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Friday, March 14, 2025

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Community guests spread the love of reading at WBES

Kevin Flanders

Community readers gather before the program at WBES.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — Guests from several local departments, businesses, and organizations visited West

Brookfield Elementary School last week for Community Reading Day. Held on March 3, the event featured public safety officials; members of a local

bus company; area banking leaders; and members of the town library and Senior Center, among others. “We are excited to recognize the love of reading through great community support of our school,” said WBES Principal Melissa Provost.

Each guest reader was assigned to a different classroom, with students in grades K-6 enjoying books read aloud to them.

For local officials and community leaders, it means a lot to visit area schools and celebrate the joy of reading. Students at different grade levels get to explore various subjects and immerse themselves in fascinat-

ing worlds.

“I love reading to the kids. It’s a great opportunity for community interaction,” said West Brookfield Police Sgt. Matthew Letendre, who was joined at the program by fellow WBPD Officer Craig Charron.

The Massachusetts State Police was also represented at the event, along with North Brookfield Savings Bank, Country Bank, McCarthy Bus Company, and other local businesses and organizations.

In addition to reading to the students, guests also shared information about their careers. Now, students will be able to recognize them with-

in the community and understand their positions.

“This event is a great way to introduce students to our community and the roles of different members,” said Angela Routhier, an administrative assistant at WBES who organized this year’s program.

West Brookfield Senior Center Director Kelly Hitt told the New Leader she has always enjoyed reading to students. Linda Higgins, a children’s librarian at Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in town, also stopped by to read stories to first-graders.

Several community

Turn To **READING** page **A14**

North Brookfield students get a lesson in self-defense

Courtesy

Local organizations and agencies recently teamed up to provide self-defense training programs to North Brookfield students.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Worcester County District Attorney’s Office recently joined local organizations and the North Brookfield Public Schools to educate students on self-defense techniques.

During a Feb. 28 program at North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School, members of Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early’s Office teamed up with the Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation, Force Defense and Fitness, and Revive of the USA.

Students enjoyed taking part in group activities focused on various aspects of training and education.

“One group of students learned about self-defense and personal safety from the Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation and Force Defense and Fitness, while the other group heard from Anthony Bizzotto, of Revive of the USA, about his personal journey in recovery,” read a statement released by the DA’s Office.

Students spent the rest of the session participating in a variety of educational programs and exer-

cises. The goal for guests was to provide a solid introductory foundation of training that will inspire students to seek out further development opportunities.

The Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation offers programming in several areas, including self-defense training for women; mentorship opportunities for girls; and gender equality and character-building exercises.

To learn more about the organization and the many ways it gives back to local students, visit www.vtmf.org.

Each year, the DA’s Office takes part in several events across the county to promote safety and wellbeing for local students. These include programs focused on stopping bullying and harassment; avoiding distracted driving; understanding the dangers of drugs and alcohol; promoting cybersecurity and safe online behaviors; and encouraging teen dating safety.

“The District Attorney’s Office is committed to working with communities and schools to help

Turn To **SELF-DEFENSE** page **A14**

Spencer officials announce public hearings on override options

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Officials have announced the first of several public hearings on override request options.

The first session will take place on March 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room at Town Hall. Another public hearing will occur on March 19 at 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Additional sessions will be scheduled in late March or early April, officials said. Dates, times, and locations will be announced soon.

“The town is considering two options for the override,” Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges told the New Leader. “The first is one question totaling \$2,465,390 and is for FY 2026. The second option totals the same amount, but splits the cost over three fiscal years (2026, 2027, 2028).”

Over the next month, residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on which route they prefer for the final request, which will be presented to voters at the Annual Town Election in May.

For the remaining public hearings, officials are hoping to schedule at least one session during the daytime at the Senior Center. This will allow attendance for night-shift workers, parents with evening commitments, and seniors who prefer not to drive at night, officials said.

“We want to have one hearing at the Senior Center during the daytime and the others at Town Hall. We welcome folks to attend and ask questions,” said Selectman Ralph Hicks in a previous interview.

Officials have spent several months discussing the override and hearing presentations from municipal department heads regarding their projected needs.

Following the public hearings this spring, selectmen will discuss the feedback and determine the amount and structure of the ballot question.

“The funds that are for education are not at the request of the School Committee. These amounts are determined by the State Department of Education, and the town has no choice but to pay it,” Bridges added. “This annual increase in the required local contribution has consistently surpassed the amount we can raise under the Proposition 2 1/2 tax limit.”

Departmental expenses proposed for coverage include funds for schools

Turn To **HEARINGS** page **A14**

May Festival heralds return of spring to North Brookfield

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — With temperatures steadily rising and days getting longer, local residents and crafters are eagerly anticipating the return of spring festivals just around the corner.

In North Brookfield, community members celebrate the arrival of spring with the annual May Festival. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of Haston Free Public Library. Additional vendors and crafters will set up displays on the front lawn outside First Congregational Church of North Brookfield.

“We are so happy the Congregational Church has generously allowed us to use their lawn again this year,” read a statement released by Dawn Sedlier, President of the Friends of the Haston Free Public Library.

Always well-attended by guests from throughout the area, the festival will feature several local crafters, growers, vendors, and members of community organizations offering resources to the public.

Past springtime festivals have included live musical performances; children’s activities; a North Brookfield Cultural Council plant swap; tours of the Town House; and open houses at the North Brookfield Fire Department and the North Brookfield Historical Society.

Officials told the New Leader the event is always a great way to showcase the town center to families and area residents. Local first responders and other town leaders have also been known to frequent the event and greet families.

With this year’s festival set to take place shortly before Mother’s Day, the event is the perfect opportunity for guests to pick up gifts for moms while supporting local vendors.

Crafters and organizations typically get involved in the festival in a number of ways. These include setting up a display; providing informational materials for guests to pick up; offering samples and/or coupons; or giving a short talk, presentation, or demonstration.

Officials are still accepting applications from vendors interested in participating in the festival. To learn more about the event and how you can get involved, please contact the library at 508-867-0208, or stop by for additional information.

The library may also be reached by email at: hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

The deadline for registration as a vendor is April 11.

All vendors are asked to keep their displays open and available to guests for the entirety of the event.

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School District teams with local author for workshop series

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is teaming up with area partners to present a two-part workshop series led by local author Wendy O’Leary.

Released on March 11, a book co-authored by O’Leary and fellow educator Louise Shanagher is titled: “Growing Self-Compassionate Children: A Family Guide for Nurturing Resiliency and Kindness.”

The book includes games, crafts, and other activities that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

“I am passionate about the benefits of self-compassion for children and adults, and I believe that this book can be helpful to many parents,” O’Leary, a long-time educator who lives in Spencer, told the New Leader.

SEBRSD leaders and their local partners look forward to hosting O’Leary at workshops that will benefit the entire school community.

“The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District has partnered with Community Connections, Wachusett CFCE, and the Kennedy Donovan Early Intervention Program, and is proud to present a two-part

workshop series on resiliency and self-compassion with Wendy O’Leary,” read a statement released by SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey.

The first workshop will take place on Tuesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. at East Brookfield Elementary School (snow date is March 20). This program will include a presentation for parents. The first 50 families that register and attend this event will receive a free copy of O’Leary’s book.

The second session is set for Tuesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. at EBES. This program will feature an activity designed for parents to enjoy with their children.

O’Leary is thrilled for the opportunity to convey the book’s messages to parents in person and provide helpful tools.

“I wanted to ensure the book supported parents in developing kindness for themselves. Like so many of us, parents can be extremely self-critical, and they could greatly benefit from learning how to offer themselves kindness and care during challenges,” O’Leary said. “Raising children is wonderful and also challenging for everyone at times, and I wanted this book to gently offer some tips, advice, and tools to support parents as well as their children.”

O’Leary got the

idea for her new book shortly after the release of her previous book, “It’s OK: Being Kind to Yourself When Things Feel Hard.”

“‘It’s OK’ is a picture book that teaches children about self-compassion. As I began using that book in more of my teaching, and as the book made its way into more hands, I started to hear from families asking for additional tools to share this essential skill for resiliency and well-being with their children,” O’Leary told the New Leader. “I knew I could spread these teachings more widely through a book focusing on practical skills and activities, supporting the development of self-compassion.”

As families nationwide increasingly struggle with mental health concerns, parents have told O’Leary that an emphasis on self-compassion is making a major difference in their children’s lives. The positive feedback helped inspire her next project.

Working with Ireland-based education colleague Louise Shanagher, who founded a program called Creative Mindfulness, O’Leary was excited about the opportunity to reach even more parents and families. After dedicating roughly two years to the publishing

process, O’Leary and Shanagher were eager for their book release.

“We both saw the importance of offering these skills to families and decided to collaborate on this book. It has been such a pleasure to work with Louise on this meaningful project to spread more love, care, and well-being in the world,” O’Leary said.

SEBRSD officials encourage parents to take advantage of the workshops and discover tools that can offer lasting impacts.

“Wendy O’Leary is an educator and author committed to sharing the importance of mindfulness with children and their families. She has previously written three books for children,” read the statement released by Haughey.

With early registration for the upcoming programs, childcare will be provided by student representatives of the David Prouty High School early education and care program.

Pizza will be provided at the sessions by Uncle Sam’s Pizza.

East Brookfield Elementary School is located at 410 East Main St.

