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## Damage from burst pipes forces DPHS officials to pivot to remote learning

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – David Prouty High School returned to remote learning last week, but this time it had nothing to do with COVID-19.

Facing persistent issues stemming from a burst pipe last month, school leaders decided to pivot back to remote learning, effective March 3. As of press time, in-person classes were expected to resume on March 8.

The incident began on Feb. 26, when the Spencer Fire Department responded to an alarm at DPHS. Upon arrival, responders discovered steam and water

damage in the B Building of the school. The damage was caused by a broken heating pipe on the first floor of the classroom wing, officials said.

The pipe had been broken for several hours before responders arrived, flooding the floor with approximately 1.5 inches of water.

“Further investigation determined several more classrooms were affected on the first floor in the B Building,” read a statement released to the school community by Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. “Heat and water were turned off in the building until the extent

of the damage could be evaluated.”

Several attempts to repair the system were made, including the installation of isolation valves in the classrooms affected by the damage. But each time the water was turned back on to pressurize the system, more damage was reported, officials said.

On March 2, Haughey contacted the Massachusetts Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to seek approval for a return to remote learning. DESE officials granted the request for a temporary reactivation while repairs took place.

For local students and families who have come to loathe remote learning, the incident presented the latest frustrating

Please Read **DPHS**, page **A9**

## Sprinkler system back up and running at LHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – The high school sprinkler system is up and running again after significant repairs.

In the weeks after Leicester Fire Chief Michael Dupuis sent a Jan. 24 informational letter to the community regarding the situation, extensive work has been done to get the system back online. As of Feb. 22, the sprinkler system has been operational, according to Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Marilyn Tencza.

On Dec. 14, 2021, the sprinkler system went down due to a jockey pump failure, fire officials said. The jockey pump is a water pump that maintains the water pressure in the sys-

tem. This failure prevented the sprinkler system from holding the proper water pressure.

On Dec. 15, 2021, a new jockey pump was installed. However, when the contractor was ready to test the pump, workers noticed that the main pump bearing housing was broken and bearing parts were found on the floor. Upon further inspection, rocks and debris were found inside the sprinkler drain, fire officials said.

On Dec. 21, the piping was inspected throughout the pump itself, as well as the incoming fire suppression water line. The results showed no restrictions to the water supply from debris, but inspec-

Please Read **LHS**, page **A9**

## A SALUTE TO SEUSS

Photo Courtesy

Students and staff at Wire Village School celebrated Read Across America Week recently. This duo paid tribute to Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat."



## Deja New team looks forward to a new year of activities

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – On the heels of another successful year, the Deja New team has a lot to be excited about in 2022.

Deja New, a volunteer-run nonprofit in town, contributed more than \$20,000 in cash and in-kind donations last year to assist local residents and organizations.

“Deja New helped families in need by paying household expenses and making in-kind donations of furniture, toys, and clothing,” read a statement released by the organization. “They also made Christmas brighter for several families who were struggling to buy presents for their children.”

A new program called “Summer of Support” provided the town’s first responders with much-needed tools and equipment. In the schools, meanwhile, 15 educators received mini-grants to promote innovation in the classroom. Three high school seniors were granted college scholarships.

The success stories of 2021



Photo Courtesy

The Deja New team is looking forward to another year of giving back to the Leicester community.

are nothing new for an organization that has been relied upon since its inception.

In 2018, Deja New held a

fundraiser called “A Taste of Leicester” to help raise

Please Read **DEJA NEW**, page **A8**

## Local schools welcome lifting of mask mandate on buses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STAFF WRITER

REGION – On the same day the statewide school mask mandate was lifted last week, students returned from winter vacation to an additional bit of welcome news.

In a recent announcement, the CDC informed school officials that it is no longer requiring students to wear masks on school buses and vans. This applies to both K-12 students and youngsters in childcare programs.

“CDC is exercising its enforcement discretion to not require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and childcare programs,” read a statement released by the CDC. “This change is to align with updated guidance that no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 schools and early education settings.”

Moving forward, individual school districts will be responsible for deciding whether to lift or maintain the mask requirements on buses and vans. Most local districts have opted to lift the mandates.

“Masks are optional on

buses and vans for students of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District,” read a statement released by SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. “As always, any individual who wishes to continue to mask should be supported in that choice—in a respectful and responsible manner.”

At its Feb. 28 meeting, the Quaboag Regional School Committee also decided to make masks optional aboard school buses.

“To better align with the most recent guidance, students are no longer required to wear masks on buses in the Quaboag Regional School District. However, students may choose to wear a mask on the bus,” said QRSD Superintendent Brett Kustigian.

Local families and school leaders were thrilled by the latest relaxed mandate, as they continue to adjust to a new normal in school buildings after nearly two years of dealing with closures, mask regulations, and social distancing requirements. Area officials also appreciate the ability to have local control over masking on buses.

Please Read **MASKS**, page **A6**

# Former state rep makes bid for Lt. Governor



Photo Courtesy

**Former State Representative Kate Campanale is hoping to become the next Lt. Governor of Massachusetts.**

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Former State Rep. Kate Campanale recently announced that she will run for Lt. Governor as part of the ticket led by Republican gubernatorial candidate Chris Doughty.

“Kate will bring experience, energy, and her legendary work ethic to our ticket,” Doughty said of his running mate. “Most importantly, when elected, the people of the Commonwealth are going to get a tremendous Lieutenant Governor who will work around the clock to improve the quality of life in Massachusetts.”

Campanale became the first female

state representative elected to serve the 17th Worcester District, which includes Leicester and a portion of Worcester. As a freshman representative, she made an immediate impact with her appointment to the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

During her tenure at the State House, Campanale authored the first-in-the-nation bill to establish a program that incentivizes both employers and employees to share and reduce the burden of student loan debt. She also sponsored public safety initiatives to help protect women against domestic violence and give them a voice.

After leaving the legislature, Campanale followed her passion to educate and mentor by earning her Massachusetts educator license in history. She then taught locally in the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District.

Looking ahead to the next chapter, Campanale is eager to bring her passion and dedication to her campaign with Doughty. The ticket is committed to enhancing affordability across the state and assisting residents who have faced countless struggles since 2020.

“No matter who you talk to, people are worried about their paychecks, their bills, and their savings. After hearing Chris’s powerful message on affordability and meeting with him, I knew he is the leader we need in the corner office. That’s why I am proudly declaring my candidacy for Lieutenant Governor,” Campanale said. “The Doughty-Campanale ticket is the team focused on making Massachusetts affordable. We will always put people ahead of politics.”

A graduate of Sweet Briar College with a B.A. in business management, Campanale is married to Rep. Peter Durant (R-Spencer). She has received strong support locally since announcing her bid for Lt. Governor, and she embraces the challenge of expanding her ticket’s presence statewide.

“This is not just a Primary fight. We are running an aggressive campaign to win in November,” Doughty

added. “With Kate joining our ticket, this sends a loud message that we are in this to win it.”

Among the major priorities for Doughty and Campanale are making Massachusetts more affordable; streamlining state government to be more consumer friendly; strengthening public safety; growing quality jobs; and improving education at all levels.

“When I first met Chris, it didn’t take long to see that he is a man of incredible character, honest compassion, and someone who has a relentless pursuit to help improve the lives of the people around him—whether in his business, his personal endeavors, or as our future Governor,” Campanale said. “Especially in times like these that we find ourselves in today, Chris brings a calm, steady, and confident voice to the challenges we face.”

On March 1, Doughty and Campanale announced their ticket at Stearns Tavern in Worcester, a venue in the heart of her former district that holds a special significance.

“This building illustrates true community partnership and what can be accomplished when we work together,” Campanale said of a recent relocation project that preserved one of Worcester’s most historic buildings through a partnership of over 140 private sector businesses, as well as support from legislators. “It was a special honor for me to be a part of this successful achievement and to now watch as its vision continues to flourish.”

In spite of its long, storied history, the building previously fell on hard times and sat empty—slated for demolition. But the partnership between local businesses and leaders allowed the building to be relocated to the shores of Coes Park.

“A concerted, collaborative effort brought this building back, and while its past is full of great history, as we can see, its future is brighter,” Campanale added.

Campanale hopes similar stories of reclamation can unfold in cities and towns throughout the state in the com-

ing years—both at the community and household levels. Massachusetts residents are facing unprecedented challenges, and Campanale is ready to work with Doughty to deliver solutions.

“The past two years have brought about a lot of disruption and uncertainty to the everyday lives and the long-term goals of our citizens. We have a lot of work to do as we navigate this post-pandemic era,” Campanale said. “Now, more than ever, we need that steady hand and clear focus to capitalize on the progress we’ve made and tackle those areas that need attention.”

Added Campanale, “As a former schoolteacher during this pandemic, I can tell you that the past two years have been especially hard on our children, parents, and teachers. Remote learning has set many of our students back—many still struggle to catch up, and these are years that our children cannot get back. Parents struggle to get by and cope with a feeling of being overwhelmed. We need to focus on moving our schools to a place where kids can get back to being kids.”

Campanale cited getting back to basics as a key approach to tackling the major issues facing the state. This involves focusing on core issues affecting all residents.

“It is Chris’s and my shared belief that our focus needs to turn to those issues that affect our daily lives as we build upon the foundation that will define success as a whole: education, public safety, and affordability—getting back to the basics as we prioritize those things that will improve the quality of the lives of our residents and the business climate for those who work to create jobs here in the Commonwealth.”

Added Campanale, “Over the past ten years that I have been involved in Massachusetts politics, especially as a legislator, I have seen that your taxpayer dollars are best spent at the local level. I know Chris and I speak with a singular voice on our commitment to maintain relationships with municipalities and increase this crucial funding that is so vital for their core services.”

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## Alexander Richard of West Brookfield earns Dean's List honors at Syracuse University

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — In recognition of superior scholarship, Alexander J. Richard has been entered on the Syracuse University’s Engineering & Computer Science Dean’s List for Fall 2021. Richard is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and has been accepted into the Syracuse University College of Engineering & Computer Science Graduate School for Fall 2022.

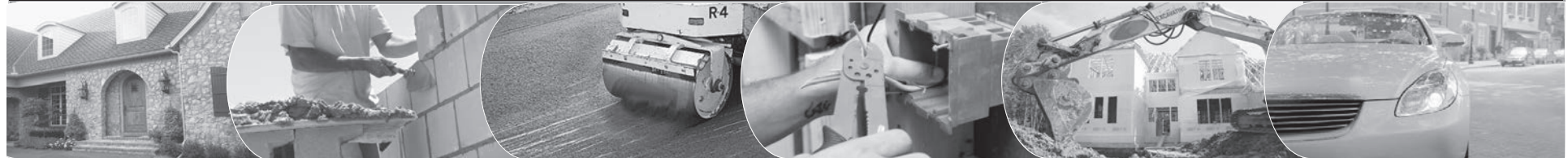
To be eligible for Dean’s List recognition, a student must have a minimum semester grade point average of 3.40 or higher, enrolled in a minimum of

12 graded credits, and have no missing or incomplete grades. Syracuse University is a private university founded in 1870 with approximately 22,000 students, including approximately 14,500 undergraduate students at its campus in Syracuse, NY.

## Leicester Women's Club meets Wednesday

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women’s Club will meet Wednesday, March 16 at Pineridge Country Club at 11.30 a.m. Lunch is a buffet bar of Soup (Clam Chowder/Chick Corn Chowder), salad, chicken, tuna, ham sandwiches, and dessert. Cost is \$15. Program will be our Fire Chief. Call Maureen at 508-864-6871 by Friday March 11 for reservations. New members are always welcome.

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# March into spring at Haston Free Public Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Area residents are invited to march into spring with a packed lineup of programs at Haston Free Public Library.

In honor of Judicial Outreach Month in Massachusetts—a time when the state's Trial Court ramps up community outreach efforts—the library will receive a special visitor this month. On Tuesday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m., the library will welcome the Hon. Maura McCarthy, First Justice of the East Brookfield District Court. Judge McCarthy will tell guests about the activities of the court and describe a judge's typical day, including examples of the kinds of cases she adjudicates.

"We are privileged to participate in this outreach program and hope this presentation will be a valuable experience for all involved," read a statement released by the library. "It is a unique opportunity to learn about the work of the judicial branch of government directly from a judge who addresses a variety of challenging matters presented to her court on a daily basis."

On Wednesday, March 16, at 6 p.m., local businesswoman, entrepreneur, and author Dani Whitestone will discuss her new book, "The Brilliant Businesswoman: Your Guide to Entrepreneurial Success."

The author regularly helps entrepreneurs launch and grow successful small businesses. She is the founder of the Women's Small Business and

Leadership Network.

If you are interested in attending this program, call the library at 508-867-0208 to register. The program is supported in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council.

Residents are reminded of an opportunity to donate pajamas to the Boston Bruins PJ Drive. The program runs until March 31.

"So far, we've collected more than 30 and are well on our way to our goal of 50 PJs," the library statement read. "As a reminder, we are looking for brand new pajamas, appropriate for all seasons, from sizes 2T through adult medium."

The Community Connections Parent-Child Playgroup will once again meet at the library. Miss Patty will present

her stories, crafts, and free playtime sessions on Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m.

Finally, the Haston Book Group will be reading a selection of short stories this month. The stories will be discussed on March 29 at 7 p.m. in the library and via Zoom. Copies of the stories are available in the library. Call 508-867-0208 for more information about the program, or to access the Zoom link.

Looking ahead, library leaders are planning a program on gardening this spring, so be sure to check the library's Facebook page for updates.

A reminder to unvaccinated patrons: face masks are still recommended for use in the library.

The library is located at 161 North Main St.

# Swan Tavern announces 2022 programs

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – With warmer weather on the way, residents are looking forward to an exciting and informational series of programs at the Swan Tavern Leicester Historical Museum.

