82957525290, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at (301) 715 8592 (not toll free) and then enter the Meeting ID# 829 5752 5290. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, to the extent possible, please send an email by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, November 15, 2024, to timothy.m.federico@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address.

Alternatively, any person who desires to comment on this matter may submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, November 15, 2024. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

All written comments or other documents should be submitted to the Department in PDF format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and timothy.m.federico@mass.gov. In addition, all written comments should be emailed to counsel for the Town, Paul Gromer, Esq., at pgromer@gromerllc. com. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-107); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website as soon as practicable at http://www. mass.gov/dpu. The e-mail must also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Importantly, all large files must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20MB.

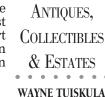
The Town's filing and all related documents submitted to or issued by the Department will be available at the Department's website as soon as is practicable at https://eeaonline.eea.state. ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber (enter "24-107"). To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities, contact the Department's ADA coordinator at eeadiversity@mass.gov.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Town's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact Paul Gromer, Esq., at pgromer@gromerllc. com. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Tim Federico, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at timothy.m.federico@mass.gov.

October 18, 2024

Auction news

It's been nearly a month since my last auction update. news 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.



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 "iewelry, 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



item from much recent more times, one of two Macintosh #M0001 prototype computers from 1984 is heading to the auction block this WAYNE TUISKULA 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 booted 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.

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

The ownership of the

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

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?

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 George Noory.

Paulides, a former police officer turned

researcher after Positively his retirement. His focus? Missing SPEAKING person cases, often in the middle of nowhere and MOORE in our National

> 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.

Parks. As an avid

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 grandfacattle ranch in Ritter, Ore. Keith was playing outside with his older brothers near a barn when he suddenly 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 searcher 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 vears old, and two-vearwalk 12 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

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

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:34 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mulberry Street), resolved; 5:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:38 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 7:00 a.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 8:32 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:52 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:02 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:21 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:38 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), resolved; 10:15 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 10:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), resolved; 11:05 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 11:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:24 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:45 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:16 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), my towed; 1:18 p.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 1:36 p.m.: investigation (Lafayette Street, Worcester), report taken; 1:58 p.m.: erratic operator (Charles Street), unfounded; 2:02 p.m.: welfare check (Towtaid Street), assisted; 7:10 p.m.: disturbance (Brown Street), spoken to; 7:53 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:30 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 10:33 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

1:04 a.m.: suspicious person (Pine Street), resolved; 3:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:38 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 6:08 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 6:40 a.m.: parking complaint (Oak Bluff Lane), spoken to; 9:58 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 11:35 a.m.: erratic operator (Marshall Street), unfounded; 11:56 a.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 1:57 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 2:45 p.m.: threats (Felix Street), report taken; 3:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 4:29 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 5:32 p.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 5:55 p.m.: fraud (Willow Hill Road), resolved; 6:56 p.m.: parking complaint (Soojians Drive), gone on arrival; 10:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), report taken; 10:57 p.m.: ambulance (South Street), report taken.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

4:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:03 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 7:03 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 11:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 2:04 p.m.: disturbance (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered; 2:08 p.m.: property found (Main Street), services rendered; 2:36 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 3:06 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 3:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:10 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 6:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:20 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 7:41 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:00 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:38 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:46 p.m.: mv stop (Burncoat Street), verbal warning; 9:02 p.m.: mv redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, number plate violation/ defective lights, criminal application issued; 9:59 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:18 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:29 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 11:10 p.m.: suspicious mv (Bottomly Avenue), no action required.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:38 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:07 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), assisted; 11:00 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 11:54 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 1:23 p.m.: property found (South Main Street), spoken to; 2:42 p.m.: ambulance (Tobin Road), transported; 4:58 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:47 p.m.: assist citizen (Mulberry Street); 6:02 p.m.: disturbance (Marshall Street), services rendered; 8:02 p.m.: ambulance (Town Beach Road), transported; 9:59 p.m.: disturbance (Brown Street), resolved. MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

12:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, report taken; 1:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:27 a.m.; mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:23 a.m.: disabled mv (River Street), mv towed; 4:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:46 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 7:16 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 7:34 a.m.: threats (Lake Avenue), report taken; 8:42 a.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 10:41 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 11:55 a.m.: illegal dumping (Locust Street), referred; 1:28 p.m.: fraud (Marlboro Drive), report taken; 1:33 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 2:10 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:32 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 6:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:20 p.m.: welfare check (Mill Street), unfounded; 6:35 p.m.: gunshots heard (Salminen Drive), spoken to: 6:50 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:54 p.m.: suspicious mv (Angell Terrace), spoken to; 10:03 p.m.: ambulance (Providence Street, Worcester),

call canceled. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, misuse of dealer/ repair number plate, criminal application issued; 1:24 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:09 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:18 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning: 5:07 a.m.: my stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 5:15 a.m.: mv stop (King Street), verbal warning; 6:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:55 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), written warning; 11:58 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 4:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, not in possession of registration, criminal application Memorial Highway), transported; 6:14 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), call canceled; 6:21 p.m.: ambulance (West Street), services rendered; 8:23 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 10:01 p.m.: ambulance (Bixby Street, Spencer), transported to hos-

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:00 a.m.: investigation (West Street), report taken; 12:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:38 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:17 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), call canceled: 4:42 p.m.: assist citizen (Upton Street); 5:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Charles Street), unable to locate; 5:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:44 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:30 p.m.: suspicious mv (Waite Street), resolved; 11:52 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), trans-

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Spencer Police Log WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

12:37-2:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure: 1:51 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 3:52 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street): 5:54 a.m.: building checked, secure; 8:28 a.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), rep. gravel in roadway; 8:44 a.m.: mutual aid (Church Street), assist State Police; 9:02 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 9:30 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 11:22 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 12:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Blueberry Hill Drive), loose dog; 12:44 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 1:06 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:20 p.m.: 911 call (Pearl Street), hang-up; 2:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. info on restraining order; 3:43 p.m.: lost/ found (Pond Street), cell phone found; 4:55 p.m.: suspicious persons (Grant Street), spoken to; 5:51 p.m.: medical/ general (Mechanic Street); 7:08 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), rep. calls for help; 11:32 p.m.: 911 call (Oak Lane), accidental; (total daily mv stops - 2).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

12:01-2:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:43 a.m.: parking violation (North Street), ticket issued; 2:26-2:32 a.m.: parking violations (Grove, May streets), tickets issued; 3:38 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:11 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chestnut Street), no response noted on police log; 6:32 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Irving Street), no response noted on police log; 7:20 a.m.: suspicious my (East Charlton Street), rep. re: school van/suspicious activity; 8:22 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted: 10:01 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 10:31 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), purse found; 10:56 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 11:10 a.m.: trespassing (McDonald Street), rep. trespass violation; 12:10 p.m.: lost/found (Smithville Road), sunglasses found; 12:16 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), rep. incident w/boys; 12:42 p.m.: fire/woods/ grass/other (Browning Pond Road), rep. wires down; 1:14 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 1:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), spoken to; 2:51 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:12 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), investigated; 4:12 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 4:34 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), grass needs mowing; 5:48 p.m.: suspicious mv (Ash Street), investigated; 5:53 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), customer causing issues; 5:55 p.m.: fire (Charlton Road), referred; 6:04 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:42 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:54 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), req. welfare check; 9:37 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 9:58 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 11:35 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info

rec'd; (total daily mv stops – 2). FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

12:49 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:34-2:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:34 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:41 a.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), juv. left home w/o notice; 5:30 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:01 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:26 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 1:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Marble Street), req. welfare check; 2:10 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: missing dogs; 2:10 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: missing cat; 2:26 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), re: loose mvs on car carrier; 2:31 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), re: TTs on road; 3:48 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:08 p.m.: suspicious mv (Debbie Drive), spoken to; 4:36 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:28 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kids fighting; 5:32 p.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), verbal altercation; 7:32 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), req. additional officers; 8:04 p.m.: juvenile mat-

ter (Dustin Street), req. welfare check

on son; 9:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (Valley Street), investigated; 10:42 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

