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# School officials, organizations partner for community health fair



Kevin Flanders

Local first responders greet guests.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
NORTH BROOKFIELD — School officials teamed up with local organizations last week at a community health fair. Organized through

a partnership between the school department and the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield, the April 26 event took place inside the North Brookfield High School gymnasium.

The program featured several representatives introducing guests to the services provided by their organizations and associations.

“As an elected official

of the Board of Health and president of the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield, it is important to me that community members can access the necessary supports and resources for them-

selves and their families,” said Jillian Phillips, who has helped organize several community events in recent years. “Some of the preliminary results from the community health assessment surveys that will guide our Community Health Improvement Plan are already indicating that mental health access

and resources are a concern for our community across the board.”

Organizations represented at the event included FosterMA, the UMass Lifeline for Kids, and the SNAP program, among others. Local first responders, students,

Turn To **FAIR** page **A19**

## Project 351 ambassador assists children in need



Courtesy

LMS student Hannah Spratt is inspiring her community with service projects.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

LEICESTER — Project 351 student-ambassador Hannah Spratt is using her springtime service project to assist children in need through the Cradles to Crayons program.

Spratt, an eighth-grader at Leicester Middle School, was chosen as her school's sole Project 351 ambassador. She joins students from across the Commonwealth in supporting Cradles to Crayons, an organization that provides essential items to children experiencing homelessness or low-income situations.

This year's Project 351 Spring Service effort represents the largest youth-led service initiative in Massachusetts.

For the LMS community, it has been a thrill to see Spratt's hard work in helping children and families across the state.

Turn To **SPRATT** page **A1**

## Drag performance to proceed without selectmen's approval

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Following a seesaw series of Select Board decisions, a controversial drag performance is moving forward as originally planned at next month's Small Town Pride event.

During the April 25 Select Board meeting, members unanimously voted to rescind their April 11 decision to block the drag performance from the Small Town Pride event scheduled for June 24 on the Town Common.

A follow-up vote on April 25 saw a failed motion to reapprove the pride event with the drag performance included, as Board Chairman Jason Petraitis and Selectman John Tripp abstained from the vote. Member Elizabeth Brooke Canada supported the motion, but her sole vote was not sufficient to carry it with the two abstentions.

After a brief patch of confusion, Petraitis then indicated that the originally scheduled pride event can occur on the Common without board approval. He said the board received guidance on the situation from Town Counsel, which recommended that the drag performance be allowed at the event.

“It's a free, open Common, and the Board is not required to give you permission to have your event on the Common,” Petraitis told event organizers in attendance.

Originally, on March 28, the Select Board voted to approve the use of the Town Common for the Small Town Pride event, including the scheduled drag performance. Two weeks later, that decision was rescinded by a 2-1 vote at the Board's April 11 meeting. A follow-up vote allowed the event to occur without the drag performance.

Following the board's reversal on April 11, the town was inundated with criticism and even a threat of legal action from the ACLU of Massachusetts.

At the April 25 Select Board meeting, Petraitis and Tripp reiterated their personal beliefs that drag performances are not appropriate for the Town Common.

## Local seniors dance the night away at prom

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
LEICESTER — You don't have to be in high school to enjoy an unforgettable Senior Prom, as local residents have discovered in recent years thanks to the Senior Center and community volunteers.

An expanding partnership between the Senior Center and Leicester Public Schools helped bring the beloved Senior Prom tradition to the new high school this year. Held on April 27, seniors from throughout the area arrived in their finest attire for an evening of live music, delicious dinners, and plenty of dancing.

“This special event took many months of planning and coordinating between our Director of Elder Affairs Rachelle Cloutier,

school leaders, and volunteers,” said School Committee Chair Donna McCance, who has worked closely with Council on

Aging officials this year to help augment intergenerational programming. “Everyone pulled together to create a beautiful prom



Kevin Flanders

Turn To **PROM** page **A1**

Local seniors enjoy prom festivities in Leicester.

Turn To **PERFORMANCE** page **A19**



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# Library exhibit spotlights DPHS student artwork



Kevin Flanders  
David Prouty High School junior Jordan Lyon displays her artwork at Richard Sugden Library.

SPENCER — The Richard Sugden Library staff has been thrilled to celebrate David Prouty High School artists with a special exhibit.

The DPHS art exhibit opened at the library on April 27, with local families and officials attending in big numbers to celebrate student artwork. The library has previously hosted exhibits featuring work from elementary school and middle school students, but this was the first display of Prouty students' creativity.

"This is a fantastic exhibit. We are so proud of our young people, and we want to support them in any way possible," said Library Director Cheryl Donahue.

Several DPHS students were on hand at the opening ceremony to introduce guests to their work. Prouty junior Jordan Lyon had four pieces on display, joining approximately 100 other student-artists in grades 9-12 with work included in the installation.

"I'm really happy that people can see our artwork," Lyon said.

As opposed to one-night shows that

limit opportunities for the public to enjoy student artwork, the library exhibit is providing multiple weeks of public exposure for artists.

"It's amazing to be able to bring the community in to see the students' work," said DPHS art teacher Annalisa Battles.

School officials thank the library staff for providing the opportunity for students.

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## Sportsmen's Club hosing annual car show

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club will be hosting the Second Annual Tim Morin Memorial Car Show on Saturday, June 24 at 20 Boynton Rd., North Brookfield. Registration 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., with plaques at 1:30 p.m. \$15 donation per show vehicle. Spectators free. Lunch, cash bar, 50/50 raffle. Music provided by DJ Bruce Marshall. For show information, contact Gary at (508) 450-8643.

## DPHS Booster Club to hold final annual meeting

SPENCER — The David Prouty High School Athletic Booster Club will hold its final Annual Membership Meeting Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the school cafeteria. The public is welcome.

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

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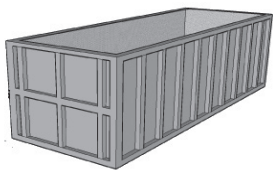


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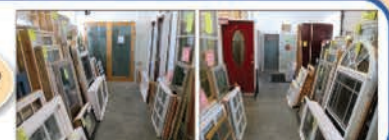
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Gender Male  
Size Medium  
Color Black/White



Hi, my name is Cobalt. I'm a handsome boy, with a very sweet personality. I am a little nervous, but have nothing but love to give. I enjoy being outside while I play with my toys, especially if you throw me a ball. I still have a lot of energy, and would love a home where I can have lots of playtime and go on walks. I am Lyme positive so I would be a foster to adopt, my friends at the shelter can explain more. If you're looking for a new sidekick, I'm the best there is!

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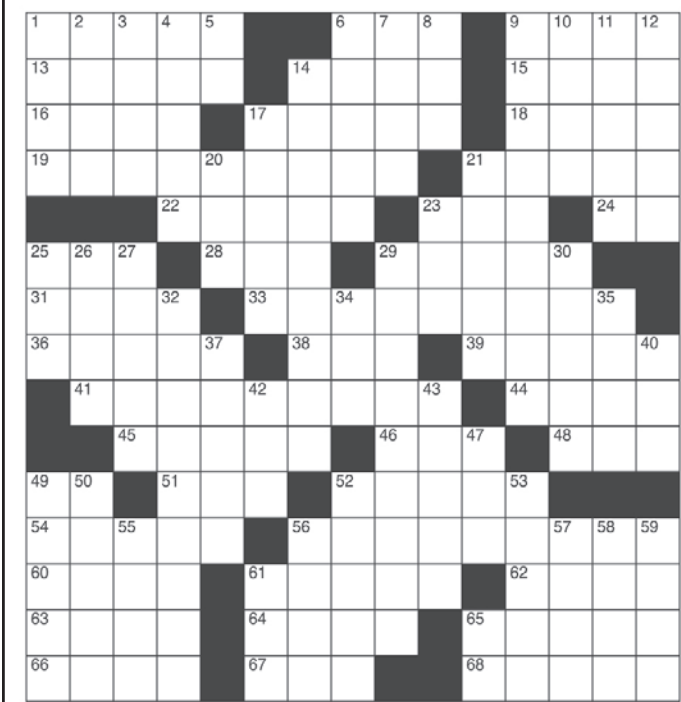
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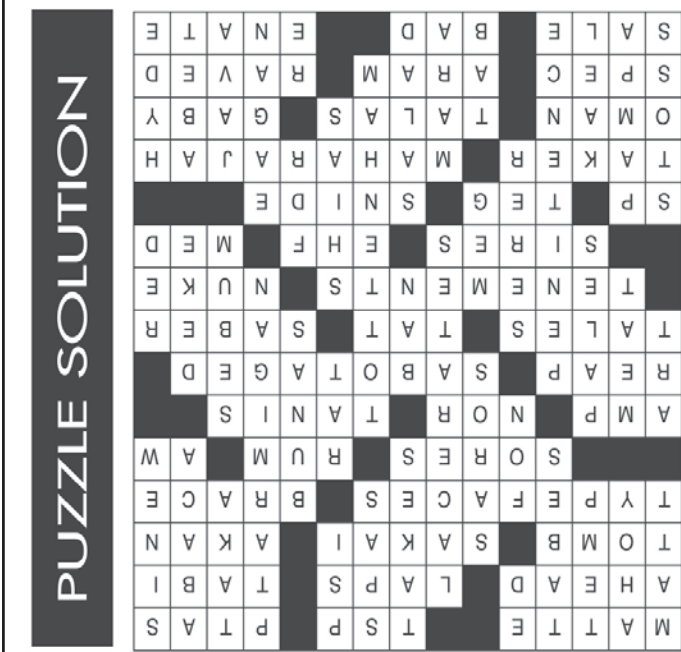
- #### CLUES ACROSS

  - 1. Dull and flat
  - 6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
  - 9. Education-based groups
  - 13. Not behind
  - 14. Runners run them
  - 15. Japanese ankle sock
  - 16. Grave
  - 17. Japanese industrial city
  - 18. People of southern Ghana
  - 19. Particular designs
  - 21. Device fitted to something
  - 22. Infections
  - 23. Pirates' preferred alcohol
  - 24. Expression of sympathy
  - 25. Rock guitarist's tool
  - 28. Neither
  - 29. Ancient city of Egypt
  - 31. You \_\_\_ what you sow
  - 33. Ruined
  - 36. Narrations
  - 38. Body art (slang)
  - 39. Fencing sword
- 41. Apartment buildings
  - 44. Type of missile
  - 45. Fathers
  - 46. Extremely high frequency
  - 48. Type of school
  - 49. Incorrect letters
  - 51. Two-year-old sheep
  - 52. Nasty manner
  - 54. One who accepts a bet
  - 56. Indian prince
  - 60. Asian country
  - 61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
  - 62. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
  - 63. Detailed criteria
  - 64. Son of Shem
  - 65. Talked wildly
  - 66. Discount
  - 67. Not good
  - 68. Growing out

- #### CLUES DOWN

  - 1. Actor Damon
  - 2. A call used to greet someone
  - 3. Part-time employee
  - 4. Emaciation
  - 5. "Westworld" actor Harris
  - 6. Gains possession of
  - 7. Relaxing spaces
  - 8. 23rd star in a constellation
  - 9. Northern grouse
  - 10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
  - 11. Manila hemp
  - 12. Unites muscle to bone
  - 14. Makes deep cuts in
  - 17. 18-year period between eclipses
  - 20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
  - 21. Synthetic rubbers
  - 23. Unwelcome rodent
  - 25. Expression of creative skill
  - 26. Some is red
  - 27. Seems less in impressive
  - 29. Harry Kane's team
- 30. Gland secretion
  - 32. Action of feeling sorrow
  - 34. Disallow
  - 35. Deceptive movement
  - 37. More dried-up
  - 40. Crimson
  - 42. Actress Ryan
  - 43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
  - 47. Accomplished American president
  - 49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
  - 50. Sheep breed
  - 52. Appetizer
  - 53. Broadway actress Daisy
  - 55. Influential film critic
  - 56. NY Giants ownership family
  - 57. Type of script
  - 58. Assist
  - 59. London park
  - 61. Bar bill
  - 65. In reply indicator

PUZZLE SOLUTION



QUABOAG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

WARREN — Quaboag Regional High School honor roll has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