On Saturday, March 12, at 1 p.m., "A Conversation with Abigail Adams" will take place at the tavern. Abigail Adams, the wife and close advisor of President John Adams, was also the mother of President John Quincy Adams. At this event, residents will have the opportunity to learn more about our second First Lady.

On Saturday, April 23, at 1 p.m., residents will receive "A Visit from Louisa May Alcott." Join other guests for a captivating presentation on the life of

Alcott, including her friendships with Thoreau and Emerson, her inspiration for "Little Women", and her connections to Rev. May and Leicester. This event will take place in the Unitarian Church (Washburn Square).

"Trailblazers by Timing, Activists by Choice" will be presented on Friday, June 24, at 7 p.m. The women's suffrage movement didn't start in 1848, but instead years before with abolitionists and women fighting for multiple causes, setting the stage for attaining the vote. During the June 24 event, Lynne McKenney Lydick will bring these events to life.

On Friday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m., "An Evening with Paul Revere" will give residents a thrilling ride into the past. Best known for his ride to warn patriots

that the British were coming, Revere also helped to fortify Boston against British attack.

"A Nipmuc Experience" will be presented on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m. Cold Wind, a member of the Nipmuc Nation, will tell guests about various customs back when the colonists were just arriving on the continent.

Finally, on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m.,

guests will learn more about the origins of cherished Christmas traditions. This is the perfect event to get you and your family in the holiday spirit, as renowned storyteller Tom Kelleher will share the interesting history of mistletoe, Yule log, Wassail, and more.

Programs at the museum are presented by the Leicester Historical Society.

The museum is located at 1 Paxton St.

## LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

### 8th Grade

High Honors: Alana Beando, Jacob Cosper, Brandon Escobar, John Gahagan, Brody Grant, Emily Hunt, Casey Knott, Christopher Moffat, Grace Price, McKenzie Settle, Dakota Zinkevich

Honors: Abigail Baker, Kate Barbato, Kyra Beando, Eryn Berkstresser, Kaylee Buckley, Avery Bullock, Hunter Clark, Owen Fadden, Jasmine Fuller, Jason Fuller, Arianna Gonzalez, Michael Hagglund, Rowen Hennessey, Natalie Kallio, Isabella LePoer, Savannah Lumb, Hannah Martin, Carlee McShera, Zoe Morales, Nola Perry, Kassidy Poce, Jack Skoglund, Luke Soden, Justin Trainor, Nicole Tuson, Nathan Wilder, Tyler Williams

### 7th Grade

High Honors: Brady Bates, Margaret Dillon, Taylor Gallant, Jeremy Ledbetter, Nikolas Lison, Kaydi Marttila, Valerie Maynard, Rachel Nguyen, William Nguyen, Ava Petrucci, Jillian Rodrigue, Taylor Rodrigue, Hannah Spratt, Abigail Valinski, Mary Van Hazinga, Ava Wells, Sabrina Wright

Honors: Jacob Beaulac, Karysyn Bulak, Andrew Carpenter, Kelsey Cole, Lena Dolen, Alexander Fournier, Ty Gully, David Johnson, Sierra LaCroix, Kenneth Lane, Arianna Lemerise, Ryder Mandella, Joshua McCormick, Ami McGlynn, Nayeli Merino Canas, Justin Nguyen, Gianna Panepinto, Laila Paquin, Gracie Quinn, Matthew Robbins, Madalyn Rose, Camron Wells

### 6th Grade

High Honors: Emma Bernabei, Brady Bouchard, Haylee Kularski,

Trinity Mederios, Charlotte Mercer, Max Milionis, Desmond Strom, Jayke Williams

Honors: Matthew Alves, Rory Barrett, Kennedy Bates, Kaylynn Bowen, Jude Campbell, Truman Carr, Isabella Cortes Florez, Zachary Couture, Stephen Giaquinto, Annalise Guzman, Joseph Kulla, William Loosemore, Julianna McCormick, Trevor Moorghen, Katherine Ozarowski, Alivia Perry, Katarzyna Piascik, Maryangelie Rivas, Paul Roberts, Paula Roberts, Kelvin Rodriguez, Shane Stuart, Ryan Sweeney

### 5th Grade

High Honors: Camden Beaudry, John Derrick, Javier Flores, Liam Gentle, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Laudor, Nick Nguyen, Hunter Wright

Honors: Godfrey Angua-Mante, Elijah Belisle, Gabriela Carpenter, Liam Donahue, Alexis Dould, Brody Dufries, Benjamin Hagglund, Braydon Herbert, Liana LaFlamme, Natalie LaPointe, Papayaw Larbi, Bronson Lyons, Lincoln Meloche, Kingston Nguyen, Jaedyn Perry, Lily Schimke, Malin Stimson, Benjamin Tivnan, Robert Zinkevich

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**PERSON of the WEEK**

**Sue Bulman and Jane Todd**

In the March 4th issue there was a story of these two amazing quilters and long-time friends, who recently created an Underground Railroad Quilt. The story behind it is very interesting. You can read the whole story in last week's *Spencer New Leader* online at [www.508local.com](http://www.508local.com).

Thank you, Sue and Jane, for creating this very special symbolic quilt and for sharing your talents with your community.

If you would like to nominate someone or a group of people for 2022, please email your suggestion to [juna@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:juna@stonebridgepress.news). Thank you.

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

12:10-1:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:50-1:14 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Mechanic, McDonald, High streets), tickets issued; 2:04-3:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:05 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 8:33 a.m.: medical/general (East Charlton Road); 11:39 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:09 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 12:39 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street), lift assist; 12:50 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo/arrest; 1:02 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 1:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 2:00 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), m/f dispute; 2:22 p.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 2:25 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:21 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street); female screaming; 4:24 p.m.: medical/general (School Street); 5:54 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 5:59 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 6:01 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 6:15 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 6:34 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 7:38 p.m.: disturbance (South Spencer Road), noise complaint; 8:37 p.m.: 911

call (Northwest Road), open line; 11:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: suspicious pkg.; 11:55 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:55 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); (Total daily mv stops - 7).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

12:22-12:38 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:33 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 1:26 a.m.: commercial alarm (Route 49), services rendered; 3:10 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 3:36 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:48 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:17 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 9:00 a.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), tow truck/middle of road; 10:04 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), old gun found; 10:27 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 12:59 p.m.: restraining order service (Maple Street); 2:39 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), donation; 2:50 p.m.: officer wanted (South Street), req. welfare check; 3:42 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 3:46 p.m.: accident (Main Street), services rendered; 4:52 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 5:13 p.m.: disturbance (High Street), females arguing; 6:37 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 9:35 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:54 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 11:44

p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Eugene Johnson, 48, 51 Crestwood Road, Leicester; op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, arrest; (Total daily mv stops - 2).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

12:16-1:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:36 a.m.: mv lockout (Smithville Road), services rendered; 3:42 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), snow becoming heavier; 5:04 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street), lift assist; 5:29 a.m.: officer wanted (High Street), slick conditions; 6:35 a.m.: animal complaint (High Street), loose dog; 6:56 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), accidental; 7:37 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 7:56 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Street); 8:44 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 9:46 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; mutual aid (Crestwood Avenue), Millbury PD req. residence check; 10:18 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Bay Path Road), re: dog placement; 11:05 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Charlton Road), hang-up; 11:26 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), accidental; 12:48 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), spoken to; 3:45 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), spoken to; 4:31 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 4:47 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), customer req. officer; 4:50 p.m.: residential alarm (Clark Road), services rendered; 4:51 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 4:57 p.m.: DPW call (Lakeshore Drive), road not plowed; 5:55 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:48 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops - 1).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

12:47-1:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:07 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 8:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Cooney Road), loose dog; 9:27 a.m.: open door/window (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 10:00 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 10:50 a.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 12:36 p.m.: mutual aid (Pope Street), Marlborough PD req. assistance; 1:14 p.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/run; 1:29 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), two males loitering; 2:17 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 3:19 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), citizen inquiry; 3:49 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 4:57 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no con-

tact; 5:08 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 7:03 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:41 p.m.: extortion/blackmail (Bixby Road), report taken; 8:01 p.m.: 911 call (Grove Street), misdial; 9:43-10:05 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:05 p.m.: accident (Kittredge Road), report taken; (Total daily mv stops - 0).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:16 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:16 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:51 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 10:55 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:05 p.m.: residential alarm (Clark Street), services rendered; 12:18 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), m/f arguing; 12:58 p.m. medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 3:26 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), services rendered; 3:38 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), blowout/Pike eastbound; 3:56 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 3:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Briarwood Lane), cell phone stolen; 6:12 p.m.: residential fire (Charron Street), referred; 8:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Leicester PD/Moose Hill shut down; 8:00 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:49 p.m.: mutual aid (School Street), Salem PD req. notification; 9:07 p.m.: 911 call (Debbie Drive), accidental; 11:31-11:51 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

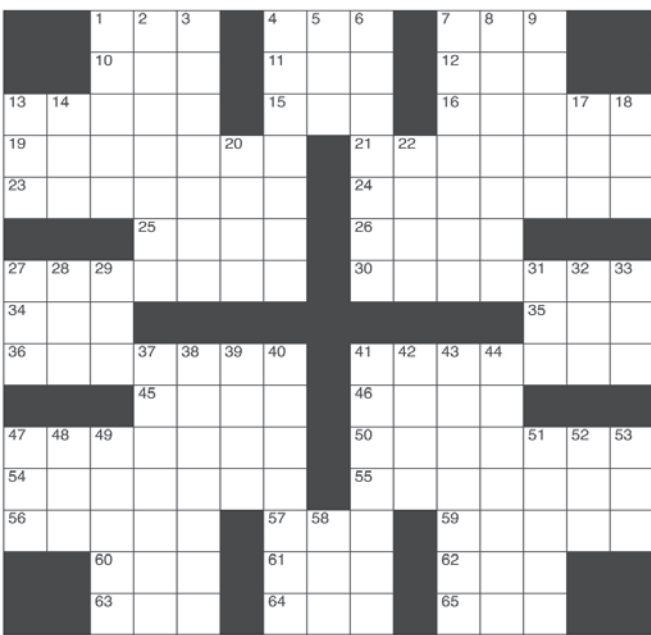
12:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:02-1:09 parking violations/3 (Chestnut, Elm streets), tickets issued; 1:25 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 2:48 a.m.: building checked, secure; 4:11 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 4:14 a.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), medical issue; 6:26 a.m.: medical/general (H.J. Perron Road); 7:17 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bay Path Road), disconnected; 9:51 a.m.: mv lockout (Crestview Drive), services rendered; 11:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 11:11 a.m.: threats (Cherry Street), threats/former roommate; 11:13 a.m.: DPW call (Route 49), trash on road; 11:22 p.m.: mutual aid (Elm Street), req. welfare check; 11:27 a.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), accidental; 12:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Longview Drive), investigated; 12:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), no contact; 1:45 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:05 p.m.: officer want-

ed (East Avenue), Facebook acct. hacked; 2:10 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), req. ACO; 2:12 p.m.: harassing calls (Charlton Road), random calls; 2:22 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), male yelling; 2:46 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), working on system; 3:12 p.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), poss. armed assault; 3:27 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:27 p.m.: accident (Main Street), reported; 3:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Summit Street), family issue; 3:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; 5:10 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:50 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 6:32 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo/welfare check; 7:30 p.m.: fraud (Cherry Street), Nat'l Grid scam; 8:26 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:08 p.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 11:07 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; (Total daily mv stop - 1).

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

12:33-1:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:43 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), flyer issued; 7:26 a.m.: accident (Main Street), info taken; 9:13 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:21 a.m.: fraud (Greenville Street), SS scam; 9:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 9:51 a.m.: fraud (Elm Street), Nat'l Grid acct. opened; 10:44 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 10:49 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 12:02 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), shoplifting; 12:17 p.m.: building checked, secure; 12:50 p.m.: office wanted (Bixby Road), poss. mv theft; 12:58 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 1:30 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 1:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 2:50 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:51 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Lambs Grove); 3:31 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dog found; 6:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), can't reach daughter; 6:28 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), poss. restraining order violation; 8:38-8:56 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:40 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 11:55 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops - 8).

Turn To **POLICE** page **A5**

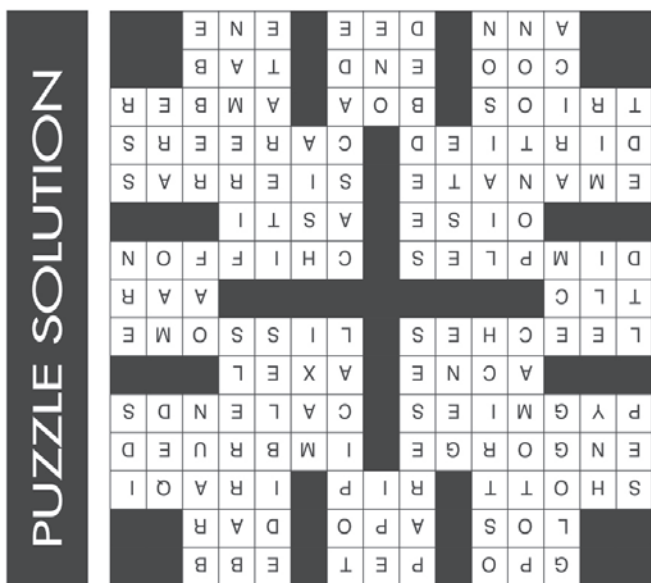


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Central mail bureau
- 4. Member of the family
- 7. Partner to flow
- 10. Angeles
- 11. Military mailbox
- 12. Patriotic women
- 13. Shallow lake
- 15. Tear apart
- 16. Middle Easterner
- 19. Eat to excess
- 21. Stained
- 23. Certain peoples of equatorial Africa
- 24. 1st day of month
- 25. Skin disease
- 26. Skating figure
- 27. Annelids
- 30. Gracefully slender
- 34. Kids need it
- 35. Swiss river
- 36. Indents
- 41. A sheer fabric of silk or nylon
- 45. Belgian River
- 46. Spumante (Italian wine)
- 47. Originate from
- 50. Rugged mountain ranges
- 54. Made less clean
- 55. Professions
- 56. 3s
- 57. Scarf
- 59. Yellow light
- 60. Bird noise
- 61. Opposite of start
- 62. Bar bill
- 63. Northeastern Mass. cape
- 64. American rocker Snider
- 65. Midway between northeast and east

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Scandinavian drink
- 2. Washington river
- 3. Fast-running flightless bird
- 4. Nerve conditions
- 5. Indicates near
- 6. Immediate relevance
- 7. Things you can eat
- 8. Receptacles
- 9. Retired Brewers great
- 13. Month
- 14. Happy New Year!
- 17. Exclamation to convey truth
- 18. Passports and licenses are two
- 20. Ebert's partner Siskel
- 22. Long skirt
- 27. Part of company name
- 28. Drugmaker Lilly
- 29. Electronic countermeasures
- 31. Klutz
- 32. Chinese statesman
- 33. Stir with emotion
- 37. Flat-bottomed boat
- 38. Go-between
- 39. This (Spanish)
- 40. A plot of ground where seedlings are grown before transplanting
- 41. Small waterfall
- 42. Modern tech necessity (abbr.)
- 43. Utter repeatedly
- 44. One of the bravest
- 47. Sun up in New York
- 48. Space station
- 49. Chilean seaport
- 51. Hasidic spiritual leader
- 52. They
- 53. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 58. Single unit



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\$315,000, 994-996 Stafford St, Koronis Properties LLC, to Truong, Ba, and Dao, Kimberly.

