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Friday, February 18, 2022

Retiring town constable looks back across four decades



Photo Kevin Flanders

Arthur Tatro is retiring this year from his position as constable in Spencer.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Having served his community as both a constable and a justice of the peace, among other roles, Arthur Tatro has seen residents at some of the highest and lowest points in their lives. But no matter which responsibilities he carried out on a given day, he was always known for handling them with fairness and integrity.

Tatro, who is retiring this year from his elected constable position after 41 years, recently took time to reflect on a career that was both challenging and rewarding. He was first elected as a constable after serving as a police officer in town during the seventies, which helped him greatly in the next chapter of his career.

"It seemed like a natural progression after serving on the police department," Tatro told the New Leader.

Tatro's other career as a postal carrier for 32 years also familiarized him with local roads and neighborhoods, which proved immensely beneficial in the role of constable.

As one of three constables in Spencer, Tatro serves eviction notices, subpoenas, guardianships, divorce documents, arrest

warrants, and several other notices. In addition to his work in Spencer, he is also a constable in the Brookfields communities.

On several occasions, Tatro's duties required him to arrest individuals on civil charges. He worked closely with local police departments to share information and prepare for various actions. He thanks local law enforcement agencies for their support and teamwork.

"Working with the [police] chiefs has been wonderful," added Tatro, who is also retiring from his constable position in the Brookfields. "They have been great to work with, and we exchange information regularly."

Local police chiefs and elected leaders appreciate the professionalism and preparedness Tatro brought to work each day.

"Always a pleasure to work with. He was very active in the pursuit of justice," said Spencer Police Chief David Darrin.

Added Spencer Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury, "Arthur has been a mainstay as a constable. He is a people person, and he was always compassionate and helpful to everyone he worked with. He will be

Please Read **TATRO**, page **A9**

Cost of elementary school oil leak continues to rise

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – With the price tag continuing to rise on last year's oil spill incident, the school department will be able to deficit spend until Town Meeting.

Occurring on March 31, 2021 at the elementary school, the incident resulted in approximately 750 gallons of leaked oil after an underground supply line was accidentally punctured during a tent installation project.

As of Sept. 30, the estimated cost of the incident was \$891,437.70. By Jan. 14, the cost had risen to \$1,180,422, with an insurance coverage limit of \$500,000. The balance must be paid by the school department.

"Town Meeting is needed to transfer the \$500,000 we received in our insurance settlement from the insurance account to the oil remediation account," said Town Administrator David Genereux. "It is also likely that there will be a transfer from the school budget or other funds to cover the remaining deficit."

Akin to the town's annual management of snow and ice removal costs, the school department has the ability to deficit spend on its account covering the oil spill until Town Meeting. Prior to the creation of the Annual and Special Town Meeting warrants, school officials will make a proposal to town leaders on how they plan to fund the rising costs.

Currently, the school department is working with a company and state officials to perform frequent testing of air and groundwater quality. There is no timetable for how long the work will continue, officials said.

"They are still doing the monitoring and testing, and I see this going at least another year

and a half," said Select Board Chairman Rick Antanavica.

The incident took place after the school department rented tents from a contractor in anticipation of schools reopening following a COVID-19 closure. The tents were anchored by 44-inch spikes, one of which punctured an underground oil supply line that feeds the school's boilers.

Days after the incident, school staff members detected an oil odor in one of the classrooms, officials said.

"When we became aware of the leak and the potential cost to remediate the oil, we contacted the Department of Revenue," read an informational statement posted to the town Web site. "The Town received permission to create an expenditure account to pay for costs associated with the oil cleanup. This account permits deficit spending, which is typical in large insurance cases."

Transfers to cover the outstanding balance are expected to be discussed by the School Committee in the coming weeks. Funding over multiple fiscal years may be required, officials said, depending on the project completion date.

Among other work required as a result of the incident, a depressurization system was installed at the school to act as a vacuum, preventing vapors from entering the school. The sub-slab depressurization system was activated on Oct. 15, in accordance with a DEP deadline.

Additional work is ongoing, officials said. No final cost estimates have been provided, as the work is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Marilyn

Please Read **LEAK**, page **A3**

Spencer selectmen lift mask mandate for municipal buildings

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Selectmen voted last week to no longer require masks to be worn in town buildings.

As of Monday, Feb. 14, masks are no longer mandated inside municipal buildings. They will still be recommended for patrons and employees.

The Feb. 8 Select Board vote

on lifting the mask mandate was 4-0, with Selectman Ralph Hicks abstaining.

Several surrounding communities have taken similar actions on mask guidelines and reopening policies. Following the post-holiday surge of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations have sharply declined in recent weeks.

"A lot of towns are taking

down the mandates, and we're seeing senior centers opening again," said Selectman John Howard.

With vaccine availability now in place for nearly all population sectors, local officials say it's time to turn the corner and transition from mask mandates to recommendations.

"We don't want to be policing masks anymore. I think we are

at a turning point where you have to let people make their own choices," said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury.

Added Selectman Tony Pepe, who, along with Selectman Jared Grigg, voted against instituting the mask mandate last month, "I've got no issue with masks, but I think this should be a matter of personal responsibility. We're seeing the mandates being dropped across the state and country."

Selectman Hicks, who abstained from the Feb. 8 vote on whether to lift the mask requirement in town buildings, said he had hoped to see the mandate extended until Feb. 21 to allow cases to continue dropping.

At the Jan. 10 Select Board meeting, members voted 3-2 to institute the mask mandate for guests and employees entering town buildings. Selectmen also voted 5-0 on Jan. 10 to allow Council on Aging Director April Caruso to temporarily close the Senior Center.

Officials remind residents that the Senior Center has been reopened. Patrons are encouraged to wear a mask while attending the center, but there are no further mandates in place.

For more information about town offices and current recommendations, visit www.spencerma.gov.

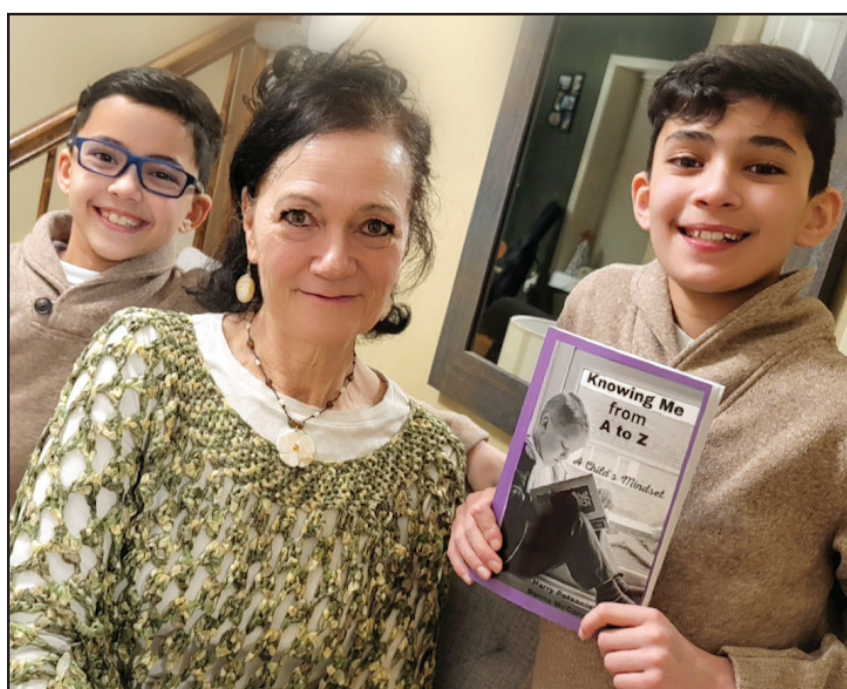


Photo Courtesy

Local author Donna McCance's newly released book is a helpful tool for youngsters and families.

Retired teacher continues to offer guidance for children

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Even though Donna McCance is retired from her teaching days at Leicester Elementary School, she is still finding plenty of ways to assist children.

Only a year and a half into her retirement after serving more than 20 years as a Leicester teacher, McCance recently published her first book, "Knowing Me From A to Z: A Child's Mindset."

McCance co-authored the children's book with mindset specialist Harry Petsanis. The book was written with an emphasis on allowing children to develop an independent, free-thinking mindset through self-awareness.

"Learning should be a process where learners can be who they are, not who they are forced to be, allowing them to pursue

a lifelong quest for truth and understanding," McCance said.

McCance and Petsanis both feel strongly that the upbringing of children should be child-centered rather than adult-focused.

"As adults step back and allow children to develop self-awareness, only then will children be empowered to take ownership of their learning and their lives," Petsanis said.

The book centers on helping children discover the true meaning of mindset, Petsanis added. The book was written in two parts to reach children at all learning levels. The first part features a rhyming A-Z mindset section for elementary-aged children, while the second part delivers a

Please Read **MCCANCE**, page **A17**

Choose to be happy



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

People usually allow circumstances to determine how they feel. Everyone has at many points allowed the events of the day to decide whether or not they have a good day. Sometimes the morning goes like this: We wake up late for work, as we scramble around trying to leave the house, and we say to ourselves, "Today is going to be a terrible day!"

After arriving at work, and missing the important meeting, the rest of the morning is in recovery mode. Sometimes the day gets worse, and sometimes it doesn't, but the negative thoughts persist, "Today

is a bad day!" When this happens, we are allowing circumstances to determine how we feel. The thoughts run through our minds, "What happened to my life? Why am I not where I want to be? How come bad things always happen to me? Why am I always the one who messes up? Why didn't I get the promotion? Why am I not making more money? Why am I so unhappy?"

Most people don't want to hear it, but the uncomfortable truth is that happiness is a choice.

In fifth grade, I had a series of bad days. I came home one day and complained to my mom and dad about how bad my days were. They listened to me and responded by telling me it would get better, but it never did. Then one morning, my dad decided to drive me to school. As we pulled up to the front door, he asked me to repeat

after him, "I will have a good day today." I remember saying, "How do you know I'll have a good day?" His response was, "you're the one who decides whether your day is good or bad. Just try it. Tell yourself that you'll have a good day and see what happens." With the openness of a child, I repeated, "I will have a good day today." I accepted his challenge and eagerly wanted to know if his strategy would work. As the day went on, I was surprised that the day was running smoothly. When he picked me back up from school, I happily jumped into the car, and he asked me, "Well? How did it go? Did you have a good day?" Excitedly I said, "my day was great!" With a knowing smile, he replied, "See! I told you that if you set out with the intention to have a good day, then you would!"

I always remember that lesson. I eventually realized that

the day went well because I expected good things to happen. I trusted my father's approach and, as a result, ended up focusing on the good things that happened that day rather than the bad ones.

I was a happy person for many years after that day because I chose to be happy. Sadly, as I got older and the troubles came, I was quickly thrown off course. I spent many years letting daily events determine how I felt. I allowed myself to be a victim of circumstance.

Even when you're determined to be happy, bad things will still happen. Even when you wake up in the morning and tell yourself, "Today is going to be a great day!" It doesn't mean you won't encounter adverse incidents. The secret is that when you're determined to have a good day, you won't dwell on the negative occurrences; you'll dwell on

the positive ones. You'll expect that good thing will come, and even if they don't always, you'll view the events with a half-glass full mentality - which will open your mind up to new possibilities.

There will be delays to our plans, and there will be betrayals by people that can force us into despair. When these things occur, we usually feel that things will never change. We must continually remind ourselves that we are determined to be happy. Our will can indeed overcome any negative emotion.

If you're putting off your happiness until you have the life you want, it probably will never happen. Instead, wake up every day with the expectation that the day will be great, you'll begin to view life in a new light, and things will start to change in your favor.

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GOAL!!!

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Winter activities in full swing at Haston Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD - With spring getting a little closer each day, residents are enjoying the final weeks of winter at Haston Free Public Library.

Library officials are excited to announce that, thanks to an agreement among many CW MARS libraries, the library will be able to provide access to Kanopy. This is a video streaming service that provides instant access to thousands of movies, documentaries, and kids' favorites.

Kanopy showcases more than 30,000 films, including award-winning documentaries, rare titles, film festival favorites, classic gems, and world cinema. Kanopy also offers the Kanopy Kids platform and the Great Courses.

To access Kanopy, all you will need is a library card to get started.

"Once we get the system up and running, you'll be able to stream Kanopy on any of your favorite devices. Kanopy is accessible via mobile and tablet apps for iPhone and Android," read a statement released by Library Director Dawn Thistle. "You can also access Kanopy on your desktop, and smartTV apps like Roku, Apple TV, and Fire Stick."

Once you select a film, you will have between 48 and 72 hours to watch it, depending on the film. Each patron will be limited to two films per month.

In other library news, the Haston Book Group's February selection is, "Go Tell It on the Mountain," written by James Baldwin. First published in 1953, this is Baldwin's first major work, a semi-autobiographical novel that has established itself as an American classic.

Book Group members will discuss the book on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the library and via Zoom. Copies are available in

the library. Call 508-867-0208 for more information, or to access the Zoom link.

Meanwhile, the storytelling event originally scheduled for Jan. 22 has been rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m. in the Children's Library. Award-winning Japanese storyteller Motoko Dworkin will present her program "Stories from Asia", which features songs, origami, and multicultural Asian folktales.

For more information about Dworkin, visit her website at www.motoko.folktales.net. To register for this program, call the library at 508-867-0208.

Patrons are reminded that, from Feb. 1 through March 31, Cradles to Crayons, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and Wonderfund are once again coming together to collect new pajamas for local children living in low-income and homeless situations.

Altogether, officials are looking to collect 5,000 pairs of pajamas.

"By supporting this drive, you will directly supply new pajamas to the children who need them most so they can stay warm while sleeping," read a statement released by the library.

Donations of new pajamas are sought in a variety of sizes, from 2T through adult medium. Please do not give pajamas that include any family or holiday references.

Finally, Deb Hill is thanked for creating an arrangement for the library's entrance display case. The New England Wildlife exhibit features many books and videos from the library's children's and adult collections.

"We are so lucky that Deb shares her amazing talent with us," the library statement read.

For more information about upcoming library programs, call 508-867-0208.

O'Coin earns spot on Emmanuel College Dean's List

BOSTON - Emmanuel College has named Emma O'Coin of Leicester to the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

Emmanuel College is a co-educational, residential institution with a 17-acre campus in the heart of Boston's educational, scientific, cultural and medical communities. Enrolling nearly 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the College provides boundless oppor-

tunities for students to expand their worldview through rigorous coursework, significant internship and career opportunities throughout the Boston area and beyond, collaborations with distinguished and dedicated faculty, and participation in a dynamic campus community. Emmanuel's more than 70 programs in the sciences, liberal arts, business, nursing, and education foster spirited discourse and substantive learning experiences that honor the College's Catholic educational mission to educate the whole person and provide an ethical and relevant 21st-century education.



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Massasoit Art Guild marks 20th anniversary

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – In celebration of its 20th anniversary this month, the Massasoit Art Guild is taking time to recognize its artists and their inspirations.

Comprised of artists and photographers from throughout central Massachusetts, the guild is celebrating its anniversary with a number of special programs and projects.

Reflecting on two decades of the guild supporting local creators, members are quick to think back to its origins. Artist Norman Cabana gathered a small group of fellow artists, and their momentum escalated with each passing year as new members joined. The group has come a long way since its first meeting in 2002 at Spencer's Richard Sugden Public Library.

"Our vision for the guild was that everyone seeking to grow as artists would feel welcome, nurtured, and encouraged," said founding member Deborah Kirk. "The sense of a supportive creative community was there from the start. It has been a delight for me to see how much the artists who joined us have grown in their abilities and confidence. The annual art show is proof of that."

The two-day art show, held in the fall at Spencer Town Hall, draws a strong attendance each year. The program showcases paintings, photography, and other works from group members.

"I am a painter, as well as a photographer, and am active in both

guild groups," said member Margaret Emerson. "It has been an opportunity to meet other people who understand making art and learn from them, and to take part in art-related activities, especially photo shoots. Guild members are always ready to share what they know."

Guild members bring a range of backgrounds and experience levels, and they always enjoy coming together to celebrate fellow artists.

"MAG has been a valuable and wonderful transition for me since my retirement five years ago as an art teacher," said member Irena Russell.

Added Don Beal, "I joined the MAG photo group because I needed to expand what little I was doing with photography. I had not belonged to a camera club for many years, and that was long before digital photography. Getting together with others who had a similar interest is good for me, and so is the exchange of ideas and techniques."

Member Nancy McBride listed several activities that she enjoys with fellow guild members. These include Wednesday morning sessions (offered live or on Zoom); learning new techniques from each other in mini-workshops; exchanging ideas; and providing critiques upon request.