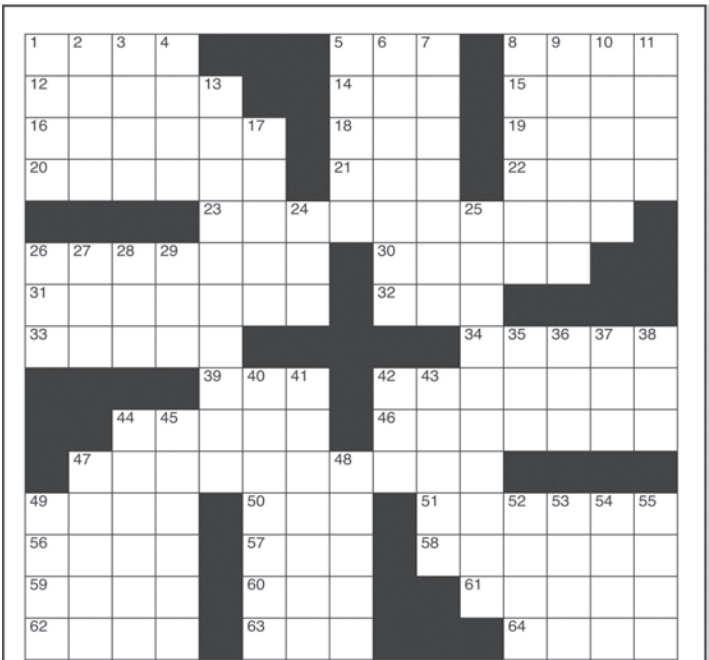


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep

5. Rock TV channel

8. Streetcar

12. Concerning

14. Expression of recognition

15. Greek goddess of youth

16. An iPad is one

18. Adult beverage

19. Manning and Wallach are two

20. Makes a petty verbal attack

21. Tyrion Lannister’s nickname

22. Pointed ends of pens

23. Wristwatches

26. Body part

30. Made a mistake

31. Adjusted

32. Turkish honorific title

33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city

39. Cub

42. Type of sea bass dish

44. To call (archaic)

46. Unfortunate

47. Separate oneself from others

49. Hero sandwiches

50. Former OSS

51. Open spaces in a forest

56. Innermost brain membranes

57. Fortune

58. Hunting expedition

59. Doomed queen Boleyn

60. Peyton’s little brother

61. Type of wrap

62. Scottish tax

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art

2. Abba __, Israeli politician

3. A desert in Asia

4. Eat greedily

5. Doomed French queen

6. Beat

7. One who survives on blood

8. As a consequence

9. Counted on

10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science

11. Unclean

13. One who does not drink

17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago

24. __ student, learns healing

25. Bacterial skin infection

26. Expresses surprise

27. What one says on a wedding day

28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)

35. Unit of length

36. Side that is sheltered from the wind

37. More (Spanish)

38. Autonomic nervous system

40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris

41. Statements that something is untrue

42. Greek alphabet letter

43. Suspends from above

44. Popular types of cigars

45. Girls

47. U.S. philosopher and logician

48. Nocturnal hoofed animal

49. Relaxing spaces

52. From a distance

53. Form of Persian

54. Amounts of time

55. Trigonometric function

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Leicester man arrested following police search

LEICESTER — A man is facing several charges following a police search of his residence last month.

On Feb. 21, the Leicester Police Detective Bureau executed a search warrant at 31 Towtaid St. Officers were assisted by members of the LPD’s patrol unit, the LPD’s K-9 and drone units, and the Spencer Police Detective Bureau.

During a search of the residence, two illegally possessed firearms (a 12-gauge semi-automatic shotgun and a small caliber semi-automatic pistol) were located, along with a significant amount of ammunition of varying calibers, police said.

“Also located during the search was a glass pipe and a small amount of suspected crack cocaine,” read a statement released by the LPD.

The suspect and resident, Sean Dufault, 52, was placed under arrest. He faces the following criminal charges: Possession of a firearm without a firearms identification (FID) card; Possession of ammunition without an FID card; and Possession of Class B narcotics.

Dufault was held on \$5,000 cash bail until his arraignment at East Brookfield District Court on Feb. 24.

Leicester school officials grateful for evacuation efforts at LES

LEICESTER — School leaders thank public safety officials for their quick response following last month’s evacuation of Leicester Elementary School.

On Feb. 27, the school was evacuated due to an odd odor coming from the cafeteria. The Leicester Police and Fire Departments were immediately notified, and students were diverted to the middle school auditorium during rainy conditions.

“Students and staff remained safe the entire time. The Leicester Fire Department quickly determined the odor was caused by a vent fan failure,” read a statement released by Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. “Upon determining it to be safe, they cleared the elementary school and students returned to LES without incident.”

Added Kustigian, “I would like to thank the Leicester Fire and Police Departments for their continued partnership and for helping to keep our students safe. They are always there when we need them, and I am grateful for their partnership.”

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@salmonpress.news
BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DI NICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news
EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news
PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagenewspapers.com

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SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$65,000, 8 Tupelo Dr, Maneggio, Michael A, and Maury, Janet, to Hague, Jeremy D, and Fountain, Monica L.

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$589,900, 328 Henshaw St, Scannell, Ryan J, to White, John, and White, Anne.
\$452,000, 100 River St, Gwen Pratt Ft, and Pratt-Gut, Gwen A, to White, Laura A, and Tolman, Mark.
\$299,000, 16 Pleasant St, Refuge Christian Center, to Atbi Properties LLC.
\$91,000, 2 Shady Ln, Lizotte Charles A Est, and Lizotte, Matthew, to Ly, Brendan.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$735,000, 24 Spring St, Spring St Union LLC, to Spring Street Homes LLC.
\$735,000, 28 Spring St, Spring St Union LLC, to Spring Street Homes LLC.
\$489,900, 5 Birch Hill Rd, Murphy, Martin, and Murphy, Robin, to Valeri, Kevin D, and Lavallee, Cassie M.
\$55,000, 12 Winter St, Wilbur, John, and Wilbur, Nancy, to Anderson, Robert A.

SPENCER

None

WARREN

\$38,000, Crouch Rd, Corriveau, Brian J, to Parker, Aaron.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$410,000, 82 N Main St, Coholan, Matthew D, to Speroni, Richard A, and Speroni, Beverly S.
\$384,000, 15 Chapman Ave, Federal Natl Mtg Assn, to Lindsey, Jessica.

P.E.T. of the Week

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Meet Loki - This handsome gentleman is a great dog, a true adventure buddy who loves his walks and outside time but will also come back inside for a well deserved nap on his bed/blanket. Here's the thing, Loki has become nervous when meeting new people so it takes a few meetings for him to trust new friends. He is most nervous around men however, the staff has noticed him displaying standoffish and self-preserving behavior around most new people - he is just unsure. So, when you come into the shelter please consider giving him a while to get to know you - come for a walk with him and the Adoption staff, bring some cookies, and be prepared for a few visits before he gets used to your company before a deeper connection can be made. This is also something to remember in home because he won't appreciate new people coming to visit. Loki is such a good boy and being in the shelter has made him frustrated but we know his perfect person is out there! He also should be the only pet in the home. Do you have the TLC - time, love, and care - for this wonderful guy? Come visit him or call us at the shelter for more information! (508) 867-5525. *Loki's adoption fee has been generously paid for by a donor*



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Electric vehicle mandate at issue in local budgeting

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — In the course of this year's budget presentation March 4, Town Administrator Robin Grimm brought up an issue that will likely affect all area communities.

Starting with model year 2026 (that is, later this year), the state is requiring many municipal trucks be electric. Her budget seeks to buy a new truck this year for the DPW (plus an ambulance) and has others upcoming for future years.

The problem, she and others noted, is that "the technology has not caught up" with what they're needed for. Towns generally lack the infrastructure to run them or store them indoors, and they don't run well in winter.

"The vehicles themselves are not ready to handle the kinds of storms where we're out 45-50 hours (for plowing)," Grimm said. "You have to take them off the road earlier, and that means you need more trucks."

For now, though, she's aiming to get in line to buy one of the remaining diesel trucks, and will keep the old one it replaces instead of selling it at auction. She said Sturbridge is lucky to have an early Special Town Meeting (the same night as the annual in April), since it might enable the town to get its order in before communities who have to wait for next year's budget to start in July.

Finance Director Barbara Barry agreed, saying the Mass Municipal

Association "is working to get (this requirement) delayed because of the issues Robin said."

So did Finance Committee chair Kevin Smith, who said, "Even though we're mandated to buy them, they don't exist." Another speaker predicted the Legislature will end up delaying the rule.

On Nov 5, MMA's Web site noted the state already has delayed it once; it was slated to start last year. It's online at <https://www.mma.org/massdep-adjusts-emissions-rules-for-medium-and-heavy-duty-trucks/>. "MassDEP announced that it will exercise enforcement discretion to exempt vehicles purchased by state and local agencies for snow plowing, snow removal, and street sweeping purposes from ACT manufacturer compliance requirements for model years 2025 and 2026," MMA stated. "... State and local government agencies must submit written requests to MassDEP and manufacturers or their authorized dealerships detailing the make, model, model year, and number of vehicles to be purchased. MassDEP will make a determination as to whether enforcement discretion is allowable for the proposed purchase, and will communicate its decision to the requesting agency and the manufacturer."

The same page notes, "In Massachusetts, for model year 2025, the rule requires 7 percent ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) sales in classes 2b-3, 11 percent in classes 4-8;

and 7 percent for tractors classes 7-8." According to Wikipedia, Class 2b "light duty" starts at 8501 pounds; Classes 3-6 "medium duty" run from 10,001-26,000 pounds; and Classes 7-8 "heavy duty" are up to 80,000 pounds.

Grimm said that issue is just one this year's budget faces. Fiscally, the town is looking at a retirement system hike of 16.7 percent, plus a health insurance hike averaging 16.1 percent over last year's rise (9.9 percent for active employees, but more than 20 percent for retirees). The total budget increase this year is about \$1.5 million, 45 percent of it "for those uncontrollable costs," she said. General government salaries, by contrast, make up 12 percent of the increase, although they're only rising 2 percent.

Grimm said Sturbridge "is not a big enough pool to take the risk of self-insuring," but she wants to look into plan changes and may consider bidding out insurance next year, depending on union negotiations.

At the same time, state aid is only rising 0.6 percent, and she noted Sturbridge only gets the minimum for education aid (\$100 per pupil). Overall, department requests exceeded income projections by about \$815,000, and that required Grimm and Barry to do some things they said they normally do not want to do to balance the budget. Among them are cutting two part-time jobs, eliminating two cruisers (they'll buy one with free cash), buying a bus with

free cash, cutting police and fire overtime. She's also seeking to buy an ambulance with Ambulance Stabilization funds and free cash, and she noted the fire department is already seeking two major vehicles next year. Some other changes shifted certain costs into revolving funds that had been in the general budget (typically in the health department, regarding the landfill).

Regarding free cash usage, Smith objected, noting that's essentially using it "to pay operating expenses to balance the budget." Grimm agreed, saying she'd rather have things like cruisers in the budget because they're regular needs. Many towns do use free cash for such purchases, but the

amount of free cash varies annually.

She added that part of this year's budgeting issue is the fact it's earlier. The state has "no urgency to have a budget balanced and out to us," and sometimes doesn't even approve one until the fall. (Towns usually base theirs on the Governor's proposal, because it comes out fairly early in January.)

"We're not in distress, just not in as good a shape as we've been," she said. "... We don't feel good about how we had to do it, but we held the line," noting the actual budget increase is the same as last year's, 3.6 percent.