**SPENCER**  
\$440,000, 1 Borkum Rd, Biernacki, Steven, and Biernacki, Brittany, to Pace, Christopher A, and Pace, Melissa A.  
\$329,000, 171 Ash St, Louise C Ethier RET, and Ethier, Louise C, to Maloney, Caitlin.  
\$265,000, 90 Pleasant St, Molinari, Arianna, and Tarabia, Yasmine, to Little, David, and King, Denise.  
\$205,000, 1 Grant St, Giguere, Kevin R, to Derrick, Kyle.  
\$50,000, 3 Prouty St, Gallant, Mark D, to Gallant, Kathryn M, and Gallant, Jonathan.

**WARREN**  
\$475,000, 1370 Bemis Rd, Fountain& Sons Const Co, to Norton, Leslie H, and Norton, Tammy S.  
\$306,000, 562 Keys Rd, Bateman, Linda E, to Kennedy-Smith, Devon B.  
\$106,000, 18 Dean St, US Bank NA Tr, to DCMB Properties LLC.

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
\$258,000, 7 Rodman St, Beauregard, Roger F, to Dorman, Kevin.  
\$100,000, 15 Westwood Ter, Hedlund, Bruce F, and Hedlund, Kenneth, to Fountain& Sons Const Co.

# Regis students make Dean's List

WESTON — Regis College is pleased to announce that 516 students made the Dean's List for academic achievement for the 2021 fall semester.

\* Sarah Ferguson, of Paxton is among the students who made the Dean's List. Ferguson is in the class of 2023.

\* Hannah Sedares, of Paxton is among the students who made the Dean's List. Sedares is in the class of 2022.

To be eligible for the Dean's List as a senior, junior or sophomore at Regis, a student must have a semester grade point average (GPA) of at

least 3.50. For first-year students, a semester GPA of at least 3.25 must be attained.

"I am very pleased to see so many of our students excelling across the university," said Regis College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD. "The Dean's List and the diversity of academic disciplines speak to a dedicated student body and to a faculty that promotes intellectual curiosity and achievement."

## About Regis

Regis College is a coed, Catholic university 12 miles west of

Boston in Weston, Mass. With over 3,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. The Young School of Nursing at Regis has consistently been recognized by the National League of Nursing as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. In line with Regis' mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals

and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor's completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Inspired by the social justice values of its founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Regis engages with service initiatives within the local community and around the world. Visit <https://www.regiscollege.edu/> to learn more.



## POLICE

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### Leicester Police

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24  
1:05 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 2:39 a.m.: mv stop (Brown Street), resolved; 3:09 a.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 11:02 a.m.: harassment (Pleasant Street), assisted; 1:20 p.m.: assist other agency (Stafford Street), resolved; 2:05 p.m.: wires down (River Street), services rendered; 4:54 p.m.: property found (South Main Street), resolved; 5:42 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 6:15 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:18 p.m.: fraud (Ingram Road), report taken; 7:05 p.m.: suspicious person (Folsom Street), unable to locate; 10:25 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25  
12:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:34 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 1:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:06 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), resolved; 2:13 a.m.: mv stop (Peter Salem Road), spoken to; 3:35 a.m.: parking complaint (Cricklewood Drive), resolved; 4:05 a.m.: parking complaint (Carleton Road), resolved; 7:20 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 9:32 a.m.: welfare check (Dale Street), gone on arrival; 9:34 a.m.: parking complaint (Town Beach Road), resolved; 10:04 a.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 1:17 p.m.: ambulance (Greenville Street),

transported; 2:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 4:26 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 5:25 p.m.: disabled mv (Mulberry Street), gone on arrival; 5:34 p.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 6:38 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 7:39 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26  
12:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, citation issued; 1:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:06 a.m.: ambulance (Waite Street), transported; 3:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:29 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 5:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:41 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:14 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:22 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital; 3:16 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 6:28 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 8:34 p.m.: mutual aid (Houghton Street, Worcester), call canceled; 9:01 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), no action required; 9:50 p.m.: suspicious person (Brickyard Road), spoken to; 10:20 p.m.: suspicious activity (Crestwood Road), resolved; 10:48 p.m.: erratic operator (Paxton Street), unable to locate; 11:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:40 p.m.: accident (Main Street), resolved; 11:44 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27  
12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:31 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), spoken to; 12:51 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), spoken to; 12:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford

Street), Josue Eduardo Rodriguez, 31, 82 Pleasant Street, #18, Willimantic, CT, OUI liquor, negligent operation, unlicensed operation, speeding, arrest; 10:11 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 11:50 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 12:57 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:06 p.m.: parking complaint (Soojians Drive), citation issued; 9:25 p.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), transported; 11:36 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
12:27 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 12:52 a.m.: family problem (Pine Ridge Drive), peace restored; 3:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:37 a.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred to ACO; 9:05 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 10:25 a.m.: fraud (Fairview Drive), resolved; 11:09 a.m.: investigation (Hankey Street), resolved; 11:30 a.m.: arrest warrant service (South Main Street), Matthew Henry Sprague, 21, 65 Main Street, #209, Peabody, straight warrant, arrest; 2:50 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 3:06 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 3:13 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), resolved; 4:14 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), no action required; 5:31 p.m.: investigation (Broad Street), resolved; 6:23 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1  
1:57 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 6:57 a.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), resolved; 9:37 a.m.: property found (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:13 a.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street, Paxton), spoken to; 11:14 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), services rendered; 11:46 a.m.: restraining order service (Howard Terrace),

unable to serve; 12:36 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 1:09 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 3:01 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), spoken to; 3:23 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 4:10 p.m.: restraining order service (Howard Terrace), unable to serve; 4:25 p.m.: mv stop (Mt. Pleasant Avenue), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 5:03 p.m.: family problem (Mannville Street), peace restored; 7:11 p.m.: restraining order service (Howard Terrace), unable to serve; 8:11 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), spoken to; 8:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:36 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), assisted.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2  
12:47 a.m.: ambulance (Breezy Green Road), transported; 2:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Benley Love Lysius, 21, 85 Ward Street, #2, Worcester, warrant docket, arrest; 3:16 a.m.: transport prisoner (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 4:16 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 4:26 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 4:35 a.m.: ambulance (Victoria Drive), transported; 6:53 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Ridge Drive), transported; 9:48 a.m.: welfare check (Shady Lane), resolved; 11:39 a.m.: assist citizen (Town Beach Road), resolved; 1:36 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Drive), transported; 3:54 p.m.: fraud (Stafford Street), report taken; 5:49 p.m.: ambulance (Pine View Avenue, Worcester), call canceled; 7:23 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), no action required; 8:47 p.m.: welfare check (Hankey Street), no action required; 10:54 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

###





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EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# Approaching wellness through service

At a time when our country seems more divided than ever, and tempers are quick to flare over such hotbed issues as border wars, gun control, human rights violations and climate change, it's become increasingly common to hear our peers speak of strange times and an undefined feeling of malaise. Interpersonal violence has been on the rise, and an overall sense of disconnectedness has led many to feel isolated and fearful. The international playing field seems full of land mines, and each day brings unpredictable media headlines. As the national stage normalizes disrespect of others and that behavior seeps into everyday interactions, it becomes more necessary than ever for all of us to practice goodwill toward others. The opioid epidemic touches a growing number of families. Many people hide behind their social media personas; quick to fire volatile opinions they would otherwise be unable to say in face-to-face interactions. We hear that climate change isn't real, while also being told that a mass extinction is underway and life as we know it will end in thirty years. Every day, we send our children to school, secretly questioning whether they will be safe. Some days, the problems of the world feel insurmountable. While there is no simple one-solution approach to the issues swirling around us, sometimes the best way to make sense of the world is simply by helping others. Rosalynn Carter summed it up best when she said, "Do what you can to show you care about other people, and you will make our world a better place."

Volunteering provides countless benefits to both the giver and the recipient. Uplifting others, even something as simple as making another person smile, can change the path of an entire day, if not a life. We are well aware of the gift of service and how it benefits others who may be less fortunate. But we do not often consider the impact volunteering can have on our well-being. As we each consider our path to wellness, we would be wise to include community engagement alongside cardio and strength training. Research has shown that volunteering not only increases self-confidence and combats depression; it also helps us stay physically healthy and lowers mortality rates. Through community service, we form tangible bonds with others, and our social and relationship skills improve. And just maybe, each charitable act we perform will help offset that malaise that hangs in the air.

As the civil rights leader, Dorothy Height, once said, "Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop."

## Make America America again

I am sure many of us have pleasant memories of when gas was under 25 cents a gallon, and life was much less stressful. Though we still have comedians capable of offerings that amuse and lighten the unrelenting tension of current events. In former times, a fellow named Will Rogers was usually spot on in his assessments, and was asked why, with his gifts, he did not go into politics. He replied that he preferred to stick with honest work.

Some 30 years ago, during the Reagan years, the USSR collapsed. The Berlin Wall came down, and several former bloc countries, yearning for freedom, started reformation when Lech Walesa, a Polish labor leader, spearheaded a revolt and became president. While the job exceeded his talent, the ball was rolling. One issue then facing the world was that Russian nukes were widespread in the USSR, and Ukraine was now the third most heavily armed nuclear nation. An agreement was

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Enough already

To the Editor:  
Two years into the Biden Idiotocracy, and we see the results. Can anyone name one positive accomplishment that he has made? Anyone, please!

Immigration is a complete mess, with wide open southern borders. Illegals and drugs now flow freely into our towns and neighborhoods unabated; Sleepy Joe and cackling Kamala have done absolutely nothing to stop it. In fact, they encourage it. Before the election, the Democrats ridiculed the wall and extolled drones as a better alternative. We all see that this was a complete smokescreen to get cheap labor and future Democratic voters filling our country. If we had Trump in office, the border wall would be finished, and immigration controlled by the dedicated ICE agents. These poor guys under BiDumb are labeled racist thugs and stripped of their powers.

Inflation is out of control and will get worse. It's all a direct result of his war on our oil industry and energy self-reliance. His policies of cutting fracking, closing pipelines, and adding regulation have brought us to oil and gas at \$4 a gallon. We all know it will be at \$6 in the summer. So, let's see what all this stimulus monies going to do for you when it comes in one pocket and out the other to pay the higher energy costs. He says he feels your pain. I don't think dementia Joe feels anything. He only reads what his handlers put in front of him. If we had Trump in office gas and oil would be at \$1.50 a gallon. Instead of stimulus handouts, he would have everyone working at high paying energy jobs that flowed back into surrounding communities to support schools, restaurants, hotels, etc. Where are you going to use the stimulus money payoffs from Joes and Pelosi. I can tell you. It will be used to pay towards the rising costs of everything from his failed policies.

Foreign relations. What we are seeing now is the results when you put a weak, feeble-minded leader in control. Our adversaries around after meeting Alzheimer Joe are laughing at us and salivating. They know our country is so messed up if we put this guy at the helm. They see our own army getting attacked by Woke generals who care less about the fighting ability of our troops, but more about their adherence the CRT doctrines. Our adversaries know times are ripe for

### Losing interest

To the Editor:  
To those who have been wondering, yes, I'm still around. Yes, I still read the Spencer New Leader.

I have to say, the cost/benefit analysis of writing into the Spencer New Leader has declined substantially since Donald Trump's megaphone (Twitter) was taken away from him and the dust settled out after the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection. It was fun debating the virtues and horrors of a crowd of adoring supporters used by a sitting president as a weapon against a legislature to overturn the election he lost. In the end, though he didn't pull it off, and the guy who won the election became President. Debating COVID-19, how real it was, how the "party of life" became a death cult, the efficacy of vaccines, whether vaccines should be required or not was pretty interesting throughout the first half of 2021 as well.