Guild members also appreciate the ability to collaborate with longtime members and newcomers alike. They always welcome new members to join the group.

"I am a fairly new member to the guild; as a member of the guild's photo group, I have learned a lot from our

monthly meetings, whether in person or on Zoom," said member Wendy Fulginiti. "Before I took up photography many years ago, I was a painter and last year I decided to take a Zoom class being taught by artist Linda Spencer. It was the first time I picked up a brush in almost 20 years. The guild has motivated me as an artist and as a photographer to be the best I can be. I have made lasting friendships."

Added Ellen Smith, "Membership in the guild's photo group provides me with learning opportunities and exercises that challenge and expand my experience with my camera."

Three of Smith's favorite group shoots were "Birdfeeding at Quabbin"; "Frozen Bubbles"; and "Still Lifes at the Studio."

As part of its 20-year celebration of art, the guild is asking members to submit any photos of events or memories of the organization that can be included in a special anniversary online gallery.

"We hope to create a visual history of The Guild through the eyes of our members. We know many of you have photos that you have taken over the years, and we would love to feature them as part of our celebration," read the guild's February newsletter.

If you would like to submit your photos, send an email to massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

Also in celebration of the Massasoit Art Guild's 20th anniversary, members are invited to participate in an art and photography challenge.

Submit a piece of original artwork or photography that uses the number or concept of 20 (members only).

Entries will be displayed in a special gallery on the guild's website, as well as its social media sites. The winner will be awarded a cash prize and will have a special display at the guild's 2022 art show.

The deadline for submission is Aug. 31. Photos of entries can be sent to massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

LEAK

continued from page A1

Tencza did not respond to the New Leader's requests for comment on this article. Last month, the Superintendent announced that she will retire at the end of the school year.

To access the informational document on the incident, visit www.leicesterma.org.

PERSON of the WEEK

JUDI BRENNAN, Spencer, MA

Judi is being recognized for all that she does for Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish in Spencer. She has worked countless hours, even late into the night, restoring the Nativity set and the angels on the High Altar. Previously she restored the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the East Side Altar. Thank you, Judi, for the gifts of your exceptional talent and abundance of your time devoted to our parish.

— Submitted by Susan Terkanian

If you would like to nominate someone or a group of people for 2022, please email your suggestion to June at jsima@stonebridgepress.news. Thank you.

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Leicester officials vote to reopen town buildings

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – With COVID-19 cases continuing to decline, the Select Board voted last week to reopen Town Hall, Leicester Public Library, and the Senior Center to the public.

The reopenings went into immediate effect following the Feb. 7 meeting. Selectmen also unanimously voted to make masks optional inside municipal buildings, based on individuals' personal comfort levels.

COVID-19 hospitalizations have declined across the region and the state in recent weeks. Local towns continue to drop mask mandates and reopen buildings.

"I think it is a step in the right direction, as the numbers have dropped dramatically," Selectman Allen Phillips

said of the Feb. 7 vote.

Library and Senior Center officials are thrilled to welcome patrons back for programs and activities. At the library, lobby pickups will continue to be made available upon request. A full schedule of programs is listed on the library's Web site: www.leicesterlibrary.org.

Also at the Feb. 7 Select Board meeting, selectmen voted to lease the Swan Library to the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center, which is currently located in Grafton.

Acquired by the town as part of the former Becker College acquisition this past fall, Swan Library will be a vibrant part of the town center moving forward, officials said. The State Police Museum and Learning Center is scheduled to move into the library on March 1, which will begin the one-year lease period.

The Select Board also voted on Feb. 7 to create a dog park on the property adjacent to the vet clinic on the former Becker grounds. Set to be named "Bark Park," the facility will feature a fenced-in area for large dogs and a smaller fenced area for dogs under 25 pounds.

The park will feature agility equipment that can be used for dogs to play and exercise on. All of the equipment is already owned by the town through the acquisition of the former college, and the area is already fenced and needs minor repairs, officials said.

The park will have a committee made up of town volunteers. Signs will be posted to display the rules for users of the facility.

Additional information on the park will be released soon.

West Brookfield Democrats to hold caucus Feb. 24

WEST BROOKFIELD — With an exciting statewide election year approaching, the Democratic Town Committee urges registered Democratic voters to participate in the 2022 Town Caucus to select state party convention delegates. These delegates, in turn, will help select the party nominees for statewide offices including governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state and more.

Any Democrat can run to be elected a delegate at this caucus. This will be an online caucus via Zoom beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24. Voting will follow registration of participants to verify party affiliation. There will also be local updates on plans by the local Democratic Committee for 2022.

State policies not only impact our daily lives but lay groundwork for our state's federal legislators to make decisions in a closely divided Congress. It's not too late to register as a Democrat at the Town Clerk's office and registration cards will also be available by signing on to the event.

To receive the Zoom link and participate, email wbtcd01585@gmail.com. As

is often said: "All government is local" so easy participation can help bring better policy decisions affecting you and your family.

Leicester Democrats to hold caucus

LEICESTER — The Leicester Democratic Town Committee caucus will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. If you want to attend the Convention, you must be elected at this Caucus. Only registered Leicester Democrats can be elected. If you know of any registered Democrat who is interested, please let them know.

The main purpose of the Caucus is to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention which will be held in Worcester at the DCU Center on June 3 and 4. You may attend the Convention virtually. We are allowed five delegates and four alternates who will endorse statewide candidates, including a candidate for Governor.

In order to attend the Caucus you must email LeicesterDTC@gmail.com with your name and address in order to receive an invitation.

Email LeicesterDTC@gmail.com if you have any questions.



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Vertical gardening maximizes beauty and harvest

Go vertical to expand your outdoor gardening space, create privacy and add beauty to bare walls and fences. This centuries-old technique has been used to grow food and flowers, adding beauty and productivity from the ground up. Even those gardening on small city lots, balconies and decks can go vertical to expand their gardening opportunities.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

like the Vigoroot 4-Tiered Balcony Garden provide lots of planting space in just a few square feet.

Include trellises and arbors in raised beds and elevated gardens to further maximize growing space. Trellises train vines upward while arches allow you to grow two layers of plants, one over the trellis and one below.

Dress up a bare wall or fence, screen a bad view or create privacy with a plant-covered trellis. Leave space between the wall and trellis when gardening next to a building. This space allows airflow between the building and plants, reducing the risk of mildew on the wall and diseases infecting the plants.

Grow annual vines for quick cover and perennial vines for years of beauty. Mix the two to quickly cover the trellis with the annual vine while waiting for the perennial to establish and reach its mature size. Plant two vines with different bloom times on one trellis to extend the colorful flower display. Or look for those that bloom at the same time to double the floral impact.

Use decorative supports to add beauty or a focal point year-round. Select the style – rustic, formal or colorful – that complements your garden design, furnishings, and personality. Make sure whatever you choose is strong enough to support the plants you grow.

Mask rain barrels, compost bins and other functional areas in the landscape with a wall of plants. Leave space for easy access as you fill your compost bin or harvest finished compost and rainwater.

Dress up a lamp or mailbox post with a vine covered support. Create your own from chicken wire or purchase a curved trellis like the Bosmere Trellis (gardeners.com) suitable for this application.

Use trellises and arbors to brighten often overlooked spaces. A vine-covered arbor makes a nice floral welcome at the entrance to a walkway or colorful transition between garden areas. Make sure the opening is large enough to accommodate visitors and any equipment needed.

No matter your style and location, vertical gardens can help you maximize your growing space and garden's beauty.



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Grow a vegetable garden vertically in a compact space whether on a balcony or patio.

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 *Gardener's Supply* for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Disabled American Veterans grateful for community's support

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD – Local residents are thanked for their continued support that fuels the mission of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 59.

In a recent letter written by DAV Chapter 59 Commander Roland Langlois, supporters were thanked for their contributions each year. One hundred percent of donations are used to assist veterans and their families in a number of ways. These include assistance with food and clothing; rides to medical appointments; support for family members; and home visits.

The West Brookfield-based chapter also helps local veterans and their families secure needed equipment like wheelchairs, walkers, and bathroom accessories.

"As a service officer, I will do everything possible to help you get your VA claim through," Langlois wrote. "Both myself and my new service officer, Lee Boss, have worked on many cases

in the last year, some with great outcomes and some we continue to fight for."

One of the veterans Langlois and his team are currently assisting is Roger Lahair and his wife, Mary.

A Vietnam War combat veteran, Lahair took part in missions to rescue wounded soldiers while under fire. Lahair was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, which doctors believe was caused by exposure to Agent Orange during his service. In November, he underwent a procedure to remove a large tumor from his head, and he is now teaming up with DAV Chapter 59 in a battle for financial assistance while he fights for his life.

Lahair only received ten percent of the monies he was seeking in assistance from the VA. With help from Chapter 59 of the DAV, new documentation is being sent to the VA to support Lahair's claim.

"We are still appealing his case," wrote Langlois, who is also a Vietnam War veteran. "Roger

is not asking for money for himself, but something to care for his wife when he's gone."

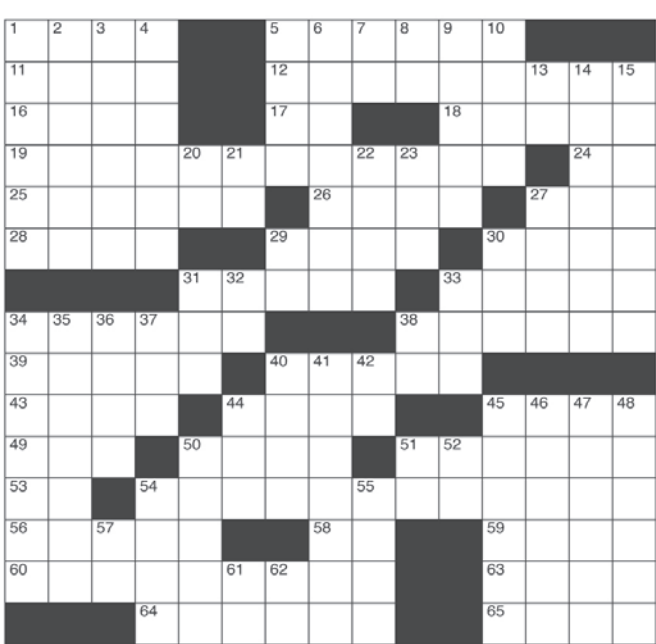
Langlois and his team urge veterans to file claims as early as possible to get the process started. If assistance is needed in the process, the DAV is here to help.

"I have seen too often veterans who should have filed years ago. Waiting until the last minute to file claims, it's harder for the veteran and family. Please talk to us now," Langlois wrote.

Langlois and his team remain steadfast in their mission to assist individuals who have served our country, as well as their family members.

"The goal of our DAV Chapter is to provide the best care and assistance to help all our veterans," Langlois added. "They have done their job for this country in keeping us all free."

If you would like to support DAV Chapter 59, the organization accepts donations to: Disabled American Veterans Chapter 59 (54 Eagle St., Ware).



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Remain as is
- 5. Functional
- 11. News magazine
- 12. Popular treat
- 16. Area units
- 17. Artificial intelligence
- 18. Marten valued for its fur
- 19. Forms of matter
- 24. Home of the Dodgers
- 25. Bordering
- 26. Part of the eye
- 27. It might be nervous
- 28. Visualizes
- 29. Crest of a hill
- 30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
- 31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
- 33. Not easily explained
- 34. Song in short stanzas
- 38. Detonations
- 39. Intestinal
- 40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri ___
- 43. Balmy
- 44. New Mexico mountain town
- 45. Gobblers
- 49. Insecticide
- 50. Golf scores
- 51. Has its own altar
- 53. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 54. Being livable
- 56. NHL play-by-play man
- 58. "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.)
- 59. Unpainted
- 60. Swam underwater
- 63. Native American people
- 64. Containing salt
- 65. Exam

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Small bone in middle ear
- 2. Long, angry speech
- 3. Move out of
- 4. Male organ
- 5. Two-toed sloth
- 6. Making dirty
- 7. Article
- 8. Oil company
- 9. Emits coherent radiation
- 10. Amounts of time
- 13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Forbidden by law
- 15. Drains away
- 20. Not out
- 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
- 22. Bird genus
- 23. Gratuity
- 27. ___ and feathers
- 29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
- 30. Hot beverage
- 31. Pouch
- 32. It followed the cassette
- 33. Large northern deer
- 34. Ones who offer formally
- 35. Famed genie
- 36. Bequeathed
- 37. Skeletal muscle
- 38. Atomic #56
- 40. Silk garment
- 41. They deliver the mail
- 42. Equally
- 44. Check
- 45. Light-colored breed of hound
- 46. Drug that soothes
- 47. Railroads
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Jacket
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Hello
- 54. His and ___
- 55. Supporter
- 57. Popular software suite (abbr.)
- 61. Railway
- 62. NY coastal region (abbr.)



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\$315,000, 153 North St, Ocoino, Amy L, and Gilman, Martin, to Field, Briana L, and Grady, Ryan J.

LEICESTER
\$415,000, 6 Marshall St, Baniukiewicz, Alan E, and Baniukiewicz, Alan, to McDonald, Kelly, and McDonald, Aaron.
\$360,000, 16 Young St, Looney, Patricia A, to Bradshaw, Gabrielle E, and Williams-Wint, Derekke K.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
\$300,000, 89 S Main St, Field, Briana L, and Field, Briana, to Saldana, Sadie A.
\$89,900, 9 Bell Rd, Cote, Robert, to Bryant, Abbey, and Andre, Anthony.

SPENCER
\$379,900, 17 Greenville St, Sullivan, Kyle, and Sullivan, Josephina, to Lopez Jr, Norberto R, and Santiago, J Margarita.
\$155,000, 45 Temple St, Zidan, Refqa A, to Horus RT, and Salib, Mina.
\$76,000, Lyford Rd, Doubleday Roger T Est, and White, Joy, to White, Joy, and White, Michael G.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$425,000, 405 Wickaboag Valley Rd, Zhao, Lian Z, to Bulux-Garcia, Henry, and Hillman, Joseph.
\$385,000, 11 Oak St, Rollins, Virginia, to Bower, Robert.
\$10,000, 60 Forest Dr #4, Bodner-Shapiro, Polina, and Hamilton, Jeannette C, to Jamieson, Lawrence C, and Jamieson, Jared E.

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SPENCER NEW LEADER
PUBLISHED BY
STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DiNICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernews.com

The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical Postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

Insightful

North Brookfield Savings Bank grows lending teams

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the hiring of Tricia Welzyn of Chicopee as Commercial Loan Administrator/ Jr. Credit Analyst to the Bank's Business Center.

"Tricia's comprehensive background and broad knowledge in the commercial lending industry strengthen our Business Center, allowing us to continue to grow our commercial presence within Massachusetts and Connecticut," said North Brookfield Savings Bank President Marco Bernasconi Jr. "I am confident she will be instrumental in helping our business customers to obtain ongoing success."

Welzyn will be based out of the North Brookfield Savings Bank Business Center at 40 Main St. on Route 9 in Ware. She most recently served as a Business Lending Specialist at PeoplesBank. Tricia was responsible for spreading financials, monitoring pipeline reports, verifying incoming applications for completeness, and ensuring timelines for compliance for receiving documentation and decision making. Welzyn holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from BayPath University and an MBA from American International College.

Recently, Welzyn held the position of Co-Treasurer for the Salvation Army of Greater Hartford and volunteered for the Suffield, Conn. Meals on Wheels program.

"I am looking forward to being able to grow with the organization and work with the Commercial staff to continue its growth and develop relationships with the customers," said Commercial Loan Administrator/ Jr. Credit Analyst Tricia Welzyn, "My goal is to cultivate relationships not only with my new co-workers but with the customers, other departments, and centers of influence, that is imperative to the successful completion of loan closings. I want to learn from my co-workers as much as I can to continue my personal growth within the Commercial Department."

Will Kerrissey, a resident of Sutton, has recently been hired to the Commercial Lending Team at North Brookfield Savings Bank as SVP, Commercial Loan Officer.

Kerrissey brings excellent insight to this already diverse team with his robust skillset and experience in Commercial Lending. He will work with customers on Commercial Lending origination, manage current customer portfolios, and expand our business lending service area.

Kerrissey will be based out of the North Brookfield Savings Bank Business Center located at 40 Main St., on Route 9 in Ware. He most recently served as Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer at BankHometown.

"Why did I come to North Brookfield Savings Bank?" he says. "The culture."

Kerrissey currently holds Commercial Credit for Lenders certifications through RMA and the Loan Officer Resident Seminar through RMA. Will is all about community; he held the position of Vice President through the "Millbury Dollars for Scholars Program," Corporator at the Whittin Community Center, and finally Corporator at the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation.