- 1st Honors
- Grade 12: Olivia Bagg, Arianna Belen, Jakob Bond, Phoebe Clowes, Preston Clowes, Paige Dion, Declan Ford, Andrew Gagnon, Josephine Landon, Adrik Matys, Bryan Para, Cody Perron, Jolie Pytel, Lucy Sanelli, Hayley Southwick, Margaret Stevens
- Grade 11: Ethan Araujo, Camrin Bolduc, Isabelle Burgess, Zachary Carlson, Antonio Congelos, Olivia Dumas, Ryan Fernandez, Chloe Fredette, Cameron Giroux, Bella Grover, Jason Houle, Ayla Iwaniec, Christian Judd, Dawson Kelly, Kendall LaRiviere, Paige Leach, Abigail Long, Rachel McGrath, Ryan Miner, Hanna Nemeroff, Laura Orne, Asya Osei-Opoku, Lily Potvin, Hunter Regan, Thomas Robidoux, Kenady Sloan, Riley Sloan, Owen Stevens, Alina Taro, Matthew Tiberil
- Grade 10: Isabelle Aberle, Juliette Boos, Jacque Boulais, Lila Broadley, Skylar Cook, Elise Kopec, Dante Martino, Norah McElroy, Erin McGrath, Matthew Miller, Nora Pennington-Russell, Norah Schwenker, Partke rTunley, Sebastian Veliz-Baldizon, Makenna Williams
- Grade 9: Madic Andreoli, Juliana Augusto, Madelyn Bagg, Brennan Doe, Kadin Dufault, Gianna Lindsey, William Lopes, Reece Miner, Olive Moulton, Madeline Potvin, Jason Read, Genevieve Regan, Makayla Savoie, Kyle Winters

Yesenia Carrasco, Allie Choquette, Cadence Cieslak, Olivia Iwaniec, Bryann Lussier, Isabelle Manzano, Liliana McIsaac, Emma Nault, Jonas Rossi, Maeve Smith, Connor Snay, Logan Spring, Caroline Stevens, Natalia Veliz-Baldizon

- 2nd Honors
- Grade 2: Brandon Allen, Brendan Burke, Elizabeth Czaja, Katelyn Fountain, Rachel Gagnon, Alexandra Garrand, Kiara Gauthier, Madison Gray, Grace Hannah, Madelynn Huard, Noah LaFlamme, Gage Lane, Summer Mageau, Hannah Manzano, Rebecca Martin, Ariana Masterjohn, Kadin Milligan, Victoria Morgan, Kade Osgood, Gabriel Paquette, Angelina Paradis, Chase Potvin, Isabelle Russell, Charles Schwenker, Megan Shea, Samantha Tetreault, Ryan Wilson
- Grade 11: Mason Blount, Aeron Bridges, Matthew Carter, Evelyn Doe, Aidan Flood, Rowan Flood, Amber Gagnon, Lily Gianfriddo, Laine Hatstat, Jessica Kupstas, Evan Long, Aiden McManaman, Dennis Pease, Aurora Powers, Jacob Routhier, Joseph Standrowicz, Patrick Toomey
- Grade 10: Aviendha Andreoli, MacKenzie Arachambault, Casyn Carpenter, Samuel Carrasco, Dylan Cummings, Allison Duszlak, Michael Enetzelis, Izaiah Flores, Emily Hubbel, Abigail Jolin, Blake Merrill, Selina Mohamed, Alessa Parks, Kassidy Pelland, Katelynn Swistak, Elizabeth Tetlow, Richard Tracy, Sydney Tracy, Hart Waz, Kandace Wilcox
- Grade 9: Jaylin Bailey, Shelby Bridges, Jacob Cacace, Kenadi Chenevert, Greigh Cloward, Gretchen Conn, Isaac Cowher, Emma Dion, Gabriela Feeney, Serenitee Gagnon, Briana Hawk, Landon Hogan, Evangeline Iwaniec, Morgan Lakota, Mia Letendre, Brayden Lopato, Jackson McGarry, Haylee Nash, Kaitlyn Nault, Lilly Nimtz, Jacob Plante, Gabrielle Riendeau, Madison Sears, Grace Smart, Jack Stevens, Kaleb VanKleef, Dietrich Vogel, Elijah Wilhelm, Camden Williams
- Grade 8: Cameron Bennett, Riley Black, Jaiden Butler, Megan Clark, Cameron Collis, Scott Garrand, James Kozyra, Eric McAnuff, Sophia Paolucci, Leo Paquette, Mallory Piazzo, Logan Schoff, Amber Sullivan, Brielle Sullivan, Jasmine White, Kristian White
- Grade 7: Maci Astrella, Elizabeth Bennington, Travis Bigda, Andrew Boudreau, Harper Bradley, Liam Bray, David Chaplin, Julie Chenier, Trevor Contacos, Olivia Hebert, Austin Letourneau, Alyssa Lussier, Aydan Marsh, Hunter Oldenburg, Victoria Paradis, Emily Robidoux, Isabella Santos, Payton Schreier, Theodore Sexton
- 3rd Honors
- Grade 12: Veronica Beauregard, Luisa Feeney, Lee Morse, Joseph Novak, Wylliam Pennington-Russell, Carl Quilitzsch, Dylan Segatore
- Grade 11: Emily Cieslak, Jenna Duff,


Alexander Hayes, Emma LaFleche, Joshua Lucier, Riley Patchen, Alexandre Russo, Allen Winders

Grade 10: Parker Chaffee, Makenzie Chaplin, Emily Ford, Joshua Leaming, Alexie Morrison, Joseph Reynolds, Brasen Sauriol, Liam Smith, Caydence Tetreault, Nina Vorobiova

Grade 9: Emma Astrella, Michael Atkins, Rylie Barton, Isabelle Bellizzi, Connor Burgess, Evan Chickering, Chelsea Duszlak, Emily Nelson, Camden Olivo, Madison Schreier, Jacob Toomey

Grade 8: Thomas Bellizzi, Braiden Bradley, Zaylee Brodeur, Andrew Chisholm, Abigail Degnan, Grace Demars, Jade Fontaine, Cole Giroux, Jackson Gundlach, Madison Jablonski, Christian Marshall, Elena Mirabile, Lani O'Clair

Grade 7: Mackenzie Bennett, Lincoln Brown, Riley Corder, Robert Menard, Woodman Moulton, Kourtney Nichols, Kaydan O'Connell, Hannah Pytel, Buddy Stocks



Attention North Brookfield Water Users:

### WATER MAIN FLUSHING

May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup> 2023

The North Brookfield Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town beginning Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> through Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water, caused by small particles dislodged during the flushing. This discoloration might stain your laundry, especially white materials.

Flushing is performed between the hours of 7:30AM and 3:30PM. We post our daily flushing schedule on the North Brookfield Water Department Facebook page. If you would like additional information, please call the Water Department at (508) 867-0207.

## SPENCER ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

### BROOKFIELD

None

### EAST BROOKFIELD

None

### LEICESTER

\$775,000, 392 Main St, Kgln 5 LLC, to Skaff Management LLC.  
\$775,000, 396 Main St, Kgln 5 LLC, to Skaff Management LLC.  
\$775,000, 414-416 Main St, Kgln 5 LLC, to Skaff Management LLC.  
\$221,787, 10 Olney St, Nutall, Diane R, and Carrington Mtg Svcs LLC, to Carrington Mtg Svcs LLC.  
\$130,000, 75 Huntoon Memorial Hwy #2-3, Manion, Michael D, to 75 Huntoon Realty RET, and Berisha, Linda.  
\$60,000, Blueberry Ln, Pratte, Corey, and Pratte, Deirdre, to Antanavica, Stephan A, and Antanavica, Dana M.  
\$60,000, Blueberry Ln #1& 28, Pratte, Corey, and Pratte, Deirdre, to Antanavica, Stephan A, and Antanavica, Dana M.

## NORTH BROOKFIELD

None

## SPENCER

\$560,000, 74 Wire Village Rd, Sjc Development Inc, to Reardon, Matthew F, and Valentine, Gina.  
\$550,000, 3 R Jones Rd, Keyes, William E, and Keyes, Pamela L, to Mayew, Bruce N, and Mayew, Amy.  
\$500,000, 132 Paxton Rd, Strakosz, Genevieve J, to Gardner, James G, and Gardner, Laurie A.  
\$436,000, 15 Smithville Rd, Aranch LLC, to Hunt, Justin A, and Kheim, Samantha M.  
\$350,000, 8 Candlewood Dr #8, Vandale Lt, and Vandale, Richard L, to Strakosz, Genevieve J.  
\$323,500, 4 Lake Whittemore Dr, Hassett Family T, and Hassett, Shirley J, to Madden, Jalen.  
\$320,000, 108 Mechanic St, Oehley, Scott V, and Oehley, Cori M, to Maldonado, Elias, and Maldonado, Teresa.  
\$260,000, 26 Ledge Ave, Kelly, William F, to Hurley, Carol, and Obrien, Patrick A.

## WARREN

\$473,700, 101 Dunham Rd, Brown, Richard, and Brown, Amanda, to Nichols, Joseph, and Partlow-Nichols, Michelle.

### WEST BROOKFIELD

\$135,600, 12 Old Warren Rd, Caltom Properties LLC, to Sherman, David B.  
\$25,000, 215 Shoreline Dr, Brookhaven Assn Inc, to Scheriff, Eric, and Scheriff, Kathryn.

Local EXIT Realty affiliated offices welcome new team members

SPENCER — EXIT Real Estate Executives is pleased to announce that Anna Roberson and Edmond Isemwami have joined its growing team of dedicated real estate sales professionals.

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## LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

### High Honors

Grade 8: Jacob Beaulac, Taylor Gallant, Joshua McCormick, Kaidyn McDowell, Gianna Panepinto, Jillian Rodrique, Hannah Spratt, Abigail Valinski, MaryVan Hazinga, Sabrina Wright

Grade 7: Matthew Alves, Kennedy Bates, Emma Bernabei, Brady Bouchard, Jude Campbell, Isabella Cortes Flore, Haylee Kularski, Brock Lopez, Kaylee Luby, Zachary Macedo, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros, Charlotte Mercer, Max Milionis, Trevor Moorghen, Katherine Ozarowski, Alivia Perry, Katarzyna Piascik, Ryan Sweeney, Lillian Warner, Jayke Williams

Grade 6: Camden Beaudry, Elijah Belisle, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Nick Nguyen, Jaedyn Perry, Hunter Wright, Robert Zinkevich

Grade 5: Maxwell Belizaire, Justin Cai, Olivia Cardona, Avery Cole, Michael Cormier, Bridget Dillon, Adalynn Grant, Shelby Grant, Russell Hayes, Emily Hipple, Ava Johnston, Tyler Kularski, Cadence Medeiros, Emma Mercier, Pedro Moulaz Cerqueira, Owen Murphy, Sonya Potvin, Suleman Rasool, Jacob Soucie, Casey Tuomenoksa, Oliver Underwood, Leah Varney, Gianna Wooden

### Honors

Grade 8: Estefania Aguirre, Destiny Barshell, Brady Bates, Karsyn Bulak, Alexa Butler, Andrew Carpenter, Kelsey Cole, Margaret Dillon, Lena Dolen, Sierra LaCroix, Kenneth Lane, Jahnisha Layne, Jeremy Ledbetter, Arianna Lemerise, Ryder Mandella, Luke Marjault, Kaydi Marttila, Valerie Maynard, Nayeli Merino Canas, Justin Nguyen, Robert O'Neil, Laila Paquin, Ashely Pereira, Ava Petruzzil, Taylor Rodrique, Madalyn Rose, Casey Waterman

Grade 7: Jack Albro, Brody Arnberg, Muhammad Arslan, Rory Barrett, Zachary Couture, Alexander Frisch, Allison Gagne, Stephen Giaquinto, Jonathan Ho, Sarah Kozlowski, Joseph Kulla, Michael Lupien, Alena Martinkova, Nikolai Ngo, Brandon Nguyen, Maryangelie Rivas, Paula Roberts, Muhammad Saqlain, Desmond Strom, Nicholas Stuart, Shane Stuart, Dakita Wint, Jameson Wood, Jennifer Zeena

Grade 6: Luke Bonin, Gabriela Carpenter, John Derrick, Elizabeth Dykas, Benjamin Hagglund, Braydon Herbert, Natalie LaPointe, Ryan Lynch, Arilyn McNally, Lincoln Meloche, Kingston Nguyen, Gia Rigiero, Malin Stimson, Benjamin Tivnan, Marielee Valentin

Grade 5: Elisa Aguirre, Trey Blais, Emmett Bosco, Jolene Boudreau, Landon Bullock, Alice Dolen, Gavin Ford, Stephanie Gerardi, Haidi Hadi, Christopher Harrington, Cameron Hipple, Juliette Hoekstra, Sophia Johnston, Samuel Konieczny, Aaliyah Layne, Fiona Liebman, Ayla Lis, Benjamin Marjault, Charlie Marttila, Owen McBrien, Cole Milgate, Victoria Missi, Isabella Nugent, Colin Potter, Owen Saari, David Sanborn, Kayzen-Kalani Santana Ernestburg, Lily Schrader, Zander Shepard, Diego Suarez Ramirez, Liam Tremblay, Aaliyah Trought, Amy Van Hazinga, Brady Walsh, Lexie Weagle, Brody Weber

## Howard seeks reelection to Spencer Select Board

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — John Howard is seeking re-election to the Board of Selectmen at this month's Annual Town Election.

