

# SPENCER NEW LEADER

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## New programs connect local students and seniors



From left, School Committee Chair Donna McCance, Senior Center Director Rachelle Cyr, and local student Ayva Connor.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – School officials are teaming up with the Senior Center to create new opportunities for connecting students and seniors.

The Council on Aging (COA) is working toward putting together several new, innovative programs for seniors. With help from school leaders, the new-look lineup will include an array of intergenerational programs.

“While we were able to keep things moving during the pandemic on a cautious level for our seniors, we are now looking into a variety of programs to invigorate participation within our community,” said Senior Center Director Rachelle Cyr.

Even before the launch of new programming, the School Department and

Senior Center have already forged a major bond. Last week, School Committee Chair Donna McCance was approved by the Select Board as the latest member of the Council on Aging Board. McCance was added after unanimous votes by the Council on Aging and selectmen.

“The COA Board is very pleased that Donna has accepted to be a member, as she will be able to oversee important functions, especially in our connections with our schools,” Cyr said. “Brett Kustigian, Leicester School District Superintendent, was present at our last COA Board meeting and enthusiastically endorsed her appointment.”

Added Cyr, “Because Donna is the Chair of the Leicester School Committee—and with her

extensive background in education as a teacher and educational leader—she is an ideal liaison for us.”

In her new role on the COA Board, McCance will help lead multiple programs that are being planned between the Senior Center and schools. These include the Pen Pal Program and Career Option Day.

The Pen Pal Program, which ran successfully in the past, is expected to restart soon.

“We currently have 25 seniors who will be writing with fourth grade students from Leicester Elementary School,” Cyr said. “This program provides a connection between our seniors and our young children. One of our former participants, Marilyn Hyland, participat-

Please Read **PROGRAM**, page **A5**

## Retiring Police Chief reflects on 25 years in Spencer



Photo Courtesy

Spencer Police Chief David Darrin will retire in March.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Set to retire in March, Police Chief David Darrin is receiving an outpouring of thanks from across the community for his 25 years at the helm of the department.

Chief Darrin’s last day will be March, 11—the final chapter of a career that served multiple agencies. Before he was chosen to lead the Spencer Police Department, Darrin spent three years as the chief in North Brookfield. He previously served ten years as a sergeant in Sturbridge, plus more than two years as an officer with the Boston Housing Police.

Reflecting on his time in Spencer, Darrin is appreciative of the countless public safety officials, town leaders,

residents, and business owners who provided support over the years.

“My service to the community has been an honor,” Darrin said. “My strength as a leader is made possible by the support of my officers, town leaders, and community members.”

Over a career spanning a quarter of a century, there were plenty of memorable moments for Darrin. He especially enjoyed opportunities to personally make a difference in assisting people throughout the community, whether it was at a town event, a police response, or within his own department.

“When I could help an officer with a professional or personal matter—or do the same for a citizen that was having a crisis or improve their quality of

Please Read **DARRIN**, page **A6**

## Leicester school officials provide more information on oil spill

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – School officials are digging deeper to provide more information to residents on the oil spill incident at the elementary school.

During the Oct. 11 School Committee meeting, members supported authorizing the school department’s new legal counsel to review the March 31, 2021, incident. The goal is to eventually open an inves-

tigation that can yield more answers for residents.

“I’ve been getting a lot of questions and hearing different answers and speculations. The public wants to know what happened,” School Committee

Chair Donna McCance said during the Oct. 11 meeting. “I’d like to have an investigation so we can all understand what happened, how it happened, and get the information out there. The people in our com-

munity have a right to know what happened.”

Since the summer of 2021, the community has received several updates on the oil spill

Please Read **SPILL**, page **A4**

## LHS Unified basketball team celebrates Senior Night

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – The school community rallied together last week to celebrate Senior Night for members of the LHS unified basketball team.

Held at Leicester High School, the Oct. 26 program was attended by students, teachers, parents, and staff members from throughout the district. Guests were thrilled to support the unified basketball squad as they hosted Nipmuc Regional High School.