"The culture and dynamics of a smaller community bank, as well as the challenge to grow a commercial portfolio slightly outside of the home market, in the Worcester and Blackstone Valley markets, is something I am looking forward to in this new role," said Senior Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer Will Kerrissey, "My goal is to help grow the commercial lending department at North Brookfield Savings Bank and to reach new areas. We want to offer the friendly, knowledgeable service to business customers in our area, helping them find the best commercial loan and deposit products to help their business run smoothly."

Danielle Verbich, a resident of Bellingham, is the newest addition to

the Commercial Lending Team at North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Verbich will be a powerful addition to this strong team with her seasoned small business lending skillset. She obtained relationship-building experience with internal and external referral sources and prides herself on solving customers' problems. She joins us from Milford Federal.

Verbich will be based out of the North Brookfield Savings Bank Business Center located at 40 Main Street on Route 9 in Ware, where she will be the "go-to" person for SBA Lending in her capacity as a Commercial Loan Officer. Also, while at Milford, she partnered with the retail team to complete and maintain business development initiatives. Danielle was the Bank's SBA 7A and the PPP expert.

Verbich has a Bachelor's degree of Science in Communications from Suffolk University. She also has a certificate in Commercial Credit Analysis from the Massachusetts Bankers Association.

Recently, Verbich sat on the Board and holds the position of Chairwoman of the "Connecting Women Leaders Group" at the Milford Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I look forward to building relationships within the Bank and within the communities with our customers," said AVP, Commercial Loan Officer Danielle Verbich, "My goals for this new position are to introduce potential borrowers to North Brookfield Savings Bank and partner with retail on business development initiatives."

Michael Pinkerton, a Quaker Hill, Connecticut resident, has been hired to the Residential Lending Team at North Brookfield Savings Bank. He joins the Bank as an AVP, Sr. Mortgage Specialist.

Pinkerton will complement this strong team with his robust skill set and experience. He will work with our lenders to process and coordinate activities of loan processors to assure complete,

proper, and timely mortgage processing, evaluate and underwrite mortgage applications and assure that all underwriting conditions are met. Further, he will inform and advise management of current practices in loan underwriting, including current trends in the local real estate market and loan programs offered by competitors.

Pinkerton will be based out of the North Brookfield Savings Bank Corporate Headquarters located at 35 Summer Street in North Brookfield.

Pinkerton joined us most recently from Chelsea Groton Bank, where he held the title of Retail Lending Underwriter II, where he stayed for six years. Mike has combined experience of more than 12 years in the industry. He plans to bring this knowledge and efforts to the Residential team in various ways.

Pinkerton currently holds the following degrees; Master's Business Administration from the University of New Haven, Bachelor of Science Degree from Mitchell College, Associates of Science Degree from Three Rivers Community College, and Associate of Arts Degree from Three Rivers Community College.

Mike is a proud Veteran of the U.S. Navy. He held the position of Nuclear Submarine Petty Officer, where he worked hard and gained experience for over nine years. Mike is very dedicated to involvement in his local community and donates his time to the Wounded Warrior Project, Habitat for Humanity (S.E. Connecticut), Veterans Center of C.T., and Guardians of the Purple Heart Military Veteran Organization, to name a few.

"My main goal is to collaborate with the new Residential Lending Team to bring knowledge and expertise to the Team," said AVP, Sr. Mortgage Specialist Mike Pinkerton. "I also hope to convert the Residential Lending Department to a paperless environment by March 2022."

Adeline M. Ford named to President's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) is pleased to announce that Adeline Ford of West Brookfield has been named to the President's List for the Fall Semester 2021. Ford is one of almost 500 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

A model for the "New Traditional University," Western New England University is among just 13 percent of private (5,000 students or less) institutions ranked among US News and World Report "National Universities" and a "Top 100 Engineering Program." WNE enrolls 3,690 students, including 2,552 full-time undergraduate, in bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at its Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business,

Engineering, Pharmacy & Health Sciences, and School of Law.

Ford is working toward a BS in Health Sciences.

A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the

workplace of the future.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-

time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region,

residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

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BAY PATH HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

Grade 12

High Honors: Connor Barton, Justin Barton, Hayden Bourgeois, Alexia Brown, Catalina Burden, Dylan Butkus, Diego Canovas, Isabella Capuano, Jackson Chaffee, Anaya Compres, Dylan Cotton, Carter Coughlin, Marisa DeJesus, Chloe Dexter, Erin Donahue, Marlee Donohoe, Lillian Dunkerton, Adeline Gaiquinto, Ashley Hamel, Zachary Hinan, Nicholas Hunter, Tiffany King, Cole Komssi, Bethany Lasell, Madigan McManus, Amber Mercon, Giovanni Morales, Aidan Oosterman, Paige Osche, Aaliyah Perez, Jacqueline Ross, Luzyvette Sagastibelza-Lopez, Jayna Schmohl, Anthony Seymour, Ethan Shanbaum, Daniel Sibert, Sarah Simpson, Olivia St. Germain, Isabella Tanacea, Scarlet Taveras, Mackenzie Tupaj, Tyler Verrier, Mateusz Zych

Honors: Lana Antocci, Thomas Becker, Thomas Benoit, Sadie Bickford, Brian Bonnette, Rebecca Boutilette, Patrick Campbell, Andrew Cannon, Graham Carbonneau, Jayden Caribo, Adriana Carignan, Gabriella Carlin, Stephanie Chege, Aiden Chernisky, Abby Christian, Izabella Coughlin, Hailey Cournoyer, Chad Cutroni, Anthony DeFilippo, Lillian Dolan, Cody Douglas, Nathan Dreitlein, Nathan Dubeau, May Emisranunt, Johnathon Ferreira, Colin Gagne, Danielle Gautier, Isabella Gervais, Gavin Gillet, Genesis Gonzalez, Nicholas Gosselin, Julia Graveson, Nathan Gulkin, Cameron Hafner, Logan Johnson, Molly Johnson, Kira Kalwarczyk, Lucas Kaufman, Wyatt Kelly, Ryan Kempskie, Kevin Kilcourse, Ryan Komssi, Andrew Leach, Jacob LeBrun, William LeCuyer, Marguerite MacKenzie, Anthony Martins, Alannah Matthews, Allison Maynard, Richard Menard IV, Aaron Mitchell, Olivia Morin, Samuel Murillo, William Ofori, Angelina Ortiz, Gabrielle Packard, Ilias Perez, Jackson Phillon, Hunter Pocs, Krystal Quadarella, Lukas Rafferty, Evanie Rodriguez, Keith Royewicz, Alex Saad, Zachary Sargent, Kristina Scott, Caroline Soucy, Kyra Stevens, Francheska Toribio-Polanco, Camden Towns, Aaliyah Tremblay Collins, Jared Tucker, Rohan Vaidya, Kyle VanCott, Adriana Vazquez Gonzalez, Isaac Vieira, Aleix Westmoreland

Principal's List: Nathaniel Anderson, Dominic Benvenuti, Jayde Berthiaume, Kylie Bouchard, Harmony Caranci, Tinaya Chauvin, Connor Clardy, Jonathan Colon, Chynna Cote, Nathan Cuff, Harmony Desrosiers, Laura Featherstone, Austin Fish, Brady Garabedian, Amie Grenier, Aidan Hall, Haevyn Hazzard, Julia Higgins, Chloe Jordan, Jason Kozlowski, Taylor Labrecque, Cody LaMonda, Lexie MacDonald, John Marchetti, Emma Marcotte, Brandon Martocci, Evan O'Malley, Elijah Paddock, Michael Pashoian, Michael Riberdy, Carlos

Rosado, Jack Sansoucy, Keaghan Spring, Isabella Strzelecki, Jalissa Torres, Jomar Torres, Aaron Trahan

Grade 11

Sincere Bailey, Olivai Beaudette, Miranda Burden, Cheryl Dolson, Brenna Donohue, Elizabeth Dretlein, Jayden Flanders, Tori Fontaine, Evan Gelineau, John Guerin, Emma Hasselton, Samantha Inangelo, Grace Jones, Hunter Kelley, Aidan LaFrance, Sydney Lamontagne, Jaysi Miller, Mackenzie Morrisey, Merissa Murray, Gabrielle Oikle, Michaen Pacheco, Wyatt Sadusky, Jazlynn Santana, Arminda Simoes, Terry Simon, Jacob Thomas, Jonathan Young

Honors: Jake Aho, Samuel Audunsson, Lukus Bachand, Haven Banks, Quinn Beck, Alexander Besaw, Samuel Boria, Andrew Bottcher, Aleana Brayton, Dennis Brunelle, Connor Burke, Matthew Casati, Daniel Chaffee, Michael Chansignavong, Amanda Christianson, Isabella Coleman, Makayla Collins, Anthony Comforti, Caleb Jude Corpuz, Ryan Davis, Cam'Ron Desrosiers, Ronald Desrosiers, Gabriel Espinosa, Zachary Finizza, Evan Frost, Aiden Gelardi, Emily Gelineau, Noah Gilspin, Adrian Gonzalez, Osiris Gonzalez, Julius Guillen, Barry Hanson, Luke Hill, Rebeka Janusz, Tatyanna Johnny, Matthew Kallgren, Nakia L'Ecuyer, Anna L'Esperance, James LeProhon, Gianaleze Lopez, Yamilisha Machado, Judly Maignan, Michael Mallette, Jaime Marrero, Alyssa Masciarelli, Connor McCarthy, Rachel McMenemy, Erika Melendez, Trinity Mercier, Dylan Morrison Ilvonen, Stephen Ngaruiya, Jonathan Nussey, Joelle Peluso, Kiyana Perez, Amelia Peterson, Damon Provencal, Timothy Putnam, Hilary Queirolo, Emma Rannikko, Sabrina Rodrigues, Abraham Routhier, Nolan Sharry, Sawyer Smith, Evan St. Cyr, Emma St. Francis, Gavin Suprenant, Damion Szafarowicz, Alexander Tetreault, Lucas Welton, Emily Westwell, Jacob Wilga

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Grade 10

High Honors: Sophia Balestracci, Ryan Bray, Riley Caruso, Meredith Clark, Kirsten Congdon, Mariselle Cosme, Dylan DeJesus, Jonathan Forget, Jenna Gajewski, Simon Greening, Lucas Hafner, Tristan Hanson, Carly Impey, Sarah Martin,

Shaun McLaughlin, Jenna McLeish, Maggie Mullaly, Adrianna Navarro, Kayla Nguyen, Peter Nhan, Madison Nolin, Nason Omasta, Peyton Parette, Noalani Perez, Emily Quental, Wendy Ramirez, Cody Savary, Amanda Seidler, Catherine Sirard, Jacob Sirard, Adriana Stanley, Alysha Szafarowicz, Victoria Tinsley, Jack Ugrinow, Hailey Williamson, Gabrielle Zopatti

Honors: Alexander Adkins, Aidan Anderson, Jacob Anderson, Kaidra Anderson, Alysia Bellamy, Hailey Benoit, Alex Beshiri, Luke Boliver, Alec Borelli, Samuel Brill, Vincent Brink, Samantha Buchanan, Caitlyn Burke, Rachel Carpenter, Olivia Carrier, Petru Cococar, Yanieris Colon Vega, Shane Conti, Zachary Cournoyer, Peter Courville, Kyleigh Czechowski, LeeAnn Dagnese, Daniel Daige, Wyatt Daoust, Pedro Augusto Dasilva, Emma Davidson, Emma DeJong, Sean Derenas, Andrew Dip, Jayden James Dunston, Noah Dupont, Jibril Erraihani, Jared Evora, James Ferreira, Kacey Flanagan, Robert Fleck IV, Ethan Gallant, Giovanni Garcia, Devin Gavalet, Rachel Gormley, Makayla Graham, Kendal Griffin, Renee Hallaman, Bridget Hast, Riley Heenan, Alba Henriquez Baez, Isabelle Herholz, Valerie Hernandez, James Heywood, Derek Hosley, Ian James, Stanislaw Janusz, Eva Jerez, Jadyn Katz, Abigail Kibaru, Jordan Kippax, Madisyn Kozlowski, Alyssa Kutzko, Matthew Lach, Julianna Laforce, Benjamin LaTour, Anna Lehtola, Emma Lévasseur, Kristina Liberty, Albert Luciano, Catherine Magnusson, Marissa Masciarelli, Matteo Mastrototaro, Logan McCann, Vincent Messier, Cole Mitchell, Leah Monti, Dorina Muska, Christian Nguyen, Megan O'Shea, Noah Okolita, Vanessa Paddock, Gianna Pantalone, Brayden Parente, Esteban Primental, Colin Plante, Laci Pollone, Nicholas Pollone, Jared Powell, Logan Powers, Evan Provost, Wyatt Rafferty, Jayden Remillard, Nayeli Rodriguez, Daniel Russell, Liam Ryan, Paige Seymour, Sydney Seymour, Gerald Splaine, Ashton Stockenberg, Alan Suklis, Colton Tittle, Jeralys Torres Soto, Landon Walker, Timothy Welch, Thomas Wilk, Charlotte Worster, Stone Zink

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Grade 9

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Noah Goulet, Matthew Guerin, Kayah Jadcak, Leah Johnson, Anya Kittredge, Samantha Landgren, Lillian Maglich, Ayla McGrail, Jersey Mejias, Cheyenne Monsen, Julian Mucci, Maya Ortiz, Raegan Perreault, Willis Perreault, Melany Rebeiro, Savannah Steiner, Madison Teal, Cassandra Tinsley, Manaali Vaidya, Angelica Vega, Adrian Vitkos, Alison Welton

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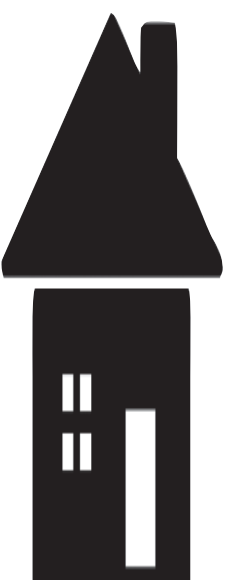
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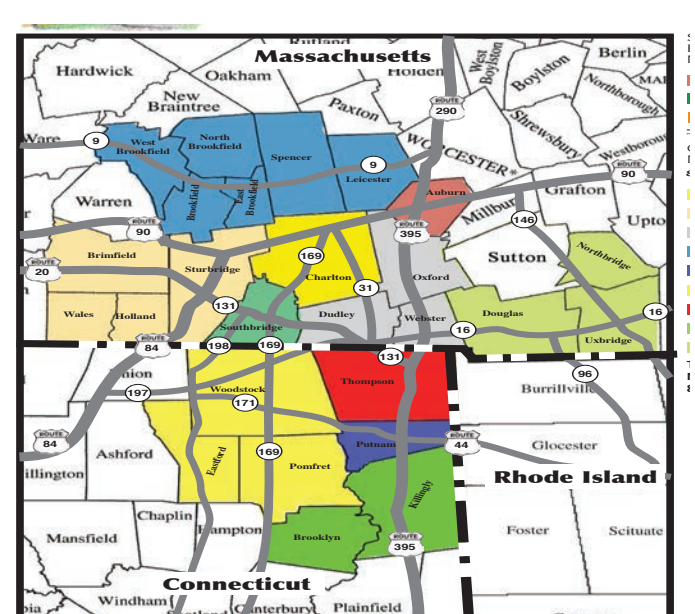
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

*Thank you
 for helping
 us thrive*

Our local papers are more important now than ever. Not only is the small-town newspaper tradition alive and well, but they are making a valiant come back across the country, thanks to local advertisers and loyal readers like you.

Small town papers have always “carried a big stick,” as some say, with the power to inform, highlight and bring the community together in an organized way. Our newspapers may not be important to those far and wide; however, they are everything to the readers who call these small communities home, and that is what matters, and we know it.

Locals reading about locals, in news reported by locals, means just one thing. Trust. A small-town paper delivers just that, and that relationship between readers and the paper means everything.

Over the years, there has been chatter in regard to digital media affecting print media. This may be true on a larger scale, but it’s the small-town paper that delivers the news that directly affects its readers. News from a local paper can prepare you for things that may impact your daily life. You can’t read a local police log, or know what is going on down at Town Hall, by reading the Washington Post.

Our favorite thing about running a local paper is the ability to highlight local achievements. Local sports teams, or graduates who move on to do big things, or locals who deserve accolades for a job well done, can be found off the rack of your local store. This is so important in making people know they are valued members of the community.

For our papers to still be thriving in the wake of a worldwide pandemic and months-long lockdown is no small achievement. News coverage, news gathering and technology have changed over the years, however our papers do fit into today’s world.