Having served on both the Spencer and East Brookfield Select Boards during his municipal service career, Howard brings a wealth of experience across multiple facets. He is proud of the work completed during his latest term, with residents and community leaders working hard to overcome pandemic-related challenges.

In the early months of the COVID-19 recovery, Howard worked with local nurses and visited the homes of residents who were unable to go out to receive vaccinations. He has also spent several years working with local seniors.

"I volunteer at the Senior Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays to serve lunch and call bingo," said Howard, who also served on the sub-committees that selected the Town Administrator and the Department of Utilities and Facilities superintendent.

tendent.

Additionally, Howard is the liaison to the Board of Health, Conservation Commission, ODIS, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

If re-elected, Howard would focus on several short-term and long-term goals. These include improving the condition of the library, focusing on the demolition of the former Lake Street School, and possibly using the Pleasant Street School property for pickleball courts.

Additionally, Howard emphasized the need to reduce vandalism at town parks and improve the bleachers at O'Gara Park. He would also like to see a better way

to get permits in town.

Howard has long enjoyed going to high school basketball games and working with local seniors.

"I like being with the seniors at the Senior Center and helping out there," Howard said.

Outside of municipal service, Howard enjoys attending Worcester Red Sox games. He has had season tickets to WooSox games for the past two years.

The town's election is slated for Tuesday, May 9.

## Knights of Columbus to hold family dinner

LEICESTER — The Knights of Columbus will hold a family dinner on Thursday, May 11, at 6 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall (90 Mandeville St.).

Menu options include pasta and meatballs or baked fish.

The cost of the event is \$15 per person, which includes a salad, dessert, and coffee.

Call Don at 508-615-8434 for reservations.

## Christ Memorial Church hosting tag sale

NORTH BROOKFIELD — A tag sale will be held on Saturday, May 6, at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church (133 North Main St.).

The sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plants, puzzles, books, clothes, kids' items, kitchen and household items, and several other items will be available.

In the event of rain, the sale will be postponed to May 13.

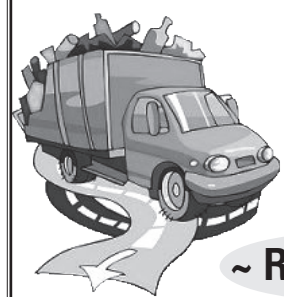
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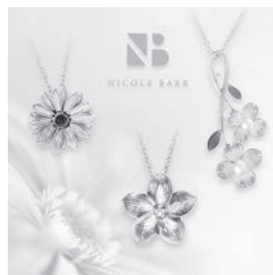
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# Families enjoy Fish and Game Club’s annual fishing derby

SPENCER — Local families recently enjoyed a weekend by the water, as the Spencer Fish and Game Club held its annual two-day spring fishing derby. Held on April 22-23, the event featured plenty of great catches and unforgettable memories for guests of all ages. The program always brings out residents from throughout the area, with many families attending the event for several years. Event organizers thank everyone who helped make the program possible, as well as the local patrons who come out to fish each year.

Kevin Flanders

Families from throughout the area enjoy the annual fishing derby run by the Spencer Fish and Game Club.



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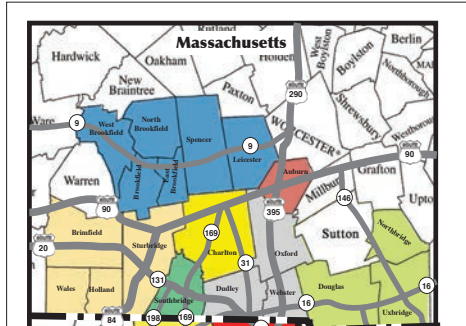
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# Spring cleaning is about more than tidying up

It's been a rainy week, which means that spending time inside organizing and cleaning — along with watching the Red Sox hold steady in first place — was top on our to-do list. Spring cleaning, a chore that happens every year, feels great when complete. Why is it that something so tedious and boring could be so good for us?

Did you know that cleaning actually supports your immune system? Cleaning is of huge benefit especially to those with allergies. Getting rid of dust, pet dander, mildew and mold can trigger the immune system causing unnecessary illness. Those with cluttered homes tend to suffer the worst. To avoid indoor allergies, vacuum regularly, this to include your furniture.

Cleaning reduces stress. While cleaning, your brain is able to relax. This mindless activity can give you a chance to de-stress. Experts say that cleaning for as little as twenty minutes can reduce anxiety by up to 20 percent. It's a win-win — sure, it's no day at the spa, but constructive relaxation is always good. Using products with scents said to induce relaxation such as lavender is also an expert tip.

Heart health can be improved by cleaning by way of exercise. Just a half an hour of vacuuming can burn up to 100 calories. It's a known fact that people who like to keep their homes clean tend to take more interest in their overall health and well-being.

A tidy bedroom is said to help you sleep better. Individuals who make their beds are roughly 20 percent more likely to get a more restful night sleep. Seventy-five percent of people polled sleep better on clean sheets, in a room with less clutter.

When you are in a tidy area, your production increases. Less clutter means less distraction, which is said to clear up mental space. A study from 2011 published in the Journal of Neuroscience used MRI's to track the brain's response to cleanliness. More clutter was found to significantly limit the brain's processing capability.

Checking off the cleaning to do list can make you feel more satisfied and can boost your mood. A clean, fresh house is said to naturally boost endorphins and boost energy levels which leads to a decrease in depression.

Cleaning and organization can have a domino effect in that it can lead to sprucing up other areas of your life. Interesting, was the one finding that stated when individuals were placed in a clean, well-organized space they were more likely to choose healthier menu items.

Perhaps William Morris put it best: "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

## Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thank you for supporting Bay Path

To the Editor:  
Thank you for your support of Bay Path High School. Spencer has been a member of the Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School District for the past 18 years, and during these years, I have served on the School Committee. During the 18 years, I have served four terms as the chair of the Committee, and Chair of the Bay Path \$73.8 million Building and Renovation Project Committee. The project renovated the entire facility adding additional classrooms while expanding others, enlarging shops, replacing roofing, HVAC, and façade of the building.  
During the time of seeking your support for the project, I made a promise that the School Committee would not come back to the Spencer taxpayers for additional funds. We built the needed facility creating a learning environment for students and teachers. This project was completed on

time and \$1.3 million under budget.  
Over the 18 years, we've added Dental Assisting and Veterinary Tech for the high school students. The Vet Tech program is in collaboration and located at the Community Vet Hospital and Bay Bath Veterinary Education Center at Second Chance in Southbridge.  
For adults, the school offers hundreds of classes in the Adult Evening School and for those that completed high school and interested in a career in health the Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy. Call to schedule a tour of the school, or even better, stop in at the restaurant, Tuesday through Friday, for a delicious lunch prepared and served by the students. Again, thank you for your continued support.  
ROBERT ZUKOWSKI  
BAY PATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SPENCER

### Leicester's schools must live within their means

To the Editor:  
Last week, Leicester resident Leonard Ivel couldn't have put it any clearer as to why the voters in Leicester must vote "no" on the Proposition 2 1/2 Override. Please re-read or look it up. Definitely worth the read.  
The Leicester Public Schools used temporary funds (Covid Relief Funds) to add programs and personnel. Now, another school budget is upon us and they don't know how to pay for it because the Covid Relief Funds are

gone! They expect the Leicester taxpayer to pick up the tab for their inappropriate spending. Not going to happen.  
Leicester Schools must cut spending, tighten their bootstraps and live within their means just like the rest of us!  
Voting "no," and asking others to get out and vote this override down!

KATHY ISRAELIAN-FLEMING  
ROCHDALE

### Leicester finally has a plan ...and strong leaders to make it happen

To the Editor:  
As a former member of the Leicester School Committee (2017-2020), I certainly understand the difficult budget issues the Leicester Public School Department is currently facing. At recent meetings, it has been noted that the financial concerns regarding the school budget go back to 2017. That statement definitely piqued my interest. During my term on the School Committee, I remember being faced with the vote to outsource our custodial staff and to close Memorial School. Both of these decisions were brought before the School Committee because we "needed to save money". I was never advised that the fiscal state of affairs was in such despair. With that said, did either of these choices save Leicester money? It is hard to tell when we are now asked to approve a 2 1/2 override.  
Fast forward to today. I was a 2 1/2 override no vote who flipped to yes. Initially, I was not at all interested in writing a blank check to right the wrongs of past administrators in Leicester. I, too, am tired of financial mismanagement and my money being used to correct mistakes. However, I still met with Dr. Kustigian and Beth Auger and asked a lot of questions. I was not easy on them and they were brutally honest with me. They opened the books and showed me all the numbers. What I have discovered is that the attempts to save money over the last 5 years probably helped us out a little bit. The real issue was that no one had a business plan and the strategic thinking to get us in a better financial position. Even if we saved pockets of money here and there, it was not going to move us in the right direction. Dr. Kutigian's plan will do that.  
I am now in full support of the 2 1/2 override. Voters need to recognize this 2 1/2 override is not just a blank check. Dr. Kustigian is asking you to invest in our town, its education system, and most importantly our students. Leicester Public Schools now has two amazing, intelligent, hard working administrators that have developed a solid business plan that will not only correct the wrong financial decisions of the past, but also push Leicester Public

Schools into a new world of vocational programs, obtaining additional state funds, and recruiting students from other districts. Dr. Kustigian has strong experience in these areas from prior positions he has held. In his plan, it is clearly outlined where all the money for the override is going. In the next 5 years, LPS could see themselves making money instead of making quick and rash decisions out of desperation and being backed into a corner.  
If it is approved, we will all feel financial pain. I understand that. The financial sacrifices we will have to make in order to move Leicester Public Schools forward could be short-lived. Dr. Kustigian has promised to come to the town each year and provide a transparent view of how the plan is working and has requested we hold him accountable with these funds. I will also make that same promise. The involvement you see from me now will continue and I will keep a close eye on this work. If we get to the point where things are not working or we have enough money, the town can move to an override with as few as 10 voters petitioning to the Selectboard.  
I also want to make sure Leicester voters understand the pain that will be felt if the override is not approved. As soon as fall 2023, you could see a minimum of 40 LPS students leave the district...forever. All of those school choice payouts come from the Town operating budget and will need to be addressed. Taxpayers could see a minimum of 200K be wiped from the town budget immediately, with the risk of even more if students choose a vocational placement. School choice to Auburn is 5K per year while going to Tantasqua is 14K. These are monies that will be paid from the Town budget to other schools. Vote Yes or vote No- either way, your tax rate will be impacted.  
Your yes vote is needed on May 9. The 2 1/2 override is now at the ballot stage of the process. Please take some time out of your day on May 9, between noon – 8 p.m. to head to the Leicester Town Hall and vote yes.  
TAMMY TEBO  
LEICESTER

### Your support of Second Chance is appreciated

record-breaking amount that will go directly towards providing care for the animals under our care.  
We are particularly grateful to our sponsors including Tito's Handmade Vodka and Joe Campisi, as well as all the auction item donors, and volunteers who made this event possible. Your contributions helped us exceed our fundraising goals and bring awareness to our mission. The generosity shown by our community is a testament to the importance of animal welfare and highlights the significant role that animals play in our lives. We

## Are you protected from disability risk?



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS

TREVOR  
NIELSEN

Like many people, you may try to stay healthy by exercising regularly, following a good diet and avoiding dangerous activities. But as we all know, life is unpredictable, and despite your best efforts, you may encounter an injury or illness that can leave you unable to work for several months — or longer. If this happened, would you have difficulty paying your bills? Or would you be forced to dip into investments meant to help you achieve long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement?

