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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@StoneBridgePress.news Friday, January 20, 2023

Cuddy Insurance celebrates 100 years in business

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Now in its fourth generation of family ownership, Cuddy Insurance Agency, Inc., is getting ready for a centennial celebration.

Located at 220 North Main St.—the very same building the business has called home since 1923—Cuddy Insurance Agency will officially hit the 100-year milestone on Jan. 23. Over the last few weeks, employees have started their celebration early by reflecting on a long, distinguished history of community commitment.

“Who would have thought that 100 years later, this little town would still be going strong? And now we are fortunate enough to have the fourth generation. To me, it’s simply amazing,” said Betsy Cuddy, the president of the agency



Members of the Cuddy Insurance Agency, Inc., team celebrate 100 years of doing business at the same building in North Brookfield.

Kevin Flanders

Cuddy’s grandmother, Katharine Doyle Cuddy, started the Cuddy/Doyle Insurance and Real Estate business with her

brother, Gene Doyle. The business has remained in the family ever since, passing into the ownership of second-generation leader Owen Cuddy

(Betsy’s father) in 1955. With help from his wife, Terrie, as well as longtime secretary Annette Welnicka, Owen

Cuddy ran the agency until 1986. “I am so proud of the legacy that my grand-

mother created,” added Betsy Cuddy, who has been employed with the agency for 37 years as a third-generation leader.

“It was my dad’s untimely death that motivated me and my sister, Patti, to come back to North Brookfield and help our mom.”

Flash forward to 2023, and Betsy Cuddy’s son, Tony Martinelli, is now in his sixth year of working for the agency.

“It’s been great working here. I called my mom in college and told her I wanted to change majors because this is what I wanted to do,” Martinelli said.

Not only has the agency’s leadership structure been passed down through the generations, but also its loyal customer base. Several current customers are the children or grandchildren of local residents who were served by the agency many decades ago.

“We have had generations of families come through these doors because they trust us and know how they are going to be treated,” said Betsy

Turn To **CUDDY** page **A11**

Leicester voters approve all but three warrant articles

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — All but three articles passed at last week’s winter Special Town Meeting, which required less than an hour to complete.

With the exception of Articles 3, 8, and 9, all other articles passed at the Jan. 10 meeting. Citizen’s petition Articles 8 and 9 were withdrawn because actions are already being taken through the Select

Board to move them forward.

Among the articles to pass was a request to authorize selectmen to take steps toward extending Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica beyond his mandatory retirement. Per state regulations, the Chief is scheduled to retire in April when he reaches the mandatory retirement age. The article approved at Special Town Meeting grants selectmen the ability to

petition state authorities to allow Antanavica to continue serving in his position until April 30, 2025.

Special legislation is required to allow the Chief to work beyond his mandated retirement date. Town officials said the extension will be beneficial for a number of reasons.

“The Chief is willing to stay on until the depart-

Turn To **LEICESTER** page **A11**

Search continues for missing Brookfield woman

BROOKFIELD — Police have requested help from the community in locating a missing woman from town.

As of press time, police were still attempting to locate Brittany Tee, 35, of Brookfield. She was last seen leaving a residence in Brookfield on Jan. 10 at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Police said she was last seen wearing a black winter coat, a hoodie, jeans, and work boots.

Tee is five feet six inches tall, 120 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. Anyone with information about Tee’s whereabouts is asked to contact the Brookfield Police Department at 508-867-5570. You can also contact your local police department.

State Police detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office are also investigating.



Courtesy

As of press time, police were still searching for Brittany Tee, 35, of Brookfield.

Knox Trail students become Project 351 ambassadors

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Two student ambassadors from Knox Trail Middle School recently teamed up with young leaders from

across the state at Project 351.

On Jan. 14, one eighth grader from each of the Commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns arrived in Boston for a day of service.

At this year’s event, KTMS was represented by Lucas Bastien (East Brookfield) and Morgan Pelchat (Spencer).

As members of National Junior Honor

Society, both students have excelled academically and as leaders outside the classroom. When the New Leader visited KTMS ahead of the Project 351 day of service,

the students were eagerly anticipating their trip to Boston.

“It’s very exciting and a huge honor,” Pelchat said.

Added Bastien, “It will be fun to meet the other students and work with them on projects.”

In addition to their academic and leadership prowess, both students are active with sports. Bastien plays football and baseball for the school team, while Pelchat enjoys taking part in gymnastics.

The students will also volunteer at a Relay for Life event at Sturbridge’s Tantasqua Regional High School this spring.

For KTMS officials, it’s always a thrill to see students continue their leadership and service efforts as Project 351 ambassadors.

“Morgan is an incredible student in all facets. She not only works hard, but has selflessly given back to her school community through Peer Leaders and NJHS,” said KTMS teacher Samantha Raphael. “She works hard to be a good example for her peers, both socially and academi-

cally. She always has a smile on her face and is consistently kind to those around her.”

Added Raphael, “Lucas shows up to school every day with a positive attitude. He always stays focused on the task at hand and is a diligent worker and conscientious learner. He exemplifies what it means to be a student-athlete and member of NJHS. Lucas is kind, courteous, and worthy of recognition for his approach to his education by his teachers and his peers.”

During the day of service, both students took part in several community-building activities. They now return to central Massachusetts with newly acquired skills and knowledge that can be applied to local service efforts.

Additionally, the students will help mentor the next wave of Project 351 leaders in future years.

To learn more about Project 351 and how it helps today’s students gain the experiences necessary to become tomorrow’s leaders, visit www.Project351.org.



Kevin Flanders

Morgan Pelchat and Lucas Bastien were selected as Knox Trail Middle School’s Project 351 ambassadors.

Popular paranormal investigator to appear at Haston Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
NORTH BROOKFIELD — Local residents are invited to venture into the realm of the unknown later this month,

when author and reality TV star Ronny LeBlanc visits Haston Library to discuss his research into the paranormal. On Thursday, Jan. 26, the author will present at the library at 6:30 p.m.

LeBlanc, an internationally recognized paranormal researcher, has investigated reported sightings of everything from Bigfoot to UFOs. He stars in two shows for Discovery Plus and the Travel Channel.

“LeBlanc was the first person ever to cast a Bigfoot print in the Bay State from a trackway discovered by a couple in Leominster State Forest in the summer of 2010,” read a promotional statement released by the library.

Now, it’s your turn to learn about the mysterious creatures and entities potentially lurking in the shadows of civilization. From unexplainable lights and aircraft in the sky, to sightings of large humanoid forms in the woods, New England has been a hotbed for reports of paranormal phenomena going back centuries.

With help from LeBlanc, library guests will be introduced to a variety

of methods for investigating the paranormal, many of which he learned at an early age.

“I was hooked into all things paranormal thanks to the Leominster Public Library,” LeBlanc said. “There was a book that caught my eye, ‘Mysterious Universe’ by Loren Coleman. The idea that there were these undiscovered animals still lurking about in the forests at night had me hooked. I would then take out armfuls of books on UFOs, Bigfoot, ESP, and the strange.”

LeBlanc’s passion was also inspired by an unexplainable occurrence he personally experienced in the Leominster State Forest when he was 11 years old. The mystery fueled him to investigate, research, and write about reports of the paranormal.

Years later, LeBlanc went on to author the critically acclaimed and bestselling book, “Monsterland: Encounters with UFOs, Bigfoot, and Orange Orbs.” The book details the history and connection between the various phenomena, highlighting LeBlanc’s own experiences and also a research area in central Massachusetts called Monsterland.

Additionally, LeBlanc serves as a speaker at several paranormal conferences around the country each year. He has appeared on multiple radio programs, television shows, news features, and other programs dedicated to exploring the paranormal.

For more information about the North Brookfield program, or to learn about other upcoming events at the library, call 508-867-0208. The library is located at 161 North Main St.

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Baker leaves office with launch of behavioral health centers

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — In one of its final accomplishments in office, the Baker-Polito Administration recently launched several behavioral health centers across the Commonwealth.

A total of 25 facilities opened earlier this month as part of the former Governor's implementation of a behavioral health reform plan that took several years to create. The centers will offer comprehensive mental healthcare, as well as substance use treatment and community-based crisis intervention.

The facilities are available to all Massachusetts residents, regardless of ability to pay.

"Over the past eight years, our administration has collaborated with healthcare providers, medical professionals, and our legislative colleagues to make sure Massachusetts treats behavioral health with the same importance as physical health," said former Gov. Charlie Baker, whose term ended this month after he did not seek re-election. "The implementation of behavioral health reform is the latest step in those efforts."

Prior to the opening of the facilities, the state invested in clinical programming and the addition of more than 3,000 treatment beds. The state was already struggling to deal with mental and behavioral health challenges prior to the pandemic, but COVID-19 exacerbated the problem significantly, officials said.

"It's critical we provide residents and families with access to behavioral health services so they can lead healthier lives, and we are proud of our administration's work to do just that over the past eight years," said former Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "These investments

and initiatives will continue to make a big difference for residents who need access to these services for years to come."

Additionally, the state will soon launch its 24/7 behavioral health help line to keep residents informed of their options. The service will provide information on the nearest facilities and treatment opportunities available to callers.

Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration invested more than \$26.5 billion in behavioral health services across multiple initiatives and state agencies. And even though the administration is no longer in office to see the services in action, they're confident in the foundation they have helped create for improved treatment options.

"Across the spectrum of behavioral health, the administration has worked with providers to increase program capacity by more than 3,000 beds since taking office in 2015, ranging from inpatient treatment to supportive community residential services, including more than 500 additional inpatient psychiatric beds," read a statement released by the former Governor's office.

The launch of the new system was also made possible by feedback received from nearly 700 residents, families, treatment providers, and other stakeholders who identified the need for improved health equity. The overall goal was to create a new, centralized service for residents or their loved ones to call, text, or walk in to get connected to mental health and addiction treatment services, officials said.

The 25 community behavioral health centers, conveniently located across the state, will serve as an entry point for residents requiring treatment for mental health conditions, substance use

disorders, urgent visits, and 24/7 community-based crisis intervention. These options will also help relieve the strain on emergency departments at the state's hospitals, which are crowded each year with patients who would be better served in a more specialized treatment environment, officials said.

The 24/7 behavioral health help line will offer real-time clinical triage and service navigation in more than 200 languages.

To learn more about behavioral health facilities near you, visit www.mass.gov.

PERSON of the WEEK

Last night after 30 years, we pulled the plugs on Leicester Christmas Display. We would like thank the town for their support all these years. We are very humbled by everyone's support. We are honored that we were able to help bring a lot of people to town.

We would also like to thank all of our neighbors. Without their support, we could not have done what we did. You have been awesome through the years.

We would also like to thank the Leicester Police Department. We could not have done it without their help. We had crowds of over 3,000 some nights. They kept everything flowing. We never had one issue. They are putting electricity on the common, so we will be donating some things to help decorate the common.

Scott and Denise Weikel

If you would like to nominate someone or a group of people for 2023, please email your suggestion to Mikaela at mikaela@stonebridgepress.news. Thank you.

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Come travel with Bob Wilby

PAXTON — After surveying the interest of many past passengers about this years' trip destinations overseas, we have decided to lead a group of area seniors and friends to Scotland, Wales and England.

We will leave on Sunday, Oct. 1, and return on Tuesday, Oct. 10. Our first stop is Edinburgh, Scotland for two nights, then on to York, England for one night. After York, our next two nights are spent in Chester, with a short stop in Wales. Following our stay in Chester, we move on to Stratford-upon-Avon, then Oxford. The last two nights are spent in London.

The tour covers transportation from Holden to Logan Airport and return; Air from Boston to Edinburgh, returning home from London; Hotel Stays in Edinburgh, York, Chester, Statford-Upon-Avon and London; eight Breakfasts, one lunch and four dinners.

The cost is Double \$3,599 and Single \$4,299 if deposit is made by April 2. The price could change after that depending on availability. Insurance and special tour options are extra.

A representative from AAA Member Choice Vacations and Lynn Natale from AAA Travel in Worcester will give us all the details of the trip, plus accept signups and deposits on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St., Paxton. All are welcome so bring a friend.

Reservations for this Travel Session may be made by contacting Bob Wilby, 508-792-4662 or rwilby@charter.net

See you on the 24th.

Central One Federal Credit Union announces branch changes

REGION — Central One Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce the following changes to our management team.

Owen Russell, Vice President of Retail Services, will remain at the Shrewsbury Main Office and oversee all retail branch operations. Owen joined the Central One team in 2006 as the Auburn Branch Manager. Owen has been managing the Shrewsbury branch retail team since 2017 and became AVP of Retail Services in 2020, where his responsibilities grew to oversee all Central One's retail branches. In 2022, he was promoted to his current position.

Heather Forchilli, Northborough Branch Manager, has transferred to our Shrewsbury Main Branch. Heather joined Central One in 2015 as a Senior Teller and was promoted to Personal Financial Representative. In 2017, Heather was promoted to Northborough Assistant Branch Manager, and in 2019, promoted to Northborough Branch

Manager.

Andri Jashari, Auburn Assistant Branch Manager, has been promoted to Northborough Branch Manager. Andri joined Central One in 2014, starting as a Senior Teller, eventually holding the titles of Personal Financial Representative and Senior PFR, and then promoted to Auburn Assistant Manager in 2020.

About Central One Federal Credit Union

Central One Federal Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit, cooperative financial institution serving Massachusetts residents and businesses. Central One has grown into one of central Massachusetts's largest federal credit unions serving Worcester County and parts of Norfolk and Middlesex counties. Branches are located in Auburn, Northborough, Shrewsbury, Westborough, and Worcester, with a Milford branch will be opening in the Spring of 2023. To learn more, visit www.centralfcu.com.

Water Operator West Brookfield Water Department



The West Brookfield Water Department is accepting applications for a Water Operator. (40 hours a week). The incumbent will work under Commissioners' and the Water Superintendent. The Water Operator shall be responsible for providing efficient operation of the filtration plant, labor, and maintenance.

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

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

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

West Brookfield water dept is aa/eoe

Robert E. Benson, Chairman – Water Commissioner

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Cornerstone Bank now accepting applications for \$2,500 scholarships

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, will award \$2,500 scholarships to 16 local high school seniors who anticipate pursuing studies in business and finance. The scholarships will be granted to students who best demonstrate achievement in academics, extracurricular activities, and community involvement. Applications are being accepted through Thursday, April 6.

“We are delighted to again help local students pursue higher education, while also fostering advancement in the fields of business and finance,” said CEO Todd Tallman. “We appreciate the opportunity to reward some of the many exemplary students in our community and hope these scholarships alleviate some of the financial burden involved with a college education.”

To apply for a scholarship, the student must:

- Be a 2023 high school graduate
- Anticipate being a full-time student at an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education
- Anticipate studying in a business or financial field
- Demonstrate achievement and high standards in academics, extracurricular activities and community involvement
- Submit an official transcript and GPA from their guidance office

In addition, the student must submit

a one-page, typed essay based on the prompt: our company’s customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. We stand by our core values of teamwork, relationships, user-friendly, solutions-based and transparency. Describe a time when you embraced one of the Cornerstone core values.

Applications must be submitted electronically to Cornerstone Bank by Thursday, April 6, 2023. Please apply through the online submission form. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the student after successful completion of the first semester, and upon presentation of an official copy of the first-semester transcript and second-semester bill.

For more information, and to complete the online application form, please visit cornerstonebank.com/scholarships.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides

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

Springfield College recognizes Dean’s List students for fall semester

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College Recognizes Dean’s List Students for the 2022 Fall Semester.

Springfield College has named Jacob Halfrey from Spencer to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2022 fall semester. Halfrey has a primary major of Exer Sci / Applied ES.

Springfield College has named Caitlin Kemp from Leicester to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2022 fall semester. Kemp has a primary major of Communication/Sport Jour.

Springfield College has named Katelyn McKay from Rochdale to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2022 fall semester. McKay has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-OT.

Springfield College has named Julianna Torres from Rochdale to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2022 fall semester. Torres has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

The criteria for selection to the Dean’s List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.50 for the term.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

American International College announces Fall 2022 Dean’s List

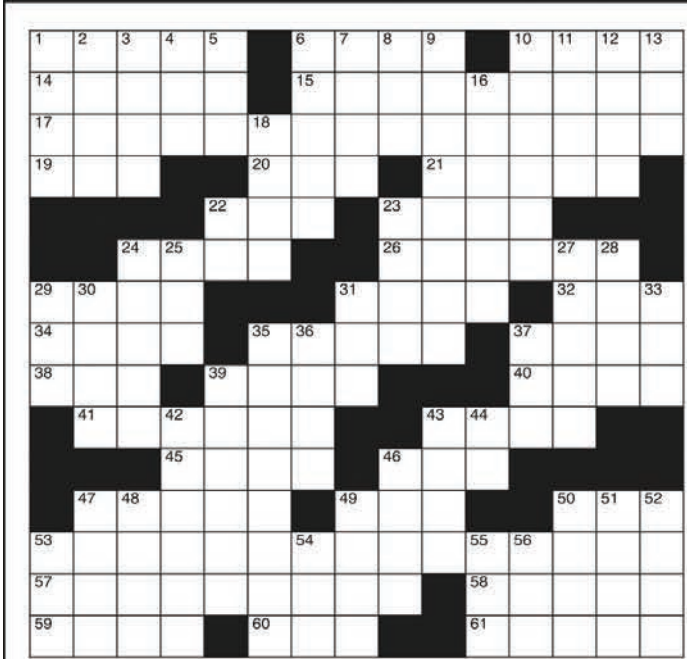
SPRINGFIELD — AIC has named 453 students to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2022 semester. Dean’s List students are full-time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these dedicated and hard-working students.

The following local students have earned Dean’s List honors:

Justin Howard of W Brookfield who majors in Exercise Science

Nathan Novia of Leicester who majors in Sports and Recreation Management

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Not invited

6. Whale ship captain

10. One point south of southwest

14. Small cavity in a rock

15. Recidivists

17. City of Angels hoopster

19. A way to mark with one’s signature

20. OJ trial judge

21. Rice cooked in broth

22. One point east of due south

23. One point east of southeast

24. Complements an entree

26. Grouped by twos

29. Disfigure

31. Woods

32. Political action committee

34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
35. Kin groups

37. Philippine Island

38. Contrary to

39. Bluish-gray fur

40. Comprehend the written word

41. Natural depressions

43. Felines

45. Breathe noisily

46. Taxi

47. Pancake made from buckwheat flour

49. Swiss river

50. Foot (Latin)

53. Have surgery

57. Formal withdrawal

58. Monetary units of Peru

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

CLUES DOWN

1. Green and yellow citrus fruit

2. A bright color

3. Thicket

4. Journalist Tarbell

5. A place to work or relax

6. Sharp mountain ridge

7. Helicopter

8. Mimic

9. Suggests

10. More musty

11. Large, flightless rail

12. Make beer

13. Soviet Socialist Republic

16. People who account for you

18. Taunt

22. South Dakota

23. Cover the entirety of

24. Kids’ favorite visitor

25. A way to save for retirement

27. Fencing swords

28. C. China mountain range

29. Type of sandwich
30. Team

31. Paddle

33. Partly digested food

35. Most cagey

36. Shoppers make one

37. Cathode-ray tube

39. Food supplies

42. Backbones

43. Concern

44. Blood group

46. Broadway songwriter Sammy

47. Dutch colonist

48. Full-grown pike fish

49. Deity of a monotheistic cult

50. Type of bread

51. S. Nigerian people

52. Scottish tax

53. Young women’s association

54. Brazilian city

55. Hide of a young animal

56. Midway between north and northeast



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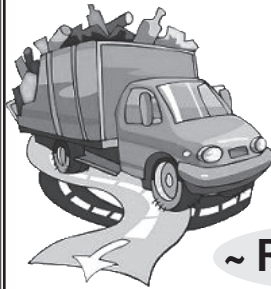
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\$370,000, 18 Lincoln St, Falardeau, Mary A, and Falardeau, Richard P, to Barham, James M, and Barham, Heather.

\$85,000, 119 Town Farm Rd, Macaruso, David P, and Macaruso, Cindrea, to Boudreau, Nicholas, and Cloutier, Brianna.

\$35,000, 2 Hyde St, Collette, Darren H, and Collette, Alana D, to Collette, Darren H.

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$225,000, 184 W Sturbridge Rd, Poirier, Wilfred J, and Poirier, Ruth A, to Morgan-Poirier, Patrick W.

LEICESTER

\$475,000, 182 Chapel St, Galasso, Robert P, and Galasso, Rachel C, to Ropiak, Tanner P, and Ducharme, Hannah M.

\$410,000, 905 Pleasant St, Kennedy, Robert M, and Kennedy, Mary T, to Awino-Ogwang, Mildren.

\$282,000, 94 Auburn St, Lanza-Vowles, Janie, to Faro, Stephen.

\$275,000, 115 Mccarthy Ave, Hernandez, Susy, to Orellana, Krystle.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$750,000, 16 Cider Mill Rd, Petersen, Gilbert, and Petersen, Carina A, to Ingrao, Carl, and Ingrao, Susan.

\$270,000, 1 Birch Hill Rd, Parker, Karen E, and Parker, Neil R, to Parker, Shaun.

\$262,000, North St, David F Hayes T, and Whitcomb, Natalie H, to Murray, James W, and Murray, Leslie A.

\$250,000, 291 N Main St, Seymour, Joseph R, to Schlegel, Vaughn D.

\$95,000, 75 School St, 75 School Street RT, and Maynard, Mark, to 521 Grafton LLC.

SPENCER

\$515,000, 13 Linden St, Mikell Realty Corp, to Murphy Capital LLC.

\$445,000, 3 Browning Pond Rd, Gauthier, Taylor, and Gauthier, Vincent, to Paulino, Juan C.

\$310,000, 48 Buteau Rd, Joan M Ott LT, and Ott, Joan M, to Griffin, Scott D, and Griffin, Angela K.

\$300,000, 45 Temple St, Horus RT, and Salib, Mina, to Fisher, Joyce A.

\$190,000, 101 Maple St, Hackett, John L, and Ferris, Lee A, to Hackett, Karen E.

\$169,000, 505 Main St, Lwhomeinvestors LLC, to Cedy2shoesllc.

\$130,000, 505 Main St, Wentworth, Jason, and Luzzo, Lisa, to Lwhomeinvestors LLC.

\$75,000, 87 Hastings Rd, Mcdonald, Christian, and Mcdonald, Faith, to Turcios, Santos F, and Turcios, Idelisa.

WARREN

\$330,000, 370 Ware Rd, Jiang, Haoquan, to Bumpus, Emmett.

\$280,000, 57 Liberty St, Gaumond, Karen G, to Ramirez-Mendez, Blas, and Auden, Greidy.

\$265,000, 401 Brimfield Rd, St George, Nickolas M, and St George, Christopher C, to Landry, Jennifer L

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$168,300, 15 Chapman Ave, Onofre, Hector J, and Newrez LLC, to Federal Natl Mtg Assn.

SNHU announces Fall 2022 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Joshua Treadway of Spencer
Donna Richer of Spencer
Meghan O'Connor of West Brookfield

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

SNHU announces Fall 2022 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2022 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Joshua Cone of Brookfield
Johnathan Jones of Leicester
Matthew Sanders of North Brookfield
Nicholas LeBoeuf of Rochdale
Denis Leo of Spencer
Nicole Bousquet of West Brookfield

Lauren Wilcox of West Brookfield
Isabella Cloward of West Brookfield
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 170,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

Adeline Ford initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

LEXINGTON, Va. — Adeline Ford, a native of West Brookfield, was recently initiated into the Western New England University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 1,085 new initiates from 45 universities during November 2022.

Students initiated into the Society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35 percent of their class, demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars, and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join each year.

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, the National Leadership Honor Society,

was founded in Lexington, Va., on Dec. 3, 1914. A group of 15 students and faculty members established the Society to recognize and encourage leadership at the collegiate level. The founders established the ODK Idea-the concept that individuals representing all phases of collegiate life should collaborate with faculty and others to support the campus and community. ODK's mission is to honor and develop leaders; encourage collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and alumni; and promote ODK's leadership values of collaboration, inclusivity, integrity, scholarship, and service on college and university campuses throughout North America. The Society's national headquarters are located in Lexington, Va.

Nichols College students earn academic honors for fall 2022

DUDLEY — More than 400 students at Nichols College in Dudley have achieved President's List or Dean's List honors during the fall 2022 semester.

The President's List and Dean's List recognize those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the President's List, a student must have a grade point average of 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below

B- during the semester. Students with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive Dean's List honors.

Jenna Albro of Rochdale
Emma Barnes of East Brookfield
Kiana Barnes of E Brookfield
Desiree Butler of West Brookfield
Stephen Comtois of Brookfield
Anthony Hernandez of Spencer
Connor Niddrie of Leicester
Brennan Ogert of Spencer
About Nichols College

The mission of Nichols College is to educate and enlighten students to capitalize on their ambitions and to become impactful, forward looking global leaders.

OBITUARY

John Peter Gill, 92



West Warren - John Peter Gill, 92, of West Warren, died on Friday, January 13, 2023 at Southbridge Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

He leaves his niece and caregiver, Dolores A. (Gill) Day and her husband Kenneth of West Brookfield, and two great-nephews, Christopher M. Day of Warren, and Shaun N. Day of Warren. He was predeceased by his brothers, Boleslaw in 2007, and Bronac in 1945 while serving with the Army Infantry in France. He was born in Chicopee, son of the late John and Anna (Fortuna) Gill.

He was a graduate of trade school, and worked as a steam pipe filter. He was a member of the Local Plumber's Union 104 for 40 years. He also served as an Auxiliary Sheriff with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Gill is a United States Army

Veteran of the Korean War, and was a former Commander in the Warren VFW.

John enjoyed following the Red Sox, liked to golf, and also trying his luck at gambling in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. He also enjoyed traveling to Bermuda.

Calling hours for John were held from 3 to 5pm on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. A Graveside Service with Military Honors will be held at 10am on Thursday, January 19, 2023 in St. Mary Cemetery, South St., in Ware. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 136, in East Brookfield, MA 01515.

An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com



Friday's Child



Barry
Age 6

Hi! My name is Barry and I love to play!

Barry is an energetic and affectionate boy of African American and Caucasian descent who loves to explore outside and play with cars and trains. He is described by those who know him best as kind, loving and "an absolute joy" with unparalleled empathy and an amazing laugh. Barry will comfort others if they are upset or hurt, and his laughter and carefree demeanor lift the spirits of everyone he meets. In addition to outdoor play, Barry loves painting and any kind of sensory play like slime, water and sensory bins. He recently learned to jump with both feet off the ground!

Barry has made significant progress with his speech and language, and now uses more than 50 spoken words. He communicates in two- to three-word phrases, and occasionally supplements this with gestures, signs or his communication device. Diagnosed with autism and some additional medical needs, Barry is followed by a team of specialists. He is thriving in a small classroom with individualized attention, and loves being around peers- he even enjoys sharing with them! The adults in his life note that he has strong problem-solving skills and is able to make connections, such as going to get a paper towel if he notices that something has spilled.

Barry is followed by a team of specialists. He is thriving in a small classroom with individualized attention, and loves being around peers- he even enjoys sharing with them! The adults in his life note that he has strong problem-solving skills and is able to make connections, such as going to get a paper towel if he notices that something has spilled.

Legally freed for adoption, Barry seeks a fun and active family who can provide a balance of the structure that he requires and the love and affection he craves. A family should be prepared to advocate for Barry and to support his independence as he continues to grow and develop. He will do best in a two-parent home, with or without other children. Visits twice a year with his biological mother will need to be supported.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7946>

Can I Adopt?

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples.

As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.



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June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Brian Bohenko * John Kokocinski

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2 Family - Needs work! 1st Flr has 4 Rooms - 2 Bedrooms. 2nd & 3rd Flr - 6 Rooms, 2 Bedrooms 2nd Flr & 2 Bedrooms on 3rd Flr! 32,560 +/- sf. 75 Acre -. Property being sold "As-is". **\$259,000.**

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ON DEPOSIT

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OXFORD - LAND - General Business Zoned! Marijuana OVERLAY DISTRICT! LAND with 4,095 SF Metal Building! 124 SOUTHBRIDGE RD (RTE 20). Town Sewer Project Plans are Approved. 22,884 sq. ft Level Lot. 140 ft of road frontage. **EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES! \$795,000.**

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PUTNAM - LAND Zoned General Business. 29 acre 103' frontage. Water, Sewer, & city gas available. 2 street entrances. **\$125,000**

OXFORD - 2 Merriam Rd 80+/- Wooded Acres in Oxford & Charlton. **ON DEPOSIT \$329,000**

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Webster Lake 27 South Point Road



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OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- ft sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage, **\$811,000.**

Webster Lake 13 Bates Point Road



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The stunning orange flowers of Doubleshot snapdragons will have you looking for spaces in the garden and containers to include this winner. This 18 to 20 inch tall snapdragon features open-faced double flowers that start out in shades of orange and orange-red transitioning to a dusty shade as they age. Its strong stems produce lots of flower-filled branches all season long that don't break off in high winds.

Blue By You salvia is bursting with bright blue flowers from late spring into fall when spent flowers are removed. This perennial blooms up to two weeks earlier than similar varieties already on the market. It was tested over three seasons, including winters and proven to be hardy in zones 4b to 9a. It is a favorite of hummingbirds and butterflies, makes a great cut flower, is suitable for containers, and is heat tolerant.

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Make space in the vegetable garden for the high-yielding Kabocha Sweet Jade winter squash. The fruit weighs between one and two pounds, making it perfect for single servings of squash, as an edible soup bowl, or added to a variety of Asian-style dishes where a sweet, earthy nutritious squash is typically recommended. Roast, bake, or puree Sweet Jade's deep orange flesh that has a dry texture with a sweet flavor.

Grow San Joaquin jalapeno pepper when looking for big harvests in a short timeframe. This means you'll have lots of peppers available for canning, pickling, and serving roasted and stuffed to large groups of guests. Leave them on the plant longer, allowing them to turn a beautiful red while maintaining their flavor. These thick-walled peppers have just a hint of heat at 2,500-6,000 Scoville units.

Make room in your gardens and containers for these and other winning varieties. Adding new introductions that have been trialed by horticulture professionals across North America helps increase your gardening success.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, includ-



ing the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Some tips for surviving flu season

Flu season has peaked in New Hampshire, and COVID cases are back on the rise. Hospitals in Boston have reported putting several patients on ventilators due to COVID complications. A highly contagious variant, XBB has surfaced, and experts have reminded people to remain vigilant and take precautions such as wearing a mask on a plane or in any other space that puts one in close quarters with others.

The Flu has run rampant this year, and with many still unsure about getting vaccinated against influenza, we have some reminders and tips that will boost your immune system. Noted is the fact that even a flu shot cannot completely keep you safe from falling ill. Depending on what you want to find, you can read arguments on both sides of the flu vaccine debate. One thing we can all agree on, with or without the shot, is that there are things we can do to boost our immune system. Below is a friendly reminder of those simple steps. The first and most obvious step is to wash your hands as this is the most effective way to prevent the flu. The next step is to be mindful of maintaining gut health. Experts say 70 to 80 percent of our immune system lives there. Eating whole foods that are nutrient-dense is key. Abstaining from a diet with processed foods can boost your immunity — after all, food is medicine. Sticking with foods that you can't open, besides, of course, the famous banana is a good rule of thumb. Foods loaded with sugar weaken the immune system; this includes refined flours found in breads, pastries, crackers, pasta, and cereal. Loading up on vitamins A and D will help support your immune system. The highest levels of vitamin A are found in the liver of many animals such as duck, goose, beef, and lamb. If you refuse to eat liver, such as this Editor, an alternative would be sweet potatoes, cantaloupe, squash, carrots, spinach, and apricots.

Drinking bone broth can restore much needed minerals back into our bodies. Modern farming practices as well as the influx of processed foods has made the absorption of minerals more of a challenge. Bone broth contains magnesium, zinc, calcium, phosphorus, and Sulphur. Taking probiotics promote healthy gut flora which can help the body fight against viruses. Taking vitamin C is something we've heard our care givers repeat constantly throughout our youth. Some doctors suggest taking 1,000 milligrams a day on an empty stomach. If you already have a cold or a flu taking 1,000 milligrams two to four times a day could help according to doctors.

Lastly, find a way to get a good night's sleep, keep your stress at bay and exercise. Lack of sleep can increase inflammation levels in your body giving you a high white blood cell count. Sleep produces the hormones prolactin and melatonin, if you don't have enough of these, you will be more susceptible to infections. Avoid stress because it can cause a biochemical change in your gut as well which can compromise your immune system. A good workout will also boost your immune system. The flu is primarily spread through droplets made when those infected sneeze, talk or cough. The virus can be transmitted from up to six feet away.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mitten Tree tradition continues

To the Editor:

Many thanks to the generosity of the residents of Spencer for the many gifts made to the Town Hall "Mitten Tree."

Each year, the mitten tree goes up in the rotunda of the Town Hall in November, and is decorated with mittens, hats and gloves brought in by

townspeople. After the school holiday, the mittens are brought to the school nurse for distribution.

This year, nearly 60 hats and mittens were hung on the Mitten Tree.

LAURA TORTI
SPENCER

Let's get dress like children of God

To the Editor:

Men and women who profess to be Christians, who profess to believe, love and serve Jesus, the Son of the living God, God incarnate, have the responsibility to dress spiritually and physically obedient to God's established moral laws. When we spiritually accept Jesus in our heart, we become God's adopted children; we inherit God's righteousness and God's Holy Spirit teaches us, helps us to be holy, as God is holy day by day, one day at a time.

God's modest living and dress begins in Genesis 3: 6-11 — God revealed the nakedness of Adam and Eve and the beginning of modest living — and continues in Leviticus 11: 44. God is teaching and commanding us that we need to consecrate ourself. What is consecration? It is to be holy because God is holy, sacred, reverent, devoted. We are to be set apart from this world's temptations that offer sexual temptations, pleasures. We must not allow ourself to be seduced by this world's immoral living that is being offered daily through the media's variety of entertaining choices.

God has a moral and spiritual dress code, and when we confess, repent and accept Jesus as the Lord, Savior, God of our lives from our heart, we have the responsibility to control our emotions.

To be morally and spiritually clothed means we are righteous before God through His Son Jesus, who is the Lord and savior of our life morally, spiritually and physically because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.

To better understand who Jesus is — He is the second person of the Triune: God, God's Son, God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God is a pure spirit.

Psalm 15: 2 is very simple and to the point. We are called to live a blameless moral life that does not excite temptation that is pleasing to God.

Isaiah 5: 20-22: this warning cannot be more straightforward, to the point. If we, you, are not able to define the difference between good and bad, evil, you need to do some serious soul searching. If you think getting drunk, fornication, adultery, cohabitating is not wrong, sin, you are seriously deceived.

Malachi 2: 1-16 is warning us it is OK to divorce if the spouse has committed, is guilty of adultery against the spouse. God would prefer if the spouse who is the victim forgave his or her spouse; forgiving each other

and continue to serve and be obedient to God's moral laws.

Matthew 19: 9: Jesus is very explicit. God hates divorce and does allow divorce; however, God would prefer that the woman, wife, and the man, husband, would forgive each other and continue serving God through His Son Jesus.

Romans 1: 18-23: God is teaching and is revealing His anger against disorderly people who honor God with their lips, mouth but their heart is far from Him, God. Many people praise God and their heart, emotions seek idolatry, they idolize sexual pleasures.

Ephesians 1: 14 is reminding us that God chose us and saved us through Jesus, and many of us instead of being grateful and obedient to God are seeking to be idolaters and committing idolatry rather than serving and being obedient and praising God for our, your salvation.

I am suggesting you do some serious soul searching and consider practicing, living a virtuous life style. What are virtues? Virtues are several emotional actions inspired by God starting with faithfulness, a personal commitment to God and your family. Prudence is a virtue that helps us make the right choice. Justice is the virtue that leads us to respect the rights of others. Fortitude is the moral virtue that gives courage to obey what is right before God. Temperance is the virtue that gives us self-control. I don't know if you have ever considered those virtues, as for me I am not able to accomplish those virtues apart from Jesus, I was to ingrain in the world and physically defending and 30 years ago when I confessed and repented before God in Jesus it has become a day by day, one day at a time submitting to God's moral life style. Submitting to God's moral modest life style, and dressing. I was reminded in Titus 3: 4-6 it will take the help of the Triune God for us to accomplish modest living, conduct.

I am ending with 1 Timothy 2:5-6: We become separated from God by sin that we daily experience if we acknowledge and indulge, we must rebuke in the name of Jesus who is our mediator, Savior, Jesus is the only way to overcome Satan, sin. John 10: 9, & 11: 25John 14: 6, & Act 4: 12. As always, he choice is ours.

Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Senior Living at Prouty is thankful for your support

To the Editor:

Senior Living at Prouty on Main Street in Spencer would like to gratefully thank the local businesses who supported our annual holiday celebration for residents. Senior Living at Prouty is a nonprofit HUD project subsidized through Mainstay Supportive Housing and Home Care.