One concern going forward, though, is that hotel/motel and food tax-

es have basically been "flat for years" excluding covid, Grimm added. The town has largely built-out its commercial zone and has shown no interest in multiple such areas, so there's "not a lot of places for major commercial/industrial growth" and only a little population growth.

To Smith, "We're getting close to spending more than we earn. This year, we're covering it ... but it seems we're at that tipping point" if costs keep rising. He noted a 3.6 percent budget hike isn't bad, but "we're not getting 3.6 percent increase in revenue."

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Flea market & craft fair to benefit May House restoration

LEICESTER — A flea market and craft fair will take place on Saturday, March 29, at the Leicester Senior Center.

The event will benefit the May House restoration project. If you would like to participate in the fair as a vendor, tables are \$30 each.

Setup on the day of the fair will begin at 8 a.m. Show hours will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will provide the perfect opportunity for area residents to find items for spring and Mother's Day.

For more information about the event, send an email to: diane_calvano@yahoo.com.

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OBITUARIES

Gertrude “Gerty” B. O’Coin, 97



West Brookfield – Gertrude “Gerty” B. O’Coin, 97, of West Brookfield, passed away on Friday morning, February 28, 2025, with her family by her side. Gertrude leaves her son, Paul R. O’Coin and his wife, Kathleen, of Millbury; her daughter, Elaine M. Courtemanche and her husband, Barry, of West Brookfield; her daughter, Jeanine A. Morgan and her companion, Donald, of Little River, SC; her daughter, Joanne F. Frederick and her husband, Lot, of Sturbridge; her son, Francis L. O’Coin and his companion, Chanel, of Brooklyn, CT; her daughter, Amy L. Gilman and her husband, Martin, of Southport, NC; as well as her 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 67 years, Roland L. O’Coin; her brother, Francis “Gilbert” Messier; and by her sisters, Dolores Richards and Yvonne Valley. She was born in Cambridge, daughter of the late Francoise X. and Alberta (Bouley) Messier.

Gertrude lived the majority of her life in Spencer, where she and Roland would begin building their lives together. In her 97 years, Gertrude was able to experience and enjoy much of life’s offerings. As a seamstress, she was instrumental in fabricating weighted blankets for children with autism at the Devereux School in Rutland. She

enjoyed crocheting, and everyone, at one point or another, received an afghan or some other hand made item from Meme. She was also a “master” wallpaper installer.

Family was everything to Gertrude. She attended every athletic event that she could, and was so proud of all her children’s and grandchildren’s accomplishments. Family gatherings were most special to her. Gerty had her favorites for sure, her boys, but she always had enough love to go around for all of her children, grandchildren, friends, and extended family.

Gerty was an especially competitive card player, who loved playing the “Long Game”, which made her children cringe. She loved the time she was able to spend playing cards with her family at Quaboag Rehab in West Brookfield, generally winning as she was the “luckiest” card player.

She will be loved and missed by many. A Calling Hour for Gertrude was held Friday, March 7, 2025, from 9:30am to 10:30am in Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main Street in West Brookfield. A Graveside Service was held following the calling hour, in Worcester County Memorial Park Cemetery in Paxton. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center Activities Fund, 47 East Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585. Varnum Funeral Home is honored to serve the O’Coin family.

Garden longer with less muscle strain and fatigue



Melinda Myers

Kneeler pads provide comfort and protection for knees cuts more easily and dig into the soil and weed with less effort. Consider investing in



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

That first full day in the garden may find you tired, sunburned, and stiff. Whether you are a young or young-at-heart gardener, include some strategies to help extend your enjoyment and reduce fatigue and muscle strain so you can keep gardening longer each day and for years to come.

No matter your age, it’s important to protect your joints when gardening. Use a kneeler pad or knee pads to protect your knees. Knee pads secured to your legs allow you to conveniently and comfortably protect your knees as you move from one garden bed to another.

If you need help kneeling, consider a garden kneeler with handles. The handles provide needed support when kneeling and standing up. The ones that can be flipped over and used as a garden bench provide double the benefit. The seating position reduces bending and helps minimize the need to kneel.

Elevating your garden can also help. It is a great way to save space and eliminate the need to bend when planting, weeding, and harvesting. Elevated gardens and raised beds also offer a place to garden where planting space is limited or nonexistent. You’ll enjoy planting and harvesting with minimal weeding needed. Just be sure to monitor soil moisture and water as needed. Use self-watering containers, add irrigation or employ water-extending products to help lengthen the time between watering.

Further expand planting options by dressing up walls, fences, and more with vertical gardens. Monitor soil moisture in wall-mounted gardens regularly as many have limited soil that dries out quickly.

Clean and sharpen your tools, including pruning equipment, digging and weeding tools. This allows you to make

ergonomic tools designed for comfort to help prolong your time in the garden. Select lightweight tools with non-slip comfortable grip handles aligned to keep your wrist extension straight, which helps reduce muscle strain.

Use pruners with ratcheting, compound, or Dual Link action for more cutting power with less effort. You’ll be able to spend more time pruning with less muscle strain and fatigue. Consider investing in shovels with an anti-skid plate above the blade, providing more foot support for more digging power. Or retrofit an existing shovel with a commercially available anti-skid foot plate.

Don’t overlook the importance of protecting your hands as well when gardening. Quality gardening gloves provide support and protection when digging, planting, pruning, and more.

Start with some pre-season training. Every gardener knows gar-

dening is a workout and often involves different motions and muscles than other exercises. Always warm up your muscles and do a bit of stretching before getting out in the garden. Enlist the help of wheeled carts and wagons to move plants, mulch, soil, and other heavy loads. Don’t be afraid to break heavy loads into smaller batches or ask for help. You’ll spare your muscles and probably save time in the long run.

Wear a pair of safety glasses to protect your eyes and don’t forget the sunscreen. Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water.

Preseason planning and preparation can help reduce muscle strain as the garden season begins. You’ll boost your enjoyment and be able to garden longer.

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

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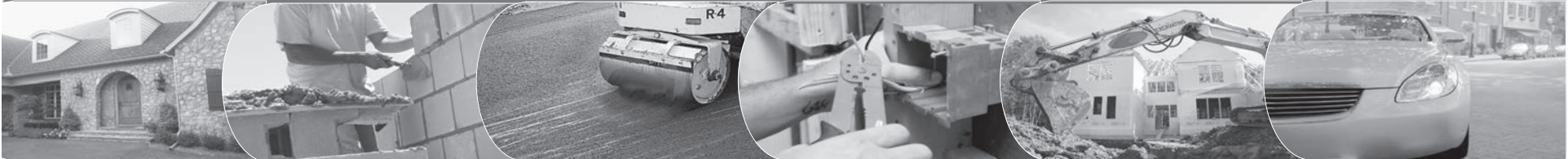
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JUNIORS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BAY PATH

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

High Honors
Helena Rowan Adkins, Addison Emily Aho, Vincent Paul Bedard, David Betancur, Isabella Aria Bitar, Dominic Dewayne Boyd, Brianna Livia Brink, Liam Michael Carlson, Aiden Matthew Coleman, Emily Ann Corey, Jacob William Creeron, Jocelyn Elizabeth Evans, Jordan Mariah Ferreira, Jayla Marie Fowler, Aliyah Marie Gonyea, Luke Robert Heller, Natalie Rose Ingles, Joshua William Irons, Ayden Matthew Kennedy, Samuel Arjun Kittredge, Phoebe Alyson Lawendowski, Miranda Kate Linde, Cullen Gregory MacLeod, Ava Rose Mastrototaro, Felix Casey Menard, Alexis McGee Messina, Alexis Paige Moody, Mariah Lynn Pereira, Kayliegh Jean Ramm, Nathan Alexander Rouille Montoya, Jordan Joyce Russell, Luke William Smolski, Anne Turcotte, Esmerelda Velez, Haylee Marie Zurowski

Honors
Bayleigh Alexis Abdella, Adrianna Nataly Alicea, Jacob John Archambault, Violet Renee Aucella, Emma Theresa Baldyga, Rhianna Anne Balliet, Logan Amanda Barriere, Arianna Rose Belanger, Megan Lucy Bell, Emma Nicole Berry, Ryan Michael Berthiaume, Edward Stephen Blash, Aleah Claire Brink, Dominic Raymond Brodeur, Lucien Stephen Brodeur, Alissa Lynn Burlingame, Samuel Elia Ceppetelli, Lily Sabina Chartier, Nathan Louis Chenevert, Frederick James Cierpich, Ellie Rose Clark, Charles Michael Congdon, Hunter Matthew Coombs, Maxton Anthony Cournoyer, Valentina Ashley Culberson, Brody Lawrence Cunningham, Connor Anthony Czechowski, Joseph Michael Daige, Myiah Kiara DeLaRosa, Treyton Joseph Dery, Cody Daniel Dombroski, Savannah Jane Dubois, Christopher Michael Dufresne, Grace Elizabeth Dumas, Yandel Feliciano, Ethan Alexander Ford, Rylee Rose Fulmine, Riley Morgan Gilmore, Aiden Mark Giroux-Provencher, Anthony Mark Gonya, Molly Elizabeth Grant, Kylie Dorothy Greska, Liam Wayne Hesselton, Lillian Elaine Horneer, Grace Winifred Huehls, Hannah Jean Ingalls, Nicholas Edward Jalbert, Christian Michael Johnson, Zackery Collin Kelleher, Allison Hemenway Klar, Cassie Lee Kotomski, Marshall Thmas Lafond, Nia Mya Laforest, Joel Carlos Landor, Zachary Raymond Landry, Nicolas Sebastian Londono, Michael Anthony Lulu, Mia Marie Lussier, Lucas Scott Lyons, Philipos Anastasio Makrodimitras, Emily Jean McDonald, Avery Lynn McLaughlin, Sebastian Luke Moniz, Gianna Marie Morelli, Chase Patrick Newman, Liam Macrae Nicoll, Sebastian Alexander Nieuwenhoff, Connor James O'Brien, Matthew Thomas Obrycki, Kelsey Lynn Olson, Cole Henry Paradis, Maddox James Parente, Niti Nilesh Patel, Amari Audrey Pereira, Adam Jason Phaneuf, Jacob Paul Pratt, Grace Elizabeth Retallic, Taylor Lynn Richard, Sawyer Luke Schultz, Jaxon Russell Sitko, Alexander Charles Skladzien, Nathan Adam Steen, Gaige Charles Thompson, Josiah Felix Torres, Yandel Omar Torres, Thadaeus Boadi Tweneboa, Sebastian Paul Vargas, Natalie Helen Vigeant, Ava Quiny Wall, Hunter Earl White, Trey Stephen Wilkin, Noah Williamson

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Leicester Garden Club kicks off 2025 season March 12

LEICESTER — The Leicester Garden Club meets for the first meeting of 2025 at the Leicester Senior Center, 40 Winslow Ave., on March 12 at 7 p.m.
The first meeting of the year will feature Jennifer Forman Orth, Ph.D., Environmental Biologist with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. The program is “Dealing with Invasive Plants and What to Know and What to Watch Out For.”
The club meets usually the second Wednesday of the month at the Senior Center. The club has many interesting speakers and demonstrations during the year. In June, the club has a plant sale. We welcome anyone interested to attend.

