

SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, December 1, 2023

North Brookfield students find creative ways to give back

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Throughout the holiday season, students and staff members at North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School are finding creative ways to give back to their community.

The school's annual "Giving Turkey" program, sponsored by the Student Council, kicked off last month. Instead of toys being dropped off in the lobby, this year's Giving Turkey initiative was entirely supportive of food pantry services.

Each classroom throughout NBJSHS, plus the main office, featured a paper bag with a faculty member's name on it, as well as a listing of which item(s) they were assigned. Students then brought in donations and placed them into the bags of the staff members they preferred to see dressed up as a turkey.

At the end of the contest later last month, the staff member who received the most items in his or her bag was selected to wear a turkey costume for the half-day



John and Abigail Adams Award winners from NBJSHS celebrate their accomplishment.

Courtesy

before Thanksgiving on Nov. 22.

Staff members and families also dropped off

donations as part of the program.

In other school news, six members of the senior

class were awarded the John and Abigail Adams Award for high academic achievement on their

MCAS exams. These students each received \$1,575 per year toward tuition.

"Congratulations to Jake Standrowicz, Anthony Sheard, Courtney-Alice MaGraw, Jacob Lamy, Olivia Giangrande, and Tyler Warner," read a statement released by NBJSHS.

Meanwhile, the school's Student of the Month ceremony for students in grades 7-8 was held on Nov. 16. Ian Fantasia, Dante Giangrande, and Joshua Haden each received awards for high academic achievement. The students average 90 percent or higher in all of their classes.

Moreover, Autumn Bourassa, Trinity LaMarche, Abigail Lindberg, Dylan Woodward, Adrie Ford, Vida Stretch, Gina Vautour, Khayden Correan-Rodriguez, Lydia Qi, Olivia LaVergne, and Anthony Ortiz each received academic achievement awards for averaging 80% or higher in all of their classes.

Jonathan Hawkes was recognized by the middle
Turn To **STUDENTS** page **A18**

39th annual Quabbin History Calendar now available

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

REGION — With a new year fast approaching, local residents are eager to once again look ahead while also reflecting on the region's fascinating past.

Created by local author and historian J.R. Greene, the 39th annual Quabbin History Calendar features 12 photographs of the villages predating the construction of Quabbin Reservoir: The villages of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott were eventually disincorporated and flooded to make the reservoir a reality.

"Each year, we have presented a new selection of pictorial memories of the villages obliterated for the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir and the Ware River diversion in the 1920s and 1930s," read a statement released by Greene.

This year's calendar features such scenes

as Riverside Hotel in Greenwich; the Horace Lindsey home in Dana; the Cooleyville School; Brown's Farm in Prescott; the Goodman Hat Shop; a wintertime railroad station; Pratt's Sawmill; and a view overlooking Enfield from a cemetery.

The calendar also includes unique glimpses into the lives of residents living in the former villages. Among these photos is a view of two young men spending time with their dog at Dana Center, as well as a young family near the Eagle Hotel and the Shattuck Store.

In total, Greene has now presented more than 450 photos in his calendars. The photos not only provide views into the past, but they also educate residents about a piece of local history that can never be reclaimed.

"The theme of this calendar is to honor the villages of the former Swift and Ware River valleys,

and their way of life," Greene's statement read. "This calendar is dedicated to the memory of the people who once lived in those places."

Greene has authored 14 books, two atlases, and a bibliography on the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the flooded towns. Several of his books explore Massachusetts railroads and their connection to local history.

For more information about Greene's works, contact a local bookseller. You may also write the author directly at 26 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA, 01331-3402.

Greene is also seeking to purchase memorabilia from the lost villages, including photographs, postcards, scrapbooks, and other items celebrating local history.

If you would like to learn more about the history of Quabbin Reservoir, contact the Friends of the Quabbin.

Local first responders work to keep veterans warm

LEICESTER — With another New England winter looming, local first responders are helping to make sure veterans stay warm when temperatures plunge.

Last month, Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica and Officer Ryan Sweeney represented their department at the Coats 4 Vets event in Foxborough.

The annual event is sponsored by the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, Inc., Ocean State Job Lot, The Home Depot, The Kraft Family Foundation,



Courtesy

Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica, left, and Officer Ryan Sweeney participate in a recent program to support veterans.

CNA program launches in Leicester schools

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — School officials and students are celebrating a strong start for the debut Certified

Nursing Assistant (CNA) program.

Offered this year for the first time in the history of Leicester Public Schools, the CNA program was the

highlight of the Nov. 14 School Committee meeting.

"This new program aligns with Dr. Brett Kustigian's vision when he took over as Superintendent of Schools last year, which is to bring relevant life skills programs and Career Technical Education programs to the Leicester Public Schools," said School Committee Chair Donna McCance.

Across the state and the country, the medical field is in dire need of incoming talent following widespread retirements and resignations as a result of the pandemic. There is no better time than now for students to create the foundations for their careers, officials said.

"This program is being driven by workforce demand and student
Turn To **CNA** page **A18**

Holiday season brings early deadlines

The holiday season is upon us, bringing with it an accelerated press schedule for your local weekly newspaper.

The deadline for next week's edition (out Dec. 8), Monday afternoon at 4 p.m., will mark the conclusion of business as usual for the remainder of the year.

The submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication in the Dec. 15 edition of the Spencer New Leader will be Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.

For the following week (Dec. 22), the submission deadline will be Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.

For publication on Dec. 29, submissions must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

The deadline for our first edition of 2024, Jan. 5, will be Friday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m.

As always, submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at news@stonebridgepress.news.

The Spencer New Leader thanks our readers for their cooperation with our accelerated schedule, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.



Courtesy

LHS student Gia Gully takes Superintendent Brett Kustigian's vital signs during a recent presentation, as LHS Nurse Diane Moffat looks on.

New Lead Teacher appointed at East Brookfield Elementary

EAST BROOKFIELD — As mentioned in early November, Mr. Ron Tomlin has agreed

to assume the role of Principal of Knox Trail Middle School. Manske, Director of Preschool/

Early Education and Care, has been looking after East Brookfield Elementary School tem-

porarily with Tomlin while we posted and worked to identify a candidate for the position of "Lead Teacher" for the remainder of the school year.

School officials are pleased to announce that just before Thanksgiving, Mrs. Chrissy Lavin was identified and agreed to assume the "Lead Teacher" role and responsibilities at East Brookfield Elementary effective immediately. Lavin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and Geography; a Master of Education degree in Elementary Education; and a Master of School Administration — Principal/Assistant Principal honors from Worcester State University. She has taught for almost 25 years at both the Lashaway and East Brookfield Elementary Schools in the community; and has been a dedicated employee of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District throughout her tenure serving on numerous sub-committees, committees, and boards.

"What has impressed me most about Mrs. Lavin is the fact that she is a continuous learner and



Chrissy Lavin

someone who models for others what we want to see in our learning community; a professional who is respectful, responsible and always ready to go the extra mile for staff and students," said

Superintendent of Schools, Paul Haughey. "Moreover, she has always been a reflective practitioner who puts others, especially her students, first!" he added.

Lavin has my every confidence that whenever Tomlin steps away from the building, she will look after the day-to-day operational educational needs of East Brookfield Elementary; and make sure to advocate for the school and community appropriately. Please join me in congratulating Lavin in earning this leadership opportunity.

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EBES students enjoy Thanksgiving celebration

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD — Students and staff members at East Brookfield Elementary School celebrated Thanksgiving with several activities on the half-day before the holiday.

The event began with a pageant featuring students in all grade levels. EBES kindergarteners got the program started with a Thanksgiving-themed song, and fourth-graders provided guests with historical facts about the holiday.

School officials thank all family members and friends who attended the Nov. 22 event in large numbers.

“Thanksgiving is a time of thankfulness and gratitude. Now is the perfect time to show our gratitude toward others,”

said EBES teacher and event organizer Christine Lavin. “I am extremely thankful that you are all here today to share in our Thanksgiving pageant. This is a tradition that we started about 25 years ago, and I am grateful to be able to share it with all of you today.”

Additional pageant highlights included songs, jokes, and stories, among other activities. Students from pre-K to grade six participated in the assembly.

“The students were so excited about both the pageant and the feast. It was wonderful to see all of the families in attendance at the pageant, and we cannot thank the volunteers enough,” Lavin said. “Our parent group was able to organize a small group of parents and staff members to set



East Brookfield Elementary School students and staff members enjoy a Thanksgiving celebration.

Kevin Flanders

up the feast for our students. Without them, it would be extremely difficult to make that happen.”

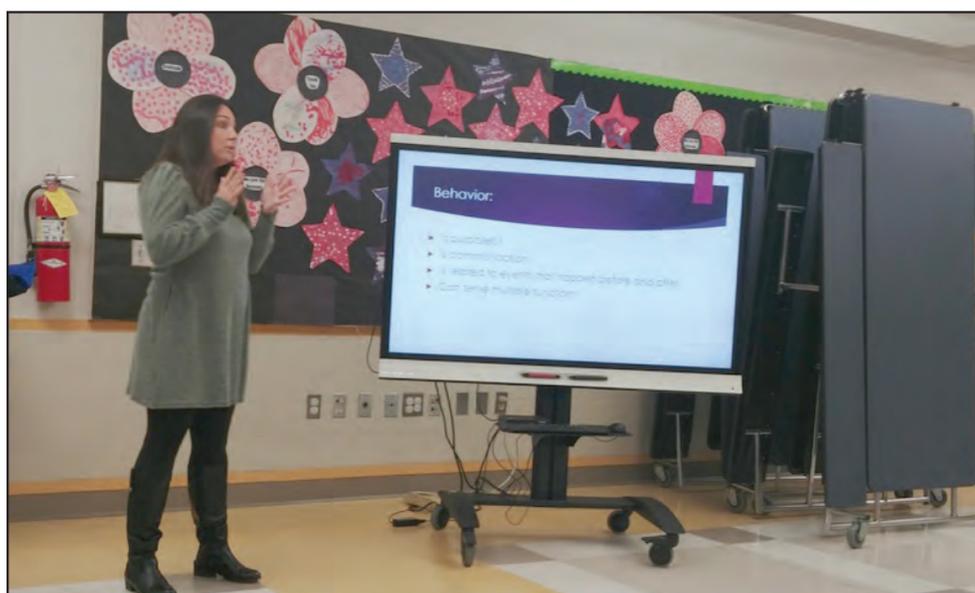
The feast, per school tradition, brought all EBES students and staff members into the cafeteria for a special lunch. School officials thank everyone

who came together to make the event happen.

“It’s great to see all of the staff and kids here in the same room. This

is a tremendous sendoff for Thanksgiving,” said EBES Principal Ron Tomlin.

Spencer-East Brookfield school district preschool parent workshop a success



Courtesy

Erin Hutchins, BCBA, delivers a presentation about the functions of behavior and how our responses can reduce or increase behavior.

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District’s first Cubs Corner Preschool Parent Workshop of the year was a success! We had 13 parents attend the event on Nov. 15.

Erin Hutchins, BCBA, started the evening with a presentation about the functions of behavior and how our responses can reduce or increase behavior.

Steven Caligaris, a parent and SEPAC member, shared information about the district’s SEPAC and encouraged parents to attend the virtual meetings the first Monday evening of each month.

Amanda Hull shared information related to our new preschool curriculum, Three Cheers for Pre-K, and walked parents through the steps to access activities, children’s literature, and on-line games that relate to the themes highlighted in preschool each week.

Jayne Hines ended the night engaging parents in some hands-on games they

can play with their children, provided activities and shared strategies to assist in building independence in preschool students.

We are so appreciative of Mrs. Leveille and the high school students from David Prouty’s Early Education and Care Program as they provided children with games, activities and crafts so that their parents could attend the workshop.

The district is looking forward to its winter Parent Workshop which will have a focus on building communication skills in preschool students.

Take a ‘stroll’ through West Brookfield’s history

WEST BROOKFIELD — West Brookfield Celebrates the 175th anniversary of Incorporation in 1848 with a Stroll Through West Brookfield History: The Central Historic District, presented by Bill Jenkins, local historian, and Heather Walker of the Historical Commission Sunday afternoon; Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center; 73 Central St.

Come stroll through the Historical Society Museum (across the street from the Senior Center) from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

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11/20/2023	Knights of Columbus	\$500.00
11/20/2023	Marjorie and Betty Elsworth	\$100.00
11/21/2023	Audettes Towing & Recovery Inc.	\$500.00

Monetary Donations may be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562.

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St). If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact Donna at donnaflannery@erakey.net or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry, Town clerk’s office in the town hall, or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.



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Please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town Administrator at townadministrator@brookfieldma.us

Application reviews to begin December 7th. EOE.

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NBSB and HFH partner to help local families build a future



Courtesy

NBSB staff volunteer on Habitat for Humanity's Home Build Site on Sunderland Rd in Worcester, MA. Left to right: Jay Jil, Ann Brady, Cindy Fountain, Anne Marie LaValle, Joseph Ribeiro, Jake Apraham, Nicole Syriac, Kaz Borawski, Renee Jurczyk and Michelle Ramos.

nership with families in need of a decent place to live. Habitat homebuyers help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Affordable homeownership helps create the conditions that free families from stress and fear, helping build stability and confidence. Studies show that strong and stable households are foundational to child development and growth. When a home fosters — instead of hinders — health and safety, families can flourish. Owning an affordable home also allows homeowners to lift up their entire family by saving for their futures and investing in educational opportunities — bolstering job opportunities and long-term career growth.

NBSB is proud to have partnered with Habitat for Humanity on this project to make a difference in the local community. NBSB is always looking for ways to give back, and partnering with Habitat for Humanity was a perfect fit to help make a meaningful impact in the lives of local families. The home build project is a testament to NBSB's commitment to making our community a better and more inclusive place for everyone.

pendence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families. Learn more here: <https://www.habitatmwg.org/>.

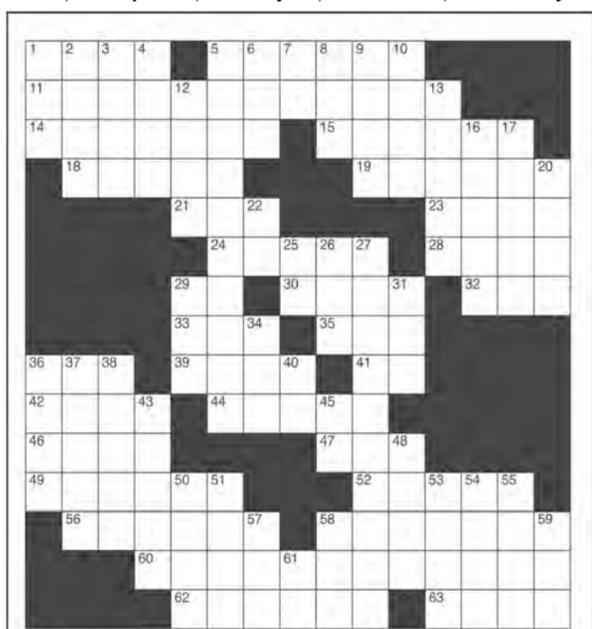
About North Brookfield Savings Bank North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, and the Three Rivers Village of Palmer. NBSB offers a wide variety of deposit and loan products for individuals and businesses throughout Central and Western Massachusetts and has been a steadfast supporter of the communities it serves since 1854. All deposits are insured by the FDIC and the Depositors Insurance Fund. North Brookfield Savings Bank was voted Best Bank in Central Massachusetts for 2021 and was named "Community Icon" Among the Top Extraordinary Banks in the Nation in 2022. For more information, please call 1-866-711-6272 or visit us online at www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

"We feel privileged to have been able to partner with Habitat for Humanity for NBSB's first-ever build project. We believe in the importance of giving back to our communities and are honored to be able to partner with such a reputable organization," said Nicole Syriac, Marketing Representative at NBSB. "This project not only uplifts those in need, but it also serves as a reminder of the power of unity and kindness."

About Habitat For Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester At Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester, our motto is "A hand up, not a handout." We are dedicated to building houses with families, not for them. People in your community, and all over the world, partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners build their homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With your help, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and inde-

WORCESTER — North Brookfield Savings Bank (NBSB) has partnered with Habitat for Humanity Metro West / Greater Worcester to Sponsor a Home Build Day. Located on Sunderland Road in Worcester, these homes are two side-by-side, single-family homes being built by volunteers to benefit local families in need.

Habitat for Humanity builds decent and affordable homes around the world in part-



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Old English letters
- 5. Sculpture
- 11. Showing up again
- 14. Tie the knot again
- 15. Washington city
- 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
- 19. Mark over a vowel
- 21. Explosive
- 23. Popular race: _ 500
- 24. Pile up
- 28. Mint
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
- 32. Small Eurasian deer
- 33. Baseball stat
- 35. Numbers cruncher
- 36. Japanese masked drama
- 39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Assist in wrongdoing
- 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
- 46. Grayish-white
- 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 49. Microorganism
- 52. Place under prohibition
- 56. Calm, dependable
- 58. Congressman
- 60. Force
- 62. As a result of this document
- 63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make a mistake
- 2. Gordon and Snider are two
- 3. Geographical region of Finland
- 4. Ejected saliva
- 5. A way of performing
- 6. Scotland's longest river
- 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 8. Body art
- 9. Two-toed sloth
- 10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
- 13. Of the wind
- 16. Grand home
- 17. Sound
- 20. English river
- 22. Symbol indicating ownership
- 25. Exclamation of surprise
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Apart from
- 29. Satisfaction
- 31. The bill in a restaurant
- 34. Sea bream
- 36. Port in southern Japan
- 37. Double-reed instruments
- 38. Center
- 40. South Dakota
- 43. An orderly crowd
- 45. Indicates position
- 48. _-pedi
- 50. Nonsense (slang)
- 51. Republic of Ireland
- 53. Nocturnal flyers
- 54. American state
- 55. Clusters in fern fronds
- 57. Patriotic women
- 58. A person's brother or sister
- 59. Breed of sheep
- 61. Popular film "Despicable _"

Santa picture event brings holiday cheer to Spencer

SPENCER — EXIT Real Estate Executives and Norcom Mortgage are thrilled to invite the community to our Santa Picture Event. In the spirit of giving, we encourage you to bring an unwrapped gift for a family in need. This event not only offers a fantastic opportunity for families to capture precious moments with Santa Clause, but it also allows us to come together as a community and share the joy of the holiday season. By bringing a gift, we can make a significant impact on a deserving family's Christmas and spread love and kindness during this special time of year. We are excited to see everyone come together and make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

For more information about EXIT Real Estate Executives, please call 508-885-5555. EXIT Real Estate Executives is located at 130 W Main St., Spencer, MA 01562.

About EXIT Realty EXIT Realty is a company founded and built on human potential. A full service, forward-thinking, real estate franchisor with offices across North America, EXIT has to-date paid out more than a half a billion dollars in single-level residual income to its associates. A portion of every transaction fee received by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund, and to-date, \$7 million has been allocated to charity. For more information, please visit www.exitrealty.com and www.joinexitrealty.com.

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

- \$580,000, 32 Webber Rd, Bosen, Trevor N, and Bosen, Johanna C, to Oday, Sharron H, and Meeker, William L.
- \$380,947, 1 Pine Ln, Bean, Brionne C, and Pennymac Loan Svcs LLC, to Pennymac Loan Svcs LLC.
- \$304,900, 18 Post Rd, Hadley Path LLC, to Rahisikha LLC.
- \$304,900, 21 Maple St, Hadley Path LLC, to Rahisikha LLC.
- \$199,900, 11 Main St, Seymour 3rd, Herbert F, to Jubinville, Matthew K, and Khan, Shamaila Z.

EAST BROOKFIELD

- \$155,000, 113 Paula Cir, Garvey, Ricky D, and Fed Hm Loan Mtg Corp Tr, to Markopoulos, Nicholas.
- \$75,000, Howe St, Barnes, Rae A, to K & M Inc.

LEICESTER

- \$607,000, 202 Baldwin St, Sabbey, Norman C, to Harvard Street 29 Rt, and Barry Jr, Richard C.
- \$525,000, 26 Victoria Dr #26, Goggin Ft, and Goggin, John E, to Zalansky, Michael S, and Zalansky, Judith E.
- \$150,000, 1148 Stafford St, Bosma Wayne Est, and Bosma, Allen L, to Progrid, Tomii V, and Progrid, Vaske.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

- \$380,000, 14 Ward St, Macutkiewicz, Anastasia C, and Macutkiewicz, Zachary R, to Camden, Griffin, and Camden, Victoria.
- \$339,000, 5 Chase Rd, Miller, Barbara, and Heath, Laura H, to Lachambre, Stephanie L.
- \$285,000, 88 Bell St, Potvin, Thomas J, and Potvin, Susan, to Luke, Jenna, and Mustakangas, Ryan J.
- \$265,000, 35 Ward St, Sandman, Stephen J, and Kolbe, Jayne, to 324 Group LLC.
- \$225,000, 35 Grove St, Waugh, Margaret M, to Vedder, Kacie-Lynne, and Curci, Anthony F.
- \$100,500, 16 Saint John St, Los, William, and Los, Rebecca, to Posiadlosc LLC.
- \$35,000, 74 Ward St, Snelling Ft, and Snelling, John P, to M J Toomey Inc, and Mort, Gary.

SPENCER

- \$485,000, 12 Bellevue Dr, Brunelle, Frederick, and Brunelle, Martha L, to Bellevue Exchange LLC.
- \$485,000, 13 Bellevue Dr, Brunelle, Frederick, and Brunelle, Martha L, to Bellevue Exchange LLC.
- \$455,000, 209 Paxton Rd, Cadrin, Kara L, to Partain, Keith.
- \$400,000, 103 Hastings Rd, Heckman, Erica, and Heckman, Emmett A, to Simonovitch, Kiley, and Fahey, Ryan.
- \$380,000, 31 Donnelly Cross Rd, Johnston, James C, and Johnston, Deborah A, to Dave, Vinee, and Dave, Deanna.
- \$354,000, 40 Clark St, Brousseau, Brad, and Brousseau, Nicole, to Vaslet, Sandra J.

WARREN

- \$380,000, 85 Chapel St, Yacteen Brothers LLC, to Kayizzi, Kenneth.
- \$188,000, 2271 Main St, Waible, Christine, and Raba, Julie C, to Stefanou, Dimitra.
- \$100,000, 26 Chapel St, St Cyr, Bryan J, to St Cyr, Douglas, and St Cyr, Bobbie J.

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- \$315,000, 216 Long Hill Rd, Paige, Michael A, and Makepeace, Robin E, to Moen, Alexandra.



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PUZZLE SOLUTION



Quilting group sews placemats for Thanksgiving lunch attendees



Courtesy
Seated from left to right, group members Elizabeth Maki, Donna Ahearn, and Margaret Masterson. Standing from left to right, Liz Foss and Jo Cummings.

SPENCER — A group of dedicated local quilters recently created placemats that were donated to seniors attending a Thanksgiving luncheon at the Senior Center.

The quilting group has met at the Senior Center on Monday afternoons since 2019. Their placemats were given to seniors attending the Thanksgiving lunch held on Nov. 21.

Placemats were made

using materials contributed to the Senior Center, as well as materials from members' personal collections.

Members have also worked on several recent projects led by Liz Foss, who organized the group. Additional projects were led or suggested by other members of the group.

"It is a very collaborative, supportive group. Anyone interested in joining the group would

be welcome," read a statement released by Foss.

Members have also prepared dresses for a group called "Dress a Girl Around the World", which distributes dresses to girls in need internationally.

The group meets on Mondays from 1-3 p.m. No quilting experience is necessary to get involved.

Mikayla Bokis of Spencer honored with End of Season Award by GNAC

NEWTON — On Nov. 8, the Great North Atlantic Conference announced their Cross Country end of season awards, and five Lasell Lasers were honored, including Mikayla Bokis of Spencer.

Based on the results of this past weekend's GNAC Championship, Kiara Cerruti was named to the GNAC's first team, while Katherine Kohtala was named to the second team. On the men's side of things, Wesley Thompson was also named to the second team.

Additionally, the Lasers received two All-Sportsmanship honors, as Mikayla Bokis and Evan Lewis were each named to the conference's sportsmanship team.

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McNicol recognized for academic excellence



SPENCER—Recently, Superintendent Paul Haughey met to recognize the top senior, James McNicol, with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award. The state association celebrates top students during the early portion of their senior year instead of the usual spring award ceremony so that the distinguished honor is in time to be included on college applications.

Haughey and Principal Nathaniel Malone invited James to join him recently in the high school for a brief press event.

Malone noted that, "James has demonstrated exceptional academic achievements, leadership qualities, and a commitment to extracurricular activities. As the top-ranked student at David Prouty High School, he consistently shows an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, actively seeking challenging courses and displaying a drive for success. James' leadership skills are evident through his role as vice president of the student council and president of the National Honor Society, showcasing effective collabora-

tion and advocacy for the student body." Assistant Principal Sara Kinnas noted, "Beyond academics, he excels in sports - participating in varsity soccer and track - while also dedicating considerable time to the Boy Scouts of America, earning the prestigious Eagle Scout rank."

Masonic Lodge AED/CPR & 1st Aid Courses were a great success during recent OPEN House Weekend!

American Heart Association Certified classes to be given on specific Saturdays, November and December.

We will be sponsoring and conducting reduced rate classes to support the surrounding community for an AED/CPR class is combined with the Basic First Aid class for Certification. There will also be a "Stop the Bleed" Certificate class. Classes will require sign-up in advance & pre-payment made to:

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Classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
*** Must be 10 people for the AED/CPR Basic First Aid Class to be held to justify the instructor. Fees will be returned if we don't get 10 students or the second date can be used.

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College-Like Experience at Leicester High School Open House

Attention parents/guardians/caretakers of current Grade 8 and Grade 9 students in the Southern Worcester County area: Leicester High School is one of the few campus-style high schools in the Commonwealth. Our facilities encompass six buildings in an idyllic New England landscape. Each of our students is provided with a Chromebook to augment their education in our modern, 21st-Century, learning environment that capitalizes on well-provisioned, open, and flexible spaces for instruction.

Leicester High School offers the following Advanced Placement Courses and college experiences:	Leicester High School offers the following Career and Technical Education programs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Early College opportunities •Senior Internship Program •AP Courses (AP Language & Composition, AP Literature & Composition, AP US History, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry) •Virtual High School Courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Building & Property Maintenance Construction Trades Program (Chapter 74) •Early Education & Care Program (Chapter 74) •Certified Nurse's Assistant Program (Non-Chapter 74) •Fire Sciences (Non Chapter 74) •Advanced Manufacturing (Innovation Pathway)

Leicester High School is also planning new programs for 2024-2025, including:

- Culinary Arts (Chapter 74)
- Health Assisting (Chapter 74)

- Veterinary Assistant (Chapter 74)
- Business & Finance (Innovation Pathway)

If your student is interested in following a pathway that will provide them with a unique educational experience, prepare them for college and/or a career, and access to a full array of extra-curricular activities and interscholastic sports, please plan to attend an Open House for nonresident students and families on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM at Leicester High School. Leicester High School is located at 964 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524. We look forward to seeing you there. The best is yet to come!

If you would like more information or a tour, please feel free to contact Brett Kustigian, Superintendent of Schools, at 508-892-7040 or kustigianb@lpsma.net.

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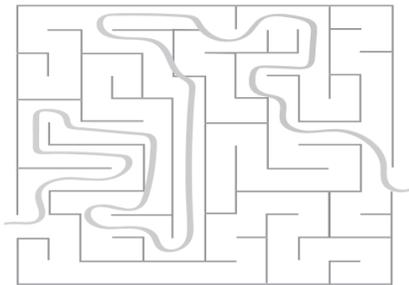
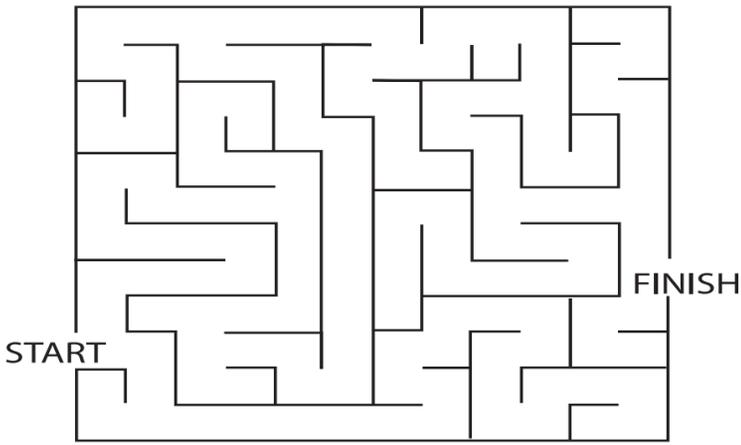
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- 1919: LADY ASTOR BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO SIT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.
- 1991: SOUTH OSSETIA DECLARES INDEPENDENCE FROM GEORGIA.



EVEN THOUGH 'BLACK FRIDAY' TENDS TO BE THE BUSIEST SHOPPING DAY OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THIS DAY ALSO ATTRACTS CROWDS OF SHOPPERS.

ANSWER: THE LAST SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

New Word

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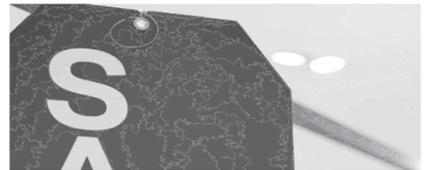
- ENGLISH:** Purchase
- SPANISH:** Comprar
- ITALIAN:** Comprare
- FRENCH:** Acheter
- GERMAN:** Etwas kaufen

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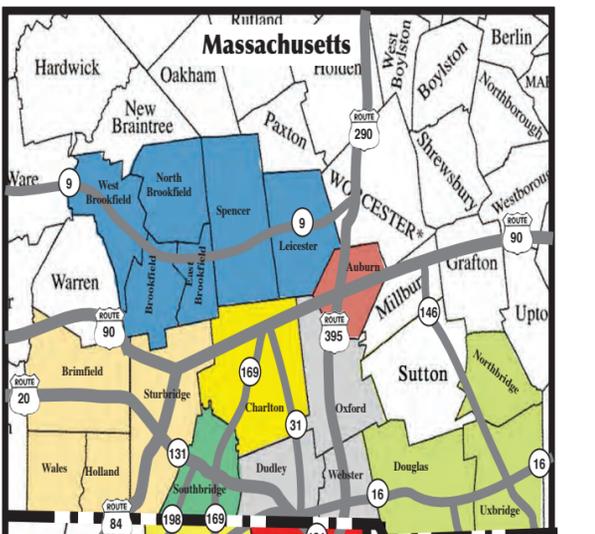
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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EDITORIAL

The power of small changes

In a world that often celebrates instant results and quick fixes, the true path to personal growth and self-improvement lies in the steady accumulation of small changes. We live in an age where we're bombarded with information about radical transformations and overnight success stories. However, it's essential to remember that lasting change often comes from the consistent practice of good habits, one small step at a time.

The journey of self-improvement can be daunting. Whether it's striving for better health, financial stability, or personal development, the thought of making significant changes can be overwhelming. But here's the secret: progress is not about massive, dramatic actions. Instead, it's about the cumulative effect of tiny, daily efforts.

Developing good habits requires patience, persistence, and an understanding that meaningful change doesn't happen overnight. Instead, it unfolds gradually.

Small changes are sustainable because they don't disrupt your life drastically. When you start with tiny steps, you're less likely to feel overwhelmed and give up. These changes become integrated into your daily routine, making them easier to maintain over the long term.

Consistency is the backbone of habit formation. By taking small actions every day, you reinforce positive behaviors and build momentum. Over time, these behaviors become second nature, and you don't have to rely on willpower alone.

Large changes can trigger resistance and anxiety. Our brains are wired to resist big, sudden shifts. In contrast, small changes are less threatening, making it easier to overcome the resistance that often accompanies change.

Celebrating small victories along the way boosts motivation and confidence. Each small change achieved is a step forward, reinforcing your commitment to your goals.

Life is unpredictable, and sudden disruptions can derail even the best-laid plans. When your habits are built on small, manageable changes, you can adapt more easily to unexpected challenges without losing sight of your goals.

Identify one habit you want to cultivate and break it down into the smallest possible steps. For example, if you want to exercise regularly, start with just five minutes of activity each day.

Set specific goals: Make your goals clear and measurable. Instead of saying, "I want to get in shape," say, "I will walk for 10 minutes every morning."

Establish a daily routine that includes your new habit. Consistency is easier to maintain when your habit becomes part of your daily life.

Track your progress: Keep a journal or use habit-tracking apps to monitor your daily efforts. Seeing your progress can be motivating and help you stay on track.

Stay accountable: Share your goals with a friend or family member who can offer support and encouragement. Having someone to hold you accountable can be a powerful motivator.

Remember, the journey of self-improvement is not a sprint but a marathon. Embrace the process of making small changes every day, and in time, you'll look back and be amazed at the significant transformation that these incremental efforts have brought to your life. By cultivating good habits one step at a time, you'll not only achieve your goals but also develop the resilience and discipline necessary for a lifetime of positive change.

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

Bake without the 'Shake'

To the Editor:
 I recently purchased a box of Shake 'n Bake seasoned coating mix at our local Walmart store to be used with chicken or pork. Great stuff — gives food a tasty coating, leaving chick or pork tender and moist. However, there is now a notice on the box stating that there are "No Shaker bags for less plastic packaging."
 That's right...not Shaker bags? So not having either a Ziplock bag or

a paper bag, I had to use one of my winter boot socks to "shake" it all together.

What a mess! Now I have to purchase Ziplock bags and a new pair of winter boot socks in addition to my next box of "Bake."

Good-bye, Shake 'N Bake.

Hello Bake!

Sad, to say the least.

RONALD C. WHITMORE
 LEICESTER

Fantasy vs. reality

To the Editor:
 It's evident that there are two types of people. Those that live in fantasy land and think Bidenomics is working. They evidently are trust fund babies, feed of the teat of government programs, or are complete fools whose news feed is CNN. Then there are those that live in reality. Those are the ones that work hard for a living and can clearly see the negative effects on their buying power for their family. They walk through life with their eyes open.

Take for instance your purchasing power for new cars under Bidenomics. In 2017, I purchased a brand Ford Escape from the dealer for \$19,000. They had plenty of cars, and you could bargain with them. Thanks to Bidenomics, that car is now \$29,000. A 30 percent increase in your cost. Did you get a 30 percent increase in your pay under Biden? I know I did not. If your daughter or son needs a new car, that's going to be \$500-\$600 a month. This is your reality. All caused by Biden's aggressive push to force manufacturers to switch to EV's by 2035. Those in fantasy land think this is perfectly acceptable. Any increase is due to greedy auto manufacturers.

Then we have the skyrocketing prices of houses and rents. Another direct consequence of Bidenomics. When we introduce millions of illegal aliens that are being housed at the state's expense due to Biden's open border policy, it reduces inventory. This drives up the rents. In 2016, you could rent a one-bedroom apartment for \$600-\$800 a month. Now that same apartment is double. Can you son or daughter afford to move out of their parents' house? Of course not. They need to use 50 to 75 percent of their monthly pay for housing. That, my friends, is the reality of Bidenomics at work. Those in fantasy land will follow the progressive play-book and say it is caused by a shortage of affordable housing stock. We here in reality know it was caused directly by 15 million illegals.

Anybody living in reality knows the increase in their food budget, the higher deductibles on their health insurance, and the high costs of energy. When they see those propaganda stories from the leftist leaning news outlets claiming that Bidenomics is a success, they just shake their heads. They know only a complete fool would agree with that. Evidently from some of the articles published lately endorsing Biden, we have many fools about

us. Those living in fantasy land think the border needs to be fixed with immigration reform. They ignore that we have a legal immigration process. It requires you apply and wait in line. Instead, Biden has opened the border and encouraged illegal immigration. We in reality with a working brain know if you give them everything for free, it just encourages more people to break the law. And if you shut off the free stuff, they won't work, they will riot until you give them more. We know that that a 35-foot border wall with razor wire at the top will stop 99 percent of the illegals. They don't have digging equipment. Most will turn way and go home. The Dems have convinced the fools that borders walls don't work. Our fool Governor Healy plays the Bidenomics game. She thinks allowing them to work will solve the problem. In reality, we know they will just collect free stuff from your taxes instead of working. And why not, the immigrants aren't fools. They know how to play the system.

Unfortunately, in today's climate, if you push back against the fools, their canned response is that of a fool. They will not acknowledge the inflation and ruination caused. Instead, they will attack you as "Racist" and "Hateful." The biggest threat to a fool is the truth. He will just put his fingers in his ears and just yell out "Racists!" You and I know the truth because we live it every day. Like the saying goes: "The proof is in the Pudding". Unfortunately, with Biden we may not be able to afford the pudding anymore. It's time to push these fools aside and take back America. Vote for the guy whose only allegiance is to American workers. The guy that no special interest lobbyist has bought and paid for: The guy who hasn't sold out America by getting bribes from China and other foreign countries. You don't need to believe anything I say in my columns. You just need to work, shop, and try to pay your bills. You know the truth because you witness it. The one and only solution is coming in 2024. Vote for the guy that knows your reality over Bidens fantasy. The one guy that wants to "Make America Great Again." Vote Trump in 2024 and let the fools explode.

MARK ROBILLARD
 SPENCER

Outdoor winter container gardens

Add a bit of greenery to your front steps, window box or patio with a winter container garden. You'll find all the ingredients you need at your local garden center, craft store, and maybe even a few in your backyard.

Start with a walk through your yard and look for evergreens and other potential ingredients for your winter containers. Fruits like rose hips, winterberries, holly berries, crabapples and others add color to the container. Fluffy seed-heads of grasses make a nice vertical accent and add a bit of motion to the arrangement.

Next, convert one or two of your summer or fall containers into a winter display. The container should be able to tolerate the winter conditions in your area. Concrete, iron, metal, wood and fiberglass containers are best suited for year-round use.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Even plastic pots will last for a few years when left outside.

Or start a new container for winter. Repurpose or purchase a container. Nursery pots that once housed trees and shrubs make excellent options. These black containers provide the perfect backdrop for greenery and are available for free from most garden centers and fellow gardeners.

Make sure the pot has drainage holes to prevent water-logged soil and water from overflowing the pot. Fill the container about seven eighths full with a well-drained

potting mix. The soil helps hold the greenery, twigs and other materials in place and adds weight to keep the pot upright throughout the winter.

Consider using a mix of greens for a variety of textures and various shades of green. Pine, spruce, arborvitae, boxwood and junipers may be growing in your landscape and most are available at garden centers. Spruce tips are popular, allowing you to add "mini" trees or create vertical accents in your containers.

Use greens to cover the pot and create an attractive base for your winter display. Place some branches upright and others at a 45-degree angle so the greens drape over the edge. Secure the stems by placing them at least four inches deep in the soil.

Now add some color
 Turn To **GARDENING** page **A9**

Can life insurance provide retirement income?



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

If your children are grown and your mortgage is paid off, do you still need to carry life insurance? It depends on your situation, but for many people, a cash-value life insurance policy, such as whole life or universal life, can be a valuable, tax-efficient source of retirement income.

And by drawing on the cash value of your policy, you might be able to temporarily reduce the amount you take out from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k). This ability could be especially important when the financial markets are down — you'd probably like to avoid liquidating your assets when their prices have dropped.

Basically, you can use the cash in your policy in these ways:

Withdrawals – You can typically withdraw part of the cash value of your life insurance without losing coverage. You generally won't incur income taxes on these withdrawals, up to the amount you've put into the policy — that is, the premiums you've paid. Once your withdrawals exceed this amount, you would generally owe taxes. Also, keep in mind that any withdrawals will reduce your policy's death benefit and the available cash surrender value.

Policy loans – Rather than taking a withdrawal from your policy, you could take out a loan. You won't have to go through an approval process or income verification, and policy loans typically have lower interest rates than bank loans and don't assess closing costs. Plus, because your insurer will be lending you the money and using the cash in your policy as collateral, your policy's cash value can remain intact and still potentially grow. However, policy loans do carry some issues of which you should be aware. For one thing, while a loan usually isn't taxable, you could end up owing taxes on any unpaid loan balance, including interest. And if this balance exceeds the policy's cash value, it could cause your policy to lapse. Also, outstanding loans can reduce your death benefit.

Cashing out – If you cash out, or "surrender," your policy, you can receive the entire cash value, plus any accrued interest. You will have to subtract any money needed to pay policy loans, along with unpaid premiums and surrender fees, which can be significant. Also, any amount you receive over the policy's cash basis — the total of premiums you've paid — will be taxed as regular income.

1035 Exchange – Through what's known as a Section 1035 Exchange, you can transfer your life insurance policy to an annuity, which can be structured to pay you a lifetime income stream. The exchange won't be taxable but surrender charges may still apply.

Given the potential tax implications of the above options, you may want to consult with your tax advisor before making any moves. Also, be sure you are comfortable with a reduced or eliminated death benefit. Specifically, you'll want to be confident that your spouse or other family members don't need the proceeds of your policy. This may require some discussions about your loved ones' plans and needs. And don't forget that life insurance can help your family pay for final expenses, such as funeral costs and unpaid medical bills.

Whether it's providing you with needed retirement income or helping your family meet future needs, your cash value life insurance policy is a valuable asset — so try to put it to the best use possible.

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.

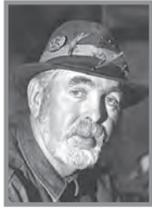
Be alert against CIRDC

Shotgun deer hunting season opened in Mass. this past Monday, in somewhat ideal conditions. The early morning rain was over by sunrise, followed by light winds in the morning, for hunters hoping to harvest a deer for the family's freezer.

Deer have already started to become nocturnal (traveling and feeding only at night). Deer hunters often work in small groups, hoping to locate the deer, often pushing them from their beds. With the high population of deer in Mass., hunters should have no problem harvesting a couple for the family freezer.

A canine respiratory disease known as CIRDC, "Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease," is a disease that is highly contagious, and has been detected in numerous pets recently. People that frequent dog parks are exposing their pets to this deadly disease. Taking your pets to the veterinarian to diagnose and treat the disease can be extremely expensive, as most visits to the Veterinarian are.

Getting an appointment to the veterinarian can often take days,



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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as most are often booked up. Pet owners are often referred to Tuff's medical clinic in Grafton, which is extremely expensive. Anyone that has had to take their pet to Tuff's, often come out with a bill of \$500 or more, a thousand dollar bill is not unusual. Owning a dog that is healthy is great, and the companionship is most often a strong bond with the owners.

I have often mentioned the risks of taking your pets to a dog park, and with the recent outbreak of this disease, you should not do it! People take their dogs almost everywhere they go, and the risks are very high that they could become infected. Don't do it!

Purchasing a dog as a Christmas present for someone is also a foolish thing to do! There

is too much going on, and the pup could be injured during all of the commotion of opening other gifts. Also, when you decide to buy a new family member and/or hunting partner, be sure to buy a healthy dog directly from a breeder. Be sure to see both parents and spend a little bit of time with them. Labradors are still the no. one pet, but if you do not do your homework before you purchase one, diseases like hip dysplasia could end up costing you hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, not to forget to mention a short life for your new family member. Choose wisely and good luck!

Christmas shopping for those special sportsmen is often a hard thing to do. It is best to give that special guy or gal a gift certificate at their favorite sporting goods store. Shopping at a Mom & Pop store is the best way to go, and will help keep the establishment in business. Many of these small shops have gone out of business over the last 20 years or so, and there are very few left.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Courtesy

This week's picture shows Aiden, Charlotte, & Holden Walker enjoying a day of pheasant hunting recently with their dad.

Holiday Crafts for Kids

As we count down to Christmas, a host of festive preparations take center stage in most families. This exciting time of year is hectic, and even more so for anxious children eager to be part of the pre-holiday activities. If you're searching for easy, creative ways to keep little ones from underfoot, look no further. The following ideas are fun and easy ways to keep kids busy. Best of all, these imaginative projects make great gifts for the special loved one in a child's life.

Magic Snowflake Ornament/Suncatcher

This amazing scientific project takes a little time, but it is educational as well as interesting. Kids really get a kick out of gifting teachers with this sparkly ornament. (Adult supervision required.)

Materials: String, wide mouth jar (such as a mason canning jar); white pipe cleaners; boiling water; borax (such as 20 Mule Team Borax booster, available at grocery stores); pencil; blue food coloring (optional).

Directions: Cut a white pipe cleaner into three equal sections. Twist the sections together in the center so that you have a six sided star shape. If your points are not even, trim the pipe cleaner sections to the same length. Attach string along the outer edges to form a snowflake pattern. Attach a piece of string to the top of one of the pipe cleaners and tie the other end to a pencil (this is to hang it from). Fill a wide mouth jar with boiling water. Mix borax into the water one tablespoon at a time. Use three tablespoons of borax per cup of water. Stir until dissolved, (don't worry

if there is powder settling on the bottom of the jar). If you want you can add a little blue food coloring now to give the snowflake a bluish hue. Insert your pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the pencil is resting on the lip of the jar and the snowflake is freely suspended in the borax solution. Wait overnight and by morning the snowflake will be covered with shiny crystals. Hang in a window as a sun-catcher or

Coal Stocking Bags
Children love to think they aren't the only ones who are "naughty" at times, and really enjoy bestowing this holiday teaser on family members and friends. This tried and true project is so simple, yet never fails to garner giggles and fun!

Materials: Small, coal sized rocks; black paint; ziplock bags or brown paper lunch bags; ribbon or twine.

Instructions: Have kids package painted rocks in zipper bags or brown paper bag pouches and tie with a ribbon for gift giving. They can hand print out the following message and tie it to the bag:

I heard you have been naughty not nice,
And Santa even checked his list twice.
So all the way from the cold North Pole,
All you're getting is a bag of coal!

Pinecone Trees
Gathering pinecones for holiday crafts is a generations old tradition that reflects one of nature's many gifts of the season! Creating cute, colorful, pinecone "trees" is easy enough for young children to do. The little trees are made

simply by painting a single pinecone and are ideal for displaying on the windowsill, desktop or table.

Materials: Pinecones, dried (see below)*; paints; glitter; beads; cinnamon candies, etc. and other adornments as desired; wine cork or a slice of tree trunk for base.

Instructions: Choose a pinecone that mimics the shape of a Christmas tree (short and stout tall and slender, etc.). Paint pinecones green and decorate with beads or tiny buttons; cookie decorations such as cinnamon candies and silver balls, etc.; dip tips in glue and glitter, if desired, etc. Glue bottom of pinecone to a wine cork or small tree trunk slice to form a base (trim bottom of pinecone to make it flat for gluing).

*To dry pinecones for crafting; Lay pinecones out flat on an old cookie sheet. Bake at 225 for two hours. This not only helps the pinecones to open, but eliminates moisture and any insects.

Note: a mix of short, stout pinecones and long, slender ones can create a "forest" of varying heights for a tabletop display!

Garden Bows
The gardener on your child's gift list will truly appreciate this creative tree ornament. Perfect for a grandparent, teacher or special adult, the gift can be opened for use in the spring, or hung on the tree year after year.

Materials: Flower or vegetable seed packets; white glue; glitter; metallic tree garland; fishing line.

Instructions: Fold seed packet into

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pleats. Spread white glue along the outside edges of the pleats. Dip the pleated packets into glitter and let dry. Pinch the top of the packet to create a fan. Hang the ornaments by wrapping them at center point with metallic garland. Thread fishing line or ribbon through the garland and tie in a loop for hanging on tree.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

2023 auction results

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! As we near 2024, I'll use today's column to share some results from our 2023 auctions.

In previous columns, I've discussed how comic books are classified. As a refresher, Golden Age comics were printed from 1938 to 1956. The Silver Age of comics lasted from 1956 to 1970. The Bronze Age spanned from 1970 to 1985 and the Modern Age began in 1985 and continues today. A Golden Age superhero comic book in great condition could make you a millionaire. More recent ones can still be valuable, though. We sold a group of Bronze Age and Modern Age

X-Men Comic Books that brought \$2,880 in November.

Old and newer collectible toys also brought strong prices this year, including two cast iron toys from our June auction. Kenton Toys of Kenton, Ohio began manufacturing toy trucks in 1903, according to the National Museum of American History. An early 1900s Kenton Toys Cast Iron Police Patrol Horse Drawn Carriage brought \$960. "Samuel F. Pratt, Pascal P. Pratt, and William P. Letchworth established the Buffalo Malleable Iron Works in 1836," according to worthpoint.com. They began toy production in

1889. A late 19th century Pratt & Letchworth Cast Iron Horse Drawn Steamer Fire Engine sold for \$1,020.

Some more modern toys also sold well in our 2023 auctions. "The Munsters" was the 18th highest-ranked TV show for the 1964-65 season. A 1964 Talking Herman Munster figure by Mattel with original box sold for \$900. The intro for "Six Million Dollar Man" became a 1970s catch phrase: "We can rebuild him; we have the technology." A 1970s The Six Million Dollar Man Venus Space Probe in the box went for \$960. Even newer toys can be valuable. A 2016 Lego Ghostbusters Fire House

MIB (mint in box) sold for \$780 earlier this year.

Baseball and other sports cards continue to be popular with collectors, especially graded cards of star players. Cards featuring two Hall of Famers brought strong prizes in our June auction. A 1954 Topps Hank (Henry) Aaron #128 PSA 5 (out of 10) Baseball Card fetched \$4,425. Mickey Mantle cards in good condition are highly desirable. A 1952 Bowman Mickey Mantle #101 PSA 6 (out of 10) Baseball Card knocked it out of the park, selling for \$5,000.

We are expecting more strong auction results at our major multi-estate online auction which

starts soon and ends on January 10th. We will be offering fine art including paintings by listed artists (those whose works have sold at auction), Pablo Picasso limited edition pottery, and bronze sculptures. We have gold, platinum, and diamond jewelry and a large amount of sterling silver. There's also a wide range of mid-century modern furniture and accessories. We will also offer aviation and Civil War memorabilia and much more, including a book from the 1600s. Our



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
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WAYNE TUISKULA

online estate auction of a Concord, Mass. home is also currently running and will end on Dec. 12. The Concord home has fine furnishings, oriental rugs, an antique tall case clock, and more. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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



GARDENING

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and vertical interest with stems of red twig dogwoods, paper birch branches, berry-laden stems from holly and winterberry and curly willow branches. Artificial material and outdoor ornaments can also be used. It's your opportunity to get creative. Do consider adding other elements such as evergreen cones, seed pods, allium seedheads, and balloon plant pods. Leave them natural or add some paint and glitter. Water thoroughly to remove air pockets and lock your ingredients in

place. Keeping the soil moist until the potting mix freezes can help extend the beauty of the greenery. The winter containers will also last much longer in cooler temperatures. And those displayed in more sheltered locations out of direct sunlight and wind will suffer less drying.

Once your container is complete it is time to relax and enjoy your holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant

video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist

and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Melinda Myers

Winter container gardens made of natural materials add beauty and color to the winter landscape.

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

12:38 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 12:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 1:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:52 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:16 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:39 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 7:58 a.m.: animal complaint (Huntoon Memorial Highway), referred to ACO; 8:32 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 8:48 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 9:28 a.m.: welfare check (Reservoir Street), assisted; 10:01 a.m.: disabled mv (Mannville Street), resolved; 2:09 p.m.: assist citizen (Mayflower Road); 3:21 p.m.: investigation (Victoria Drive), report taken; 4:13 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 5:16 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 5:19 p.m.: welfare check (Tobin Road), report taken; 5:50 p.m.: ambulance (Towtaid Street), transported; 6:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 6:33 p.m.: disabled mv (Henshaw Street) assisted; 8:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:17 p.m.: assist other agency (Town Beach Road), services rendered; 9:27 p.m.: disturbance (Olney Street), Amanda Marie Williams, 33, 10 Olney Street, Leicester, failure to appear upon recognizance, arrest; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

12:11 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 12:58 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 2:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:23 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:12 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 7:52 a.m.: transport prisoner (West Main Street, Spencer), transported; 7:59 a.m.: accident (Marshall Street), report taken; 10:52 a.m.: ambulance (Mulberry Street), transported; 11:24 a.m.: malicious mischief (Breezy Green Road), services rendered; 1:44 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 4:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 5:41 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 6:14 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 6:27 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:11 p.m.: ambulance (Chandler Street, Worcester), no service; 8:36 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:21 p.m.: disabled mv (Washburn Square), assisted; 9:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:41 p.m.: disturbance (Towtaid Street), resolved; 9:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:46 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:51 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

1:43 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), restraining order served; 3:50 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:58 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), resolved; 5:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:44 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:30 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 1:28 p.m.: restraining order service (Salminen Drive), served; 1:31 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 2:12 p.m.: welfare check (Tobin Road), report taken; 3:10 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 3:18 p.m.: family problem (Henshaw Street), resolved; 4:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 4:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:59 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:49 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 7:11 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:32 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 9:37 p.m.: disturbance (Town Beach Road), call canceled; 10:18 p.m.: disturbance (Town Beach Road), resolved; 10:30 p.m.: disturbance (King Street), unfounded.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

12:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:05 a.m.: open door/window (Main Street), resolved; 1:06 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 2:15 a.m.: suspicious mv (Atwood Terrace), gone on arrival; 2:41 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 7:06 a.m.: ambulance (Greenville Street, Spencer), transported; 9:02 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 9:12 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:19 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 9:23 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), written warning; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), citation issued; 11:38 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 11:50 a.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 12:34 p.m.: mv b&e (Main Street), report taken; 1:26 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), report taken; 2:30 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 3:29 p.m.: ambu-

lance (Stafford Street), transported; 4:01 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Town Beach Road), unable to serve; 4:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:55 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 4:59 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:18 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 6:06 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 8:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:47 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

12:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:44 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 1:30 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, criminal application issued; 5:13 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 6:02 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 6:33 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 7:50 a.m.: mv stop (Whittemore Street), written warning; 7:58 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:45 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), referred; 9:01 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:51 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:02 p.m.: accident (Main Street), referred; 1:21 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Road, Spencer), transported; 1:22 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 1:58 p.m.: parking complaint (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 2:28 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 3:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Rawson Street), referred to ACO; 3:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 5:32 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 6:08 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

12:41 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 12:42 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 12:58 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:08 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 5:10 a.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), Heriberto Rojas, Junior, 25, 80 Greeley Street, Clinton, possession Class B drug, possession Class E drug, arrest; 6:43 a.m.: accident (Green Street), report taken; 9:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:55 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:21 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:05 p.m.: investigation (Towtaid Street), report taken; 12:33 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 2:53 p.m.: threats (Paxton Street), spoken to; 2:57 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 3:41 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:41 p.m.: family problem (McCarthy Avenue), assisted; 5:49 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:09 p.m.: threats (Main Street), assisted; 10:27 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:14 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 11:29 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 11:34 p.m.: accident (Whittemore Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

12:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 3:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:23 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 4:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:21 a.m.: threats (Main Street), report taken; 10:07 a.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 10:23 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:04 a.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 11:58 a.m.: ambulance (Grove Street), transported; 1:14 p.m.: assist other agency (Tobin Road), resolved; 1:32 p.m.: assist citizen (Charlton Street); 3:36 p.m.: missing person (Victoria Drive), report taken; 4:30 p.m.: suspicious person (Paxton Street), unable to locate; 4:48 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 5:20 p.m.: parking complaint (Clark Street), resolved; 5:40 p.m.: investigation (Victoria Drive), report taken; 6:03 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:08 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 9:00 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Mayflower Circle), Charles Anthony Zilembo, 65, 8 Mayflower Circle, Leicester, warrant, arrest; 10:14 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

12:01 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 12:33 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:44-1:19 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:03 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:58 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:05 a.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), re: neighbors/parking ban park-

ing; 7:40 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), too close to intersection; 7:54 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 8:50 a.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 9:03 a.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street), fire drills; 9:30 a.m.: restraining order service (Pearl Street); 10:23 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 10:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Old East Charlton Road), dead deer; 12:33 p.m.: fraud (Smithville Road), report taken; 2:23 p.m.: elderly matter (Cherry Street), Leicester PD bolo/missing f; 3:30 p.m.: medical/general (Overlook Drive); 3:46 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), DA referral; 4:33 p.m.: accident (Main Street), mv ran truck off road; 5:30 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: CT re: subject wanted in MA; 6:14 p.m.: fraud (East Charlton Road), report taken; 7:53 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), re: dead cat; 8:44-8:56 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:59 p.m.: mv complaint (East Charlton Road), info taken; 10:01 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:00 p.m.: officer wanted (North Street), req. welfare check; (total daily mv stops - 7).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

2:24 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 2:28 a.m.: medical/general (Old Farm Road); 3:46 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:46 a.m.: fire alarm (Cherry Street), referred; 8:53 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:04 a.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road), 10:44 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: missing dog; 12:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), ACO wanted; 12:36 p.m.: accident (Donnelly Cross Road), report taken; 12:43 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:02 p.m.: fire alarm (Northwest Road), services rendered; 1:50 p.m.: DPW call (Valley Street), hydrant leaking; 2:18 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street), lift assist; 3:11 p.m.: fraud (Bemis Road), report taken; 3:20 p.m.: residential alarm (Briarcliff Lane), services rendered; 3:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Grove Street), re: aggressive dog; 3:39 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), daughter not off the bus from school; 3:43 p.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 4:14 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:32 p.m.: 911 call (Dale Street), open line; 4:58 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 7:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Clark Road), recycling bin stolen; 11:49 p.m.: residential alarm (Briarcliff Lane), services rendered; 11:54 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops - 1).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

12:06 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd/2; 12:08-1:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:31 a.m.: residential alarm (Briarcliff Lane), services rendered; 1:17 a.m.: disturbance (Pearl Street), re: disruptive neighbor; 2:49 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 4:47 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 4:55 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 5:08 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. car alarm; 5:58 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 6:55 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:02 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:13 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), cell phone found; 11:19 a.m.: residential alarm (Briarcliff Lane), services rendered; 11:21 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), re: call on tip line; 11:26 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:26 a.m.: fire alarm (Kingsbury Road), referred; 11:44 a.m.: parking complaint (Smithville Road), trailer in front of residence; 12:19 p.m.: mutual aid (Oakland Drive), re: immediate threat service/MassDOT; 2:15 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), erratic operator; 2:46 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 2:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (G.H. Wilson Road), re: mv in solar farm; 2:58 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), re: pet food donation; 3:30 p.m.: 911 call (Buteau Road), accidental; 4:33 p.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), detained dog w/no tags; 5:12 p.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), services rendered; 7:25 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (Temple Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops - 4).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

12:29 a.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), noise complaint; 2:10-2:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:52 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street), lift assist; 7:58 a.m.: fire alarm (North Spencer Road), referred; 8:34 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 8:53 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 9:02 a.m.: DPW call (Oakland Drive), loud bang/no power; 9:56 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 10:23

a.m.: RV complaint (North Brookfield Road), dirt bike passing on roadway; 10:58 a.m.: lost/found (Main Street), lost bank bag/contents; 12:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), spoken to; 12:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), loose horses; 12:39 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist Mass State Police/disabled mv; 12:50 p.m.: citizen complaint (Pleasant Street), leaves piled roadside; 1:06 p.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 1:08 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 3:51 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:51-9:01 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:06 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), req. Rapid Intervention Team to Leicester; 9:12 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 10:43 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road), lift assist; 10:56 p.m.: suspicious persons (Smithville Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

12:13-12:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:15 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 12:27 a.m.: mv fire (Meadow Road), referred; 1:09 a.m.: domestic assault/simple (Elm Street), m/f in verbal dispute; 1:26 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 4:36-5:30 a.m.: parking violations/4 (Main, Mechanic, Church, Elm streets), tickets issued; 4:59 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:06 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:59 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:59 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 8:25 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 10:30 a.m.: DPW call (Wire Village Road), tree on wires; 11:17 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 12:17 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 1:59 p.m.: disturbance (Linden Street), unwanted party; 6:29 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), customers are upset; 6:38 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), tailgating/brake checking; 9:12 p.m.: juvenile matter (Charlton Road), teen out of control; (total daily mv stops - 1).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

12:16-2:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:22-1:23 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic, McDonald streets), tickets issued; 2:08 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police w/mv stop; 2:30 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 7:25 a.m.: mv lock-out (Charlton Road), assisted; 9:44 a.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), referred; 10:18 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:44 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 11:51 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 12:05 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:10 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 1:15 p.m.: restraining order service (Mechanic Street); 1:17 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:31 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), two dog coats stolen; 2:43 p.m.: medical/general (Summit Street); 2:50 p.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 4:03 p.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 4:23 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:04 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Paxton PD bolo re: hit/run; 5:15 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 7:51 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:04 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 8:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 10:06 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), re: erratic operator; 10:13 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; (total daily mv stops - 2).

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

1:45-3:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:08 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:12 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), service rendered; 7:05 a.m.: lost/found (Chestnut Street), child's ID found; 10:42 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:16 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:25 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:48 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 1:45 p.m.: fraud (May Street), report taken; 2:16 p.m.: disturbance (North Spencer Road), heard explosion; 3:49 p.m.: mv lockout (Ash Street), assisted; 4:00 p.m.: fraud (Kingsbury Road), unemployment scam; 4:42 p.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 6:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Nottingham Circle), question re: parents; 7:20 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:57 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:51 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 9:24 p.m.: 911 call (Blueberry Hill), status not recorded on police log; 9:32 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), snow sticking to side streets; 10:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), services rendered; 10:47 p.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 11:49 p.m.: disabled mv (Church Street), services rendered; 11:55 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; (total daily mv stops - 7).

###

Pets rescued from Leicester house fire

LEICESTER — Firefighters recently rescued a dog and cat from a burning house in Cherry Valley.

The Nov. 18 fire began just before 9 p.m. at 132 Sargent St. Upon arrival, responders learned that all occupants had exited the building.

Firefighters from Spencer, Paxton, Auburn, and Worcester also responded to the scene.

After entering the house, firefighters rescued a dog and cat that were subsequently turned over to Leicester Animal Control.

Two occupants of the home were transported to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation.

The fire remains under investigation by the Leicester Fire Department and members of the State Police assigned to the Fire Marshal's Office.

The strength to overcome obstacles lies within you

We sometimes find ourselves standing at the feet of towering giants and facing impossible battles. The types of battles that make you question everything you thought you knew, making you feel as if you don't have what it takes and that you should give up and die.

What if I told you that this perception, this daunting outlook, is often a mere illusion?

There is a truth that many of us find hard to believe: that deep within you lies everything you need to triumph over your giants.

At an early age, Stephen Wiltshire received an autism diagnosis, a condition that faced significant stigma during his childhood. He was non-verbal until the age of five; few could have imagined his disability would eventually become one of his greatest strengths.

Stephen had a love for drawing; he was passionate about it. It was his way of connecting and communicating. Being autistic, I'm sure nobody thought Stephen had any chance in art.

Soon enough, Stephen had the attention of a teacher who noticed his remarkable talent. His drawings, characterized by their stunning detail and complexity, were entered into competitions and started winning awards.

As fate would have it, Stephen discovered that he had an eidetic memory that allowed him to draw complex landscapes and cityscapes even after just a glance.

Against all odds, Stephen's perceived disadvantage also came with an advantage that gave

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him everything he needed to become a world-class artist.

Ludwig van Beethoven, a renowned musical genius, faced an unimaginable challenge as he began to lose his hearing. Many might have thought this marked the end of his illustrious career. Yet, in an astonishing turn of events, this loss became a transformational force in his musical journey.

His compositions got better as he lost his hearing; they soared in depth and expression. Astoundingly, Beethoven's most celebrated works emerged when he was entirely deaf.

This profound loss forced him to listen in a new way, feeling the vibrations of each note. He began to perceive and compose music in a way he never had before.

This unforeseen challenge became the catalyst that propelled his artistry to unprecedented heights.

What seems like a crippling setback can be precisely what's needed to bring you toward your destiny.

Aron Ralston, an adventurer and mountaineer, lived for the thrill of conquering the great outdoors. His passion for exploring remote canyons and scaling rugged peaks was not just a hobby but a profound expression of his connection with nature. Ralston's adventures showed his profound love for the wilderness, a love that would be tested in ways he probably never imagined.

In April 2003, a routine solo canyoneering trip in Utah became a life-or-death struggle. While navigating a narrow can-

yon, a dislodged boulder trapped his right arm against the canyon wall. For five agonizing days, Ralston battled the elements, his physical limits, and mounting despair.

With dwindling supplies and no hope of rescue, he faced an unimaginable decision: amputate his trapped arm with a dull pocketknife to escape. This harrowing choice marked a turning point not only in his ordeal but in his entire life.

Ralston was undoubtedly forced to alter his relationship with the outdoors dramatically. What had once been a playground became the scene of his most profound challenge.

Yet, it deepened his respect and appreciation for the wild and led him down a new path.

He penned his memoir, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place," recounting his extraordinary survival and the lessons learned in the canyon.

His story inspired millions, leading to speaking engagements and even a film adaptation, "127 Hours," that brought his tale to a global audience.

In losing a part of himself, Ralston found a deeper purpose and discovered that even with losing his arm, he still had everything he needed to get to the next level of his life.

Each of us has an untapped well of inner strength. More often than not, we possess the tools necessary to navigate life's biggest challenges. Sometimes, the presence of a daunting obstacle reveals the actual depth of our ability. Next time you feel overwhelmed or insufficient, hold onto this truth: within you lies everything you need to overcome and succeed.

OBITUARIES

John L. Barbato, 78



SPENCER: John L. Barbato, 78, died of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis on Monday, Nov. 13th at his home with his wife by his side. He leaves his wife of 53 years, Faith E. (Freeman) Barbato, sisters Mary Adams and husband James of Florida, Joan Barbato and partner Anthony Corbisiero of California, Faith's sister Jean Getek and husband David of Arizona, nephews Seth Gondek in California, Craig Adams in Florida and Dean Metcalfe and wife Jackie in Arizona, uncle Robert Bodenstein of New Jersey, cousins in Pennsylvania, Arizona and Virginia, many friends, and his young 'pals' Eli and Everett Bercume.

He is predeceased by his parents, John L. and Doris (Bodenstein) Barbato and sister Carol Barbato.

Born in San Francisco, California and raised in Jersey City NJ, John graduated from St. Peter's University in Jersey City and Fordham University Graduate School of Social Work in New York City. John was a clinical social worker and psychotherapist at several clinics and hospitals in New York. He lived in New York City and later in Hoboken NJ where he maintained a private psychotherapy practice until retiring to Spencer in 2013.

John had numerous interests and hobbies, including amateur radio ("N2LND"), shortwave radio, chess, French and Latin language studies, weather monitoring, and fishing, and

belonged to many related clubs and organizations. He was a fan of the New England sports teams and the San Francisco Giants. He played several sports in high school and college, as well as semi-pro baseball. Following 9/11 he volunteered in Disaster Mental Health for the American Red Cross in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. He also volunteered in radio communications for the New York City Marathon and for road races and events in New Jersey and Massachusetts. He loved travel, Snoopy and the Peanuts gang, and the vibrant colors of the Caribbean.

The family thanks all the VNA Care Hospice team, esp. Paulette, Chris and Rev. Ted, for exceptional care during John's final months; Dr Ryan Fillipon, Father William Schipper, and the Bercume family.

Among John's favorite charities are Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio Street, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois;

VNA Care, 120 Thomas Street, Worcester, MA 01608; Spencer Food Pantry at Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple Street, Spencer, MA 01562.

The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements. A service for John will be held in the Spring.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news



Leicester man arrested in connection with death in Worcester

LEICESTER — A Leicester man was arrested last month on charges in connection to a death in Worcester.

On Nov. 24, police arrested Marcel Santos-Padgett, 31, of Leicester, at 4 Columbia Park in Haverhill.

Santos-Padgett had an outstanding arrest warrant for the offense of Armed Assault to Murder. The warrant resulted from an investigation into the Thanksgiving death of a woman at 383 Pleasant St. in Worcester (Angie's Bodywork Spa).

"The Worcester Police Department would like to thank the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Squad and the Haverhill Police Department for their assistance," read a statement released by the department.

On Nov. 23 at approximately 11:35 a.m., Worcester Police officers were dispatched to Angie's Bodywork Spa for a report of a woman experiencing a medical issue. Upon arrival, officers were flagged down by a man who brought them to the unconscious victim.

Officers rendered medical aid until the victim was pronounced deceased by Worcester EMS.

If you have information about the incident, call the Worcester Police Detective Bureau at 508-799-8651.

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LEGALS

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:

Theodore Labonte has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to replace a rear deck egress located at **32 Maple Street**, Spencer, MA.

Thomas Price has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to grind four tree stumps located at **65 Oakland Drive**, Spencer, MA. Spencer Solar Farm, LLC. has filed a RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a large scale solar PV Facility located at 14 North Brookfield 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, December 13, 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
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
December 1, 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Special Permit– Applicant: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T Mobility), Owner: Town of Spencer; Location: 17 Lake Street & 42 Highland Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U15-1. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.5 (Wireless Data Transfer Facilities), of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to maintain a temporary Wireless Data Transfer Facility. The property is in the Village Residential (VR) zoning district.

November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing –

Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permit– Applicant: Minutemen Property Management, LLC, Logyn Shea, Owner: Ken Keyes; Location: 5 R Jones Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R24-07. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.9.2.2 (nonconformities), of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to a 8 x12 farmers porch addition. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.

November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing –

Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permit– Applicant: Rebecca Fournier, Owner: 2019LLC; Location: 16 Wall Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U07-28. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.3.20 (Tattoo parlor studio), of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to expand pre-existing business services to include permanent make-up and tattoos. The property is in the Town Center (TC) zoning district.

November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Warren
Kerry Schmidt, Collector of Taxes
Office of the Collector of**

Taxes Notice of Tax Taking To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned

You are hereby notified that on Friday the 15th day of December, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collector's Office, 48 High Street, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Warren the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Assessed To HEBERT CYNTHIA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.739 Acres located and known as 1021 EAST RD shown on the Town of Warren Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 07-0-12 and being part of the premises recorded in book 20171 on page 169 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax \$2,144.15

Assessed To KONDRAT JESSICA L.
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.76 Acres located and known as 1374 BRIMFIELD RD shown on the Town of Warren Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 11-0-22 and being part of the premises recorded in book 55159 on page 285 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax \$499.78

Assessed To MAH JOHN C.
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.831 Acres located and known as 200 O'NEIL RD shown on the Town of Warren Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 03-0-32 and being part of the premises recorded in book 56343 on page 48 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax \$1,082.63

Assessed To MARCILLE RICHARD J. & BARBARA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.776 Acres located and known as TOWN FARM DR shown on the Town of Warren Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 03-0-80 and being part of the premises recorded in book 15733 on page 4 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax \$67.02

Assessed To MARCILLE RICHARD J. & BARBARA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 6.7 Acres located and known as TOWN FARM DR shown on the Town of Warren Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 03-0-77 and being part of the premises recorded in book 15733 on page 4 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax \$178.74

Assessed To THE BURNIAS FAMILY TRUST And BURNIAS MANUEL C. TRUSTEE
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.28 Acres located and known as 29 LIBERTY ST shown on the Town of Warren Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 24-0-104 and being part of the premises recorded in book 56267 on page 358 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax \$3,018.36
2021 Water Ln \$45.71
December 1, 2023

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Sam Alkhoury for the property located at 154 West Main Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to propose a mix-use development with associated parking, storm-water man-

agement area, on-site sewage disposal system, utility connections & their associated appurtenances. Special Permit as per section(s) -3.1 Basic Requirements, 5.1 Site Plan Review and 5.3 Signs (meets the intent) (et al) November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 004284 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
J.C. Allen Gathers a/k/a J.C. Allen Gather
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2023-NR1

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 35 Church St, given by J. C. Allen Gathers a/k/a J.C. Allen Gather to Chase Bank USA, N.A., dated July 23, 2007, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41554, Page 185, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before January 1, 2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on November 16, 2023.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
December 1, 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. WO23P4027EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:
Jeanette Foley

Date of Death: September 18, 2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Dennis Foley, Jr. of Phillipston MA** and **Laura Morris of Leicester 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:

Dennis Foley, Jr. of Phillipston MA and Laura Morris of Leicester 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 12/19/2023**.

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: November 16, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 1, 2023

Notice of Public Hearing– Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday December 19, 2023 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Special Permit – Applicant/ Owner: Adam German; Location: 71 East Charlton Road; Spencer Assessor's Map R14-29-2 and R14-29-3. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit under 5.3.10 (Rear lot subdivision) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw in order to create a rear lot subdivision (on 12/15/2020 the applicant received a Special Permit for a rear lot subdivision; however, the special permit expired and needs to reapply). The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.

December 1, 2023

December 8, 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. WO23P4057EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:
Raymond G. Lavigne

Date of Death: 10/31/2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lisa M. Barrows of Spencer MA** and **Wendy A. Pelchat of Spencer 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:

Lisa M. Barrows of Spencer MA and Wendy A. Pelchat of Spencer, 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 12/19/2023**.

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: November 20, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 1, 2023

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SPORTS

Auburn keeps Tarantino Cup as Rockets top Leicester, 18-7



Courtesy Mark Seliger, SeligerPhotography.com

The Leicester football team runs onto the field before the start of the annual Tarantino Cup Thanksgiving Day game with Auburn.



Courtesy Mark Seliger, SeligerPhotography.com

Alexander Samia of Leicester looks down before booting the ball down the field.



Courtesy Mark Seliger, SeligerPhotography.com

Leicester's Hunter Senior employs a stiff-arm maneuver on an Auburn defender to create separation.

Friday's Child



Hi! Our names are Asa and Lilianna and we like karate!

Lilianna and Asa are amazing sibling group hoping to be adopted together. Lilianna (Lilly), the older sister is very outgoing. She is described as active, fearless, and strong-willed. Lilly also has a side she describes as "classy", such as enjoying getting her nails done and putting on makeup. She attends in karate class and really enjoys it. Lilly also loves art, enjoys watching cartoons, and helping her foster mother in the kitchen. In school, she performs at grade level and would benefit from support and consistent structure to stay task. Lilianna is severely allergic to cats and dogs and families with cats will not be considered but her social worker would consider a family with a hypoallergenic dog.

Asa, the younger brother, unlike his big sis has an introverted personality. He also likes to attend karate class. Asa likes indoor activities like mind-stimulating games that include problem solving, drawing, and playing with cars. He also loves outdoor activities such as going to the park. In school, Asa performs above average compared to his peers.

Lilly and Asa will bring joy to a home that can provide them with structure, consistency, and freedom to express their emotions. They will do well in a loving two parent family of any constellation, where they can be the only or youngest children in the home. Asa is biracial, being of African America and Caucasian descent and interested families must be dedicated to providing appropriate information and ethnic and cultural role models regarding his culture which includes discussing racism and discrimination.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/children/6956-6957>

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

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



Courtesy Mark Seliger, SeligerPhotography.com

Leicester's Michael Gerber runs the ball through Auburn's defensive line.



Courtesy Mark Seliger, SeligerPhotography.com

Defender Anthony Dagostino of Leicester tries to break up a pass intended for an Auburn receiver.

LEICESTER — For the third straight year the Auburn varsity football team has defeated Leicester on Thanksgiving Day and, as a result, they have retained possession of the Tarantino Cup.

The now three-year-old rivalry — played in part because of fallen police officer Ronald Tarantino's ties to both communities — was played at the Becker Field, and the Rockets topped the Wolverines, 18-7. Auburn defeated Leicester in 2021, 34-31, and again in 2022, 28-7.

The Rockets finished their season with a record of 7-4, while the Wolverines wound up 3-8.

SPORTS

Late game interception secures Thanksgiving Day victory for Tantasqua over Rams



Jason Bleau

Tantasqua place kicker Luke Marvin watches the ball go through the uprights, as this score would be the difference in a 17-14 victory for the Warriors over Shepherd Hill.



Jason Bleau

Noah Wotton of Tantasqua runs the ball into the end zone for a touchdown.



Jason Bleau

Tantasqua quarterback Adam Howe scrambles away from a Shepherd Hill defender.



Jason Bleau

The Tantasqua Warriors raise the Thanksgiving Day trophy for the 10th time in the matchup's 49-year history.

BY JASON BLEAU
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — The Shepherd Hill Rams and Tantasqua Warriors met for their 49th annual Thanksgiving Day game, this year played at The Reservation. The game proved to be a thrilling tale of two very different halves.

Both teams came out determined to keep each other from the end zone as the game remained scoreless at halftime, but the scoreboard would see plenty of work in the second half with points on every possession except the final drive, which ended with a game-clinching interception for the Warriors, as they edged the Rams, 17-14.

The second half provided a bit of everything from both teams as Shepherd Hill took the lead in the third quarter on the strength of a touchdown run by Aiden Tyler. The Rams would later secure the lead with a 75-yard kickoff return for a score by William Sirleaf. In between those scores Tantasqua kept things close with a touchdown of their own courtesy of a 33-yard connection between quarterback Adam Howe and receiver Noah Wotton. Shepherd Hill took their 14-7 advantage into the final quarter of the game, but that lead

wouldn't last.

Tantasqua took control in the fourth quarter thanks to scrappy play by Howe under center, who converted another touchdown — this time to Isaac Colon — to tie the game despite a strong showing by the Rams' defense. The Warriors then took their first lead of the day after successfully securing an onside kick complimented by a highlight scramble play later in the drive where Howe escaped a charging Rams defense to complete a first down pass. The effort eventually set up a 19-yard field goal by Luke Marvin to make the score 17-14 in favor of the Warriors.

Shepherd Hill never backed down and threatened to take the lead in the closing seconds, attempting a desperation pass play into the end zone. However, Tantasqua's Jack Rapose made the game-clinching interception with 18 seconds left on the clock securing the Warriors their 10th win in the annual holiday matchup.

Warriors' head coach Nate Orzech complimented Rapose on his game-winning play, calling it redemption for a mistake made at the very beginning of the season.

"Week one against Marlborough he got beat on a play like that and I've

been on him about it for the rest of the year, so it makes up for week one. We were talking to the safeties to be aware of toss passes and they didn't get beat. They did a good job and made a play," Orzech said.

After a scoreless first half, Orzech said the Warriors made all the right adjustments to counteract the Rams coming into the closing quarters. "(Shepherd Hill) did a great job taking away what we were trying to do. We said we had to run at them and beat them at their own game and be a little bit more downhill," said Orzech. "That set up Adam (Howe) obviously making some tremendous plays in the second half. He was excellent in the second half and made a lot of big plays for us and those receivers coming down with those passes was pretty great, too."

Shepherd Hill head coach Steve Ide said the loss was tough, but he felt it was a hard-fought battle between two very capable football teams. "These were two good teams playing really hard football. The onside kick was obviously a huge play. The scramble play by the Tantasqua quarterback, he did an outstanding job because we had him a couple times and

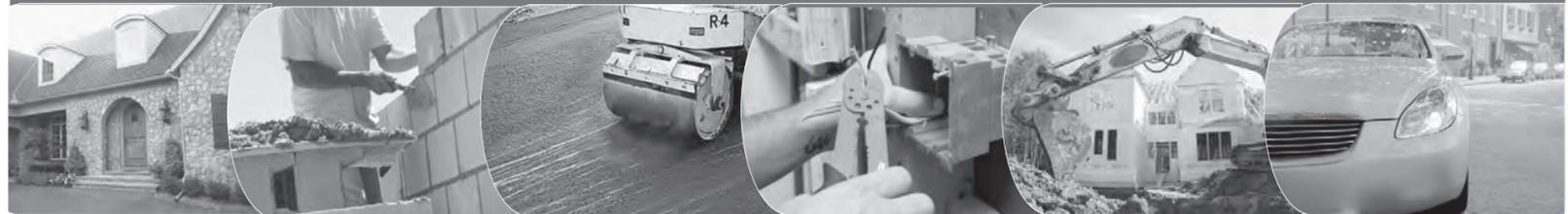
he still managed to get the ball loose and they caught it," Ide said. "That's the difference in the game. One big special team play by us, one by them. Good defense played by them, good defense played by us. They have an elite kicker, and he made a great kick."

Ide said he had no regrets going for it on the final play, although he wished the result was different for his team.

"We were out of timeouts, so it's tough for us because obviously we're a run first operation. We can throw the ball effectively, but we're run first, so in that situation and you're on the clock you need to take a couple of chances. We put the ball in the hands of two of our best players and it looked like they got tangled up, Tantasqua caught it and those are the plays you've got to make if you want to win the game," said Ide.

Howe was named Offensive MVP while Shepherd Hill's Joshua Harrison earned Defensive MVP honors. The win now puts the Warriors — who finished the season at 5-6 — in double digits for the Thanksgiving matchup with the record at 39-10 in favor of the Rams — who also wound up 5-6 — as the game approaches its 50th anniversary next year.

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SPORTS

Bay Path narrowly defeats Pirates in Battle for Buffums, evens series at 5-5



Jason Mckay

Bay Path's Aiden Fausek powers through the Oxford defensive line.



Jason Mckay

Brayden Downes of Bay Path attempts to find an opening on the field while the Oxford defense rushes behind him.



Jason Mckay

Bay Path's Jake Delvalle reaches in to tackle Oxford's Jordan Deleon.



Jason Mckay

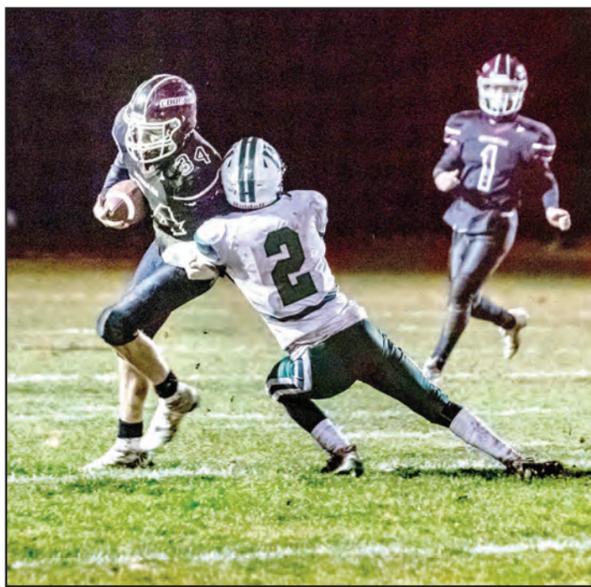
Quarterback Corey Scovil of Bay Path releases a pass before being tackled.

Cougars lose close call to Ware on Thanksgiving Eve



Jason Mckay

Quaboag quarterback Jacob Cacace sets up for a pass while his line holds off the Ware team.



Jason Mckay

Brasen Sauriol of Quaboag attempts to power through a Ware defender's tackle.



Jason Mckay

Quaboag defender Bryce Douglas (77) holds his ground against a Ware player trying to gain the first down on his run.



Jason Mckay

Reilly Comptois of Quaboag dives for a fumbled ball against Ware.

WARREN — In the season finale for both teams, the Quaboag varsity football team hosted its rival from Ware on the traditional Thanksgiving Eve matchup — although the matchup was played on Thanksgiving Day last year.

The Cougars and Indians fought hard, as the teams battled to a one-score game. In the end, though, it was Ware who narrowly defeated Quaboag, 20-14. The Indians finished the season with a record of 10-1, while the Cougars also had a winning season at 6-5.

OXFORD — If you're a fan of offense and high numbers on the scoreboard, then this year's Battle for Buffums Thanksgiving Day football game between Bay Path and Oxford was a treat.

In the end it was the Minutemen who emerged victorious, 42-34, as they knotted up the battle in the 10th year of the rivalry, 5-5.

The scoring started on the first offensive play as the Pirates' Kellen Clarkson found Connor Fantasia on a 41-yard pass, and Alexander Perry booted the extra point to make it 7-0.

Bay Path's Brayden Downes countered with a 57-yard TD run, Kaiden Brochu tackled on the two-point rush, and the Minutemen led, 8-7. Downes then scored again, this time from 26 yards, and Brochu again got the two-point run, and it was 16-7 Bay Path.

Next it was Brochu's turn to find pay dirt, and he rushed one in from 18 yards as the Minutemen surged ahead, 22-7.

But Oxford tied the game at 22-22, the halftime score, when Fantasia caught two TD passes from Clarkson, and Perry made one PAT and Clarkson hit Andruw Martinez with a two-point pass.

The Pirates then grabbed a 34-22 lead when Clarkson had a pair of rushing scores — from 3 and 4 yards out — before Brochu trimmed the deficit down to 34-28 at the end of the third quarter thanks to a 40-yard scoring run.

Brochu then tied the game at 34-34 with a 34-yard rushing TD and then, with 5:36 to play, Bay Path won it when they blocked a punt at the 4-yard line. Bryan Pardee was there to catch the ball and scamper into the end zone, and Brochu added the two-point rush to account for the 42-34 final.

The Minutemen improved to 9-3 and then played Blackstone Valley Tech for the State Vocational Large School Championship, which was played after press time. The Pirates finished their season with a record of 5-6.



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Book 37463, Page 127
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WARREN — Quaboag Regional Middle-High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 7
 Zoey Adams, Elaina Amoros, Kayla Barrett, Louis Beauregard, Teagan Bessette, Annabelle Bloom, Jaden Boudreau, Lyric Bradley, Kamryn Chenevert, Shawn Chobot, Grayson Contacos, Igor Costa, Peyton Damon, Davin Douglas, Bryce Drolet, Cayden Dupell, Declan Ferguson, Aiden Galarneau, Keilynn Grieco, Gianni Holland, Jayden Jablonski, Brody Kenney, Abigail Landine, Samuel LeClair, Kennah Martino, Hayden McAnuff, Desmond McElroy, Delaney Merkel, Ariah Miller, Stella Paquette, Logan Parks, Mia Parsons, Travis Pensinger, Adelina Petersen, Julia Queiroga, Sage Raba, Jonathan Reynolds, Arie Robbins, Cyedrin Salcines, Evalina Santos, Jadynn Stanikmas, Andrew Sternowski, Maxwell Sturges, Makayla Towson, Ryder Tunley, Elle Waz, Audrey Wilhelm, Hunter Wilk

Grade 8
 Anthony Araujo, Maci Astrella, Violet Atwood, Jack Beall, Mackenzie Bennett,

STUDENTS

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school staff as demonstrating the most growth during this marking period.

“Jonathan has shown a dedication to learning by attending school on time, being an active and eager participant in his classes, and maintaining a can-do attitude that promotes positive energy in the classroom,” the school’s statement read.

Olivia LaVergne was recognized by her teachers for demonstrating a willingness to help others that goes above and beyond expectations.

“In science, she is always willing to feed Ronnie, the class pet fish. In math, she consistently encourages and motivates her peers to work harder,” the school’s statement read. “In civics, Liv offers to help struggling students, and in ELA she recognizes tasks that need to be taken care of and provides assistance when needed.”

The school sends special thanks to all family members who attended awards ceremonies.

Finally, the school congratulates Senior of the Week, Tyler Warner, who plans to attend college next fall and major in criminal justice or forensic science.

Bradley, Liam Bray, Lincoln Brown, Yesenia Carrasco, Julisa Carrasco, Julie Chenier, Allie Choquette, Cadence Cieslak, Riley Corder, Ronin Czub, Rolando Galvan, Olivai Hebert, Julianna Hibbard, Ayden Laird, Austin Letourneau, Nathen Louis, Alyssa Lussier, Bryann Lussier, Evelyn Lyon, Isabelle Manzano, Aydan Marsh, Liliana McIsaac, Robert Menard, Emma Nault, Kourtney Nichols, Lucia Norman, Jazmine O’Clair, Hunter Oldenburg, Gabriel Ortiz, Victoria Paradis, Addison Peloquin, Hunter Pietrzak, Hannah Pytel, Cooper Rose, Jonas Rossi, Izaak Santiago, Isabella Santos, Payton Schreier, Theodore Sexton, William Sexton, Maeve Smith, Stephanie Smith, Connor Snay, Tyler Snow, Logan Spring, Caroline Stevens, Buddy Stocks, Maggie Taro, Leah Thomasian, Emily Tobiasz, Jontae Todd, Natalia Veliz-Baldizon

Grade 9
 Jennifer Adams, Cameron Aponte, Logan Baldwin, Thomas Bellizzi, Cameron Bennett, Riley Black, Kira Bouchard, Devlyn Bridges, Sierra Brote, Ava Cassavant, Abigail Degnan, Hunter Dodson, Sylvia Dube, Haylee Dumont, Jade Fontaine, Scott Garrand, Alexis Gauthier-Vanderpuye, Brielle Gerulaitis, Riley Gray, Aiden Gundlach, Jackson Gundlach, Tina Hamm, Josephine Hescocock, Brianna Hubbel, Lucian Kerkow, Emma Landine, Amarie Martino, Lyndie Miller, Kasey Narov, Patrick Needham, Lani O’Claire,

Leo Paquette, Jonah Phillips, Mallory Piazzo, Persephone Piermarini, Caden Prinsen, Christian Rudz, Asher Sargent, Brea Sauriol, Steven Smith, Lillian Sturges, Brielle Sullivan, Reed Waz, Jasmine White, Gavin Williams

Grade 10
 Saharah Ackerman, Madic Andreoli, Emma Astrella, Juliana Augusto, Madelyn Bagg, Jaylin Bailey, Isabelle Bellizzi, Milo Biedron, Shelby Bridges, Jacob Cacace, Kenadi Chenevert, Megan Cline, Gretchen Conn, Isaac Cowher, Emma Dion, Brennan Doe, Kadin Dufault, Madeline Dufresne, Gabriela Feeney, Hayssa Freitas, Serenitee Gagnon, Briana Hawk, Landon Hogan, Evangeline Iwaniec, Alison Jones, Morgan Lakota, Mia Letendre, Gianna Lindsey, Brayden Lopato, William Lopes, Jackson McGarry, Reece Miner, Olive Moulton, Kaitlyn Nault, Lilly Nimitz, Camden Olivo, Jacob Plante, Madeline Potvin, Jason Read, Gabrielle Riendeau, Makayla Savoie, Madison Schreier, Madison Sears, Grace Smart, Lennon Smith, Jack Stevens, Matthew Twomey, Elijah Wilhelm, Camden Williams, Ashton Winders, Kyle Withers

Grade 11
 Isabelle Aberle, Aviendha Andreoli, Mackenzie Archambault, Juliette Boos, Jacque Boulais, Lila Broadley, Casyn Carpenter, Samuel Carrasco, Reilly Comptois, Skylar Cook, Allison Duszlak, Michael Enetzellis, Izaiah Flores, Lauren

Grover, Hailey Hennessey, Daniel Hobart, Abigail Jolin, Elise Kopec, Joshua Leaming, Dante Martino, Sadie May, Norah McElroy, Erin McGrath, Blake Merrill, Matthew Miller, Corah Neilsen, Madison Neilsen, Alessa Parks, Nora Pennington-Russell, Victoria Powell, Joseph Reynolds, Brasen Sauriol, Norah Schwenker, Jarrett Shipman, Katelynn Swistak, Cristyna Tambolloe, Cayden Tetreault, Sydney Tracy, Richard Tracy, Parker Tunley, Sebastian Veliz-Baldizon, Nina Vorobiova, Hart Waz, Kandace Wilcox, Makenna Williams

Grade 12
 Ethan Araujo, Ty Armitage, Lillian Black, Mason Blount, Camrin Bolduc, Aeron Bridges, Isabelle Burgess, Alexandra Cacace, Zachary Carlson, Matthew Carter, Raven Casey, Emily Cieslak, Antonio Congelos, Genesis Dembowski, Evelyn Doe, Bryce Douglas, Olivai Dumas, Aidan Flood, Chloe Fredette, Lily Gianfriddo, Cameron Giroux, Laine Hatstat, Jason Houle, Kyla Iwaniec, Christian Judd, Dawson Kelly, Kendall LaRiviere, Paige Leach, Abigail Long, Evan Long, Samantha Martin, Rachel McGrath, Aiden McManaman, Ryan Miner, Selina Mohamed, Hanna Nemeroff, Laura Orne, Asya Osei-Opoku, Jaden Ostiguy, Isabella Paolucci, Dennis Pease, Dylan Piazzo, Lily Potvin, Aurora Powers, Hunter Regan, Thomas Robidoux, Adrianna Russell, Alexander Russo, Kenady Sloan, Riley Sloan, Joseph Standrowicz, Owen Stevens, Haileigh Swistak, Alina Taro, Matthew Tiberii, Patrick Toomey, Cole Waz

RESPONDERS

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and the New England Patriots.

This year, based on need, the LPD received ten winter coats that will

be issued to ten veteran residents of Leicester.

“Participating in the Coats 4 Vets means the world to me. This year, I had the pleasure of having Officer Ryan Sweeney, who is a veteran, accompany me,”

Chief Antanavica told the New Leader. “Leicester Veterans Affairs Officer Jason Main had provided us with the sizes needed this year, and we were able to accommodate the request.”

Town officials thank

Leicester Fire Chief Michael Dupuis, as well as Jason Main, for their assistance in getting the coats to Leicester veterans.

For LPD leaders, it means a lot to support the program each year.

The LPD has participated for multiple years.

“This year, we also had a vets’ breakfast. It’s just our small way of saying, ‘Don’t forget to thank a vet,’” Antanavica said.

CNA

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dent interest. There is a huge demand for nurses nationwide, and this will play a vital role in filling that void,” Kustigian said. “The CNA program is a science elective in the program of studies and fulfills the requirements of completing a state-approved training program and certification exam for students to secure a job as a CNA.”

Kustigian’s first step toward developing the program involved sending out a survey. After many students expressed interest in pursuing a career in nursing, school leaders knew they had the building blocks in place for a strong program.

“One of the common questions that I hear is, ‘Who is going to take care of us as we get older?’

The answer is Leicester High School graduates,” Kustigian added. “This program gives our students the credentials upon graduating from LHS to have a leg up on the competition, one of the overarching goals of having vocational programs.”

School officials thank all staff members, students, community leaders, and volunteers who helped launch the program. Several needed items were procured at no charge through the Baystate Health system, which recently closed its Mary Lane Hospital in Ware.

“The community really came together to help support this program, with donations and getting the rooms prepared to accept students,” Kustigian said. “With the closing of Baystate-Mary

Lane Hospital, we had a unique opportunity to get just about all of the equipment we needed to start the program for free. Over the past summer, Ted Zawada, Principal of Leicester High School, and I rented a box truck and literally grabbed whatever we could to set up the mock hospital rooms.”

Added Kustigian, “We were thrilled to get state-of-the-art hospital beds, along with curtains and other items required for skills experience. I can’t thank Baystate-Mary Lane Hospital enough for the generous donations.”

Additionally, former state senator Anne Gobi was instrumental in securing additional money to help get the program off the ground.

The school’s CNA suite is located on the first floor of the Fuller Campus

Center, outside the nurse’s and health office. The venue features two simulated hospital rooms, as well as a classroom space for lectures and activities.

Diane Moffat, RN, Leicester High School’s nurse and teacher of the CNA program, recently gave a presentation outlining program requirements.

Some of the core areas covered by the program include infection control; use of PPE; geriatric and pediatric healthcare; use of wheelchairs and stretchers; body mechanics; patient personal care and rights; and job opportunities, among several others.

At the end of the School Committee presentation, Gia Gully, a student in the CNA program, demonstrated her skills by using a vitals machine with Dr. Kustigian as her mock

patient. School officials thank Nurse Moffat for her hard work in making the program possible.

“We had the bricks and mortar that included all the equipment we needed, but that doesn’t make a program. What makes a program is a teacher—and any time I go there, I can see how well the program is running,” Kustigian said. “I have taken quite a few residents from town to see it, and they are very impressed.”

In addition to the district’s Fire Science and CNA programs, officials are also excited about the following Chapter 74 pathways offered to students: Building and Property Maintenance; Early Childhood Education and Care; and Advanced Manufacturing.



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LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

8th Grade High Honors
 Matthew Alves, Muhammad Arslan, Rory Barret, Kennedy Bates, Emma Bernabei, Brady Bouchard, Jude Campbell, Isabella Cortes Florez, Allison Gagne, Sarah Kozlowski, Haylee Kularski, Brock Lopez, Kaylee Luby, Zachary Macedo, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros, Charlotte Mercer, Trevor Moorghen, Katherine Ozarowski, Alivia Perry, Katarzyna Piascik, Maryangelie Rivas, Paula Roberts, Shane Stuart, Ryan Sweeney, Jayke Williams

7th Grade High Honors
 Camden Beaudry, Elijah Belisle, Liam Gentile, Braydon Herbert, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Maci Lusignan, Kingston

Nguyen, Nick Nguyen, David Pacheco, Jaedyn Perry, Marielee Valentin, Hunter Wright

6th Grade High Honors
 Trey Blais, Landon Bullock, Olivia Cardona, Avery Cole, Gavin Ford, Adalynn Grant, Christopher Harrington, Tyler Kularski, Sadie Lenahan, Fiona Liebman, Owen McBrien, Cadence Medeiros, Owen Murphy, Sonya Potvin, Aaliyah Trought, Joseph Ukoh, Aiden Valinski, Leah Varney

5th Grade High Honors
 Philip Armstrong, Mackenzie Beaulac, Juliette Bellisario, Edmund Besse, Aubrey Bullock, Brooklyn Bullock, Anna Derrick, Larissa LaFlamme, Nanakwasi Larbi, Dominic Oldham, Kennedy Prachniak

8th Grade Honors
 Jack Albro, Brody Arnberg, Russell Baker, Andrew Boucher, Shayla Cooper, Zachary Couture,

Stephen Giaquinto, Annalise Guzman, Marcus Hadi, Jonathan Ho, Hailey Knott, Joseph Kulla, Michael Lupien, Matthew Magoun, Alena Martinkova, Max Milionis, Nikolai Ngo, Brandon Nguyen, Muhammad Saqlain, Desmond Strom, Nicholas Stuart, Lillian Warner, Jameson Wood

7th Grade Honors
 Aaliyah Alonzo, Lillian Anderson, Godfrey Angua-Mante, Jordan Argyriadis, Lucas Cruz, John

Derrick, Alexis Dould, Brielle Dould, Brody Dufries, Angelina Faulkner, Javier Flores, Benjamin Hagglund, Avril Halbedel, Diana Kitchen, Liana Laflamme, Natalie Lapoint, Zachary Lincoln, Amelia LoVerme, Charles LoVerme, Ryan Lynch, Lincoln Meloche, Gia Rigiero, Ella Rowden, Lily Schimke, Robert Zinkevich

6th Grade Honors
 Elisa Aguirre, Griffin Bayer, Maxwell Belizaire, Jolene Boudreau, Justin Cai, Michael Cormier, Scarlett Dufresne, Randiel Feliciano Ortiz, Shelby Grant, Cameron Hipple, Ava Johnston, Ayla Lis, Samuel Macedo, Benjamin Marjault, Charlie Marttila, Amelia McIntyre, Cullen McShera, Emma Mercier, Andrew Michaelian, Cole Milgate, Sophia Muzzy, Grace

Ngima, Eliana Nguyen, Hailey Rooney, Davis Sanborn, Raymond Singharaj, Anthony Sullivan, Jackson Trainer, Liam Tremblay, Allannah Trought, Brady Walsh, Brody Weber, Gianna Wooden

5th Grade Honors
 L Alexander Basta, Victoria Cardona, Sophia Collins, Blake Cooney, Celeste Couture, Logan Curren, Brogan Donahue,

Arizona Fleming, Rylee Garrahie, David Gelinias, Jayden Gleason, Alessandro Guzman, Raegan Higgins, Siobhan Kane, Sophia Kennedy, Damon Kobel, Payton Lacroix, Kris Lapi, Alivia Larson, Andrew Lemerise, Mason Lynch, Jane Mercer, Logan Perry, Theresa Reynolds, Charlyse Torres, Kason Ward, Charles Warner

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