A wise publisher once wrote, “Once a week, we deserve to take the time to slow things down, grab a cup of our favorite beverage and immerse ourselves in the local, close, cozy community feeling of a hometown newspaper. The kind you can lean your elbows on as you scan the weekly specials; the kind with accidental coffee rings, folded and creased to fit in a briefcase or handbag; the kind that prints pics of YOUR kids, YOUR neighbors, YOUR organization, YOUR school.”

Thank you for making us proud to reflect and celebrate our community every week.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you’re important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

You’ll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don’t have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you’re going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use your time wisely

To the Editor:
 This letter is in regards to the article in the Spencer New Leader Friday, Feb. 4 Editorial page 8, “Time lost can never be regained.”

You are 100 percent correct. After serving more than 45 years in prison, I longed for the time I lost, but when you look at things realistically, the only time going backwards, in most cases, is in your memory. My memories of the past 45-plus years, for the most part, have been a nightmare.

After walking out of prison on Dec. 31, 2021, I realized my time could only be one day at a time. No drugs. No alcohol. And to many, alcohol is a drug.

My vacation right now is walking around Walmart or some other store, or even a trip to a restaurant, and a trip is a ride in a car, or just going somewhere without handcuffs or shackles on my feet.

Money: the greatest riches you can have are the ones of the heart and mind. Love your family and friends dearly, even your next door neighbor; and the person you meet in Walmart or the restaurant. But most importantly, love and respect yourself. When you do, your work will be done, and you’ll never believe in the pay you will receive.

In prison, there is only time. Time away from family and friends. Time that can never be regained. Use your time of freedom wisely. Love and respect always.

Have hope — not dope!
 Stay safe. Keep smiling.
 All the way!
 Can do!

HANK HOUGHTON
 W. BROOKFIELD

Freedom of the press

To the Editor
 I’m glad to see the re-emergence of Mr. McRae in the pages of the New Leader, and hope that one of our nation’s most valuable rights as Americans, the First Amendment and the right to speak freely, has been re-established. As a reader of the New Leader, I frequently disagree with contributors thoughts and opinions in the Letters to the Editor Section, and oftentimes I’m offended by the subject matter or the manner in which it is presented by the writer. Isn’t that a great thing — to speak your mind and if you’re lucky enough, motivate another individual to respond, whether you agree or disagree! That point is exemplified perfectly with Mr. McRae’s contributions and the responses to his articles!

Discourse is a positive attribute, and should be considered beneficial by all. The more offensive or objectionable a subject matter may be is exactly the reason for it to be presented and protected! The Founders nailed that one.

On a much more important note, con-

sidering what’s going on in our country and around the world currently, give this some thought and consideration.

How many individuals have sacrificed everything; how many families have, over the history of our great nation, given their sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, loved ones so we can live as we do in freedom? This is the greatest country on the planet; do not accept anything different. Do we have issues and problems? Yes, but we have always moved forward, and improved along the way. Appreciate what you have, the gifts you have received from our founders, and those who have given all, along the way so you can reap the benefits of their sacrifice. Please don’t disappoint those who provided the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave!

Let freedom ring!

MATTHEW DEFOSSE
 SPENCER

Just call me stupid

To the Editor:
 “Just call me stupid” is what a lot of the Democrats are saying now after a year of Bidumb in the White House. They now know they were duped, lied, and taken to the cleaners by the Democratic socialist career politicians. They were used and are now abused like the simple-minded folks they are. They believed the message of “Unity”. They swallowed hook line and sinker that the solution to the Covid was forced mandates and destruction of your freedoms. They believed the lies of a new world peace and the that social equity was the answer to all the world’s problems. Now they just walk around and think “Just call me Stupid.”

The old Obama/ Biden administrations allowed Putin to annex the Crimea without a peep from NATO. They paid blackmail to Iran to stop making nuclear bombs. They sent Hillary over to North Korea to pay ransom to the little dictator: Donald Trump got into office and stopped these transgressions in their tracks. He killed the fake Iran Nuclear deal. He told the little dictator in Korea if he didn’t stop, he would be toast. He sent lethal aid to the Ukraine. He knew to deal with these thugs, you use strength. Now we have the weakest president ever in BiDumb with generals whose only skills are attacking are own soldiers. China, Russia, Iran, and Korea now this guy is a joke and are prepared to take full advantage. Anthony Blinken is a modern equivalent to Chamberlain. You know the British diplomat who tried to appease Hitler and precipitated WW II. When WW III starts because we put the weakest president and his woke cabinet in power; the Democrats will walk around muttering “Just call me Stupid.”

They will be muttering this too when they had to buy heating oil at \$3.32 a gallon or gas at \$3.52 a gallon. Or when they try to get their car fixed and no parts are available. Inflation is

taking off because of BiDumb’s policies. But we have the Democratic fake news media trying to spin it off as temporary, and good for the economy. We know the truth. Dopey Biden walks around and says he feels your pain. He should; he is the guy that caused it. I asked one Democrat how he likes the high energy process caused by the president. He said a president has no effect on the prices. I then looked him in the eyes and said didn’t you know he shut down the Keystone pipeline, stopped fracking and drilling on new federal grounds, and passed mandates to limit oil use. These people are oblivious to the facts. How was it under Trump that we had record low oil prices and a thriving economy? They just respond that Trump was crooked and a Russian agent. Same old drivel we heard for four years. As Jack Nicholson said in the movie “A Few Good Men,” these simpletons “Cannot handle the truth.”

The truth is, under Trump, our economy was the best. Unemployment of all races at the lowest ever. Prices for energy and food at record low levels. Wages increasing for all. Vaccines developed in records time and from what we know now he would have kept the economy humming while we weathered the Covid. Exactly like Florida and DeSantis are doing. Imagine if we they had supported Trump instead of being duped by the likes of Pelosi, Warren, Bernie, and all the other career snake oil salesman. Plus, we would have completed the wall and illegal immigration stopped. Instead, we have a country being ruined by an inept BiDumb and mentally bankrupt cabinet. The real Zombie apocalypse is the head hanging Democratic voters walking around muttering “Just call me Stupid.” Watch out, they might try to eat your Republican brains!

MARK ROBILLARD
 SPENCER

**What
 should you
 do with a
 tax refund?**

Are you expecting a tax refund this year? If so, what will you do with it?

Of course, the answer largely depends on the size of your refund. For the 2020 tax year, the average refund was about \$2,800, according to the Internal Revenue Service. But whether your refund this year will be about that size, smaller or larger, you can find ways to benefit from the money.



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Here are some possibilities:

Contribute to your IRA. You’ve got until April 18 to fully fund your IRA for the 2021 tax year. But if you’ve already reached the maximum for 2021, you could use some, or all, of your refund for your 2022 contribution. Assuming you did get around \$2,800, you’d be almost halfway to the \$6,000 annual contribution limit. (If you’re

50 or older, you can contribute up to \$7,000.)

Invest in a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren, you might want to invest your refund in a 529 education savings plan. A 529 plan’s earnings can grow federal income-tax free, and withdrawals are federal income-tax free provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. If you invest in your own state’s plan, you might get a tax deduction or credit. A 529 plan can be used to pay for college, vocational training and even some K-12 expenses in some states. Plus, if you name one child as a beneficiary, and that child’s educational journey does not require the funds from a 529 plan, you may change the beneficiary to another eligible family member of the original beneficiary.

Add to the “cash” part of your portfolio. It’s generally a smart move to keep at least a portion of your overall investment portfolio in cash or cash equivalents, because the presence of cash can help you in two ways. First, since its value won’t change, it can help cushion, at least to a degree, the effects of market volatility on your portfolio. And second, by having cash available, you’ll be ready to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities when they arise.

Boost your emergency fund. You could use your tax refund to start or supplement an emergency fund. Ideally, this fund should contain three to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. (If you’re already retired, you might need this fund to cover a full year’s worth of expenses.) Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into long-term investments to pay for costly housing or auto repairs or large medical bills.

Reduce your debt load. It’s not always easy to minimize your debt load, even if you’re careful about your spending habits. But the lower your debt payments, the more money you’ll have available to invest for your future. So, you may want to consider using some of your tax refund to pay off some debts, or at least reduce them, starting with those that carry the highest interest rates.

Donate to charity. You could use part of your refund to donate to a charitable organization whose work you support. And if you itemize on your tax return, part of your gift may be deductible.

A tax refund is always nice to receive — and it’s even better when you put the money to good use.

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.



**If it’s important
 to you, It’s
 important to us.**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What has happened to the leadership of Leicester's public schools?

To the Editor:

Can someone, for the love of God, just explain to the world, in simple terms, what is wrong with the top end of Leicester Public Schools? At this point, I'm convinced there's a cultural issue with main office leadership that seems to allow so many issues to percolate and manifest. The most recent one is money, something that taxpayers might find of importance. Be warned — what follows is talking about numbers, but it is frankly important given the fact that this doesn't lead to any good answers. Specifically, the school choice account. The town ledger for it reflects a debit of \$674,263.79 from the account for FY21, and a credit of \$967,735.92 for the same period, leading to and ending balance of \$1,012,077.33 in the account. The account being a revolving one, you roll over what you have at the end of the year into the start of the next year. Public data from DESE show that the school had incoming tuition of \$304,137 for the year and paid out \$220,996 for FY21.

With all that in mind, logic would dictate that the school's expense reports should line up with other available data, even if in a broken down form showing what money went where. If transfers into the account were made, they should show somewhere. In essence everything you did with that account should show on that report. Well, I was given a copy of that expense report second hand that had gone out in a public records request. And it doesn't even line up in the slightest with what else is already public. It makes it look like the school spent far less from the account than the town ledger would indicate, to the tune of \$10,644.87. And that they only took in money for school choice tuition and didn't send any out. Add the income to the starting balance at the beginning of FY21, take out the expenses and you get the same year end balance in the town ledger.

That is where you've got a major problem. When it comes to accounting for what has been spent anywhere, you can't have two different solutions to reach the final answer. And it's not like the numbers are remotely close. If there

was a difference of a few thousand bucks, then the likely answer I could think of is a number was transposed somewhere or a decimal point is off. I deal with bookkeeping for my day job, and it's not like that hasn't happened to anyone who works with bookkeeping at some point. It's really not that difficult. In that case it's relatively simple to fix when you go through your numbers and you identify where the problem is. We're talking about differences between the school's expense report and the town's ledger totals of easily \$650,000 both in what's going into the account and what's coming out. Any accountant worth their salt is going to look at those different numbers and know immediately something is way off and they need to check their work.

At the end of the day, there's two people holding this bag. The Superintendent, Marilyn Tencza, and the committee Chair, Tom Lauder. Now I am of the belief that this is not a new problem based on what I hear from people who've worked in that main office. This is a problem that predates Marilyn taking over as superintendent by a fair margin. But Tom has worked in the Leicester school system for decades on the professional side before going for the political in his retirement. And both Tom and Marilyn, for whatever I think of them personally in what I see of how they act, are not stupid by any stretch of the imagination. They're both quite intelligent. I seriously doubt this is something that either of them would miss. Frankly the same can be said of the whole committee, let alone anyone who deals with money in general. This isn't a small accounting error that someone might miss briefly going through a spreadsheet or report, this is a huge difference that that frankly is as subtle as a broadside from a battleship. Now with that in mind, would either Tom or Marilyn care to explain this massive discrepancy to the public? As that line from the Judge in Caddyshack goes, "Well, we're waiting!"

DYLAN LAMBERT
LEICESTER

Define patriotism

To the Editor:

I am seeing a lot of people throwing the words patriot or patriotism around. It seems that they want to be recognized as such, and by that claim alone, be given credence or authority. To me, a patriot would be one who stands up for, and espouses the values of their nation.

I have mentioned before that my ancestors arrived here in the early and mid-1600s, and so we are migrants, not immigrants. We have served in every conflict back to the French and Indian War, and, even since the end of the draft, I had both sons in the US Army on 9/11, currently have a granddaughter in the USAF, and a grandson who is awaiting induction into the army. There can be no doubt that my family are patriotic.

This aside, what makes us patriots is not just supporting, but also espousing that not only should every citizen have the right to vote, but that we all should take that right as a responsibility. Everyone wants to have the candidate or issue that they support prevail. The right way to obtain that, is vote for it, campaign and talk it up, to gain as much support from voters as you can. The unpatriotic, unethical way is to suppress other people's right to vote, dispense with equal partisan representation at the polls. Rocket science says a Dem and Repub sit beside each other to confirm your registration before handing you a ballot. Alike group checks off that you voted when vote submitted. Any place that cannot do this quickly, needs revision urgently.

If gerrymandered voting districts and counting the votes in your garage still do not yield desired outcomes, just discard all votes and let your partisan legislature decide who wins.

To his credit, President Trump funded and initiated Operation Warp Speed, to create an effective vaccine to combat the Covid-19 Coronavirus that was ravishing the world. Scientists who had been researching a vaccine, to address another corona virus named SARS, which had been around years ago, were able to use that research as a head start, and created vaccines in record time. As in previous battles, patriots stepped up to win this battle too. Although the format had been laid out to end this scourge, our troops had been infiltrated with non-patriots (though often identifying themselves

as patriots). Misinformation succeeded in getting these troops to declare freedom, was skipping masks and vaccines, passing this virus to your family, where they would bring it home to the most vulnerable in our population, and turn a containable pandemic into a herd burnout requirement. This was the method of dealing with the Spanish Flu (though started in Kansas) and resulted in two million deaths. We are "only" at one million, but only God knows when we will see the end.

We have seen our economy bouncing back, in spite of freedom to keep pandemic going.

There were actual international travel bans, due to the serious nature of this disease.

In re-opening, masking and vaccination rules made this possible. Canada, which for a while we could not even visit, now has a small contingent of truckers, who think their protest over these rules, should be more weighty than the other 99 percent of us being able to go back to work.

Two stable genius US Senators, named Cruz and Paul, are encouraging these truckers to come to the US and screw up our infrastructure as much as they can. If it is not bad enough to have elected these rodents to represent your interests, are you actually supporting shutting down auto and other manufacturing plants and cutting supply lines for needed goods and services? If you are, you are no patriot. These are the kinds of things you have to address when your country is invaded by an enemy, Putin, Kim and Xi have to be chuckling just like Trump was when people invaded the capital. Why fight, when you can just convince people to shoot themselves in the foot?

I would sure like to have that feeling we had on 9/11, that we were all patriots and on the same side. We actually seemed relatively united when we invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, though none of the terrorists were from either country and most were Saudis.

The right and patriotic thing, is stop buying into lies. Take the constitution seriously and follow its rules, even though those who you elect and have sworn to support and defend it, just don't. If we don't, who will?

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

direction of housing opportunities.

"A lot of people are victims of circumstance, and I wanted to help them," said Tatro, who served his country for four years in the Navy.

Even though many residents were less than thrilled by the notices Tatro delivered to them over the years, they respected his equitability and commitment to his position.

"I have had people come up to me and say, 'your husband served me papers and was very fair.' They respected and appreciated that," said Tatro's wife, Arlene, who also served as a justice of the peace.

In fact, Tatro handled his duties as both a constable and a justice of the peace with such professionalism that he wound up officiating the weddings of a few individuals he previous-

ly served with legal action as constable.

"I wish the best of luck to whoever gets the job," Tatro said of his successor. [My advice is to] treat everyone with respect, and most of the time that works out well."

Outside of work, Tatro enjoys reading and traveling with his wife. They plan to visit national parks in California at some point this summer.

Will Canadian truckers save western civilization?

To the Editor:

Trucks, especially the "big rigs," the "over-the-road" behemoths, and their operators, have always held a fascination for me. As a young man, I often found work as a laborer helping to either load or unload moving vans coming in from or heading out to far-flung places all across North America. Talking with the drivers as we worked, I often found them to be rootless-yet honorable-nomads whose home was the road, and whose lives weren't governed by the more prosaic concerns shared by those of us of a fixed address and a generally dull routine of daily existence. These men were my generation's cowboys, river-boat hands, and itinerant loggers who were, as the lyrics of a popular song at the time said "...just a natural-born travelin' man...doin' what I think I should, oh, Lord! ...doin' what I think I should..." They were the guys Johnny Cash sang about: "I've been everywhere, man. Crossed the deserts bare, man. I've breathed the mountain air, man. Of travel I've had my share, man. I've been everywhere." These drivers were as unconcerned as to their situation in the immediate future as they were with what they ate for lunch: In Massachusetts today, Wisconsin tomorrow, maybe Wyoming by Friday! Who knows, who cares?

At the end of the spring semester at a university in Texas where I had been doing a poor job of pretending to be a serious student, I, characteristically (for me at the time) made the foolish decision to try-with almost no money-to hitchhike to Alaska to find some work for the "endless" summer unfolding before me.