School District teams with local author for workshop series

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women's Club will meet on Wednesday, March 19, at 11:30 a.m. at Pine Ridge Country Club.
The program will feature Wayne Tuiskula, who specializes in antiques appraisals. Club members may bring in one item for appraisal.
The cost of the luncheon is \$22 per person.
To reserve your spot, call Linda at 508-330-9250 by Friday, March 14. Guests and new members are always welcome. Please call ahead to make your reservations.

Eastern student Julia Trainor of Rochdale inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa honor society

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Thirty-one students and two faculty members at Eastern Connecticut State University were inducted into Eastern's chapter of the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Leadership Honor Society on March 2 in the Student Center Betty Tipton Room. The inductees were chosen based on their commitment to leadership within the campus and in their own communities.
Among the inductees was Julia Trainor of Rochdale, a junior majoring in English.
Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.



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EDITORIAL

This moment will never come again

It's easy to rush through the day, to get caught up in schedules, responsibilities, and the endless loop of what's next. But the moment you are in right now will never happen again. It will pass, just like all the ones before it, and once it's gone, you don't get it back.


We think we have time. But the truth is, life isn't a dress rehearsal. This is it. The way you show up today, the way you treat people, the way you spend your time, it all matters, because every single second is a version of life you'll never live again.

Some moments seem small standing in line at the store, a conversation with a friend, a quiet drive home. But even that matters. Every interaction, every choice, every seemingly unremarkable moment adds up to the story of your life. Are you making it a story you'll be proud of?


It's not about perfection, it's about presence. It's about choosing to be where you are, instead of always looking ahead to where you think you should be. It's about speaking up when something needs to be said, reaching out when someone needs you, and appreciating the good that exists right now, even if it's not the moment you expected.

If today were the last time you had this exact moment, how would you show up for it? Would you listen more? Laugh harder? Say the thing you've been holding back? Would you let the small stuff go and focus on what actually matters?

The seconds are already slipping by. Make them count.



news@stonebridgepress.news



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

Make it make sense

To the Editor:

Ukraine actually made a law banning negotiation with Vladimir Putin. If you wonder why, it is because Putin has violated every single one of the last 25 agreements he signed. Under Bush #43, we were signers with Putin that, in return for Ukraine giving up the world's third largest nuclear arsenal, we all guaranteed that their borders were permanent and would never be breached. It is called the Minsk Accords.

Not only is Putin not keeping out of Ukraine; he keeps biting off bigger chunks. Not only have we done little to enforce the agreement, we are now abandoning a democracy fighting Communism. When I say abandoning, I mean deporting the wives and children, safely off the battlefield, withholding not just more munitions, but now the technical support that has been their lifeblood. That killed hundreds of Ukraine soldiers yesterday. Today [as I write this], Trump has posted that Russia (who is pounding Ukraine at this moment), is much easier to deal with than Ukraine.

The amount we spend on our military is more than the next highest spenders combined. We have fought against the spread of Communism in Korea and Vietnam, and Ronald Reagan presided over the breakup of the USSR. If we are no longer the bulwark and defender of democracy, I expect Musk to start its destruction (I think he already has) soon.

If we do not take our country back soon, I doubt I will live long enough to see its greatness restored. I won't say there is not fraud everywhere, or that it should not be cut out, but not with chainsaws and hand grenades. USAID, started by JFK to alleviate starvation, famine and suffering, has been doing that and more, and the outreach has eliminated fertile ground to recruit terrorists. The farmers who grew that food, and proudly display signs on their barns saying "We feed the world" have invested in the equipment that was mandated to be suppliers. I wonder how many will close or be bankrupted for having made this commitment. No need to worry. While we are evicting immigrants, Elon and the Don, plan to import South African white farmers.

We have slashed the National Park Service's \$3.5 billion budget that returns \$55 billion a year revenue. We have saved the half billion that operated the consumer protection agency, that returned \$18 billion to consumers last year.

The most foul sham I have ever seen was put upon us at the Trump speech to congress where only Fox cameras and directors were allowed. He introduced a young man who has survived brain cancer for the last five years. That happened because of Joe Bidens war on cancer. Elon shut it down last week.

If Rep. Al Greene had not caused a disruption of Trumps speech, you likely would not have seen so many Dems at all dressed in pink to protest the shutdown of cancer research. When the young man was introduced, Fox probably convinced you that Trump had something to do with his survival by making him a Secret Service Officer. What Fox did not show were the Dems who cheered Louder and longer and waved protest signs supporting cancer research and treatment.

The ultimate insult to intelligence, is how many duped Republicans posted how rotten that the Dems did not cheer for him. It will be hard to choose between the outrageous acts of this administration that will lead to demonstrations and riots, but mark my words, the Cheeto is looking to declare martial law to complete his quest to match the power Orban and Putin have

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Is there a cliff ahead of us?

To the Editor:

"It is easier to fool people than to convince them they've been fooled." — Mark Twain

Misinformation, if repeated enough, can provide the illusion of truth. For example, lemmings (a rodent species) are often depicted racing to and falling over a cliff in what appears to be a case of mass suicide. Lemmings do not commit suicide, but it makes a great analogy for people who follow the wrong leadership to their doom. Many Republicans still insist that rampant fraud during the 2020 election resulted in Trump losing the election. However, about 60 lawsuits have failed to produce any proof of widespread voter fraud sufficient to change the results.

In his 2025 State of the Union

Address, Trump quoted government databases listing 4.7 million people aged 100 to 109, 3.6 million ages 110 to 119, 3.47 million ages 120 to 129, 3.9 million ages 130 to 139, 3.5 million from age 140 to 149, 1.3 million from age 150 to 159, and over 130,000 over the age of 160 (up to 360 years old). Trump then claims that money is being paid to many of them, but he does not provide proof that a single person over 120 years of age is currently receiving Social Security support. This sounds very familiar - so-called widespread fraud based on very questionable information. In keeping with the lemmings analogy, is that a cliff ahead of us?

DAVID W. BROWN
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Democrats' pathetic behavior

To the Editor:

It's quite obvious that no matter what President Trump does as President, most, if not all, Democrats will never be satisfied with his accomplishments so far. The proof was never more evident than their pathetic behavior at the March 4 Presidential address to the nation.

At the beginning of his speech, President Trump acknowledged the Democratic contingent most likely wouldn't applaud anything he's done. They only proved him right.

Democrats in attendance refused to acknowledge the families of victims of illegal immigrant murders, such as Laken Riley and Jocelyn Nungaray. Basically, nonexistent immigration policies of the previous Democrat administration allowed these & other serious crimes to happen.

The pathetic Democratic behavior didn't stop there. President Trump acknowledged a high school senior, Jason Hartley from California, whose father, grandfather, & great grandfather had all served in the armed forces. Jason, a six-letter varsity athlete with a GPA of 4.46, dreamed of attending the US Military Academy at West Point. President Trump surprised Jason with the news that he was accepted into West Point. While Republicans applauded this good news, Democrats stood silent, disrespectfully refusing to acknowledge Jason's accomplishment.

But the worst showing of disrespect by all the Democrats was when President Trump announced that DJ Daniel, a 13-year-old battling terminal brain cancer, was honored as an honorary member of the U.S. Secret Service. Despite being given just five months to live in 2018, Daniel has defied the odds for seven years, continuing to chase his dreams of being a law enforcement officer. Once again, no respectful response from the Democrats.

As one news host on his show stated, "I only hope that none of the Democrats in attendance are on the "Make a Wish Foundation" committee. Sorry DJ, you're not going to Disney World, you're going to die. Get your affairs in order." While sarcastically saying this, the news host accurately stated the behavior of the Democrats.

On this national stage, Democrats showed they're acting like spoiled children who are not getting what they wanted, & will react in any incorrigible way possible, even disrespecting 13-year-old cancer survivors & young adults who want to serve our country. Have they no shame?

JOHN SHOCK
CHERRY VALLEY

Don't lose track of financial accounts



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For years, people save and invest in 401(k) plans, IRAs and other financial accounts. They wouldn't lose track of this money, would they?

You might be surprised. About one in seven people has unclaimed cash or property, totaling billions of dollars, according to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

People lose track of their money for a variety of reasons: They change jobs and forget about their retirement accounts; they move and leave no forwarding address; they change names and don't notify former employers; or their employers go out of business or merge with another company.

Whatever the reason, losing tabs on accounts that could be worth thousands of dollars is never a good thing. What can you do to avoid suffering this type of loss?

Here are a few suggestions:

Maintain good records. Keep records of all your financial, investment and retirement accounts — and let a family member know where these records are kept.

Keep a manageable number of financial accounts. The fewer bank and brokerage accounts you have, the easier it will be to keep track of everything. You might even want to consolidate accounts when possible.

Report your change of address. Whenever you move, contact your financial services providers and any former employers with whom you may have retirement accounts.

Report name changes. If you change your name, notify new and old 401(k) plan administrators, banks, brokerages and any other institution connected to your money.

Manage retirement accounts when you change jobs. If you leave your job, you might be able to leave your 401(k) behind with your old employer. But if you do, keep track of it. On the other hand, you could roll your old plan into your new employer's plan or into an IRA.

Inform your financial professional about all your accounts. If you work with a financial professional, they can help you track your accounts, so inform them of all past and present IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans.

So far, we've looked at ways you can prevent losing track of financial accounts. But can you do anything if you suspect you've already left some money behind?

If you think you've lost tabs on an IRA, you can check old tax returns and bank statements to help you track your contributions and find the name of the financial provider that held your account. If it's a 401(k), you can contact your old employer's plan administrator.

You can get some help from other sources, too. The Department of Labor recently launched a retirement savings lost-and-found database (lostandfound.dol.gov) that can help you find pension or 401(k) plans connected to your Social Security number. For a stray IRA, you can check unclaimed.org, the website of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. And for various other sources of money — including uncashed checks from corporations and financial institutions, inactive brokerage accounts and unclaimed safe deposit boxes — you can check MissingMoney.com, the unclaimed property Web site of the National Association of State Treasurers.