To help prevent these outcomes, you may want to protect yourself against the possibility of a disability. One good move is to build an emergency fund containing up to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. Even if you never need this fund for a disability, it's hardly a wasted effort, because you could use the funds for other unexpected costs, such as a major repair to your home or car.

But to feel truly prepared for a disability that could threaten your financial situation, you may also need to consider disability insurance. If you work for a mid-size or large company, your employer may offer group coverage as an employee benefit. This coverage can be valuable, but it may not be sufficient. For one thing, many employer-sponsored disability policies won't fully replace your lost income. Also, some group policies may make you wait longer than you'd like before your benefits kick in. And these policies aren't always "portable," either — if you leave your job, you might also be leaving behind your disability plan.

For these reasons, you may want to consider purchasing a long-term disability insurance policy. However, the features of these policies vary greatly, so you'll want to be diligent in choosing the policy that's right for you.

What are the key features to compare among policies? For openers, look at the type of policy — is it noncancelable or guaranteed renewable? With a non-cancelable policy, the terms and premiums can't be changed, but a guaranteed renewable policy can increase premiums.

Here are some other features to consider:

Coverage amount – How much will you receive in benefits? You may be able to replace up to 100 percent of your after-tax income.

Waiting period – How much time must pass from the onset of your disability until you start receiving benefits?

Benefit duration – How long will you receive benefits? To protect against a long-term disability, you might want a policy that replaces income until your planned retirement age.

Inflation coverage – How much will your benefits increase each year? Ideally, you'd like your benefits to keep pace with inflation and keep up with what you might receive from future salary increases or promotions.

Definition of disability – If you choose an "Own Occupation" policy, you'll receive benefits if you can't work at the job you had when you became disabled. With an "Any Occupation" policy, you'll receive benefits if you can't work at any job based on your qualifications.

Clearly, there's much to consider when choosing a disability policy. You might want to consult with a financial professional, who can help you pick a policy that fits within your overall financial strategy. But don't wait too long — you may never need to use this protection, but you might like having it available.

*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.*

could not have achieved this success without the support of our community.

On behalf of Second Chance Animal Services, I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us during the 24th Annual Second Chance Animal Services Dinner Auction. Your contributions are appreciated more than words can express.

Sincerely,  
LINDSAY DORAY  
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES  
EAST BROOKFIELD

# Anglers are cleaning up in the valley

The wild turkey season got off to a great start these past two weeks, with numerous hunters bagging their two birds for the season. Some of the toms weighed in at over twenty pounds and sported some impressive beards and spurs. Reports of hunters encountering numerous Jakes (one year old birds) and very few hens, was a bit concerning. The absence of acorns this past fall may have had an impact on the survival of some turkeys, but there still seems to be plenty of birds in the valley area.

Stripers are in both the Cape and Rhode Island waters. One local man harvested a nice 20-pound striper, and one large tautog last week near the Canal. The Providence River is also giving up a lot of school stripers, with an occasional legal striper. One angler fishing at Indiana



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

Point caught numerous under size stripers, and also snagged a porgie while casting his fishing lure. By the time you read this column, action in both states should be providing some good fishing on the saltwater.

Trout fishing in the valley is producing some nice rainbow and brown trout, with the most productive bait being used as power bait. Anglers using shiners for bait are catching some nice largemouth and small-mouth bass, along with a few trout. This week's rain kept a few anglers indoors, but for the die-hard anglers, fishing was very good. Some area ponds and rivers are

receiving a second stocking of trout, and the F&W trucks and personnel will continue to stock trout until Memorial Day, or a bit later if trout are still available.

Trout fishing derbies planned for this weekend include the annual fun fishing day at River Bend farm in Uxbridge, sponsored by Open Sky Community Services. The event is planned for Saturday May 6 From 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. and is free to all participants. Fish poles, bait and instructors will be available for the event. It is a catch and release event!

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will restock their pond this Friday in anticipation of the kids' fishing derby planned for the following week, May 13! The derby is open to all youngsters of club members. Free breakfast will be served to all kids in attendance, & numerous



Courtesy

This week's picture shows Capt. Mel True of Fishnet Charters with a limit of tautog he and his fishing buddy caught on the Westport River last week!

prizes will be awarded to youngsters that catch the largest trout. The derby starts at 8 a.m. and closes

at 10 a.m. After 10 a.m., the club pond will be open to all club members! Take A Kid Fishing &

Keep Them Rods Bending!



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
.....  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

Hot on the heels of Earth Day and Arbor Day, trees, both big and small, are coming alive with long anticipated buds of color. But the promise of lush, green foliage is just one benefit of planting trees. With that in mind, the column below is a rerun (with updates) that celebrates the many virtues of trees - from showy shrubs to towering timbers! \*\*\*

Hedge against fuel costs: The Center for Urban Forest Research proclaimed planting a tree can have a significant impact on lowering energy use. It claims:

«If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in five years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%.” \*\*\*

Plant and pocket savings: Want trees to trim more of your fuel fees? According to expert landscapers, just three trees, properly placed around a house, can save between \$100 and \$300 annually in cooling and heating costs! That's because shading that blocks summertime sun on the east, south and west sides of a house, but not cool breezes, is an effective way to keep your house cooler. For quickest results, opt for fast growing varieties. \*\*\*

Money trees: According to the USDA Forest

Service, “Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30%”. In addition, heating cost can be lowered as much as 20-50% when trees act as a windbreak. There is also the added bonus of trees providing privacy when placed correctly in your yard. \*\*\*

Proper placement: If you use an air conditioner, plant trees or shrubs specifically to shade air conditioning units, but be sure not to block the airflow. It's common sense that an air conditioning unit operating in the shade uses less electricity than one in the sun. \*\*\*

Chill out: Need more convincing? Consider this fact: Daytime air temperatures can be

three to nine degrees cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods. In fact, the U.S. Dept of Agriculture estimates the net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day! \*\*\*

Tree Timing: Did you know trees can be used to time crop planting? The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today: Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long). \*\*\*

Hike house value: “In one eye opening study from the Arbor National Mortgage & American Forests, 98% of realtors believe that mature trees have a “strong or moderate impact” on the salability of homes. Want more? A study done by Clemson University revealed homes with excellent landscaping can expect up to 7% more value, as compared to a home with good landscaping. \*\*\*

Recovery Rates: According to Money Magazine, landscaping can bring a recovery value of 100% to 200% at selling time. \*\*\*

Tree Rx: Did you know just looking at trees can reap health benefits? According to medical studies, recovery rates among hospitalized patients are often quick-

er when their rooms view a landscaped area compared to patients with non-landscaped views. \*\*\*

Breathe easier: Trees absorb harmful pollutants and small particles from the air which could irritate sensitive lungs. Plus, trees give off oxygen. A mature leafy tree can produce as much oxygen in one season as ten people inhale in a year! \*\*\*

Tree planting tip: It can be difficult to successfully take cuttings from trees or shrubs to root and plant. Here is an option that ups your chances the cutting will take: Take a small potato, make a small hole, and place your shrub cutting inside. Immediately plant, potato and all, either in the ground or in a pot. \*\*\*

Planting pointers: Waiting until the fall to plant encourages good root development. Nurseries often slash prices on perennials and shrubs at the end of the summer, so planting then will reward you with healthy plants on the cheap! \* \* Forest Facts:

\*One mighty oak tree may have up to 400 species of plants and animals living on it.

\* Trees provide us with thousands of products that go way beyond wood and paper: Items derived from trees include: toothpaste, chewing gum, suntan lotion, paint, film,

crayons, perfumes, soap, paper, shatterproof glass, cork, dyes, drugs, syrup, and more.

\*It takes approximately 17 to 24 trees to make one ton of paper. \*\*\*

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown 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.

## The power of perspective

A few years ago, I conversed with a friend who enthusiastically shared his newfound interest in Stoicism. Puzzled, I inquired, “What’s that?” He explained that it was a life philosophy famously practiced by Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. I chuckled, “Life advice from a Roman Emperor? No thanks!”

After all, Roman Emperors were known for some of the wildest and most outrageous antics in history. As a testament to the madness of some Roman Emperors, Emperor Caligula, known for his erratic behavior and cruelty, is said to have attempted to make his favorite horse the highest-ranking public official in Rome. Emperor Elagabalus once filled a banquet hall with flowers up to the guests’ necks, nearly causing some to suffocate!

The term “stoic” often conjures funny images of calm individuals impervious to emotion. We envision people who never laugh, never win in pain, and maintain a blank expression in the face of life’s most daunting challenges. So, what exactly is Stoicism? It is an ancient philosophy that teaches the development of self-control, rational thinking, and inner strength to overcome destructive emotions.

Society seems filled with anxiety more than ever before. Wreaking havoc on our bodies, manifesting as chronic fatigue, bad sleeping habits, and translating into even more severe health issues. Many grapple with this relentless unease, resorting to

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

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MOORE

medications, therapy, and countless stress-management techniques.

Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius was no stranger to anxiety. He faced immense pressure from managing the vast Roman Empire encompassing present-day countries such as Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and parts of the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Middle East. The ever-present threat of assassination loomed large, making constant vigilance a necessity. Unsurprisingly, he sought solace in Stoic teachings, documenting his insights on managing anxiety and maintaining composure amidst the chaos of life.

In his famous book “Meditations,” he said, “The first step: Don’t be anxious. Nature controls it all...The second step: Concentrate on what you have to do...Then do it, without hesitation...”

Translation: Don’t be anxious; relax, concentrate on your goals, and then go for it! Don’t overthink; act! You’ll lose your anxiety as it becomes replaced by the satisfaction of progress.

In his other writings, he says, “Today I escaped anxiety. Or no, I discarded it because it was within me, in my perceptions, not outside.”

Translation: In other words, “I got rid of anxiety today. I threw it away because it was inside me, based on my perspective, not coming from the outside world.”

The Stoics taught that it wasn’t so much an outside event that causes you to panic, worry, and dread the future but actually because of how you interpret the event.

It’s your perspective; it’s your interpretation of the event that causes the anxiety. For example, imagine two people facing the same challenge, like a public speaking engagement. One person may feel anxiety and fear because they believe they will perform poorly or be judged harshly by the audience. Meanwhile, the other person sees it as an opportunity to share their knowledge and connect, thus feeling excited and confident. The external event remains the same, but their interpretations and resulting emotions differ.

Aurelius also said, “Many of the anxieties that harass you are superfluous... expand into an ampler region, letting your thoughts sweep over the entire universe.”

Translation: Many of the worries that bother you aren’t necessary. Think beyond your immediate problems and look at the bigger picture. For example, if you’re stressed about a difficult decision you need to make, Consider the potential long-term consequences and benefits of each option. What might happen if you didn’t take action or make a choice? You can gain clarity and reduce your anxiety by stepping back and evaluating the situation from a broader perspective.

By focusing on the power of perspective and our ability to control interpretations of events, we may find that our thoughts are the key to overcoming anxiety. Changing our perceptions and interpretations of the event and transforming our emotional life to experience the serenity we deeply crave may only be one perspective shift away.

## Annual Conservation Restrictions Imposed on Outdoor Water use in Spencer

April 21, 2023

SPENCER — A mandatory water use restriction for Spencer Public Water Supply Users, which includes mandatory water use restrictions effective May 1, 2023 until September 30, 2023 was announced on April 21, 2023 by the Spencer Water Department.

The conservation restriction prohibits the following non-essential outdoor activities from occurring between hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM: irrigation of lawns via automatic sprinkler systems (all types of above and below ground sprinkler systems); washing of vehicles except in a commercial car wash; and washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

The restriction does allow for lawns, gardens and plants to be watered by a handheld hose or bucket any time. The restriction also allows for irrigating newly established lawns and plantings in the months of May and September; and in public parks or recreational fields with automatic sprinklers before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. The DEP requires conservation conditions related to the Town’s permitted water withdrawals under the Massachusetts Water Management Act. According to William Cundiff, Spencer U&F Superintendent, “The conservation restrictions imposed merely represent good water conservation practice. They are easy to comply with and generally should be practiced by everyone all the time whether or not an enforceable water conservation restriction has been imposed.”

Anyone violating the bylaw will be issued a warning for the first offense; a \$100 fine for the second offense and a \$250 fine for each subsequent offense.

A complete copy of the Town of Spencer’s 2023 Water Use Restriction Notice can be found at the Spencer website: [spencerma.gov](http://spencerma.gov).

The above Town of Spencer web site also provides useful links to water conservation tips to help save money and preserve the environment.