As 2021 came to a close, watching the news was simply *deja-vu*. First, with the Delta surge, we saw the United States once again climb to the

forged between Russia, the UK and the USA that Russia would remove their nukes, and in return, we would all guarantee their sovereignty and their borders. Since most of Russia's abutters had puppet governments behold to Russia, everyone took the agreement as the west will not take advantage of their lack of nukes to invade them. Flash forward 30 years, and instead of enforcement, Russia decides that its navy's only deep water port, being Crimea, instead of leasing it as we do at Gitmo or in US bases all over the world, and knowing that most of its population is Russian, they just claim and take possession of it. Imagine if we did that in Okinawa. Because that population has migrated north, Putin has now declared that land independent countries. After 22 years in power and all of his opposition killed or subdued, seizure of Georgia and Chechnya (after reducing Grozny to rubble), he thinks it his right to rebuild the USSR where

attacking. Imagine powerful leaders like Putin or Kim meeting in person with stumbling bumbling Joe BiDumb! I wouldn't be surprised if one slapped BiDumb across the face. Of course, our Democratic controlled media would not show it, and instead say Biden showed incredible strength. We all know if Trump was in office, he would be making NATO nations build themselves up. Leaders like Putin and Kim would fear Trump's unpredictable nature to even attempt what they are doing now. With Joe, they know his and Obama's nature. Do nothings with a lot of empty rhetoric! Weak, ineffective, and easily bought out! Foreign policy using payments(bribes) to Iran and North Korea from the likes of Hillary and Kerry. Trump never gave them one dime and accomplished world peace during his four years.

It's interesting the socialist liberals are now calling for America to be strong and fight for Ukraine. They want you to fight for their freedom. These are the same ones that want our government to run roughshod over our liberties with mask mandates and forced inoculations. They want to defund our military and use these monies for Woke social justice causes. The Ukraine is a fine example of what happens when you allow your country to become weak and depend on others. I recall one such liberal, brother Kimball, decry that we should not spend one more dime on tanks or planes. Maybe he should go to the Ukraine and see if his prayers stop the bombing.

Now we see in his first State of the Union how dumb he and his handlers think we Americans are. His says his goals going ahead are: Fund the Police, stop inflation by bring work back to the US, and immigration control. Things that Trump not only said but was doing. BiDumb's handlers know that things are going so bad that they need to use the policies of Trump just to try to stay in power. I hope most of the voters out there see what a fool they were made of in November. We need to vote every Republican into office and get out the Democrats who have ruined America by putting this puppet in there. Enough already of this Idiotocracy.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

top and lead the world in hospitalizations, ICU admissions, intubations, and deaths. This time, though, everyone that wanted a vaccine had gotten one, so it was so heavily focused in red states and counties that Trump won in 2020; it was hilarious. So much for the "party of life"... As Delta surged, the same old arguments that had been bantered for 18 months came out - freedom vs. health. By the time Omicron came onto the scene, it was both horrifying and honestly uninteresting - another wave of COVID, the idiots arguing against mitigations and vaccinations, hospitals nearing overrun. What was horrifying was just uninteresting when it was the fourth time and the orange megalomaniac had been muzzled.

When this first started, I told people that managing an infectious virus was culturally incompatible with the United States and it would kill 1 million people before it was done. As it stands right now, the United States

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A7**

his KGB glory days started. Because the de-nuke agreement was thought to be a benefit to Russia, apparently, we feel no obligation of enforcement, even though Zelensky has requested it.

I get it. Nobody wants a nuclear war. Putin called the parade of immense rows of military hardware, re-unification, and since Russian military vets are flagging down tanks and asking in Russian, what they think they are doing, it looks increasingly like the Chechnya solution, including use of internationally banned weapons and foolishly firing on a giant nuclear power plant where a leak might devastate his two new countries and Crimea. Russian troops are losing heart, punching holes in gas tanks and surrendering or just walking away in large numbers. The last thing needed is to boost their morale or confliction, by putting our troops in there. If the mad Russian

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A7**

## Financial advisors can help reduce anxiety

The long-running coronavirus pandemic has fueled a lot of anxieties - including financial ones. But some people have had far fewer worries than others.

Consider this: Among those investors who work with a financial advisor, 84 percent said that doing so gave them a greater sense of comfort about their finances during the pandemic, according to a survey from Age Wave and Edward Jones.



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS

TREVOR  
NIELSON

Of course, many people experience investment-related fears even without a global health crisis, and that's probably not surprising, given the periodic volatility of the financial markets. But financial guidance can come in handy during relatively normal times, too.

A financial professional can help you ...

... Look past the headlines - Inflation, interest rates, pandemics, elections - there's always something in the news that could affect the investment world in the short term. But by helping you construct a portfolio that's built for the long term and reflects your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, a financial advisor can enable you to look past the headlines.

... Avoid emotional decisions - Many people let their emotions drive their investment choices. When the market goes through a downturn and the value of their investments drops, they sell to "cut losses," even though these same investments may still have good business fundamentals and promising futures. Conversely, when the market is on an uptick, some people chase after "hot" investments, even when they become overpriced and may have very little room to grow. But a financial advisor can help keep you from making these fear- and greed-based actions by only recommending moves that make sense for your situation.

... Work toward multiple goals - At various times in your life, you may have simultaneous financial goals. For example, you could be investing for a retirement that's decades away, while also trying to save for a child's college education. A financial professional can suggest ways you can keep working toward both objectives, in terms of how much money you can afford to invest and what types of savings and investment vehicles you should consider.

... Prepare for the unexpected - Most of us did not need a pandemic to remind us that unexpected events can happen in our lives - and some of these events can have serious financial impacts on us and our loved ones. Do you have adequate life insurance? How about disability insurance? And if you ever needed some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home, how would you pay for it? A financial advisor can evaluate your protection needs and recommend appropriate solutions that fit within your overall financial strategy.

... Adapt to changing circumstances - Over time, many things may change in your life - your job, your family situation, your retirement plans, and so on. A financial professional can help you adjust your financial strategy in response to these changes.

Achieving your financial goals may present challenges, but it doesn't have to cause you years of worry and distress - as long as you get the help you need.

*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.nielson@edwardjones.com.*

## MASKS

continued from page **A1**

"We look forward to an outstanding spring of 2022. We thank you for your support and partnership of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District," Haughey's statement read.

Additional information on the updated CDC transportation guidance is available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). The site also provides a list of frequently asked questions.

# Looking forward to ice out

The month of March is already here, and anglers are anxious to start fishing as soon as ice out happens on their favorite body of water. There are a lot of trout just waiting to be caught prior to the state's spring stocking in a few weeks. Anglers are still ice fishing on Northern bodies of water, as well as numerous lakes in Maine and New Hampshire, which still had 20 inches of ice last week. Ice fishing anglers had a great season, but are ready for some rod & reel action on both fresh and saltwater.

The Springfield Sportsmen's Show was a great success this year, although Friday's opening day was a disaster because of the snowstorm, but the final two days were great, with a good turnout by sportsmen and women. This week, anglers are eager to attend the annual Saltwater Fishing Show in Rhode Island at the Rhode Island Convention Center.



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The show opens on March 11 and runs for three days. Hours are Friday noon - 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. This annual show is the best saltwater fishing show in the Northeast, according to local sportsmen, and they are ready to spend as much time as they can talking to the pros about the upcoming saltwater fishing season. The latest saltwater fishing gear will be on display, as well as numerous seminars that are extremely popular among attendees. Anglers are also eager to get the final saltwater fishing regulations for Massachusetts & Rhode Island for 2022.

Some regulations are already out and published in some of the popular fishing magazines, but many anglers are waiting to attend the show to speak directly to the two states' Fish & Wildlife personal that will have booths set up at the show. Many were not happy with this year's proposals, and are ready to

voice their disappointment.

This week's picture shows a German Shorthair pup, the latest addition to the Ralph Godin family. Ralph lost his eight year old Labrador dog (Coop) last year, and it was a devastating blow to the family and Ralph. I was surprised to see him choose a pointing dog for his new hunting companion, but he does a lot of pheasant hunting, and the new pup should provide him with a lot of great hunting experiences this fall.

Anyone that has lost a pet or hunting dog knows what it is to lose a dog. It leaves a void that brings a lot of sadness, but the memories of the dog will never be forgotten. The new dog will in time fill the void, and will make many new memories for Ralph & his family. Training his new pup this spring to hunt, will also provide a lot of enjoyment.

This is the time of year that many sportsmen & women will be purchasing a new dog for hunting. It is the perfect time, and the new pup should be ready for the 2022 fall hunting season if they are given plenty of training prior to



hunting season.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES

WAYNE  
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## Latest antique, collectables, and auction news

It's been several weeks since my last update on antique, collectibles and auctions news. Many historical items and a one-of-a-kind piece of sports memorabilia have recently been put up for auction.

The Daily News writes that a collection of NASA photos from the Apollo space program are being offered at a UK auction house. The collection, which features photos from the Apollo 11 moon-landing flight, belonged to the late journalist and author Tim Furniss. An original copy of Earhart's, the first photograph of earth taken by a person, has an estimate of £1,200 (about \$1,588 USD). A photo of Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface next to the American flag is also estimated at £1,200. A photo of Buzz Aldrin taken by Neil Armstrong, which may be the most famous photo from the mission, is projected to sell for

£2,000 (\$2,647 USD). The entire collection is estimated to sell for £41,500 (\$54,927 USD).

Moving to news a bit closer to the ground, a leather helmet worn by American aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart recently sold at auction, according to CBS news. Earhart wore the helmet during the 1928 flight that made her the first woman to fly on a transatlantic flight. She wore that same helmet when she took part in the Women's National Air Derby from Santa Monica, Calif. to Cleveland, Ohio. Thousands greeted Earhart when she landed in Cleveland, and she lost her helmet in the crowd of people. A man named Anthony Twigg consigned the helmet to auction. His mother Ellie was in that crowd in Cleveland. CBS reported that "Ellie told her family that a boy who liked her said he had found Earhart's leather helmet on the ground and wanted to give it to her." The aviator cap sold for over 10 times the estimate of \$80,000, fetching \$825,000.

Today's final story comes

from the sports world. Netflix's "The Last Dance" miniseries about Michael Jordan was partially responsible for a recent surge in collecting sports memorabilia. Yahoo Sports reports that a Connecticut man named Mike Cole recently realized that he owned a ticket stub from Michael Jordan's debut game. A friend of Cole's originally gave him two tickets to a Bulls game when he was a student at Northwestern University in Chicago. None of Cole's friends on campus wanted to go to the game with him after the Bulls had three previous losing seasons. Yahoo reported that there wasn't "much buzz preceding the debut of a rookie guard from North Carolina drafted after Hakeem Olajuwon and Sam Bowie." Cole went by himself, picked up the tickets at the will call window and saved the unused ticket.

Cole said that he would have sold the ticket for \$500 before he learned what the game stub was worth. Some predicted the ticket might fetch up to \$1 million. It didn't reach that valu-



ation, but Cole was more than pleased with the \$468,000 it brought. He will use the money to pay off his mortgage, help pay for his children's education and travel. His decision to sell it proved to be a slam dunk.

There are only a few more days to consign items for our spring multi-estate auction. My "Evaluating your antiques" class will be held at Bay Path's adult evening school on Wednesday, March 23. More auctions and other events are

also being planned. Please see our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, to join our email list or follow us on Facebook to keep up to date on auctions and other events.

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

### HAR-YAROK

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has seen 958,621 confirmed deaths from COVID-19 and 79,271,466 confirmed cases. We of course know that there are many more deaths that weren't recorded as such. Over the last two years, we've seen 2.2 million more deaths from all causes compared to the prior two years. There are also 10's of millions of mild cases that were never recorded...

Just to remind some of you of some choice Trump quotes... "I think the virus is going to be - it's going to be fine," "Looks like by April, you know in theory when it gets a little warmer, it miraculously go away"... "The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA...the stock market starting to look very good to me." "I think that's a problem that's going to go away..." "The 15 (cases in the U.S.) within a couple of days is going to be down to close to zero"... "It's going to disappear. One day, like a miracle, it will disappear"... "The Coronavirus - and this is their new hoax"...

Too bad for the 2.2 million people who died that otherwise wouldn't have, the tens of millions who were hospitalized, the millions with long COVID, and all of us who had the most bizarre 2 years of the last century...Too bad we didn't have a competent leader when the pandemic of the century rolled around.

As things got back to normal, my level of interest in writing in waned, as it was just the same stuff re-hashed by the same people, half or untrue talking points thrown back and forth and nobody convincing anyone else of anything. It was just boring. I really miss Trump's Twitter feed; it gave us new content to fight over week after week.

I feel compelled to write in because my name came up and some ridiculous comments about the Canadian trucker protest.

First, the Canadian truckers were protesting border regulations. I shouldn't have to explain to the Republicans that you have no rights at the border. The issue at hand was whether Canadian citizen truckers who weren't vaccinated could return to Canada without a 14-day quarantine. Vaccination requirements are clearly constitutional in both Canada and the United States, and nobody has any rights at the border. Furthermore, it is totally reasonable of Canada to want people who were recently in the USA to be vaccinated. There was nothing heroic about this, these truckers were economic terrorists blocking roads leading to automotive

factories on both sides of the border furloughing workers because they couldn't ship goods back and forth.

If I had more time and energy, I'd go back through the New Leader 2020 archives, but I'm sure the conservatives on here wanted extremely harsh penalties for BLM protestors that blocked roads. I should remind everyone that blocking roads in the name of BLM was never OK anywhere and generally led to arrests. 14,000 people were arrested nationwide during the BLM protests. Many people thought it was reasonable to hit pedestrians protesting in the streets if they were blocking the street. I just find it so interesting that truckers blocking a very limited number of chokepoints somehow came to symbolize freedom rather than criminal activity.

Whether roads can be blocked or not to further a political goal should have nothing to do with the political goal itself. Is blocking roads OK, or is it not? Is it OK if you want what the blockade wants, but if you don't want what the blockade wants you want them mowed down, beaten, and arrested? What is the difference between a patriot and a criminal - whether you agree with them or not?

I could go paragraph by paragraph, picking apart Mr. McRae, Mr. Robillard, and Mr. Herholz, but why? Without new content, we've descended into weird name calling, anecdotes of hitchhiking decades ago, and conservative talking points laced into sentence-like structure. I too hope the Spencer New Leader keeps publishing all the letters - let letters speak for the ideologies they push.

I like to be entertained by my politics. As we enter the mid-term season and with a war overseas which could turn nuclear and there being a "Putin wing of the Republican Party," perhaps things will get interesting again and it will rekindle my interest.