So it was that in time, I found myself stranded at a desolate and dark intersection on the road north in Springfield, Colo., just above the Oklahoma Panhandle, probably around 2 a.m. There was virtually no traffic, but it was warm enough, so I just waited for the sunrise a few hours away which, when it came, was glorious to behold. That was a good omen, I thought.

Sure enough, once the surrounding countryside was visible, I saw I was in the middle of what had to be the sunflower capital of the whole world: stretching away into infinity as far as the eye could see on both sides of the road, for miles, were endless and glorious fields of sunflowers.

That was impressive enough for a city boy who had never beheld such a sight. But, what happened next provided a memory of an experience that is as fresh in my mind today as when it occurred nearly 60 years ago.

With daylight, traffic had increased somewhat on this two-lane state highway heading north toward the Rockies, and I began showing my sign saying "Alaska" to the oncoming vehicles. Shortly, a gigantic tractor-trailer appeared, slowed as the driver sized me up, blasted the horn, pulled over onto the gravel roadside, and I approached the driver's side to see if he was actually offering to give me a lift, as in those days truckers were under strict company orders to not transport unauthorized individuals in their cabs. I had only ever had very few rides in a truck of any size. "Come on, jump in!" I heard. My heart leaped up! Could I be this lucky?

Just getting in was an experience. This was the biggest truck I had ever seen, and to get into the passenger side one had to climb a ladder of four or five rungs just to open the door to enter and get seated. From that perch you looked down on the roofs of other vehicles several feet below you. To say I was impressed would be understating my excited state.

I won't bore you any longer with the details, but the driver was just a great guy, the archetype western long-haul driver: faded Levis, cowboy boots, rodeo-style belt buckle, western shirt, Buck Owens on the tape player, and all the rest of it. Soon he was talking about his wife and kids, football, driving trucks, where he'd been, his plans, etc. His flatbed trailer was carrying enormous liquid oxygen tanks from Houston to the docks in Seattle from whence they'd be shipped to the Gulf of Alaska.

I stayed with him for two days, and cherished every minute of it. He loved his job, and was very good at it as he guided the rig through the mountains on winding roads with an effortless shifting of gears at just the right moment, and judicious braking where caution was clearly called for. At regular intervals, he pulled over, walked around the vehicle checking tires and the chains securing the load. When by law he had to stop for rest, he crawled into the sleeper after giving me several of his extra blankets to put on the pavement under the truck to get my rest. In

the morning, at the truck stop where he had parked for the night, he bought me the biggest plate of ham 'n eggs and pancakes I had ever seen. Sadly, for me, at least, we parted company in Seattle but only after he had taken me to his favorite seafood restaurant to treat me to a Pacific Northwest salmon dinner which he had promised would be the best thing I had ever tasted in my life. It was a memorable feast, something I had never tried before.

In my shoe box full of memorabilia, I still have a picture of the man and his truck as I had a little Kodak Instamatic camera with me. What a still-stirring memory, what a great guy. I often wonder if he's still alive somewhere in a double-wide in Texas or Oklahoma kicking back in his boots and Levis and reminiscing over his wild and crazy days on the road.

But you say come on, old man, what's that got to do with the collapse of western civilization? Just this. Ever since that experience, I've always had a secret admiration for the truckers and the service they provide for the rest of us, those of us who are home every night, whose jobs are not passed in lonely isolation, who are not forced constantly to worry about the weather, tied-up traffic, impossible city streets and loading docks, the cost of fuel, unhealthy food, dangerous overnight parking situations, and other stresses like sitting for prolonged hours with almost no chance for exercise and fresh air.

Only lately, however, have I considered how utterly indispensable they are to the on-going and smooth functioning of just about every society on earth. It is true, isn't it, that virtually every material thing in our lives comes to us, at some stage of delivery, by truck. Everything.

Only now are the oligarchs, the ruling-class global elites, the self-assured masters of the universe who are hell bent on enslaving us all coming to realize they forgot to factor in the problem of the truck drivers who hold the key to whatever possibilities exist to resist the tyranny of the anointed, the self-styled better and smarter people with their totalitarian mandates, vaccine passports, ruined careers, and forced physical and emotional abuse of children. Thug dictators like Trudeau in Canada, Biden in the U.S.A., Macron in France, and the Communists in Australia and New Zealand and elsewhere forgot one thing: truckers are, in their own unique way, very special and very important people. You cross them at your peril, especially when the public sees their demonstrations are peaceful and understandable, and increasingly are coming to view the truckers and their supporters as good and decent people who deserve the support of other good and decent citizens. Name me one other profession or trade that causes the likes of the global dictator class to tremble as the truckers are doing right now. You can't.

The grand scheme, the entire Great Reset, the reorganizing of the global order to suit the needs and schemes of the elites at the expense of the masses of common people wanting only a chance to live a life of peace and quiet and opportunity could come crashing down thanks to guys like the good man who carried me a thousand miles across the West six decades ago, men who only want to be left alone to do their lonely and dangerous job, who work to provide for their families, and who are patriots that love their personal and political freedoms.

It must come as a bitter pill to swallow for the swells of global corporations, the D.C. political ruling class, the World Economic Forum, the Harvard Business School, the United Nations and all the rest of the planning class know-it-alls-Gates, Fauci, Zuckerberg, et al-to see that thanks to the existence of stout-hearted, rough but honest men (and, increasingly, women) Robert Burns, in his "To a Mouse," had it exactly right: "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." It's the turn of the ruling class, now, to squirm and wring their hands.

May God bless and protect the brave Canadian truckers and their counterparts in our own beloved country, their families and supporters, and all true lovers of freedom. Stay strong, boys! "Illegitimi non carborundum est!"

JOHN McRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

P.S.: No, I never made it to Alaska. Turned back at the border for insufficient funds to enter Canada, I spent the summer working in a logging operation in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Loggers! Another group of incredible men!

TATRO

continued from page A1

sorely missed."

Rather than simply serve documents and move on to the next assignment, Tatro was known to make extra efforts to assist those he encountered after his work was completed. He even helped individuals to whom he had served eviction notices by pointing them in the



Another great week for fishing



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Another great week for ice fishing on local ponds and club ponds this past week, with some reporting some great fishing, and others were extremely slow. This writer and some family members decided to fish the derby at the 200 sportsmen's club this past Sunday, and had a great day on the ice meeting friends and family members, but we caught very few fish. The club had stocked the pond prior to the derby with some very large fish, but they were not hungry. More than 100 anglers participated in the derby with less than 25 trout being caught.

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club held their ice fishing derby this past week also, and had close to 17 anglers fishing the derby. The results were a lot better with numerous trout being caught on ice tilts and jig sticks. The former Rockdale Rod & Gun club donated \$500 to the derby, as many of their members joined the Whitinsville Fish & Game Club, after they lost their property in the Rockdale section of Northbridge, after the owner sold the property.

Numerous anglers were spotted using their electric ice augers made by ION this past few weeks, and they are super quiet, and cut through the ice in record time. The power



This week's picture shows Mike with a huge largemouth bass being checked in at an official weigh in station.

pack battery lasted one angler throughout this fishing season, before charging once. They cost about \$400 new, but they are worth the price if you do a lot of ice fishing.

Big shiners are in short supply this year because of the great ice fishing season. They are not cheap when they are available, costing more than \$2 each, but the results of the big fish that are being caught (as recent photos show) anglers feel they are worth every penny.

This past week, Jerry's Bait & Tackle shop celebrated 40 years in business, of which the last 16 years were at his new location in Milford. Not

many Bait & Tackle shops remain, with most being put out of business by the big box stores. Jerry's son Johnny helps his dad when the shop gets busy, and loves fishing at his dad's camp in Maine. A couple of weeks ago, Jerry held a raffle at his store celebrating his 40-year anniversary, and donate the money to an organization called Operation Reboot Outdoors.

It is a nonprofit 501 c in Maine that takes out Wounded Warriors and Veterans fishing. The raffle brought in \$500, but when some of Jerry's customers were told where the money was going, one customer



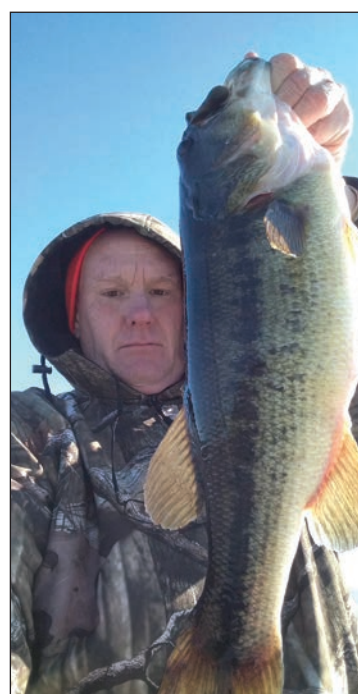
This picture shows Jerry Gareri at his shop recently, with a special ice scoop he received from his son Johnny to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his Bait & Tackle shop.

This week's second picture shows Scott Hale with his big bass, caught at Webster Lake last week, which was immediately released after a quick photo shoot. Nice fish!

matched the \$500, and numerous other customers kicked in \$20 to \$100 each. Supper job!

Next week, Feb. 25, the great Northeast Sportsmen's Show will open their doors again at the Big-E in Springfield, Mass., after it was closed due to Covid last year. More on the show next week!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods bending!



The Power of Flowers

The long, cold winter has resulted in a dreaded annual malady: cabin fever. But believe it or not the antidote for cabin fever might better be found in the ground (or at your local nursery) rather than in the medicine cabinet! According to an off reported study published years ago in Evolutionary Psychology, flowers can actually improve emotional health. According to the report, a team of researchers explored the link between flowers and life satisfaction in a ten month study of participants' behavioral



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

and emotional responses to receiving flowers. The results show that flowers are a natural and healthful moderator of moods (and a lot cheaper than anti-depressants)! Read on for some more facts and ideas on applying "flower therapy." Plus, check out a couple of ways you can recycle those Valentine's Day roses!

Flower Findings: Not convinced blooms can boost your happiness quota? Consider these fascinating findings from the above cited study:

- * Flowers have an immediate impact on happiness. All study participants expressed "true" or "excited" smiles upon receiving flowers, demonstrating extraordinary delight and gratitude. This reaction was universal, occurring in all age groups.
- * Flowers have a long-term positive effect on moods. Specifically, study participants reported feeling less depressed, anxious and agitated after receiving flowers, and demonstrated a higher sense of enjoyment and life satisfaction.
- * Flowers make intimate connections. The presence of flowers led to increased contact with family and friends.

Daffy Delights: Nothing adds a ray of sunshine to your space better than a pot of miniature daffodils. The bright, yellow blooms are perfect for the desktop, whether you're in a spacious home office or a crowded cubicle. At about \$5 per pot, they are an inexpensive pick me up that keeps on giving. After the blossoms wilt, the bulbs can be replanted in the ground to rebloom outside for years to come!

Seedy Smiles: Since simply looking at flowers can induce delight, why not indulge in some midwinter perusing via old fashioned seed and garden cat-

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Leicester resident Timothy Moore named to President's List at Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement. Timothy Moore, class of 2024, from Leicester, has been named to the Presidents List for the fall 2021 semester.

The President's List is an academic distinction reserved for Bryant's highest achievers who

earn a GPA of 4.0 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work.

Congratulations to Timothy on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University

For nearly 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an inno-

vative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

DAVID PROUTY HIGH SCHOOL

HONOR ROLL

SPENCER — David Prouty High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2021-2022 school year.

High Honors

Grade 11: Cody Chen, Frander Leonel Supuc Carrillo

Grade 10: Eliana Barnett, Ava Marie Bergeron, Kailey Marie Dutter, Madison Deborah Ethier, Giovanna Krettli Oliveira Costa, Jordan Delaney Lyon, James William McNicol, Ayla Margaret Messier, Stephanie Nyambura Njenga, Layne Michael Perchak, Alexander Peter Pinkowski, Carlvinstein Kiarie Wangaru, Greenly Sandra Waugh, Sarah

Anellia Young

Grade 9: Amberlyn Avon Brindle, Allison Diane DeCelle, Grace Elizabeth Kates, Morgan Elizabeth Kates, Emilee Elizabeth Larson, Nadia Rose Rondeau, Zachary Leo Souler

Honors

Grade 12: Jacob Todd Bergeron, Leah Jean Cutler, Jessica Lynne Fulmer, Alexandra Marie Munlai Holmes, Nicoletta Sophia Jeovaras, Payton Lee Prouty, Gabrielle Sophia Soter

Grade 11: William Robert Anderson, Marlee Rose Domey, Jessica Leigh Duda, Poker Meas, Paige Lynn Parenteau, Axel

Jason Power, Emily Rachel Soter, Lindsey Morgan Soter

Grade 10: Timothy Christopher Charette, Isabella Marie Costello, Logan Michael Josti, Eva Marie LaPorte, Liyah Mey Nguyen, Jenna Lynn Oberg, Rianna Leigh Ortiz, Jett Jerome Reilly, Julianna Avery Rondeau, Kaelyn McKenzie Wall

Grade 9: Aislynn Olivia Alman, Colleen Ann Hart, Jared Robert Holmes, Noah Raymond LaTour, Mya Katherine Mason, Abigail Yula Mutinda, Jeremias Leonardo Rivera, Ava Cheryle Sobosik, Amelia Ann Whitney, Benjamin Marshall Wytas

Local students named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — The following students were named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2021 semester.

* Mikayla Halloran, a senior psychology / education studies major from Spencer and a graduate of David Prouty High School.

* Catherine O'Donnell, a senior international relations / education studies major from Warren and a graduate of Quaboag Regional High School.

* Paisleigh Atwood, a sophomore biology major from West Brookfield and a graduate of Quaboag Regional High School.

About Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded in the great Catholic intellectual tradition, which also recognizes the principles of social justice and compassion, is a selective, fully residential Catholic college in Vermont's beautiful Green Mountains. Our closely connected community delivers internationally-respected liberal arts and graduate education near Burlington, one of the country's best college towns. To prepare for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives, young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other and their world.

Isabella Clowes named to WPI Dean's List

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Isabella Clowes of Warren, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Environmental Engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2021 semester.

A total of 2,054 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI's fall 2021 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses

and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

Western New England University students named to 2021 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University recently named close to 700 students to the Fall Semester 2021 Dean's List. Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

Emma Schultz of North Brookfield is working toward a BS in Biology.

Troy Johnson of Leicester is working toward a BSBA in Sport Management.

Kevin O'Neil of Brookfield is working toward a BS in Computer Science.

Brianna Niedzialkoski of West Brookfield is working toward a BS in Neuroscience/Research Intensive Track.

Maura Donahue of Spencer is working toward a BA in Psychology.

Sydney Corfey of West Brookfield is working toward a BA in Psychology.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready

and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Jordan Marie Clark named to Husson University President's List

BANGOR, Maine — Brookfield resident, Jordan Marie Clark has been named to Husson University's President's List for the Fall 2021 semester.

During the fall semester, Clark was enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice/Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program.

Students who make the President's List must be enrolled as an undergraduate student, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted for the semester, and achieve a 3.80 to 4.0 semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

For more than 120 years, Husson University has shown its adaptability and strength in delivering educational programs that pre-

pare future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has come to represent a superior value in higher education. The hallmarks of a Husson education include advanced knowledge delivered through quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; as well as communication. According to a recent analysis of tuition and fees by U.S. News & World Report, Husson University is one of the most affordable private colleges in New England. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

Bryant University students named to Dean's List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement.

The following students have

been named to the Deans' List for the fall 2021 semester.

Thomas Guinee, Class of 2023, from Leicester

Timothy Moore, Class of 2024, from Leicester

Benjamin Dupell, Class of 2022, from N. Brookfield

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University

For nearly 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares

students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

Dean's list honors announced at Tufts University

MEDFORD — Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the Fall 2021 semester.

Among students earning

dean's list honors is John Button of East Brookfield, Class of 2022.

Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a

global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

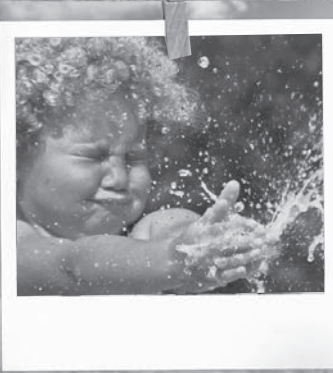
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POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
 12:49-1:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:52-1:11 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Pearl, Chestnut, Grove streets), tickets issued; 2:26 a.m.: medical/general (Norcross Road); 2:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Linden Street), services rendered; 8:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Franklin Street), child locked parent out of apt.; 9:13 a.m.: medical/general (Brown Street); 11:40 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 1:17 p.m.: mv complaint (Cherry Street), mv impeding snow removal; 2:29 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 3:44 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kids/bikes in traffic; 3:46 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), DCF req. escort; 4:05 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:30 p.m.: suspicious mv (Dale Street), services rendered; 4:31 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:14 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), injured hawk; 5:24 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), investigated; 5:56 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), services rendered; 6:14 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 6:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), info taken; 7:29 p.m.: suspicious mv (Roys Drive), investigated; (Total daily mv stops - 1).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3
 12:23-1:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; parking violations/2 (Grove, Chestnut streets), tickets issued; 2:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), party transported; 4:40 a.m.: DPW call (Mechanic Street), poss. water main break; 6:42 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:04 a.m.: parking complaint (Prospect Street), mv in front of mailboxes; 9:20 a.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), shopping carts on sidewalk; 10:07 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), rep. assault; 11:05 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 12:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:34 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 1:09 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), referred; 1:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. earlier incident; 1:54 p.m.: suspicious mv (Donnelly Road), mv stuck on ice; 4:22 p.m.: parking complaint (North Spencer Road), spoken to; 4:52 p.m.: accident (Elm Street), report taken; 4:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), dumpsters in road; 5:01 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), fem. yelling/screaming; 5:09 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 5:17 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), hazardous operation; 6:07 p.m.: animal complaint (Wire Village Road), loose dogs; 6:17 p.m.: fire alarm (Lake Street), referred; 9:03 p.m.: 911 call (Grant Street), accidental; 9:16 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 9:17-9:34 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:38 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Norcross Road), water in basement; (Total daily mv stops - 4).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4
 12:16 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:22 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 12:57-1:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:31 a.m.:

Two killed in head-on collision

EAST BROOKFIELD - Two drivers were killed Monday afternoon in a head-on wreck on Route 49.

The Feb. 14 two-vehicle accident occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m. near the intersection with Flagg Road. A preliminary investigation indicates that a 2021 Nissan Rogue, driven by a 60-year-old man from Fitchburg, was traveling northbound. Police say the vehicle crossed into the southbound lane and struck a 2018 Toyota Tacoma driven by a 71-year-old man from Leicester.

The names of the victims were not released as of press time, pending

family notification. A passenger in the Toyota, a 28-year-old man from Leicester, suffered serious injuries and was transported to an area hospital via ambulance.

Local and state police were on scene, with all traffic detoured off the road for several hours.

An investigation is being led by the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, the State Police Crime Scene Services Section, and troopers assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office.

parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 1:40 a.m.: suspicious mv (Temple Street), investigated; 1:47-2:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:17 a.m.: fire (Sunset Lane), basement flooding; 5:46 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 6:04 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:36 a.m.: fire (Norcross Road), basement flooding; 7:41 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 8:22 a.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), sewer back up; 8:37 a.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), flooding by bridge; 9:03 a.m.: mutual aid (Maple Street), req. residence check; 12:57 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), cars speeding/icy conditions; 1:13 p.m.: commercial alarm (Howe Village), services rendered; 1:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), icy conditions; 1:50 p.m.: vandalism (Clark Road), tires flattened; 2:47 p.m. abandoned 911 call (Mechanic Street), accidental; 3:17 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:17 p.m.: DPW call (Lincoln Street), icy conditions; 6:36 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD req. female officer; 6:48 p.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), info taken; 7:05 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 7:28 p.m.: citizen complaint (West Main Street), req. arrest; 9:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), req. order of protection; (Total daily mv stops - 0).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5
 12:00-12:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:11 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 12:18-2:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:28 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 2:11 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 2:29 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 2:52 a.m.: DPW call (Charlton Road), slick conditions; 4:20 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 5:13 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:23 a.m.: medical/general (Cooney Road); 6:20 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. transport home; 7:32 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 9:05 a.m.: DPW call (Clark Road), roads untreated; 9:28 a.m.:

fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 10:31 a.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), services rendered; 11:39 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), Warren PD req. assist in search for juvenile; 1:27 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 1:46 p.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), potholes; 2:15 p.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 3:02 p.m.: DPW call (Condon Road), icy conditions; 3:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Langevin Street), req. welfare check; 4:58 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Ware PD bolo/welfare check; 5:02 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 5:39 p.m.: parking violation/fire lane (West Main Street), ticket issued 7:10 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 7:37 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:06 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 8:19-9:58 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:30 p.m.: residential alarm (Sunberg Road), services rendered; (Total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6
 12:16-12:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:18-12:32 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Mechanic, Pearl streets), tickets issued; 12:26 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:25-4:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:30 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), info taken; 6:47 a.m.: DPW call (Charron Street), icy conditions; 8:15 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), loud explosion/no power outage; 10:04 a.m.: vandalism (Mechanic Street), mv vandalized; 11:33 a.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 11:46 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street); services rendered; 1:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), spoken to; 2:34 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 2:42 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 3:05 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:56 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), kids/bikes in traffic; 5:33 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street), lift assist; 6:27 p.m.: suspicious mv (Sherwood Drive), req. property checks; 6:39 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 7:01 p.m.: accident (West Main Street),

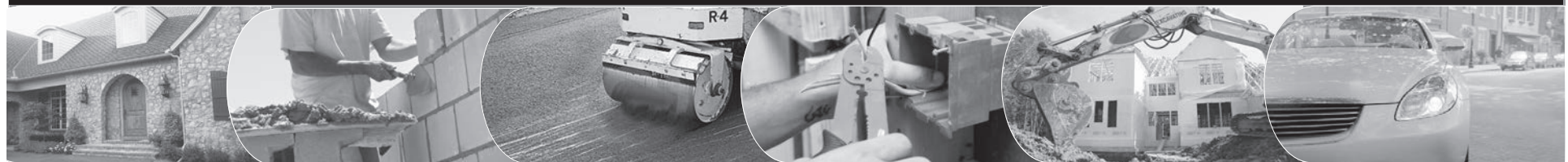
report taken; 8:13 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 8:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), Spencer ambulance out of service; 9:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Towh House Court), noise complaint; 9:31 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 10:02 p.m.: missing person/adult (Main Street), info taken; (Total daily mv stops - 4).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7
 12:09 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 12:18-12:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:43-12:56 a.m.: parking violations/3 (High, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 1:01-1:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:32 a.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), speeding; 6:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), phones, fire alarm are out; 7:16 a.m.: medical/general (Sunset Lane); 8:15 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 8:23 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:25 a.m.: fire alarm (Wilson Street), referred; 8:38 a.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), cows in road; 8:41 a.m.: disturbance (Elm Street), domestic disturbance; 10:12 a.m.: medical/overdose (Main Street); 10:49 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 10:56 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:05 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), loose dog; 11:38 a.m.: vandalism (Clark Street), tire deflated; 12:30 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:02 p.m.: accident (Main Street), occurred earlier; 1:10 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 1:46 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), accidental; 2:12 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:53 p.m.: restraining order service (Bacon Hill Road); 3:06 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:25 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 3:59 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 4:21 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:55 p.m.: DPW call (Wilson Avenue), slick conditions; 5:03 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lake Whittemore Drive), accidental; 5:14 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:41 p.m.: DPW call (Cranberry Meadow Road), icy conditions; 6:25 p.m.: disabled mv (Cranberry Meadow Road), services rendered; 7:47 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:59 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:19 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:50 p.m.: accident (Bacon Hill Road), report taken; 11:38 p.m.: disturbance (Greenville Street), family issue; (Total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
 1:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Village), investigated; 5:00 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 5:17 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), slick roadways; 6:20 a.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), barking dog; 6:35 p.m.: accident (Northwest Road), report taken; 7:28 a.m.: disabled mv (Browning Pond Road), services rendered; 7:56 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 7:58 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street), lift assist; 8:19 a.m.: medical/general (North Brookfield Road); 8:59 a.m.: medical/general (Franklin Street); 10:34 a.m.: suspicious persons (Howe Road), investigated; 10:52 a.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), stray cat; 11:40 a.m.: harassing calls

Turn To **POLICE** page **A13**

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POLICE

continued from page A12

(Paxton Road), SS scam texts; 12:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), issue w/daughter; 12:28 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), mv in lot/no plates; 1:18 p.m.: disturbance (Chickering Road), male shooting gun; 1:29 p.m.: restraining order service (Greenville Street); 1:30 p.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 2:44 p.m.: residential fire (Maple Street), referred; 3:11 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:28 p.m.: fraud (Sherman Grove), rep. scam; 4:23 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:13 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), mv went around bus; 5:45 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 8:16-8:21 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:24 p.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), icy conditions/bridge; 10:11 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), domestic issue; 10:28 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops - 1).

#

Leicester Police

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:19 a.m.: investigation (South Street), services rendered; 8:03 a.m.: animal complaint (Pine Street), referred to ACO; 8:20 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 10:08 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:30 a.m.: summons service (Henshaw Street), served; 11:38 a.m.: stolen mv (Shady Lane), resolved; 11:54 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:09 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), resolved; 12:33 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:55 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), assisted; 2:30 p.m.: ambulance (Irving Street, Worcester), call canceled; 4:15 p.m.: missing person (Shady Lane), services rendered; 5:52 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 8:33 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 8:51 p.m.: accident (McCarthy Avenue), report taken.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

4:29 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), transported; 10:06 a.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), resolved; 10:57 a.m.: assist citizen (Tobin Road), report taken; 11:06 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), no action required; 1:03 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:07 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 1:16 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:50 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), no action required; 3:37 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), mv towed; 7:30 p.m.: ambulance (Wellington Street, Worcester), transported; 7:49 p.m.: ambulance (Silver Street, Worcester), transported; 8:05 p.m.: ambulance (Sterling Street, Worcester), transported; 8:12 p.m.: ambulance (Wellington Street, Worcester), transported.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

2:15 a.m.: accident (Boyd Street), mv towed; 7:30 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:58 a.m.: threats (Lake Sargent Drive), spoken to; 8:42 a.m.: wires down (Henshaw Street), hazard removed; 8:45 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 10:00 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 1:16 p.m.: ambulance (Waite Street), transported; 1:25 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), resolved; 3:12 p.m.: suspicious activity (Franklin Street), spoken to; 4:30 p.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 5:20 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 5:31 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:27 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:30 p.m.: disabled mv (Whittemore Street), resolved.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

12:19 a.m.: disturbance (Boyd Street), resolved; 2:32 a.m.: ambulance (King Street Extension), transported; 2:44 a.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 5:07 a.m.: suspicious person (Rawson Street), spoken to; 5:22 a.m.: ambulance (Grove Street), call canceled; 9:40 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:11 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 3:52 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), unable to locate; 5:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 7:12 p.m.: ambulance (West Main Street, Spencer), transported; 9:34 p.m.: ambulance (Valley Street, Spencer), transport-

ed; 10:22 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 11:47 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 11:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

12:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:30 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 12:59 a.m.: mv stop (Tobin Road), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, miscellaneous equipment violation, criminal application issued; 1:50 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported; 2:59 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), mv towed; 6:48 a.m.: plowing/sanding requested (Main Street), referred to DPW; 8:08 a.m.: online crime report (no address noted in police log), advised civil action; 8:27 a.m.: mutual aid (Howe Village, Spencer), transported to hospital; 8:36 a.m.: assist citizen (Water Street); 9:10 a.m.: assist citizen (Logan Street); 10:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:39 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 11:46 a.m.: assist citizen (Sargent Street); 12:04 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), spoken to; 12:53 p.m.: disabled mv (Auburn Street), resolved; 2:41 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:47 p.m.: lockout (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 4:49 p.m.: ambulance (Wayne Street, Worcester), transported; 5:34 p.m.: summons service (Huntoon Memorial Highway), served; 6:11 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 6:30 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 6:36 p.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), services rendered; 6:50 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), no action required; 8:03 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 10:23 p.m.: slippery roadway/icing (Lakeview Drive), referred to DPW.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:33 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 8:01 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 10:40 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 11:38 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:50 p.m.: debris in road (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unable to locate; 2:02 p.m.: disabled mv (Henshaw Street), assisted; 3:00 p.m.: ambulance (Lafayette Lane), transported; 3:33 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Circle Drive), services rendered; 4:27 p.m.: investigation (Rawson Street), no service; 4:28

p.m.: welfare check (Pine Street), spoken to; 4:44 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street, Worcester), call canceled; 4:58 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Drive); 5:12 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street, Worcester), transported to hospital; 6:29 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 7:38 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), peace restored; 8:25 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 10:17 p.m.: restraining order service (Bottomly Avenue), served; 11:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, unlicensed operation, mv towed.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

12:33 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 2:17 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 3:56 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 5:05 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 5:28 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:16 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:42 a.m.: mv off the road (Paxton Street), mv towed; 8:32 a.m.: water/sewer problem (Main Street), services rendered; 9:08 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:55 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:49 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:58 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:22 p.m.: accident (Marshall Street), mv towed; 12:46 p.m.: wires down (Henshaw Street), hazard removed; 1:31 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), mv towed; 2:30 p.m.: assist citizen (Brookside Drive), report taken; 2:53 p.m.: water/sewer problem (Stafford Street), services rendered; 5:09 p.m.: animal complaint (Town Beach Road), referred to ACO; 5:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Jason A. Nortey, 46, 60 Main Street, Spencer, straight warrant, arrest; 6:02 p.m.: ambulance (Sherwood Drive, Spencer), transported; 7:14 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), gone on arrival; 8:46 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Avenue, Spencer), transported; 10:14 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 10:24 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), no action required; 11:53 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

LEGALS**Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board**

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday March 01, 2022 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Definitive Subdivision Plan - Applicant: Spencer Solar LLC; Owner: Ash Spencer Realty LLC, Location: Ash Street; Spencer Assessor's Map R27-01. The applicant is requesting a definitive subdivision approval under Article 2.3 (Definitive Subdivision Plans) of the Spencer Subdivision Regulations. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district. This is a readvertisement of the public hearing on this application, which was originally commenced on November 19, 2019. February 11, 2022
February 18, 2022

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Susanne Russell for the property located at 50 Birch Hill Road, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to run an animal rehab business at the above address in Rural Residential District. This requires a Special Permit as per section(s) -3.2-Schedule of Use of Regulations Use: §3.23 Commercial (4) (a) (et al) February 11, 2022
February 18, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO21P2687GD
LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT
GUARDIAN OF A MINOR
Guardianship of:
Kingston Ryan Bish
A MINOR

I, Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate for the Worcester Probate and Family Court hereby Certify that **Corrine R Delaney** 7 Council Avenue West Brookfield, MA 01585 was/were appointed or confirmed by the Order of this Court dated **November 29, 2021** as: Temporary Guardian pursuant to G.L.c. 190B, §5-204. These letters shall expire on **February 25, 2022**

These Letters of Guardianship for a Minor, whose date of birth is **01/04/2020**, are proof of the Guardian's full authority and responsibility to act, pursuant to G.L.c. 190B, §5-208, regarding the minors support, education, health and

welfare as follows:

to perform any and all acts necessary for the day-to-day care, custody, education, recreation and property of the minor; to authorize any and all medical and dental care and well-being of the minor, except the Guardian may not consent to extraordinary medical treatment pursuant to G.L.c. 190B, §5-306A, the guardian's authority is specifically limited as follows:

The Guardian is prohibited from permanently removing the child from the Commonwealth without an Order from the Court.

Date: December 2, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

February 18, 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:

William Gribbons has filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to install a new septic system, replace a retaining wall & deck located at 79 Wilson Avenue, Spencer, MA.

Raymond Leo & Susan McNulty have filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove trees and install a new septic system at 71 Lakeshore Drive, 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, February 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
February 18, 2022**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court**

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22P0273EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Richard Hackett
Date of Death: 11/16/2021

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John Hackett of Beverly MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **John Hackett of Beverly MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s)

of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/01/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC):

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 01, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 18, 2022

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Monday Feb 28, 2022, at 6:30pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Craig and Richard Hames of 326 North Main Street to Zoning Bylaw, section IV 21 to obtain a Special Permit to convert one family back to two family dwelling. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Bent, ZBA Clerk

February 18, 2022

February 25, 2022

Notice of Public Hearing Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 08, 2022, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Special Permit Amendment - Applicant/ Owner: Scott & Grace Conner; Location: 7 Brewer Lane/Wilson Ave, Spencer Assessor's Map U29-107. The applicant is looking for a special permit under Section 5.2.6 (Detached Accessory Structure) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to correct the structure dimen-

sions and erect a 720 sqft accessory structure (previously was approved a 600 sqft accessory structure). The property is located in the Lake Residential zoning district.

February 18, 2022

February 25, 2022

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO22P0271EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Maxine Arsenault

Date of Death: 12/28/2021

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by

Kenneth Arsenault of Barre MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Kenneth Arsenault of Barre MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond **without surety** in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/01/2022**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 01, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

February 18, 2022

OBITUARIES

Gregory Francis Sandman, 52

EAST BROOKFIELD- Gregory Francis Sandman, 52, passed away at home on February 1, 2022.