If any questions, contact the Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office at (508) 885-7525.

**CRYPTO FUN**

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

---

Solve the code to discover words related to building.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 18 = R)

**A.    16   11   15   7   13   18   22   16   13**  
*Clue: Build*

**B.    6   17   13   8   18   14   17   5   7**  
*Clue: Supplies*

**C.    7   22   25   8   18   12   14   7   8**  
*Clue: Manage*

**D.    4   18   17   6   8**  
*Clue: Outer structure*

**Answers: A. construct B. materials C. supervise D. frame**

# SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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**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!

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

ANSWER:



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150-300 .....	\$2.75	Drop off Tanks .	\$3.00

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## Gardening gifts for any occasion

Look to the garden when struggling to find the best gift for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, or other occasions. A gift of plants, seeds, or gardening tools and accessories provides months and years of beauty and enjoyment.

With so many options it is easy to match the gardening gift to the recipient and your budget. Plants are always a great choice for gardening enthusiasts. Small, more affordable plants are fun for gardeners to tend, nurture, and watch grow. Giving larger plants or unique varieties provide a gift the recipient may be reluctant to purchase for themselves.

Do-it-yourself gardening gifts are good choices for both beginners and experienced gardeners who like the process as well as the results. An attractive container, some seeds or plants, and potting mix is a good place to start. Consider giving a self-watering pot to increase success and reduce maintenance. Add some plant tags you purchase or put your artistic talents to work creating your own.

Those who like to cook and garden will appreciate gifts that help them grow their own fresh herbs. Plants and seeds are always a good choice. Combine these with containers like the Provence self-watering planter that is compact

and spill-proof for indoors. An elevated garden like the VegTrug® herb planter or the VegTrug® Self-Watering Herb Planter Box is a great way to grow, tend and harvest herbs in a sunny spot on the patio, deck, or balcony.

For those that like to garden outdoors, containers, stakes, trellises, and tools are always welcome gifts. A tool caddy that holds pruners, plant tags, and other small garden accessories is an easy way to store and transport hand tools to the garden. Consider a cart like the Mobile Tool Storage Caddy that allows easy transporting of long-handled tools, space for hand tools, and a basket for other supplies.

Make gardening more accessible with a gift of a kneeler, kneeling pad, or garden bench. Protecting joints and making kneeling and reaching into the garden easier reduces fatigue and extends the time and enjoyment of gardening. The Bamboo Garden Bench and Basket offer dual functions, allowing gardeners to sit and weed or easily carry their harvest from the garden to the house.

Vegetable and flower gardeners will



### GARDEN MOMENTS

.....

MELINDA MYERS

appreciate a harvest basket like the Garden Hod. Hods were originally used by Maine clam diggers to hold and rinse their catch. The oil-finished pine-and-maple frame and food-grade vinyl-covered mesh of the Garden Hod lets you rinse dirt and debris from your veggies right in the

garden.

Help your gift recipient bring in the birds with gifts of bird feeders and bird-baths. Adding these items to their landscape can help increase the number and variety of winged visitors. Bird watching and gardening provide enjoyment while also boosting our spirit and mood.

Consider adding the gift of time. Help assemble, place, or plant the gardening gift. Spending time together makes any gift more special and enjoyable for you both.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening* and *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds &*



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

This all-in-one basket, stool, and seat, the Bamboo Garden Stool and Basket Combo, allows gardeners to carry tools, plants, and veggies or turn it over to sit on for weeding or planting.

Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Cast iron banks

Almost everyone had a piggy bank growing up, learning the value of saving money in a fun way. Children in the late 19th century saved their change in a cast iron bank.

Cast iron banks had their heyday from 1869 to either 1910 or 1930, depending on the source. Cast iron banks came as either mechanical banks or still banks. Still banks are simpler and feature a slot where you place the money (typically a coin). Mechanical banks have a mechanism that creates motion in order to move the coin from where it was placed into a coin slot. For example, the "Trick Dog" mechanical bank has a barrel on the left, a dog on the right, and a clown holding a hoop in the middle. When you place a coin in the dog's mouth, the dog springs forward through the clown's hoop and drops the coin into the barrel. It's a good example of a mechanical bank but worth mentioning that it's also very heavily reproduced, and I often see modern reproductions at flea markets.

The original cast iron mechanical bank was made in our area. John Hall of Watertown, Mass. created the Hall's



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
.....  
WAYNE TUISKULA

Excelsior bank in 1869. The bank is shaped like a bank building with a string next to the door. When the string is pulled, a monkey cashier pops up from under the cupola on the bank roof. When a coin is placed on the monkey's desk, the coin's weight pulls the monkey back down as the coin drops into the bank.

One of the biggest manufacturers of cast iron banks also has a local connection. J. & E. Stevens was formed by John and Elisha Stevens in Cromwell, Conn. in 1843. They planned to make cast iron hardware, hammers, and a few toys. They created a toy firecracker piston in 1859 and focused more on other toys such as cannons and locomotives, along with stoves and furniture marketed to girls. J & E Stevens manufactured Hall's Excelsior bank in 1869. The company produced over 300 different models of mechanical banks between 1869 and 1890, according to [connecticuthistory.org](http://connecticuthistory.org).

To find out if your bank is valuable, you should first determine whether it is a copy or original antique. You can buy a brand new "Design Toscano Canterbury

Tales Chanticleer Rooster Cast Iron Mechanical Bank" on Amazon for \$32.90. During the 1950s, the Book of Knowledge also reproduced copies of antique originals to help sell their encyclopedias. You can look at old banks at shows, shops, and museums to see the difference in detail with an antique bank compared to modern copies.

If you do in fact have an original cast iron bank, it can be very valuable. All in the last month, a Santa at Chimney Cast Iron Mechanical Bank made by Shepard Hardware Company sold for \$950, a J & Stevens Hen & Chicks cast iron mechanical bank brought \$1,000, and a J & E Stevens Cat & Mouse cast iron mechanical bank went for \$1,200.

Some rare banks can bring up to five- and even six-figure sums. A J & E Stevens 1893 Chicago Columbian World's Fair bank with Columbus, the Santa Maria, and a Native American and Buffalo sold for over \$45,000 in 2011. Another J & E Stevens Shoot the Chute mechanical bank depicting a carnival chute boat ride bank brought \$130,000 in February 2021. A record was set when a J & E Stevens Girl Skipping Rope example broke the bank selling for \$156,000 in 2021.

We'll have many cast iron banks in our upcoming online auction which



will take place later this month. We also have tin toys, vintage antique toys, more contemporary collectibles toys, baseball cards, and guitars in this sale. We are still accepting consignments of jewelry, sterling silver, fine art, and more for our June auction. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111).

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, APRIL 20  
7:58 a.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), assisted; 10:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:44 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:55 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 11:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:41 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), assisted; 1:20 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:27 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 3:34 p.m.: assist other PD (Burncoat Street), services rendered; 3:50 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:23 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:26 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 4:58 p.m.: hanging wires (Second Street), services rendered; 5:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 5:18 p.m.: welfare check (South Street Extension), report taken; 5:22 p.m.: ambulance (South Street Extension), transported to hospital; 6:11 p.m.: welfare check (Mill Street), spoken to; 6:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:30 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:40 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:21 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 8:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:32 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 8:42 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 8:45 p.m.: disturbance (Sargent Street), unfounded; 8:49 p.m.: commercial alarm (Baldwin Street), assisted; 9:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:05 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:26 p.m.: investigation (Baldwin Street), report taken.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21  
12:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mulberry Street), spoken to; 7:44 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 10:10 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:45 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 11:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (Rawson Street), services rendered; 11:40 a.m.: welfare check (Deer Pond Drive), spoken to; 11:43 a.m.: ambulance (Sunset Drive, Charlton), transported; 12:26 p.m.: welfare check (Craig Street), services rendered; 1:06 p.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 1:38 p.m.: missing person (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 1:47 p.m.: larceny (Soojians Drive), report taken; 3:03 p.m.: suspicious activity (Rawson Street), services rendered; 3:23 p.m.: commercial alarm (Parker Street), false alarm; 3:26 p.m.: suspicious person (Henshaw Street), unfounded; 4:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:28 p.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:49 p.m.: assist citizen (Winslow Avenue); 5:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:35 p.m.: welfare check (McCarthy Avenue), unfounded; 7:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:21 p.m.: ambulance (Coolidge Road, Worcester), transported; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, citation issued; 8:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:05 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, license not in possession, possession Class A drug; name and address redacted from police log, possession Class A drug, criminal applications issued/2; 11:20 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22  
12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:45 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 3:58 a.m.: debris in road (Marshall Street), referred; 4:44 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 4:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:34 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:53 a.m.: ambulance (Woodland Street, Worcester),

transported; 12:38 p.m.: investigation (Warren Avenue), spoken to; 12:46 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 12:50 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:16 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), resolved; 2:30 p.m.: soliciting (Soojians Drive), resolved; 2:44 p.m.: ambulance (Boutilier Road), transported; 4:29 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:22 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:38 p.m.: mv stop (Mt. Pleasant Avenue), written warning; 5:41 p.m.: commercial alarm (South Main Street), false alarm; 6:01 p.m.: assist other PD (South Court), resolved; 7:35 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 7:52 p.m.: welfare check (Hyland Avenue), unfounded; 8:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 8:40 p.m.: investigation (South Court), report taken; 8:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:23 p.m.: property found (South Main Street), resolved; 9:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, citation issued.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23  
3:52 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Salminen Drive), resolved; 7:26 a.m.: ambulance (Fairview Drive), transported; 8:58 a.m.: commercial alarm (South Main Street), false alarm; 9:23 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 9:51 a.m.: welfare check (Pine Street), transported; 1:52 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 2:13 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 8:15 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 11:33 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unfounded.

MONDAY, APRIL 24  
12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:53 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:48 a.m.: ambulance (Tanglewood Road), transported; 9:58 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 10:16 a.m.: welfare check (Hankey Street), services rendered; 11:03 a.m.: restraining order service (Winslow Avenue), served; 11:23 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 12:01 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 12:06 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:36 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:52 p.m.: disabled mv (Pine Street), services rendered; 3:58 p.m.: disabled mv (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 4:22 p.m.: RV complaint (Towtaid Street), spoken to; 5:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:19 p.m.: ambulance (Borkum Road, Spencer), transported; 6:27 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 6:34 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv not meeting safety standards, criminal application issued; 10:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 10:22 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 10:27 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25  
12:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:04 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 2:45 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 8:27 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 8:32 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 8:48 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 9:34 a.m.: summons service (Mannville Street), served; 10:35 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 12:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:24 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 1:37 p.m.: mv stop (Whittemore Street), written warning; 1:48 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 1:57 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 2:05 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 4:09 p.m.: summons service (Charlton Street), unable to serve; 4:30 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 7:24 p.m.: RV complaint (Auburn Street), unable to locate; 7:36 p.m.: mv stop (Cross Street), written warning; 7:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 8:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:15 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:17 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning;

8:34 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 8:43 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:55 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:07 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 9:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:18 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), unfounded; 9:23 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), written warning; 9:44 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 10:03 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), no action required; 10:34 p.m.: suspicious mv (Folsom Street), spoken to.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26  
1:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:29 a.m.: ambulance (Harding Street), transported; 8:23 a.m.: assist other agency (Stafford Street), services rendered; 8:26 a.m.: assist citizen (Baldwin Street); 8:46 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 10:20 a.m.: fraud (Burncoat Street), report taken; 10:55 a.m.: assist citizen (Baldwin Street); 11:00 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 11:08 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 11:17 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 11:27 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 11:36 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 11:41 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 11:53 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 11:54 a.m.: ambulance (Tanglewood Road), transported; 12:03 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 12:12 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 12:18 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 1:14 p.m.: accident (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, malicious destruction of property over \$1200, assault, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, criminal application issued; 2:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:06 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 2:48 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:04 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:10 p.m.: ambulance (Colton Street, Worcester), transported; 4:14 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 4:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO; 4:46 p.m.: property found (Mulberry Street), report taken; 5:17 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 5:30 p.m.: ambulance (College Street, Worcester), transported; 5:37 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, number plate violation, criminal application issued; 7:01 p.m.: civil dispute (Baldwin Street), resolved; 7:34 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:42 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:01 p.m.: erratic operator (Lexington Avenue), unfounded; 8:15 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:46 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 9:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:59 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Willow Hill Road), referred to ACO; 10:05 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 10:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