December of 2022 was our 12th such event, and included a homemade dinner, craft donations, and entertainment. Again, the door prizes were a great highlight! They were generously donated by the following businesses:

St. Joseph's Abbey, Advanced Auto Parts, Bayberry Bowling, Big Y, Black and White, Craig's Barbershop, Dairy Queen, Dippin' Donuts, Dunkin' Donuts, Eller's Restaurant in Leicester, Klem's, McDonalds, Mexicali, Price Chopper, Publick

House in Sturbridge, Richard Sugden Library, Subway, Thai House, 308 Lakeside, Tony's Cleaners, Uncle Sam's Pizza, Wal-Mart, and Whitco.

On behalf of everyone here at Senior Living at Prouty, we would like to thank you for your wonderful contributions, which greatly added to the festivities and were well appreciated! We are indeed fortunate to celebrate being part of the Spencer/Brookfields community together!

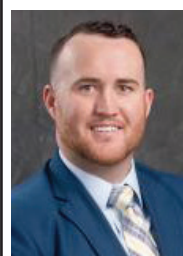
Happy New Year!
Sincerely,

ANNIE WUELFING
RESIDENT SERVICE COORDINATOR

SUSAN HORNER
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

LARRY OAKS
PRESIDENT
SENIOR LIVING AT PROUTY

Watch out for tax season scams



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It's that time of year when we do our taxes — but it's also the same time that tax scammers go to work. What scams should you watch for — and how can you avoid being victimized?

Sadly, the list of scams is pretty long, including demands for payment or requests for "additional information" pertaining to your tax refund, in which the sender asks for your Social Security number and other personal information. These scam emails can look quite official, often incorporating the IRS logo. You might also receive scam text messages containing bogus links claiming to be the IRS website or an online "tool" that can help process your refund faster.

But keep these points in mind:

The IRS generally won't contact you by phone and won't contact you by email, text messages or social media channels to ask for personal or financial information. The IRS begins most correspondence to taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

The IRS won't call to demand you make an immediate payment through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you owe taxes, the IRS generally will mail you a bill. And the IRS won't threaten to bring in the police or another law enforcement group to arrest you for not paying your taxes.

In general, be extremely skeptical about any type of communication purporting to be from the IRS that sounds bullying or over-inquisitive — and certainly don't give out any personal or financial information. But these fake messages aren't the only tax-season scams out there. You might even receive a direct deposit from what appears to be the U.S. Treasury Department — but if you weren't expecting it, something's likely not right. This payment could be a sign that a fraudulent tax return was filed in your name, and it might be followed by a communication from a supposed IRS agent requesting this overpayment be sent to them. If this happens to you, you'll want to contact the IRS right away, and you could also ask your bank to return the deposit to the government.

Other scams don't claim to originate directly from the IRS, as scammers pretend to be from real or imaginary tax organizations. For example, you could get a message from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS, but this agency won't contact you without a legitimate reason. Or you could receive a message from the nonexistent "Bureau of Tax Enforcement." Your best bet is to delete these messages immediately or send them to your spam folder.

Not all tax season scams originate from fraudulent IRS representatives or fake agencies. You also need to be careful about whom you hire to prepare your taxes. If possible, get a recommendation from a trusted friend or family member. And keep in mind that a legitimate tax preparer must have a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number and must sign your tax return. If someone doesn't have this number or is reluctant to sign your return, it may well be a sign that this individual is a "ghost preparer" who only wants to pocket your fee.

Tax scammers are, unfortunately, here to stay — but remaining vigilant can help you keep them from causing problems for you in this tax season and all the ones in the future.

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Fig fishing



Courtesy

This week’s picture shows a group of Whitinsville ice fishing anglers fishing at Meadow pond a few years ago. They are hoping for some ice soon so they can test their skills at catching a big fish.

Ice fishing remains on hold, at least for this neck of the woods. I decided to wait a week to discuss the joy and techniques of Jig fishing, which is also called Spudding! Back in the day, many Swedish families were living in the Worcester area, and worked in the Steel Mill on Millbury Street. They were hard workers, but also loved fishing, and were very good at it. Ice fishing was one of their favorite forms of fishing, and they made their fishing gear from

scratch. One particular Swedish gentleman lived on Millbury Street, almost across from the steel mill, and was well known by many ice fishing anglers. I often stopped by to buy some of the tackle he made in his garage. They also had made bags to carry the fish in, which also had a spot to carry a little liquid refreshment!

One of my first visits to his garage had me amazed at what he was making in his little workshop. He was mak-

ing his own jigs that were in the form of a teardrop, with brass on one side and chrome on the other. They were heavy enough to go through a thin layer of slush, often left in the hole after chopping a hole with his hand made ice chisel. They had a single hook attached to the jig which was often baited with a perch eye from one of his first freshly caught perch, using a piece of worm.

Jig fishing requires cutting a lot of holes in the ice, and although the holes were a bit rough, and only a three of inches around, yellow perch could easily be brought through them to the surface of the ice. If a large fish was encountered, the angler would come over to the hole and chisel it larger, as the angler held the fish just under the ice until the hole was made larger. It happened often, as many large bass and sometimes a large perch, was too small to bring the fish through. An angler would often cut more than 100 holes a day, with their ice chisels that were made at their workplace. The ice chisels were of high quality, and were a prize possession of each angler. This writer often fished with the late Stan Melnicki of Douglas, and before he passed, he gave me his homemade ice chisel, that has cut many holes in the ice over he years, until the power ice augers came into my possession. The chisel has saved my life on numerous occasions, as I still use it to test the ice as I travel across new frozen ponds and lakes. I guess Stan is still watching over me!

The latest ice augers are making ice



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fishing a lot easier for today’s anglers. Cutting 10 inch holes through eight or ten inches of ice can be done in seconds, allowing for more time fishing. Using jig sticks, an angler can catch a lot of fish in a day, but most jig fishing anglers return many of them to fight again. My brother Ken and I often targeted yellow perch, and they were often cooked the same day, by simply frying them in a cast iron skillet with a bit of cooking oil and rolling them in a mixture of yellow corn meal and flower. The sweet taste of the yellow perch was an annual meal, and as my wife cooked them I would run down to the Food Works restaurant in North Uxbridge, for an order of shrimp fried rice, and hot mustard, I am hoping for sum ice soon to have at least one meal before the warmer weather arrives. We could often catch eight or ten perch from one hole before chopping another hole just a few feet from the hole we were fishing. Perch swim in schools, and are often moving, so it is necessary to locate them when the hole stops producing. We often set in a couple of ice fishing tilts, just in case a big fish is in the area, but the coat of a dozen large shiners from a bait shop now sells for \$12. You can catch big fish on a jig stick also, and it is a lot more fun. Today jig sticks are widely accessible for little money, so do not leave home without one and be sure to bring the family. Hopefully, you will get a chance to try jig fishing, before spring arrives!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

Readers Share Hacks and Hints

The holiday are over, and winter remains in full swing, but thanks to readers’ suggestions, the season can be a little more hassle free! From easing pain to cleaning up, everyday tasks are a bit easier with the following ideas! Read on for the latest readers’ roster of tips and tricks.

And remember, send in your favorite tips and you could win a three-course dinner for two at Publick House in Sturbridge!

This clever reader turns the tables on a common hassle:

To unscrew small caps from wide containers such as chicken stock broth boxes I found that it’s easier to turn the box rather than the cap. I set the box on the counter, grab the cap



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

with one hand, and then use my other hand to turn the box until the seal breaks.

D o n n a
Lewandowski
Charlton,
MA

Pinecone wreaths are beautiful, until they’re not! Here’s a clever way to repurpose worn out wreaths that have served their time:

A somewhat dilapidated pinecone wreath makes a good base placed flat under a plant. Extra greenery or decorations may be placed among the cones.

Or, smear with peanut butter and bird seed and hang in a tree. Delighted birds will be YOUR treat!

Anne Wuelfing
Spencer, MA

**

This repurposing tip relieves pain and your budget!

Do you have bad knees? Use an old sock with the toe end cut off to make a sleeve to ease the pain of the knee. It works like the copper fit knee sleeves you buy for the same purpose.

Paul Davignon
Uxbridge, MA

**

Baking is a year round labor of love, and this reader found a simple way to make sure your tinted cookies are always eye appealing:

This time of year many of us are baking cookies. When making cookies that require coloring the dough, I add the food coloring to the mixture before adding the flour. The coloring blends more easily and completely.

Joan Mazeika

Oxford, MA

**

We all know if dryer lint traps aren’t cleaned often, they can be a fire hazard. Thanks to this reader’s hint, makes grabbing even that last bit of lint quicker and easier:

My tip is to use a toothbrush to clean lint from the dryer’s lint trap. It works really well!

Terry Maiorana

Ashford, CT

**

Prize Winner
Congratulations to Joan Mazeika of Oxford, MA, whose name was drawn as winner for Dinner for Two at the Publick House in Sturbridge. She offered the great kitchen tip above.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn

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

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

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes

We’ve seen so many superhero movies that we’ve been conditioned to think that a hero must have superhuman abilities. Like Superman, “faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive!” They must be able to fly, shoot lasers through their eyes, and perform feats of incredible strength and agility.

The truth is that heroes come in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes even a little girl can stand up to great tyranny and win.

It reminds me of the old phrase, “It’s not the size of the person, but the size of their heart that counts.”

Have you ever heard of Malala Yousafzai? Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan on July 12, 1997. She was raised in a conservative family and received her early education at home. Her father was a teacher and an education activist. He instilled in her a love for learning and a desire to improve the education system in Pakistan.

In 2009, when Malala was only 12 years old. The Taliban began taking control of the Swat Valley, where Malala lived. The Taliban’s brutal reign of terror was a nightmare for the local population.

As the Islamist extremist group tightened its grip on the region, they imposed a harsh version of the Islamic law that stripped away the people’s fundamental rights and freedoms.

Girls were banned from school, and those who dared to defy the ban were tortured and killed. The Taliban destroyed dozens of girls’ schools, leaving

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TOBY
MOORE

thousands of young girls without access to education. Women were forced to wear burqas in public and were beaten and killed if they dared to defy this oppressive rule.

The Taliban thugs carried out random bombings and targeted assassinations, causing absolute fear and panic.

Public executions and amputations were punishments for crimes. Anyone accused of spying or collaborating with the Pakistani government was publicly beheaded.

In this situation, I’m sure many of the local population sought help from the government or lobbied the United Nations for Peacekeepers. No doubt, many prayed for a miracle, never realizing their miracle was a twelve-year-old girl.

Malala’s father, who ran a school for girls, refused to comply with the ban, and Malala began speaking out against the Taliban’s actions.

In September 2008, Malala wrote a blog for the BBC under a pen name, describing life under the Taliban. The blog was a huge success. Soon after, she began speaking to the media about her life and the importance of education for girls.

What kind of threat could a twelve-year-old girl be to the mighty Taliban? Enough of a threat that Taliban leadership unanimously decided to kill her, and they knew where she lived. Death threats were delivered to her house and slid underneath her door. Even newspapers began publishing threats against her.

One day in 2012, she had defiantly attended a school to take an exam; while riding a bus on the way home, a Taliban hitman boarded the bus and asked which of the children was Malala; after identifying herself, he put a bullet in her head, and injuring two others.

Indeed, the attacker thought he was successful in his attempt. After being rushed to the hospital for a five-hour surgery to remove the bullet, miraculously, the doctors said she had a 70% chance of survival.

Malala survived and seemed to have a full recovery. In 2013, she spoke at the United Nations. She said, “The terrorists thought they would change my aims and stop my ambitions, but nothing changed in my life except this: weakness, fear, and hopelessness died. Strength, power, and courage were born ... “

Despite the odds, Malala Yousafzai stood up against the Taliban’s brutal regime and fought for girls’ education in Pakistan.

In 2014, she became the youngest ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Malala Yousafzai continues to fight and, no doubt, is just beginning her journey to greatness. Although the Taliban is alive and well, Malala has won. Her international fame and attention have captivated the world, and there is no turning back.

You have within you a strength that is greater than you can imagine. Like Malala, you can pursue your dreams, stand up against tyranny, and win.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



POLICE REPORTS

Leicester

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5
12:34 a.m.: assault (Stafford Street), report taken; 1:28 a.m.: investigation (Lake Drive), report taken; 10:00 a.m.: animal complaint (Sabina Circle), referred to ACO; 10:18 a.m.: ambulance (Park Avenue, Worcester), call canceled; 11:10 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:05 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), spoken to; 1:15 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:29 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 4:02 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unfounded; 4:09 p.m.: welfare check (Denny Place), spoken to; 6:24 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:09 p.m.: accident (Auburn Street), mv towed; 9:02 p.m.: ambulance (Charles Street), transported.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
8:55 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 1:14 p.m.: accident (Whittemore Street), report taken; 1:39 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), resolved; 2:12 p.m.: accident (Main Street), transported to hospital; 3:31 p.m.: welfare check (Deer Pond Road), resolved; 3:38 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:03 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:36 p.m.: ambulance (Providence Street, Worcester), transported; 5:20 p.m.: assist citizen (Tobin Road); 6:43 p.m.: ambulance (Chestnut Street, Spencer), transported; 7:53 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 8:38 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 11:56 p.m.: commercial alarm (South Main Street), false alarm.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
2:27 a.m.: suspicious person (Locust Street), unfounded; 12:41 p.m.: family problem (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 12:54 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 1:31 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 2:07 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 3:31 p.m.: welfare check (Locust Street), transported; 4:09 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 4:33 p.m.: welfare check (Collier Avenue), transported to hospital; 4:39 p.m.: family problem (Rawson Street), peace restored; 4:39 p.m.: ambulance (Collier Avenue), transported; 5:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 7:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:06 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:19 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
5:01 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 6:00 a.m.: welfare check (Washburn Street), services rendered; 6:27 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:37 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:24 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:31 a.m.: hold-up alarm (Pleasant Street), resolved; 10:11 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 12:34 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 12:53 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 12:59 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), referred; 2:02 p.m.: escort (Chapel Street), assisted; 2:52 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 3:07 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 3:40 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued/2; 4:08 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Mulberry Street),

unable to serve; 4:22 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Main Street), unable to serve; 4:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:37 p.m.: ambulance (Vassar Street), transported; 6:27 p.m.: hanging wires (Marshall Street), resolved; 6:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO; 6:50 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), spoken to; 7:00 p.m. family problem (Locust Street), transported; 8:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Market Street), advised civil action; 8:36 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:30 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:06 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
12:03 a.m.: ambulance (Greenville Street, Spencer), transported; 12:28 a.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 12:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), spoken to; 1:29 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 8:59 a.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), resolved; 10:03 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 10:08 a.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 10:18 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:27 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 10:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:08 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:28 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 11:29 a.m.: trespassing (Mulberry Street), resolved; 11:44 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 12:57 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 1:30 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 2:49 p.m.: summons service (Lexington Avenue), served; 3:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:07 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:01 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 5:21 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 5:47 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 5:50 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 6:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 7:38 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street, Worcester), transported; 8:03 p.m.: mv stop (Chapel Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 8:28 p.m.: harassment (South Main Street), spoken to; 9:42 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:15 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), resolved; 11:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10
12:14 a.m.: animal complaint (Parker Street), referred to ACO; 1:10 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:34 a.m.: ambulance (Harberton Drive), transported; 8:11 a.m.: assist other PD (Town Beach Road), resolved; 11:03 a.m.: residential alarm (Auburn Street), call canceled; 12:14 p.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Street, Worcester), transported; 12:39 p.m.: ambulance (Mulberry Street), transported; 2:59 p.m.: ambulance (Goddard Memorial Drive, Worcester), transported; 4:03 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:42 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 6:15 p.m.: suspicious person (Paxton Street), spoken to; 6:53 p.m.: suspicious activity (Lakeview Drive), gone on arrival; 6:59 p.m.: ambulance (Harberton Drive), transported.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
12:49 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:53 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 2:01 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 5:17 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:10 a.m.: assist citizen

(Pleasant Street), spoken to; 11:18 a.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), no service; 11:28 a.m.: ambulance (Atwood Terrace), transported; 11:36 a.m.: summons service (Maple Street), served; 5:10 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:52 p.m.: family problem (Salminen Drive), spoken to; 7:05 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 7:22 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), call canceled; 7:24 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 7:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 8:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 9:00 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), resolved; 11:33 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), unfounded.

Spencer

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4
1:38 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Princeton PD bolo; 2:10-2:15 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:31 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 8:13 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 8:17 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), rep. theft of wallet/phone; 8:21 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tenant/landlord dispute; 8:37 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address/4; 8:55 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:59 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:15 am.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. trespasser on property; 10:48 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), traffic backing up; 12:41 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 12:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:01 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:14 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 2:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Brown Street), car horn blaring for hour; 2:02 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: issue w/son; 3:22 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:22 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:33 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Greenville Street), no contact; 4:34 p.m.: restraining order service (Old Farm Road); 5:34 p.m.: disturbance (McCormick Road), unruly family member; 11:12 p.m.: mv repossessed (Chestnut Street), info taken; (total daily mv stops – 0).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5
1:34-2:58 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:40 a.m.: suspicious persons (Linden Street), investigated; 2:00 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 7:36 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 7:43 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), no emergency; 8:06 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:19 a.m.: residential alarm (Lakeview Drive), referred; 10:05 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:26 am.: arrest (West Main Street), assist MSPCA w/arrest; 11:29 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:31 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:40 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: missing cat; 2:15 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 3:04 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), unaccompanied young child found; 3:32 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:50 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), resolved; 6:23 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), loud custody dispute; 7:46 p.m.: multiple harassment prevention orders served/4 (Bixby Road); 7:51 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 8:09 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:38-10:01 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
12:10 a.m.: arrest warrant issued (Water Street), Eric Wayne Osgood, 29, 2 Water Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 12:34-2:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:54-12:58 a.m.: parking violation/3 (Elm, Main, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 1:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:07 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 2:41 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 3:25 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 6:09 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), inform East Brookfield PD/dog loose; 8:40 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 9:57 a.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 10:09 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:15 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 12:21 p.m.: disabled mv (Ash Street), services rendered; 2:08 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. welfare check; 3:30 p.m.: accident (Donnelly Cross Road), mv vs dog; 3:33 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:56 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 5:35 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Grove Street), no contact; 5:44 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 6:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 6:23 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mv/no lights; 6:30 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 6:34 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:39 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:31 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bellevue Drive), resolved; 11:41 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; (total daily mv stops – 2),

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
12:08 a.m.: residential alarm (Clark Road), services rendered; 12:08-3:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:45

a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 12:47 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 7:00 a.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 7:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Clark Road), re: footprints outside home; 8:40 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:58 a.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), ex-bf throwing items on lawn; 10:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Road), spoken to; 10:58 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), investigated; 11:03 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), spoken to; 1:36 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), re: loose sidewalk bricks; 2:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), info taken; 3:20 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 5:46 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:45 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), services rendered; 9:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Candlewood Drive), req. assistance; 9:46 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), Diane Marie Piskator, 67, 25 Tory Fort Lane, Worcester, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 11:36 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
4:37 a.m.: building checked, secure; 8:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Sherman Grove), cat found; 9:27 a.m.: officer wanted (Short Drive), need to contact probation; 10:00 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 10:42 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 10:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), dog found; 11:32 a.m.: officer wanted (Thompson Pond Road), tire track through yard/to water; 1:20 p.m.: juvenile matter (Charlton Road), spoken to; 3:14 p.m.: 911 call (Olde Main Street), open line; 3:17 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 6:37 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Auburn PD bolo/armed robbery; 8:27 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), UMass PD bolo/missing male; 11:32 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); (total daily mv stops – 2).

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
12:01 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 12:39-2:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:24 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 5:16 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 7:28 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:31 a.m.: medical/general (Lake Avenue); 7:40 a.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 8:21 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), barking/howling dog; 9:02 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 9:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), plastic stool in road; 9:48 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: horses; 9:50 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), sign down; 10:36 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Casey Road), tickets issued; 10:38 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 11:02 a.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; 12:25 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 2:21 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 2:26 p.m.: mutual aid (Hastings Road), Worcester PD req. welfare check; 2:54 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), erratic operator; 5:31 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 5:52 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); (total daily mv stops – 2).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10
12:21 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 12:46-1:36 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:11 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), investigated; 1:45-1:59 a.m.: parking violations (Church, Mechanic, Chestnut, Pleasant streets), tickets issued; 2:03 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 2:21 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 3:17 a.m.: mv repossessed (Old Farm Road), info taken; 5:55 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: info on mv accident; 7:36 a.m.: disabled mv (Bixby Road), assisted; 7:38 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:19 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 9:59 a.m.: elderly matter (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:36 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 11:20 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street), lift assist; 11:54 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:03 p.m.: disturbance (Adams Street), ex-broke into residence; 12:20 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 1:59 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 2:33 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Chestnut Street), Jacob S. Fontanez, 31, 55 Hitchcock Road, Worcester, warrant, b&e for misdemeanor, resisting arrest, arrest; 2:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), spoken to; 4:51 p.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 5:48 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 5:59 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 6:06 p.m.: medical/general (Point Eastalee Drive); 6:11 p.m.: medical/general (McDonald Street); 6:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Overlook Drive), loose dog; 6:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 7:25 p.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); 8:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (Ash Street), investigated; 8:49 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:16 p.m.: fire alarm (Kittredge Road), referred; 10:28 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); (total daily mv stops – 1).



CUDDY

continued from page A1

Cuddy, who was born and raised at the 220 North Main Street property.

The agency offers all types of property and casualty insurance. Employees are also heavily involved in community-building activities each year.

"We try to make the community a big part of what we do. We support as many local businesses and organizations as possible," Betsy Cuddy added.

Additional members of the agency team include Heidi Hunderup and Kayla Couture, who are thanked for their hard work as part of the office staff.

"I love being in a small town and coming to work every day," Hunderup said.

The agency not only serves local customers, but also residents living across the state, including residents of the Berkshires and Cape Cod.

To learn more about the agency and its services, visit www.Cuddyinsurance.com.

LEICESTER

continued from page A1

ment is once more fully staffed and a succession plan with training time has been put into place," read an informational statement released to residents ahead of Town Meeting.

Officials are thrilled with the leadership Antanavica has provided for the department, and they look forward to him getting the department prepared for its transition to the next chief.

"I appreciate the fact that he wants to stay, and this will give us time for a thorough process moving forward," said Select Board Chairman Allen Phillips. "He does a great job and is well-deserving of this opportunity."

For Antanavica, it meant a lot to see the strong display of support from residents at Town Meeting. The vote to extend him was unanimously supported on the floor.

"My wife and I were pleasantly surprised to see the support to extend my

tenure through a home rule petition," the Chief said. "We have turned a corner on hiring and are heading toward a full complement of officers."

Town Meeting voters also authorized the transfer of \$82,700 from the HCA stabilization fund to purchase equipment to establish an after-hours gaming program at Leicester High School and Middle School.

Passage of this article allows for the purchase of 30 gaming computers that will be used for the after-school gaming program. The goal of the program is to give students additional opportunities for socialization and recreation when school is not in session, officials said.

"This is a great way to reach students who might not be involved in sports and other activities. It gives them an opportunity to have fun and work together as a team," Phillips said.

Slated to run between 2 and 5 p.m. after school, the supervised program will give kids a safe, fun alternative during hours when they might other-

wise be alone at home.

"Our students asked for this program, Leicester delivered, and it will be a source of pride for our entire school community. I look forward to reporting on future student success," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "E-sports is the fastest growing sport in the country, requiring a tremendous amount of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity from players to achieve and sustain success."

Funding for the coaches' stipend of the after-school program is being provided by the Leicester Christmas Display charitable organization, run by Scott and Denise Weikel. Their contributions will fund stipends for the first five years of the program to ensure a successful foundation.

For more information about the Town Meeting results from Jan. 10, visit www.leicesterma.org.



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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO22P4110PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
In the matter of:
Tyler Christopher Wheeler
Of: Warren MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Loretta Y. Beaudry of Warren, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Tyler Christopher Wheeler** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Loretta Y. Beaudry of Warren, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **01/31/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make

decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice
December 28, 2022
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
January 20, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22C0603CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Tyler Patrick Page
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Tyler Patrick Page** of **Sterling MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Ashley Spencer Winters
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/31/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 04, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
January 20, 2023

BURNCOAT POND WATERSHED DISTRICT OFFICIAL WARRANT SPECIAL MEETING OF PROPRIETORS AND TAX RATE SETTING

Worcester, SS
To the District Clerk:
GREETINGS: You are hereby directed to notify the voters of the Burncoat Pond Watershed District to meet at the Leicester Senior Center located at 40 Winslow Ave, Leicester, MA 01524 February 7, 2023 at 5PM to act on the following article:
Article 1. To see if the District will vote to transfer a sum of money from taxation, free cash, to adjust the budget for Fiscal Year 2023, or to take any action thereon.
Tax Rate Setting Meeting to follow Special Meeting
Burncoat Pond Watershed District Management Committee
January 20, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 58 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dylan Hammond to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, said mortgage dated September 18, 2020, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 63300 at Page 33 and now held by Movement Mortgage, LLC by virtue of an assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns to Movement Mortgage, LLC dated January 11, 2022 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66928, Page 145 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on February 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon located in the northeasterly part of Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, containing 3.6 acres on the southerly side of Thompson Pond Road, formerly known as Old County Road, bounded and described

as follows:
Beginning at a point on the southwesterly line of said road at land formerly of one Lyon called the Makynen lot; THENCE South fifty degrees fifty minutes West three hundred fifty-seven (357) feet; THENCE North forty-five degrees West four hundred and thirty-one (431) feet; Those two courses run by the Makynen lot, in part; THENCE North fifty-five and one-half degreed East three hundred twenty-two (322) feet to said road; THENCE easterly on said road four hundred eighteen (418) feet more or less to the place of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor (s) by deed recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith.
The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated September 18, 2020, and recorded in Book 63300 at Page 29 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for Movement Mortgage, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (860) 677-2868
January 20, 2023
January 27, 2023
February 3, 2023

SPORTS

Important game goes Leicester's way over Bartlett



Leicester's Sarah O'Connor releases a pass down the court.

Nick Ethier photos



Nina Dykas of Leicester surveys the court, looking to make a pass, while Bartlett's Victoria Spitz defends.



Leicester's Maeve Nelson gets fouled by Bartlett's Dawanee Phanthavong while attempting a layup.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEICESTER — Two girls' varsity basketball teams in desperate need of a victory took to Leicester High's court on Thursday, Jan. 12 when the Wolverines hosted Bartlett High. And Leicester



Bartlett's Neveah Espola works the ball around a Leicester defender.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK — TANTASQUA SWIM RESULTS

Monday, Jan. 9
Tantasqua boys 86, Tyngsborough 66 — First place finishers for the boys were Ethan Korenda (100 free), Ethan Zhu (200 free, 100 back), Evan Dambly (100 fly), Jonah Scherer (100 breaststroke) and the three relays consisting of Zach Hilborn, Jonah Scherer, Evan Dambly, Ethan Korenda and Ethan Zhu.
Tantasqua girls 93, Tyngsborough 64 — On the girls' side, Kira Dambly (200 free, 100 back), Zoey Zhu (50 free, 100 breaststroke), Tori Strendup (100 free), Ali Regan (200 IM) and Charlotte Ardis (100 fly) won their individual races. The girls won their three relays as well consisting of Fatima Robbins, Sasha Hildago, Mackenna Pentoney, Molly Biladeau, Kira Dambly, Zoey Zhu, Tori Strendup and Ali Regan.
Wednesday, Jan. 11
Shrewsbury 81, Tantasqua boys 72 — In hosting the Colonials at the Tantasqua pool, the Warriors nearly defeated Shrewsbury. Tantasqua's winners were Evan Dambly (200 free), Ethan Zhu (200 IM), Ethan Korenda (50 free) and Jonah Scherer (500 free), plus two of the three relay teams that consisted of Ethan Zhu, Zachary Hilborn, Evan Dambly and Ethan Korenda. The boys are now 3-3.
Shrewsbury 107, Tantasqua 66 girls — Zoey Zhu (100 back) and the 400 free relay team of Kira Dambly, Molly Bilodeau, Alison Regan and Zoey Zhu defeated the Colonials, but it wasn't enough for the team victory. The girls are now 2-4 on the season.

turned a competitive game — they led after one quarter, 11-9, at halftime, 22-15, and through three periods, 27-17 — into a decisive victory as they won the final frame by 10 points, 18-8, for a 45-25 win. "That's kind of an understatement," Chris Barry, head coach of the Wolverines, said when asked if his team needed this win. "We've been competitive in games, we've been leading in the fourth quarter and we've let some games slip away. One could argue we're much better than 2-7. I think it was great to come out and play together."
There were three lead changes in the first quarter, and a fourth took place in the opening moments of the second when the Indians scored the first six points to take a 15-11 lead. But Leicester embarked on an 11-0 run to end the period, resulting in their 22-15 halftime lead. Barry noted that Ayva Connor had

multiple steals in the run and Ellie Hills knocked down a much-needed 3-pointer. "The last two minutes of the second, we made a little run. It put us up by seven, huge," said Barry.
The low-scoring third quarter saw the Wolverines grab 5 points to the Indians' 2, which put Leicester ahead, 27-17. "We stuck in there for the first three quarters," said Bartlett head coach Kashawn Hampton. "I think we missed a lot of open shots, which kind of hindered our progress. We've got to execute when we have the opportunities."
Bartlett made just 7 of 21 attempts from the free throw line and struggled from inside the paint.
The Wolverines put the game away by having their highest scoring output in the fourth quarter. Sarah O'Connor scored 7 of her game-high 19 points in

the frame. She also finished with 12 rebounds for a double-double. "Sarah got into a little bit of a groove," said Barry.
Other top contributors for Leicester included Maeve Nelson (13 points) and Kassidy Poce (9 rebounds), as they improved to 2-7.
Bartlett's key players included Victoria Spitz (8 points, 8 rebounds), Tiffany Salazar (7 points, 8 rebounds) and Neveah Espola (game-high 13 rebounds). The Indians played the contest with only seven players dressing. "They absolutely showed fight. I give it up to my girls, we're low numbers right now but they fought hard," said Hampton. "We'll just keep fighting and go from there."
Bartlett is now 2-5 on the season.

Girls on the Run Worcester County invites new participants for 2023 Spring Season

Girls on the Run Worcester County's registration for girl participants is now open. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires girls in grades 3-8 to be joyful, healthy and confident. The 10-week program incorporates running to teach critical life skills, encourage personal development and foster team building and community service. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons. Teams meet twice a week for 10 weeks, and the program culminates with all teams participating in a 5K event.
Girls on the Run Worcester County will serve over 30 sites throughout the 2023 Spring Season beginning the week of March 27. The non-profit organization is currently seeking girls in grades 3-8 to participate in their transformative, confidence-building Spring season.
Jennifer Bolt, a coach with Girls on the Run throughout Fall 2022, stated that her school "saw girls develop new friendships - both in the program and around school," as well as "demonstrate great pride and excitement in knowing that they can run a 5K." Similarly, coach Heidi Richard saw a transformation in her team, particularly in the Community Impact Project portion of the program. Each team completes this project to enhance their leadership skills and serve their community. Her team chose to collect supplies to donate to a local animal shelter. "From speaking at all school meetings, to making an announcement over the intercom each morning for a week, our girls went above and beyond to spread the word and get their community involved," Heidi said.
Girls in grades 3-8 can register today to be entered into "lottery status," which gives each girl a fair shot to participate in the program. The lottery will run through Feb. 3, and those who register during this period will be notified of their girl's registration status no later than Feb. 6. Following this period, registration will be on a first come, first serve basis.
For more information about coaching or registering girls in the Girls on the Run program, visit www.gotr-worc.org.

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SPORTS

Minutemen fall three points shy in defensive affair with Worcester Tech



Bay Path's Peter Barbale fights through multiple Worcester Tech defenders while drawing a foul.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — According to Al Greenough, head coach of the Bay Path Regional boys' varsity basketball team, the Minutemen and Worcester Tech routinely battle closely, with defense being the key.

"We always have a low-scoring, defensive battle with Worcester Tech. We're both very good defensive teams," explained Greenough.

And that was the name of the game again when Bay Path hosted the Eagles on Friday, Jan. 13. Greenough was

pleased with holding Worcester Tech to a low point total, but the Minutemen simply came up three points shy of victory.

The Eagles won the slugfest, 42-39, improving to 4-2 in the process. Bay Path is now 4-4.

"They played hard tonight, they worked hard. Sometimes in a game it comes down to a play here or a play there — a missed shot here, a turnover there — and the bottom line is at the end of the game they did more to get a couple more points than we did," said Greenough.



Trent Szela of Bay Path works his way around a Worcester Tech defender while dribbling down the court.

The Minutemen held a 15-10 advantage after the first quarter of play and then Peter Barbale opened the second period with a 3-pointer, but Tech won the remainder of the quarter by a 12-3 margin to grab a 22-21 lead at the break.

"A couple of the guys really didn't get into the flow of the game and that really affected us overall," Greenough said of Bay Path's early foul trouble, of which they committed 10-plus through the first two quarters.

The Minutemen continued to lock in defensively, though, and held the Eagles to their lowest scoring quarter total — 6 points — in the third. Bay Path managed 7 points in the frame and it was all tied up at 28-28 as play entered the fourth quarter.

"We play with the notion, the idea that if you play defense you're going to be in every game. We pride ourselves on defense and work hard at it every day," said Greenough. "Offensively, (Worcester Tech) couldn't do anything that they've been doing all year long, so I felt good about that, but they ended up hitting a couple more shots than we did in the end."

The Eagles scored those precious

points after Bay Path's Trent Szela (10 points) made two free throws with 37 seconds to go, giving the Minutemen a 39-38 lead. First, Worcester Tech's Teriq Goodman finished a layup and then, with 12 seconds to go, Goodman made two free throws during a one-and-one opportunity.

Once Barbale (12 points) heaved a deep pass with four seconds to play and it was intercepted by Tech, the game was over.

"I think we've beaten Worcester Tech once over the last 50 years, and that was last year. For some reason we always end up coming up a little bit short," said Greenough.

Now sporting an even .500 record, Greenough still hopes for Bay Path to earn a spot into the Division 4 State Tournament if they can stay at — or above — the .500 ledger.

"We want to get to the 10 wins and get to the State Tournament. We started off with a very difficult schedule and end with a very difficult schedule. We're going to be getting into the heart of our league now. We have to take care of business in our league," said Greenough.

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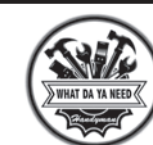
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PUBLIC NOTICE

BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

EAST BROOKFIELD DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAIL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

DUDLEY DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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TCA looks forward to Catholic Schools Week



SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy, Southbridge, looks forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week

at the end of January. This is a week dedicated to giving thanks, community outreach projects, and appreciating the many wonderful benefits of Catholic Education.

Sunday, Jan. 29 will start the exciting week off with Mass and an Open House to invite curious families to see what Trinity is all about.

Monday is Student Appreciation Day and a Schoolwide STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, & Math) activity. On Tuesday, students will experience Winter Games while wearing their class color. As the week progresses, Grandparents will be invited for a special breakfast at the school

on Wednesday. Thursday, students will attend an all-school Mass for the “Feast of the Presentation of the Lord,” which will be held at St. Mary’s Church. That evening parents will enjoy the annual Student Talent Show as a thank you from the school for their dedication to Catholic Education. Students will entertain their families with their many talents. The week will end on Friday with a

community outreach activity and Drop Everything and Read Day! Learn more at www.trinitycatholicacademy.org

Coinciding with these festivities, Southbridge Catholic Alumni, former students of all Southbridge catholic schools in town are holding an online fundraiser in support of the future of Southbridge Catholic Schools (sbdge-cathalum@tca11.com).

DA offers funds to support safe end-of-year school events



WORCESTER — For the fifth year, District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. is offering funding to support safe post-prom and post-graduation programs designed to keep students from driving impaired.

“Prom and graduation are major milestones that deserve to be celebrated, but too often we see these celebrations turn into tragedies,” Mr. Early said. “We’ve been proud to help fund nearly 20 different post-prom and post-graduation events for the last five years. We will continue to offer these funds to help provide students with the fun and safe events they deserve.”

These events, organized and overseen by adults, offer safe drug- and alcohol-free alternatives to high-risk activ-

ities that often follow end of the year celebrations for high school students.

District Attorney Early felt it was vital to continue supporting these programs and is utilizing his Drug Forfeiture Reinvestment Program this year. Funding to support these grants was previously provided by the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund.

Schools and parent groups can apply for these grants to either support existing events or to assist in establishing new events. Applications for funding requests are due by Feb. 16.

To request a grant application, contact Ellen Miller at ellen.miller@mass.gov.



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