He was born on August 17, 1969 in Ware, MA to Dianne (Mullens) Sandman of East Brookfield, MA and the late Barry Sandman of North Brookfield, MA. He grew up in Rutland, MA, active in many sports, was a graduate of Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, MA and attended Worcester Industrial Technical Institute. He was employed for many years at Gavitt Wire and Cable in Brookfield, MA.

Greg was an avid New England sports fan, especially the Patriots, a great cook and master griller, often sharing dishes with his family and friends. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing, watching funny cat videos online and staying connected with family and friends. Throughout his life he was known as a joker often playing pranks on family, friends and co-workers, had a keen interest in the weather keeping everyone updated on current weather-related

events and cared deeply about animals especially the plight of polar bears and wolves.

He will be sadly missed by his mother, Dianne, his paternal grandmother, Sybil Sandman and her partner Roger Rock of North Brookfield, MA, many aunts, uncles, cousins and good friends. In addition to his father, he was predeceased by his maternal grandmother, Edna Witkowski, paternal grandfather, Francis Sandman, maternal grandfather, Edwin Mullens, maternal step-grandfather, Francis Soloperto and cousin, Shawn Mullens.

Friends and family are invited to attend calling hours on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 11AM- 1PM in Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield. Burial will be in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to Second Chance Animal Shelter po box 136 East Brookfield, MA.01515. For an online tribute please visit: WWW.Pillsburyfuneralhome.com



Carl A. Gustafson, 83

BROOKFIELD- Carl A. Gustafson, 83, of Weymouth, MA, formerly of Brookfield, MA passed away at home on February 6, 2022.

Carl grew up in Brookfield along with his sister and brother, both of whom predeceased him. As President of the Tantasqua High School Class of 1956, Carl developed and maintained close friendships with his classmates. Those friendships continued throughout the years and hearing from those friends and classmates in his last days brought him great joy. After graduating from high school, Carl went on to study optometry at Massachusetts College of Optometry in Boston and later set up his practice in Weymouth, MA. There he practiced optometry for 53 years, retiring shortly before his 80th birthday. Such a long practice afforded Carl the ability to provide optometric care to generations of families on the South Shore. He loved the interaction he had on a daily basis with his patients and they loved him. Never was this more evident than at his retirement celebration, which many patients past and present attended to thank him for his optometric care and his friendship. Carl was a man of many interests. As a young man, he developed a love for the open water. He spent many a summer day sailing in Hingham and Boston Harbors with his family and fishing off of Hull Gut and Sanibel Island in Florida. Later in life, Carl returned to Brookfield and bought an old farm. He enjoyed restoring his farm house and took pride in maintaining the integrity

of the period of the home. He took great pride and joy from his home, barn, and land on Rice Corner Road. For many years, Carl hosted a large pig roast, to which he invited friends from all over the Brookfield area. Due to health issues, Carl sold his farm in 2021 and returned to Weymouth where he spent the last months of his life living in a beautiful home he had owned for many decades, surrounded by his daughters and their families.

Carl is predeceased by his parents Adolf "Mike" Gustafson and Marie (LaBrecque) Gustafson as well as his brother Eric B. Gustafson and his sister Caroline (Gustafson) Stolgitis. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Gustafson and sister in law Anna May Gustafson. He leaves his children, Jennifer and her husband Peter Henriksen, Alison and her husband Sean Harrington, and Alisa and her husband Gary Pozner. Beloved grandfather of Matt, Ashley, and Emma Henriksen, Madison and Benjamin Pozner, and Patrick and Kathryn Harrington, and his former wife and great friend, Nancy Gustafson. Also survived by his niece Lynn Sullivan and his nephews Michael and Mark Stolgitis.

Friends and family were invited to gather with the family for a memorial service at 12 pm on Sunday, February 13, 2022 in Pillsbury 3 West Brookfield Rd/ Rte 9, Brookfield, MA. A private burial will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carl's memory to Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of MA at <https://www.hospicefed.org/donations> or mailed to 20 Commercial Drive, Suite One, Wrentham, MA 02093. For an online tribute please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

James W. Wilson, 90

Brookfield - Jim died peacefully on February 4th, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. Jim was born on March 22, 1931, to Roland A. and Ethel



(Freeman) Wilson of Brookfield. He graduated from Brookfield High School in 1950 as a talented basketball and baseball player. That same year he received an offer to try out for the New York Yankees and although he made the choice to remain in Brookfield, his loyalty to the Yankees endured. Jim's children and grandchildren were raised as Yankee fans which led to a friendly rivalry between those loyal to Jim and those family members who joined Red Sox Nation. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and in the summer months harvested a bounty of vegetables from his garden. One of Jim's favorite pastimes was riding his John Deere to mow his lawn.

He served as a Selectman for the Town of Brookfield and was a member of the Masons, the Shriners, and the Scottish Rite. He graduated from Westfield State University and became a teacher in the carpentry division at Tantasqua Regional Vocational High School. For more than 20 years Jim guided his students as they built many of the homes in the Tantasqua/Union 61 District. After retiring as a teacher, Jim worked side by side with his son as a primary carpenter for many more years. He loved building beautiful gifts

for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren over the years and these works of art will be treasured for generations to come.

Jim leaves his wife and high school sweetheart, Barbara May Wilson, to whom he was married for 70 years. He also leaves his children Karen Seremet of Brookfield, and Robert 'Joe' Wilson and his wife Kim Young Wilson of Brookfield. He is predeceased by his infant son James P. Wilson, his parents, a brother Roland W. Wilson and a sister Esther Wilson Gravel. He also leaves his grandchildren Michelle Seremet, boyfriend Dwayne Robare of Brookfield, Michael Seremet and wife Stacey Horne Seremet of Birmingham, AL; Rebecca Cardenales and husband Murf of Palmer; Carly Wilson and fiancée Starr Peck of North Brookfield and Joel Wilson and wife Kylie Wilson of Oakham, and great-grandchildren Kayli, Camden, Chase, Damon, Demetri, Gabriel, Daxton, Kyle, McKenna and Easton. He also leaves many nieces, nephews and friends especially his brother-in-law Boyce (Zip) May and Jonathan Davol.

Jim, affectionately known as Pappy, will be forever loved and missed by his devoted family. See you later, Papp. Thank you for being you and loving us.

A service and burial will be held in the Spring.

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

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Richard P. "Dick" Robidoux, 79

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Richard P. "Dick" Robidoux, 79, of North Brookfield formerly of Southbridge, MA died on February 6, 2022 after a courageous battle with cancer surrounded by his loving family. Richard was born in Southbridge MA son of the late Roland and Emma (Blais) Robidoux.

He leaves his wife Phyllis (Kisiolek) Robidoux; daughter Dorene Caron & her husband Jeffrey of Canton MA; sons Michael of North Brookfield, MA, and Kenneth & his wife Meghan of Brookfield, MA; a sister-in-law Madeline Robidoux; 5 grandchildren Lauren, Kelsey, Zachary, Nicholas, Abigail and his first great-granddaughter Remi. Dick was thrilled to learn of the birth of his first great granddaughter. He was predeceased by his brothers Roger & Theodore and a sister Gloria Merois & her husband Normand.

Richard and Phyllis Robidoux were married on June 21, 1964 and have celebrated 57 years together. Dick was a longtime employee of the Telegram & Gazette, and often worked multiple jobs at a time making sure his family never went without. In addition to working, he also volunteered as an on-Call Fireman for many years at the Southbridge Fire Department. After raising their family in Southbridge,

they moved to their home on Lake Lashaway in North Brookfield, which Dick considered to be a life goal. Dick and Phyllis could easily have been found enjoying their breakfast daily at the local Trolley Stop Restaurant in East Brookfield for the past several years.

Dick & Phyllis enjoyed over thirty years of sailing their Y-Flyer Sailboat as members of the Lake Lashaway Sailing Club. Together they traveled the country participating in Sailing Regattas and won many trophies. Dick was an avid golfer at Baypath Golfcourse and loved golfing in the Thursday night league with his son Ken. He loved tinkering in the garage with his sons and recently helped to restore a 1944 Ford 2N with his son Mike. Dick adored the time spent with his daughter Dorene and her children as they grew up at the lake. The grandkids have treasured memories of playing at the lake and riding on Pepe's boat. Dick's most important accomplishment was his family of whom he enjoyed spending his time.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Dick's life on February 18, 2022 from 3pm-6pm followed by a brief service in Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield. Family asks that all guests please wear face masks. In Lieu of flowers, please send donations to North Brookfield EMS po box 73 North Brookfield, MA.01535. For an online tribute please visit: WWW.Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

TRAINOR

continued from page A10

alogs? While seed sources offer digital catalogs, there is nothing quite like thumbing through the pages of a paper seed catalog! Thankfully, there are numerous companies that will mail you a catalog for the asking:

Visit Gurneys.com, click on Catalog Request, or call (513) 354-1492; StarkBros.com, Request a Catalog, or call 800.325.4180; ParkSeed.com, click Free Catalog link, or call 1-800-845-3369; Burpee.com, click on Request a Catalog at bottom of page; Territorialseed.com, Request Free Catalog link at bottom of page, or call 1-800-626-0866.

Blooms Beyond: Want to rescue those Valentine's Day roses? Making them into fragrant potpourri or bath salts are fun and easy projects. Here's how:

Rose Potpourri: For a dozen roses,

you'll need: one quart dried raised petals, two tablespoons ground orris root (available at craft stores); eight to ten drops of rose essential oil. Simply place all materials into an airtight container for about a week, shaking occasionally to mix it up.

Note: When fragrance wanes, simply stir in a few drops of essential oil. Or, toss some new corn cob material (sold as hamster litter), and a few drops essential oil into an airtight jar. Shake once a day for a week, and then add to potpourri to boost both body and scent.

Rose Bath Salts:
Ingredients; one cup Epsom salt; ¼ cup sea salt; several drops of rose or geranium essential oil; ¼ of a cup of dried rose petals

Directions: Mix the Epsom salt with sea salt. Crush rose petals into tiny pieces. Stir pieces into the salt mixture. Add several drops of rose or geranium essential oil. Stir together well. Pour into a Mason jar to store.


To use, place portions onto a square of cotton and tie up (you can also use a clean sock). Let the bath water run over the bag as the tub fills.

**
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!

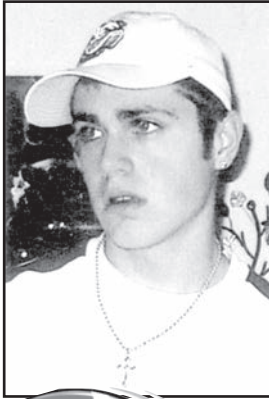

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge,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



In Loving Remembrance
John Soboleski III
 February 18, 1988 – February 18, 2022
Happy 34th Birthday in Heaven

Time slips by and life goes on,
 But from our hearts
 you're Never gone
 We think about you always,
 We talk about you too,
 We have so many memories
 but we wish we still had you
 We have to say Happy Birthday
 from afar
 While we hold you close
 in our hearts

*We love and miss you so much
 Our Blue Eyed Angel
 Your Loving Family and Friends*



StonebridgePress.com

News, really close to home

SPORTS

Panthers produce late-game comeback to top Leicester

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEICESTER — For much of its game versus Leicester High on Thursday, Feb. 10, it appeared as if the David Prouty Regional boys' varsity basketball team's win streak was about to end. The Panthers trailed at all the stops — 14-10 after one quarter, 26-24 at the half and 39-31 through three — but they persevered in the end, winning the fourth quarter by a 28-13 count to rally for the 59-52 victory.

"We needed a game like that. We haven't played from behind since December 21. All these wins — we've won now 14 games in a row — [we are] ahead from the get-go. That was our first true come-from-behind victory and it's just a credit to the kids," said David Prouty head coach Pat O'Connor after the Panthers improved to 15-3. "If you looked at the demeanor on our players, I don't think it ever faltered when we missed shots."

Three of Prouty's usually reliable top scorers — Braeden White, Byron Tippins and Alec Fournier — were all held without a single point at the half. After three quarters, they had only combined for five points.

"Braeden and Alec and Byron are great players and they score a lot, but they have no problems scoring zero and Evan stepped up," O'Connor said of Evan Fournier, Alec's older brother, who kept the Panthers in the game by scoring 16 of his team-high 20 points in the first two quarters.

"Tonight, he gave us the lift we needed energy wise."

Evan Fournier — who O'Connor called "the heart and soul of the team," — said that it was nothing but a team effort to produce the rallying victory.

"We were kind of sleeping in the first quarter and then in the second half we just took it away. We just trust each other," said Evan Fournier. "Just a great team win. It's great to keep the streak alive."

With Leicester's defense primarily targeting White, accord-



David Prouty's Braeden White runs the fast break as a Leicester defender zones in on the ball.

ing to head coach Michael Lynch, the plan was working in the sense that White was contained and most of the other scorers weren't hitting shots. But Prouty got hot in the fourth quarter, particularly Tippins. He scored 13 of his 17 points in the final frame, including two clutch 3-pointers — the second of which got the Panthers out of the hole for the final time.

"Leicester went man-to-man and those guys started scoring," O'Connor said of Tippins, Alec Fournier (eight fourth quarter points) and White (five fourth quarter points).

"They made the plays, they made the big 3-point shots down the stretch in the fourth quarter to overcome the lead and then extend it," added Lynch. "I know that their 3-point shooting is their strength, but you choose what you want to take away."

Lynch also said that his

team's offense started pressing once the lead fizzled away.

"The pressure kind of builds on the offensive end to get the score back," he said. "They did a nice job defensively just really pressuring the basketball up top."

Not to be lost in Leicester's loss was the play of big man Luke Clay. He scored a game-high 28 points and grabbed over 15 rebounds.

"I legitimately think he's the best inside post player in SWCL. He can take you off the dribble, he can play inside, he's just consistent, a rebounding machine," Lynch said of Clay.

The Wolverines, who also saw Mike Mero score 10 points versus the Panthers, are now 7-8 as they head down the home stretch. They must accumulate 10 wins in 20 games or have a final power ranking of 32 or better to qualify for the Division 4 State Tournament.

As of press time Leicester



Chris Cutroni of Leicester drives the ball across the midcourt line as David Prouty's Alec Fournier defends.



Evan Fournier of David Prouty reaches out to catch a pass thrown his way.

was on the bubble at No. 32.

Prouty, meanwhile, sits at No. 11 in the Division 5 power rankings.

"Everything is just getting

started. We're so excited. First time in five years. It's been a dream since eighth grade," Evan Fournier said.



Leicester's Eric Moller passes the ball off while David Prouty defender Evan Fournier applies pressure.



Luke Clay of Leicester attacks the basket and Byron Tippins of David Prouty tries to get in his way.

Friday's Child



Photo by Oliver Scott

Jayden
Age 12

I love gymnastics!
<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7126>

Jayden is a lovable girl of Caucasian descent. Wise beyond her years, Jayden loves gymnastics, going to the park, and swimming. She also loves to ride her bike, do arts and crafts, make slime, and go to amusement parks. She does well with one-on-one attention. She has two teen foster brothers in her foster home who she looks up to as role models and for guidance. Jayden does best with a strong routine in the morning when getting up, getting dressed, and getting herself ready for school. Jayden is loving, caring, and determined. Her foster mother describes her as very technologically savvy. Jayden will enter the 6th grade in fall of 2021 with an educational plan for delays in speech, language, reading,

math and written expression. She loves U-Tube and Tic-Toc..

Legally freed for adoption, Jayden will need one-on-one attention from her new family. This could be a two-parent family mom and dad, 2 mom family or a single mom family with older or younger children in the home. Structure and routine in her new home are extremely important to Jayden. Jayden has older siblings in foster care and in adoptive families in Western Massachusetts with whom she will need to maintain contact. She would also like to maintain a lifelong connection with a previous foster family. Because transition is difficult for Jayden it may be best for a family to start out as a visiting resource to build a relationship with her.

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. Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.



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WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds with 297' Waterfront! Over \$4 Million Spent! Nothing was Spared! 18 Spacious Rooms! 5 Water View Bedrooms, 4 with their Own Bathrooms! 5.5 Bathrooms Total! Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator from the Ground Floor up 3 to the Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bathroom with Steam Shower just off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Master Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet/Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage! Full House Generator! Slate Roof! All Decks & Railings Brazilian Ipe Hardwood! Copper Gutters & Downspouts! It's Time to Reward Yourself! **\$1,749,900.00**

WEBSTER - 9 Park Rd! Spacious 2 Family! 44 Rms! 22 Bdrms! 1/1 Baths! Easy Access! Walk to Webster Lake's Memorial Beach! Same Floor Plan, 13x15 Eat-in Kites, 13x22 Liv Rms w/Hrds, Spacious Bdrms w/Hrds, Full Baths w/Linen Closets! 3 Season Porches, 1st Flr w/Composite Deck! "Badens" Oil Heat! Replacement Windows! 2 Car Garage! Lots of Potential! **\$309,900.00**

WEBSTER - 8 Riverside Dr! Super Convenient 9 Rm Colonial! Work-in Appliances Kit w/Granite Island & Dining Area! 24' Living Rm w/Laminate Wood Flooring, Slider to Composite Deck! 3-5 Bdrms Total! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths Total! Finished Lower Level! Oil Heat! Roof 2019! **\$399,900.00**

DUDLEY HAYDEN POND WATERFRONT - 48 Hayden Pond Rd! Recently Renovated, beautifully appointed, 5 Rm Waterfront Ranch! Enjoy sunsets, fishing & all water sports! Vinyl Composite decking & vinyl railings! Open floor plan! Cathedral ceilings w/skylights! Din Rm w/slider to covered deck! Kit w/quartz counters & SS appliances! Liv Rm w/stunning views of the Pond! Comfortable Master w/generous closet & half bath! 2nd bedroom or office! Full bath w/washer/dryer hook ups! Full basement for storage or additional living space! Floating Dock! Shed! **\$439,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 701 Beacon Park! 5 Rm End Corner Garden Unit - One Level Living - No Stairs! 10 Beautiful Acres of Park Like Grounds w/Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 1,100' of Living Space! Ample Room for Year Round Living or as 2nd Home - Summers on the Lake - Winters in Florida! Well Maintained! 2 Bdrms! Master Bath, 2 Baths Total! Beautiful Lakeside Pool, Spectacular Beach, Best on the Lake! Detached Garage! **\$325,000.00!**

WEBSTER LAKE - 65 Bates Point Rd - Eastern Exposure - Beautiful Sunrises! Year Round - Principle Residence - Second Home - Remodel - Tear it Down and Start Anew! The Choice is Yours! Set on a 12,449' Lot, 50x249', 50.7' Waterfront! Plenty of Area for Expansion! Surrounded by Million Dollar Homes the Pallet is Yours to Create! 5+ Room Ranch with Full Walk-out Expandable Lower Level! Open Floor Plan! Appliances Kitchen, Dining Area and Living Room with Panoramic Water Views! 3 Bedrooms! Full Tile Bath! Oil Heat! Screened Porch! Detached Garage! Dock! Quick Closing! Summer is Just Around the Corner - Don't Delay! **\$699,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 33 Loveland Rd! South Pond - Fantastic 19,243' Waterfront Lot with 125' of Prime South Facing Natural Shoreline which Highlights this 5 Room, 2 Bedroom, 3 Season Cottage! Start Your Lake Memories Here! Cute & Cozy, the Way the Lake Use to Be! Open Floor Plan with Lots of Glass and Panoramic Lake Views! Just Enjoy it as it is, or Add on to it, or Take it Down and Build Your Dream Home Here! Don't Need the Entire Lot, Subdivide it and Bring the Cost Down! Perfect Gentle Slope to the Water! Town Services! **\$949,900.00**

HOPE REAL ESTATE GROUP
43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Fine Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333
Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI
We Want Your Listings!

Featured New Listing!
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SPORTS

Halftime wake-up call helps lift Warriors past Quaboag



Nick Ethier photos

Quaboag's Hannah Manzano heaves a half-court shot just before the halftime buzzer sounds.



Evelyn Doe of Quaboag looks to make a pass down low to teammate Parker Tunley.



Quaboag's Hailey Samek gets a shot off while being fouled by Tantasqua's Sophie Law.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

STURBRIDGE — When the Tantasqua Regional girls' varsity basketball team suffered its most lopsided loss of the season on Tuesday, Feb. 8 to South High, 76-34, and then followed that up with a somewhat lackadaisical first half when hosting Quaboag Regional on Thursday, Feb. 10, head coach Tony Giuggio knew that his team needed to ramp up its intensity.

"We rely on energy, effort and attitude, and when we don't play well we're missing all three, one of the three or two of the three. Tonight we weren't playing with any energy or attitude. We were just passive and we can't play like that," explained Giuggio. "We

need to create turnovers to get easy baskets to score."

After some choice words at halftime, where the Warriors held a slim lead of 16-11, Tantasqua woke up and played a dominant second half full of forcing turnovers and converting buckets in transition. The Warriors raced to a 20-7 advantage in the third quarter and then outscored Quaboag in the final frame, 9-2, to win by a 45-20 count.

"It's a league game and by winning tonight we secure a share of the league title, and that was important," Giuggio said of the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) accomplishment.

The game against South wasn't a SWCL matchup, but it was a great test for the now 14-4 Warriors, whose postseason will be in the Division 3

State Tournament.

"South, in my estimate, is top five in the state regardless of division," Giuggio said. "Our kids haven't seen kids that fast or physical at all."

Tantasqua will also play two games in the Westborough Invitational Tournament, or three if they reach the final. All of those games, plus the matchup with South, are tough, important matchups.

"That's why we play those games. It's not to get the win, it would be nice to beat them, but playing those games is a good lesson for our kids," said Giuggio.

Scoring was balanced for the Warriors in the win against Quaboag. No player reached double figures in scoring, but nine players scored. Angelina Reno and Sophie Law led the way with eight points apiece.

On the Cougars' side, head coach Bill Beaugard was pleased with the way his team played — particularly in the first half.

"We did a good job executing on both ends, but I thought our defense was outstanding," Beaugard said of the first two quarters. "Our help defense was as good as I've seen it all year. Hopefully we can keep building from this."

When it came to the second

half, though, Tantasqua was just too much for the smaller Cougars.

"They just overwhelmed us with their size and pressure, so we couldn't get into things offensively," Beaugard said.

Quaboag is now 10-6 and at the conclusion of its 20-game regular season, the Cougars — who were led by Kiara Gauthier's eight points versus Tantasqua — will play in the Division 5 State Tournament.

MCCANCE

continued from page A1

positive mindset vocabulary-sentence section for upper grades.

Children are encouraged to read the book at the level that best suits them, the authors said. Their book was designed to integrate reading with engaging children in meaningful conversations.

The book also encourages journaling, with pages provided for young readers to write their own notes on mindset.

"The key strategy for reading the book involves asking and answering questions to stimulate and enhance conversations," read a statement released by the authors. "Children are encour-

aged to ask questions, reflecting to formulate their own answers. The book is filled with rich vocabulary and text complexity, which challenges children to think critically."

Petsanis has published two books on mindset: "The Truth is a Lie" and "The Logical Path to Life." Both of these titles focus on changing mindset from an emotional to a logical perspective for personal transformation.

McCance and Petsanis are currently working on publishing two additional books that focus on mindset development. They are expected to be published this year.

The authors are also currently developing an educational framework that focuses on individual emotional intelli-

gence. Moreover, the authors teamed up to develop a website to write blogs on transforming mindset.

"Our goal is to guide people through the process of developing a new mindset based on authenticity and reality, and take personal responsibility to develop confidence in knowing who they are," Petsanis said.

The authors also created a 2022 calendar named "The Greatest Mindset Calendar," designed around inspirational quotes about mindset.

The blogs and calendar are available through the authors' blog website, www.PragmaticMindset.com.

Meanwhile, McCance is currently running a book tour and introducing her work to former students.

"The beauty of this book is that it not only reaches children to help them develop individualistic mindset, but it helps families and other adults to understand it as well," said McCance, who is planning to hold a book signing event in Leicester sometime this summer.

In addition to her writings, McCance continues to be active in leadership positions in Leicester, serving as a member of the School Committee, Becker Reuse Working Group, and the Leicester Women's Club. She also assists local children through tutoring.

If you wish to reach out to McCance about her book tour, send an email to mcccancedonna@gmail.com.

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SPORTS

Senior Night success for Oxford's Clarkson in triumph over Indians

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — On Monday, Feb. 14, before taking on North Brookfield High, the Oxford High girls' varsity basketball team hosted Senior Night for the Pirates' lone senior: Olivia Clarkson. And Clarkson had a night to remember.

Clarkson, a speedy guard, scored 15 points in the first quarter — where Oxford surged to a commanding 23-5 lead. And the Pirates held off any idea of an Indians' rally as they won a 54-39 decision, with Clarkson pouring in a game-high 29 points.

"Very good, quick start for us," said Oxford head coach Joe Pietrzak. "I thought the fast break early, we were pushing the ball really hard. We talk all the time about trying to get Liv downhill with the ball. As we push it, she gets it and she's tough to stop. She's going to be missed."

Clarkson scored in a variety of ways in the first quarter, including a free throw to open the scoring, driving layups, and offensive rebounds and coinciding put-backs.

"I definitely came out strong being Senior Night and my teammates lifted me up," said Clarkson. "We were converting our defensive intensity into offense with steals."

North Brookfield head coach Lyndsey Bennett acknowledged that Clarkson's hot start was too much for her team to overcome.

"We could not shut her down. Our man-to-man didn't work as good as we had planned. She was quick, she beat us when we went for that steal," Bennett said of Clarkson. "That first quarter killed us. It's always tough coming back from a lead like that."

But the Indians tried their hardest, as they actually won the combined second, third and fourth quarters by a 34-31 margin. The closest they cut the deficit down to was 10 points, 38-28,



North Brookfield's Laura Orne catches a pass and looks up at the basket ahead.

late in the third quarter. A big reason for North Brookfield's success was because of the play of senior Serenity Ayala. She finished with 27 points on multiple layups, converting 12 of 21 free throws and draining a 3-pointer.

"The guards were definitely seeing her in the post wide open," Bennett said of Ayala. "She made the moves and got sent to the line. She goes up strong and draws the fouls."

"Credit to them. They just wouldn't go away. That Ayala girl, what a player she is. I told her after the game, she's just a tremendous talent," added Pietrzak. "That being said, I thought Carly Cornacchioli did a good job on her. Even though she ended up with 20-something, it seemed like she had to work for it."

Cornacchioli, a junior that could be considered the Pirates' unsung hero, scored eight points and pulled down

11 rebounds in addition to guarding Ayala. Junior Alexis Steiger chipped in 15 more points for Oxford.

The Pirates are now 7-11 and have won five straight.

"At 2-11 you have two choices. One, you can just mail it in. Or two, you can keep battling. As a testament to these girls, they kept battling," Pietrzak explained. "It's a tribute to [Clarkson] as a leader, too."

"It was definitely a struggle in the beginning, but I think we pulled together as a team," added Clarkson. "We work together, we practice on the weekends, we do everything we can together to grow as a team."

Oxford has two games remaining, to be played after press time, as they hope that their power rating (currently 42) will be strong enough to get inside the top 32 and qualify for the Division 5 State Tournament.



Serenity Ayala of North Brookfield goes left-handed on her pursuit to the hoop.



North Brookfield's Lola Sukharev drives on Oxford defender Carly Cornacchioli.

North Brookfield, meanwhile, is 8-9 and with a power rating too far down the list (currently 51) must win at least

two of their final three games — also after press time — to automatically qualify for the D5 State Tourney.

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SPORTS

Balanced effort helps Rockets rally to victory over Bay Path

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — Some varsity high school basketball teams rely on one player to do the bulk of the scoring. Others spread the ball around and don a balanced attack. For Auburn High's boys' squad, it is certainly more of the latter.

When playing at Bay Path Regional on Tuesday, Feb. 8, the Rockets had seven players score, with none netting more than 15 points. That was enough to rally past the Minutemen and earn a 58-44 victory.

"That's the plan, that balance so you can't just focus on one person," Auburn head coach Dan Koen said of the balanced scoring.

The Rockets were also balanced in their production per quarter. They netted 12 points in the first quarter, 14 in the second and 16 each in the third and fourth frames.

Leading the charge for Auburn were Jordan McFadden (15 points), Owen Fitzgerald (14) and JB Whittemore (13). Koen sensed that the team would still be coming into its own as the regular season winds down.

"This year has been crazy, as it has been for a lot of teams. We've had a lot of COVID issues, some injuries. We really haven't had our core amount of guys — we've only had them for, this is now our fourth game. That consistency, I think, is starting to come," said Koen.

And now sporting a record of 7-9, Koen hopes that the wins continue to come and it will be enough to get to .500 and qualify for the statewide Division 3 Tournament.

"We just need to keep playing hard and take it one step at a time," Koen said.

Koen's hopes became a reality because, as of press time, Auburn defeated Assabet Valley (54-33), Oxford High (60-57) and Leicester High (60-52) in succession to grab the needed 10 wins to qualify for the playoffs.

The Rockets and Bay Path were playing hard in a back-and-forth first half of play, as Auburn led after one period, 12-10, but the Minutemen held the lead



Auburn's Jordan McFadden creates space against Bay Path defender Dylan Cotton while dribbling the ball.

at the half, 29-26. When asked what changed in the second half, Koen provided a telling response.

"We changed up defenses a little bit and I told our team at halftime that we need to be a little more physical, be a little stronger with the ball," he said. "We were able to get some stops on defense and get some leak-outs for some easy transition buckets, and once those easy shots started to fall our confidence grew a little bit and some of the outside shots started to fall."

Al Greenough, head coach of the Minutemen, seconded the notion that Auburn switched up its defensive approach to the style that helped the Rockets win the other regular season game between the two back in December.

"They played that 1-3-1 defense

against us, and it gave us a lot of fits," Greenough said of the first meeting. "They didn't really do much of it in the first half. They switched to that defense in the second half and I give them credit."

Auburn switching its defensive sets was by design to control the play of Bay Path sharpshooter Dylan Cotton.

"He certainly was the focus," Koen said of Cotton. "He's someone who can handle the ball, he's quick, he can shoot it deep. I put my two best perimeter defenders [Jeremiah Murphy and Logan Bostock] on him when we went man and we tried to mix up the zones to keep them off balance."

Cotton did lead the Minutemen with 11 points, but it was much less than his normal average.

"He wasn't feeling all that well tonight. He's been off all day and I didn't even



Michael Nadeau of Auburn sends an overhand pass down the court.

know if he was going to be able to play, but he did gut it out," Greenough said of Cotton. "To [Auburn's] credit, they extended their defense on him and they shut him down a little bit."

The Rockets won third quarter scoring 16-9 and took the fourth quarter in a similar fashion (16-6) to pull away. Greenough, however, was pleased with Bay Path's effort.

"I can't fault them for anything in this game, they played extremely hard. I said to them, 'you probably worked harder tonight than you have in any of our wins this year.'" It was the mental part of the game that really affected us," said Greenough.

The Minutemen — who also had Jon Colon score in double figures with 10 points — are now 12-5 as they continue to prepare to partake in the statewide Division 4 Tournament. Greenough believes that losing to the likes of an Auburn can help his team succeed, but that they will need to win those types of games come the postseason.

"We've had a great season, a great run. We just had six wins in a row. To get to the next level we've got to beat those kinds of teams, but we're still working at that," Greenough said.



Auburn's Owen Fitzgerald passes the ball out of a defensive triple-team.



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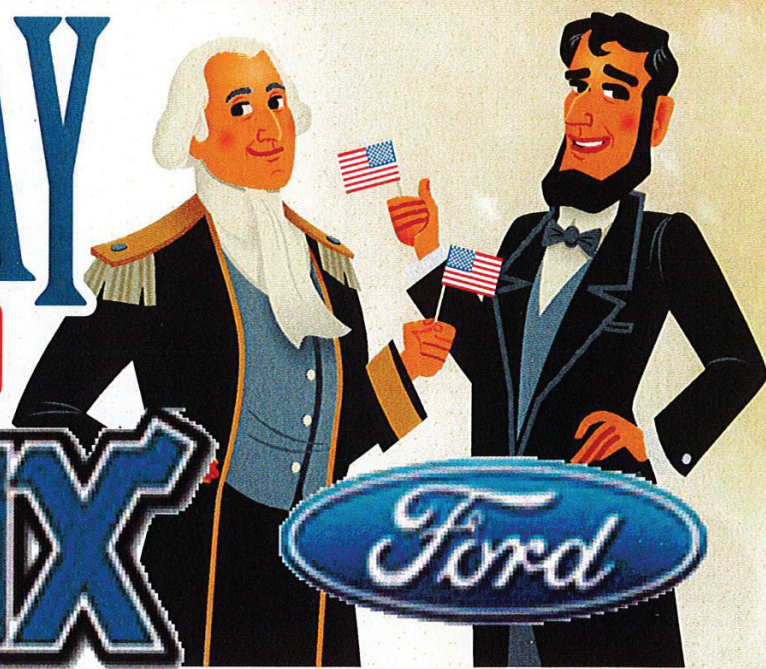
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