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## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19  
12:14-3:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:17 a.m.: suspicious persons (Howe Village), re: banging on outside wall; 1:08 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 1:49 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 3:08 a.m.: medical/general (Bellflower Lane); 3:30 a.m.: suspicious m (Main Street), investigated; 6:55 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 10:08 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; 10:43 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 11:52 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), no contact; 11:55 a.m.: harassing calls (High Street), re: calls from ex-gf; 1:17 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 2:04 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 2:23 p.m.: odor of gas (Pearl Street), referred; 3:07 p.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 3:24 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 3:33 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 4:10 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 4:36 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo/bank robbery; 4:55 p.m.: shoplifting (West Main Street), larceny of fish; 5:19 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (North Spencer Road), mulch smoldering/referred;

5:30 p.m.: medical/general (Sunberg Road); 5:42 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 6:05 p.m.: animal complaint (Pearl Street), re: abandoned cat/kittens; 7:34 p.m.: 911 call (Temple Street), child w/phone; 9:16 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 9:37 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

THURSDAY, APRIL 20  
12:25 a.m.: mv repossessed (Mechanic Street), info taken; 1:28-4:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:35 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 7:52 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Donnelly Road), no contact; 7:56 a.m.: mv fire (Main Street), referred; 8:12 a.m.: commercial alarm (Bixby Road), referred; 8:51 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. earlier incident; 9:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), info taken; 12:08 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 12:28 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), open line; 12:48 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); state of CT/OOP; 1:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Lake Street), barking dog; 1:10 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Thompson Pond Road), brush fire/referred; 1:32 p.m.: mv complaint (Bixby Road), ex-tenant left mv behind; 1:47 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 2:00 p.m.: fraud (North Spencer Road), rep. c/c fraud; 2:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 4:16 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:24 p.m.: medical/general (Laliberte Lane); 8:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), no trespass order issued; 8:13 p.m.: medical/general (Candlewood Drive); 10:21 p.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); (total daily mv stops – 0).

FRIDAY, APRIL 21  
1:20-5:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:10 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), rocks/gravel in roadway; 9:29 a.m.: animal complaint (Pearl Street), found cat/kittens under porch; 10:28 a.m.: officer wanted (Donnelly Cross Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 10:57 a.m.: fraud (Greenville Street), re: contractor scam; 11:57 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 12:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), questions re: restraining order; 1:49 p.m.: officer wanted (G.H. Wilson Road), rep. an issue; 1:56 p.m.: fraud (Cherry Street), rep. fraud of some kind; 2:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: missing repair plate; 2:44 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: notification for alcohol testing; 5:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:59 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 6:17 p.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 7:30 p.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road), Jeffrey R.I. Castellanos, 33, 58 Purdue Drive, Milford, OUI liquor, negligent operation, arrest; 7:44 p.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 8:22 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), customer yelling at clerk; 11:53 p.m.: disabled mv (Meadow Road), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, APRIL 22  
12:03-5:09 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:06 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 9:06 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 9:37 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Smithville Road), poss. illegal burn/referred; 11:03 a.m.: illegal dumping (South Spencer Road), trailer spilling debris; 12:05 p.m.: animal complaint (Charron Road), loose dogs; 12:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. transfer to hospital; 5:03 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 5:19 p.m.: mv lockout (North Spencer Road), assisted; 5:30 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 5:59 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), raptor struck/still alive; 7:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), fem. laying on ground; 10:17 p.m.: building checked secure; 11:28 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road), total daily mv stops – 1);

SUNDAY, APRIL 23  
12:40-5:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:55 a.m.: medical/general (Starr Street); 10:29 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 12:32 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 12:56 p.m.: medical/general (Franklin Street); 4:22 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), physical altercation; 4:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), re: pending court date; 4:35 p.m.: disturbance (Lincoln Street), unwanted party; 6:29 p.m.: medical/general (Highland Street); 6:48 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 7:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Norcross Road), coyote in yard; 9:01 p.m.: juvenile matter (Bixby Road), re: Snapc hat post; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, APRIL 24  
12:54-1:58 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:25 a.m.: suspicious mv (Lake Street), investigated; 3:07 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:53 a.m.: open door (West Main Street), rep. side door open; 7:43 a.m.: medical/general (Sumner Street); 7:46 a.m.: medical/general (Candlewood Drive); 8:04 a.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 8:07 a.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), noise complaint; 9:17 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/7 (West Main Street), assisted; 10:25 a.m.: DPW call (Norcross Road), tree suspended



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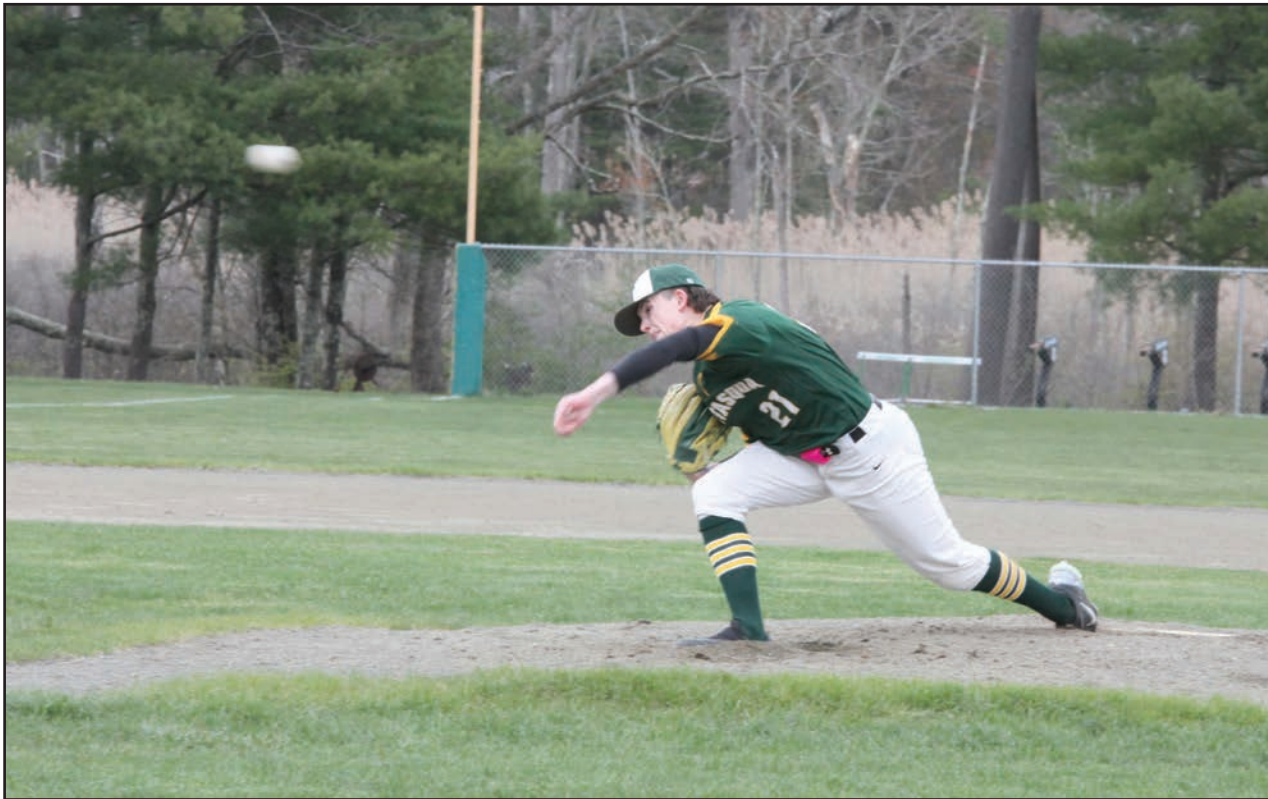
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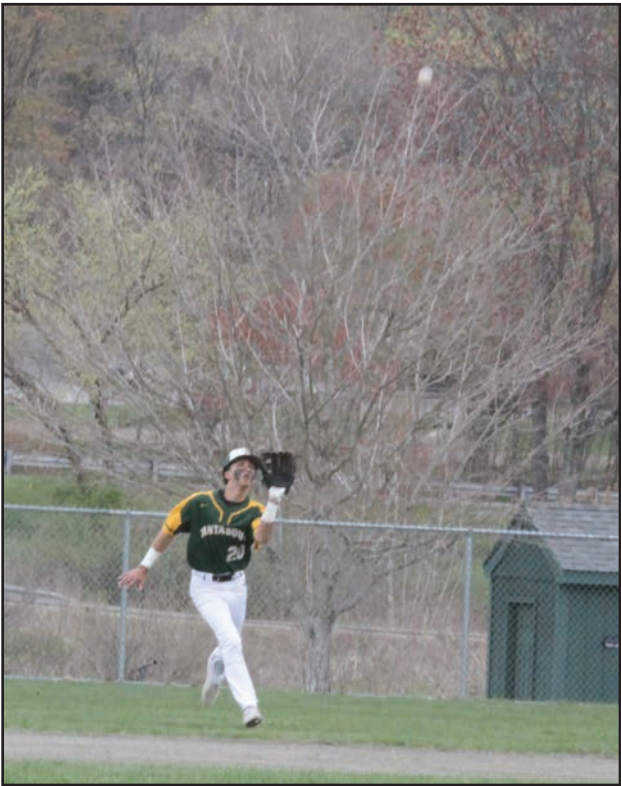
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# SPORTS

## MacNevin fans four in a row to earn save for Warriors in win over Saint Paul



Tantasqua starting pitcher Miles Blake fires off a pitch toward the plate.



Right fielder Chace Fredette of Tantasqua tracks down a ball hit his way.



Tantasqua's Colm McGrath takes his lead off the first base bag.

**BY NICK ETHIER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

STURBRIDGE — Jon Leroux, head coach of the Tantasqua Regional varsity baseball team, noted that pitching in relief, especially mid-inning, is not a particularly easy task. And Leroux called on Lucas MacNevin to do just that, relieving

starter Miles Blake with one out in the top of the sixth inning and the Warriors leading Saint Paul High of Worcester, 5-2, on Friday, April 28 at William R. Emrich Field. MacNevin walked his first batter, the Knights' Colin Kruez, to load the bases. The next hitter, Evan Waden, then reached base on an error, which scored a run. Up next for Saint Paul was Joey Bazydlo, and he had the first of his two hits to drive in another. But MacNevin was able to bear down, getting Jack McGrath to pop out and Jake LeFrancois to strike out, ending the threat with Tantasqua still ahead by a run. MacNevin then pitched

a 1-2-3 seventh inning, all outs on strikeouts, for the save and coinciding 5-4 victory. "It's very hard at any level and at the high school level even more, so for him to come in and keep his composure and do a good job, it's all we needed," Leroux said of MacNevin's pitching performance. MacNevin's curveball, his top pitch, was what got the job done against the Knights.

"Lucas made a great save," said Leroux. "He's been throwing his breaking ball really, really well. He has a pretty good one and he's confident to throw it in a 3-2 count. You're going to fool a lot of high school kids."

"That's my main pitch, I throw it a lot," MacNevin said of the curve. "I'm just trying to pump, and that's a good team, so I'm just trying to throw strikes and hope my curve is on for the day."

MacNevin also gave some insight when it came to facing the

Knights in the pressure packed sixth inning.

"About the bases being loaded, I just try to forget about all that and focus on the batter," said MacNevin.

Saint Paul scored single runs in the top of the third and fourth innings to grab a 2-0 lead, but Tantasqua battled back with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth. There, Jack Rapose (2-for-3) led off with an infield single and advanced to second on an error. Henry Blake (2-for-3) then attempted a sacrifice bunt that turned into a single, putting runners on first and third with nobody out. Devin Krochmalnyckyj then popped out behind the plate, but a heady Henry Blake advanced to second base on the play. MacNevin then attempted a squeeze bunt but, when he missed on the attempt, Rapose slid safely into home following a short pickle. Henry Blake later scored on a wild pitch to tie the score at 2-2.

The Warriors then pieced together a trio of runs in the fifth to take a 5-2 lead. Much like in the fourth frame, an infield single (by Cole Nussey) and a bunt single (by Chace Fredette) put runners on. Colm McGrath then hit an RBI single. Rapose and Henry Blake later added RBI singles for the three-run lead.

"Our kids did a nice job. They scratch and claw, do whatever they have to do to win," said Leroux. "The biggest thing in high school baseball is the team that makes more plays is going to win, and we

made a couple more plays than they did today."