“Unified basketball has exceeded our expectations,” said Jennifer St. John, an LHS teacher and coach of the unified team. “We knew that the athletes and helpers would benefit from the opportunity to play together. This team has gone beyond that—it has unified the school. It has instilled excitement, camaraderie, and pride in our school community.”

Team members are grateful for the friendships and opportunities made possible by the program.

“Unified basketball is a good sport where we can have people who play



Photo Courtesy

Members of the Leicester High School unified basketball team hosted Nipmuc Regional High School for Senior Night

on a team with others. It’s a good team to make friends on, and it’s fun,” said team member Caleb Evans.

LHS senior and unified team member Steven Jyringi was one of the brightest stars of the event. He has

been a Special Olympics athlete throughout his career at Leicester Public Schools, and the entire community celebrated his accomplishments on Senior Night.

“It was such an awesome night.

It was the greatest joy to see Steven so happy, and seeing all the students there to support the team was so heartwarming,” read a statement

Please Read **LHS**, page **A3**



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# Rediscover the Convenience of the Crock Pot

Few modern appliances match the convenience of a crock pot. There's no doubt about it, the slow cooker is making a comeback – even if it does have to share counter space with the air fryer!

With the chilly weather upon us, the pleasure of coming home to a hearty, comfort meal cannot be overstated. Thanks to the ease of absentee cooking, even harried households can enjoy a comfort meal every night of the week.

In celebration of the slow cooker, this week's column will spotlight an array of delicious recipes that are so easy, they can be compiled before you dash out the door in the morning. Just add a salad and you're good to go!

### Saucy Maple Country Ribs

**Ingredients:** One and a half pounds country style boneless pork ribs; one third cup pure maple syrup; one tablespoon soy sauce; two tablespoons fresh chopped onion; one half teaspoon garlic powder; one quarter teaspoon each cinnamon, ginger, and allspice; dash of pepper

**Directions:** Place pork in the crock-pot. Combine remaining ingredients; pour over pork. Cover and cook on low for 7 to 9 hours.

### Chicken Breast A L'Orange

**Ingredients:** Three chicken breasts, halved; one can of cream of celery or cream of chicken soup (Campbell's has a Healthy Request choice); five mushrooms, sliced; two sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered; two thirds cup flour; one half cup freshly squeezed orange juice; one half teaspoon orange rind, grated; three tablespoons flour; one teaspoon salt; one teaspoon nutmeg; one half teaspoon cinnamon; two teaspoons brown

sugar; one dash each of pepper and garlic powder.

**Directions:** Rinse chicken breasts and pat dry. Combine two thirds cup flour with salt, nutmeg, cinnamon, pepper and garlic powder. Thoroughly coat chicken in flour mixture. Place sweet potato slices in bottom of crock pot. Place chicken breasts on top. Combine soup with remaining ingredients and stir well. Pour soup mixture over chicken breasts. Cover and cook on low heat for 8 to 10 hours or on high setting for 3 to 4 hours, or until chicken and vegetables are tender. Serve over hot buttered rice.

### Shortcut Chile

**Ingredients:** one pound lean ground beef or turkey; one small onion; chopped; one teaspoon salt; one bay leaf; one teaspoon chili powder (or more to taste); one teaspoon Worcestershire sauce; two 8 ounce cans tomato sauce; two 16 ounce cans kidney or pink beans, drained.

**Directions:** In skillet or slow-cooking pot with browning unit, break up beef with fork and cook until lightly browned. Pour off excess fat. In slow cooker, combine meat with onion, salt, chili powder, bay leaf, Worcestershire sauce, tomato sauce, and kidney beans. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 7 hours. Remove bay leaf before serving.

**Chicken Cassoulet** (recipe from Perdue Organic products)  
**Ingredients:** 1 package Perdue Harvestland organic boneless skinless chicken breasts, thin sliced; 2 cans (16



### TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

oz. each) cannellini or white beans, drained; 1 can (16 oz.) stewed tomatoes; 1 1/2 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary (or 1/2 tsp. dried, crushed); 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper

**Directions:** Place chicken, beans, tomatoes, rosemary and pepper in a slow cooker. Stir to combine. Cook covered 6 to 8 hours on low, or 4 to 6 hours on high.