1:40-1:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:05 a.m.: mv complaint (High Street), my speeding/honking horn; 6:47 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 10:46 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Treadwell Drive); 10:54 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), re: no contact order; 11:02 a.m.: officer wanted (May Street), req. escort/no reason on police log; 1:13 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:45 p.m.: mv lockout (Gold Nugget Road), assisted; 1:49 p.m.: mutual aid (Cranberry Meadow Road), items being taken from residence; 4:05 p.m.: medical/general (Richland Avenue), lift assist; 5:22 p.m.: officer wanted (R. Jones Road), re: overdue motorist; 5:47 p.m.: lost/found (Wall Street), debit card found; 7:33 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo/welfare check; 7:47 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 8:05 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 8:14 p.m.: suspicious persons (Bay Path Road), spoken to; 8:59 p.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), loose dog; 11:59 p.m.: mv alarms (Elm Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops -1).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:09 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Donnelly Cross Road), accidental; 12:28-1:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:12 a.m.: animal complaint (Blueberry Hill Road), dogs bit dog; 8:58 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), spoken to; 9:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Candlewood Drive), rep. found cat; 10:57 a.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), mv parked on sidewalk; 11:40 a.m.: vandalism (Lyford Road), political signs damaged; 2:22 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:30 p.m.: disturbance (South Spencer Road), unwanted party; 3:49 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hastings Road), investigated; 4:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. welfare check; 5:21 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 6:12 p.m.: suspicious persons (Church Street), investigated; 6:18 p.m.: 911 call (Pearl Street), misdial; 6:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), rep. dog bite; 8:23 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:33 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), services rendered; 9:50 p.m.: mv complaint (Treadwell Terrace), spoken to; (total daily mv stops -3).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

2:48 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 2:59-3:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), rep. break-in; 8:02 a.m.: accident (Paxton Road), report taken; 8:49 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:35 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:03 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. sale of multiple pistols/revolvers; 1:53 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), spoken to; 3:36 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:39 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), rep. son fled; 3:47 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), sister missing; 4:28 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 5:12 p.m.: fraud (Paxton Road), report taken; 5:37 p.m.: restraining order service (Richland Avenue); 5:55 p.m.: illegal dumping (Temple Street), couch dumped; 6:37 p.m.: mutual aid (Lake Avenue), Leicester PD rep. multiple gunshots; 6:56 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD reg. stop of WRTA bus; 6:59 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 7:42 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); (total daily mv stops - 0).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:38-1:37 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:45 a.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), fire drill; 1:42 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbor issue; 7:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Richland Avenue), Charlton PD re: restraining order; 8:02 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 8:28 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:10 a.m.: mv complaint (Paxton Road), mv speeding; 9:14 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:59 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), resolved; 11:58 a.m.: suspicious persons (Gauthier Road), spoken to; 12:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Duggan Street), investigated; 1:46 p.m.: medical/general (Collier Circle); 3:34 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:49 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hangup; 4:48 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 4:54 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), loose dog; 5:10 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), mvs speeding; 7:02 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 9:29 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:48-9:51 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:53 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 10:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. threats from ex; 11:03 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Paxton Road), smoke in area; 11:27-11:46 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 4).

###

issued; 6:02 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon stop (Main Street), name and address Home Town Service, Town-to-Town BIG TIME RESULTS CLASSIFIE Place your ad today! 774-200-7308



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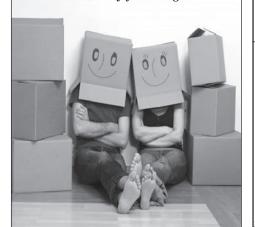
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Announces State Representative Candidacy

My opponent, Paul **Frost**, boasts a 100% Voting Attendance Record. This means he **"SHOWS UP"** about **25 times** a year for Roll Call to cast about 10 votes!

Frost voted <u>FOR</u> Sex Change Operations for "MINORS WITHOUT" Parental Consent.

I have a "100% ATTENDANCE

RECORD" serving **33 years** with **Honor** in the military reserve thru deployment at Bagram AFB in Afghanistan, in the Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, & Marine Corps. Presently, I'm in the Auburn Vietnam Veterans of America, Oxford Memorial Honor Guard, and Millbury's VFW, American Legion, & Veterans' Council.

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).

I know how to establish "PERMANENT Affordable Housing".

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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.

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 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 Icels 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



Courtes

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 var-

ious 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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