Saint Paul did grab the two runs to make a closer game of it, but MacNevin being able to shut the door improved Tantasqua's record to 9-1.

"We're playing well. The first Power Rankings came out today and we were the 1 seed in Division 3," said Leroux, adding that a tougher nonleague schedule this season — including the battle with Saint Paul — is only helping the Warriors with their Power Ranking. "It hurt us last year a little bit. Last year there were a lot of unknowns going into the year. Coming into this year, we knew from last year that we had guys that could throw."

Starter Miles Blake (5-1/3 innings, 4 runs (1 earned), 2 hits, 6 strikeouts, 6 walks) and MacNevin (1-2/3 innings, 1 hit, 4 strikeouts, 1 walk) are now sophomores, and the other pitchers in the rotation, including junior Joe Amaru and seniors Aubyn Phillips and Steven Parent, all possess an extra year of experience.

"Those are our five guys. To have trust in five guys is something that not many high school coaches have, which is awesome," said Leroux.

MacNevin was pleased with defeating Saint Paul (6-4), a top-10 team in Division 1.

"This is huge, they're a really good team," said MacNevin, before turning his attention on his squad. "The team's great, I love these guys. We just focus on one game at a time and go from there."

### Friday's Child



Dahkari and Kaleena  
Age 10 and 11

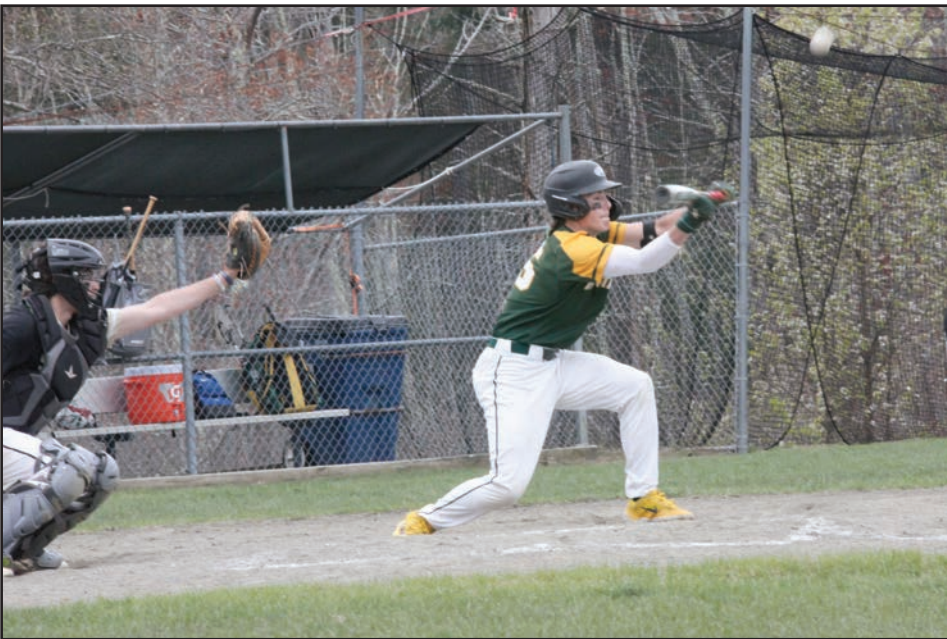
Hi! Our names are Dahkari and Kaleena and we want to be adopted together!

Dahkari and Kaleena are siblings who are looking for their family together. Those who know Dahkari best describe him as an extremely sweet, polite and well-mannered boy with a quirky sense of humor and a desire to please others. He has a love of reading, especially the Percy Jackson series, and also enjoys watching movies and playing video games. Dahkari makes friends easily and at school his teachers say that he is a wonderful child to have in class. They say he has a positive attitude and puts a lot

of effort into his work. Dahkari's favorite subject is math. Kaleena is a very kind and silly girl who can be a little shy. She smiles a lot and is always polite. When asked about herself, she will give short answers and smile and be very polite. Those who know her best describe her as a fun, sweet, and spunky child. Kaleena LOVES to dance. Her nickname is Shakira in her current foster-home, where she has also learned Spanish. Kaleena also likes imaginative play with dolls and playing with others. Kaleena just transferred to a new elementary school this year and has been thriving academically. Her teacher states she is very social and always includes other kids in things at school. Dahkari and Kaleena will do well in a family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home. Interested families should be open to maintaining monthly visits with their sibling placed in the care of kin.

#### 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](http://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.



Henry Blake of Tantasqua bunts at a high pitch. The play ultimately turned into an infield single.

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# SPORTS

## Lessons learned for Bay Path, who knock off Indians



The Bay Path softball team surrounds home plate as Grace Jones approaches. Jones had just hit a three-run homer to right-center field.

**BY NICK ETHIER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**WEBSTER** — When the Bay Path Regional varsity softball team hosted Blackstone Valley Tech on Wednesday, April 26, the Minutemen got out to a 4-0 lead. But the Beavers answered with five runs — all unearned — to take a 5-4 advantage. Bay Path then tied the score at 5-5 only for BVT to score another unearned run in the seventh inning to win a 6-5 decision.

But the Minutemen were back at it the very next day when they traveled to Bartlett High. There, Bay Path took advantage of the Indians' miscues to the tune of six unearned runs. The Minutemen ultimately won the game in six mercy-rule shortened innings, 12-0.

"We came back after a tough one yesterday," said Bay Path head coach Rick Carrero. "The biggest thing that I've gotten from these girls from last year is that they take everything pitch by pitch, play by play. I'm constantly reinforcing that. Their short memory is the biggest thing that they've learned this year."

Carrero was pleased to see the Minutemen beat Bartlett in the very way they lost to the Beavers.

"We learned that yesterday when we made errors and BVT got the five (runs). Today we were on that side. It's a good lesson. They understand that a couple errors take place and you've got to get those runs, take the extra base and get yourself in scoring position," said Carrero.

Bay Path scored once in the top of the first inning on a Grace Jones

RBI single up the middle, which was an earned run, but they added six more runs in the second, which were all unearned. The Indians' defense committed three errors in the frame — their only three miscues of the contest — and the Minutemen took advantage. Jones (3-for-4, 4 RBI) had the big hit of the inning, a three-run homer to right-center field. Two errors and a Lee Dagnese RBI single to center scored the other runs. "She's been tremendous all year," Carrero said of Jones, Bay Path's lone senior. "Her power to right-center field, she can extend those arms. Last year, she wanted to pull everything...we've gotten her to hit the ball the other way. She's been really working on it, so that's a tribute to her."

"We had one inning that slipped away from us a little bit, they started hitting it a little bit harder," Bartlett head coach Courtney Stawiecki said of the second inning. "Outside of that, though, they're starting to piece parts of the game together. We're not at the point where we can piece seven innings together yet."

The Minutemen added three runs in the fourth inning and two more in the sixth to account for the 12-0 final. Miranda Linde (inside the park homer), Anna Lehtola (2-for-4; RBI single) and Savannah Steiner (RBI single) plated the runs in the fourth inning, while the two in the sixth were scored on wild pitches.

Sam Buchanan pitched for Bay Path, and it turned into a six-inning no-hitter. She also struck out eight and didn't walk a batter.

That gave the

Minutemen two no-hitters on the season, as Kirsten Congdon blanked Uxbridge High earlier in the year, 5-0. One day later — on Friday, April 28 — Congdon earned Bay Path's third no-no of the season, as she shut-out Quaboag Regional in six mercy-rule shortened innings, 12-0.

"They're a one-two punch," Carrero said of Buchanan (5-3 record, 1.7 ERA) and Congdon (3-0, 1 save, 1 ERA). "They're very different in how they pitch. I try to match them up based on who we're playing."

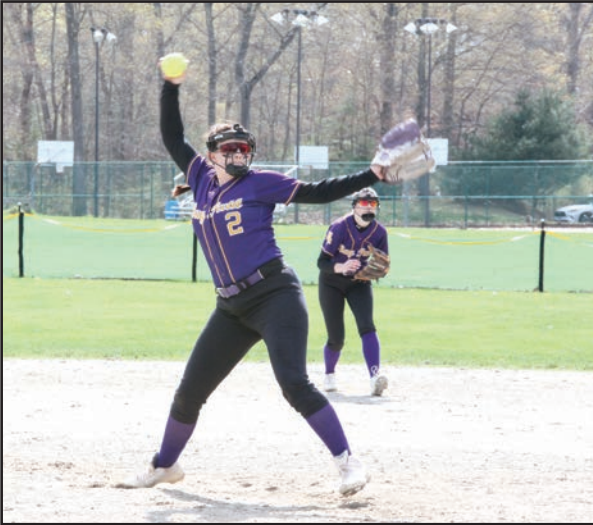
The Indians nearly had a hit with two outs in the last of the sixth, but Camryn Phillips' shot to left field was snagged by Linde, Bay Path's only freshman. With the ball tailing away toward the foul line, Linde dove to make the catch.

"Left-handed batter with that spin that comes to that side, that's a tough, tough play to make," Carrero said of Linde's effort.

The Minutemen improved to 7-3 at the half-way point of their regular season and jumped to 8-3 after defeating Quaboag.



First baseman Savannah Steiner of Bay Path catches the ball to force out Bartlett's Dawanee Phanthavong.



Bay Path pitcher Sam Buchanan tossed a no-hitter in the Minutemen's 12-0 victory versus Bartlett.

"Coming out of our first 10 games where we are, I couldn't ask for anything else," said Carrero.

Bartlett, in a rebuild, dropped to 2-6, but Stawiecki remains optimistic.

"There were a lot of buildable moments for us. To see where we were three weeks ago to see where they were today was really great...to see girls that have never played softball make

plays in the field," said Stawiecki. "I have five returning players and I have 10 new players. Out of those 10 new players, eight have never played softball. Growth over time has been amazing. Girls had never thrown a ball, caught a ball, never had sat in an at-bat."

Ellie Adams pitched the first four innings for Bartlett, while Dakota Vaudreuil tossed the final two.



Courtesy photo

## Win No. 300 at Bay Path for baseball coach Mark Sansoucy

Back on Monday, April 24, the Bay Path Regional varsity baseball team defeated Assabet Valley, 7-0, in Worcester. That victory gave the Minutemen their sixth win of the season, but it was also a milestone for head coach Mark Sansoucy. He now has 300 career victories, all at Bay Path. The team donned commemorative T-shirts following the game and Sansoucy was bathed in a celebratory Gatorade shower. Sansoucy's win total continued to rise later in the week as the Minutemen defeated Blackstone Valley Tech, 4-2, and Quaboag Regional, 3-2, as they entered this past week with a record of 8-2.

## QUAIL HOLLOW GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB RESULTS

Pit's Crew  
First place (-7): Tony Negger, Tom Crosbie, Mert Kenniston, Nick Neal  
Second place (-6): Kent Seith, Steve Crozier, Dana Hartness, Jim Letendre  
Third place (-5): Jim Kularski, Rick Gendreau, Bill Parsons, Dave Walsh

Tour of Brookfields Country Auto  
Nicklaus Division  
First place tie (63): Dave Jackson, Jim Wilson, Jake Malin, Bob Tilton; Cory Heyes, JP LeBoeuf, Mike Kularski, Bernie LaPierre, Sr.  
Player Division  
First place (64): Kevin Paradis, Tom Foley, Amanda Pierce, Greg Wypych  
Palmer Division  
First place (63): Chris Smith, Shane Chabot, Brian Egan, Leo Egan  
Daly Division  
First place (62): Matt Desimone, John Markey, Jon Davis, Dick LaPierre

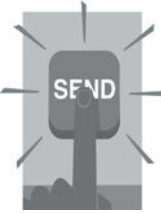
## Sturbridge American Legion posts tryout dates

Any baseball players interested in playing Sturbridge Legion Baseball that are born on Jan. 1, 2004 or later are eligible to play. All players that live in Sturbridge or attend Tantasqua Regional are all eligible to play for the Sturbridge team, also players from surrounding towns may also be eligible to play. The tryout times on Saturday, May 20 have CHANGED to noon to 3 p.m. The other tryout date remains unchanged on Sunday, May 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. Both tryout dates will be held at Tantasqua Regional's varsity baseball field. For more information you can contact team manager Jim Rosseel at (774) 230-1784 or email jimrosseel@hotmail.com, or coach Rich Wetherbee at (508) 981-0987 or email qcards@aol.com.