These sites offer no guarantees of finding your lost or missing accounts or other sources of money, so you still may have to do your own sleuthing. But as the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" — which, in this case, means you'll help yourself greatly by tracking your accounts from beginning to end.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump’s attack on Zelenskyy

To the Editor:
After seeing what took place at the White House on Feb. 28 between Trump, Vance and President Zelenskyy, I am appalled, sickened and angry.
President Zelenskyy came to the US to ask for help. Instead, he was met by rudeness and ignorance from Trump and Vance.
In typical Trump style, two against one, they tried to break President Zelenskyy by trying to kick a man that was already down.
But, President Zelenskyy held his own and stood

strong because he will do whatever it takes to save the Ukraine and its people. Don’t you wish that the USA had a president like that?
Instead, we have someone who is more concerned with stealing the crown off the Burger King in order to rule his cult than he is about the people of the USA.
Trump has said of American war veterans that they are “losers, cowards and suckers.” The truth is that Trump is the loser, coward and sucker!
NOREEN FERNANDES
WEST BROOKFIELD

Funhouse mirrors

To the Editor:
Junior high school teachers have very challenging jobs. Successful ones know all too well it is not just your subject you teach but, in your position, you help build character at the most impressionable age. I certainly took that part of my job as seriously as my subject matter. I would always use the analogy of a mirror. In my later years of teaching, I would include a discussion that involved the importance of looking inward. My introduction as to how was simply to say, “When you get up in the morning or go to bed at night, look into the mirror. If you ‘like’ that person looking back, you will always know that you are on the right track.” That would always get them thinking and I really do think it helped children want to be better. Of course, I knew that my job every day was to practice what I preached or that message would never take hold.
That was then. This is now.
That message would always assume that my students had a compass to work with. They would have to believe that honesty, integrity, empathy... you know, all those elements that were supposed to go together for good character to exist in the first place, was something important to have. That mirror had to reflect truth and goodness.
Now, we are living in a world of mirrors that, by design, bend and distort truth, deflect empathy, and hide the path that always before led to good character. We are in a new world of funhouse mirrors, but “fun” is nowhere in that picture.
How do teachers explain to students now, if you are even allowed, why certain innocent people are being abused?! How do you explain that people who literally stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, maimed and killed police officers, put up a hang-man’s noose for VP Pence, damaged and stole property, and literally left urine, feces, and trash in their wake have been pardoned, lauded, and even venerated by the POTUS?! How do you explain to them why it’s okay to round up those desperate people

they call “illegals,” the vast majority of which have no criminal connections, and place them in camps to be thrown out of our country without knowing why they fled their own? How do you justify to them that some of their own friends who are LGBTQIA are no longer recognized as equals and their rights are beginning to be stripped away? How do you explain to children that they will no longer have access to the beautiful parks in our country because Park Rangers jobs have been taken? How in the world do you explain why a multi-billionaire is firing people with no right to do so at the behest of the president? How will you explain to them why the special needs students will no longer be helped? What do you say when the contributions of black Americans are no longer recognized? What will you say to them when they treat trans kids with disdain and even abuse when they simply mimic what leadership is doing? How will you justify the fact that a girl they may well know who was raped will now have to carry the child of her rapist to term because the rights their mothers and grandmothers fought for no longer exist? How do you teach the truths of History, or Civics, or Science when doing so comes with the potential loss of your job? How do you teach them to look in that mirror when so many people with power deliberately lie to save their own skin, knowing that what they are saying is literally destroying the fiber of democracy and tearing us apart as a functioning society?
How in the world does a teacher, or a parent for that matter, ever begin to help a child understand how to be a good human being of good character in this country now?
How will we all feel when the students we teach have only those distorted funhouse mirrors in which to view the world... and eventually, themselves?
That time is coming. If you don’t recognize it, you are already looking in one.
Are you having fun?
ERIC VON BLEICKEN
WEST BROOKFIELD

Meatless Meals Roundup Part II

Still searching for creative and tasty meatless meals to serve this season? Read on for a second compilation of delicious dishes - sans the meat.
And remember readers, your hints will put you in the running for a fabulous three course dinner for two at the Publick House!
**

A reader suggested this meatless favorite that is quick, easy, and a tried and true favorite during Lent.

An inexpensive recipe for Lent is frozen pierogis w/potato or cheese or fresh pierogis (some of the churches make them) with sautéed onions & mushrooms.
Jean Ciesluk
**

Mock Crabmeat and Artichoke Casserole Rich, filling and delicious, this recipe, making the rounds on the internet, is a five star favorite!

Ingredients: 8 ounces uncooked small shell pasta; 2 tablespoons butter; 6 green onions, chopped; 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour; 1 cup half-and-half; 1 teaspoon dry mustard; ½ teaspoon ground red pepper; salt and black pepper; ½ cup shredded Swiss cheese, divided; 1 (8 ounce) package imitation crabmeat, chunks; 1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and cut into bite-size pieces
Directions: Preheat oven to 350. Cook pasta according to package directions; drain and

set aside. Melt



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butter in large saucepan over medium heat; add green onions. Cook and stir about 2 minutes. Add flour; cook and stir two minutes more. Gradually add half-and-half, whisking constantly until mixture begins to thicken. Whisk in mustard and red pepper; season to taste with salt and black pepper. Remove from heat and stir in 1/4 cup cheese until melted. Combine crabmeat, artichokes and pasta in a buttered two quart casserole. Add sauce mixture and stir until blended. Top with remaining 1/4 cup cheese. Bake about 40 minutes or until hot, bubbly and lightly browned.

Simple Soufflé This souffle uses canned soup as a shortcut, but it still tastes impressive
Note: If you object to canned soups, you can make homemade condensed cream of celery soup with celery, onion, flour, butter, vegetable stock, s & p. Recipes are easy to find online.

Ingredients: One (10 3/4 oz) can of condensed Cream of Celery Soup (or homemade); 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated; 3 eggs, separated

Directions: Mix together soup and cheese in a saucepan and heat slowly until cheese melts, stirring occasionally. In a large bowl, beat egg yolks until thick and lemon colored. Slowly stir soup mixture into beaten egg yolks. In a separate bowl, and using clean beaters, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Fold into soup mixture. Pour into ungreased two quart casserole. Bake at 300°F. for about an hour or so until the soufflé is brown. Serve immediately. Makes four to five servings.
**

Classic Mini Clam Cakes This classic mid-century recipe can easily be doubled or tripled for hearty family servings.
Ingredients: two eggs; one half cup clam juice; one half cup milk; dash pepper; one and one half cups flour; one quarter teaspoon salt; three teaspoon baking powder; one 6.5 ounce can minced clams or equal weight of fresh, chopped clams.
Directions: Beat eggs. Add milk and clam juice. Sift flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. Add the minced clams to the sifted flour and then add enough of the liquid to make a thick, lumpy batter. Drop batter by tablespoon into 375 degree oil. When one side is cooked, the cakes will roll over by themselves. Drain on brown paper and serve immediately with chowder.
Baked version: Drop by tablespoon on a

parchment lined cookie sheet. Cook at 425 degree oven for about 20 minutes until lightly and crispy – or try the air fryer with the same temperature (time till doneness will vary)
**

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

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

Project underway to repair damage from flooding at Haston Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — A little over a year since last winter’s damaging flood incident, a project is underway to fully restore Haston Free Public Library.
In late February of 2024, the library’s water heater burst on a Saturday afternoon, causing major flooding on the lower level. Because the incident happened on the weekend when no one was on site, 7,600 gallons of water flowed through the building, most of which exited through floor drains.
“Fortunately, North Brookfield Fire Chief Darin Anderson was first on the scene. After carefully assessing the situation, Chief Anderson successfully turned off the water and determined that the building should be closed for the day. Trustees and staff appreciate his prompt response and professional expertise,” read a statement released by Peg Bodine, Chair of the Haston Library Trustees.
Anderson told the New Leader he was glad to be able to help library officials get started on the path to recovery.

“When I got there, I was brought down to the mechanical room. I could see the water had gotten out of the room and the carpet was quite wet,” Anderson said. “After making entry into the room, I could see where the water was coming from. After a bit more investigation, I found the proper valves to isolate the leak. I then called a local plumber for them to assist with the repairs.”
Ken Nye, a local licensed plumber, rearranged his work schedule following the flood event and installed a new water heater.
Due to the extent of damages caused by the incident, a company was brought in to clean the entire lower level. This includes the local history room, both of the lower-level bathrooms, the conference room, the staff room, the mechanical room, the non-fiction and biography areas, and storage areas.
As part of the ongoing remediation process, workers removed all affected ceiling tiles and all carpeting. They continuously monitored the building’s air quality during the process.
“Any walls damaged by mois-

ture will be tested, taken down, and replaced. Books and other small items will be cleaned and temporarily stored in a sanitized area,” read the statement released by Bodine. “Larger items, such as desks, computers, chairs, and bookshelves, will be sanitized and stored offsite. Once all cleaning has been completed, the new carpet and ceiling tiles will be installed and everything will be moved back to its original location.”
The eight-week remediation project is covered by the town’s insurance policy. The project wasn’t able to get underway until the insurance claim was processed.
The library’s leadership team thanks everyone who has provided assistance during the recovery effort. Officials expect the restored lower level to be fully operational by the end of spring.
For more information about upcoming library events, or to register for an activity, call 508-867-0208. You may also send an email to: hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.
The library is located at 161 North Main St.