OMAR HAR-YAROK  
EAST BROOKFIELD

### KIMBALL

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foolishly tests NATO, we will have started WWII. My fear has long been that eventually, some Jihad kamakaze who has been promised a hundred virgins and has a nuke, will begin the end. I can only hope more rational people will take charge.

On that theme, at the recent Conflicted Putin Asses Cult convention, where they flew Russian flags, emblazoned Trump, where he called Putin smart and our leaders stupid, I was nearly as disgusted as with Congresswomen Boebert and Greene trying to shout down the POTUS giving the State of the Union speech and announcing cancer fighting initiatives.

My family and I are proud to be Americans, and have been since we were England, and have served in every war. Both of my sons were US Army on 9/11. My granddaughter is USAF in Texas, and despite suggesting delay, my grandson leaves for the army in two weeks. It makes me proud to a lever that rivals being Ukrainian.

What is not making me proud is the vitriol and political claptrap, that permeates our lives.

The mere fact that I have to remind people that the Russians are not our friends, that Putin is a thug, a killer and a lunatic. And to have a former POTUS, who knows full well he put bounties on our troops, call him smart, and our officials dumb, literally turns my stomach, not only against him, but at everyone who would consider him anything but a traitor. I expect that will soon be proved in court, but this slug ignores our laws, was without a shred of doubt, conspiring to overturn an election, hi morality is clear (ask stormy), and the fact that an entire party (less Cheney, Kinzinger and maybe-Romney) are in awe and lockstep with this worm, on the cusp

of possible nuclear confrontation, sure does look like we may soon see armed confrontation here.

Bidens last statement was the state of our union is strong. Nobody believes that. If we do not, at minimum, strengthen if not eliminate the electoral college, the Jan. 6 committee will be laying out chapter and verse how a well organized conspiracy and less than 200, can overrule the will of 82 million voters. It is currently being fine tuned in red states nationwide. When VP Pence did not cooperate by selecting the illegal slates of electors sent in, they figured they need to be able to alter voting outcomes at the state level, and are doing a bangup job of that, even allowing discarding of results. One would laugh if what they have done was not so convoluted. Texas sent out ballot request forms requesting either license number or last 4 of SS, then rejected any that did not give both. Is it foolish to think we should make it easy for all legal voters to do so? That sure is not what is happening. Universal vote by mail should rule, and intimidation, long lines and nutso registration rules must go.

They will continue the misinformation about BBB, which would be paid for by our oligarchs, because economists say it will actually reduce the deficit. Joe laid it out- child care, health care, drug pricing, reduce oil dependence. I am guessing those of you who supported the two trillion Trump borrowed to give 83 percent to millionaires, with probable buy another big lie, when they tell you that things benefiting you are budget busting, and if reports are true, you will punish Dems at the polls in November; by voting in more Republicans who have supported nothing. It really is an IQ test-good luck with it.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## Socially Speaking...

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# Take a color-themed approach for more attractive arrangements

Growing dahlias is a must for anyone who loves cutting and arranging flowers. But there are hundreds of beautiful dahlia varieties to choose from and that can be overwhelming. To make the selection process easier, choose compatible colors that will look good together in the garden and in arrangements.

The combination of peach and burgundy is both striking and sophisticated. Peach-colored flowers add a fresh and soothing feel to the garden. Dahlia American Dawn is a blend of peach, mango, and papaya with plum-purple highlights. Good partners include other varieties in the same warm, sunset tones, such as dinnerplate dahlia Belle of Barmera, decorative dahlia Great Silence and ball dahlia Maarn.

Planting dahlias in a perennial garden ensures non-stop color from July into October. The fluttering, melon-colored blooms of HS Date work particularly well, due to this variety's maroon foliage and open growth habit. Complete your peach and burgundy theme with the dark-hued flowers of Rip City. These large, velvety flowers are almost black in the center and soften to wine-red toward the petal edges. Add ball dahlia Jowey

Mirella for blooms that are smaller in size yet equally striking.

For another eye-catching color combination, narrow your selection to dahlias with purple and hot-pink flowers. Historically, purple was associated with royalty, spirituality, and knowledge. While pastel purple evokes a sense of calm and serenity, deeper tones add drama and excitement. Dinnerplate dahlia Lilac Time is an heirloom variety with fluffy, lavender blooms that can measure eight to ten inches across. Be sure to also include flowers in juicy grape and violet hues such as dahlias Thomas Edison, Cartouche and Purple Taiheijo.

Complement these moody purples with vivid pink dahlias. Bursca is a cute little pompon dahlia with tightly rolled petals that reveal hints of peach, burgundy and violet. Fascination's rose-pink, semi-double flowers contrast beautifully with the plant's dark foliage and the blossoms are irresistible to bees and butterflies. Ball dahlia Rocco is an all-star variety that is long lasting in both garden and vase.

If you prefer pastels to brights, choose dahlias in shades of pale yellow, soft pink and cream. The enormous flowers of dinnerplate dahlia Café au Lait are a must.

Complement them with ball dahlias such as peachy Linda's Baby or buttery Boom Boom yellow. Decorative dahlia Fluffles has taffy-pink petals that fade to white, while Milena Fleur's are a mélange of pink, peach and pale butterscotch.

When you start with flowers in compatible colors, designing floral arrangements becomes so much easier. You'll have all you need to quickly create a centerpiece for any gathering, an impressive bouquet for your own home, or an informal handful of blooms to share with friends.

For more tips about cut flowers, read the Longfield Gardens article How to Design a Cutting Garden ([www.longfield-gardens.com](http://www.longfield-gardens.com)).

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



Photo Courtesy – Longfield-Gardens.com

This floral arrangement combines burgundy colored Tamburo dahlia with the peach hues of HS Date, Maarn, Linda's Baby and Belle of Barmera dahlias.



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TRAINOR

## It's Maple Syrup Season in New England

The art of Maple Sugaring has long been a New England task steeped in tradition. The area's picture postcard landscape treats onlookers to Maple trees outfitted with old fashioned tin buckets and taps, while chimneys of nearby sugar shacks swirl out thick smoke into the sky. Tracing its roots back to the Native Americans, maple sugaring is an annual chore that has long been a highly anticipated event in rural New England. In celebration of maple syrup season, this week's column features maple facts and a few recipes to try!

**The Sugaring Process:** The process of making maple syrup is labor intensive. For four to six weeks in the winter or early spring, farmers collect the watery sap of dormant sugar maple trees. The sap is extracted through tap holes, which are drilled into the trunks and fitted with spouts and buckets or the more modern and common method, plastic tubing. The sap is then transported to the sugar house and boiled in pans to evaporate the liquid. The sap only yields 1/30 to 1/50 the amount of syrup as the original quantity of sap!

**Legend Has It:** The process used to make maple syrup is essentially the same one that Native Americans first used hundreds of years ago and they are credited as the first to discover the fact that sap from maple trees could be processed into maple syrup. While there are no authenticated accounts of how this process was discovered there are several interesting legends. Undoubtedly these have been modified over time, but it is likely this discovery was accidental. One popular legend involves a Native American chief who supposedly hurled his tomahawk at a tree. The tree was a sugar maple, and sap began to flow. The clear liquid that dropped from the tree was collected in a container that happened to be on the ground below. Believing the liquid was water, it was used to cook venison. Following cooking, both the meat and the sweet liquid that remained were found to have a tasty sweetness. There are other variations to this legend, yet the fact remains that tapping a sugar maple in the late winter resulted in sap that could be processed into a delicious sweet syrup that had numerous uses.

**Pure Maple Syrup Recipes**  
Thick, rich maple syrup may be at its best right from the bottle, but the sweet native treat also adds a distinctive taste to an array of dishes. Here are some classic New England maple recipes, along with a couple of newer

ones that have earned rave reviews. Note: For optimum taste, pure maple syrup should be used in these recipes.

**Maple Syrup Candy**  
Delicious maple candy is a favorite edible "souvenir" served at eateries along the East Coast. To make this homemade version at home, just be sure to follow directions carefully and avoid making on a humid day.

**Ingredients:** 2 c. maple syrup; 3/4 c. Half & Half; 2 T. white corn syrup; 1 c. broken walnuts  
**Directions:** Combine maple syrup, Half & Half and corn syrup in heavy saucepan. Cook to softball stage, stirring constantly. Cool. Add nuts. Beat until mixture starts to lose its gloss. Drop by spoonfuls on waxed paper.

**Maple Cream Pie**  
This New England maple pie recipe is reminiscent of old fashioned shoofly pie.

**Ingredients:** 3 large eggs; 2 cups pure maple syrup; 1 cup heavy cream; 2 tablespoons flour; 2 cups sweetened whipped cream; 1 prepared pie crust.

**Directions:** Bake crust in a 375 degree oven until edges lightly browned, about 12 minutes. Set aside. Filling: In a medium bowl, combine eggs, maple syrup, cream, and flour. Whisk until well blended. Place pie pan on baking sheet, pour filling into crust. Bake at 375 degree oven for 40 to 50 minutes, or until pie puffs up. Let cool, add whipped cream on top and serve.

**14 Minute Maple Fudge**  
Old fashioned maple fudge has never tasted better than with this classic reci-

pe. Simply delicious.

**Ingredients:** four cups maple syrup; one cup whipping cream; 1/4 cup butter; one cup chopped nut meats; one tsp lemon extract

**Directions:** Starting cold, cook maple syrup, cream and butter together at a gentle boil for nine minutes after boiling point is reached. Remove from heat, add nut meats and lemon, stir vigorously with wooden spoon for 5 minutes. Pour into buttered pans. When cool cut in squares.

**Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed!**

Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the 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](mailto:KDRR@aol.com). Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.*

### Friday's Child



Chance and Keith (03/13)  
Age 12 and 14

We are ready to find our forever family!

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/children/7268-7270>

Chance and Keith are vivacious boys of African American descent. Chance is a kind-hearted and soft-spoken child. He is described as gentle yet playful by those who know him best. Chance loves physical play such as basketball, soccer, bike riding, and swimming. He loves Pokemon

and Legos, too! Chance reports that he likes school, and his favorite subject is math.

Keith is a quiet, reserved young boy who is known to be a good friend. He is very athletic and enjoys sports and participating in activities outside. He also likes to read. Keith is a great advocate for himself and for his siblings. He has great relationships with his caretakers and he is able to make friends easily.

Legally freed for adoption, Chance and Keith would like to grow up together in a permanent, loving family. The children have requested that their future family consists of a mother, father, and some pets. A family must be open to maintaining birth family contact through an Open Adoption Agreement. Both boys would benefit from continued visits with their older siblings.

#### 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, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (617) 964-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent home to call home.

#### DEJA NEW

continued from page A1

funds to purchase a seizure alert dog for youngster Maddie Cole. After two years were spent training the dog specifically for Maddie's needs, Deja New funded the Cole family's 12-day trip to Ohio this past summer to train and bring Banjo home.

Just before Thanksgiving of 2021, more than 40 residents of Sunset Gardens—a Leicester Housing Authority building—were forced to temporarily relocate after a Nov. 23 blaze. Deja New provided immediate relief to the displaced residents, in addition to the organization's other donations supplied to local residents in need.

"Every month, Deja New provides financial support to local charitable organizations, including the nonprofit Hearts for Heat, a home heating resource," read the statement released by Deja New. "During the month of December, Deja New sponsored Santa's Snack Shack at the Leicester Christmas Lights Display, offering other nonprofits in town the opportunity to raise money for their own purposes."

The following Leicester organizations raised funds at the Snack Shack: the LHS Booster Club, the Elementary School

PTO, the LHS Football Parents, two Girl Scout troops, Hearts for Heat, the Historical Society for restoration of the Swan Tavern, the Little League, the Recycling Center, and the Women's Club.

Last March, during the height of the pandemic, Deja New ran a program for Saint Patrick's Day called "Pot O' Gold." Three LHS National Honor Society students were given \$1,000 to purchase gift cards to restaurants in town that were struggling to stay open. Shoppers who spent more than \$25 at Deja New chose a "gift card gold coin" from a pot of gold. This gave the shoppers an opportunity to visit a local restaurant, possibly for the first time, and tell their families and friends about their dining experiences.

Deja New also continued its Medical Device Lending Program, allowing residents of Leicester to borrow durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, knee scooters, walkers, and commodes. When the equipment is no longer needed, it is returned to Deja New to be lent to someone else. Deja New also purchased specific items for individuals not covered by medical insurance.

"The staff at Deja New would like to thank the Town of Leicester for making 2021 such a great success," the organiza-

tion's statement read. "It could not be done without the dedication of multiple volunteers and partners, generous donors, and loyal shoppers."

Moving forward, Deja New looks to become a social services connector, or an umbrella organization enabling people to access information about available social services.

"We would like to be able to connect people with the appropriate agencies that are available to meet the variety of needs experienced by Leicester residents," said Cheryl Cooney, the president of Deja New.

The staff at Deja New invites you to stop in during regular business hours to shop or get information. You can also call 774-368-0438 to reach Cheryl, or send an email to [shop@dejanewleicester.com](mailto:shop@dejanewleicester.com).

For additional information about the organization, visit [www.dejanewleicester.com](http://www.dejanewleicester.com).

If you would like to make a donation, you can drop off or mail a check to Deja New Leicester, 100 South Main Street, Leicester, MA, 01524.

For donations of gently-used furniture and household décor items, please send an email to the organization.







POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

# The Maharishi Effect

Are we merely floating through space on a rock in which powerful forces dominate us and leave us powerless to pursue our destiny? Do our thoughts matter? Do our actions matter? Do our words matter? Do our intentions matter? Are we just a number? Do we have any responsibility for the events that happen all around us? Do we affect people around us and the decisions they make? Do we affect the decisions of people in our proximity with whom we've never had any interaction at all, people we've never met?