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OBITUARIES

Eleanor M. Harris, 94



SPENCER- Eleanor M. (Huard) Harris, 94, formerly of Bellevue Drive, died peacefully at Overlook Masonic Home in Charlton, on Sunday, April 23rd, after a long illness.

She leaves her son; David M. Harris and his wife Ana of Spencer, her daughter; Deborah J. Laliberte and her husband David of St. Cloud, FL., her grandchildren; Kelly Mendez and her husband Jose, Daniel McGowan and his wife Claudia, Shannon Berthiaume and her husband Brent, Christopher Harris and his wife Katrina and Kelsey Harris, as well as great grandchildren; Aidan Mendez, Theo and Natalie Berthiaume, and Oaklynn and Tucker Harris. She is predeceased by her brother Francis "Bud" Huard and her former husband George W. "Monk" Harris.

She was born in Spencer, the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Byron) Huard and later graduated from David Prouty High School. She was a member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish. Eleanor was director of the Northeast Region of the National Association of Security Dealers for 15 years prior to her retirement in 2000. Ellie loved her family and enjoyed sports, travel, and crossword puzzles.

A graveside service will be held at a future date in Rte.9, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, in Spencer. There are no calling hours. The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the David Prouty High School Permanent Scholarship Fund P.O. Box 172 Spencer, MA 01562 or www.dphsscholarship.com. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

LOGS continued from page A12

above wires; 11:01 a.m.: animal complaint (South Street), stray cat found; 11:21 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), re: mv lent to friend; 1:39 p.m.: restraining order service/2 (Lincoln Street); 2:44 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 3:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), loose dog; 3:07 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 4:22 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 6:15 p.m.: medical/general (Borkum Road); 9:26 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:59 p.m.: 911 call (Buteau Road), phone malfunction; (total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

1:32-3:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:37 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:15 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 10:57

a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:17 a.m.: fraud (Church Street), rep. unemployment scam; 11:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:24 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:51 p.m.: vandalism (Main Street), rep. damage in pen; 1:58 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 2:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), loose dog; 2:39 p.m.: suspicious persons (Mechanic Street), investigated; 2:59 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:00 p.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), hang-up; 4:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), concerned re: tenant; 5:27 p.m.: officer wanted (North Brookfield Road), welfare check; 7:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), re: unwanted party; 7:30 p.m.: lost/found (Mechanic Street), keys lost; 10:39 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street), lift assist; (total daily mv stops – 0).

# # #

Local church to celebrate 200th anniversary of Sanctuary

NORTH BROOKFIELD — On Memorial Day, May 29, the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield will celebrate the day 200 years ago that they started building the Sanctuary in which we still worship today. The celebration starts about 11:30 a.m., and includes food, a concert and a variety of activities for everyone.

Following the town ceremonies in the morning, there is a Chicken Barbecue, a concert, the premier of a video on the church in the community, a photo booth, historical items and picture displays, and games for kids of all ages. We are hoping that area residents join us in celebrating Memorial Day as well as this special day in our church's history. With videos and displays in the church as well as food, music, a photo booth, and games outside on the Green, there will be something for everyone that day. Tickets for the Chicken BBQ or a kid's hot dog meal must be purchased in advance. Call the church office for more information. All other activities during the day are free.


The whole church is invested in planning this day as well as the re-dedication of the Sanctuary on Dec. 31. All ages are taking part in learning the history and planning the events. We're echoing the original day of building by serving gingerbread and lemonade, just as they did in 1823 when only 60 young men (age 30 or younger) were chosen to start construction of the Sanctuary. It had taken 14 months to find the land in the middle of North Brookfield, to source the materials needed locally, and to haul timbered logs via oxen from what was to become Lake Lashaway in East Brookfield.

When considering the church's lasting these past 200 years, Pastor Joe Shea thought of what Jesus said in John 15 — "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

Shea continued, "In 1823, a community of believers began the construction of our church building. I can't help but think and marvel at how those seeds of faith planted then produced fruit that produced new seeds in a cycle that continues even now 200 years later here on this historic green -- a community still worshipping God and serving the community. By God's grace may the seeds planted today continue to bear fruit—fruit that will last."

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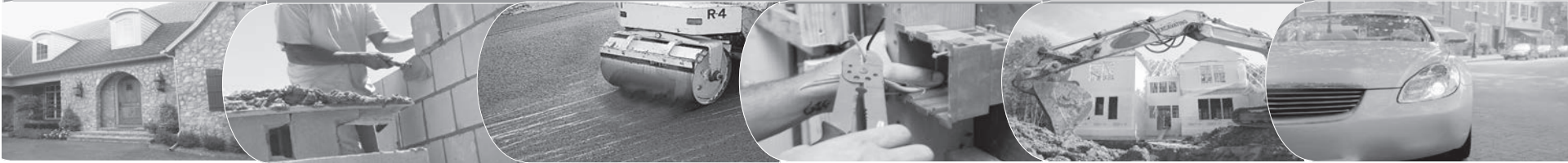
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## Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

1	7		14
		9	19
4		3	12
13	14	18	

3	5	4
6	2	8
9	7	1

*Solution*

## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- **1568:** MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, ESCAPES FROM LOCH LEVEN CASTLE.
- **1906:** THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE INTERCALATED GAMES IN ATHENS, GREECE TAKES PLACE.
- **1986:** THE CITY OF CHERNOBYL IS EVACUATED SIX DAYS AFTER A NUCLEAR DISASTER.

## New Word

### CHAPTER

a main division of a book

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

G E P A T R N U R E

*Answer: Page Turner*

ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF THIS ACTIVITY IS THAT IT BUILDS A BIGGER VOCABULARY.

*ANSWER: READING*

## How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Text

**SPANISH:** Texto

**ITALIAN:** Testo

**FRENCH:** Texte

**GERMAN:** Wortlaut

## Did You Know?

READING IS IMPORTANT. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT IS A NOVEL, A NEWSPAPER OR EVEN A COMIC BOOK, ALL READING CAN HELP THE BRAIN STAY SHARP.



## GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

*ANSWER: CHILD READING A BOOK*

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PROM  
continued from page A1

for our senior citizens. The high school students did an amazing job serving and helping. This proved to be a wonderful example of the value of volunteerism, community service, and community engagement. It was a lovely night that will never be forgotten.”

LHS students are thanked for serving dinner and clearing

tables, in addition to carrying out several other volunteer activities at the prom. Special community guests are also thanked for their support of the event, including Sen. Anne Gobi, State Rep. David LeBoeuf, Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian, selectmen, LHS administrators, and School Committee members, among others.

For school officials, it was an honor to host the Senior Prom tradition for the first time at

the new high school, which opened this academic year in the Fuller Campus Center on the grounds of the former Becker College. Throughout the process of readying the building this past summer, officials always envisioned hosting multiple community events and enabling residents to benefit from the property.

School leaders have also been encouraged by the increase in intergenerational programs this year, led by Cloutier and

McCance. Events have been rewarding for seniors and students alike, officials said.

“Fostering respect and admiration for our elder population is the cornerstone to a strong community. Our students and seniors had a wonderful night that neither will soon forget,” Kustigian said.

Musical entertainment was provided throughout the evening, and local seniors were eager to hit the dance floor and enjoy favorite tunes.

Officials thank Premier Swing Band, of Springfield, for their live musical performances.

Meanwhile, local seniors are invited to check out a busy spring and summer of programs at the Senior Center. The center is located at 40 Winslow Avenue.

To learn more about upcoming programs at the Senior Center, or to sign up for programs requiring registration, call 508-892-7016.



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**SPRATT**  
continued from page A1

“Hannah is a quiet hero. Having gone through most of her middle school years during the pandemic, she and her classmates have missed out on plenty,” said LMS music teacher Kristina Looney. “She has been mature and upbeat about the unexpected changes. She helps her peers in groups, speaks about changes that need to be made, and expresses herself.”

Project 351, a nonprofit youth-led movement for community betterment, is powered by one eighth-grade student in each of the Commonwealth’s cities and towns. Along with her fellow Project 351 ambassadors, Spratt kicked off her leadership efforts in January with a day of service and celebration with Governor Maura Healey. As a member of the Project 351 Spring Service team, Spratt has also engaged in leadership training programs, ser-

vice learning efforts, and mentorship to develop the skills and confidence to lead positive change. The momentum continued into the students’ Spring Service clothing collection events.

Spratt’s Spring Service efforts kicked off on March 20 at Leicester Middle School and ran through March 31. As part of the project, she collected new or gently-used children’s clothing donations.

Since 2012, ambassa-

dor-led Spring Service projects have helped more than 160,000 children through the Cradles to Crayons program.

For Spratt, it’s been an honor to join other ambassadors in giving back.

“I was happy to support children and collect clothes for kids with clothing insecurity,” Spratt said.

Project 351 leaders commend students for their ongoing work to help

their communities.

“We’re inspired by Hannah Spratt’s commitment to ensure that every child has the essentials they need to learn, lead, and thrive,” said Carolyn Casey, the executive director and founder of Project 351. “Ambassadors reflect the abundance of kindness and generosity in every corner of our state and the unlimited promise of this remarkable generation. They teach us that when we unite together in common cause,

extraordinary change is possible.”

Founded in 2011, Project 351 unites ambassadors who are selected for demonstrating exemplary community service, kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude.

Since the establishment of the program, nearly 5,000 eighth-graders have joined the mission.

To learn more about Cradles to Crayons and its work in assisting youngsters in need, visit [www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston](http://www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston).

**PERFORMANCE**  
continued from page A1

“I still think it’s wrong. With my religious beliefs and my constitutional right that I have for freedom of speech and freedom of religion, I still don’t think it’s the right thing,” Tripp said. On April 11, Petraitis said drag shows should be deemed adult entertainment, and that the town has a prohibition on all adult entertainment, except by special permit. Canada argued that excluding the drag performance would set a precedent of restricting individuals’ freedom of expression.

“I don’t think it’s adult entertain-

ment. It’s freedom of expression,” said Canada, who voted against the April 11 motion to exclude the drag show. “I’ve been to these events, and I’ve never seen anything that’s been unsavory to anybody. I trust that our police force would enforce anything that’s unlawful.”

Tripp agreed with Petraitis that drag shows constitute adult entertainment and are inappropriate for the scheduled venue.

After the Board’s April 11 decision, the ACLU of Massachusetts issued a statement condemning the action. Two weeks later, ACLU officials were pleased that the Board decided to no longer block the drag performance.

“This is welcome news for everyone in North Brookfield who will enjoy this joyous celebration of inclusivity,” said Ruth Bourquin, a senior attorney representing the ACLU of Massachusetts. “We hope that all Massachusetts communities take note. Discrimination against those who choose to express themselves through drag is inconsistent with our state and federal constitutions. Such freedom of expression makes our culture and communities stronger.”

The Small Town Pride event is being organized by the Rural Justice Network, which held a similar program last year on the West Brookfield Town Common.

Looking ahead, plans for the June 24 event can move forward as originally

scheduled, officials said, but the event has not been officially approved by the Select Board.

“The Rural Justice Network has worked hard to make Small Town Pride 2023 an enjoyable experience for North Brookfield, and are ecstatic to hear that we can continue with our plan to give this community the event they deserve,” read a statement released by Rural Justice Network event organizers. “The support we’ve received recently has not gone unnoticed, and we are thankful to have the confidence that we are making a difference in all the best ways.”

**FAIR**  
continued from page A1

school officials, and other community leaders were also on hand to volunteer.

“Our hope for this

event is to give community members additional access, exposure, and resources from the physical and mental health providers and organizations in the greater NB area,” read a statement released ahead of the event by North

Brookfield Public Schools Interim Superintendent Tim McCormick. “We hope to continue to provide our NB community with meaningful events and appreciate all of your continued support.”

Recognizing the many

negative impacts the pandemic has had on students, local school and health officials have emphasized the importance of community health resources and organizations in recent years. The goal is to ensure that students and

families have access to information and resources that can help with an array of challenges.

“Our plan as a coalition for the next few events is to highlight the importance of community education on mental

health topics, identify resources, and bring in some trainings,” Phillips added. “We are also hoping to get some community support groups up and running.”



Jillian Phillips, of North Brookfield, with her 10-year-old daughter Macy.



Zlatina Kostova represents the UMass Lifeline for Kids program.



North Brookfield High School students volunteer at the event.



Litani Bassett welcomes guests to her table.



Representatives from FosterMA introduce their services to guests.

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