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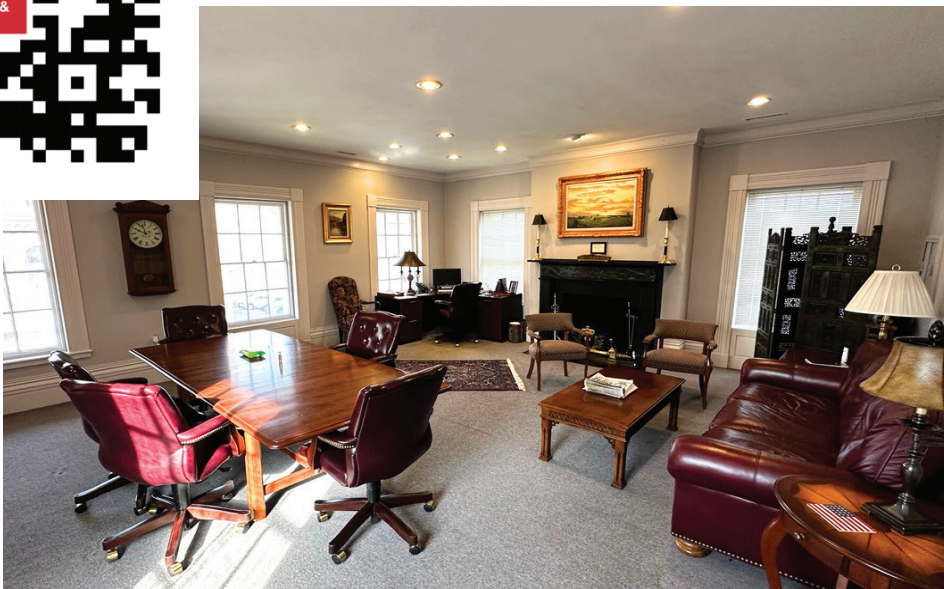
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Dehydrating gives “DIY convenience”



Gus Steeves

Lanette Lepper holds up one of her sample jars, with several others in the background.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – With higher winds and more unpredictable weather, we’ve been seeing more power outages in recent years. Sometimes they’re brief, sometimes they last days.

Of course, the latter is a problem when you have food in the fridge.

But if it’s dehydrated, it’s “shelf stable,” local farmer Lanette Lepper told a small group at Dudley library last weekend. “If the power goes out, it doesn’t matter.”

Lepper, of the Dudley Agricultur-

al Commission and Grange, has been dehydrating food “probably 15 years,” since before she even started growing her own food.

But human beings have been doing it, in one form or another, for at least 1000 times that long.

She notes “everyone’s going to have different reasons for doing it.” Among them are “you’re overrun with zucchini” in summer and don’t want to buy in winter, or you want to send loved ones their favorite recipe, or you want lightweight and space-saving food for camping, or you have stuff that’s stale

or just about to go bad and don’t want to waste it. The list is pretty long.

While there are many food preservation methods, most require more work than dehydration. Take canning, for example – that requires boiling in a large pot and being very careful to make sure the cans seal to avoid botulism. Dehydration doesn’t have that risk, although if you don’t make sure it’s truly dry, you might see it mold in storage. (That said, though, Lepper notes “Some things just need to be canned.”)

One commonly canned thing – tomato sauce – is also ideal for dehydrating. Lepper showed her audience it in two forms – a jar of powder and a crinkly sheet that looked like a fruit rollup (which it essentially was). Both of them will reconstitute into sauce by simply adding water, and you can do the same thing with apple sauce and many other things.

She said dehydrating provides a lot of “DIY convenience,” giving her a lot of ingredients to throw in soup, often with more nutrients than stuff that’s “fresh” at the supermarket (especially in winter). Beyond that, it’s preparation for the unexpected; “It’s good way to have things on hand when you don’t know if you can get them,” Lepper

Turn To **DEHYDRATING** page **A13**

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Remember the Alamo!

My dad was obsessed with the Battle of the Alamo, which fell in the early morning hours of March 6, 1836—nearly 189 years ago this week.

His passion for this pivotal moment in history shaped some of my earliest memories. The first time I ever traveled on a plane was when he took me to San Antonio, Texas, just to see the Alamo.

He'd guide me through every historical marker, narrating the story with the enthusiasm of a historian. After dinner, we'd walk back to the Alamo and just stand there, staring at its walls for hours. I was only six years old, and even then, I was intrigued—less because of the battle itself and more because of how much it meant to him.

His obsession ran deep. He owned every

book ever written on the Alamo, studied every account, and took us back to San Antonio many times over the years. And if there was one night in that story that truly defined his fascination, it was the final night—the moment when the walls were breached.

For 12 long days, a small band of Texan rebels, including legendary figures like James Bowie, William B. Travis, and Davy Crockett, had held off the massive Mexican army led by General Santa Anna. Despite being vastly outnumbered—fewer than 200 men against thousands—not a single defender had fallen during the siege. But in the early hours of March 6, under the cover of darkness, the Mexican forces launched their final assault.

Wave after wave of sol-

diers stormed the mission, scaling ladders, battering gates, and overwhelming the defenders with sheer numbers. In less than an hour, the Alamo was overrun. Every last Texan fighter was killed, their sacrifice becoming the rallying cry of the Texas Revolution.

"Remember the Alamo!" became more than just words—it became the battle cry of those who would go on to win Texas its independence. And for my dad and so many others, the Alamo wasn't just history—it was a symbol of defiance, courage, and an unwavering stand against impossible odds.

I read one of my father's old articles that he wrote about the Alamo and he said something in that article that struck a

chord with me—something that transcends the Alamo itself.

Reflecting on the Alamo defenders, my father said, "Heroes are important. No human being today can hold up to the scrutiny we give them, but we need someone to emulate."

Having someone to admire and emulate is important, especially when that person excels at something we aspire to do ourselves. It's natural to be drawn to greatness, to want to follow in the footsteps of those who have achieved something remarkable. But that admiration can sometimes turn into idolization, and that's where things get complicated.

I once idolized an Olympic swimmer. He

was a powerhouse in the water, someone I wanted to be like. But after getting to know him, I realized that while I respected his skill, I didn't necessarily admire his personality. And that's when it hit me—people are just people. Even those we put on pedestals.

Great people, even those with strong moral convictions, have made mistakes. And when those mistakes come to light, they can shatter the illusion we've built in our minds. The question isn't whether our heroes are perfect—they never are—but whether we can still draw inspiration from the best parts of who they were while understanding that they, too, were human.

No one is perfect, and if we expect our heroes to be, we set ourselves up for disappointment. The

truth is that greatness and imperfection exist side by side. A person can make mistakes and still leave behind something worth admiring.

Maybe we've become too harsh on our heroes, or maybe we've been too unrealistic about what it means to have role models in the first place.

Admiration doesn't require blind devotion; learning from someone's greatness doesn't mean ignoring their flaws. Because if perfection is the requirement for being worthy of admiration, we won't have any heroes left at all.

Our heroes, past and present, aren't meant to be untouchable figures. They're reminders that even flawed people can do extraordinary things. And maybe, that means we can too.



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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
12:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:25 a.m.: gunshots heard (Main Street), unfounded; 8:17 a.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 8:48 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 8:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:30 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 10:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, lights violation/windshield wipers on, criminal application issued; 10:30 a.m.: ambulance (Whittemore Street), transported; 1:38 p.m.: summons service (Keefe Court), unable to serve; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Hospital), transported; 4:09 p.m.: summons service (Peter Salem Road), unable to serve; 4:11 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 4:47 p.m.: ambulance (Glendale Street, Worcester), transported; 5:55 p.m.: summons service (Keefe Court), served; 6:32 p.m.: lobby service (Upton Street), report taken; 6:55 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), call canceled; 11:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
1:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), assisted; 2:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:39 a.m.: assist other PD (Mille Street), no action required; 7:41 a.m.: accident (Auburn Street), report taken; 8:31 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:33 a.m.: ambulance (First Street, Worcester), call canceled; 12:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:51 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 12:54 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:58 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), spoken to; 1:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Towtaid Street); 1:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford

Street), citation issued; 1:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:51 p.m.: mv stop (Burncoat Street), verbal warning; 2:02 p.m.: assist citizen (Paxton Street); 2:35 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:53 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 6:27 p.m.: keep the peace (Main Street), resolved; 7:48 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), report taken; 8:15 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 10:26 p.m.: ambulance (Cleveland Avenue, Worcester), transported; 11:19 p.m.: ambulance (Summer Street, Worcester), transported; 11:35 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), gone on arrival.
SATURDAY, MARCH 1
12:36 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Clark Street), verbal warning; 2:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 2:01 a.m.: mv stop (Clark Street), citation issued; 2:14 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:21 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:21 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted; 2:31 a.m.: family problem (Deer Pond Road), transported to hospital; 2:57 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 8:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:08 a.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), spoken to; 9:18 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 10:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:02 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), Siah Harold Hiamah, 30, 1326 Main Street, Leicester, disturbing the peace, landlord interfering with quiet enjoyment; criminal harassment, arrest; 12:24 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant View Road, Spencer), transported; 1:32 p.m.: welfare check (Town Beach Road), report taken; 3:39 p.m.: commercial security alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 7:16 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), 8:32 p.m.: ambulance (Ingram Road), transported; 9:41 p.m.: escort

(Soojians Drive), services rendered.
SUNDAY, MARCH 2
12:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:51 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), mv towed; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:16 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 12:50 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:31 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:38 p.m.: welfare check (Craig Street), transported to hospital; 3:24 p.m.: ambulance (Wesley Drive), transported; 5:25 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 6:55 p.m.: ambulance (Grove Street, Spencer), transported; 9:25 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:33 p.m.: ambulance (Old Stafford Turnpike), transported; 10:41 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm.
MONDAY, MARCH 3
8:17 a.m.: transport prisoner (out of town, destination not noted on police log), transported; 9:55 a.m.: ambulance (Maple Street), transported; 10:09 a.m.: ambulance (Watson Street), transported; 10:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:33 a.m.: ambulance (Burncoat Lane), transported; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:56 a.m.: keep the peace (Waite Street), assisted; 12:18 p.m.: fraud (Soojians Drive), Yutan Chen, 41, 42 Oakland Avenue, Quincy, larceny under \$1200, tax evasion/2 counts, attempted larceny, arrest; 12:29 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 12:44 p.m.: animal complaint (River Street), referred; 2:05 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 3:43 p.m.: fraud (Rawson Street), report taken; 4:51 p.m.: ambulance (Donnelly Road, Spencer), transported; 5:52 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:10 p.m.: restraining order service (Auburn Street), served; 6:30 p.m.: restraining order service (Carleton Road), unable to serve; 9:23 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street).

