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Unified Olympics celebrates abilities of all SEBRSD students



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
SPENCER — Celebrating students of all ages and abilities, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District

held its third Unified Olympics last week. The May 25 event kicked off with an opening ceremony on the David Prouty High School football field.

Surrounded by students, staff members, and volunteers from all four schools in the district, athletes were celebrated as they took the field. The opening ceremony

featured members of the Spencer Police Color Guard, as well as other local first responders and members of the Spencer Exchange Club. SEBRSD Superintendent Paul



Kevin Flanders
The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District held its Unified Olympics last week.

Haughey then shared words of inspiration with athletes and guests. “This event would not have happened without our entire learning community coming together in support of our students,” Haughey said. The Unified games provided athletes with opportunities to compete in several activities. Stations were run by school and community volunteers, with supplies and other supports provided by local business sponsors. For area community leaders and officials, it was a thrill to take part in the event. First responders were well-represented, including SPD School Resource Officer Todd LaPorte, Detective Christopher Inzerillo, Officer Camden Dacey, and Officer William Bartlett presenting the colors at the event. “It was my pleasure to

Turn To **OLYMPICS** page **A18**

Gobi offered position with governor’s office



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
REGION — Sen. Anne Gobi will depart the legislature this month to begin a newly created role within Gov. Maura Healey’s administration. Healey and Lt. Gov.

Kim Driscoll announced last week that Gobi (D—Spencer) will join their administration as the new Director of Rural Affairs within the Executive Office of Economic Development. In this new role created by the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Gobi will serve as a dedicated advocate to help cultivate economic development in rural communities. She will also work toward ensuring that the needs of rural towns are incorporated into the overall economic development plan being prepared by the Executive Office of Economic Development.

“We are building an economy that benefits all communities, businesses, and people in Massachusetts, particularly those that are too often overlooked and underrepresented like rural and small towns,” Healey said. “Sen. Gobi’s fierce advocacy of rural equity, agricultural and small businesses, and conservation initiatives makes her the ideal candidate to help our rural towns across the state succeed.”

Gobi was first elected to the legislature in 2001 as a state representative. After switching over to the State Senate in 2014, she now represents 22 communities in Worcester and Hampshire Counties, several of which are rural.

Gobi currently serves as the Senate Chair of the Agriculture Committee, Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee, and Co-Chair of the Commission on 21st Century Farming. She also co-chairs the Rural Caucus, Food Systems Caucus, Regional Transit Authority Caucus, Municipal Light Caucus, and Regional Schools Caucus, in addition to serving on the East-West Rail Commission.

“Sen. Gobi brings to this new role deep knowledge of the challenges that rural and small-town economies face, and decades of experience serving the people of our state,” Driscoll said. “We

Turn To **GOBI** page **A18**

Planning Board hearings prompt alarm over large-scale solar proposals

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — With the Planning Board set to address three proposals at its meeting next week, residents and officials continue to sound alarms over large-scale solar development practices.

At its June 6 meeting, the Planning Board is scheduled to continue a pair of public hearings regarding separate proposals for Ash Street and Charlton Road/Bacon Hill Road. Additionally, a public hearing and site plan review are slated for a proposal on North Brookfield Road.

Submitted by Spencer Solar, LLC, the Ash Street proposal consists of a private paved road off Ash Street (between houses 131 and 135), with a cul-de-sac and two lots.

The second proposed project, submitted by Spencer Solar II, LLC, calls for development between Charlton Road and Bacon Hill Road.

Spencer Solar, LLC, and Spencer Solar II, LLC, are both divisions of the same company, Melink Solar Development. The company could not be reached for comment by press time.

Meanwhile, the applicant for the North Brookfield Road proposal, Spencer Solar Farm, LLC, is requesting a major site plan review and stormwater permit. The property is located within a rural residential zoning district.

For Matthew DeFosse, who lives on the south side of the proposed North Brookfield Road project, it has been a challenging process to track updates, developments, and communications over the years.

“It’s very confusing. The project has changed over the course of time, with five or six applicants since 2012,” said DeFosse, who has not only expressed opposition to the proposed development on North Brookfield Road, but also the practices of solar companies in general. “Most of these companies seem to follow the same script of wanting to get their projects in while spending as little money as they can. They don’t provide all of the information that should be out there.”

DeFosse joins several other residents and officials in conveying concerns over solar development. These include fears regarding hazardous materials inside

Turn To **PLANNING** page **A18**

LMS recognized for Project Lead The Way programming

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — With its recent recognition as a 2022-23 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School, Leicester Middle School has joined elite company across the country.

LMS is one of only 212 middle schools nationwide to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW programming.

PLTW is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools across the U.S.

“Mr. [Adam] Alesbrook and Mr. [Craig] Therrien have done a tremendous job of building up our STEM program to what it is today. Our STEM program focuses on real-world application while developing skills such as problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, and others,” read a statement released by LMS Principal Douglas Daponte, Jr.


The PLTW Distinguished School program honors schools that are committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW sessions. To be eligible for the designation, LMS had to meet a variety of criteria, such as offering at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level and having strategies in place to ensure equitable access to students.



Courtesy

Turn To **LMS** page **A18**

LMS teachers Adam Alesbrook, left, and Craig Therrien have led efforts to build up the school’s STEM program.



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Leicester resident Adam LaBombard receives degree at WPI's 154th Commencement

WORCESTER — On Saturday, May 13, Adam LaBombard, who majored in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, was bestowed a bachelor's degree at WPI's 154th Commencement. Nearly 1,100 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

President Grace Wang and Board of Trustees Chair William Fitzgerald presided over the 154th Commencement exercises Saturday morning, marking the first time for both in their respective positions. In her remarks, President Wang,

who officially joined WPI in early April, applauded the graduates for their dedication, persistence, passion for their field of study, and achievements. "You have earned your place among generations of exceptional WPI alumni. I hope you will take the opportunity, as they did, to push boundaries, explore unknowns, and deliver a tangible and profound impact to the world."

In his commencement address to undergraduates titled, "Don't Switch Off Your Conscience," Congressman James P. McGovern, who represents the Massachusetts

second congressional district, urged graduates not to forget about the moral and ethical consequences of their work. "I ask you to stay true to yourself and the values you have learned at WPI. As citizens of the world, you have a responsibility to the greater good. To ask yourself not only what is profitable, but what is just. To ask yourself not only what is efficient, but what is equitable. And to ask yourself not only what is innovative, but what is honorable."

McGovern received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at the event. Honorary degrees were also bestowed upon Shankar Balasubramanian, the Herchel Smith Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Cambridge University, and John T. Mollen, former chair of WPI's Board of Trustees.

The undergraduate student speaker was Susanna Oppong, biology and biotechnology, who led the graduates in a resounding cheer, "I am here because I am resilient!" Recalling the unprecedented times the Class of 2023 has faced, Oppong said "They say resilience is born through experience and I truly believe that the resilience of our generation has come from the situations we have endured as students and how we have gathered as a community to advocate for them. We have broken through the stereotypes given to our generation and created the definition of our destiny."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

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Leicester students take part in statewide choral group



Courtesy

From left to right, Narta Berisha, Blake Cooney, Adryanna Townsend, Larissa LaFlamme, Sophia Kennedy, and music teacher Alyssa Hiltz.

LEICESTER — The community is celebrating the accomplishments of five Leicester Elementary School students who recently participated in the All-State Treble Chorus.

The chorus is an auditioned ensemble sponsored by the Massachusetts Music Educators Association. Students in grades 4-6 are invited to record an audition which is scored by a panel of judges. The top 100 students were accepted this year, representing 24 schools from across the state.

"This is the fourth year that Leicester has had students accepted to this prestigious ensemble, and this year five fourth graders were selected," read

a statement released by Leicester Elementary School music teacher Alyssa Hiltz.

Students selected for the program include Narta Berisha, Blake Cooney, Sophia Kennedy, Larissa LaFlamme, and Adryanna Townsend.

"Students put in a lot of time outside of school to prepare for their performance. They were required to stay after school with their music teacher weekly to prepare music for rehearsal and participate in two Saturday

rehearsals," Hiltz's statement read. "We are very proud of their accomplishment."

On April 29, the ensemble performed a concert for their friends and family members under the direction of conductor K.C. Conlan. Students were able to learn lessons about vocal technique and performance, which they brought back to their Leicester Elementary School Chorus.

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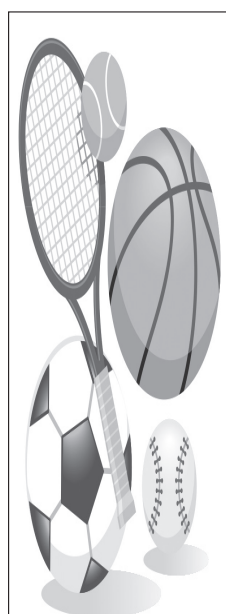
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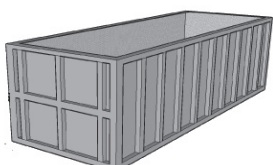


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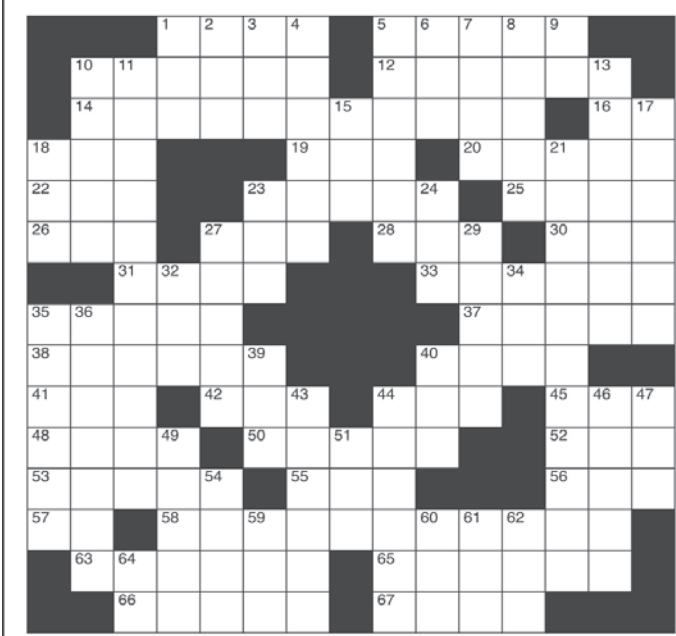
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Spencer honors the fallen at Memorial Day parade

SPENCER — Guests filled the town center to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation. The May 29 Memorial Day parade once again set out from American Legion Gaudette-Kirk Post 138. The parade included local veterans and officials, first responders, Scouting groups, and area organizations.