### All Day Apple Butter

**Note:** This recipe is easy but requires monitoring, so save it for a day you are home

**Ingredients:** Five and a half pounds of apples, peeled and chopped; optional sugar (up to three cups) as desired; two to three teaspoons cinnamon; one quarter teaspoon each ground cloves, salt.

**Directions:** Place apples in slow cooker. Combine sugar, cinnamon, cloves and salt; pour over apples and mix well. Cover and cook on high for one hour. Reduce heat to low; cover and cook for 9-11 hours or until thickened and brown, stirring occasionally (stir more frequently as it thickens to prevent sticking). Uncover and cook on low one hour

longer to thicken the butter. If desired, stir with a wire whisk or immersion blender until smooth. Spoon into freezer containers, leaving one half-inch airspace. Cover and refrigerate or freeze.

### Crock pot hints:

\*Place root vegetables, which take longer to cook, such as carrots and

potatoes, in the bottom and around the sides of the slow cooker. Meat should be placed on top of vegetables.

\*To speed up the cooking time of most recipes, including soups and stews, follow the rule that one hour on High is equal to two hours on Low. This conversion does not apply when cooking desserts.

\*Do not lift the lid while the slow cooker is cooking, unless otherwise indicated in the recipe. The loss of steam adds an additional 15 to 20 minutes to the cooking time.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

## QCC's respiratory care Program celebrates Respiratory Care Week

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's Respiratory Care program is doing its part to give a new generation of respiratory therapists the essential skills needed to provide respiratory care.

"Respiratory therapists play a vital role as part of the healthcare team. As cardiopulmonary specialists, they provide services for patients from the first breath they take in the delivery room, to the last breath they take, and the many breaths in between," said Amy Hogan, director of Clinical Education, and assistant professor of QCC's Respiratory Care program. "We help people breathe better by administering medications, providing therapies, and using sophisticated breathing equipment to help sustain life."

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Respiratory Care Week, established in 1982 by then President Ronald Regan, in addition to the profession turning

75 years old. QCC's Respiratory Care program was established in 1967 and is the oldest respiratory program in Massachusetts.

"All of our students are taking classes in person and are getting frontline exposure to patients who are struggling to take a breath... this includes COVID-19 patients. Our students get hands-on experience in both the lab and clinical setting learning how to care for the sickest and most vulnerable of patients," said QCC's Respiratory Care Program Director Keith Hirst.

In 2021, and again in 2022, QCC's Respiratory Care program received the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Credentialing Success Award for having more than 90 percent of their graduates pass and obtain the RRT credential over the past 3 years, and for meeting on-going programmatic

thresholds as set forth by CoARC. QCC is one of a handful of associate degree programs that have received this award.

"This award speaks to the quality of the program and the outstanding job that the academic and clinical faculty have done in preparing the students to be successful not only in their board exams but also in their future employment," Hirst said.

QCC's respiratory therapists are involved with telehealth, patient education, disease management, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (a form of cardiopulmonary bypass), pulmonary rehabilitation, as well as being more involved with the management of the patient.

Hirst noted that as the U.S. population ages, so too will an increased incidence of respiratory conditions, thus leading to an increased demand for respiratory therapy services.

According to the U.S. Bureau of

Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 23% from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the 8% average growth rate of all occupations, with a current national average base salary of \$60,000. Recently, US World News and Report listed Respiratory Therapy as the #6 Health Care Profession Job and #16 overall in their Top 100 jobs.

"This makes QCC's program vital not only for the Worcester area, but also for Massachusetts as a whole," Hirst said.

For more information on QCC's Respiratory Care program visit [www.QCC.edu/respiratory-care](http://www.QCC.edu/respiratory-care) or email the Respiratory Care program at [respiratorycare@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:respiratorycare@qcc.mass.edu).

### LHS continued from page A1

released by Steven's parents, Donna and Cris Jyringi. "We are so proud of how far Steven has come. It was heartwarming to see so many of his teachers from past years—along with staff, students, and people in the community—show up for Steven. It is yet another reminder of the amazing support we have had here in the Leicester Schools."