TUESDAY, MARCH 4
12:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:31 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:07 a.m.: residential alarm (Boutilier Road), false alarm; 10:32 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), resolved; 12:41 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), written warning; 12:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:25 p.m.: fraud (Siani Road), report taken; 1:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:09 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 2:34 p.m.: welfare check (Winslow Avenue), assisted; 4:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:34 p.m.: ambulance (South Street), transported; 5:03 p.m.: assist other PD (Cricklewood Drive), report

taken; 6:28 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Charlton Street), services rendered; 6:59 p.m.: suspicious activity (Pine Street), spoken to; 7:25 p.m.: disabled mv (White Birch Street), call canceled; 7:55 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 8:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), referred.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5
12:09 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:17 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), report taken; 9:31 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:54 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 9:58 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), advised civil action; 10:05 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), call canceled; 10:07 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:09 p.m.: ambulance (Willard Avenue, Worcester), transported; 1:01 p.m.: water/sewer problem (Marshall Street), referred; 1:24 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 1:34 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 2:40 p.m.: restraining order service (Clark Street), unable to serve; 3:11 p.m.: welfare check (South Street Extension), assisted; 3:41 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), report taken; 4:23 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), referred; 4:26 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 5:12 p.m.: accident (Mill Street), report taken; 7:36 p.m.: ambulance (Richards Street), transported; 10:04 p.m.: water/sewer problem (Peter Salem Road), referred.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
12:02-1:58 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:06 a.m.: medical/general (H.J. Perron Road); 7:07 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (Pleasant Street), info taken; 7:40 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:17 p.m.: DPW call (North Brookfield Road), lg. pot-hole; 12:22 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 1:07 p.m.: illegal dumping (North Spencer Road), unauth. use of dumpster; 3:07 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 3:13 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 4:48 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 5:00 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), re: narcotic sales; 5:02 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. suspicious activity; 5:19 p.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 7:12 p.m.: mv complaint (Mechanic Street), erratic operator; 7:44 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), rep. erratic operator/Route 49; 8:19 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); (total daily mv stops – 2).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
12:14-1:59 a.m.: buildings inspected, secure; 12:26 a.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street), referred; 5:22 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info

Turn To **LOGS** page **A13**

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LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0063A
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**
In the matter of:
Alicia Grace Rowland
A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by
Alicia Grace Rowland of Warren MA
requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Alicia Grace Andrews Girouard
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 03/18/2025 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0033A
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**
In the matter of:
Cameron Kent Bays
A Petition to Change Name of Minor
has been filed by
Cameron Kent Bays of Warren MA

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Cameron Craig Andrews
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 03/18/2025 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W018P2205EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Joyce Ellen McCarthy
Also known as: Joyce E McCarthy
Date of Death: 01/15/2018
To all interested persons:
A Petition for /A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representatative has been filed by **Amy Marie Plasse of Chicopee MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Amy Marie Plasse of Chicopee MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the

Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 03, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

**TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
OFFICE OF THE PLANNING BOARD**
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506
**Brookfield Planning Board
Notice of Public Hearing**
In accordance with M. G. L., Chapter 40A, Section 5 and the provisions of the Brookfield Zoning Bylaws Section 13.D, the Brookfield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Town of Brookfield Zoning Bylaw concerning Accessory Dwelling Units.
The hearing will take place on

Wednesday, April 2, 2025, in the Banquet Hall of Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central St., Brookfield, MA, starting at 6:30 pm or as soon thereafter as can be heard. Meeting details and agenda will be posted at www.mytowngovernment.org/01506. A copy of the proposed amendments may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk at Brookfield Town Hall during normal business hours.
Kevin Erkkila, Chair
Brookfield Planning Board
March 14, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W025C0034A
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**
In the matter of:
Katelyn Grace Bays
A Petition to Change Name of Minor
has been filed by
Katelyn Grace Bays of Warren MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Katelyn Grace Andrews
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 03/18/2025 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 14, 2025

DEHYDRATING
continued from page A9



Lanette Lepper and Maureen Doyle look over one version of a dehydrator.

said. “Almost anything” can be dehydrated, “but there are a few things I don’t recommend,” she said. One of the latter is meat – very lean meat is OK, but fats will spoil (true also of fatty plant products like avocados; she urged just freezing them).

Historically, meats and fish were typically cured with salt and/or various spices and dried either in the sun or smoked in a dry, hot place. According to the on-line essay “Historical Methods of Food Preservation” by Brian Nummer, “Evidence shows that Middle East and oriental cultures actively dried foods as early as 12,000 B.C. in the hot sun.” (Chances are it was actually far older than that.) He also notes, “In the Middle Ages purposely built ‘still houses’ were created to dry fruits, vegetables and herbs in areas that did not have enough strong sunlight for drying. A fire was used to create the heat needed to dry foods and in some cases smoking them as well.”

His essay is at <https://nchfp.uga.edu/resources/entry/historical-origins-of-food-preservation>. Lepper noted there are many online resources for curing meat, something she doesn’t do.

Lepper said she typically starts by chopping, slicing or shredding the fruit or vegetables, and frozen veggies will dehydrate quite well. Apples and pears are “easy-peasy,” – and apples are one of her family’s favorites; “They hardly ever make it to a storage bag, they’re so good.” Also easy are peas, tomatoes, peaches, strawberries, nectarines and cherries. Some, like cherries and cherry tomatoes, need to be cut in half first, with the cut side up to retain the nutrients; full size tomatoes get sliced (as do most others).

Lepper is not fond of dehydrated blueberries; she’ll freeze them instead, and notes you can’t get banana chips from dehydrating because they’re actually fried in oil. Carrots, celery, broccoli and many other things dehydrate easily, but onions, hot peppers, and garlic will “stink up your house,” so she recommends doing them outdoors.

She also noted potatoes “are one of the types of vegetables you have to blanch before dehydrating” or they’ll turn black. They’re still edible, but not very appealing; blanching is simply boiling them for a few minutes before slicing them. She recommends running them under cool water before sticking them in the dehydrator.

Most herbs don’t need a dehydrator; just hang them in a dry, dark place. But you need to harvest them before they go to flower to collect the most essential oils and nutrients. If doing them in a dehydrator, they need a temperature of 95 degrees “so it doesn’t ruin the essential oils,” she said.

Other things need the following: vegetables, 125 degrees, fruit, 135 degrees, and 160 degrees for meat jerky (because it has to cook, too). Some ovens can get that low, but most can’t. Most dehydrators have thermostats, but she notes they’re “helpful but not necessary.” Timers are useful, but also unnecessary; the key is simply to check on the drying process occasionally.

“If you have any doubt, leave it in an extra hour or two, but don’t leave it in overnight,” she added. Things are dry if they pass the “snap, crackle, pop” test – they break easily when folded, for example.

One useful tool is a portable vacuum-sealer for cans; they’re available online and in some stores. You can reuse cans of various kinds (with or without vacuum seals) for storage, unlike in canning.

Lepper said a basic startup costs \$50-\$60, her dehydrator cost about \$300, and commercial varieties can cost thousands.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Local students named to Holy Cross Dean’s List

WORCESTER — More than 1,700 students were named to the College of the Holy Cross’ Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the Fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. The following local students made the list:

- Tatiana Coolbaugh of Spencer, class of 2026
- Jenna Dupell of North Brookfield, class of 2026
- Timothy St. John of Leicester, class of 2026

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher:

About Holy Cross
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

LOGS

continued from page A12

rec’d; 6:43 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 7:06 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:40 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 8:59 a.m.: hit/run accident (South Spencer Road), report taken; 1:08 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:46 p.m.: 911 call (Lake Street), resolved; 5:23 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), UMass cath lab/cautionary status; 6:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Lambs Drive), RMV immediate threat; 7:11 p.m.: 911 call (Greenville Street), services rendered; 7:19 p.m.: suspicious persons (Maple Street), investigated; 7:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), spoken to; 10:30 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
12:15-2:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:09 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 2:14 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police; 3:00 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:54 a.m.: officer wanted (Prouty Street), poss. water main break; 6:12 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 6:13 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), rep. icy conditions; 6:33 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 7:51 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 8:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: trailer in church lot; 8:56 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:32 a.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 11:01 a.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 11:55 a.m.: officer wanted (Town House Court), req. welfare check; 1:07 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:13 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet lost; 2:42 p.m.: 911 call (Clark Road), accidental; 2:42 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Hardwick PD bolo; 3:09 p.m.: suspicious mv (G.H. Wilson Road), investigated; 3:10 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), diamond ring found; 3:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), rep. possum in garage; 4:49 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. garage/insurance fraud; 5:29 p.m.: medical/mental health (Main Street), req. welfare check; 7:44 p.m.: 911 call (Meadow Road), services rendered; 10:20 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 11:46 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Grant Street), response not noted on police log; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
12:28 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 1:08-2:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:15 a.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), no action required; 1:32 a.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), investigated; 2:06 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Oakland Drive), loose dog; 10:51 a.m.: suspicious persons (Earley Street), re: early morning disturbance; 11:09 a.m.: medical/general (Pauls Drive); 12:15 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant View Road); 12:54 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), rep. fight at restaurant; 2:01 p.m.: odor of gas (North Spencer Road), referred; 3:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. welfare check; 3:32 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), misdial; 3:40 p.m.: 911 call (Grant Street), misdial; 4:19 p.m.: officer wanted (East Charlton Road), re: issues w/ex; 5:24 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), open line; 5:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), apt. door breached; 5:59 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), rep. icy conditions; 6:29 p.m.: commercial alarm (Wall Street), services rendered; 7:28 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Meadow Road), response not noted on police log; 10:04 p.m.: fire alarm (Chestnut Street), referred; 10:44 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 11:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. welfare check; 11:39 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kids in parking lot/investigated; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
12:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Deer Run Road), welfare check/MedicAlert; 12:14 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), spoken to; 12:45-2:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:55 a.m.: suspicious mv (Ash Street), investigated; 7:55 a.m.: suspicious mv (Lake Avenue), investigated; 7:56 a.m.: stolen property (North Spencer Road), theft of phone from gym locker; 8:41 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:34 a.m.: 911 call (Robertat Bay), misdial; 9:58 a.m.: medical/general (Highland Street); 11:37 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:49 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo/missing elderly male; 1:06 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:06 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:27 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Worcester PD w/mv stop; 3:03 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv in designated spot; 4:19 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 5:17 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:47 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:15 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 6:37 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 6:43 p.m.: citizen complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), c/o solar solicitors; 6:53 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 7:12 p.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), accidental; 8:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:46 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 9:20 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:01 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:39-11:41 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