Kevin Flanders

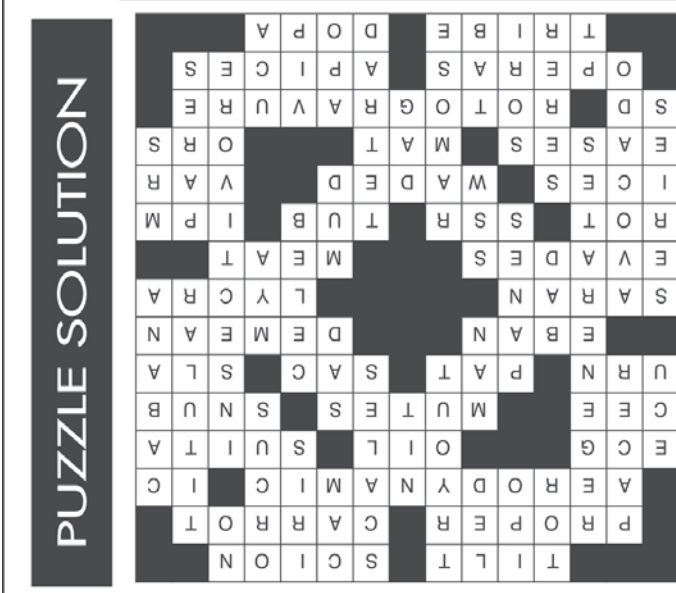


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sloping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst's captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade
- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer Newton
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue
- 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
- 15. Historic college hoops tournament
- 17. Hut by a swimming pool
- 18. Defunct European monetary unit
- 21. Feeds on insects
- 23. Adult male
- 24. Melancholic
- 27. Sheets of glass
- 29. Slang for famous person
- 32. Not good
- 34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- 35. The "World" is one
- 36. Used to make guacamole
- 39. Midway between south and southwest
- 40. Wet dirt
- 43. Ancient Egyptian name
- 44. Set of four
- 46. Strips
- 47. Wife
- 49. More dried-up
- 51. Socially inept person
- 54. Clusters on fern fronds
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Prefix indicating "away from"
- 61. Very important person
- 62. Fiddler crabs
- 64. Special therapy



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\$110,000, 1 Donna Dr, Cedarwoods Estates LLC, to Difederico, Michael, and Difederico, Christine.

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\$200,000, 54 Summer St, Lavalley, Kevin R, and Lavalley, Diane L, to Lavalley, Kyle R, and Lavalley, Deanna M.
\$100,000, 855 Reed St, Fountain, Gail L, and Perkins, David, to Perkins, Steven.

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NBSB partners with A Bed For Every Child to give children a place to dream

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank (NBSB) has partnered with A Bed for Every Child to bring dreams to reality for local children in need by completing their first ever build a bed project. Together, volunteers worked diligently to construct brand new beds for children who may not have a comfortable place to dream.

A Bed for Every Child is a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing comfortable, safe and healthy sleeping environments for children who are living in homes without a proper bed. This organization works tirelessly to ensure that every child has the opportunity to get a good night's sleep, regardless of their family or financial situation. By partnering with A Bed for Every Child, NBSB is committing to investing in the well-being of our community's children.

NBSB is proud to have partnered with A Bed for Every Child to complete this project and make a difference in the local community. Volunteers came together to build the 10 beds from scratch using high-quality materials. The volunteers' hard work will provide children with a welcoming and cozy environment to sleep in, helping them feel safe, secure and well-rested. NBSB is always looking for ways to give back to the community, and partnering with A Bed for Every Child was a perfect fit to help make a meaningful impact in the lives of local children. The build a bed project is a testament to NBSB's commitment to making our community a better and more inclusive place for everyone.

"We feel privileged to have been able

to partner with A Bed for Every Child and contribute to their mission of providing comfortable sleeping environments for children in need," said Nicole Syriac, Marketing and Community Outreach Manager at NBSB. "A good night's sleep is essential for the health and well-being of children, and we are honored to have been part of this initiative that will help make a positive impact in the lives of local children and their families."

About A Bed for Every Child

At A Bed for Every Child, we believe sleep is just as essential as food, water, shelter, and clothing — and that all children deserve space to dream. That's why, through our hands-on approach to team building, we're partnering with businesses, schools, and community organizations to build beds for children in need. Launched in 2012, A Bed for Every Child is an initiative of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness. Learn more here: <https://www.abedforeverychild.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

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350th anniversary events continue in Brookfield

BROOKFIELD — Several events will take place throughout the rest of the year to celebrate the town's 350th anniversary.

On June 9, a Theatre and Art in the Park event will feature student artwork, beginning at 4:30 p.m. A performance of "Little Orphan Samantha" will take place at 5 p.m. After the play, Maggie the Clown will perform.

On June 18, the fire department will host a Father's Day chicken BBQ. The following week, on June 24, the 350th Anniversary Car Show will take place from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Quaboag Valley Church.

A history walk and special reenactment will take place on August 5 on the Common. Sept. 17 will feature a parade at noon.

A Pumpkinfest will take place on Oct. 21, with a scarecrow contest and games offered.

The year will conclude with a tree lighting and a Christmas-themed hat parade.

Additional details on events will be announced in the coming months.

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Local students graduate from College of the Holy Cross

WORCESTER — Holy Cross celebrated nearly 762 bachelor of arts degree recipients at its 177th Commencement held in person on Friday, May 26 at the DCU Center in Worcester. U.S. Senator Peter Welch '69 of Vermont, a Class of 1969 alumnus, delivered this year's address to the Class of 2023 and received an honorary degree.

Vincent D. Rougeau, president of the College, presided over the celebratory event, bestowing the honorary degrees and greeting each graduate as they crossed the stage.

In his remarks, Welch said the social mission of Holy Cross - that achievements should be shared and used for the betterment of others - left an indelible mark on him.

Welch also assured graduates that they are capable of facing the great odds of today to accomplish great things for the future.

"You are strong and ready. Your shared experience at Holy Cross has made you so," said Welch. "The Holy Cross commitment to intellectual and open inquiry and using our talents for good is something this institution has preserved and passed on to one generation after another since 1843. This experience and commitment will make you the builders of tomorrow."

In addition to Welch, Holy Cross also awarded an honorary degree to Rosanne Haggerty, an internationally recognized social entrepreneur and leader in developing innovative strategies to end homelessness. Haggerty is the president and chief executive officer of Community Solutions, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness she founded in 2011.

The following local students earned degrees:

Brenna St. John of Leicester

Natasha Rollo of Leicester

About Holy Cross

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

Jamie Blash joins EXIT Realty in Spencer

SPENCER — EXIT Real Estate Executives in Spencer has announced the addition of Jamie Blash to its team of real estate professionals.

"We're excited to welcome Jamie to EXIT Realty," says Michelle Terry, Broker & Owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives. "EXIT is growing and attracting quality business people like Jamie each and every day."

Jamie Blash is a third generation farmer and horse trainer. She's turned her passion of horses into a large successful network within the equestrian industry. Jamie was born and raised in Central Massachusetts and has professional experience in the mortgage, finance and sales industry. As a Realtor and having bought and renovated several properties, she is looking forward to bringing her unique skills and extensive network to this industry. Future clients will be immediately attracted to her magnetic personality and her incredible hard work ethic.

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.

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

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Spring 2023 Dean's List

WORCESTER — A total of 2,054 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI's spring 2023 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

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

The following students were on the Dean's List for Spring 2023:

Meghan Barry of Spencer, class of 2024, majoring in Biochemistry

Jacob Bergeron of Spencer, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science

Carley Burns of Spencer, class of 2026, majoring in Environmental Engineering

Grace McGovern of West Brookfield, class of 2026, majoring in Management Information Systems

Nicole Morris of Rochdale, class of 2025, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church hosting clothing drive

BROOKFIELD — The Committee for Ecology and Social Action of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is sponsoring a clothing drive through Helspy, the largest clothing collector in the Northeast. Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and occupies nearly 5 percent of all landfill space, but 95% of unwanted clothing can be reused, repurposed, or recycled. Only 15 percent currently is.

From July 9 through July 15, the church will be open between 3 and 7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, underwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets, blankets, curtains, table linens and quilts). All items in any condition are acceptable if they are clean, dry, and odorless.

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 9 Upper River Street on the Brookfield Common, near the junction of Route 9 and Route 148. For more information, contact Barbara Hale at blh.buuc@gmail.com.



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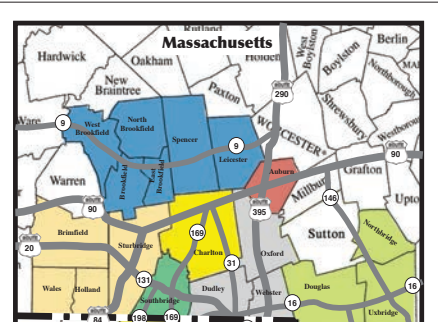
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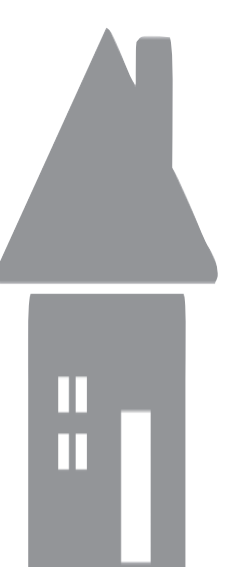
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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EDITORIAL

Never forget
the price of our
freedoms

We wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to our readers, family and friends who have served or who are currently serving in our armed forces. We all should take the time to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, while you were relaxing, enjoying some barbeque and a big plate of pasta salad, we hope that all of you out there took a moment to pause, even if it was undetected, and ruminate about the individuals who were brave enough to afford to us this freedom. Pick a battle and try to imagine, if you can, what it would be like if you were on the front lines. Those of us who have never served can't possibly imagine what this would feel like, however we can appreciate, recognize and commend the courage of those who are no longer with us and those who continue to serve.

When Memorial Day was first celebrated, it was known as Decoration Day following the Civil War. Youngsters would place flowers in cemeteries while they sang songs and honored those lost due to war. The Civil War that ended in 1865 took the lives of more people than any other war in the history of the United States, the estimate is roughly 620,000, the Union losing 365,000 and the Confederacy 260,000. History says that more than half of these losses came as the result of disease. As a result, the first national cemeteries were created.

In 1868, General John A. Logan, the leader of an organization for Northern Civil War Veterans, called for a nationwide day to honor fallen soldiers. General James Garfield gave a speech at Arlington National Cemetery on the first Decoration Day and the more than 5,000 people in attendance decorated over 2,000 graves, both Union and Confederate.

The holiday as we all know is celebrated on the last Monday in May, and became an official holiday in the year 1971. Parades across the country take place, and people visit cemeteries where family members who have served in the military have been laid to rest.

At 3 p.m. every year, a moment of silence takes place across the country. In December of 2008, President Bill Clinton signed the "National Moment of Remembrance Act" which designated the time be at 3 p.m. In 1966, the government marked Waterloo, New York as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. In Waterloo, every business in town would shut their doors and owners would venture out to decorate graves with flags as well as flowers.

Originally, Decoration Day was intended to honor those lost in just the Civil War. After the First World War, America felt the need, and rightfully so, to honor all those lost serving their country. In WWI, a total of 116,516 Americans died on the battlefield, and 405,399 were lost during WWII. The Korean War took 36,574 lives and the Vietnam War cost 58,220 lives. 4,411 were lost in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 73 in Operation New Dawn, 2,346 as the result of Operation Enduring Freedom, 48 in Operation Freedom's Sentinel and 61 in Operation Inherent Resolve.

An estimated 38 million people in America traveled over the holiday weekend, and 2.5 million travelers boarded flights, making Memorial Day is the fourth busiest travel day of the year.

In New York, Washington, D.C and Chicago, you can find the largest parades in the country. Because of the three day weekend, many Americans throw parties and barbecues or headed out of town for a mini getaway, but we should never forget the reason for it all.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One lucky soldier, Part 2

BY BOB POTVIN
SPECIAL TO THE NEW LEADER

Editor's note: Following is the second installment in Brookfield resident Bob Potvin's memoir chronicling his experiences as an x-ray technician in Vietnam. We pick up the story during his training at Fort Sam Houston.

The highlight at Fort Sam Houston came with my letter to LBJ:

September 17, 1966
Company G-1 X-2 B
Medical Field Service School
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As a draftee I write to let you know how pleased I am with the training the Army is giving me. I consider the schooling to be college level, and very valuable to me as an individual.

In turn I pledge my best effort as a soldier and as a citizen.

As a Massachusetts native and a graduate of Saint Louis University, I am impressed with your great state and now realize your love of the Hill Country.

May God always hear your prayers!

Private Robert L. Potvin
US 51574051

A letter from the Department of the Army dated 4 Oct. 1966 was received. The letter reads:

Dear Private Potvin:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him conveying your appreciation for the training and schooling you are receiving while in the Armed Forces.

Letters of this nature are quite a rarity. Let me thank you again for your letter and wish you much success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

A.O. Connor
Major General, USA
Chief of Personnel Operations
Washington, D.C.

I wanted to be somebody so I wrote a letter to the President!

It isn't that this letter rang my chimes when I received it, as I was being read the Article 15 orders to the riot act for being AWOL. Tom Cleveland and I stayed out all night and missed two roll calls. Shame on us and nobody missed us in the morning formations.

The Company First Sergeant was livid. The Commanding Officer my age actually melted after reading my letter from a two star general. Instead of all that could have happened, he said, "You guys must watch your drinking. You are grounded. Rake leaves for two weeks." We had dodged an incredible bullet on the campus of Fort Sam Houston University.

Then I was kidnapped on Halloween night by faculty members so I could be with "Marie Osmond!" Fun it was. OMG...forever young!

President Lyndon B. Johnson was

hospitalized at Brooke Army Medical Center late in my stay. Twenty-five of us went to the hospital upon hearing of his discharge. The President was wearing a tan raincoat. I shook his hand and told him we had met earlier in St. Louis in 1964. The poor guy tried to speak but only emitted gargled noises. I really felt bad for LBJ.

After being away from home from May to November, the warm fires of New England were enjoyed over the 1966 holidays. As the Vietnam War rumbled and friends went east, I felt confident of stateside duty. Going to Vietnam was the furthest thing in my soldiering mind. I thought for sure I would be taking x-rays at an Armed Forces Entry Station stateside, like Buffalo, N.Y.

Then something happened: I was wrong! I got orders for Vietnam. My buddy Swedis had a conniption. I bought a big cigar and celebrated. Screw it. My Army life was proving to be one of adventure. I was still a rebel in fatigues. I maintained my mouth was okay as long as I didn't lose rank or cost me money. Chutzpah or brass, call it what you will. Once gain, I had a brush with Army authorities at Fort Dix.

Luna was a Hispanic from Chicago. He was a wise guy. I asked him to fill in for me on Saturday so I could go home. The punk didn't show up for my duty. I got called on the carpet. This E-7 x-ray NCO who happened to be female read me the riot act. No LBJ letter now. "You don't know how close you came to getting an Article 15." For some unknown reason, the discipline scale tipped in my favor. Phew!

Another time, an E-6 "Lifer" was chewing us out in the barracks. It was essentially a shack.

"Any questions?"

"Yes, Sergeant!" I exclaimed. "You want us to polish the floors when, in fact, the windows are broken in the bathroom."

He was dumb and dumbfounded I spoke up!

The life of a soldier can run in four distinct directions, from getting a Good Conduct medal to serving time in the stockade. Human behavior is such...luck may play a part in the whole Army ordeal. Looking back, I was one lucky soldier in every regard. Uncle Sam gives a battery of tests and comes up with a GT score. My GT score was 131 as mentioned ... "a very high IQ."

Being trained for service in Vietnam was good. General Glenn Collins told our graduating class at Fort Dix. "You graduates have the absolute best MOS in going to Vietnam." I believed him. Fifty years later, I look back at the wonderful training and experience I received upon getting my orders for Vietnam.

Upon hearing of my orders, my mother Rita couldn't be talked to for a month. Her Bobby was going to war. I was so evasive it wasn't funny when she asked me, "Did you get your orders yet?"

I said, "Yes."

"Where you going?"

"Halfway around the world," was my response.

Boy did she cry when I finally said "Vietnam." The whole tone of my family life had changed. My sister Jan now became my mother. I couldn't face my mother. It was a dreadful experience, and certainly a sobering one getting ready to go to war. Aunts and uncles further related my mother's pain. She now chanced losing me to the bullet of a Viet Cong.

Should you
consider 401(k)
loans or
withdrawals?



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At some point, you may have more money in your 401(k) than in any other investment. And even though your 401(k) is intended for your retirement, you may one day think you have to tap into your account early — but should you? And if you do, how should you go about it?

If it's possible to avoid taking money from your 401(k) before you retire, you probably should do so. You could spend 25 or more years in retirement, and you'll need to pay for those years, so you may want to look for alternatives to your 401(k). If you've built an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses in cash or cash equivalents, you could use some of this money. If you have a Health Savings Account (HSA), you could use it to pay for qualified medical expenses. Or you could sell some of your taxable investments, rather than going into your tax-deferred 401(k).

But if you have determined that you must look at your 401(k) plan to meet a short-term funding need, you'll want to carefully consider how to go about it. You typically have two main choices: loans or withdrawals.

For plans that allow loans, employees can generally borrow up to 50% of the vested amount of their 401(k)s, up to a maximum of \$50,000 within a 12-month period. Administrative fees may apply, and Interest will be charged, but it will be added back to the 401(k) account as part of the loan repayments. Except when they're used for a home purchase, loans must be repaid within five years, with equal payments made at least quarterly, unless payments are allowed to be paused temporarily. If you leave the company or don't repay the loan according to the agreement, the loan balance will likely be treated as a taxable distribution.

Now, let's consider withdrawals. For 401(k) plans that allow current employees to make withdrawals, the withdrawal requests are usually considered either hardship or non-hardship. To qualify for a hardship withdrawal, you must demonstrate an immediate and heavy financial need to pay for certain expenses, including a home purchase, college, a medical issue or other specified costs, and your withdrawal is limited to the amount necessary to meet the need. Non-hardship withdrawals can typically be taken for any purpose but usually are not granted until you're 59 and a half or older.

Unlike with a loan, a hardship withdrawal can't be repaid, while a non-hardship withdrawal can usually only be repaid by rolling over the amount to an IRA within 60 days. But the bigger issue may be taxes. If you withdraw funds from your 401(k), any previously untaxed money is generally taxed as ordinary income and a 10% penalty will apply if you're younger than 59 and a half, unless you qualify for an exception. Plus, your 401(k) plan typically must withhold 20 percent of the withdrawal for taxes, so you'd have to take an even larger withdrawal to meet your needs.

Before embarking on a 401(k) loan or withdrawal, you may want to consult with a financial professional and your tax advisor. Taking money from your 401(k) is a big move, so make sure you know everything that's involved.

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.

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.

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Rabbits, rabbits everywhere

By the time you read this column, Memorial Day will be over, and boat ramps and road traffic will be back to some type of normality. Whatever that is! Hopefully, you took some time out of the holiday to pay tribute to all of our veterans, and to all those that paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep our freedoms, and way of life safe.

Saltwater fishing was pretty good this past week, with numerous reports of anglers catching their limit of four seabass in Buzzards Bay. The new size limit of 16 and a half for seabass in Mass. was easy to fill, but stripers were spotty in many areas. The new size limit on stripers changed on Friday, May 26 in Mass. The new slot limit was reduced by three inches, making legal stripers 28 to 31 inches. It really does not make any difference what anglers think about the new slot limit. Attending public hearings and making recommendations may as well be thrown in the wastepa-



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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RALPH
TRUE

per basket. Further cuts are being discussed on stripers if they do not get a good year of population growth. It is not the recreational angler that is causing the problem! Draggers and commercial fishing is raping the ocean's fish populations, and they will continue. I know you have heard it all before, but it is just crazy and unnecessary!

Fluke fishing is starting to improve in both Mass. & Rhode Island. Squid strips and jigs seem to be the hottest bait so far this season.

Rabbits are everywhere in Central Mass. this year. Trying to grow a garden is not easy. This past week, I had at least eight rabbits spotted in my neighbor's yard, and three in mine. There was one huge rabbit that ran

from my neighbor's yard and stopped in my driveway. It was the size of a snowshoe hare. I hunted rabbits for many years, and rarely harvested a cottontail rabbit the size of that one. The native cottontail rabbits are the New England cottontail, and the non-native are the Eastern cottontail. The Eastern cottontail was introduced into New England in the 1900's. The Eastern rabbit has pretty much taken over in Mass. woodlands, and they are here to stay.

Very few hunters own beagles today in the area, but back in the day there were many hunters that owned two or more for hunting purposes. Every Saturday, my two buddies met up with me to hunt rabbits, and it was great. Today, there are too many homes, and private property to hunt rabbits in our area. The Cape still has some rabbit hunting going on, and north & west of our area still has some rabbit hunting.

Snowshoe hare are extremely rare in Central Mass., only because



Courtesy

This week's picture is Scott Lambert 25-pound striper.

the anti-hunting groups stopped the sportsmen from transporting them live from Canada, approximately 15 years ago or longer. Local Rod & Gun Clubs purchased them from a trapper in Canada and stocked them in local covers, hoping to have the hare

breed and have young in the wild here. Each litter of hare contains one to eight young, and grows to maturity in about one year. Cottontail rabbits have up to three litters a year, and can have up to six or more young in their litters. A large bear was spot-

ted recently in Webster Mass. and was spotted by a local fisherman. He was fishing at Webster Lake, and observed the bear slip into the water and swim to the opposite shoreline. That had to be exciting! Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them rods Bending!

Fishing Tips and Tricks

Days "gone fishin'" are the simple pleasures life-long memories are made of. Whether relaxing on the shore of still waters, or wrangling in a temperamental trout, the sport of recreational fishing remains a popular activity for all ages.

Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy the waterways in Massachusetts knowing that the state is ranked among the top ten states for fishing. In fact, a 2022 study by Lawnlove.com also revealed the Bay State had the highest number of fishing competitions, and the sixth-most marines per 100,000 residents. Read on for some tips to up your odds of reeling in the big one!

Free Fishing Weekend Many memorable fishing tales begin at the waterways in the region. Once a year the state waives its licensing laws for a weekend, allowing residents of all ages the pleasures of a day "gone fishin'."

On Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, Free Fishing Weekend offers an opportunity



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

for fishers of all ages to toss their line into statewide waters whether or not they are licensed. While licenses are usually required, during Free Fishing Weekend in Massachusetts, the state's licensing policy will be waived during these two days.

No license is required to fish any public lake, pond, reservoir, stream, or river in Massachusetts from 12 a.m. Saturday, June 3 until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, June 4.

Fishing Tips from Expert Anglers

Dropping your line into the waters this weekend? Here are some tips to help make your time at the fishing hole more productive

Successful fishers make it a habit to change their line. Fishing line has memory- it will retain the twist, nicks scrapes, and it gets weaker every time it is used. Don't chance losing the "big one" to brittle line!

And be sure to match your hook size to your bait: small for small, large for large. It makes a difference in holding your bait, and in how many strikes you will get.

Take a valuable fishing tip from old timers who say "if you find the bait you'll find the fish." To do this efficiently, they make it a habit to scan the water for bird activity. Follow the birds, who follow the bait, and you'll likely find the fish!

When throwing into the wind, drop your rod tip to the water right after making the cast. You'll get more distance and will also get the slack out of your line in case you get bit just when the

bait hits the surface. If you leave the rod held high, the wind will make an arc out of your line and you'd lose control of the bait.

Still no bites? It could be your bug repellent. Never handle bait after applying it as the scent will keep the fish away.

Tips to Track Trout

Did you know Rainbow Trout favor 56 degree water? Find that temperature and you're sure to find the fish! If it's cold out, trout can typically be found on the surface of a lake. If it's hot out, they'll be deeper in the water.

Remember, trout have tough mouths. Keep your hooks sharp - and use a number 4 hook for best results!

Want to up your odds of trout for supper? When lake fishing, dip your crawler in the oil from a can of smoked oysters!

Trying to tempt the best trout. Try this secret recipe from anglers: Combine two ounces of cod liver oil with 20 drops oil of anise. Mix well. Dip your bait in the mixture and string up the trout!

Bait and Catch It's summertime and the fishin' is easy - if you use an old fashioned bait recipes. They're tried and true secret weapons from successful fishermen - but best of all, you can whip them up with ingredients from your kitchen cupboards!

Anglers swear refrigerator biscuit dough is a great bait for trout. Just pull a raw biscuit apart and start reeling in the "big one!"

Even fish love spicy food, as this super lure recipe will attest. Mix together 8 ounce ground aniseed or fennel seed and two ounces ground allspice. Sprinkle 1/16th oz. oil of cloves over the above and mix. Store in

tightly sealed jars for a few days while the odors blend. Put a drop on fish bait.

If you're fishing with salmon eggs or worms, don't forget to add a miniature marshmallow to the hook to keep your bait buoyant!

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

Becoming an informed collector



With summer unofficially underway, you might be heading out to more estate sales, yard sales, flea markets, and antique shows. Here are some tips to help you make that next great find and avoid buying something you might regret later.

Knowledge is power when it comes to antiques and collectibles. The more you know about what you're collecting, and the more you know about antiques in general, the more likely you

are to find a great piece. Antique dealers used to have libraries with reference books and price guides, but now you easily look up selling prices on online auction sites or pay for auction results on websites like worthpoint.com. You can also find a lot of information for free. For example, on our website, centralmassauctions.com, we offer advice about items that are selling well and tips for evaluating paintings.

If you're more inclined to learn in-person, many

places also offer live antique courses. Old Sturbridge Village has previously offered live antique courses. Historic Eastfield Village (which is located between Pittsfield, Mass. and Albany, N.Y.) is offering classes this summer on 19th century printing and weaving in the rural Northeast, among other topics.

Attending live auctions is also a good way to learn more about antiques and collectibles. When I first started learning

about antiques, I attended an average of three auctions a week. Attending in-person offers the opportunity to view items and even handle them. The auction staff may also be available to answer any questions. If you attend auctions on a regular basis, you may see people who also attend regularly. Making connections with other bidders can be helpful when you are buying or selling. Some experienced bidders may be willing to offer advice. Be careful when listening to people during the preview though because an auction is a competitive situation. People may not want to share what they know about items, and may intentionally mislead you on a piece that they are also interested in.



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

Dealers at antique shows are often happy to share information about items they are selling because, the more they describe the items, the better chance they have of finding a buyer. Many dealers specialize in an area that interests them. You can find dealers specializing in a wide variety of items from Shaker furniture to antique phonographs. When I used to sell at Brimfield, I spoke with other dealers during slow times. Many are also collectors of the items they're selling and are passionate about their items. I learned a lot from those conversations.

Happy antique hunting this summer! Feel free to email me if you make that great find.

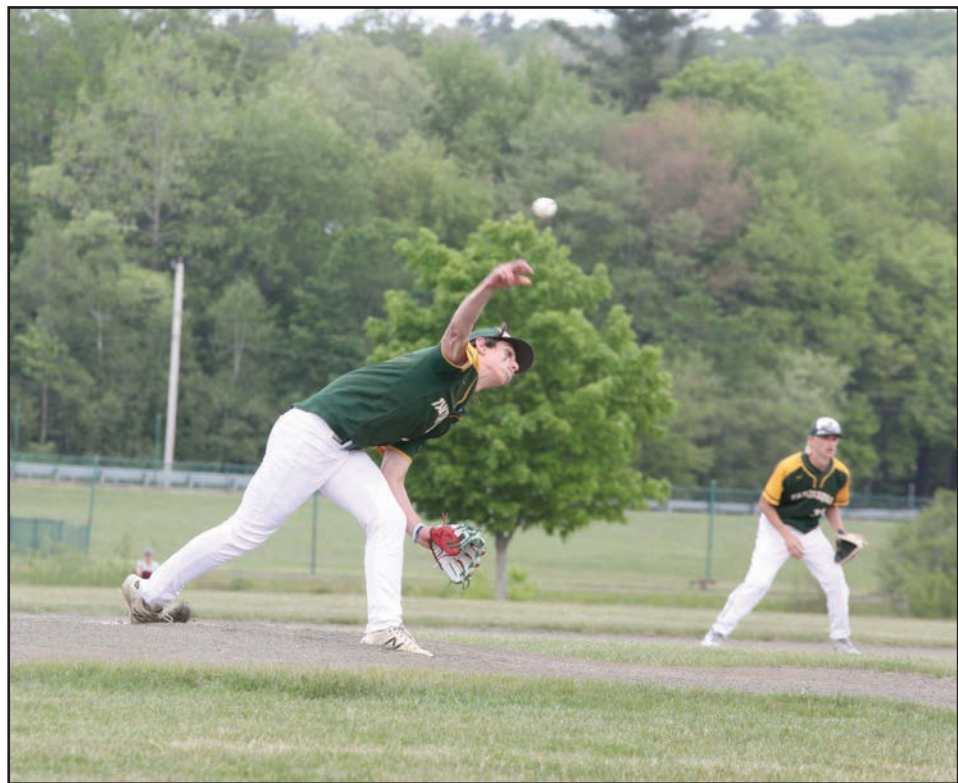
Our online auction of

antique and vintage toys, baseball cards, sports memorabilia, guitars, and pop culture collectibles is currently underway and ends on June 21st. We are also running an estate sale of a home in Chicopee packed full of antiques, collectibles, dolls, and thousands of other items on June 23, June 24, and June 25. We will have another online auction later this month starting with jewelry, sterling silver, nautical paintings and memorabilia, other art, pocket watches, stoneware, duck decoys, antique firearms, and a wide variety of other items. It will end in late July. Please visit our Website, <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) info@centralmassauctions.com

SPORTS

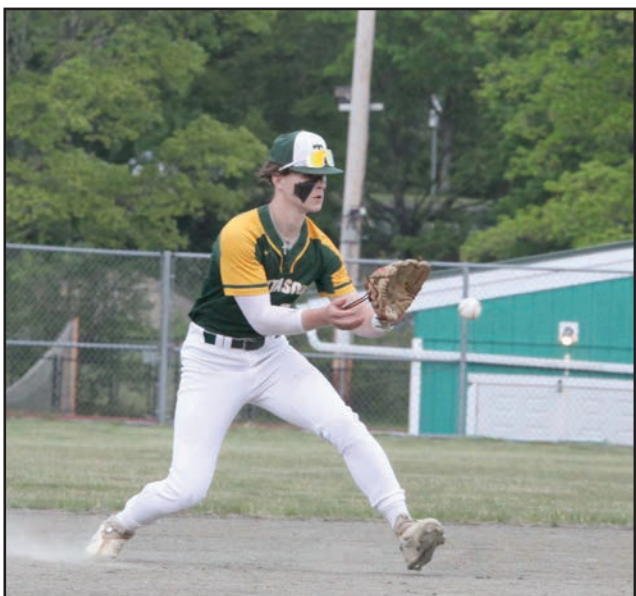
One-run wins help Warriors reach CMADA Class A Tournament Final



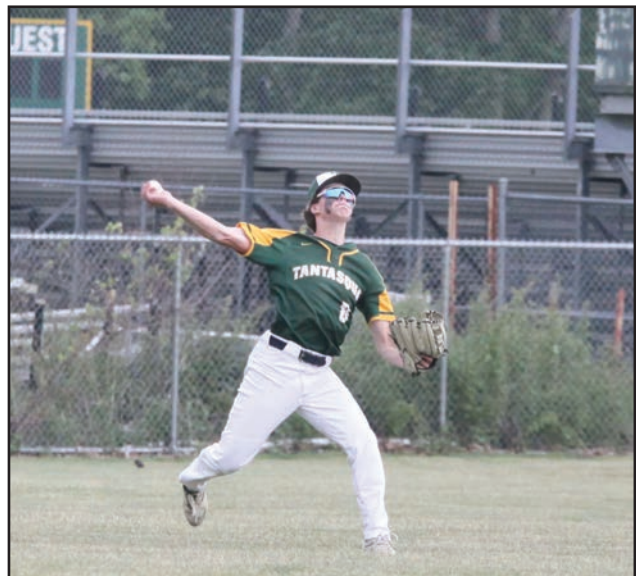
Tantasqua's Joe Amaru lets go of the game's first pitch versus Westborough.



Tantasqua's Colm McGrath takes his lead off first base, which is covered by Westborough's Joe Marino.



Shortstop Devin Krochmalnyckyj of Tantasqua gathers a Westborough player's hopping ball into his glove en route to recording an out at first base.



Cole Nussey of Tantasqua comes up firing from his left field position in an attempt to throw out a Westborough base runner at home.

STURBRIDGE — Five of the Tantasqua Regional varsity baseball team's 20 games have been one-run affairs. Luckily for the Warriors, four of the five have been victories, including two in the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association's (CMADA) Class A Tournament.

First, third seeded Tantasqua hosted No. 6 Westborough High in the quarterfinals on Wednesday, May 24. The Warriors rallied against the Rangers and won in walk-off fashion, 5-4, with Jack Rapose belting the game-winning hit in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Then, at No. 2 Wachusett Regional on Friday, May 26, Tantasqua won another one-run game, this time 1-0. Southpaw Miles Blake went the distance, throwing a one-hitter with 11 strikeouts and two walks. Offensively, Devin Krochmalnyckyj plated Colm McGrath (2-for-3) in the top of the first inning with the game's lone run.

The Warriors (18-2) then played No. 1 Leominster High (17-1) in the CMADA Class A Final on Wednesday, May 31, after press time. Following that tournament, Tantasqua will partake in the Division 3 State Tournament. That bracket was also released after press time.

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SPORTS

Nipmuc again beats Bay Path, this time in Central Mass. Tournament



Bay Path's Sam Buchanan gets her pitching arm up over her head to generate speed.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — Come postseason time, Nipmuc Regional continues to be a thorn in the Bay Path Regional varsity softball team's side. A year ago the Warriors bested the Minutemen twice, first in the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association's (CMADA)

Class B Tournament, 5-0, and again in the Division 4 State Tournament Round of 32, 8-7. Fast forward to this spring and Nipmuc and Bay Path again met, this time in the quarterfinals of the CMADA Class B bracket on Tuesday, May 23. And, unfortunately for the fourth seeded Minutemen, the



Miranda Linde of Bay Path connects on a pitch over the plate.

end result remained the same. The fifth ranked Warriors won the game, 11-0. "They came here to play. That was the biggest difference," said Bay Path head coach Rick Carrero. "We're the home team, we have an opportunity to beat this team after they knocked us out twice last year, and they looked like they were the home team that was ready to get back at us. It should have been the other way around." Carrero noted that the team's energy needed to be different. "That has to come from our team. The ener-

gy can't come from the coaches," he explained. "You have to want to be here and want to play softball and defend your house." Luckily for the Minutemen, their season is far from over. The State Vocational Large Schools Tournament kicked off on Tuesday, May 30 (after press time), as third seeded Bay Path played at No. 2 Monty Tech. Another appearance in the Division 4 State Tournament comes after the State Vocational. "We have a lot to play for," said Carrero. Nipmuc scored once in the top of the first inning, but Bay Path pitcher Sam Buchanan worked her way out of a jam and left the bases loaded with Warriors. Buchanan then held Nipmuc scoreless in the second frame. Single runs in the third and fifth innings, though, ballooned the Warriors' lead to 3-0 as the Minutemen couldn't get their bats going against pitcher Janelle Scirocco, whose changeup posed a problem. "We weren't learn-



Bay Path's Anna Lehtola follows through on her swing and watches the ball sail into the outfield.

ing. There were several times when batters had two balls and no strikes, and they were swinging at a changeup and popping up. We're a better hitting team than that," said Carrero, whose team finished with five hits (two by Grace Jones and one each by Katie Magnusson, Buchanan and Savannah Steiner). Nipmuc put the game away with two runs in the sixth inning and six more in the seventh to account for the 11-0 final. "They're too good to lose 11-0, and that's no knock against Nipmuc. We shouldn't be losing to anybody on our schedule 11-0," said Carrero, citing a lack of focus. An example of poor focus, Carrero noted, was the team's shaky defense. The Minutemen committed nine errors, as nearly all of Buchanan's runs

against were unearned. "When you're making errors on plays you should be making, that's a focus issue," said Carrero. "That's not a talent issue." When asked if his team will rebound, Carrero started with one emphatic word. "Absolutely," he said. "They have it. It's not the skill, it was just the focus. They've got to come mentally prepared to play." The Minutemen played a CMADA consolation round game against No. 6 Oakmont Regional and put up a bigger fight, ultimately losing by one run, 11-10. Bay Path will take its 14-6 record into the State Tournament, with the brackets being released after press time.



First baseman Savannah Steiner of Bay Path catches the ball while stretching to force out Nipmuc's Kara Johnson.

QUAIL HOLLOW GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB RESULTS

Pit's Crew
First place (-7): Jim Kularski, Paul Boulette, Bill Parsons, Dave Walsh
Second place (-6): Peter Mimeault, Steve Varnum, Tim McCulskey, Dick Morse
Third place (-6): Dennis Cooney, Bruce Smebakken, Ron Goulet, Bud Powers

Still Harts League
First place (+10): Tim Gilrain and Dennis Miner
Second place (+8): George Jette and Garrett Lacroix
Most over quota (+8): George Jette

Tour of Brookfields Still Harts Cafe
Nicklaus Division
First place (-10): Chris Depasse, Rich Dupell, Jim Lovett, Kristen Depasse
Player Division
First place (-8) * Sudden Death Playoff: Fran Lamothe, Joe Nichols, John Wheeler, Mark Bruso
Palmer Division
First place (-6): Jim Kularski, Peter Davis, Mike Kularski, Lisa Persson
Daly Division
First place (-8): Beth Potvin, Tom Orszulak, Jim LaPierre, Barbara Orszulak

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Senior Center offers look into life of Eleanor Roosevelt

LEICESTER — Guests are invited to join author and historian Carol Cohen for a look into the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. Titled “A Walk Through the Garden with Eleanor Roosevelt,” the program will take place on Monday, June 26, at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

During World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt planted an iconic “Victory Garden” on the White House lawn and encouraged other Americans to do the same. At the June 26 program, guests will learn more about Eleanor Roosevelt’s humanitarian efforts, as well as her recognition of those who played major roles in supporting America during World War II.

The free program will also include an informative PowerPoint presentation outlining the place of Victory Gardens in American history and their relevance in today’s society.

Cohen, who teaches at Lesley University, is a published historian, playwright, and owner of an educational consulting company.

“Anyone interested in history, particularly what was going on during the Roosevelt White House and WWII, is encouraged to attend,” read a statement released by the Senior Center. “Carol Cohen has been at the center before, and we asked her to return as she was outstanding in her historical presentations. All in attendance were involved and impressed by her performance.”

South Pond treatments begin June 5

REGION — The Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association has announced that the long-awaited alum treatment targeting deep phosphorus-rich sediment in South Pond will begin on Monday, June 5, and continue through the week. The lake will be closed to all boating and other lake activities through Friday, June 9.

This project is expected to significantly enhance the quality and clarity of the lake for some 15-20 years, with distinct benefits for fish and other aquatic animals. The alum treatment results from the Quacumquasit Pond Phosphorus Inactivation Project, which was approved and funded by the Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Program. The grant was secured by a major fundraising effort by QQLA and financial grants from the towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, and Sturbridge.

The Town of Sturbridge, which is managing the project, is working with the Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association (QQLA), the ESS Environmental Group, and Solitude Lake Management to conduct the treatment.

Health care screenings for men between the ages of 18 and 39

Preventive health care is a multifaceted approach to a healthy lifestyle that incorporates various strategies to reduce risk for illness and disease. Screenings are a vital component of preventive care, even for young men. Regardless of how fit a young man is or how healthy he feels, these screenings should be part of health care regimens for all men between the ages of 18 and 39.

- **Blood pressure:** The United States Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health urge men between the ages of 18 and 39 to have their blood pressure checked at least once every two years. Many men already have their blood pressure checked during annual wellness visits, which all men should schedule regardless of their fitness levels and overall health. Men with preexisting conditions, including diabetes, heart disease and kidney problems, may need more frequent blood pressure screenings. In addition, annual screenings are recommended if the top number is between 120 and 139 and/or the lower number is between 80 and 89.
- **Cholesterol:** Men with no known risk factors for coronary heart disease are urged to get annual cholesterol screenings beginning at age 35. Men with known risk factors should begin receiving annual screenings at age 20. More frequent screenings might be necessary for individuals with diabetes, kidney problems or heart disease.
- **Diabetes:** Risk factors and warning signs will dictate if men between the ages of 18 and 39 require diabetes screening. For example, the U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that a BMI over 25 is considered overweight, which is a risk factor for diabetes. Men who fall into this category should be screened for diabetes starting at age 35 (the USNLM urges Asian American men to be screened if their BMI exceeds 23). Providers also may test men’s blood sugar levels if their blood pressure is 130/80 or higher and/or if they have a first degree relative with diabetes or a history of heart disease.
- **Infectious disease:** The USNLM urges all individuals, including healthy young men, to be tested for hepatitis C at least once between the ages of 18 and 79. Doctors also may recommend additional screenings for sexually active young men, who may be tested for syphilis, chlamydia, HIV, and other infections.
- **Testicular cancer:** The National Cancer Institute reports that testicular cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men between the ages of 15 and 34. The USNLM advises against testicular self-exams, so young men should discuss testicular cancer screenings with their physicians, especially if they notice any changes in the size or shape of their testicles.
- **Dental checkup:** Men are encouraged to visit the dentist twice a year for an exam and cleaning. Dentists can determine if more frequent visits are necessary.

Preventive health care is vital for everyone, including men between the ages of 18 and 39.



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LEGALS

**Notice of Public Hearing—
Planning Board**

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday June 20, 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:

Major Site Plan Review/Special Permit/ Stormwater Permit – Applicant: Peter Rundle-Solar Smart, LLC, Owners: Hillside Baptist Church, Location: 472 East Main Street, Spencer, MA; Assessor’s Map R34-8-1. The applicant is requesting a Major Site Plan Review, Special Permit, and Stormwater Permit under sections 7.2, 7.4, and 4.8.9 of The Spencer Zoning Bylaw and Stormwater Regulations to develop a large-scale ground mounted solar PV array (2.917 MW). The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR)/ Commercial (C) with the arrays in RR zoning districts.

June 2, 2023
June 9, 2023

Town of West Brookfield
Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Brian Snyder for the property located at 32 Church Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes create an apartment at the current dwelling in General District. This requires a Special Permit as per section(s) -3. Use Regulations § 3.22 Residential Use (et al)

June 2, 2023
June 9, 2023

(SEAL)

**TRIAL COURT OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE SUPERIOR COURT
Worcester Superior Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608
Docket No: 2385CV0486B
ORDER OF NOTICE
BY PUBLICATION
CORNERSTONE BANK f/k/a
SPENCER SAVINGS BANK**

**vs.
THEIR HEIRS, DEVISEES
and PERSONAL/LEGAL
REPRESENTATIVES
OF WALTER E. CHASE, TAMMY L.**

CHASE and TRACY L. SPOSATOTO: The Heirs, Devisees and Personal/ Legal Representatives of Walter E. Chase, Tammy L. Chase and Tracy L. Sposato, all in said Commonwealth; and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §501 *et seq.*: Cornerstone Bank f/k/a Spencer Savings Bank, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in MA, known and numbered as 89 Charles Street, Leicester, Massachusetts 01524, given by Walter E. Chase to Spencer Savings Bank dated 04/18/2011, and recorded in Worcester County District Registry of Deeds, in Book 47306, Page 109, has/ have filed with this court a Complaint for determination of Defendant’s/ Defendants’ Servicemember status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in 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 Worcester Superior Court on or before 06/27/2023 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, Judith Fabricant, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Worcester, Massachusetts, this 16th day of May , 2023.

Dennis P. McManus
Clerk of Courts
Eric Thuotte
Assistant Clerk
June 2, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO23P1720EA
Estate of:
Clifford M. Rutter
Date Of Death:
March 28, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner
Betsy J. Rutter of Monson MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate
Betsy J. Rutter of Monson MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate

to serve without surety on the bond.

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

June 2, 2023

Worcester, SS
To the District Clerk:
GREETINGS: You are hereby directed to notify the Voters of the Burncoat Pond Watershed District to meet in the Leicester Senior Center, 40 Winslow Ave, Leicester, Massachusetts, on June 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the District will vote to elect a District Moderator for one (1) year or to take any action thereon.

Article 2: To see if the District will elect a District Clerk to hold office one (1) year from this annual meeting, a clerk shall be elected by ballot for one year or to take any action thereon.

Article 3: To see if the District will elect a District Treasurer to hold office one (1) year from this annual meeting, a treasurer shall be elected by ballot for one year, or to take any action thereon.

Article 4: To see if the District will vote to elect a member of the Management Committee to hold office for a term of three (3) years, a member of the Management Committee shall be elected by ballot, or to take any action thereon.

Article 5: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund dam repairs, or to take any action thereon.

Article 6: To see if the District will vote to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2024, the appropriation of monies to be raised by assessment upon the proprietors in support thereof, or to take any action thereon.

Burncoat Pond Watershed District Management Committee

June 2, 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 13, 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/Owner: Julie Peloquin, DBA: Black Tulip Massage; Location: 7 Terkanian Drive, Spencer Assessor’s Map R32-25. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.3.A.2 (Use of Residence for Business Purposes/ Customary Home Occupation) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to run a professional massage therapy business inside home, with off street parking, and no signage. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district

May 26, 2023
June 2, 2023

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

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

Bryan Button has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for proposed landscaping located at **33 Oakland Drive, Spencer, MA.**

Denise Marco has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove trees located at **109 Clark Road, Spencer, MA.**

Matt Sicard has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to build a deck at **47 Lake Ave, Spencer, MA.**

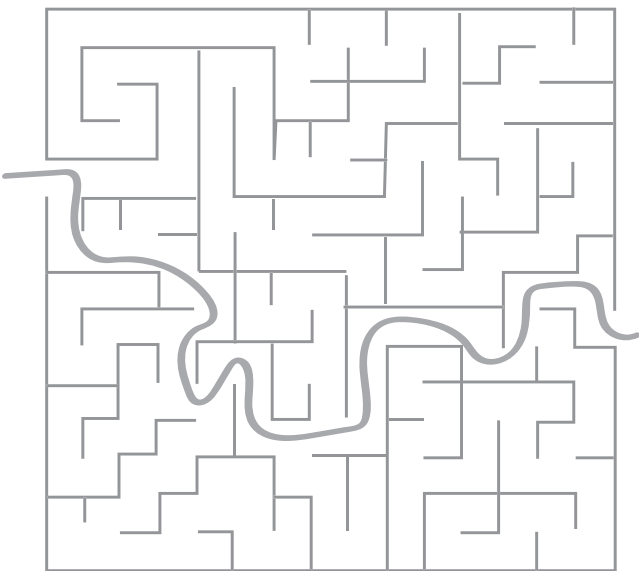
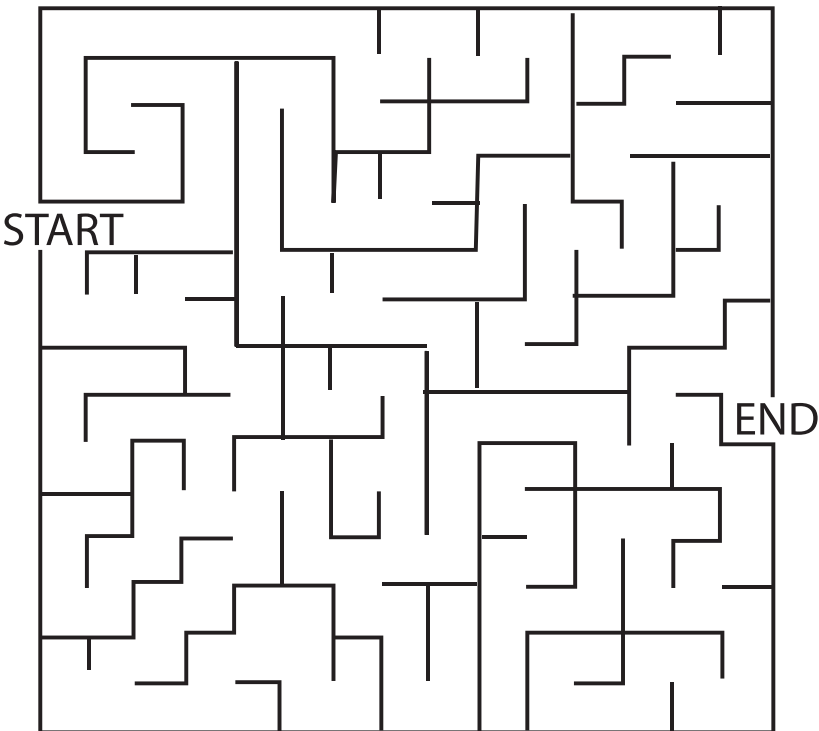
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at which time all persons having 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
June 2, 2023



Maze Craze

Find your way through the center of the maze.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1790:** RHODE ISLAND RATIFIES THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, THE LAST OF THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES TO DO SO.
- **1886:** THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT FOR COCA-COLA APPEARS.
- **2015:** ONE WORLD OBSERVATORY AT ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER OPENS.



THE NOTION THAT THIS ANIMAL HAS NINE LIVES PROBABLY COMES FROM ITS ABILITY TO ESCAPE DANGER.

ANSWER: CAT



MANGE

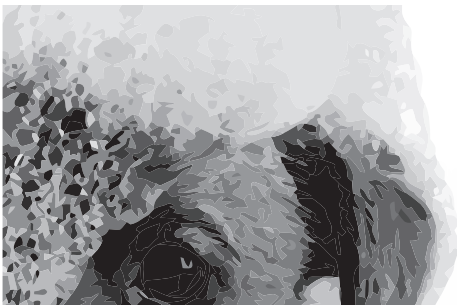
a skin condition caused by parasitic mites

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Whiskers (Cat)
- SPANISH:** Bigotes
- ITALIAN:** Vibrissa
- FRENCH:** Moustaches
- GERMAN:** Schnurrhaar



DOGS SWEAT THROUGH THEIR PAWS AND PANT TO KEEP COOL.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SUDSY DOG

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to salad.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = E)

A. 5 11 15 25 25 6 4 10

Clue: Salad topping

B. 9 15 13 13 2 18 15

Clue: Leafy greens

C. 13 8 7 1 13 8

Clue: Red, seeded food

D. 18 17 8 22 22 15 5

Clue: Cut up

Answers: A. dressing B. lettuce C. tomato D. chopped

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, MAY 18
12:22 a.m.: disturbance (Watch Street), report taken; 2:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:57 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:47 a.m.: summons service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 12:03 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), Elijah Mikel Montanez, 18, 186 Stafford Street, Charlton, failure to stop for police, arrest; 1:33 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Road, Spencer), transported; 2:47 p.m.: threats (Waite Street), spoken to; 3:11 p.m.: municipal security alarm (Memorial School Drive), investigated; 3:39 p.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 8:32 p.m.: assist citizen (Atwood Road); 9:08 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no action required; 9:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:43 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:52 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 10:00 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 10:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

FRIDAY, MAY 19
12:19 a.m.: mv stop (Grove Street), verbal warning; 12:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:26 a.m.: suspicious mv (Hankey Street), no action required; 7:25 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:34 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 7:58 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 8:22 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 8:40 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Stafford Street), services rendered; 8:49 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 9:09 a.m.: mv stop (Winslow Avenue), written warning; 9:30 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 9:43 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Leela Lane), referred to ACO; 9:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:13 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 10:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:45 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 11:46 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:09 p.m.: trespassing (Baldwin Street), gone on arrival; 1:22 p.m.: fraud (Parker Street), report taken; 1:34 p.m.: animal complaint (White Birch Street), referred to ACO; 4:20 p.m.: summons service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 6:10 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 6:14 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 6:30 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 6:46 p.m.: ambulance (Ingram Road), transported; 10:12 p.m.: assist other agency (Greenville Circle), services rendered.

SATURDAY, MAY 20
12:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:58 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:07 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street) verbal warning; 10:09 a.m.: stolen mv (Stafford Street), report taken; 11:52 a.m.: welfare check (South Street), spoken to; 12:54 p.m.: welfare check (Chapel Street), spoken to; 3:48 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:06 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:27 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:47 p.m.: fraud (River Street), report taken; 7:59 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Pleasant Street), report taken,

SUNDAY, MAY 21
10:09 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:13 a.m.: run-away (Upton Street), spoken to; 1:54 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:56 p.m.: disturbance/gathering (Verona Street), resolved; 3:16 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unfounded; 3:25 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 3:29 p.m.: disturbance (Verona Street), unfounded; 3:57 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 4:30 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 4:33 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), report taken; 5:23 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:29 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 5:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:16 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:54 p.m.: ambulance (Park Avenue, Worcester), transported; 8:14 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 8:15 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), resolved; 9:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:48 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 11:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, MAY 22
12:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street),

citation issued; 5:45 a.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 8:32 a.m.: ambulance (Salminen Drive), transported; 9:08 a.m.: ambulance (Sunset Drive), transported; 10:57 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:51 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO; 3:42 p.m.: ambulance (Warren Street), transported; 4:09 p.m.: assist citizen (Parker Street); 4:15 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 6:30 p.m.: welfare check (Reservoir Street), spoken to; 11:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, MAY 23
12:10 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, speeding; name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, criminal application issued/2; 12:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:29 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 5:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:10 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 8:17 a.m.: threats (Main Street), report taken; 8:40 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 9:10 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Anakorolina Karolina Lourencoalbuquerque, 27, 663 Stafford Street, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, arrest; 11:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO; 11:17 a.m.: ambulance (Clark Street), transported; 11:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred to ACO; 11:58 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO; 1:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:35 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 1:45 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), unfounded; 1:55 p.m.: suspicious mv (Henshaw Street), gone on arrival; 3:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Joseph Roman, 50, 100 Canterbury Street, #1, Worcester, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, arrest; 5:54 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), message delivered; 6:03 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 7:13 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), referred; 7:24 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:48 p.m.: illegal dumping (Cricklewood Drive), report taken; 9:14 p.m.: ambulance (Kingsbury Road), call canceled.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
12:36 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:55 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 1:36 a.m.: family problem (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 5:21 a.m.: larceny (Henshaw Street), report taken; 7:11 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 7:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:26 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 7:31 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 8:09 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 8:17 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 8:32 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 8:38 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 8:48 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 8:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:53 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 10:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:04 a.m.: assist citizen (Mannville Street); 11:54 a.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 12:13 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:30 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 12:40 p.m.: fraud (River Street), report taken; 1:21 p.m.: threats (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 2:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:19 p.m.: investigation (Pine Street), report taken; 2:48 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 3:39 p.m.: investigation (Henshaw Street), report taken; 3:59 p.m.: assist citizen (Pine Street); 4:12 p.m.: ambulance (Outlook Drive, Worcester), transported; 4:47 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), resolved; 7:48 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:42 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), Renan Higor Soares Silva, 33, 21 Lawrence Street, Framingham, unlicensed operation, arrest; 8:58 p.m.: restraining order service (Pine Street), served.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17
12:03-3:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:46 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:24 a.m.: commercial alarm (Old Meadow Road), services rendered; 1:35 a.m.: DPW call

(Lyford Road), broken bridge sign; 1:43 a.m.: disturbance (Borkum Road), re: stay away order; 4:33 a.m.: animal complaint (Shore Drive), barking dog; 7:34 a.m.: mv lockout (R. Jones Road), assisted; 7:55 a.m.: mv lockout (Chestnut Street), assisted; 8:22 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 10:52 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line then disconnect; 11:16 a.m.: fire alarm (Meadow Road), referred; 11:23 a.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), erratic operator; 12:10 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:19 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:35 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:52 p.m.: suspicious persons (Smithville Road), rep. man tried to grab girl; 1:18 p.m.: open door (Main Street), bldg. secured; 1:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Old East Charlton Road), re: disturbing voicemail; 2:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Sampson Street), info given; 3:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Northwest Road), poss. rabies exposure; 4:30 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 4:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Borkum Road), daugh. changing locks on house; 5:58 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 6:15 p.m.: juvenile matter (Bay Path Road), req. welfare check/infant; 6:46 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:05 p.m.: medical/general (Collier Circle); 8:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Ledge Avenue), question re: rights; 8:09 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), solicitors in area; 8:16 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), trailer blocking travel lane; 8:25 p.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), neighbors yelling; 11:29 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; (total daily mv stops – 10).

THURSDAY, MAY 18
12:25-3:11 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:59 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 2:26 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 5:41 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:19 a.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), re: prob. w/fuel tanks; 9:13 a.m.: citizen complaint (Meadow Road), construction mvs on property; 9:18 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 9:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Oscars Drive), re: earlier incident; 11:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Ledge Avenue), rep. family trying to evict caller; 12:03 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 1:01 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 1:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), inquiry; 1:27 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 1:42 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), rep. erratic operator; 2:23 p.m.: warrant service (Main Street), Joseph R. Perron, 55, homeless, Spencer, warrant issued, arrest; 2:24 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 2:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), threats from roommate; 3:06 p.m.: restraining order service (Grove Street); 3:07 p.m.: restraining order service (Washburn Drive); 3:22 p.m.: mv complaint (Thompson Pond Road), mv passed school bus; 6:16 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), ex-gf talk of suicide; 8:53 p.m.: medical/general (Ethier Drive); 10:17 p.m.: fraud/credit card (Cherry Street), re: \$1000 in Walmart charges; 10:34 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:52 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Road), barking dogs; (total daily mv stops – 3).

FRIDAY, MAY 19
12:32-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:06 a.m.: residential alarm (Laurel Lane), services rendered; 6:33 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Spinnaker Drive), accidental; 9:17 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), needs mvs moved; 9:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Overlook Drive), re: kennel inspection; 10:15 a.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), hang-up; 10:51 a.m.: parking complaint (Chestnut Street), mv blocking d/way; 10:52 a.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), being harassed by neighbor; 11:22 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:31 a.m.: harassment/prevention order service/2 (West Main Street); 12:00 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), poss. scam call; 1:10 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:10 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Dufault Road), re: protective custody order; 2:28 p.m.: DPW call (Charron Street), tree fell onto property; 3:42 p.m.: fraud (Hastings Road), unemployment scam; 4:20 p.m.: medical/general (Spring Street); 5:48 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:53 p.m.: 911 calls (West Main Street), open line; 5:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), req. escort/keep the peace; 6:10 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), speeding; 6:19-7:23 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:27 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), speeding; 8:18 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), assisting lg. mv; 9:06 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), found debit card; 9:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), re: sick cat; 9:18 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 9:35 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:51 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 10:29 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:50 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 13).

SATURDAY, MAY 20
12:04-2:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:57 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:28 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dead deer; 9:40 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 10:44 a.m.: 911 call (Chickering Road), open line; 11:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 11:10 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:39 a.m.: parking complaint (Chestnut Street), mvs too close to corner; 12:06 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 12:17 p.m.: elderly matter (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 12:31 p.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Road), re: issues w/wife; 12:44 p.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), cover off catch basin; 2:42 p.m.: suspicious persons (Dale Street), gas siphoned from mv; 2:59 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 3:14 p.m.: 911 call (Chickering Road), accidental; 3:28 p.m.: DPW call (Valley Street), sewer backup; 4:23 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 4:41 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. VIN verification; 5:01 p.m.: juvenile matter (Charlton Road), req. welfare check/daughter; 7:22 p.m.: disturbance (High Street), re: bottle thrown onto property; 8:48 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: mv at Route 49/Ladd Road; 8:54 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 11:45 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, MAY 21
1:04-2:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:25 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), open line; 7:33 a.m.: 911 call (Donnelly Cross Road), accidental; 9:31 a.m.: mv lockout (Buteau Road), assisted; 9:35 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Chestnut Street), tickets issued; 10:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), low-hanging wire; 11:29 a.m.: equipment issue (Main Street), prob. w/traffic light; 11:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), snapping turtle/roadside; 12:06 p.m.: medical/general (Wire Village Road); 1:12 p.m.: residential alarm (Roys Drive), accidental; 1:18 p.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), open line; 1:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Starr Road), barking dogs; 3:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), sink hole developing; 3:38 p.m.: 911 call (Lloyd Dyer Drive), open line; 5:23 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), low-hanging wire; 6:10 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:40 p.m.: nature of call redacted from police log (Starr Street); 7:01 p.m.: disturbance (North Spencer Road), gunshots heard; 7:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring Street), restraining order questions; 8:30 p.m.: fire alarm (Chestnut Street), referred; 8:34 p.m.: medical/general (Starr Street); 10:34 p.m.: 911 call (Charron Street), fire alarm; (total daily mv stops – 5).

MONDAY, MAY 22
1:21 a.m.: mv repossessed (Main Street), info taken; 1:30-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:12 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:45 a.m.: animal complaint (Condon Drive), barking dog; 7:39 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), no contact; 8:07 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Route 49), misdial; 8:36 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 10:16 a.m.: mv repossessed (Jolicoeur Avenue), info taken; 10:31 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (South Spencer Road), dumpster fire; 10:57 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:48 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:52 a.m.: animal complaint (Salem Street), loose goats; 4:51 p.m.: mv theft (Cherry Street), license plate stolen; 4:52 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 4:59 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:15 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), verbal altercation; 7:32 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), loose dog; 8:11 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:36 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (total daily mv stops – 2).

TUESDAY, MAY 23
12:13-2:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:06 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Spencer Road), no contact; 7:21 a.m.: residential alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 9:34 a.m.: 911 call (North Brookfield Road), open line; 10:05 a.m.: parking complaint (Valley Street), mv in d/way; 10:09 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley View Drive), concerned re: husband; 10:26 a.m.: fraud (Mechanic Street), unemployment scam; 10:28 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 10:34 a.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), open line; 11:34 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:02 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), speeding; 2:18 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 3:28 p.m.: medical/general (Gold Nugget Road); 3:34 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 4:18 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; 6:18 p.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), injured porcupine; 6:22 p.m.: accident (Main Street), rep. earlier incident; 7:35 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 8:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), domesticated duck in yard; 9:08 p.m.: disturbance (Town House Court), services rendered; 9:11 p.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 10:03 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; (total daily mv stops – 3).

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Stolarczyk has been a member of RACM since she began her career in 1998, and has been serving on the Professional Standards Committee for over 15 years. RACM is celebrating their 100th year anniversary this year.

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OLYMPICS

continued from page A1

be invited and participate in the opening ceremonies of the Unified Olympics at David Prouty High School,” said Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford. “Thank you to Superintendent Haughey for arranging for the Spencer Police Color Guard to present the colors during the opening ceremonies.”

The event was also attended by Spencer’s State Representatives,

Donald Berthiaume and Peter Durant, as well as multiple school and community leaders.

“It was a great event, and we enjoyed seeing the kids have an opportunity to compete and build camaraderie in a fun environment,” Durant said.

Officials from each school are thanked for helping to coordinate logistics for the event. Key program leaders included East Brookfield Elementary School Principal Ron Tomlin, EBES teacher Christine Lavin, and Knox Trail

Middle School math teacher Peter Bogren.

“I have been a part of the Unified Olympics all three times that we have held it in our district,” Lavin said. “We love seeing the excitement in all participants leading up to the event. Then to see how much fun they have with their partners and other participants is beyond words. When you see their smiles and excitement during the events and hear all of the cheering of the participants and spectators, you know it is a success.”

Added DPHS teacher and event volunteer Tab Bassett, “This event does such a great job of bringing out the best in all of us. I am always encouraged by the camaraderie that the peers and athletes share. It is heartwarming to watch the tremendous cooperation that occurs within each event while the athletes are cheered on by the fans and their assistants.”

According to the Special Olympics, about 1.2 million people around the world take part in the organization’s Unified

Sports program, which promotes inclusion through shared sporting experiences for students of all abilities.

“Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team,” read a statement released by the Special Olympics. “It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.”

To learn more about Unified Sports, visit www.SpecialOlympics.org.

At SEBRSD, officials

commend staff and students for their commitment to inclusion.

“I am extremely proud to be a part of a learning community that is dedicated to upholding the mission of Special Olympics and Unified Sports, with all four of the schools recognized as Unified Champion Schools,” Haughey said. “This is an absolute credit to the faculty, staff, and leadership team who have worked together to make this program a reality.”

GOBI

continued from page A1

are excited to welcome her to our administration and look forward to working with her to better reach rural communities and help them grow.”

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Gobi co-founded the Sportsmen’s Caucus, which convenes supporters of fishing, hunting, and other outdoor activities. She also serves as a member of the Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee.

State and local leaders are looking forward to seeing Gobi translate her skills and experiences to the Governor’s administration.

“Massachusetts’ rural and small towns have such an important role to play in our state’s economy, and I’m excited to have a true champion of these communities join Team Massachusetts,” said Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao. “Sen. Gobi has the knowledge, experience, and passion required to connect with the needs of rural towns and plug these municipalities into our state’s many economic development resources.”

A lifelong Spencer resident, Gobi graduated from Worcester State University and the Massachusetts School of Law. Prior to being elected to the legislature, Gobi taught at Leicester High School. She also ran her own law office and worked with victims of domestic violence at Central Mass Legal Assistance.

Looking ahead, Gobi is eager for the next chapter of her career to begin.

“I am thrilled to take on this important role and grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration for elevating our rural communities,” Gobi said. “While I will miss the legislature, I look forward to continuing to work for the needs of small towns throughout the Commonwealth as their advocate in state government.”

Gobi is expected to start in her new role on June 5. Among her first projects will be a review of state grant opportunities, including the Community One Stop for Growth, to ensure that barriers for rural and small towns are mitigated. She will also host dedicated office hours for rural towns to enable officials to explore grant opportunities.

LMS

continued from page A1

“Research shows that the middle grades play a pivotal role in influencing high school, college, and career success,” read the statement released by Daponde. “During this transitional time, it’s crucial to provide students with access to relevant, engaging, and real-world learning experiences that

PLANNING

continued from page A1

panels; clear-cutting and deforestation; flooding and runoff; destruction of wildlife habitats; and potential issues that could arise during the decommissioning process.

“These companies often bully, threaten, and intimidate,” said DeFosse, who served on the town’s Solar Bylaw Advisory Committee. “We have to protect our towns. The residents know what is best, not the state and the solar companies.”

Added Selectman Ralph Hicks, who also served on the Solar Bylaw Advisory Committee, “This has become a pattern of companies seeking to come into town, put up their solar projects without listening to residents’ concerns, then move on to the next town.”

Charlton Road resident Aaron Hutchins has raised several concerns about the impacts of the proposed Charlton Road/Bacon Hill Road project on his adjacent property. If approved, the project

would require workers to blast through six feet of granite to create an access road. The blasting site would be approximately 20 feet away from Hutchins’s well.

“In order for the grade of the road to be legal for town bylaws, they would have to go through this process of blasting to meet the correct grade,” said Hutchins, who has already dealt with significant issues from water runoff and sinkholes in his yard as a result of recent logging work done on the adjacent property. “I don’t want this road being built. This solar company has shown no concern for the impacts on safety, property values, and families.”

Hutchins also has concerns over potential impacts on his foundation, windows, and walls, in addition to safety concerns over a proposed post-and-rail fence to separate his yard from the new road.

Several other residents have expressed their concerns about the proposed Ash Street project. In 2019, the original submission proposal sought a site plan review and a

special permit for a large-scale solar array, in addition to a subdivision.

“The public hearing initially opened on Nov. 19, 2019. After the Chair of the Planning Board and several other members resigned at the end of 2021 and early 2022, there was no longer a quorum,” explained Town Planner Lauren Vivier in a previous interview. “In early 2022, new members were appointed to the Board. The applicant needed to readvertise the project; they withdrew the request for the special permit and site plan and removed all aspects of solar, and now here we are with just a subdivision before us.”

The current Ash Street subdivision plan does not contain solar elements, but if the Planning Board approves the proposal, officials anticipate the applicant to seek approval for a large-scale solar array. This would require both Planning Board and Conservation Commission approval.

In addition to the three items on the Planning Board slate for June 6, a hearing for another proposed solar project will take place on June

20. The applicant, Peter Rundle-Solar Smart, LLC, is requesting a site plan review, special permit, and stormwater permit for a proposed project at 472 East Main St. The owner is Hillside Baptist Church, and the proposal calls for the development of a large-scale, ground-mounted solar PV array.

Town bylaws cap large-scale solar installations at 25. Spencer already has multiple arrays either in operation or entered into the review and permitting process.

For many residents, fears of detrimental impacts continue to mount with each new proposal.

“These companies are fully prepared to put the hammer down on citizens and Planning Boards to get what they want,” warned DeFosse, who urges residents to regularly attend meetings, ask officials for updates, and stay informed. “I fear these companies will keep trying to come into local towns, make their money, and then leave the problems for the towns.”


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