Also known at LHS as the "King of Leicester," Steven Jyringi works at his school's coffee corner, mail delivery center, and the food pantry. He loves Cool Ranch Doritos, "The Wiggles," and performing for others.

Members of the district leadership team were excited to celebrate with Jyringi and his teammates at an unforgettable event.

"It was the best display of teamwork that I have ever seen. The community support was amazing, and I am proud of our school community," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian.

Looking forward, school officials are eager to build upon the foundation that has been set for the unified program's future success. The goal for next year

and beyond is to continue expanding opportunities for inclusion for all students.

"The new program has been ushered in with genuine excitement and pride. I am so thankful to everyone who has committed their time to our students and the new program," said LHS Athletic Director Jennifer Reynolds.

Added Analisa Curren, an LHS teacher and unified coach, "Unified teams promote inclusion through sports.

## PERSON of the WEEK

KENNEDY BATES, Leicester, MA

Kennedy is a 12-year-old soccer player who is currently working with a charity called PASS IT FORWARD, CLEAT'S #4 KIDS.

She has been playing soccer since she was six years old and has played for the Leicester Soccer Club, Spencer Soccer Club, FC Stars of Worcester, and She Got Game FC, and currently plays for Lady Gunners and Leicester Middle School. This organization collects and redistributes used soccer cleats to girls and boys with limited access in the city of Worcester, and also is accepting used soccer balls, shin guards, jerseys, and goalie equipment.

Congrats Kennedy for all that you're doing for your community and helping to make soccer more accessible to those in need.

If you would like to nominate someone or a group of people for 2022, please email your suggestion to [juna@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:juna@stonebridgepress.news). Thank you.

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# Infrastructure issues on “Vision 2050” agenda

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — As part of the ongoing “Vision 2050” process, Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission called on area DPW, Water and Sewer folks to opine on key issues facing their towns in an online forum last week.

According to CMRPC Executive Director Janet Pierce, the goal is to create “a comprehensive picture of infrastructure needs for our entire region,” and the timing is good “with the federal funding coming down the pike.”

That funding was a major factor in a large number of the participants’ comments, with towns citing competing needs – roads, water, sewer, stormwater, broadband, building projects, staff needs, and other expenses – all vying for a too-small pool of local funds. In many towns, those needs are further constrained by strong local opposition to increased property taxes and need outside grants to happen.

One of the areas sparking the most concern is stormwater – water from rain or snow that ends up either in the town’s sewer system, causing erosion and other issues on the land, or polluting the rivers. Several years ago, the federal government started requiring communities to plan and create bylaws for it, without providing funds. That’s left most towns

having no real way to afford the millions it’ll cost to fix the problems.

“Stormwater is a whole different animal. It’s unseen and nobody sees the benefit” of fixing it, Charlton’s Peter Boria observed.

Brookfield Planning Board Chair Sharon Mahoney agreed, saying improving infrastructure in general will increase the tax rate, but people “don’t seem to understand that improved infrastructure will attract business” that can help offset that rate. She already sees a lot of complaints, making the key issue “educating the public about how these dilemmas work together.”

Sturbridge (and former Southbridge) DPW Director Heather Blakeley noted there are “drainage problems all over the place,” some of them natural. In some places, “if you stand on the road bed, you’re looking up at the beaver dam,” with the risk of breach endangering the road. But “if you follow the letter of the law, you really can’t do much,” she said.

Several towns see issues with well contamination from state highways, and need help to expand their water/sewer systems to provide service to those residents, Blakeley added. At the same time, some towns still have old asbestos/cement water lines that need replacing, but “don’t have the capacity to raise taxes to go there,”

she said. Often, they also have trouble “finding people that are qualified” with the necessary licenses (she specifically cited CDLs) to work for the town.