MONDAY, MARCH 3
4:49 a.m.: medical/gen-

eral (Howe Village); 6:28 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:54 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), blocked in by mv; 7:30 a.m.: medical/general (Brown Street); 7:33 a.m.: medical/general (Williams Drive); 8:11 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:02 a.m.: medical/general (Pope Street); 9:45 a.m.: medical/general (Old East Charlton Road); 10:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Town House Court), rep. son missing/2 days; 11:24 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), re: ex; 11:48 a.m.: animal complaint (Old East Charlton Road), loose dog; 12:06 p.m.: medical/general (Pope Street); 12:10 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 12:10 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. lift assist; 1:12 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: notes left on mv; 2:31 p.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), misdial; 2:47 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:24 p.m.: restraining order service (Greenville Street); 3:51 p.m.: 911 call (Lyford Road), open line; 3:53 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 3:59 p.m.: restraining order service (Ash Street); 4:18 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 4:47 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Road); 5:09 p.m.: illegal dumping (Bacon Hill Road), bag dumped on property; 5:18 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), unknown issue; 6:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 6:59 p.m.: suspicious persons (Maple Street), investigated; 7:16 p.m.: property check (Irving Street), side door open/bldg. secured; 9:30 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:21 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:15 p.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 11:46 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

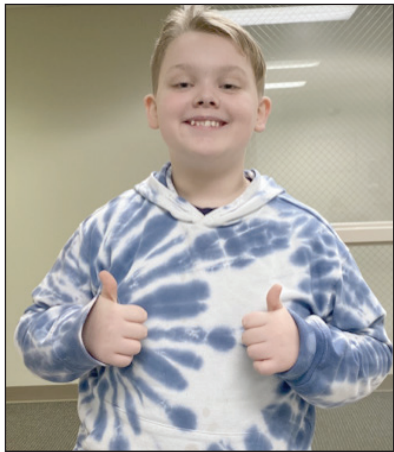
TUESDAY, MARCH 4
12:35-1:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), req. welfare check; 2:51 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 3:23 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:40 a.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), open line; 8:13 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:04 a.m.: officer wanted (Point Eastalee Drive), truck downed overhead wires; 11:08 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:22 a.m.: 911 call (Pearl Street), accidental; 11:33 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 11:39 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 12:13 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 12:52 p.m.: medical/general (Deer Run Road); 1:15 p.m.: animal complaint (McDonald Street), loose dog; 2:04 p.m.: fire (Northwest Road), referred; 2:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. welfare check; 3:32 p.m.: mutual aid (Ash Street), assist Leicester PD; 4:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Road), rep. harassment; 7:09 p.m.: hit/run accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 8:47 p.m.: mutual aid (Kittredge Road), assist North Brookfield PD; 10:59 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), mv blocking traffic; (total daily mv stops – 1).

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Can I Adopt?

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

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

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



READING

continued from page A1

readers look forward to returning to WBES next year to keep the tradition

going. School officials thank all readers who took time out of their schedules to make the program memorable for students. Throughout the month

of March, several other area schools will host community reading events in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday (March 2).



Above: West Brookfield Police Officer Craig Charron introduces his book to students. At left: Sara Chioda, a bus driver with McCarthy Bus Company, reads to youngsters.

SELF-DEFENSE

continued from page A1

protect our families and keep them safe. The idea is to make people aware, not afraid," read a statement released by the DA's Office. "To help educate parents and children alike, we provide many quality presentations on a variety of topics. These programs are free of charge."

For more information about programs supported by the DA's Office, visit www.worcesterda.com. You may also contact Assistant District Attorney Don Xenos at 508-755-8601.



North Brookfield students learn about self-defense training techniques from local organizations.

HEARINGS

continued from page A1

to meet the required local contribution; support for the Spencer Rescue Squad; funds for an additional Highway Department employee; funds for an additional police officer for the SPD; and funds covering Spencer Fire Department personnel (replacing the current grant funds for certain firefighting positions).

Each proposal features different amounts and items slated for coverage, though both options focus heavily on school funding and support for public safety departments. Infrastructure improvements are also on the table for inclusion.

"We want to see public input on whether we should ask for a one-time amount or break it up over three years. It's going to be up to the taxpayers to see if they want the override and how to go forward with it," Selectman Gary Woodbury said. "It will come down to what the residents decide is the best path."

Officials prepared an informational packet that provides residents with detailed breakdowns of each option.

For the latest information and announcements, visit the town Web site, www.spencerma.gov.

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The Spencer Housing Authority has an opening
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The Spencer Housing Authority is seeking a qualified full-time Administrative Assistant to assist with a variety of tasks including, but not limited to, processing applications, maintaining waitlists, calculating rent determinations, and general reception duties including answering phones, entering work orders, filing and assisting the public. This is a full time (40 hours) benefited position. Retirement is through the Worcester County Retirement Office. Successful candidates must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be proficient in computer skills. Working knowledge of EOHLC, CHAMP, or PHA-Net software. The selected applicant must be able to pass a criminal background check (CORI). The full job description can be found on the SHA website. Pay: \$20.00 per hour
Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to:
Spencer Housing Authority 13 McDonald Street Spencer, MA 01562
Attn: Kimberly Hurlbrink
You may also email cover letter and resumes to Kimberly Hurlbrink: kim.hurlbrink@spencerhousing.org
Resumes will be accepted until 2:00PM on March 21, 2025
Spencer Housing Authority is an equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

The Resident Care Facility at Saint Joseph's Abbey, 167 North Spencer Road, Spencer, MA., has an opening for a part time facility cook. Hourly wage negotiable depending on experience and related skills
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED. Ability to speak and read English required. Must be able to understand written policies and procedures. Must be able to work unsupervised while following food safety protocols.
For more information and to apply, contact Wally Connor, Facility/HR Manager at (508) 885-8700 Ext. 550 or by email: wally@spencerabbey.org

RECYCLING CENTER ATTENDANT
-TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD

Town of East Brookfield -
Title of Position: Recycling Attendant
Hours: (Saturday 9 to 3 Year-Round) and Thursdays 2:30 to 4:30- (April to November)

This position involves the monitoring of the Town recycling facilities for residents of the Town.
Duties of the Position
Open and close the transfer station in accordance with hours established by the Town.
Assure that only property owners of the Town of East Brookfield use the Recycle Center facility.
Maintain receipts of money received for recyclables & Bulk Waste
Monitor users for proper recycling procedures and arrange for enforcement as necessary. Assure that the facility and adjacent grounds are kept neat and orderly.

If interested in the job please email your work history to:
EBSW311@EASTBROOKFIELDMA.US

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:

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Town of Oakham – Council on Aging – Activities Coordinator

The Council on Aging for the Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced Activities Coordinator. Miscellaneous duties which include supporting current programs and developing new programs or special events to increase attendance and participation of the growing aging population in the Oakham Senior Center. Up to 12 hours per week (flexible) and salary up to \$20.00/hr. depending upon experience. Resume should be sent to Admin@Oakham-Ma.gov. or mailed to Board of Selectmen, Town of Oakham, 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham, MA. 01068.

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ON DEPOSIT



Location! Location! This Oversized & Well Maintained 2 Family offers 2,472 sq Total! Apt 1 -> 1st Floor Unit -> has 1,052 sq, 3 BRs & 1 Bath! Apt 2 -> 2nd & 3rd Floor Unit has 2 levels -> 1,420 sq, 5 BRs, 2 Baths. Corner lot w/30 acre, 22'x22' Two Car Garage! 12'x16' Concrete Patio. Apartments fully occupied. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS onto the Property. **\$559,900**



WEBSTER - 22 COOPER RD.

New Construction! 2nd of 4 Homes to be built! Imagine Yourself in a New Craftsman Style home - Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Near Webster Lake w/Access to Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 4 BRs., 2-1/2 Baths! Walkout slider from Basement. 2 Car Garage! **\$649,900**

OXFORD - 25 SUTTON AVENUE



Location ~ Location! Move-in ready Commercial Office &/or Retail Space! Ideal for >>> Small Businesses, Companies looking to expand, Banks, Medical facilities etc...2 Level Free Standing Building on a Corner Lot - Located in an Active area of Restaurants & Retail 1 Minute to Rt 395 & Rt 20...Zoned GB 10 units - .71 Acre - 26 Parking Spots **\$1,150,000**

STURBRIDGE - 66 WESTWOOD DR 1640' FRONTAGE - 11.61 ACRES! WATERFRONT LAND



1640' direct waterfront on Cedar Lake! Secluded 11.61 Acres - Pristine, Undeveloped, Private & Serene! Potential for up to 5 house lots! 119' road-front w/Gravel Drive Access to Land & Lake! 183 ac+ Cedar Lake is full recreational - A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity! **\$899,000**



WEBSTER - 38 COLONIAL RD. LAKE RESIDENTIAL

Webster Lake Area! Investors take notice! Charming Ranch with possible extra buildable lot! Home has 2 bedrooms, 1 Bath. 1 Car Garage. Recent Furnace and Ductless Mini-Split System. Vinyl Siding, Replacement Windows. 100CB. Interior needs updating* **\$399,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Featured Listing!!



Webster Lake Waterfront- 88 Union Point
Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline- Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Utilize this one Bedroom Winterized cottage while making plans to construct your dream home! Or just live in, as is! Fireplaced living room 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! - **\$660,000**

Featured New Listing! Webster Lake Waterfront Lots Bates Point Rd

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



Webster Lake Waterfront

44 West Point Rd
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- *Cathedral Ceilings Living Room
- *cabinet packed Kitchen w/ center island seating 6
- *Finished lower level family room

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Local correctional officer promoted in rank



Sgt. Michael McHugh (left) and Sheriff Lew Evangelidis (right).

WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is pleased to announce the recent round of ser-

geant promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. These new sergeants will assume greater responsi-

bilities at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. Among those promoted from the rank of officer to ser-



Sgt. Brian Camacho (left) with Evangelidis.

geant are Brian Camacho and Michael McHugh of Leicester.

As sergeants, these individuals will be

responsible for commanding and supervising the officers and staff under their charge. They will also oversee the care, custody, and control of inmate activities, ensuring the safety of both staff and inmates.

"Promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office are awarded to individuals who demonstrate exceptional merit, a strong work ethic, and unwavering dedication to their duties," stated Evangelidis. "This group has shown themselves to be leaders during their time with the sheriff's office. I look forward to seeing these sergeants take on their new roles,

mentor newer staff, and fulfill the sheriff's office mission for the residents of Worcester County."

The Worcester County Jail and House of Correction is responsible for pre-trial detainees and inmates sentenced to two and a half years or less. The facility can accommodate over 1,000 inmates and is in West Boylston. Additionally, the sheriff's office operates community centers in Fitchburg, Worcester, and Webster.

To learn more about the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and how to become a Correctional Officer, please visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com.

Krispy Kreme doughnuts are back

EAST BROOKFIELD — Stop by the library now till April 29 and pay \$15 to reserve your box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts. The donuts will be delivered on Thursday, May 13 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.; voting day! Coming in to vote? We will have fewer than a box and even single doughnuts on sale.

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