Have you ever heard of The Maharishi Effect? The Maharishi Effect was first observed scientifically in the early 1970s. Since then, hundreds of scientific studies have been conducted in over 200 universities in more than 30 countries worldwide. The results from dozens of these studies are published in many peer-reviewed scientific journals.

viewed scientific journals.

The Maharishi Effect got its name from the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who developed a popularized form of meditation called Transcendental Meditation, known today as TM. TM has been described as religious by some and non-religious by others. The Maharishi became famous in the west for hanging out with The Beatles and other celebrities.

Before we get too deep, although I have practiced a couple of different meditation forms, I have never practiced TM, nor am I promoting it. My chief interest is in the power of human consciousness, and my studies have led me to this topic which I must admit, I find it fascinating.

Simply put, The Maharishi Effect happens when a group of people comes together to practice group meditation; during the window of time the meditation transpires, crime, violence, and hospitalization rates decline by 16-25 percent.

One well-known scientific study on The Maharishi Effect took place in Washington, D.C. from June 7 to July 31, 1993, with up to 4,000 TM practitioners. In a city with about 1.5 million, this was far less than 1 percent of the population of D.C.

A 27-member Project Review Board comprising independent scientists and leading citizens approved the research protocol and monitored the research process.

The head of the study Dr. John Hagelin, who I must credit for providing much of the information in this article, hypothesized that there would be a 20 percent reduction in crime due to meditation.

Before the study began, the Chief of Police reportedly said, "It would take a foot of snow in June to reduce the crime rate by 20 percent." but he allowed his department to participate in the experiment by collecting and analyzing the data.

The crime dropped by an astonishing 23.3 percent. The

study was published in Social Indicators Research in June of 1999.

There were similar experiments conducted during the Israel-Lebanon war in the 1980s. The study found that when the number of meditators was largest, violence between both sides reduced by about 80 percent. The study was published in the Journal of Conflict Resolution in December 1988.

The study was so groundbreaking that researchers performed seven more experiments to examine the effects of group meditation on the Israel-Lebanon war over the next two years.

The studies revealed that when the size of the group reached a certain threshold, there was a significant reduction in violence. They also found that people in the vicinity of such a meditating group experienced physiological changes, increased coherence, reduced plasma cortisol, increased blood levels of serotonin, biochemical

changes, and neurophysiological changes, almost as if they were meditating themselves.

When taken together, the likelihood that reductions in violence were coincidental was less than one part in 10 million<sup>9</sup>.

What did the Maharishi say about this? "We know, if we drop a stone in a pond, the ripples begin to move, and they move over the whole pond, reaching all the extremities. One slight stir in any part of the pond stirs the entire pond. It influences the entire field of water and its surroundings. Similarly, by every thought, word, and action, every individual sets forth influence in their surroundings, and that influence is not restricted to any boundaries. It goes on and reaches every level of creation."

Next time you feel helpless and insignificant, I hope this helps you understand that you have great power over your surroundings, maybe more than any of us can even comprehend.

## DPHS

continued from page A1

hurdle. Officials remind residents that, since remote learning days count toward the mandated total, the lost in-person school days won't have to be made up at the end of the year.

However, the days on which DPHS was closed prior to the reactivation of remote learning (Feb. 28 through March 2) will likely need to be made up, officials said.

Meanwhile, several community members and school leaders said the incident accentuates the need for the renovation and addition project planned at Prouty.

"If there is a time for a renovation, it is now," said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee Chairman Jason Monette. "We need to stop throwing good money after bad—it's going to cost more in the long run."

School officials praise the janitorial staff for its work in ensuring that DPHS continues to serve students, despite its age. Built in the 1960s, the school has experienced problems in recent years with its mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as roof issues and other age-related concerns. These include the most recent incident with the burst pipe.

"The last thing we want is our students out of school," Monette added. "The janitors and vendors have worked tirelessly to get us back online. The quick work by the janitorial staff resulted in no damage to our floor tiles on the first floor of B Building."

The Fire Chief and Building Inspector reviewed the building on March 7, prior to its scheduled reopening.

Several classrooms affected by the incident will likely remain without heat for about six to eight weeks. Last week, school leaders made preparations for classes taking place in those rooms to be relocated to other spaces in the building.

"We are now evaluating various options to repair the broken unit ventilators. No matter what option we decide upon, the heat will not be restored into those classrooms for six to eight weeks," Haughey added.

Additional repairs will be performed over the summer break, the Superintendent said.

## LHS

continued from page A1

tors later encountered additional problems.

"Next, the contractor, F.W. Webb, began replacing the worn-out bearings and found that the shaft itself is also worn and isn't perfectly round in shape," read the Jan. 24 letter issued by Dupuis. "They then disassembled the pump and found that the packing housing around the shaft is worn and needs to be replaced. The contractor stated the pump would work but would leak water. They then refused to conduct the pump test itself."

The school department requested another sprinkler contractor, Impact Fire Service, to perform the pump test on Jan. 19. When the Fire Inspector arrived to oversee the test, he was informed that Impact Fire Service had also refused to conduct the test, stating that their specialists believed the pump's engine would fail due to lack of maintenance.

Impact Fire Service then recommended another vendor to service the motor.

While the sprinkler system was down, the Leicester Fire Department assisted school officials by providing "fire watch details" during sporting events in the gymnasium. Otherwise, the school would not have been able to host these events.

Fire watch details came with a price tag of \$240 per session, funded by the school department.

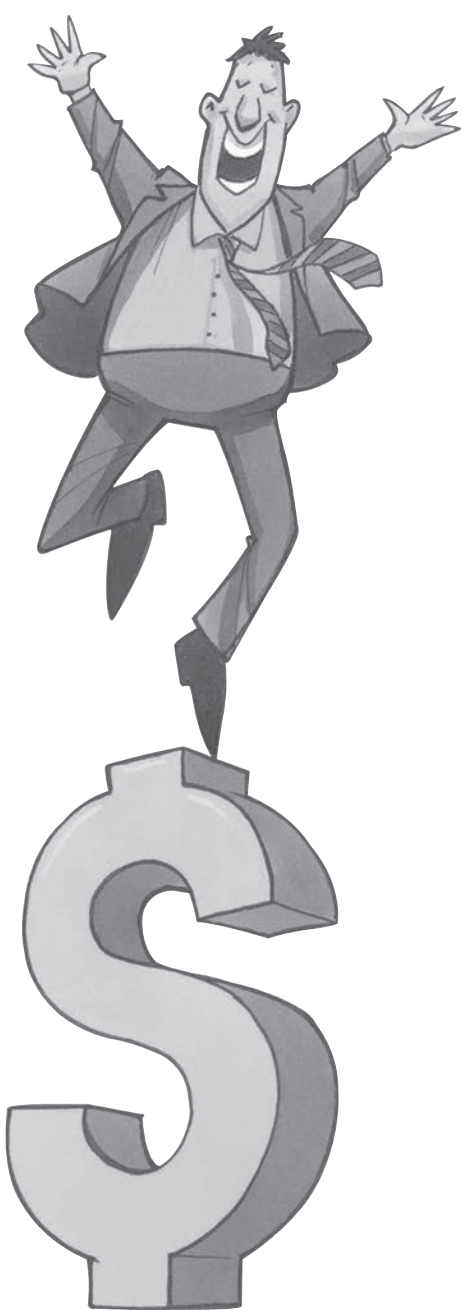
Following the repairs to the sprinkler system in recent weeks, an inspection took place on Feb. 20 to greenlight the system.

"They had some non-critical issues that they were working on, but as of last Tuesday [Feb. 22], the sprinkler system was fully functional," Dupuis told the New Leader on Feb. 28. "There are no more fire details scheduled."

As of press time, Tencza said she did not have the total cost figures for the fire watch details.

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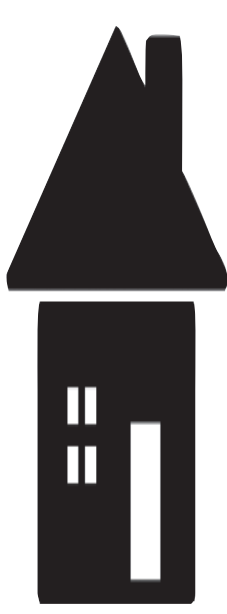
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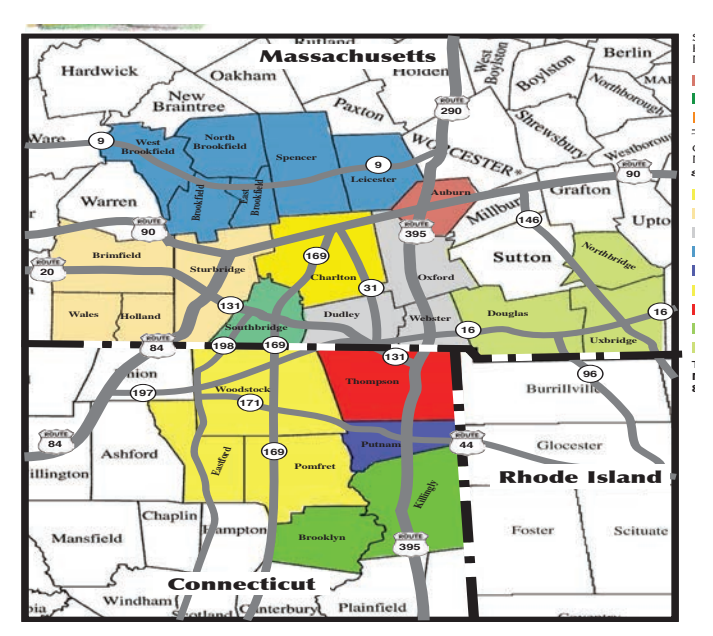
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# Accident claims life of State Trooper who served in North Brookfield

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Massachusetts State Police Trooper Tamar Bucci was killed last week after her cruiser was struck by a gasoline tanker in Stoneham.

The March 3 accident occurred at approximately 11:45 p.m., when Trooper Bucci, 34, attempted to pull over to assist a disabled motorist, police said. Her cruiser was struck by the tractor-trailer on Route 93 Northbound.

Trooper Bucci, who was assigned to the Medford Barracks, previously worked in the Brookfield Barracks after graduating as a member of the 85th Recruit Training Troop in 2020.

“It is with great sadness that I announce the line of duty death of Massachusetts State Police Trooper Tamar Bucci, who gave the ultimate sacrifice,” said Col. Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police. “The department is devastated by her loss. We are eternally grateful for the attempts of everyone involved to assist Trooper Bucci.”

The tanker truck was carrying a full load of 10,000 gallons of gasoline, police said. The force of the impact pushed Trooper Bucci’s cruiser—a marked Ford Interceptor SUV with its emergency blue lights activated—off the highway.

Two civilian responders pulled

Trooper Bucci from the heavily damaged cruiser, and a Stoneham Police Officer who came upon the scene performed emergency first aid. Trooper Bucci was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Local officials and law enforcement personnel, some of whom work regularly with troopers stationed in Brookfield, reacted to the tragedy.

“Condolences to the family of Trooper Tamar Bucci, who lost her life while assisting a motorist in need,” read a statement released by Sen. Anne Gobi. “Godspeed, Trooper Bucci, to you and your State Police family.”

Added State Rep. Donald Berthiaume, “This week’s accident is a stark reminder of the dangers our police officers face every day. They do so unselfishly and without regard for their own safety. Rest in peace, Trooper Tamar Bucci.”

The investigation into the crash is ongoing, police said.

The driver of the truck, a Methuen man, was not injured. He has been cooperative during interviews with troopers, police said.

The truck is owned by P.J. Murphy Transportation.

The woman who was in the disabled vehicle that Trooper Bucci was trying to help was transported to an area hospital for evaluation.

Before joining the Massachusetts State Police, Trooper Bucci was employed by the security department at Encore Casino and also worked as a personal trainer. She was a graduate of Middlesex Community College and Andover High School. She is survived by her mother and her father, two sisters, a step-sister, and a step-brother.

“She is also survived by her other family, the 2,000-plus men and women of the Massachusetts State Police, many of whom came to MGH overnight to grieve and support one another as word of her passing spread,” read a statement released by the MSP.

The crash investigation is being conducted by the State Police’s Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, Crime Scene Services Section, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section, and the State Police Detective Unit for Middlesex County.

As of press time, no charges had been filed against the truck driver.

“On a stretch of road that she protected every night during the midnight shift, Trooper Bucci gave her life in the act of trying to help another person in distress. There is no greater act of sacrifice than to give one’s life for another,” the State Police statement read.

Trooper Bucci is the 22nd member of the State Police to die in the line of duty.

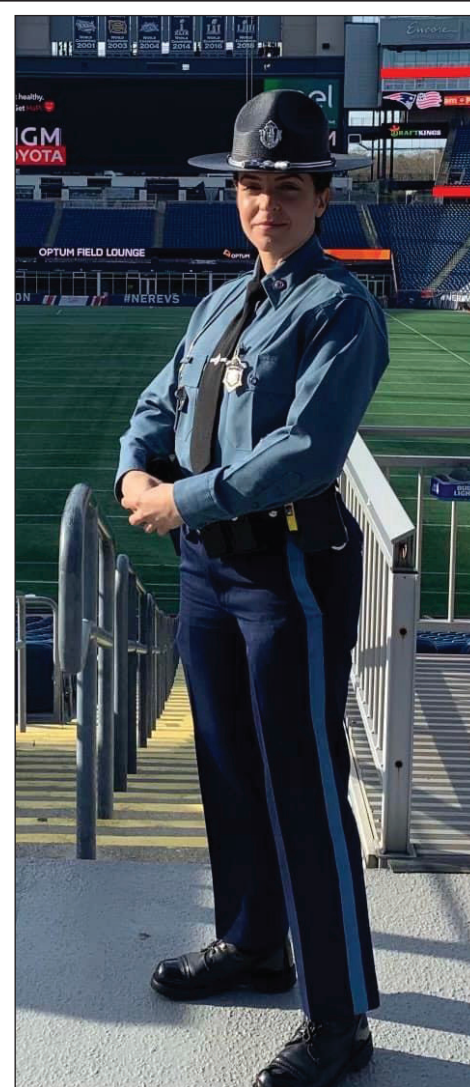


Photo Courtesy

Massachusetts State Police Trooper Tamar Bucci was killed in the line of duty last week.