Southbridge Sewer Superintendent James Merchant noted his town has “a big I&I issue,” referring to “infiltration and inflow,” where water from outside sources ends up getting into the sewer system and getting treated. In many cases, that water is essentially clean; it comes from leaks, illegal connections, sump pumps and other sources. It’s particularly an issue after major storms, when the flow to the sewer plant can reach or briefly exceed its permit capacity.

Spencer’s Jim Laplante agreed, noting his town has a \$20 million I&I pipe project in the works, on top of a \$47 million treatment upgrade that’s risen by \$10 million due to inflation and materials costs. He said he’s approached state legislators for help because “that’s going to be an unbearable economic impact on the public.”

Regarding other infrastructure, the forum focused mostly on energy issues. Several people cited concerns about dealing with National Grid to address gas leaks or their towns lacking gas at all. Blakeley noted her dealings in with them in Southbridge “couldn’t get a straight answer” regarding local business requests to tap into the gas lines,

handling problems with trenching in roads, and even “making heads or tails” of billing issues surrounding solar credits, which also go through National Grid.

Douglas’s Matt Wojcik said his town is particularly concerned the grid does not have extra electric or gas capacity to grow. Douglas is now seeing two large warehouse projects under construction, but the utility has said they can only have a quarter of the electricity they need.

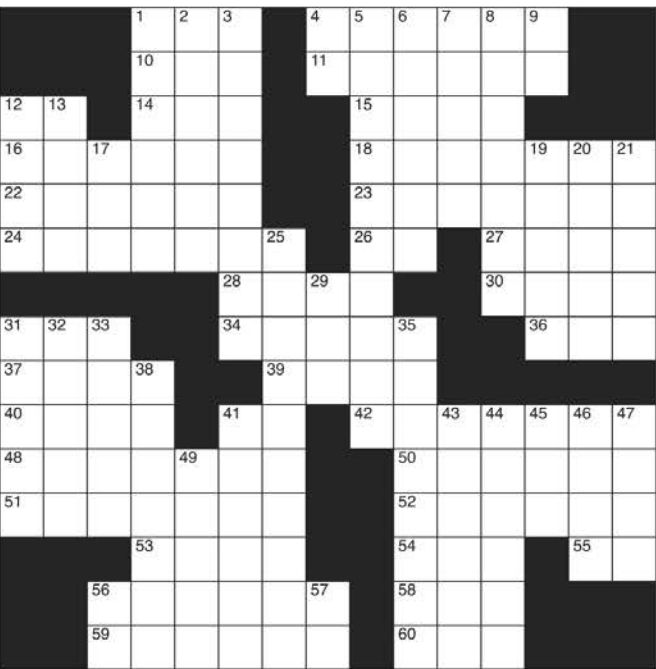
To address that, Douglas is looking into building locally-owned microgrids. That prompted my comment (wearing my town council hat) that our towns need to be able to take advantage of the area’s rivers for small hydropower projects, with today’s technology having far less ecological impact than old methods. Several years ago, Dexter-Russell tried to do that on their dam off River Street, but gave up due to the cost and hassle of dealing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

In the chat, Wojcik agreed, saying he knows of a small hydropower project in Woonsocket that was “very simple and reliable. Trying to permit that now? Impossible.”

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

## Winter parking ban now in effect

SPENCER — The Town of Spencer’s Winter Parking Ban in effect from Nov. 1 through April 15. Please visit [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) for details.

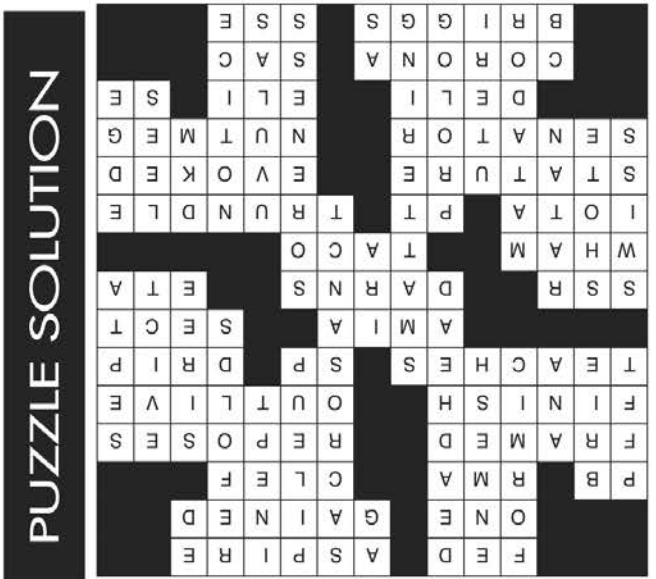


### CLUES ACROSS

1. The central bank of the US  
4. Direct one’s ambitions  
10. Only  
11. “Nothing ventured, nothing \_\_\_\_”  
12. Lead  
14. Returned material authorization (abbr.)  
15. Indicates the pitch of notes  
16. Set up to blame  
18. States of rest  
22. Complete  
23. Be around longer than  
24. Instructs  
26. Childless (abbr.)  
27. Coffee machines do it  
28. Bowfin  
30. A group separate from established Church  
31. Soviet Socialist Republic  
34. Mends with a needle
36. When you hope to get there  
37. Popular 80’s pop duo  
39. Beloved Mexican dish  
40. Extremely small amount  
41. Special therapy  
42. Cause to move slowly  
48. A person’s natural height  
50. Elicited  
51. Legislator  
52. Baking ingredient  
53. Sandwich store  
54. Peyton’s little brother  
55. Southeast  
56. Popular Mexican beer  
58. Baglike structure in a plant or animal  
59. Car body manufacturer  
60. Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless volatile acid  
2. A way to tangle  
3. Jam rock band devotee  
4. The nation’s highest lawyer (abbr.)  
5. Inviolable  
6. Collision  
7. Clumsy  
8. Bends again  
9. “Pollock” actor Harris  
12. Flew off!  
13. Soft creamy white cheese  
17. Comedienne Gaster  
19. Exclamation used for emphasis  
20. Expel from one’s property  
21. Philly transit body  
25. Small amount of something
29. Retirement account  
31. Holey type of cheese  
32. Young pig  
33. Climbing palm  
35. Discomfort  
38. Bullfighter  
41. High-level computer language  
43. Fleshy extensions above the throat  
44. Request  
45. Equal to 10 meters (abbr.)  
46. Bruce and Spike are two  
47. Precipice  
49. Wombs  
56. A radio band  
57. Emphasizes an amount



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885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary

Food Pantry or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.

### SPILL

continued from page A1

at the elementary school, but there are still plenty of unanswered questions. The incident was caused by a punctured underground supply line during a tent setup project, resulting in approximately 750 gallons of leaked oil.

As of September 2022, the estimated cost of the incident was \$1.2 million, with an insurance coverage limit of \$500,000. All bills related to the incident will continue to be paid through the school budget, Town Administrator David Genereux said.

During the Oct. 11 meeting, school officials also discussed new policies that were created to prevent a similar oil incident from occurring.

“My understanding is that a stake went into the ground from one of the really big tents and inadvertently hit the line,” said Beth Auger, the school district’s director of finance and operations. “Kris [Lauzon], who is our new facilities director, is very aware that there will be no putting any kind of stakes or anything like that without checking with all bodies to be sure that we have Dig Safe and there are no issues.”

Officials are looking forward to a full investigation of the incident that will produce the answers residents have sought for over a year. The district’s previous superintendent, Marilyn Tencza, released a Q&A document

last fall addressing the oil incident, but residents were disappointed that it was prepared in part by a public relations firm and failed to answer several questions.

“We just want a nice clear report from the very beginning so that history doesn’t repeat itself, there is accountability, and the people in this town know that we’re listening to them and taking them seriously,” McCance added.

One of the challenges officials have faced in acquiring new information on the oil incident is the significant turnover in school leadership this past spring and summer. Two previous School Committee members, including the former chairman, were dismissed at the June election after a turbulent year for the district. Former superintendent Tencza then retired over the summer, replaced by current Superintendent Brett Kustigian.

Meanwhile, residents and officials have just recently learned about a separate oil spill that occurred on Nov. 23, 2020, at the former middle school. This incident involved a 25-gallon spill resulting from an overflow at the old middle school building. The oil company was found responsible by DEP, officials said.

Following the 2020 oil spill, Tencza did not make the incident known to the public. Several school officials said they hadn’t learned about it until recently.

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\$241,000, 121 Paula Cir, Hight, Jonathan, to Seeley, Shawn, and Hall, Hannah L.

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\$393,000, 17 South Ct, Stuart LT, and Stuart, Maureen, to Olortegui, Bruno A.

\$360,000, 7 West St, Josiahs Ultimate Hm LLC, to Gnokam, Franck L.

\$265,000, 266 Auburn St, Sacovitch RT 2020, and Sacovitch, Ladonna M, to Green Machine RT, and Dufresne, David J.

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$385,000, 95 Brookfield Rd, Truax Holdings LLC, to Charron, Stephanie, and Alexandrovich, Sherri.

\$179,000, 7 Stoddard Ct, Central City Prop LLC, to Fraga, Marcio, and Santos-Fraga, Jucileila.

\$150,000, 25 Oakham Rd, Noonan, Elizabeth M, to Schlegel, Wayne A.

#### SPENCER

\$500,000, 16 Ashview Dr, Arsenault, Donna L, to Arsenault, Alexander A, and Joppas, Alysia H.

\$350,000, 13 Hebert Rd, Lemieux, Peter J, and Lemieux, Beth M, to Doray, Dustin.

\$340,000, 3 Pioneer Valley Dr, Brown, Marissa, to Morris, Joseph R, and Dipillo, Lauren N.

\$325,000, 64 Smithville Rd, Boulay, Sean P, to Johnson, Victoria, and Santa, Kelven.

\$320,500, 7 Langevin St, Foresman, John, to Garcia, Marisela, and Rivera, Edwin F.

#### WARREN

\$405,000, 200 Maple St, Fountain& Sons Const Co, to Donegan, Edward, and Donegan, Karen.

\$364,900, 83 Comins Pond Rd, Fountain& Sons Const Co, to Klibanski, Ori A.

#### WEST BROOKFIELD

\$352,500, 17 Atwater Pl, Williams, Christy A, to Blake, Anne..



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#### TO THE EDITOR:

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# Girls on the Run Worcester County hosting 5K event Nov. 20 at Assumption

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run of Worcester County will host its 5K event on November 20th at Assumption University. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in third to eighth grade. During the ten-week program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K

event.

Participation in the 5K event on November 20th is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run of Worcester County. Last season's 5K consisted of more than 800 participants, including program participants, volunteers, families, and community runners. Registration cost is \$40 prior to the event, and \$50 the day of. The fee includes a medal at the finish line.

Bib pickup for the event is at 8 a.m. The event will begin at 9:30

a.m. on Nov. 20 at Assumption University and early arrival is suggested. Celebration activities for GOTR participants start at 8 a.m. Girls will have the opportunity to utilize temporary tattoos, colorful hair chalk, and more to get them excited and ready for the race. For more information about the event, how to register, and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org).

About Girls on the Run  
Based in Charlotte, N.C., Girls on the Run is a nonprofit organization with local Councils in

all 50 states. Founded in 1996 with 13 girls, Girls on the Run has now served more than two million girls. Over the course of the program, girls in third through eighth grade develop social, emotional and physical skills to successfully navigate life experiences. The program culminates with girls positively impacting their communities through a service project and being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K event. With the largest 5K series by number of events in the world, Girls on

the Run hosts more than 330 5Ks per year. Girls on the Run is included as a top research-based program in a Social-Emotional Learning Guide developed by researchers at Harvard University and has been recognized by the National Afterschool Association (NAA) as one of the most influential after-school programs. Girls on the Run is offered in more than 13,000 across the US. Visit [www.gotr-worc.org](http://www.gotr-worc.org) to learn how to get involved in your community.

## Annual Toy Drive returns to North Brookfield Savings Bank

NORTH BROOKFIELD — For North Brookfield Savings Bank the holiday season is a special time of year. It is when people and communities come together, and what better way to do so than by helping make sure that all children in our communities experience a wonderful, joy-filled, holiday season.

Starting Nov. 1 and running through Nov. 30 North Brookfield Savings Bank's Annual Toy Drive aims to ensure holiday wishes comes true for our younger community members. Monetary donations and new toys will be collected at Bank branch locations.

During the Toy Drive, community members are welcome to visit any branch location to make their donations of new unwrapped toys for children. All toys collected will be donated to local toy programs in each community, to ensure that local children in need will receive holiday presents. This year, the Bank's Ware branch location will be primarily accepting monetary donations to help their local toy program partner the Ware Police Department, who has reformatted their program to be more tailored to each family in need. Our Belchertown location will only accept donations of toys, not funds, as their local toy program partner the Belchertown Police Department, has also reformatted their program for 2022.

In addition to toys, NBSB will accept financial contributions in each branch location to purchase additional gifts for the toy drive. The Bank will match every dollar donated, as well as contribute \$1 for every toy collected, up to \$250 per branch location.

"As a local Bank that places a high



Photo Courtesy

North Brookfield Savings Bank proudly partners with toy collection programs in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Three Rivers and Palmer to collect toys for local children. Local Children assist us in finding the best toys for children in need.

importance on embracing and committing to the values of kindness and community support, North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to continue the tradition of hosting our Annual Toy Drive at our locations," said Nicole Syriac, Digital Marketing Strategist at North Brookfield Savings Bank. "We want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to have a wonderful holiday season, this year and every year.

We know this goal is possible with the continued support and kindness of our local community. We invite all of you to visit us, as you have so generously done in the past, to make your contribution."

Donations are being accepted at these North Brookfield Savings Bank branches:

North Brookfield Branch, 9 Gilbert St. — partnering with the North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for

Joys Program

East Brookfield Branch, 100 West Main St., Route 9 — partnering with the East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program

West Brookfield Branch, 128 West Main St., Route 9 — partnering with the West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program

Ware Branch, 40 Main St., Route 9 — partnering with the Ware Police Department Holiday Toy Program—only accepting monetary donations for 2022.

Belchertown Branch, 4 Daniel Shays Highway, Routes 9 and 202 — partnering with the Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program—only accepting toy donations for 2022.

Palmer Branch, 1051 Thorndike St. — partnering with the Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program

Three Rivers Branch, 2060 Main St. — partnering with the Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program

Syriac continued, "The holiday season is about caring for those around us and being generous. It is heartwarming every year to witness how our community members support each other. By partnering with the local toy drive organizations and our giving residents we are able to bring a child holiday cheer and truly embody the spirit of the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who plans to give this year and has supported this effort in the past."

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and all the convenient banking products and services offered, visit [www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com](http://www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com).

## Leicester Historical Society hosting antique appraisal event

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society invites guests to attend an antiques appraisal fundraiser.

The event is set for Saturday, Nov. 5, from 1-4 p.m. at the Leicester Senior Center (40 Winslow Avenue). Appraiser Wayne Tuiskula will appraise items for \$6 per item, or \$15 for three items.

Refreshments will be served at the event.

## PROGRAM

continued from page A1

ed in the Pen Pal Program many years ago, and is still a pen pal with a student who is graduating from high school this year. This proves the significance of these connections, which can be lifelong."

Ayva Connor, who is currently utilizing her Leicester High School internship to gain skills at the Senior Center, spoke with excitement about her previous experience as a younger student involved in the Pen Pal Program.

"It provides a connection that's fun for the little kids," Connor said. "They get excited about hearing back from their pen pals, and enjoy reading their letters and what is happening in their lives, as well as sharing their lives with them. It develops bonding and relationships."

Meanwhile, Career Day involves students from Leicester High School meeting with seniors from various professions for mentoring, sharing of experiences, and valuable input.

Another intergenerational program planned for students and seniors is the Veterans' Breakfast, which will feature a singer from Leicester High School performing the National Anthem. Student volunteers will serve breakfast at this event.

The Senior Center

also hosts "Christmas with Santa" for Leicester Elementary School children. