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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, January 27, 2023

Search for missing Brookfield woman expands



Investigators released additional photos of Brittany Tee, 35, of Brookfield, who was reported missing on Jan. 13.

BY KEVIN F LANDERS
STAFF WRITER
B R O O K F I E L D — Police expanded their search for Brittany Tee last week, with multiple agencies scouring local woodlands and properties.

As of press time, Tee, 35, of Brookfield, was last seen on Jan. 10 in the area of Lewis Field on Main Street. She was reported missing to Brookfield Police on Friday, Jan. 13,

by her family members. Tee is five feet six inches tall, 120 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. Investigators said she was last seen wearing a black winter coat, a hoodie, jeans, and work boots.

Last week, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., held a pair of press conferences to update the public on the search. During the first conference on Jan. 16, Early joined Brookfield

Police Chief Michael Blanchard in urging residents to search out buildings on their properties. Residents were also asked to submit any surveillance footage that might assist the investigation.

“Check your garages; check your sheds. If you can take that time and help us out with that, it would be greatly appreciated,” Early requested in his statement to the public.

The DA also answered

questions about the nearly three-day gap between the time Tee was last seen and the time she was reported missing to police.

“She was at a residence—everything was fine. There were some communication issues with some members of the family. They thought they might know where she was. When that didn’t pan out, that’s when the family came to the police department with the information,” Early said.

On Jan. 17, an expanded search included law enforcement personnel from multiple agencies. Unable to locate Tee, searchers were joined over the next several days by members of the State Police Marine Unit, the State Police Dive Unit, the Environmental Police, local agencies, and the State Police Air Wing.

Worcester Police Department cadets nearing graduation were also scheduled to join the search to help cover more ground.

“Investigators continue to review all of the videos and tips that have been submitted from people,” Early said during a Jan. 19 press conference. “We appreciate all members of the public who have given us tips. Tips can be left anonymously.”

Investigators also released additional photos of Tee, including images captured by a sur-

DPHS renovation project makes progress

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The David Prouty High School addition-renovation project continues to make swift progress.

Local officials are hard at work this winter to complete the steps leading up to eventual construction. School leaders invited three construction manager firms to interview on Jan. 18, including Consigli Construction, Fontaine Bros., and Bond Building Construction.

“The plan is to have one of these construction manager firms contracted to be the project’s construction manager by the end of January,” read a statement released by Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey.

The School Building Committee was scheduled to meet on Jan. 19, during which the Selection Committee was slated to bring forth its construction manager recommendation.

Meanwhile, design meetings between the architects and the DPHS faculty, staff, and administration took place throughout the holiday season.

“Things are really moving along. We have a very aggressive schedule and are excited to see what this year brings in respect to the building project,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee member Jason Monette.

At separate elections held in October, voters in Spencer and East Brookfield authorized a debt exclusion to fund the \$111.6 million addition-renovation project. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will cover \$46.8 million of the project costs, while the towns will be responsible for the remaining \$64.8 million.

Built in the 1960s, DPHS suffers from numerous problems, including issues with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; roof and accessibility issues; and outdated classrooms and equipment. In March 2022, the school was closed for several days following a burst heating pipe that caused steam and water damage.

Looking ahead, students and school officials alike are eager to receive a modern learning facility.

“I am very happy for the kids. They will finally be able to go to a school that’s ready for the twenty-first century,” said Spencer Selectman Ralph Hicks in a previous interview.

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Experienced official answers call to service once again



Lisa Johnson has enjoyed her role as Leicester’s Interim Town Clerk.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — Interim Town Clerk Lisa Johnson continues to answer the call for local communities in need of an experienced municipal leader.

This past August, Johnson added to her lengthy resumé of local service by accepting an offer to serve as Leicester’s Interim Town Clerk. She met with retiring clerk Deb Davis, and she was ready to hit the ground running on her first day on the job.

“I am very grateful for this opportunity to fill Deb Davis’s position until the next town election in June of this year. She has well earned her retirement,” Johnson told the New Leader. “Working in a large community gives me so much more to learn and advance my skills for my next position after town election.”

Johnson most recently served as a town clerk in the communities of Spencer and Lancaster. Working in an interim capacity in Spencer, she helped the town tran-

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BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The 15th annual North Brookfield Hearts for Heat spaghetti dinner will take place this weekend to help keep residents warm this winter.

The dinner is set for Saturday, Jan. 28, from 5-7 p.m. at the North Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria.

The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person, with a cap for a family of four or more. Takeout is available at the event.

The dinner is sponsored by the Hayden Masonic Lodge and supported by Hannaford Supermarket. Many raffle items have been donated to the cause.

The Boston Celtics have donated a signed basketball and a pair of tickets to a home game. Two other big-ticket raffle items include a \$100 MGM Springfield gift certificate, as well as a Springfield Thunderbirds hockey ticket prize pack.

Additionally, The Otters will provide musical entertainment throughout the evening. Meanwhile, students from the North Brookfield High School National Honor Society will volunteer at the event alongside students from Valley View

Hearts for Heat benefit dinner returns this weekend

School. All volunteers are thanked in advance for their assistance.

In the event of snow, the dinner will be rescheduled to Saturday, Feb. 25.

North Brookfield Hearts for Heat is a charitable organization committed to supporting North Brookfield residents in need of emergen-

cy home heating assistance. The chapter helps provide assistance for residents heating their homes with oil, propane,

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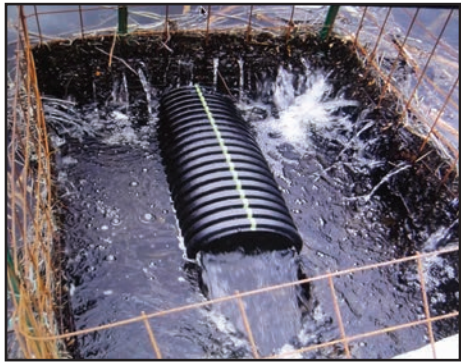


Courtesy

SPENCER PD WELCOMES NEW OFFICER

The Spencer Police Department recently welcomed its newest officer, Nicholas Tessier, who previously served on the West Brookfield Police Department. Prior to his full-time work in West Brookfield, Officer Tessier served as a police officer for Worcester State University. He graduated from Nichols College with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice management. “He is currently assigned to one of our field training officers to acquaint him with the community and our policies and procedures. He is a welcome addition to the Spencer Police Department,” said Police Chief David Darrin. After completing his field training program, Officer Tessier will continue his career on the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift.

Beaver ponds “super important for biodiversity”



Courtesy

A screenshot of one of Mike Callahan's “beaver deceiving” flow devices in action.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — If beavers aren’t in a marsh near you, Beaver Institute founder Mike Callahan thinks they probably will be in the near future and is “working to promote coexistence.” Speaking to a recent Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions “lunch and learn,” he said he still sees there can be conflicts between them and humans, but from an ecological point of view, beavers are critical for a whole host of reasons. Instead of trapping them, he strongly advocates four non-lethal ways of preventing their work from flooding

roads and properties. Beaver ponds are “super important for biodiversity” – “just as important for our native species as coral reefs and rainforests are for their native species,” he said. They “really help with all those things” we’re now seeing as impacts of climate change, by slowing down floods and wildfires, trapping toxins from fires, and serving as “oases of diversity” that promote recovery afterward. The latter has been a factor in endangered species, too. Callahan noted Oregon is trying to create such ponds to provide places for coho salmon hatcheries. Although some people rip out beaver dams thinking they’re impediments to salmon travel, they actually help the species (and others). In New England, beavers “are pretty much in all the habitats they can be” now. That wasn’t true in the 1930s, when the state started reintroduction programs, but since then, the mammals have found their way everywhere. In part, that’s because any given pond will only be home to related beavers; strangers will get attacked. Even when it has multiple lodges, there’s just one breeding female present, with the others being her kits or mate. The conflict issues come largely from human development in floodplains clashing with the beavers’ innate incli-

nation to try to dam the sound of running water. That’s where Callahan’s emphasis on flow-control devices comes in; to him, they’re the real long-term solution to such conflicts. There are four types: a flexible pond leveler for use through existing beaver dams and three for manmade features: a culvert fence, fence/pipe system and diversion dams. To the non-expert, they all look similar and use the same concept – distract the beaver from damming where the actual flow is by making them think its elsewhere, making damming difficult, or preventing them from reaching it. All of them work to keep the beaver pond intact, but prevent it from overflowing to damage nearby property. The most common sites of problems are culverts. “That looks to beavers like a dam with a hole in it,” he said. “They want to fix it.” The cheapest and easiest method to address that is the fourth one, which local DPWs can build and maintain themselves. Callahan said it encourages the beavers to build their dam outside the culvert by forcing them to carry any material overland to get to the culvert itself. They generally don’t like to do that, but “about one out of five times, you’ll get a smarter than average beaver” who will. Callahan said he’ll only use trapping as “a last resort,” in about a quarter of his cases. There are some situations where the other methods don’t work

or don’t fit, such as in canals, drainage ditches and places needing high flow. In such places “we’re going to be chasing them forever and I had to recommend trapping,” he said. (The catch with that, though, is that if the place is good for beavers, new ones typically occupy it within a year or two, he noted.) Often, beaver experts get called to address reservoirs, but Callahan said there’s “not great science to trap” in such places. Not only do the beavers return, the claim they’re disease threats isn’t strong. Yes, he said, beavers can carry Giardia, which can cause treatable gastrointestinal illness in humans. But several other species do, too, including some that fly, like herons. Animals typically get it from humans via flooding septic systems or improperly-disposed campsite waste, and about a third of humans carry it without symptoms anyway, he said. Beavers are not a vector for rabies. Callahan also noted the mosquito-spraying issue, saying beaver ponds are not good mosquito habitat. They’re too deep; that fact usually means the insects’ larvae have too many predators. Such insects favor shallow spots, including tires, slow streams, and gutters. “It’s a common concern, but from my experience, doesn’t need to be,” he said. Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

None
EAST BROOKFIELD
\$799,000, 176 Lakeview Ave, Ford, John D. and Ford, Kristin L, to Nowak 3rd, Edwin J, and Nowak, Allison.
\$121,635, 117 Lashaway Dr, Rsf Investments LLC, to Hayes, Michael R, and Kelly, Terri S.

LEICESTER

\$555,095, 373 Pleasant St, Caribo, Keith, and Caribo, Leslie, to Bourgeois, Stephan A, and Bourgeois, Celina.
\$402,000, 69 River St, Rochefort, Gerald B, and Rochefort, Patricia J, to Mahoney, Michael A, and Mahoney, Chelsea.
\$400,000, 401 Mulberry St, Durkan John Est, and Durkan, Mary, to Mullaney, Erin E, and Szczesuil, Daniel J.
\$395,000, 99 Lake Ave, Harrington, Marie T, to Kennan, Lance.
\$375,000, 17 Warren Ave, Racki-Hradek, Deena, and Hradek, Norman A, to Tequah, Oretha.
\$210,000, 230 Pine St, Stanikmas Ruby L Est, and Stanikmas, Scott D, to Equity TCo.
\$205,000, 75 Huntoon Memorial Hwy #5-9, Huard, Kevin J, to Hartwell, Jared A.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$312,000, 45 Grove St, Ebenezer Const & Cleaning, to Gagnon, Crystal, and Flores, Felix.

SPENCER

\$360,000, 5 Smithville Rd, Dube Darren Scott Est, and Dube, Sarah B, to Jabbar, Karam, and Jabbar, Athraa.
\$295,000, 8 Meadow Rd, Ltj LLC, to Daniel Realty Group LLC.
\$90,000, 76 Donnelly Rd, Sabacinski, Steven, and Sabacinski, Susan, to Harriman, Louisa, and Tozier, Lisa.

WARREN

\$374,900, 213 Washington St, Paquette Bro Contracting, to Russell, Lisa M.
\$189,000, 95 School St, Anderson, Jerome E, and Phelps, Cassandra D, to Fijol, John R, and Plante-Fijol, Carrie.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$168,300 \$429,000, 22 Lakeview Dr, Braconnier, Craig G, and Braconnier, Christine R, to Rivera, Joseph D.
\$429,000, 28 Lakeview Dr, Braconnier, Craig G, and Braconnier, Christine R, to Rivera, Joseph D.
15 Chapman Ave, Onofre, Hector J, and Newrez LLC, to Federal Natl Mtg Assn.

Workshop being offered for local writers

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — For local writers looking to take the next steps toward publication, you won’t want to miss a March workshop designed to help get your book into print. With just 26 letters available to them, writers create fascinating worlds and unforgettable characters. But once the story is finished, the hardest work is often just beginning for those who intend to publish their works. For several years, award-winning local author Ed Londergan has hosted a workshop to help writers navigate the long road to publication. This year’s creative writing and publishing workshop will be held on Sunday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Salem Cross Inn. “The workshop will cover the entire writing and publishing process, including idea development and sources of inspiration, drawing from storytelling traditions, developing the story, structure and flow, conceiving and bringing characters to life, dialogue, editing, short fiction, and writer’s block,” Londergan said. “The publishing process can be confusing and frustrating. I’ll take the group through the various publishing options available. There will also be some fun writing exercises.” The author of several historically inspired novels, including “The Long Journey Home,” “The Devil’s Elbow,” and “Unlike Any Other,” Londergan always enjoys working with other local writers and helping them advance their writing. “Everyone has a story to tell. The workshop aims to help those who want to write but don’t know where to start, or have had an idea for a story that’s been bubbling in their head for years and finally want to put it on paper,” Londergan said. “I also help people who have written something and need to know how to move ahead.” Past workshops have been attended by guests of all ages and occupations, from 12-year-old students to retirees. Several older writers have produced memoirs to share with their families, and Londergan’s annual workshop is a helpful tool for gaining new insights on how to craft a narrative. With multiple new exercises lined up for this year’s workshop, writers are sure to gain unique perspectives while helping each other improve their writing. “The writing exercises this year are different than what I’ve done in the past. I enjoy seeing the creative ideas that come out of them,” Londergan said. Local writers always appreciate the opportunity to connect and share their ideas, as well as offer tips for overcoming writer’s block and other challenges. “Back-and-forth discussion is always a popular part of the day. Attendees learn from each other. Individual issues or problems anyone has with their writing are discussed, and the group helps them with suggestions and observations,” Londergan added. The workshop is limited to 14 participants. The cost is \$110 per person, and lunch is included. Registration is required to attend the workshop. The registration deadline is March 5. To register, send an email to ed.londergan@gmail.com or call 508-864-8685.

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Mass. activists promote nuclear ban treaty

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Last Sunday, the world saw an anniversary that mostly passed unheralded because the US government hasn't recognized it yet.

That date was the first anniversary of the fact the United Nations treaty banning all nuclear weapons and anything related to their production became international law. Honduras, the 50th nation to ratify it, did so Jan 22, 2022. Since then, a few dozen others have followed suit, but the list does not include any of the nine countries currently possessing nuclear weapons.

Some efforts do exist in Congress and the US public to push our government in this direction. One in the last session was H. Res 1185 by US Rep Jim McGovern calling on the president to "embrace the goals and provisions of the treaty" and the government and people to "lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war" by doing several things, including renouncing first use, ending the president's ability to launch an attack by himself, taking weapons off "hair-trigger alert," canceling the ongoing arsenal modernization plan, and "actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to mutually eliminate their nuclear arsenals."

Other such bills included Rep Eleanor Norton's "Warheads to Windmills" bill, which demands shifting the funds from "the technology of extinction to other pressing needs," including climate, health care, housing, education and peace. (Norton was also a cosponsor or McGovern's bill, as was Rep Richard Neal.) Mass US Sen Ed Markey also proposed the "Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act, which would cancel or reduce nuclear weapons programs over the next decade," according to that bill's press release.

Bills for this year's session are now being filed and given numbers.

As Vicki Elson of Nuclear Ban US, one of the organizations behind the treaty's expansion, said "People are tired of messing around with parti-



Courtesy

The crew of the Golden Rule at a stop in California last year.

san solutions. ... I don't think we have the time to spend on other measures" beyond a massive public push to get governments to abolish the Bomb.

Elson was one of several speakers at an online forum Sunday sponsored by the US Green Party headlined by Massachusetts resident and former Green presidential candidate Jill Stein. Stein recalled "growing up with 'duck and cover'" and urged humanity to "get off that countdown [to doomsday]."

Stein noted that while many people are familiar with Hiroshima and Nagasaki, today's warheads are "several hundred times" more powerful and vastly more numerous. The US and Russia have about 2,450 operational warheads between them and more than 5,000 in storage, and she speculated they're targeting 10 or more on each major city in the other nation.

If used, she noted, "distance [from a target] should not be the comfort people once thought." As several fairly recent studies have shown, the fallout, post-war agricultural destruction leading to mass starvation, long term ecological destruction of nuclear winter and numerous toxins, and other after-effects of nuclear war will kill billions.

As fellow speaker Haig Hovaness

stated, "Those living away from major cities will probably be worse off. They'll witness the disintegration of civilization."

"We need to pull back from these preconditions that are supercharging the nuclear threat," Stein said, pointing specifically to US policy of "full spectrum dominance," years of "dismantling treaties," pushing for expanding the arsenal, and NATO expansion into Eastern Europe (including the \$115 billion so far allocated to the Ukraine War).

Regarding full-spectrum dominance, she described it as "appropriate for the bully in the school yard, but not appropriate for an interdependent world" with many global issues to solve. Regarding the treaties, she mentioned several that have been broken and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is still in force, but essentially being ignored. It calls on nuclear weapons states to "work to eliminate our weapons," but the US is dedicating \$2 trillion over 30 years to updating and modernizing them instead, and the world has already spent more than \$10 trillion on nukes since 1945, she said.

As a way to encourage public support for the Nuclear Ban Treaty, Veterans

for Peace (VFP) is sailing around the US this year in its "Golden Rule Peace Boat," a renovated sailboat first taken to the Marshall Islands in protest of nuclear testing there from 1947-58. It's currently moving northward along the Florida coast, with plans to reach New England in May and June. Among its planned stops are Groton Naval Base, June 8-11; Providence, June 11-13; New Bedford, June 13-15; Plymouth, June 15-18; and Boston, June 18-21.

VFP's Helen Jaccard described the trip as "a big speaking tour by water," where the stops are aimed at eliminating funding for nukes and shifting it "to things that are life-affirming."

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

Elizabeth Manfield named to Dean's List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Elizabeth Manfield of Spencer excelled during the Fall 2022 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List. Elizabeth's major is Psychology.

Hofstra University is an internationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y. Hofstra is a dynamic community of nearly 11,000 students dedicated to civic engagement, academic excellence and becoming leaders in their communities and their careers. Our campus is a leafy oasis just a quick train ride away from New York City and all its cultural, recreational and professional opportunities. We offer small classes and personal attention, with the resources, technology and facilities of a large university. Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate program options in the liberal arts and sciences, education, health professions and human services, the Peter S. Kalikow School of Government, Public Policy and International Affairs, the Fred DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business, the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication, the Maurice A. Deane School of Law, the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.

Cornerstone Bank commits \$25,000 to Anna Maria College's 'Build Up, Rise High' campaign

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has committed \$25,000 to Anna Maria College in Paxton for its "Build Up, Rise High" campaign. The funds will support the construction of an academic building dedicated to public safety and mental health, as well as the creation of an on-campus baseball and multi-purpose field. Cornerstone Bank will contribute \$5,000 per year for five years as part of this endeavor.

"We're proud to support this vibrant, longstanding, local institution of higher learning," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Anna Maria's plans will not only benefit its students but will also go a long way in serving our community, especially since so many alumni remain in Worcester County working in roles where they serve local populations."

The \$12.5-million initiative includes construction of a new, 21,000-square-foot academic building with learning and observation spaces for research and teaching. It will be used by students entering high-demand fields—such as mental health, criminal justice, social work, and addiction and recovery—which are the most pressing priorities identified in a recent population-based assessment in the greater Worcester

area. The building will also provide conference and lecture areas for students and the broader community.

"At Anna Maria, we have always been proud to prepare students with the career-ready skills they need to confidently enter the workforce and contribute to their communities," said Mary Lou Retelle, president of Anna Maria College. "Enhanced facilities will support our students' academic goals, helping them to acquire the skills, technical knowledge and compassion to make a real difference in the community and help us continue to attract top-notch faculty and field practitioners."

The "Build Up, Rise High" campaign will also fulfill a longstanding institutional promise to construct the first baseball and multi-purpose field on campus. This will help raise the college's profile amongst its competition in the NCAA Division III. This campaign will also make the school a more attractive choice for incoming students, improve scheduling and attendance of on-campus events and provide a richer experience for students and the surrounding community.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and

providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent, valid Massachusetts Driver's license and a clean driving record. Candidate must be willing to obtain proper water licensure within 6 months.

Applications may be obtained at the West Brookfield Water Department Office, 2 East Main St., lower level 6, West Brookfield, MA 01585. M-Th 9-3 or via the Town website: wbrookfield.com

Submit cover letter and resume with applications by Feb 9th, 2023 at 1pm. Questions can be referred to the office at 508 867 1421 ext 8.

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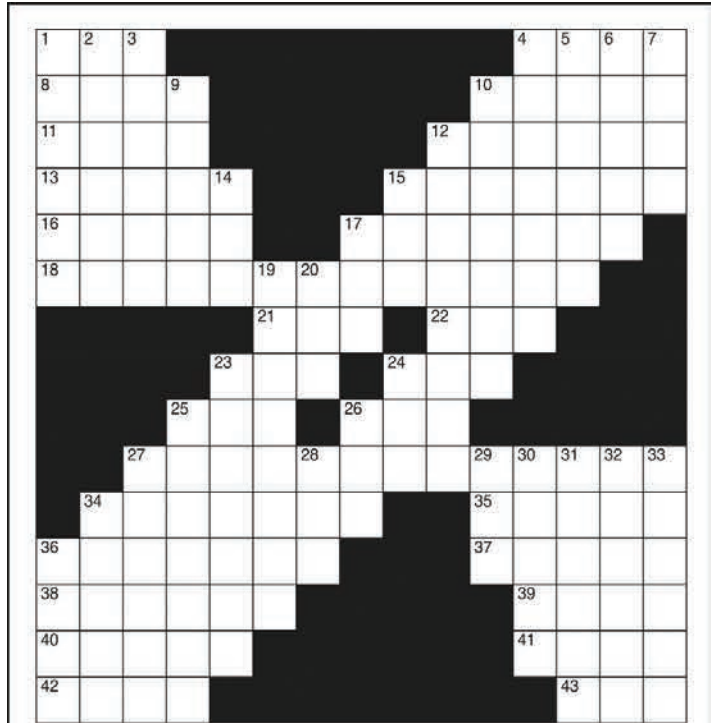
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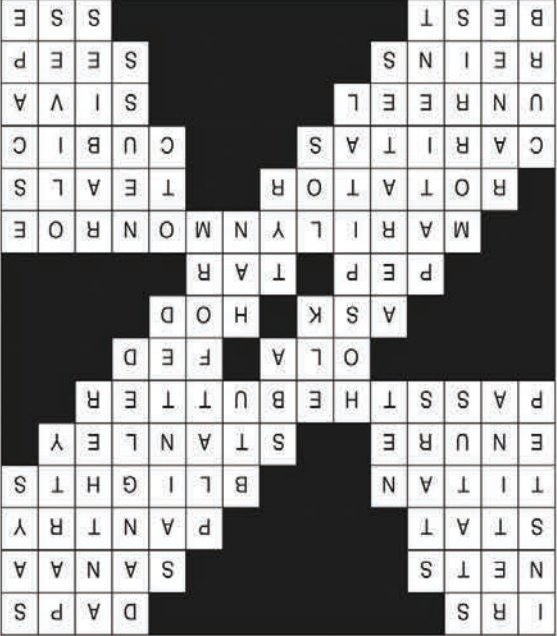
- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Tax collector
 - 4. Fishes without the line touching water
 - 8. Brooklyn hoopsters
 - 10. Actress Lathan
 - 11. A metric for athletes
 - 12. Food storage location
 - 13. Colossus
 - 15. Desolations
 - 16. Accustom to something unpleasant
 - 17. _ Kubrick, filmmaker
 - 18. You might ask this at Thanksgiving
 - 21. Arkansas city
 - 22. Gave food to
 - 23. Request
- 24. V-shaped open trough
 - 25. Make lively
 - 26. It accompanies feather
 - 27. Blonde bombshell
 - 34. One who revolves
 - 35. Bluish greens
 - 36. Charity
 - 37. Having the shape of a cube
 - 38. Unwind
 - 39. Believed by some to be the supreme being
 - 40. Checks or guides
 - 41. Leak slowly through
 - 42. Top-quality
 - 43. Midway between south and southeast

- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Part of your foot
 - 2. It's at the back of the eyeball
 - 3. Where things stand
 - 4. Offered
 - 5. Contains pollen
 - 6. Boisterous get-together
 - 7. Asserts out loud
 - 9. They're in the sky
 - 10. Canonized
 - 12. A politician's official stances
 - 14. It can catch fish
 - 15. British thermal unit
 - 17. Helps little firms
 - 19. Where patients go for treatment
- 20. Large red deer
 - 23. Pokes holes in
 - 24. "Star Wars" hero Solo
 - 25. One in a hospital
 - 26. Scandinavian god of battle
 - 27. Famous cat
 - 28. _ Angeles: City of Angels
 - 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
 - 30. City along the Rhine
 - 31. Animal disease
 - 32. Martini ingredients
 - 33. Get away
 - 34. Rare species of rodent
 - 36. Suppress

PUZZLE SOLUTION



QCC, Summit Campus offer neurodivergent students pathway to successful future

WORCESTER — Like many college freshmen, when Lauren Young enrolled at Quinsigamond Community College she wasn't sure about her professional goals, but knew she wanted to start a higher education journey. Young is a resident at Summit Campus, a residential community in Worcester for local college students with autism and other related diagnoses and like all residents there, identifies as neurodivergent. Young said the new experience of starting college was anxiety-inducing, but she found QCC to be a supportive environment and has embraced the challenge to become a successful student.

According to Summit Campus Director of Residence Life Nikki Koppel, living away from home for the first time, coupled with adjusting to college-level coursework, required the Summit Campus team to develop a strategic and intentional approach to Young's programming. QCC's Student Accessibility Services also provided guidance and facilitation to help Young access QCC's resources, such as its writing and math centers.

"The math and English tutoring helped a lot. In English, I was expecting a B or even a C, but I ended up being surprised with an A," Young said.

After getting comfortable with college life, Lauren could focus on exploring her academic and professional interests. It became clear that she was a visual and kinesthetic learner, with an affinity for cooking.

"In 2020, my mother started asking me to help with the cooking and I said, 'Absolutely!' This created a spark of inspiration," Young said. "(QCC Professor of Hospitality and Recreation Management) Pat Hutchinson and (QCC HRM Program Food Service Lab Site Supervisor) Matt Sullivan have been really helpful. They are so understanding if I need more time or accommodations. I also loved being in a commercial kitchen for the first time. I worked hard my first year, but now that I'm into something I'm passionate about, the hard work is just part of my routine."

Encouraged by Summit and her SAS coordinator, Young said she has fully embraced life at QCC. She works out at the college's fitness center and joined the Gaming Club where she can meet with other people who enjoy one of her favorite video games, "Pokemon Violet." Young also mentioned that the size of the campus is perfect when you don't have a car, and while it was scary at first, she now uses the WRTA bus system to get around.

"Student Accessibility Services at QCC has a history and tradition of partnering with agencies throughout Central Massachusetts, and our relationship with Summit Campus is our newest collaboration. Summit Campus provides an experience for community college students that is unique to this region – a living environment with their peers where they can learn and be challenged. We are fortunate to have Summit Campus close by. I hope the opportunity for students with autism to attend college and be independent, while key support is accessible when needed, will grow across the state. Summit Campus is a huge win for these students, QCC and the city," said QCC Director of Student Accessibility Services Kristie Proctor.

"Summit is phenomenal and so is QCC," Young said, adding, "I've seen so much diversity here and everyone is really supportive. If something isn't working for you, you can change it!"

"Lauren is a true Summit Campus and QCC success story. She exemplifies our core belief that with the right supports, individuals can not only achieve their goals but exceed expectations. We are so proud of Lauren," Koppel added.

Young is on track to receive her certificate this May. She said she would like to continue going to school for more credentials or possibly jump right into employment so she can prepare to live on her own.

For more information on Summit Campus, contact Nikki Koppel at nkoppel@summitacademiesma.com.

Assumption students named to university's Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a minimum of a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list. The Dean's List is announced at the completion of each fall and spring semester.

Abbey Cashman, Class of 2023, of Spencer
Henry Cipro, Class of 2025, of Brookfield
Breana Escobar, Class of 2026, of Rochdale
Matthew Escobar, Class of 2023, of Leicester
Madeline Johnson, Class of 2025, of West Brookfield
Maria Kapoukranidis, Class of 2026, of Leicester
Anastazia Lach, Class of 2024, of Leicester
Lydia Petit, Class of 2023, of Rochdale
Malorie Spence, Class of 2024, of Spencer
Kaden Wells, Class of 2024, of Spencer

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 38 majors and 50 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

Fontaine Brothers to be construction manager at risk on DPHS building project

SPENCER — After extensive evaluation, the David Prouty High School Construction Manager Selection Committee and School Building Committee has selected Fontaine Bros. to be the Construction Manager at Risk on the David Prouty High School building project.

Fontaine Bros. comes to the project with more than 100 public school projects constructed in Massachusetts, with a lot of them built in the Central Massachusetts region. They will be bringing their school building experience to the design process, and will ultimately become the builder once construction gets underway.

"Since day one, when the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) invited the district into the first module, we have worked to put together a team that is focused and committed to a David Prouty High School building project, but next generation education for our students here in the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District for the next fifty years... With Colliers as our Owner Project Manager; Jones Whitsett as our Architectural Firm, and now Fontaine Brothers as our Construction Manager, the CM Selection Committee and School Building Committee firmly believes we have assembled a team that can get the job done," said Superintendent of Schools, Paul Haughey.

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Ethan Kenyon of Brookfield earns Dean's List honors at Nazareth College

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Nazareth College is proud to announce that Ethan Kenyon of Brookfield has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester.

A student's grade point average must be at least 3.5 or above, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester in order to be included on the dean's list at Nazareth.

Nazareth College's academic strengths cross an unusually broad spectrum of 60 majors, including education, health and human services, management, the fine arts, music, theater, math and science, foreign languages, and the liberal arts. The coeducational, religiously independent, classic campus in a charming suburb of Rochester, N.Y. chal-

lenges and supports 2,200 undergrads and 700 graduate students. Nazareth is recognized nationally for its Fulbright global student scholars and commitment to civic engagement. Rigorous programs, an uncommon core, experiential learning, career skills, and a global focus prepare graduates for not just one job, but for their life's work.

Nazareth College is an inclusive community of inspired learners, educators, and changemakers who for nearly 100 years have been driven by a bold commitment to action, empathy, equity, and leading innovation for the common good.

Impact experiences are at the heart of a Nazareth education, preparing each student to discover within themselves the potential to cultivate pos-

itive change in their life's work, in any career field, and in a world that is constantly evolving and infinitely interconnected. Our broad academic offerings present a range of study options typical of big universities, yet achieved in our supportive campus culture. Nearly 2,100 undergrad and 600 graduate students enroll in degree and certificate programs and engage in collaborative, transformative learning experiences, preparing them for the professions and society of today and tomorrow. In a learning community that purposefully integrates liberal arts and professional programs, Nazareth graduates launch lifetimes of changemaking leadership in communities and workplaces near and far.

New year off to a strong start at Leicester Senior Center

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — With support from throughout the community, the Senior Center is off to a strong start in 2023. Looking ahead, seniors are invited to take advantage of an array of programs and activities at the center.

Several recent efforts have been made to strengthen the Senior Center's bonds with various town departments and community organizations. Some of the strongest momentum over the last year has been achieved between the Senior Center and Leicester Public Schools, highlighted by School Committee Chair Donna McCance's recent appointment to the Council on Aging Board. This created a direct link between the two boards and paved the way for discussions on future intergenerational opportunities, officials said.

"Donna has been actively involved both with the center and the school. As she works very closely

with [Superintendent] Brett Kustigian, it has been a total turnaround for our Senior Center," said Director of Elder Affairs Rachelle Cloutier. "Donna, Brett, and [Selectperson] Dianna Provencher attend our programs here at the center. They are here at our Board meetings. They come every month to help out with our Monthly Breakfast and have been passionately working on several projects to involve our schoolchildren and our seniors."

Senior Center and school officials are especially excited about the return of the Pen Pal program. Several seniors have taken part in the program, writing letters to a class of fourth graders.

Looking ahead, the annual Senior Center prom is scheduled for April 27 at 6 p.m. at the new high school. The evening's entertainment has already been secured, as well as the restaurant that will provide the meal.

Additionally, officials

are planning to soon schedule a Career Day program at the Senior Center. Combined with the center's internship program, Career Day will introduce students to a variety of opportunities.

Finally, Senior Center officials thank everyone who came together from the schools and other organizations to make recent programs a success.

"Our veterans' breakfast featured high school student Grace Reinke, who sang our National Anthem. At Christmas, Mr. Vaughan (school guidance counselor) came to entertain our seniors and leave candy canes," Cloutier added.

Meanwhile, Selectperson Provencher is thanked for bringing her own program to the Senior Center. The "Tea and Talk" sessions have been a treat for seniors looking to enjoy great conversation while staying current on town affairs.

To learn more about upcoming programs at the Senior Center, call 508-892-7016.

Gobi begins fifth term in state Senate

REGION — Earlier this month, Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) was sworn in to represent the new Worcester and Hampshire District in the Massachusetts Senate.

Gobi was first elected to the Senate in 2014, succeeding former senator Stephen Brewer.

Entering her fifth term in the Senate, Gobi is eager to continue advocating for her largely rural central and western Massachusetts district. Reflecting on the previous session, Gobi acknowledged her work on several issues. These include reproductive rights and health; a birth

records bill that provided previously barred access to Massachusetts adoptees; and crumbling concrete legislation, which aids homeowners impacted by pyrrhotite.

With the 193rd General Court now underway, Gobi has vowed to continue supporting her constituents and communities, bringing their challenges and priorities to the table at Beacon Hill.

"At the start of the last session, there were more than 6,000 bills filed. The Massachusetts voters send us here to work on their behalf. There continue to be serious issues to be worked on, and inequality gaps

to be bridged," Senator Gobi said. "I look forward to standing up for homeowners and the public on issues like crumbling concrete. My familial DNA bill will be filed again. Victims and their families are waiting for answers, which only DNA can bring solutions to. My team and I have hit the ground running."

Gobi's office can be reached at 617-722-1540. The Senator also invites the public to visit her website: senatorannegobi.com.

Additional information can be accessed on the Senator's Facebook page.

Jacqueline Robidoux of Rochdale named to UNH Dean's List

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Jacqueline Robidoux of Rochdale has been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for earning Honors for the fall 2022 semester. Jacqueline is majoring in Zoology.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New

Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all

50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, and received \$260 million in competitive external funding in FY21 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

To learn more about the opportunities at the University of New Hampshire visit: www.unh.edu.

West Brookfield Historical Commission announces 2023 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2023, 12th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school-choice students, home schooled students, and independent school students.

This award is made possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust.

Application Criteria:

The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with the intent to a transfer to a four-year college. The Commission will show preference to study plans with concentration on History and History-related areas. Major or minors may include Political Science, Social Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Historical Preservation, Museum Studies, and Education in any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the Notable Persons or Significant Places listed on the application. All necessary information will be found on the West Brookfield Historical Commission Web site. <http://westbrookfield.org>

Essays are due no later than April 10.

Email: info@westbrookfield.org

Mail: West Brookfield Historical Commission, PO Box 372, W. Brookfield, MA 01585.

The application and details can be found on the Historical Commission Web site, <http://westbrookfield.org>.

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Fitchburg State University announces Fall Dean's List

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2022.

Auburn
Gianna M. Bernier, Sheeza Y. Chaudry, Brian M. Dillon, Emma M. Ganley, Katherine L. Jajiliardo, Cameron J. McGrath, Serina E. Velazquez

Blackstone
Benjamin W. Putnam

Charlton
Jacob J. Fortin

Douglas
Anna E. Dame, Aubrey M. Harris, Kosmo J. Symock, Brianna N. Taft

Dudley
Jacob D. Roberts

Groton
Matthew J. Carey, Andrew T. Esielionis, Emily J. Hanson, Kabriana T. Kien, Mishayla S. Silver

Holland
Charles L. Moran

Leicester
Madison C. Hippert, Jack W. Larson, Paige L. Ward

Milford
Roy M. Benson, Mckenzie E. Calvao, Sydney D. Crocker, Brian R. Doyle, Leah R. Gorham, Oscar D. Orellana, Emily E. Phillips

Millbury
Allison M. Progrek

Northbridge
Chrissa A. Gannon, Elijah V. Perron

Oxford
Suzannah R. Lambert, Mathieu N. Legault, Emily R. Margoupis, Maxwell D. Zostant

Southbridge
Ryan P. Pratt

Spencer
Lauryn M. Hines

Sturbridge
Grace Hope K. Kentsa

Uxbridge
Caileen J. Wilson

West Brookfield
Chase W. Carlson, Nicholas C. Lucia, Robert P. O'Shea

Webster
Samuel A. Knotes, Abigail J. Mulry, Isabelle M. Sargent

Derrick Shepherd named to President's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Derrick Shepherd of West Brookfield has been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Fall 2022 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Fall 2022 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Shepherd is a Management major at Plymouth State.

About Plymouth State University
Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Accounts vary on Valentine's Day origins

Valentine's Day is a bright light in the middle of the winter. Come February 14, sweethearts celebrate their love and affection for one another on this day devoted to happy couples.

The origin of Valentine's Day has generated much speculation over the years. Most early accounts do not point to heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates. Rather, a few distinctive tales may paint the picture of early Valentine's Day, and they have nothing to do with stuffed animals or romantic dinners.

Roman festival
One of the earliest records of the term Valentine's Day is traced to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival. This annual event held on February 15 included animal sacrifices and priests called the Luperci who would take pieces of animal hide and touch it to the foreheads of women in the hopes it would make them more fertile. Fortunately for the squeamish (and the sacrificial animals), Pope Gelasius I ended Lupercalia and replaced it with St. Valentine's Day by the end of the fifth century.

Two or three St. Valentines?
Most people attribute the origins of Valentine's Day to the holiday's namesake, St. Valentine. But it seems that Valentine was the surname of a few different individuals. According to History.com, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who decided that single men made better soldiers than those with families or wives. Claudius outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine disagreed with the decree and would perform marriages in secret. Others believe it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop beheaded by Claudius II outside of Rome, who was the true namesake.

Yet another Valentine may have been jailed and fell in love with a jailer's daughter while in prison. He purportedly wrote to her, beginning the first Valentine card or letter tradition. Other stories say the imprisoned Valentine actually was writing to a blind woman he purportedly healed, and signed the



note "from your Valentine."
It is hard to know who is who in regard to the name Valentine, as the stories and the people behind them are used interchangeably. Some historians believe they actually are the same person rather than several Valentines, while others insist there were multiple martyred individuals.
However you slice it, the defiant actions of one or more people named "Valentine" set the course for centuries of romance to follow.

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Plan a special Valentine's Day



Couples have been commemorating their love for one another in February for quite some time. Couples may go about such celebrating in their own unique ways, but it's not uncommon to focus on a night out on the town.

Valentine's Day is a busy holiday for

many businesses, but especially so at restaurants and other romantic venues. So it's best to plan ahead to ensure a perfect evening. These tips can help you organize a Valentine's experience to remember.

Tip #1: Reserve early

The closer to Valentine's Day, the more likely popular restaurants will be all booked up. If the goal is to dine at a particularly trendy spot — or anywhere but the most obscure establishment — be sure to make a reservation well in advance. Start planning the Valentine's Day dinner in December so you won't have to look far and wide to book a reservation. If a restaurant does not take reservations that far out, ask when they will start collecting names for Valentine's Day and book the moment you can.

Tip #2: Secure transportation

One way to make the night more romantic is to snuggle in the back seat of a vehicle and have someone else do the driving. This also is a safer option if you plan to pop a bottle of bubbly or sip some wine while celebrating. Hiring a limousine, luxury car, horse-drawn carriage, or something similar also will require advanced reservations. However, going the extra mile can make the night memorable.

Tip #3: Emulate a scene from a favorite film

The person you love may adore a romantic movie, whether it's a classic or more recent tear-jerker. When planning a romantic evening out, consider

reenacting a movie scene with you and your special someone in the starring roles. For example, recall when Tom Hanks met Meg Ryan at the top of the Empire State Building in "Sleepless in Seattle." Include a visit to the observation deck or roof as part of a whirlwind Valentine's Day experience.

Tip #4: Attend a live music performance

Music can touch the heart and soul. That makes an evening watching a band play or enjoying a musical on the stage even more memorable if it occurs on Valentine's Day. Select an intimate venue to add to the romantic ambiance of the night.

Tip #5: Think outside tradition

While dinner and a movie are Valentine's Day favorites, any activity done together can be memorable and romantic. Why not book a couple's cooking class? Or enjoy a winter sport like skiing or ice skating? Or warm up after window shopping on Main Street by sipping hot cocoa and snuggling on the sofa under a blanket at a nearby B&B?

Romantic nights out on Valentine's Day can be made even more special with some forethought and planning.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Winter travel through the years

The first big storm of the season has come and gone, leaving us with anywhere from three to 12 inches of snow, depending on where you are. As with most things, we like to think about how our ancestors handled certain situations. It was during a snowy drive last winter that this writer became grateful for studded snow tires and heat. That experience prompted thoughts about how those who came before us dealt with travel during snowstorms. During the winter of 1717, a storm dumped four feet of snow, creating snowdrifts of up to 25 feet. Passing through the snow-covered roads was too much for a postman who traded his horse for a pair of snowshoes. Objects similar to skis were attached to carriages as a means of winter transportation. Streets had to be passable for wood and food deliveries. When the roads were not passable townspeople would gather together in large groups and dig out a path. The snow was placed into the back of a horse-drawn cart by gangs of men and driven to the closest river to be dumped. Salt was also used on streets, but many people complained because it ruined their shoes and clothes. Fast forward to 1840, when the first snowplow patent came to be. It wasn't until 1862 that the first snowplow was put into use. The plow was attached to a cart and pulled by a team of horses. Soon after, many cities began to use the horse-drawn snowplow. Typically, the use of the horse-drawn plow was only used to clear main streets, leaving side streets and sidewalks snowed in by large piles often blocking entrances to businesses. Many business owners actually brought lawsuits against the plowing companies as a result because their customers could not gain access to the storefronts. The solution to that conundrum, was the hiring of snow shovelers to accompany the plow. The blizzard of 1888, however, was too much for the "modernized" plow, leaving many people trapped inside their homes. This emergency was the catalyst cities needed to begin coming up with a better plan for snow removal. One idea was to stay on top of the storm as it started, instead of waiting for it to end. Different men driving the plows were assigned to certain neighborhoods as well. The invention of the automobile brought with it a crutch and a new possibility as far as snow removal went. The crutch being that an entirely new method needed to be engineered and put into use. In New York, in 1913 a dump truck could be seen on city streets. Seven years later the first snow loader, came on to the scene. It had a big scoop with a conveyor belt. The snow would go into the scoop via the belt, then dumped into the back of the truck. From there, off to the river it went. It wasn't until 1959 when the weather was able to be predicted more accurately, allowing towns and cities to better prepare for any incoming storms. Reading old diaries of our New England ancestors gives the perfect window as to what it was like to experience a bitter cold winter, prior to modern practices. A shining example is the quote below from literary critic Van Wyck Brooks. "All praise to winter, then, was Henry's feeling. Let others have their sultry luxuries. How full of creative genius was the air in which these snow-crystals were generated. He could hardly have marveled more if real stars had fallen and lodged on his coat. What a world to live in, where myriads of these little discs, so beautiful to the most prying eye, were whirled down on every traveler's coat, on the restless squirrel's fur and on the far-stretching fields and forests, the wooded dells and mountain-tops, -these glorious spangles, the sweepings of heaven's floor."

— The Flowering of New England, 1815-1865

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The clown show must end

To the Editor:

Every time you think things can't get more surreal, life proves you wrong.

Even if you set aside that the GOP platform for the mid-term elections was mainly whataboutism and complaints about spending, it is sad to have to explain to many voters that increasing the debt limit is only about paying existing bills and can only harm us. Instead of this frequent and foolhardy exercise, that is just one of the many tweaks that we need to make to the ludicrous antiquated rules we inflict for little more than political fodder, let's grow up.

If we were serious about spending, a balanced budget bill is the correct remedy, not risking that the US currency get replaced by the Chinese Yuan as the base of world currency exchange. As a former elected town meeting member, we had a rob Peter to pay Paul rule, where every proposal needed to include payment plan, because, even borrowing required repayment as part of our balanced budget.

We still have 173 election deniers serving in our House of Representatives. Some of those who failed to respond to being subpoenaed by the Jan. 6 committee, are now chairing and on committees where they think people should respond to theirs. Kinzinger said, why not unlike them, I can safely tell the truth.

The electoral college should be eliminated, as should the senate. Both were created to encourage minority

rule, which is now proving a pariah to democracy. I believe we are on the cusp of seeing just how bad things can get. Look at Kansas, where a referendum supporting Roe passed by large majority and its GOP statehouse is working to override that.

Here is the GOP menu. Pick any combination of three. Shut down country by not extending debt limit, investigate Hunter Bidens laptop, impeach Joe Biden, stop funding and supporting Ukraine, put Matt Gaetz, Margery Taylor Greene, Jim Jordan, Lauren Boberts and George Santos on key committees, make sure wealthy do not pay their fare share, cut Social Security and Medicare, install a 30 percent sales tax.

The Senate, which the founders originally appointed to control the peoples house, is now so convoluted that the four senators representing the two million Dakotans now overrule the two who represent forty million Californians, but still embrace a filibuster requiring 60 senators instead of 60 percent of all voters.

What can you say about a country that thinks everyone having an assault rifle is freedom. The well regulated militia part of the second amendment is ignored and we see no problem when people in a bad mood can just start erasing us, and it has become largest cause of death of school children. I tried-prayer can't fix it, but we can.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

God knows Brittany Tee

To the Editor:

Even though some of us may be miles apart, God addresses us as neighbors (Luke 10: 27). And as neighbors, the best way I can suggest to love our neighbor Brittany is to pray for her.

God knows why and where Brittany has mysteriously disappeared! We, as neighbors in Brittany's neighborhood and in her community, and in

this state, need to pray. God is a gentleman, and likes to be asked, and we as neighbors need to ask God to reveal to the officials and her family where she is. God knows where she is, and God can bring closure to her family and or bring Brittany home safely, our responsibility is to pray to God. Amen!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Thank you for supporting Operation Undercover

To the Editor:

Operation Undercover continues to provide new underwear (and socks) for the residents of Jeremiah's Inn, Veterans, Inc. and Abby's House.

Every year beginning in early November, a collection box is put out at the McPherson home and at the Town Hall and Library for collecting new underwear and socks to be delivered before the holidays. Christmas 2022 saw a donation of nearly 500 sets of underwear and

socks given by the generous residents of Spencer.

We at Operation Undercover thank all those whose donations make it possible to continue to the legacy of Carol McPherson, who started Operation Undercover with her husband, Bob, over 32 years ago.

LAURA TORTI
BETH MCPHERSON
OPERATION UNDERCOVER
SPENCER

From slave to hero

In 1748, James Armistead was born into the world, and his life was far from ordinary. James was born into slavery, belonging to the Armistead family, a well-established and prominent family in Virginia who owned a vast plantation and many different businesses. Little did they know, this enslaved man would become one of the greatest American heroes ever.

Amidst the darkness of slavery, James learned to read and write, unlike many of his fellow enslaved people. James's ability to read and write was invaluable as the Revolutionary War was heating up and would prove to be the key that unlocked his path to freedom.

By 1781, the colonies were amid a fierce war for independence against England.

The British, led by the infamous Lord Cornwallis and his army of red-coats, were making devastating raids and attacks on the Continental Army and their cities. Under the command of General George Washington, the colonies fought bravely alongside their French allies, but it seemed as though victory was slipping from their grasp.

To turn the tide of the war, Washington sent the Marquis De Lafayette from France to reinforce the Continental Army's position in Virginia. Lafayette, a seasoned military leader, knew that the Continental Army alone was no match for British forces; he had to think outside the box.

Although enslaved people weren't allowed to fight, Lafayette recruited James; he was determined to utilize every advantage and was eager to learn more about the enemy's plans.

Together they devised a plan to infiltrate the British camp and gather vital

information from within. James knew the stakes were high and was willing to take the risk.

James posed as a runaway slave and offered his services to Cornwallis, desperate for a chance to serve the British army, and Cornwallis believed him.

Day after day, as he served dinner to Lord Cornwallis and his generals, he gained their trust and listened in on their secret plans. With every word, he memorized their strategies, studied their maps, and learned their procedures. He was like a fly on the wall, unnoticed but always present, always listening.

Cornwallis and his generals had no idea that the servant before them was not just an enslaved man but a spy working for the Continental army.

As the war was getting closer to the climax, The Battle of Yorktown, every piece of information James gathered was crucial for the Patriots to win. He was determined to help win the war and secure his freedom.

He provided the Marquis with detailed information about the location and strength of British troops, their supply lines, and plans for escape or reinforcement.

Armed with this information, The Marquis launched a bloody siege against the British army in Yorktown. The siege lasted for several weeks, as the Continental Army and the French allies bombarded the British positions with artillery.

The Patriots could anticipate the British's every move and turn the tide of the battle. Defeated, Cornwallis surrendered, and the Battle of Yorktown was over.

Can you reduce the Medicare surcharge?



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Before you turn 65, you'll want to become familiar with Medicare's rules and features. And if you're a high earner, you'll want to be especially aware of the Medicare premium surcharge — because, over time, it can add up to some significant dollars.

The premium surcharge — known as the income related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA — is assessed on premiums for Medicare Parts B and D, and generally is based on an individual's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) of two years ago. So, the IRMAA for 2023 would be based on one's MAGI from 2021.

For someone who's married and files taxes jointly, and whose MAGI for 2021 was \$194,000 or less, the Part B premium for 2023 will be \$164.90 per month, and the Part D premium will be whatever amount is charged by their Medicare plan. But if their 2021 MAGI was between \$194,000 and \$246,000, they'll pay \$230.80 (a surcharge of \$65.90) for Part B and an additional \$12.20 for Part D. And the IRMAA rises at different income levels, reaching a maximum of \$560.50 (a surcharge of \$395.60) for Part B and an additional \$76.40 for Part D for a MAGI of \$750,000 or more.

If you're unprepared for the IRMAA, it can be an unpleasant surprise. So, if you've still got a few years until you enroll in Medicare, you may want to look for ways to control your MAGI and possibly limit the surcharge.

Here are a few suggestions:

Contribute to a Health Savings Account (HSA). If you have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA), your contributions will reduce your taxable income, helping you on the IRMAA issue. Furthermore, any investment growth within your HSA is tax free, as are withdrawals for qualified medical expenses, which can include Medicare premiums, deductibles and copays.

Contribute to a Roth IRA. Roth IRA withdrawals are tax free, provided you don't start taking them until you're 59 and a half and you've had your account at least five years. These tax-free withdrawals can enable you to avoid taking taxable withdrawals from other accounts, which may help you avoid an increase in your IRMAA.

Consider a Roth IRA conversion. You could convert some, or perhaps all, the assets of a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. But you'll need to consider the impact of taxes — any deductible contributions to your traditional IRA and the earnings generated by these contributions will be fully taxable the year of the conversion, so you'll want to have funds outside your IRA available to pay these taxes. Also, timing is important — to be on the safe side, you might want to complete the Roth conversion three or more years before you enroll in Medicare, so the conversion and the likely increase in your MAGI won't increase the IRMAA.

Manage your withdrawal rate — Taking large withdrawals from your retirement accounts can bump up your MAGI bracket and your IRMAA. So, as you near retirement, you'll want to establish a sustainable withdrawal rate — one that provides you the income you need but without going overboard.

While these moves could potentially help you control the Medicare surcharge, they still must make sense for your overall financial strategy. It's obviously desirable to keep the surcharge as low as you can — but it's even more important to take the steps necessary to reach your financial goals.

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

Appreciate your rod & gun club

Many people are happy with this winter's almost snowless season, but Ice fishing anglers are not happy about the absence of safe ice to fish on. The long range forecast is not looking good for ice fishing locally, but a couple of anglers packed their gear and traveled to the Northern part of Maine, and found six to eight inches of ice to fish on, and had a great time fishing. You've got to do what you've got to do!

The Mass. bear season ended with 223 bear being harvested during the three season hunt. Most bear were harvested in the western part of the state. It seems a bit low from the previous few years. The results of the 2021 deer season in Mass. pertaining to the Covid testing done at local stations, showed that 28 percent of the deer tested positive. The results of the 2022 deer harvest in Mass. has not been released as of this writing, but should be available any day now. There sure was a lot of big bucks taken this year.

Local clubs are planning their wild game suppers. A few clubs will not be having a game supper this year, but the Whitinsville Fish & Game club announced Feb. 18 for this year's big day. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will also have their game supper this year. Tickets are now available and can be purchased at the club. These events are sold out quickly every year. Do not be left out!

Upcoming fishing shows include Tried & True fishing show on Feb. 4 & 5 in Westport Mass. Location of the show is at Whites of Westport, Sportsmen's



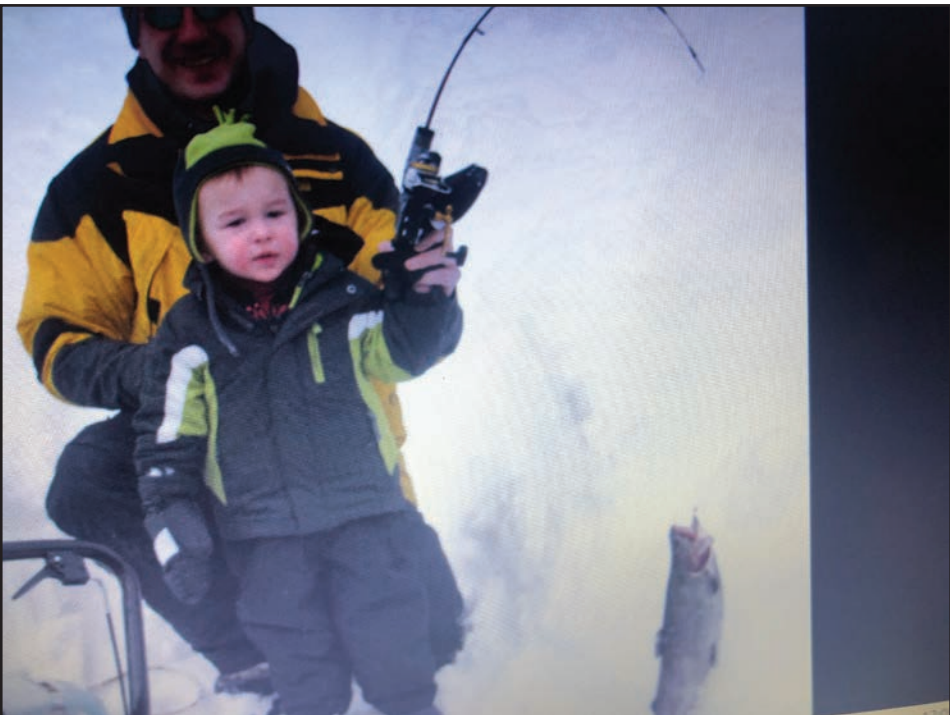
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show at the Big E on Feb. 24-26, and the Fishing show on Jan. 28 & 29 in Boxborough, Mass. this weekend!

The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club held their annual Founders Day prime roast beef dinner this past Saturday, which was well attended. More than 80 members and guests enjoyed a prime Roast Beef dinner, put on by numerous club members. Only a few club founders remain, as most have passed on, but are remembered by the new members every day they hunt & fish on the property, or they trap shoot, use the pistol range, archery range etc.! The founders of most Rod & Gun clubs had the vision to acquire open space and develop it by building Club houses, trout ponds, ranges, that in today's world would almost be impossible. Back in the '50's and '60's, numerous opportunities to buy open space for back taxes, and could be bought for \$1,000 per 100 acres or more. The Whitinsville Fish & Game club and the Blackstone valley Beagle Club land were a couple of clubs that purchased acreage for back taxes. Today, these two clubs are enjoying their property and all of the hunting and fishing activities that were left for future generations. Every time new members join one of these clubs, they should remember all of the hard work that was done by previous members.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club also had members that had the foresight to buy land and build a clubhouse and all of the things that sportsmen need to have. There is little or no land that is affordable to build these spe-



Courtesy

This week's picture shows a dad and his daughter ice fishing at a fishing derby at the Whitinsville fish & Game Club a couple of years ago! She was Jig Fishing & landed an impressive rainbow trout. She would love to fish again this year, but there is no ice!

cial places for sportsmen and women today. The next time you visit your club to shoot fish, you should take a moment to appreciate all of the work that past members did to make it possible.

Marine fisheries are looking to cut more species of fish like Haddock, Cod, Mackerel, from the daily limits of recreational anglers and there is little that can be done to stop it. They have managed to cut recreational angler limits every year, but still allow commercial

fishing boats to take more fish and longer fishing seasons. They have managed to separate charter boat anglers from the recreational boat anglers, allowing charter boats to have larger limits than the private boats. It is never going to stop.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Annual Cold/Flu Review

It's flu season and time for the annual cold/flu facts column. Read on to review symptom checkers to ID your ailment, along with some natural and proactive methods you can employ to increase your odds of staying healthy this season.

Cold or Flu? You know you're sick, but not sure how sick. Is it a common cold or the dreaded flu? Symptoms can be similar at the beginning of the infection. Since colds and flu are often treated differently, it's important to identify the illness.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a cold is a milder respiratory ailment that has symptoms that last a few days; the flu can last weeks and result in such serious health problems as pneumonia. While a stuffy nose and aches and pains are symptoms typically present in both colds and flu, a temperature reading can often differentiate the two. A common cold rarely causes a temperature to reach over 101 degrees. Also, body aches are much more common with the flu virus.

Cold Symptoms: Symptoms usually begin with sore throat, runny nose followed by congestion and cough. Mucus may become thicker and darker. A slight fever is possible. Cold symptoms usually last for about a week. During the first three days that you have cold symptoms, you are contagious.

Flu Symptoms: Flu symptoms usually come on quicker than cold symptoms are typically more severe. They can include a sore throat, (sometimes hacking) cough, congestion,



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accompanied by headache, fatigue, chills and fever 102 to 104 degrees. Most symptoms improve in about five days, but fatigue can linger on for a week or more. The flu virus can be contagious from the day before the onset of the virus up to a week after.

How Colds & Flu are spread: Cold and flu viruses are spread when an infected person releases germs in the air via coughing, sneezing and close contact. Cold and flu viruses can live for hours on surfaces such as telephones, desks, door knobs, etc.

The flu is highly contagious as an infected person can spread flu germs a day before symptoms appear and can remain contagious for up to a week later. Studies show children with the flu virus can be contagious for over a week after onset. A person with a cold or flu is most contagious the first three days of infection, when the virus is most concentrated in nasal secretions. To prevent spreading the flu virus to co-workers and the public in general, the CDC recommends that people with flu stay home for 24 hours after their fever breaks.

Home Remedies: The following remedies are effective "first step" treatments to cold and flu. Symptoms that last more than a few days or become severe should be checked by a physician.

*A hot bath can be a powerful cold chaser and

in Chinese medicine very hot baths are used to "sweat" out a cold at its earliest stages. To kick up the detox power of a bath, add a few drops of eucalyptus, rosemary or thyme essential oils to the water.

Note: Check with your doctor before taking a hot bath if you are pregnant, diabetic, have heart disease or other complications.

*Giving colds a two step punch with a double dose of ginger and lemon can relieve cold and flu symptoms. Adding ginger and lemon to a hot cup of tea not only soothes the throat, but ginger's antimicrobial properties and lemon's vitamin C help fight the bug. To break up mucus, add a pinch of cayenne pepper to the hot tea.

Or try this recipe from Food Network to relieve cold and flu ailments: Combine in a mug: the juice of half a lemon, a quarter size piece of fresh ginger, two teaspoons of honey, and 3/4 cup of boiling water. Allow to steep for at least three minutes. Add dark rum if desired.

* It's true that chicken broth can offer cold and flu sufferers relief, but did you know it's the bone broth from the homemade brew that provides much of the healing power? Broth made from boiling bones (for about 12 hours for maximum benefit) offers magnesium, sulfur, phosphorus and other trace minerals that are easily absorbable not always readily available.

*Whether you like it hot or cold, a compress applied to sinuses can relieve congestion quickly. A freeze pack (or bag of frozen vegetables) works as a cold pack on the sinus area to decrease symptoms. Or, heat up a wet facecloth in the microwave (not to

hot) and apply across the bridge of the nose for similar relief.

*While there's no cure for the common cold some foods appear to reduce susceptibility to catching colds, or at least reduce the severity of the symptoms. Foods containing beta-carotene, vitamin C, and zinc have shown to have immune repairing and boosting properties. Research suggests that zinc (which is in many over the counter products to prevent colds) can work to reduce the duration and severity of a cold. But it is only effective if it's started early, at the very first signs of

illness.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can

take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a 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.

Grow a beautiful indoor succulent garden

It's no surprise that succulents, including cacti, are popular. These easy-care houseplants come in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes making them perfect for any home.

All you need is a lot of light and benign neglect to raise healthy and beautiful succulents. Place the plants near an unobstructed south-, west- or east-facing window.

Don't let a lack of light stop you from enjoying these beautiful plants in your home. You'll find many attractive options for displaying your plants while providing the light they need. A single desktop LED plant light, attractive plant light shelves and carts, and furniture-grade light gardens allow you to grow these sun-lovers anywhere in your home.

Grow these plants in cacti and succulent potting mix. These fast-draining mixes help reduce the risk of overwatering which can lead to root rot. Further reduce this risk by using containers with drainage holes that are only slightly larger than the succulents' root system. Growing them in too large of a container that retains moisture longer can result in root rot, decline, and even the death of your plants.

Water thoroughly whenever the top inch or two of soil is dry. Some gardeners check the soil moisture at the drain hole to ensure it is dry and the plants need to be watered. Always pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer.

Avoid water collecting in the rosette of leaves or the cluster of prickly stems that can lead to crown rot. Use a watering can like the Haws Indoor Watering Can which has a long narrow spout that allows you to reach under the plants to water just the soil.

Make slight adjustments in your watering regime and growing environment as the seasons change. Adapting to changing conditions will keep your plants healthy and looking their best year-round.

Find a cool, sunny, draft-free location for your cacti and succulents in the fall and winter. Maximize the amount of light the plants receive by moving them to the sunniest, usually south-facing, window in your home. Water thorough-



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Succulents are low-maintenance houseplants that add interest and beauty to indoor décor.

ly but only when the top few inches of soil are dry and just often enough to keep the plants from shriveling. These changes in the growing conditions often encourage a spring display of colorful and unique flowers.

Boost your succulents' natural beauty by displaying them in unique containers or places in your home. Create a living wall display with a 3-tier vertical wall planter (gardeners.com) or Mini Magnetic Galvanized Planter Pockets.

Grow a succulent centerpiece that can be enjoyed year-round. Plant a variety of succulents in a long narrow planter like the Veradek GEO Series Planter boxes. Display it on the table, and if needed, move it back to its sunny location between dinner parties. Small containers like the heart-shaped concrete tabletop planters allow you to create an attractive dish garden even when space is limited.

Whether you're a busy, experienced, or new indoor gardener, creating a succulent garden may be just what you need to brighten your home and elevate your mood.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and 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.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A8

James's bravery and dedication to the cause of freedom for himself and our nation played a vital role in the defeat of the British.

This victory may have never been possible without James's bravery and dedication as a double agent. His actions as a spy during the war were instrumental in securing freedom for the colonies and served as a powerful example of resistance against slavery and oppression.

He defied the notion that enslaved people were merely passive victims and showed that they, too, could actively fight for their liberation.

Some believe that James and the

Marquis kept in touch. Fifty years later, when The Marquis was on a rockstar tour of American Cities, almost 100,000 showed up to see him; James was there and was embraced by the Marquis as a hero while the crowds roared with approval. James took the last name Lafayette in honor of his relationship with the Marquis de Lafayette.

James Armistead Lafayette's story remained largely unknown for many decades. It was in the 20th century that historians began to acknowledge his role in the war and his significance as a symbol of courage, determination, and resilience.

Although he's no longer here, I wish to say to James, "Thank you for your service."



What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. More scallions in soup 2. Missing spoon 3. Chopstick broken 4. Dipping sauce bowl

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1957: AMERICAN INVENTOR WALTER FREDERICK MORRISON SELLS THE RIGHTS TO HIS FLYING DISC. IT IS LATER RENAMED THE “FRISBEE.”
- 1986: THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTS ITS FIRST MEMBERS.
- 2020: THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DECLARES THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.



MINESTRONE

a thick soup containing vegetables and pasta



TRUE OR FALSE?
DRINKING AND EATING WARM FOODS AND BEVERAGES CAN HELP RELIEVE COLD OR FLU SYMPTOMS.

ANSWER: TRUE



- ENGLISH: Soup
- SPANISH: Sopa
- ITALIAN: Minestra
- FRENCH: Soupe
- GERMAN: Suppe



SOUP WAS FIRST KNOWN AS “SOP.” IT WAS A MEDIEVAL DISH OF A THICK STEW POURED ON SLICES OF BREAD USED TO SOAK UP THE LIQUID.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to donating blood.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 14 = O)

A. 3 14 12 5 15 8 14 12

Clue: Gift of money or something

B. 22 21 14 1 15 5 4 6

Clue: Not enough

C. 17 8 2 6

Clue: Growth and sustenance

D. 19 5 1 8 12 4

Clue: Compassionate

Answers: A. donation B. shortage C. life D. caring

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

The most popular Valentine's Day gifts

Valentine's Day sparks one of the busiest shopping seasons of the year. Though it might not inspire the masses quite like Black Friday, Valentine's Day compels millions of people to find gifts for that special someone in their lives each February. In fact, the National Retail Federation's Annual 2022 Valentine's Day Spending Survey found that the average person expected to devote \$175 to Valentine's Day spending in 2022.

Any heartfelt gift can light up a sweetheart's smile on Valentine's Day, but certain items tend to be more popular than others on February 14. Though Valentine's Day shoppers can always go their own way when shopping for their sweethearts, some of the more traditional gifts remain wildly popular. In its survey, the NRF found that these go-to gifts maintained their status as the most popular items for individuals to show their love for that special someone in 2022:

- **Candy:** Fifty-six percent of survey respondents indicated they planned to buy candy for their sweetheart on Valentine's Day. Though any candy can suffice, chocolates inside a heart-shaped box tend to be especially popular in mid-February.

- **Greeting cards:** Greeting cards will likely never go out of style, as 40 percent of respondents indicated they would give a card in 2022.

- **Flowers:** The appeal of a bouquet is undeniable, prompting 37 percent of shoppers to give flowers on Valentine's Day.

- **A night out:** A romantic night out is perhaps as meaningful as ever in a world still emerging from the pandemic. So it's no surprise that 31 percent of respondents indicated they planned to take their sweethearts out for a night on the town in 2022.

- **Jewelry:** Though it might rank below the others on this list, jewelry remains a go-to gift on Valentine's Day. And with total Valentine's Day spending on jewelry estimated at more than \$6 billion in 2022, this could be where most Valentine's Day dollars go this February.

Valentine's Day indulgence done devilishly right

If asked to describe the favored foods of Valentine's Day in a single word, "decadent" might prove the most apt descriptor. Foodies and non-foodies alike recognize that Valentine's Day and chocolate are intertwined, making the day an ideal time to indulge in something decadent. This Valentine's Day, couples can share their love for decadent delights by working alongside one another to whip up this recipe for "Devil's Food Layer Cake" from Elisabeth M. Prueitt and Chad Robertson's "Tartine" (Chronicle Books).

DEVIL'S FOOD LAYER CAKE

Yields 1 10-inch cake; 12 to 16 servings

Cake layers

134	cups all-purpose flour
412	tablespoons cornstarch
1	teaspoon baking powder
12	teaspoon baking soda
114	cups cocoa powder
1	teaspoon salt
1	cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
234	cups sugar
5	large eggs
114	cups full-fat buttermilk

Chocolate Ganache

24	ounces or 32 ounces bittersweet chocolate
3	cups or 4 cups heavy cream
12	cup plus 1 tablespoon caramel

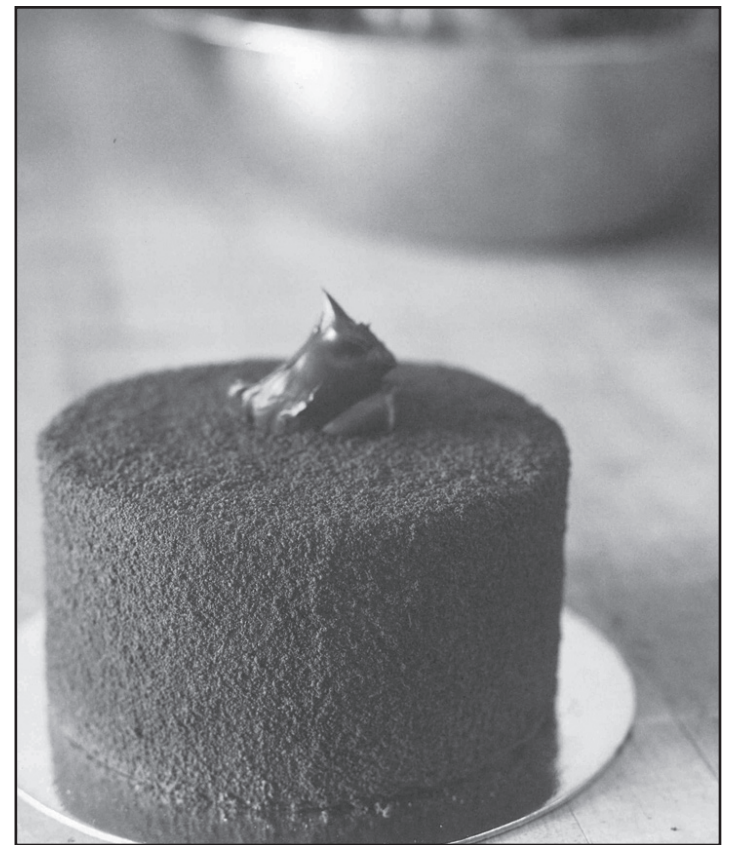
Preheat the oven to 350 F. Butter and lightly flour the sides of two 9-inch cake pans, knocking out the excess flour. Line the bottom of each pan with parchment paper cut to fit exactly.

To make the cake layers, sift together the flour, cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda, cocoa powder, and salt into a bowl and set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium-high speed until light and creamy. Slowly add the sugar and continue to beat on the same speed light in color and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition until incorporated before adding the next egg. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with the rubber spatula. With the mixer on low speed, add the flour mixture in 3 equal batches alternately with the buttermilk in 2 batches, beginning and ending with the flour mixture. Stop the mixer, scrape down the sides of the bowl and then mix again for another few seconds.

Divide the cake batter evenly between the prepared cake pans. Bake until the top springs back when lightly touched or a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Let the cakes cool completely in the pans on a wire rack.

When the cakes are cool, turn them out by inverting the pans, and then turn the cakes upright. Using a serrated knife, slice off the domed portion from the top of each cake to make the tops flat. If you want to decorate the cake with crumbs as described in the headnote, reserve the slices for making the crumbs.

To make the crumbs, preheat the oven to 250 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a nonstick liner. Break up the cake slices and spread on the lined baking sheet. Place in the oven and toast until completely dry, about 1 hour. Let cool completely, then transfer to a food processor or blender and process until finely ground. Sift the crumbs through a medium-mesh sieve. (Don't use a sieve with fine mesh or the



crumbs won't pass through.) Set aside.

To make the ganache, place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl, using the smaller amount of each ingredient if you will be decorating the cake with crumbs and the larger amount if you will not. Bring the cream to just under a boil in a small saucepan. Pour the cream over the chocolate. Let the mixture sit for a few minutes without stirring until the chocolate is partially melted, and then stir with a rubber spatula until smooth and shiny.

To assemble the cake, split each cake into 2 layers to make 4 layers in all. Transfer 1 layer to a serving plate. Using an offset spatula, spread 3 tablespoons of the caramel evenly over the cake layer. Spread a thin layer of ganache (about 1/4-inch thick) over the caramel. Top with a second cake layer, and again spread with 3 tablespoons caramel and then a thin layer of ganache. Top with the fourth cake layer. Refrigerate the cake until the center seems firm, 1 to 2 hours. Cover the remaining ganache with plastic wrap and leave at room temperature for finishing the cake.

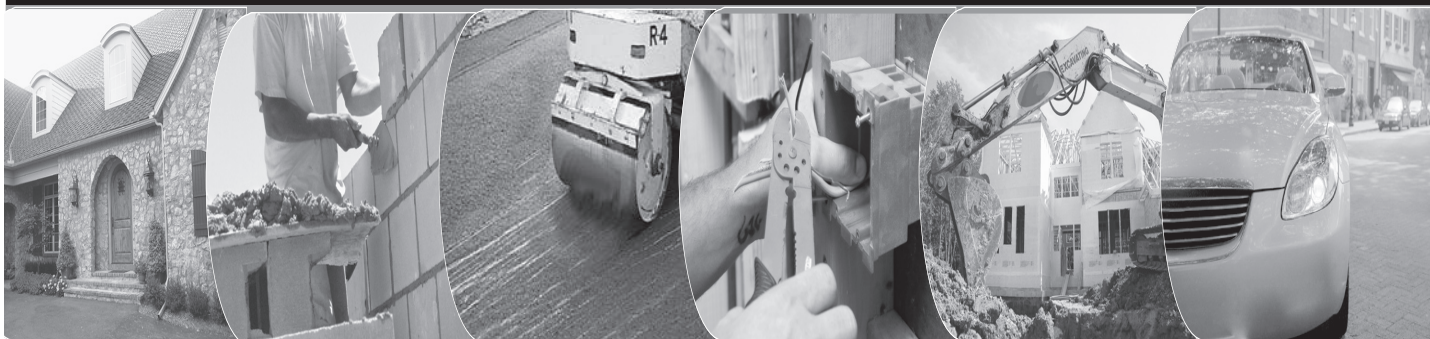
Remove the cake from the refrigerator. Using the rest of the ganache, frost the top and sides of the cake with the offset spatula. If you are going to coat the cake with the toasted cake crumbs, the cake must be evenly frosted and the ganache must be soft enough for the crumbs to adhere. If the ganache has hardened, use a kitchen torch to soften it slightly, or put the whole cake into a 400 F oven for 10 seconds or so, just until the chocolate looks shiny. Sprinkle the crumbs evenly over the top of the cake, then tilt and turn the cake so that they spill over the sides, adhering to them as they fall. If you are using only the ganache and not the crumbs, the ganache will be thicker on both the top and sides.

Serve the cake at room temperature. To store, cover tightly and keep in a cool place for up to 4 days. It is not necessary to keep this cake in the refrigerator.

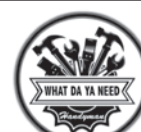
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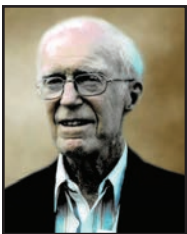
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OBITUARIES

Marino “Reno” Steven Piazzo, 96



Warren - Marino “Reno” Steven Piazzo, age 96, entered into Eternal Rest on January 18, 2023, 39 days after his beloved wife passed away. Marino was the son of the late Casimiro Piazzo and Mary (Vercellio) Piazzo, Italian immigrants. Marino was pre-deceased by his wife of 74 years, Mona (Sekula) Piazzo, who died on December 10, 2022. Marino was pre-deceased by his brother, Robert Piazzo and his sister, Theresa Mary (Piazzo) Foley. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Connie Piazzo. Marino is survived by his son, Kenneth Piazzo and his wife Barbara of Warren, his daughter, Gail (Piazzo) Rittlinger and her husband, Ronald Rittlinger of St. Augustine, Florida. He also leaves behind two grandchildren, Christopher and his wife Tammy, and Anthony and his partner, Tracy. Marino also leaves behind his four great-grandchildren: Vincent, Samuel, Dylan and Mallory. Marino is also survived by many nieces and nephews who loved their “Uncle Reno”. Marino was born in West Springfield on May 11, 1926. In the late 1920’s his family moved to Holland, Massachusetts. Marino was educated in the local school system. In the early 1930’s, his father and mother opened what was to be a popular Italian restaurant, where Marino worked in the family business. In the summer of 1943, Marino enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served on the USS Canberra, a heavy cruiser. Marino saw combat in the Pacific and was wounded. He served his country proudly and honorably and was awarded the Purple Heart, the World War II Victory Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Medal with 6 stars. After his discharge from the

Navy, Marino and his father built a grocery store/gas station in Holland in 1947 and named it Reno’s Market. They successfully operated the business until 1958, when they were forced to close due to the Flood Control Ordinance, which came about as a result of the 1955 Flood. Marino then purchased a farm and moved the family to West Brookfield, MA. He operated the farm for three years and later continued his employment in various positions in local companies until 1967, when he became the Plant Maintenance Manager at William E. Wright Company in West Warren, MA where he remained until his retirement in 1986. Marino enjoyed many hobbies during his lifetime, but two of his greatest accomplishments were obtaining his private pilot’s license, and owning his own plane. He created a runway so he could fly his plane right off of his own property. He also had a large fruit orchard with as many as 100 trees of various fruits, and was an avid beekeeper. Marino and Mona moved to Warren in 1986, and spent six months each year in Florida, until 2015 when they returned to Massachusetts permanently. Marino was a faithful communicant of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in West Brookfield, for many years. Family and friends are invited to a Graveside Service with Military Honors and Prayers of Committal, on Friday, January 27, 2023 at 11 AM in Holland Cemetery, 29 Brimfield Road, Holland, MA 01521. Funeral Arrangements are under the direction of the Cebula Funeral Home of Ware. For more information and online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneral-home.com.



Perry J. George, 62



Perry J. George, 62, of North Brookfield, Mass. passed away in his home Ugpi’ganjig, Eel River Bar, First Nations, New Brunswick Canada on January 11th 2023. Son of Alice and James George, Perry grew up in North Brookfield and graduated at North Brookfield High School after which he went into the U.S. Army. He is survived by four brothers and five sisters. Perry was an Army Veteran

and a hard worker. He will be fondly remembered by many who knew him. Perry will be missed by his family and friends. A memorial mass will be held in honor of Perry on Sunday, February 12th at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Parish, 296 North Main St., North Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Joseph’s Parish, North Brookfield.



Hamilton P. Starr, 78



Hamilton P. Starr, 78, died January 17th in his home on the hill on Bailey Island with his children by his side. He was born in 1945 to parents, Hezekiah and Dorothy Starr. He grew up in Spencer, MA and spent summers and vacations on Bailey Island, ME where he eventually met his wife, Gail. He graduated from David Prouty High School in Spencer and entered the Army, stationed in Germany for some of his service. He then spent 34 years working for Flexcon, where he was well respected by his coworkers and management for his hard work and kind nature. He was a proud member of the Spencer American Legion and also served as president of Pine Grove cemetery.

His wife Gail predeceased him in 2012. He leaves his children, Jessica Lindsey of North Brookfield MA, his son Joshua Starr and his wife Krista of Sturbridge MA and his grandchildren Caleb, Harper, Samuel and Abigail. He also leaves a sister Susan Hayes of Fairport, NY.

Hamie couldn’t wait to retire and move full time to Bailey Island where he and his wife built a beautiful house on the hill overlooking the ocean. He spent retired life restoring and driving his MG, having coffee at BIGS and the Salt Cod with his friends, going for boat rides and keeping busy around his house and camps on Mackerel Cove. He was quiet but witty and he loved his routines. He was the kindest man you’ve ever met, always gracious with his time helping family and friends. His grandchildren referred to him as the “mayor” of Bailey Island because he seemed to know everybody and would wave to everyone as he drove by.

A celebration of life will be held on Bailey Island at his beautiful property on June 17th at 11:00AM when the weather turns warmer, and friends return to the island. In lieu of flowers, remember Hamie by donating to a cause meaningful to you or showing kindness or offering help to family, a friend, or a stranger.



BENEFIT

continued from page A1

natural gas, electric, pellets, or cordwood.

One hundred percent of donations made to North Brookfield Hearts for Heat are used for fuel purchases. The chapter has assisted 158 local families since 2009.

If you would like to support the organization and assist local residents with heating their homes this winter, donations can be mailed to NB Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

For more information about the organization, visit www.HeartsForHeat.org. Additional chapters of Hearts for Heat, Inc., are based in Spencer, Leicester, and Princeton.

Additional resources and community information for North Brookfield residents can be found at www.NbCares2Help.org.

Send all obituary notices to
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LEGALS

Notice of Special Public Hearing East Brookfield, MA Zoning Board of Appeals

A Zoning Board hearing will take place at the East Brookfield Town Hall, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA on Thursday February 16th, 2023. Hearing will commence at 6:30 PM in meeting room A or soon thereafter as can be heard. Interested parties can attend in person. Applicant: Allen Falke; owner. Property location: 152 Gleason Ave, East Brookfield, MA. The applicant is requesting a “Finding” that a change or alteration of a non-conforming structure as outlined in the East Brookfield Zoning Bylaws will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood. Additionally, a “Variance” for a sideline setback as outlined in section 5 of the zoning bylaws. January 27, 2023 February 10, 2023

Zoning Board of Appeals Town of North Brookfield 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535 January 5, 2023

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing meeting on Wednesday February 1, 2023 at 6:00pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Dwayne & Susan Dube 32 Sylvania Grove for a Special Permit. Zoning Bylaw section VI,C,4 front setback and total lot coverage to construct two car garage. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk’s Office at 215 North Main St. Respectfully,
Kimberly Bent, Clerk
January 27, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 37 Paxton Road, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian T. Parenteau and Hui C. Parenteau to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, and now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation, said mortgage dated March 22, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58686, Page 83, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated June 29, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 67848, Page 336; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on March 30, 2023 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: Real property in the City of SPENCER, County of WORCESTER, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, described as follows: PARCEL I BEGINNING AT A POINT, SAID POINT BEING THE MOST EASTERLY PART TO BE CONVEYED ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 8° 3’ WEST ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET ALONG WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 79° 21’ WEST TWO HUNDRED FORTY-ONE AND EIGHTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (241.85) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 14° 47’ EAST ONE HUNDRED FOUR AND FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (104.45) FEET TO A POINT;

THENCE NORTH 79° 21’ EAST TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE (229.00) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING IN THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; BEING LOT #2 ON A PLAN OF DIVISION OF LAND IN SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS OWNED BY TIMOTHY D. MORSE AND LINDA MORSE DATED MAY 5, 1969 THEODORE P. DRAZEK, R.L.S., NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASS., RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 336, PLAN 8. CONTAINING 21,300 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS. PARCEL II BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 8° 3’ WEST ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET ALONG WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 79° 21’ WEST TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR AND TWENTY-FOUR HUNDREDTHS (224.24) FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GEORGE E. RICE TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 69° 54’ WEST THIRTY-ONE AND FOURTEEN HUNDREDTHS (31.14) FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GEORGE E. RICE TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 14° 47’ EAST ONE HUNDREDFIVEANDEIGHTEENHUNDREDTHS (105.18) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 79° 21’ EAST TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING LOT #3 ON PLAN OF DIVISION OF LAND IN SPENCER, MASS., OWNED BY TIMOTHY D. MORSE AND LINDA MORSE DATED MAY 5, 1969 THEODORE P. DRAZEK, R.L.S., NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASS., RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 336, PLAN 8. CONTAINING 23,100 SQUARE

FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS. BEING ALL OF THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY CONVEYED TO BRIAN T. PARENTEAU AND HUI C. PARENTEAU, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY FROM TIMOTHY D. MORSE, JR. AND DONNA M. MORSE, BY DEED DATED NOVEMBER 27, 1998 AND RECORDED NOVEMBER 30, 1998 IN/AS BOOK 20730 PAGE 69 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS. APN #: U17/ 7/ 1/ /

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated November 27, 1998 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20730, Page 69.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
January 27, 2023
February 3, 2023
February 10, 2023

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 58 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dylan Hammond to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, said mortgage dated September 18, 2020, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 63300 at Page 33 and now held by Movement Mortgage, LLC by virtue of an assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns to Movement Mortgage, LLC dated January 11, 2022 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66928, Page 145 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on February 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon located in the northeasterly part of Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, containing 3.6 acres on the southerly side of Thompson Pond Road, formerly known as Old County Road, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the southwest-erly line of said road at land formerly of one Lyon called the Makynen lot; THENCE South fifty degrees fifty minutes West three hundred fifty-seven (357) feet; THENCE North forty-five degrees West four hundred and thirty-one (431) feet; Those two courses run by the Makynen lot, in part; THENCE North fifty-five and one-half degreed East three hundred twenty-two (322) feet to said road; THENCE easterly on said road four hundred eighteen (418) feet more or less to the place of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor (s) by deed recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated September 18, 2020, and recorded in Book 63300 at Page 29 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for Movement Mortgage, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868

January 20, 2023

January 27, 2023

February 3, 2023

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. WO23P0154EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Carol Coates Spence
Also known as: Carol C. Spence
Date of Death: 12/06/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John L. Bonee, III of West Hartford CT** 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 L. Bonee, III of West Hartford CT 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 02/21/2023.** 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: January 17, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 27, 2023

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. WO23P0096EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Paul M McNeaney
Date of Death: 06/17/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Alicia McNeaney of Sheridan IL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Alicia McNeaney of Sheridan IL** 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 02/14/2023.** 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: January 11, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 27, 2023

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:

David Schnare has filed an **AN-RAD** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a patio located at **68 Browning Pond Road**, 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 8, 2023 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
January 27, 2023

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. WO23P0151EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Marshall L Stiles
Date of Death: 09/22/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by **Sheree L. Greenwood of Springfield 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: **Sheree L. Greenwood of Springfield 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 02/07/2023.** 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: January 18, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 27, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO22P4106EA
Estate of:
Robert R Baronoski
Also Known As:
Robert Baronoski
Date Of Death: 10/13/2022
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner

Rebecca Baronoski of Worcester MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Rebecca Baronoski of Worcester MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
January 27, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on WEDNESDAY February 1, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Lower Level Meeting Room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 – Public Hearing:

- RDA – 253 Shoreline Drive – Braconnier – Storm Drain Status
 - NOI – Old Warren Road – Boston Gas – Gas Main Replacement
- January 27, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Frank Riedle and Aline G. Riedle** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Countrywide Bank, FSB dated March 21, 2008, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42607, Page 288; said mortgage was then assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by virtue of an assignment dated March 29, 2011, and recorded in Book 47288, Page 344; and further assigned to Green Tree Servicing, LLC by virtue of an assignment dated June 18, 2013, and recorded in Book 51147, Page 140; and further assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF10 Master Participation Trust by virtue of an assignment dated December 5, 2018, and recorded in Book 59879, Page 8 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on **February 23, 2023**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 76 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, MA 01562. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

A certain tract of land situated in Spencer, Massachusetts on the Westerly side of the Paxton and Spencer Road and on the Southerly side of Marshall Street bounded and described as follows to wit: BEGINNING at the Southeasterly corner of the within described premises in the said Westerly line of Paxton and Spencer Road at land formerly of Maurice Barsky and now of Nelson Bros; THENCE N. 7 Degrees 30' E. fifty-six (56) feet to a point; THENCE N. 7 Degrees 30' W. sixty (60) feet to a point; THENCE N. 43 Degrees W one hundred forty (140) feet to corner of stone walls; the last three courses being along the said Westerly line of Paxton Spencer Road and on the said Southerly side of said Marshall Street; THENCE S 45 Degrees W. by other land of Maurice Barsky two hundred ninety (290) feet, more or less, to land of said Nelson Bros at a pine tree; THENCE S 87 Degrees E. by land of said Nelson Bros., three hundred ten (310) feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. Containing an area of one (1) acre, more or less, and being Lot #16 as shown on a revised plan dated September 2, 1952, made by Joseph Swartz, Civil Engineer. For title see deed in B. 17765, P. 153.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: January 10, 2023 U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF10 Master Participation Trust By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 55346 (RIEDLE)
January 27, 2023
February 3, 2023
February 10, 2023

SPORTS

David Prouty beats Bartlett, remains unbeaten at 11-0



Nick Ethier photos

David Prouty's Braeden White peers over the ball before shooting a 3-pointer from the corner.



David Prouty's Cam Hoekstra rolls the ball off his fingertips for an uncontested layup.



JJ Neiray of David Prouty slashes toward the basket on Bartlett's defense.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

SPENCER — Averaging 66 points a game can certainly lead teams to victory but, for the David Prouty Regional boys' varsity basketball team to keep its season-long winning streak alive versus Bartlett High on Friday, Jan. 20, the Panthers relied on their defense.

The Indians boast one of the region's top scorers in Ethan Minarik, a player routinely scoring 30-plus points a game. But, after Minarik scored five early points on a take to the basket and a deep 3-pointer, Prouty locked him down. Minarik didn't score again until late in the third quarter and finished with 15 points, well below his season average.

That helped the Panthers take down the Indians, 72-58, as Prouty improved to 11-0.

"I think we're very good defensively," said Pat O'Connor, head coach of the Panthers. "We paid a lot of attention to Ethan, but we're never going to junk a defense and just say we're only going to guard one guy. We collectively defend everybody. This is one (instance) that's a little different because he's a great, great player."

It took a team effort to guard Minarik, but Cam Hoekstra was tasked with face-guarding him the entire length of the floor.

"We knew we had to pick him up full-court, switching on screens. He goes through a lot of screens. I love guarding the best guys, and I have trust in my teammates as well. On screens, I know they're going to be there for me," said Hoekstra, a senior.

"The key was defense. We had to lock in on Ethan and make sure he didn't get started," added Braeden White, another senior.

With Minarik struggling to find his shot, Prouty's offense did its job on the other end of the court. They put up 21 points in the first quarter, where they led 21-14, and won the second quarter by an 18-13 count to go ahead by 12 points, 39-27, at the break.

The Panthers' top six of starters White, Hoekstra, senior Braeden Cashman, junior JJ Neiray and junior Alec Fournier, plus junior reserve Tyler Patchen, played the majority of the minutes and all were a factor. All six scored at least four points in the first half.

"Every guy in the top six has had doubt digit (point totals) in multiple games, not just one," said O'Connor, who added that his seventh, eighth and ninth players are also more than serviceable when called upon.

Bartlett was able to win the third quarter (14-13) and trailed by 11, 52-41, as play moved to the final frame. Still leading by double digits but with the final result not in the books, the Panthers had an important eight minutes ahead of them.

"It was a good test for us because it hasn't really happened since the first game," O'Connor said of a 64-61 victory over Grafton High.

And Prouty scored in bunches to open the period. Hoekstra opened the quarter with a left corner 3-pointer. Neiray (12 points, 8 rebounds) then stole the ball on



Braeden Cashman of David Prouty collects a pass inside the paint.

the press and Fournier (11 points) went to the basket, where he was fouled and then made two free throws. Following a defensive stop, Patchen (16 points) hit a right corner 3, opening the lead up to 60-41, all but ending the contest.

"Even when we were going through lulls of not scoring, we were taking good shots but they just weren't going in," O'Connor said of earlier moments. "Sometimes when the other team plays zone, it comes down to make or miss, and we can certainly make a ton of shots."

White (game-high 20 points) made two 3-pointers in the fourth and Patchen added another, as all six players scored at least six points in the contest.



David Prouty's Alec Fournier waits for a play to develop from the top of the key.



Tyler Patchen of David Prouty eludes Bartlett defender Mason Sebastysanski as he goes in for a layup.

"It's a very selfless style of basketball. No one's upset if they don't score a lot, they just want to win the game," said O'Connor.

"We all trust each other on offense. We can all make the play. Every game we feed the hot hand," added White.

The Panthers totaled 10 made 3-pointers.

"We can all hit 3's, especially against the zone. When we're hitting shots, we're hard to stop," said Hoekstra.

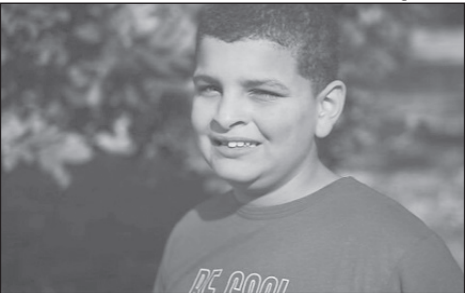
Last year Prouty went 16-4 through the regular season and finished 17-5 after the Division 5 State Tournament. The Panthers are on the verge of another magical winter for an epic two-year run that O'Connor feels can be blended into one.

"Last year was really special because it was our rise and we miss those guys that aren't on the team anymore, and this is a very close-knit program, but I think it's sort of continuing. It's almost like one big season," he said.

Hoekstra, a Spencer resident who transferred back to Prouty from Quabbin Regional, is enjoying this season with the team.

"I'm having so much fun with this team. It's been honestly what I expected from the start, so let's keep that going," he said.

Friday's Child



Xavier
Age 12

Hi! My name is Xavier and I love being active!

Xavier is a charming young boy of Caucasian, African American and Native American descent. People who know him best describe him as very caring and a hard worker who is eager to succeed with a great sense of humor. When you first meet Xavier, there is a good chance he will share a smile and make you

laugh. Xavier has many interests including art, electronics, LEGO's or anything having to do with building, SpongeBob and Disney movies.

He also loves spending time outdoors, especially if that means shooting hoops at a local basketball court, swimming, building sandcastles, riding his bike, or playing "Dr. Dodge." His dream job is to be a construction worker.

Xavier loves learning, especially if it's interactive! He's a very inquisitive child who is very happy to have conversations with others and ask questions about how different things work. Xavier is described as very bright academically.

Legally freed for adoption, Xavier would thrive in a home where he is the only child or the youngest by many years as he responds well to individualized attention and nurturing. Xavier holds great hopes and dreams about growing up in a loving family with similar interests. He has remained very patient and open-minded about the kind of home he will live in one day. Xavier would love to help care for a dog or other pets and have his own bedroom. A family that is willing to maintain connections with Xavier's biological parents and siblings is important to him as well.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6964>
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



SPORTS

Weathering storms, winning quarters enough for Warriors to defeat Leicester



Leicester defender Molly Ledbetter reaches in to block a shot taken by Tantasqua's Gabby Scanlon.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

STURBRIDGE — To the Leicester High girls' varsity basketball team's credit, they continued to go on runs and cut into Tantasqua Regional's lead. But, to the Warriors' credit, they never let the Wolverines' runs get too large and always maintained their aforementioned advantage.

"Teams are going to go on runs, teams are going to get some momentum going, and if you're a good team you weather the storm, you talk about it in a timeout, and you figure out what they're doing and stop it," explained Tantasqua head coach Andrew Haley.

The Warriors won every quarter by a slim margin — 13-10 in the first, 19-16 in the second, 17-15 in the third, 7-5 in the fourth — as they defeated Leicester, 56-46, back on Thursday, Jan. 19.

"Don't let the quarter get away from you and just weather those

storms. The big focus is just stay calm, weather those runs and figure out what we need to do differently to push back," Haley said he told his team.

For the Wolverines, it was a valiant effort, but one that fell a little too short.

"They're deeper, so he can mix in a couple players, which stopped our runs. We would make a run and it would just stall. We couldn't get over the hump," said Leicester head coach Chris Barry.

Tantasqua jumped out to an 8-1 lead, but the Wolverines ended the frame on a 9-5 run to head into the second quarter down by just three.

Then, in the second, after the Warriors scored the first five points, Leicester netted the next seven to make it a one-point game at 18-17.

The Wolverines were never able to get closer than that, though.

But the game remained entertaining throughout, and the top two performers of the evening

— Tantasqua's Gabby Scanlon and Leicester's Sarah O'Connor — put on a show to close out the half. First, with 8 seconds to go, Scanlon (20 points) went coast-to-coast for a traditional three-point play. Then, before the buzzer sounded, O'Connor banked in a 3-pointer from well past NBA distance.

Haley heaped plenty of praise on Scanlon, and Barry showed tough love while also being proud of O'Connor's performance.

"Gabby's having a great year. She gets to the free throw line, she makes good passes, she'll get a stop on defense. She's the one that will get a nice drive to the basket, an and-one, and the bench will get hyped and it kind of picks us back up," Haley said of Scanlon. "She definitely is the leader on the floor."

"Sarah is a pleasure to coach. When she goes off like that, she's fun to watch," Barry said of O'Connor, who poured in a career high 27 points and also grabbed 10



Sarah O'Connor of Leicester elevates off her left foot to get into the air before releasing a jump shot.

rebounds. "She's accepted my coaching that I can push her as much as possible so that she can be the best player that she can be."

Tantasqua's slim third and fourth quarter victories ensured that the Warriors won their eighth straight game. They are now 8-1.

"I think the toughest part of our season is defi-

nately ahead of us," Haley said of the difficult road ahead before postseason play. "We should be there, I don't want to jinx it, and those games will get us ready."

The Wolverines dropped to 2-8, but hope is not lost for Barry.

"I think we're better than 2-8. For the first time I put the pressure on the girls and said, 'we've

got to win two games next week.' We have to," he said.

Leicester's game with Southbridge High was scheduled for Monday, Jan. 23, but was postponed due to inclement weather. The Wolverines were then set to match up with Oxford High on Wednesday, Jan. 25, after press time.



Leicester's Ayva Connor rushes down the court while dribbling on the fast break.



Tantasqua's Kelsie Wotton takes and makes a 3-pointer.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK — TANTASQUA SWIM RESULTS

Wednesday, Jan. 18
Tantasqua boys', girls' swim teams defeat Nashoba — The Warriors defeated the Wolves, with the boys winning by a wide margin (112-25) and the girls taking a close battle (85-84).

First place finishers for the boys were Eben Mazeika (200 free, 100 fly), Ethan Korenda (50 free), Ethan Zhu (100 free, 100 back) and Jonah Scherer (100 breast-stroke).

For the girls, Kira Dambly placed first in the 200 free and 500 free, Zoey Zhu won the 100fly and 100 back, and Alison Regan was victorious in the 200 IM.

Tantasqua's season records are now 4-3 for the boys and 3-4 for the girls.



Tantasqua's Gabby Scanlon somehow makes this basket while drawing the foul on Leicester defender Sarah O'Connor.

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Logs

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
12:39 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:13 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:24 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 3:26 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 3:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:03 p.m.: hit/run accident (Brown Street), report taken; 4:38 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 5:55 p.m.: investigation (Park Lane), report taken; 6:00 p.m.: investigation (River Street), report taken; 6:29 p.m.: investigation (Massasoit Drive), report taken; 7:17 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 8:05 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:15 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 9:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
12:25 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 1:03 a.m.: welfare check (Carleton Road), resolved; 8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), resolved; 8:08 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 9:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:58 a.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), report taken; 12:07 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:34 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (Conway Drive), transported; 1:33 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), spoken to; 1:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:53 p.m.: investigation (Mannville Street), report taken; 1:59 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 2:38 p.m.: ambulance (Lovell Street, Worcester), transported; 3:11 p.m.: larceny (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, larceny under \$1200, report taken; 3:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 3:52 p.m.: animal complaint (Hammond Street), referred to ACO; 4:30 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 5:39 p.m.: investigation (Mannville Street), report taken; 6:10 p.m.: ambulance (Tanglewood Road), transported; 6:51 p.m.: ambulance (Folsom Street), transported; 8:56 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Malik Alexander, 27, 35 Haynes Street, #3, Worcester, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, marked lanes violation, arrest.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
12:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:29 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), spoken to; 5:51 a.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 8:43 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 9:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:45 a.m.: accident (River Street), report taken; 12:30 p.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), services rendered; 12:57 p.m.: shoplifting/2 (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 1:06 p.m.: ambulance (Sunset Drive), transported; 3:34 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Chapel Street), unable to serve; 4:05 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 4:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:27 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:52 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/ suspended license, speeding, criminal application issued; 5:12 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 7:11 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 7:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:51 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 7:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:57 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 8:58 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), Luis Daniel Hernandez, 31, 11 Phillips Drive, Millbury, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, no registration sticker, arrest.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
12:18 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), spoken to; 12:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:34 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 2:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, citation issued; 3:38 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:37 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:09 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 12:35 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 12:36

p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lake Drive), services rendered; 2:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 3:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, unregistered mv, mv towed; 5:25 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:13 p.m.: suspicious mv (Towtaid Street), resolved; 8:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:40 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 9:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (Fairview Drive), gone on arrival; 10:10 p.m.: ambulance (Cottage Street, Spencer), transported; 11:34 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
12:34 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 12:57 a.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), transported; 1:19 a.m.: assist citizen (Folsom Street); 6:13 a.m.: ambulance (Ferncroft Road), transported; 12:31 p.m.: ambulance (Redfield Road), transported; 1:41 p.m.: ambulance (Mannville Street), transported; 2:45 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:47 p.m.: ambulance (Crestwood Road), transported; 4:55 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 4:58 p.m.: investigation (Town Beach Road), report taken; 5:06 p.m.: ambulance (Burncoat Lane), transported; 6:03 p.m.: investigation (Lake Drive), report taken; 6:11 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 8:02 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), resolved; 8:20 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), resolved.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
1:53 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 2:37 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 11:20 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 12:41 p.m.: lockout (Main Street), services rendered; 2:11 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:23 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:25 p.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 4:51 p.m.: disabled mv (Auburn Street), assisted; 5:00 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:27 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:41 p.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street); 6:06 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:20 p.m.: ambulance (Dayton Street, Worcester), transported; 6:56 p.m.: investigation (Hillside Road), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
3:38 a.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), Cesar A. Stockwell, 32, 11 Monticello Drive, Spencer, straight warrant, arrest; 8:19 a.m.: ambulance (Redfield Road), transported; 9:04 a.m.: assist citizen (Pine Street); 10:30 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Park Lane), services rendered; 11:42 a.m.: ambulance (Whittemore Street), transported; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:39 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:10 p.m.: assist other PD (Tobin Road), transported to hospital; 3:37 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 4:03 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:15 p.m.: parking complaint (Soojians Drive), citation issued; 4:59 p.m.: ambulance (Park Avenue, Worcester), call canceled; 5:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:54 p.m.: mv stop (Winslow Avenue), spoken to; 6:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 6:56 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:06 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:00 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:18 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Parker Street), referred to ACO; 10:10 p.m.: ambulance (Wyola Street, Worcester), transported; 11:57 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered.

Spencer Police Logs

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
2:04-2:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:45 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:13 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 7:11 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:59 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 11:36 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), poss. scam; 12:25 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 3:09 p.m.: warrant service (Main Street), Corey J. Oliver, 37, 109 School Street, North Brookfield, warrant, arrest; 3:30 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kid on bike yelling/cursing; 3:43 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift

assist; 4:01 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 4:05 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv in no parking area; 4:19 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 4:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Langevin Street), missing dog; 5:13 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:46 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 7:50 p.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), dead cat/side of road; 7:59 p.m.: 911 call (Jolicoeur Avenue), hang-up; 8:39 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:39 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:50 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 9:02 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), services rendered; 11:45 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbor dispute; (total daily mv stops – 1).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
12:40-2:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:40 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 2:06 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Deer Run Road), flyers issued; 6:18 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 9:14 a.m.: 911 call (Wm. Casey Road), hang-up; 9:36 a.m.: domestic abuse/neglect (Cherry Street), re: help for sister w/baby; 11:03 a.m.: medical/general (Monticello Drive); 11:38 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Webster PD bolo; 12:45 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:30 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:30 p.m.: 911 call (Grove Street), no contact; 2:52 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:09 p.m.: hit/run accident (Maple Street), report taken; 3:46 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: missing friend; 5:19 p.m.: DPW call (Wilson Avenue), icy conditions; 5:53 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 6:06 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), young child on Main Street; 6:37 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 8:21 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 8:25 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), poss. assault on mother; 8:43 p.m.: 911 call (Woodland Lane), open line; (total daily mv stops – 1).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
12:21 a.m.: medical/general (Bemis Road); 12:38 a.m.: mv repossessed (Chickering Road), info taken; 1:56-2:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:34 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 7:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), missing dog; 8:02 a.m.: medical/overdose (Main Street); 9:04 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 9:05 a.m.: domestic assault (Main Street), family dispute; 9:35 a.m.: 911 call (Wilson Street), open line; 10:08 a.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), question re: fraud; 10:54 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:48 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:24 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street) re: info on ATV; 12:32 p.m.: mv lock-out (West Main Street), assisted; 12:39 p.m.: fire (Main Street), referred; 12:44 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), hang-up; 2:08 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 2:41 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address/2; 2:51 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), phone returned; 2:57 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), juveniles fighting; 3:24 p.m.: fire (Main Street), referred; 5:38 p.m.: parking violation (Prospect Street), ticket issued; 6:41 p.m.: RV complaint (Valley View Drive), dirt bike speeding/no lights; 8:30 p.m.: medical/general (Dustin Street); 8:51 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
12:08 a.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 12:12-1:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:17 a.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:47 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 7:48 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), testing; 8:04 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 8:47 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), loose dog; 9:02 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 9:23 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:31 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), issue w/employee; 9:32 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), accidental; 10:13 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:27 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: txr. of firearm; 10:37 a.m.: parking complaint (Maple Street), services rendered; 11:12 a.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), loaded dump truck/no cover; 11:28 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 11:37 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:40 a.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 12:11 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Grove Street), no contact; 12:16 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 2:41 p.m.: 911 call (Woodside Drive), open line; 3:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), hasn't heard from son; 3:24 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), poss. scam; 3:24 p.m.:

lost/found (Franklin Street), driver's license found; 5:13 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Woodside Drive), no contact; 5:48 p.m.: disturbance (Lloyd Dyer Drive), juvenile assaulted by others; 6:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Temple Street), spoken to; 8:28 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:56 p.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), loose dog/sick; 10:02 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bay Path Road), accidental; 10:02 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lake Whittemore Drive), investigated; 10:22 p.m.: suspicious mv (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 10:32 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); (total daily mv stops – 1).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
12:41 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:55-1:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:46 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:17 a.m.: mv fire (Blueberry Hill Drive), referred; 6:12 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 9:21 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:43 a.m.: animal complaint (Lakeshore Drive), missing dog; 10:19 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 10:39 a.m.: medical/general (Chickering Road); 12:05 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 1:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), loose dog; 1:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), barking dog; 2:41 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 3:55 p.m.: medical/general (Summit Street); 4:18 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), spoken to; 5:31 p.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), dog bite; 5:42 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Smithville Road), no contact; 8:33 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 9:18 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:00 p.m.: medical/general (Ashview Drive); 10:07 p.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); 10:43 p.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), injured dog; 11:03 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 2).

MONDAY, JANUARY 16
12:43-12:48 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic, Church streets), tickets issued; 12:58-1:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:03 a.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), snow on roads; 1:14 a.m.: officer wanted (Deer Run Road), parking violations observed; 1:45 a.m.: suspicious persons (Meadow Road), investigated; 5:59 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), truck/middle of intersection; 6:12 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 7:09 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:33 a.m.: mutual aid (Richland Avenue), Natick PD req. check; 9:54 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), dogs barking; 9:56 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 11:40 a.m.: medical/general (School Street); 12:55 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 1:13 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 2:26 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington Webster/code black; 5:01 p.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), investigated; 5:28 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 6:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), assisted; 8:32 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: treatment of dogs; 9:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring Street), prob. w/daughter; 9:55 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); (total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
12:07 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 12:52-2:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:17-3:24 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic, Church streets), tickets issued; 5:05 a.m.: 911 call (Borkum Road), accidental; 5:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 5:43 a.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), poss. sparks at residence; 7:27 a.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 8:27 a.m.: fire alarm (Candlewood Drive), referred; 8:45 a.m.: mutual aid (Grove Street), req. welfare check; 8:56 a.m.: lost/found (Howe Road), cell phone found; 9:08 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 9:43 a.m.: medical/general (Emmett Street); 10:57 a.m.: restraining order service/2 (Paxton Road); 11:13 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 12:10 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:30 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), male yelling/trying to stop mvs; 12:56 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Valley Street), no emergency; 3:21 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:28 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), investigated; 3:42 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), customer left wallet; 4:35 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), re: altercation at school; 5:51 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 6:44 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 7:30 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Temple Street), referred; 7:35 p.m.: suspicious persons (Charlton Road), investigated; 9:12 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), info taken; 9:37 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hastings Road), info taken; 9:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).



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TEE
continued from page A1

veillance camera on Jan. 6.

Anyone with information that might assist investigators is urged to call the dedicated tip line at 508-453-7589.

“If you have any tips or information, however small you think it is, give us a call,” Blanchard said during the Jan. 16 press conference.

As of Jan. 16, DA Early said investigators weren’t viewing Tee’s disappearance as a criminal incident but instead a missing person case.

“We’re all praying for the safe return of Brittany. We’re going to do everything we can to bring her home safe,” Blanchard added.

Investigators continue to ask Brookfield residents with video footage of their properties to contact police. Also, residents and business owners should continue checking any structures on their properties, including sheds, barns, and garages.

Additional support in the search has been provided by the State Police Special Emergency Response Team (SERT), the State Police K-9 Unit, the State Police Crime Scene Services section, the Brookfield Fire Department, and State Police detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office.

DPHS
continued from page A1

The design work phase of the project is expected to take about a year to complete. School officials are hopeful that construction could begin as early as the fall of 2023.

“These are busy times for the David Prouty High School building project and our team,” Haughey added. “Thanks to your continued support and partnership, we as a project team remain on track with the detailed design process and timeline.”

School leaders said the project will also help draw more families to the district and create an economic boost for both towns. Additionally, it will help reduce the number of students choosing to leave the district, officials told the New Leader.

Among other features, the project will include new science labs, modern classrooms, and a gymnasium on par with high schools throughout the county and the state.

To learn more about the DPHS project and upcoming School Building Committee meetings, visit www.sebrsd.org.

Johnson also thanks town officials for their belief in her abilities and support throughout her transition.

“I have enjoyed working here in Leicester, and I thank David Genereux and Deb Davis for this opportunity,” Johnson said. “I will miss working for this town.”

Married to her husband Don for 37 years, Johnson has two daughters, Laura (31) and Bethanie (27). Outside of work, Johnson enjoys spending time with her family and her dog Tucker. She also loves boating in Boston Harbor and camping on weekends.

Voters will choose Leicester’s next Town Clerk during the Annual Town Election in June.

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EAST BROOKFIELD DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner appointments for the East Brookfield District Court located in Worcester County.

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make bail decisions and release persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees may be collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00. Bail Commissioners are required to have reliable transportation in order to travel to the East Brookfield District Court and the police departments located in Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Leicester, New Braintree, Oakham, Paxton, Rutland, Spencer, Warren and West Brookfield. Proximity to the communities listed and familiarity with criminal law and procedures helpful. If you are interested in being considered for appointment please contact:

CATHERINE M. COUGHLIN, ESQUIRE
STATE BAIL ADMINISTRATOR
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
catherine.coughlin@jud.state.ma.us

The appointing authorities do not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, status as a veteran, basis of disability or any other federal, state or local protected class.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

DUDLEY DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

The Massachusetts Trial Court hereby gives notice of the availability of one or more Bail Commissioner appointments for the Dudley District Court located in Worcester County.

A Bail Commissioner is appointed by the Massachusetts Trial Court to make bail determinations and to release persons arrested when courts are closed (overnights, weekends and holidays.)

This is an appointment only. No salary or benefits are included but fees are collected from the person in custody at the time of release. The base fee is \$40.00.

Travel to the Dudley District Court and the cities and towns in the its jurisdiction is required: Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Webster. Proximity to all communities and familiarity with the criminal law and procedures is helpful.If you are interested in being considered for appointment please contact:

CATHERINE M. COUGHLIN, ESQUIRE
STATE BAIL ADMINISTRATOR
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
catherine.coughlin@jud.state.ma.us

The appointing authorities do not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, status as a veteran, basis of disability or any other federal, state or local protected class.

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Cornerstone Bank provides ‘Positive Pay’ to help protect businesses against fraud

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, now offers the “Positive Pay” tool for its commercial banking customers. Positive Pay is a leading fraud-prevention solution that helps businesses guard against the ever-growing threat of altered, forged or counterfeit checks and ACH payments. “We are committed to helping our customers protect their businesses from fraud,” said Daniel D’Amico, AVP, commercial banking officer. “Scammers regularly develop new ways to defraud businesses. The Positive Pay system

puts more control into the hands of business owners.” Positive Pay allows enrolled businesses to monitor and manage check and electronic items from their enrolled accounts that are presented to the bank, adding an extra layer of security. Additional features include account and check reconciliation, multiple user access and comprehensive reports. “This multi-faceted service is designed to ensure the well-being of our customers’ businesses while providing a user-friendly, manageable and personalized experience,” said Robert Mangan,

AVP, commercial banking officer. Commercial banking customers who want to enroll in Positive Pay at Cornerstone Bank can call the Commercial Services team at 800-939-9103. Once enrolled, the system can be accessed directly through iBanking. About Cornerstone Bank Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based

banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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