## Knox Trail Middle School honor roll

SPENCER — Knox Trail Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

### 5th grade

High Honors: Zoe Barnett, Ethan Blanchette, Hunter Brodeur, Connor Cormier, Landon Kaiser, Sophia Lambert, Mikayla Moorcraft, Jocelyn Fasoli, McKinnon Pacheco, Lillian Perchak, Olivia Roberts

Honors: Aaron Bagrowski, Anthony Carofaniello, Divino Colon, Elyse DaSilva, Sophia Delvalle, Lucaiana Edwards, Camila Garcia Montoya, Christopher Gauvin, Colin Lopez, Andrew Hernandez Porter, Connor Martin, Kylie Nelson, Daryl Okuku, Matthew Paquette, Madyson Pensinger, Isabella Perchak, Abigail Sobosik,

Gabriel St. Pierre, Raegan Tatro, Tawny Tetteyffio, Mason Toscano

### 6th grade

High Honors: Gianna Bedard, Cassidy Chickering, Marco Estrella-Morales, Gabriel Flannery, Kylie Hoyt, Ashley Johnson, Leah Kozak, Alyssa Olsen, Alexia Rondeau, Ava Rondeau, Ava Rossik, Samuel Schold

Honors: Anna Marie Abdo, Davian Alicea Aponte, Sadie Anifantis, Cameron Barry, Oliver Bird, Collin Burt, Paisley Comeau, Jayden Giwa Bello, Caleb Goyette, Violet Hanlan, Riley Herrie, Bella Huard, Veronica Jensrud, Cody Landry, Emmanuel Lopez, Meaghan Luperchio, Ryan Marsden, Tristyn Masterson, Alejandro Orozco, Armando Rodriguez Diaz, Tucker Wolanski

### 7th grade

High Honors: Lucas Bastien, Dominic Carofaniello, Livia DeLuca, Dylan Monette, Anastasia Nieuwenhoff, Morgan Pelchat, Elena Powell, Isabella Vangel

Honors: Jayce Acevedo, Isabella DeLuca, Jackson Edwards, Owen Fair, Michael Fitzpatrick, Cullen Gardiner, Micah Gariepy, Aliyah Gauvin, Patrick Hart, Nicholas Hintlian, Kaylee Hoffner, Alexis Huard, Max Kerouac, Johnlyn Laventure, Tayven Lewis, Christopher Martin, Joshua McLaughlin, Daniel Nowlan, Nicholas Paquette, Sophia Ramirez Murphey, Henry Rokes, Julia Simpson, Amelia St. Peter, Marley Talbot

### 8th grade

High Honors: Vincent Bedard, Martina Ethier, James Hanlan, Jorelys Ignacio, Caitlin Kennen, Lilyan Mateucci, Matthew McNicol, Alexis Moody, Michael Naji, Shilah Nokeo, Christopher Pinkowski, Lillian Spahn, Lauren Tutlis, Ava Wall, Victoria Zheng

Honors: Helen Abdo, Chad Anderson, Julia Barents, Elijah Barnett, Heather Bartolomei, Trevor Beckwith, Joella Bonczyk, Dimitri Burt, Jazlynn Dubois, Genevieve Dupont, Gavin Forget, Geoffrey Gardiner, Owen Granger, Clarence Hitchner, Hannah Ingalls, Callie Lambert, Joel Landor, Cullen McLeod, Taizhalynne Marrier, Sean Marsden, Aubrey Messier, Mariana Munzert, Saydee Roberts, Carlos Rodriguez Cortez, Wyatt Snay, Zachary Wadden, Hannah Wood

## LEGALS

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 128 North Street, East Brookfield, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Elise D. Barry and Steven M. Barry to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for 1st Alliance Lending, LLC and now held by The Money Source Inc., said mortgage dated May 24, 2017, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 57166 at Page 202, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 26, 2018, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 59462 at Page 108, as affected by Corrective Assignment dated December 15, 2021, with said Deeds in Book 66843 Page 29, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 31, 2019 and recorded with said Deeds in Book 60578 at Page 246, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on March 21, 2022 at 03:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being Lot No. 10 and the northerly one third of Lot No. 9 as shown on plan entitled “Plan of Lots of Louis J. Muzzrall, East Brookfield, Massachusetts, July 1948, Theo. Drazek Surveyor” recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 158, Plan 53 and more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the north easterly corner thereof on the westerly side of North Street and the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Philip Prizzio, as shown on said plan;

THENCE southerly by the westerly side of North Street, 100 feet to a point; THENCE N. 82° 42' W., 403 feet more or less by the southerly two-thirds of Lot #9 as shown on said plan to a ditch leading from Perry Pond to Mud Pond as shown on said plan; THENCE northerly by the easterly side of said ditch 120 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of said Prizzio; THENCE S. 79° 25' E., 400 feet, more or less, by the southerly line of said Prizzio to an iron pin at the place of beginning. The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in

the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated May 25, 2017, and recorded in Book 57166 at Page 200 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.  
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500  
Warwick, RI 02886

Attorney for The Money Source Inc.  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
Telephone: (401) 234-9200  
MLG File No.: 19-11495

February 25, 2022

March 4, 2022

March 11, 2022

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Fiscal Year 2023

#### SCHOOL BUDGET HEARING

#### Leicester Public Schools

#### Notice of Public Hearing

Date of Public Hearing: **Tuesday, March 22, 2022**

In accordance with Chapter 71 Section 38N of the General Laws, the Leicester School Committee will hold a public hearing on its proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Leicester Town Hall, Meeting Room #3, Leicester, MA and via Google Meet: Meeting ID: meet.google.com/cpf-oies-ght, Phone Number (US) 1 608-909-0199, PIN: 940 944 877#. Immediately following the hearing, there will be an open session meeting.

You may find the Superintendent’s budget presentation on the district website: [www.lpsma.net](http://www.lpsma.net).

February 11, 2022

#### Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:

Jason Hintlian has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to raise the roof over the garage located at 12 Bond Street, Spencer, MA.

Thomas Bonder has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove trees at 10 Lamoureux Lane, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman  
March 11, 2022

#### Town of Spencer PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Sec. 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws that a public hearing will be held on March 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the McCourt Social Hall at the Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, on the application of Miguel A. Perez for a transfer of an all-alcoholic beverages license for Tulence, Inc. d/b/a Mexicali Grille, 117 Main Street, Spencer, MA. Described premises: 8,400 square feet with two floors. Gary E. Woodbury, Chairman, Board of Selectmen  
March 11, 2022

#### Zoning Board of Appeals Town of North Brookfield Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Monday March 21, 2022 at 6:30pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of 123 Kids LLC/James Laney - 8A Ryan Road for a Variance to Zoning Bylaw section VII, for setback of 46.7ft on the front and 23.5ft on the side. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk’s Office at 215 North Main St. Respectfully,

Kimberly Bent, Clerk  
March 11, 2022  
March 18, 2022

#### Zoning Board of Appeals Town of North Brookfield Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Monday March 21, 2022 at 6:30pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Vibram Corporation – 17 School Street for 2 Special Permits to Zoning Bylaw section IV,B,4 and IV,E,1,B in the downtown overlay district. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk’s Office at 215 North Main St.

Respectfully,  
Kimberly Bent, Clerk  
March 11, 2022  
March 18, 2022

#### Town of Spencer Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Sec. 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws that a public hearing will be held on March 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the McCourt Social Hall at the Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, on the application of Miguel A. Perez for a transfer of an all-alcoholic beverages license for Tulence, Inc. d/b/a Mexicali Grille, 117 Main Street, Spencer, MA. Described premises: 8,400 square feet with two floors. Gary E. Woodbury, Chairman, Board of Selectmen  
March 11, 2022

#### Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Kara Banosian for the property located at 10 Hillside Drive, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to demolish the existing dwelling at the above address in Neighborhood Residential District. This requires a Special Permit as per section(s)

-1.52-Nonconformity: §1.52 Nonconforming Structures (a) (et al)  
March 11, 2022  
March 18, 2022

# OBITUARIES

## Eva F. Grimes, 95

OAKHAM- Eva F. Grimes, 95, of Oakham passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.



She was the daughter of Henry and Evelyn (Clifford) Grimes. She was born in Coldbrook Springs, MA and lived in Oakham most of her life. She is survived by her sister, Grace White of Texas

and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Mabel Hunting and brother Wallace C. Grimes.

Eva enlisted in the Women's Air Corp. serving in Montgomery, Alabama. She

graduated from Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 1948 where she maintained her contacts with faculty, and worked with a number of student interns. She started dairy farming in the 1950's in Oakham.

Eva was involved with the 4H program and co-founded the Oakham Youth Fair which ran for 55 years. Eva also held several positions with the Town of Oakham including Assessor and Oakham's Agricultural Commissioner for many years.

At Eva's request, there will be no services and burial will be in the spring at the convenience of the family. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 96 S.Barre Rd. Barre

## Craig Thompson

Brookfield- Craig Thompson, passed away peacefully, with family by his side, after a long illness on Thursday, February 24th. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and son in-law.

Craig grew up in Leicester and moved to Brookfield in 1989. He lived an active life full of love and adventure. In his early years he owned the R&D Speed Shop in Spencer, and later C. Thompson Landscaping in Brookfield. He was also a certified Maine whitewater rafting guide and owned New England Whitewater Adventures. For a few years he owned and drove a modified race car at local speedways. He was active in the New England Snowmobile Association, making and maintaining trails in the Brookfield area and competing in grass drag snowmobile races in which he won many trophies. He was an excellent landscaper and gardener, and he once grew an award winning Atlantic Giant pumpkin. He hiked nearly all of the "4000 footers" in the New Hampshire White Mountains.

Craig truly loved spending time with his family, friends, and pets. He often

went camping, snowmobiling, rafting, hiking, or some combination thereof with his group of loyal friends and loving family. He coached his son's elementary school basketball team. He collaborated with his daughter to host extravagant Halloween parties. He built and launched model rockets with his son and granddaughter. In his later years, he most enjoyed camping and walking trails with his wife, granddaughter, and dog.

Craig leaves behind his wife of 38 years, Patricia, son David, granddaughter Piper, sisters Audrey and Valerie, brother James, many nieces and nephews, and loyal companion Lucky. He is predeceased by his mother Eileen, father Clinton, dearly missed daughter Merideth, and brother in-law Brian, whom he considered a true brother.

A celebration of life for Craig will be held on Saturday, March 19th at the Cherry Valley American Legion on Route 9 in Leicester from 4-8 PM. There will be a box to make donations to Second Chance Animal Shelter in Craig's memory.

## Robert D. Whitney, 94

LEICESTER- Robert D. Whitney, 94, passed away on March 6, 2022 at the Jewish Healthcare Center in Worcester.



Robert was born in Leicester on June 17, 1927 to Leroy and Irene (Lavallee) Whitney. Raised in Leicester, Robert graduated from Leicester High School. He began his career with the Leicester Police

Department as a patrolman and retired in 1992 with the rank of Sergeant.

Robert is survived by his three children, Gary R. Whitney and his wife Phyllis, Russell D. Whitney and his wife Joan, Maureen A. Whitney, all of Leicester; 4 grandchildren, Jason Whitney and his wife Jessica, Brian Whitney, Laura Cox and her husband Rob, and Marc Whitney and his

wife Jessica; a great grandson, Colin Whitney; a brother, Clifford Whitney and his wife Judythe, 2 sisters in law, Dorothy Whitney and Gail Wood, as well as many nieces and nephews. Robert was predeceased by his beloved wife of 66 years Barbara M. (Wood) Whitney in 2015, he was predeceased by his 5 siblings, Raymond, Leroy, Earl Whitney, Evelyn Whitney and Rita Petersen. Robert was a lifelong resident of Leicester. He was a member of the Leicester Knights of Columbus Council 4528 and St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish. He enjoyed gardening, vacations in Maine and was an avid reader. Robert's family would like to thank the caregivers at the Jewish Healthcare Center, especially Pam, for their compassion and dedication. A funeral mass will be held on Wednesday, March 9th at 11:00 AM in St. Pius X Church, 1161 Main St., Leicester. Calling hours will precede the service from 9:00AM to 10:30 AM in MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys, 77 Mulberry St., Leicester MA 01524.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

## Great musical instruments for beginners

While many instruments are beneficial to kids, certain choices are best for children just starting out.

Ukulele is a relatively quiet instrument.

### Recorder

A recorder often is one of the first instruments introduced to children in music classrooms. A recorder

is an ideal introductory wind instrument because it is easier to play than a flute or clarinet. Nonetheless, it still requires students to learn coordination and breathing techniques.

### Drums

Drums teach children rhythm, which is an essential component of all music. Drums are attractive to kids because they can be great fun to play and help reduce stress by getting out all that nervous energy. Electronic drum kits are available as quieter alternatives and are great options when space for a regular drum set is unavailable.

As children acquire skills on these instruments, they can continue or move on to more complicated alternatives.

### Piano

The piano is a great instrument to learn because it enhances fine motor skills and often serves as a foundation for music education. The good news is one doesn't have to purchase a piano to get started. Digital keyboards and even online piano keyboards can replicate piano sounds quite well and provide an inexpensive way to learn piano.

### Ukulele

Ukuleles are affordable and their small size makes them ideal for kids. It's easy to learn a few chords and play familiar songs. Plus, parents may appreciate that the ukulele is a relatively quiet instrument.

**Card of Thanks**

A special thank you to the Nursing Staff on Unit 1B for the warm and caring way they treated Alfred "Zeke" Desforges during his lengthy stay at Quaboag Rehabilitation in West Brookfield. Thanks to Reception, Dietary, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Activity, and Laundry. Everyone I met was courteous and warm regarding my needs and those of "Zeke." My pain is still resolving, but I just wanted to express my heartfelt thank you and I will visit soon.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Kinell for Alfred Desforges

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# SPORTS

## Third time the charm for David Prouty in defeating Quaboag girls' basketball team

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — On Friday, March 4, the David Prouty and Quaboag Regional girls' varsity basketball teams faced off for their third meeting of the season. The Cougars came out on top in the first two clashes between the SWCL rivals, but this meeting had a little more on the line: a ticket into the Sweet 16 of the Division 5 State Tournament.

Walking into the McDonough Gymnasium at David Prouty, it was evident that the third meeting meant a lot for both schools. The bleachers were packed and the players were laser-focused during warm-ups. The playoff atmosphere was in the air.

From the opening tip, both teams were playing hard, hus-

ting for offensive rebounds, loose balls, and playing tough defense.

Early into the first quarter, 19th seeded Quaboag got on the board first when Hannah Manzano nailed a 3-pointer after a pass from the paint following an offensive rebound. However, 14th ranked David Prouty took no time to counter. They quickly put the ball in the hands of senior leader Gabby Soter, who rose from the top of the key and hit a 3-pointer of her own.

This got the home crowd quickly into the game and the Panthers fed off the energy. David Prouty closed out the first quarter on a 16-0 run and held Quaboag to just three points until the 4:30 mark in the second quarter when Manzano would hit another 3-pointer.

The run from the first quar-

ter until midway through the second was enough for the Panthers, who coasted to a 46-26 win. Prouty — which won its Preliminary Round game with No. 51 Smith Vocational to get to Quaboag — then took on No. 3 Hopedale High in the Round of 16 on Tuesday, March 8, which came after this newspaper's press deadline.

Following the win, Soter expressed what it felt like to advance to the next round of the State Tournament.

"It feels really good because the last two years we have gotten knocked out in the first round," she expressed, a smile rounding from ear to ear. "So, it was really exciting coming into this game. We were 0-2 against Quaboag in the regular season, so we knew it would be a challenge, but we finally played together and got the 'W.'"

Soter led all scorers with 18 points and Olivia Pepin also chipped in 14 points, but it was not the scoring that stood out in the Panther win. It was their focus and intensity on the defensive end. David Prouty (13-8) showed some full-court press and played a great zone with active hands, which made it hard for Quaboag to find any rhythm offensively.

"Our press was working," explained head coach Dennis Streeter. "We were making shots and when we are making shots we can get in our press. The press is tough, I wouldn't want to be a point guard against us because we get the ball, do ball reversal, and get the middle. We just cover. We have some good athletes so we can play some defense."

For Quaboag — who got to David Prouty thanks to a

win over No. 46 Rockport in the Preliminary Round — it was not the ending they envisioned at 12-10, but they had a great season and showed a lot of heart until the final buzzer. Head coach Bill Beauregard was pleased with his team's effort in the contest and the season as a whole.

"We played hard," expressed Beauregard. "It was a good group of kids. We fought hard every game and worked really hard."

Going into next season, look for the Cougars to reload and be back in the

State Tournament. Quaboag will be returning seven current juniors including Manzano and Kiara Gauthier. Manzano and Gauthier led the scoring for their team against David Prouty with nine and seven points, respectfully.

### POSTSEASON SCOREBOARD

## Quaboag takes State Tournament opener from Rising Tide, then loses to perennial power Hopedale



Nick Ethier photos

From left, Quaboag defenders Ryan Fernandez and Owen Stevens swarm in to block a shot taken by Rising Tide's Chris Durnford.



Chase Potvin of Quaboag dishes a pass into the middle of the court.



Quaboag's Brandon Valentin looks backward in hopes of finding an open teammate.

On Wednesday, March 2, the Quaboag Regional boys' varsity basketball team opened postseason play by hosting 41st ranked Rising Tide, a charter school from Plymouth, in a Preliminary Round game in the Division 5 State Tournament. And a hot start propelled the No. 24 Cougars. Quaboag led after one quarter, 16-4, and at the half, 30-12, before holding on to defeat the Herons, 50-40.

The Cougars' season came to a close in the next round, though, losing to No. 9 Hopedale High in the Round of 32 on Friday, March 4, 65-43. Quaboag finished with a record of 9-13, as they qualified for the tournament despite a sub-.500 record because of their quality of opposition during the regular season.

Other postseason game results from teams inside the Spencer New Leader's coverage area are as follows:

Tuesday, March 1  
Division 4 Girls' Basketball Preliminary Round

(32) New Mission 71, (33) Bay Path 64 (2OT) — The Minutemen fought until the very end, as the game to double overtime. But Bay Path ultimately lost to New Mission, finishing 13-8 on the season.

Division 5 Girls' Basketball Preliminary Round

(21) Franklin Tech 53, (44) North Brookfield 40 — The Indians won two games in the regular season's final two days to finish 10-10 and qualify for postseason play, but they then lost to Franklin Tech to end their year.

Friday, March 4  
Division 5 Boys' Basketball Round

of 32  
(10) David Prouty 57, (23) Minuteman 50 — The Panthers advanced to the Round of 16, where they played at No. 7 Granby High on Tuesday, March 8, after press time.

Division 3 Girls' Basketball Round of 32

(12) Tantasqua 53, (21) Sandwich 33 — A 20-point victory vaulted the Warriors into the Round of 16. There, they played at No. 5 Dover-Sherborn on Tuesday, March 8, after press time.

Division 4 Girls' Basketball Round of 32

(15) Mashpee 48, (18) Leicester 37 — The Wolverines finished 12-9 after winning the Lady Rocket Classic and the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Tournament in back-to-back weeks.



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## SPORTS

# Gniadek scores career-high 30 points, helps Spartans beat Bay Path in State Tournament opener

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

UXBRIDGE — At the half of its Division 4 State Tournament Preliminary Round game against Bay Path Regional on Tuesday, March 1, the Uxbridge High boys' varsity basketball team wasn't playing up to its potential and led by a slim margin of 21-13. Things changed for the better for the Spartans, though, right out of the gate in the second half.

"I thought the third quarter was huge for us," said Uxbridge head coach Ryan Hippert. "We tried to put a little pressure on them, get a few turnovers, and pick up the pace. That's what helped us."

The 30th seeded Spartans won the third quarter, 23-10, and eventually the game over the 35th ranked Minutemen, 58-37.

"I thought [Jack] Trask had a big couple of points in that third quarter," said Hippert, as Trask scored five of his seven points in the frame, before turning his attention to Drew Gniadek, the star of the game. "Obviously Drew was key tonight, he was on fire. Drew's gotten better and better throughout the year. He's taken over that go-to player for us. Now on the season he's got over 60 3's. He's a very good shooter."

Gniadek scored a career-high 30 points, which included a staggering nine made 3-pointers. He canned two treys in the first quarter, two more in the second, four in the third and one — which was actually a four-point play — in the fourth. He also added a layup in the fourth quarter.

"It felt good off my hand, and I felt him hit me," Gniadek said of the beginning of his four-pointer, the shot coming from the left corner near the student section. "Everyone [from the student section] was on me [celebrating after the



Bay Path's Trent Szela pushes the ball past Uxbridge defender Aidan Mahoney.

shot]. That's what you play for, plays like that."

Gniadek said that he had an interior calmness before the game, likening it to playing pickup hoops.

"I was thinking about the Whitin Community Center," he explained of a gym in nearby Northbridge. "Sometimes I go there just to get some runs, get hot there, and I could tell that it would be one of those nights. Every time I shoot, I expect to make it."

The Spartans were proud of the fact that they advanced in the State Tournament.

"I don't care what round it is. To win a State Tournament game, it means something to the team and the program," said Hippert.

"I love playing better in bigger games because that's what you play for. You want to win in the playoffs," added Gniadek.

Uxbridge then played at No. 3 Burke High in Dorchester on March 4. The Spartans lost, 65-46, and finished 11-11.

Bay Path, which Hippert called "a very scrappy team," finished 13-8. They were led by Dylan Cotton's eight points versus Uxbridge.



Dylan Cotton of Bay Path finds a pocket in Uxbridge's defense while driving into the lane.



Bay Path's Zack Fritze sets his feet and peaks over the ball before firing off a 3-pointer.



Marcus Oliver of Uxbridge catches a pass and surveys the court.



Uxbridge's Kellen LaChapelle passes the ball off to a teammate.

## Tantasqua boys' basketball trounces Excel Academy, then bows out to Arlington Catholic

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — Moments into the fourth quarter, with a commanding 60-39 lead, Tantasqua Regional senior guard Joe Groccia slashed to the basket for 10 points in the Warriors' Preliminary Round game inside the Division 3 Boys' Basketball State Tournament on Tuesday, March 1.

The basket by Groccia started a 14-2 run that forced an Excel Academy Charter timeout and concluded the night for the Tantasqua starters.

On the shoulders of Groccia (32 points), Aiden Gingras (17 points) and most importantly good half-court man-to-man defense, the 19th seeded Warriors bolted past No. 46 Excel Academy Charter with a

79-46 victory.

That win marked Tantasqua's 10th victory out of their last 11 games after beginning the season 4-7. It has been a season of growth for the Warriors, following a year off due to COVID-19, the team has built confidence and experience playing at a varsity level on the go.

"We didn't play last year because of COVID, so two years ago most of those guys were JV players," stated Tantasqua head coach Scott Dion.

"So, obviously they have had a lot of growth throughout this year because when we started they really haven't played varsity basketball. So, now they're seasoned veterans, seniors who have 22 games under their belt. They have grown immensely; they know what we are trying to do as far as our system. They

compete their tails off. Like I said earlier, our run has been attributed to our ability to play good half-court man-to-man defense."

Not only has the team gained experience, but the coaches made some adjustments during their hot streak.

"We have been simplifying what we do, and we have tightened up our rotation a little," Dion expressed. "We have been primarily a half-court man-to-man team and the result is we are usually able to stay in games defensively."

It is evident that the team responded and the adjustments helped spark the Warriors' success, but it also helped to have a senior leader like Groccia. He displays a work ethic for excellence in every aspect of the game — defense, offense, and

the little things that help his team win. And against Excel Academy Charter he put on a show, scoring 32 of his team's season-high 79 points.

"Joe is good," Dion praised. "He is the exception. He played varsity as a sophomore, so he was a returning varsity basketball player. He is clearly the leader on our team, on the offensive end. If he doesn't have the ball in his hand, he is trying to create for others. The biggest compliment I have for Joe is when you're someone who can score the basketball as well as he can, you tend to not necessarily commit to defense and Joe commits to defense. He is a very good defensive player; so to be able to defend like that and put the ball in the basket, is rare in high school."

Following their win against

Excel Academy Charter, Tantasqua took on a very good Arlington Catholic team on Friday, March 4 in the Round of 32. Unfortunately, the Warriors could not pull out the win despite a valiant effort. The Warriors lost to No. 14 Arlington Catholic, 66-58.

"I am so proud of our team, especially our seniors," stated Dion. "We were 4-7 and really struggling and our boys made a commitment to finishing the season on the right note. We went 10-2 the rest of the season and battled to the end. Arlington Catholic is a good team and we didn't give them an inch. We competed and just came up a few possessions short. It has been a pleasure coaching this team and I look forward to what our future holds."





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# Dish up a classic comfort food this St. Patrick's Day

Everyone has "corned beef and cabbage" on the brain come St. Patrick's Day. But another flavorful dish might appeal to a greater number of people with Irish roots.

Shepherd's Pie is a savory dish made of minced lamb that originated in England but also made the jump to Ireland, where it became a popular comfort food. While Shepherd's Pie can be made with freshly cooked ground meat, it also is a fine way to use leftovers from a previous meal. Shepherd's Pie is commonly mistaken for Cottage Pie, which is very similar, yet tends to use beef as

the meat of choice.

Many families have their own ancestral recipes for Shepherd's Pie, but for those looking to cook the dish for the first time, try "Shepherd's Pie," courtesy of Alton Brown, which appeared in Season 12 of his hit show "Good Eats."

### Shepherd's Pie Yield: 8 servings

- 1 1/2 pounds russet potatoes
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 carrots, peeled and finely diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 pounds ground lamb
- 1 3/4 teaspoons kosher salt
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup half-and-half
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1/2 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen
- 1/2 cup English peas, fresh or frozen

1. Heat oven to 400 F.

2. Peel the potatoes and cut them into 1/2-inch dice. Put them in a medium saucepan and cover with cold water. Set said pan over high heat, cover and bring to a boil. Uncover, drop the heat to maintain a simmer, and cook until tender, 10 to 15 minutes.

3. Heat the oil in an 11-inch saute pan over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add the onion and carrots and saute just until they begin to take on color, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and stir to combine. Add the meat, salt and pepper, and cook until browned and cooked through, approximately 3 minutes.

4. Sprinkle the meat with the flour, toss to coat, and continue to cook for another minute. Add the tomato paste, broth, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, and thyme and stir to combine. Bring to a boil, then decrease the heat to low, cover, and simmer slowly until the sauce is thickened slightly, 10 to 12 minutes.

5. Meanwhile, combine the half-and-half and butter in a microwave-safe container and nuke until warmed through, about 35 seconds.

6. Drain the potatoes and return them to the saucepan. Mash the potatoes (a masher is an excellent tool for this, though a hand mixer will do), then add the hot half-and-half mixture, as well



as the salt and pepper. Mash to smoothness, then stir in the egg yolk.

7. Add the corn and peas to the meat mixture and spread evenly in a 7-by-11-inch glass baking dish. Top with the mashed potatoes, starting around the edges to create a seal to prevent the mixture from bubbling over, and smooth the top with a rubber spatula. Place on a half sheet pan lined with parchment paper on the middle rack of the oven and bake for 25 minutes, or just until the potatoes begin to brown. Remove to a cooking rack and let rest for at least 15 minutes before serving.

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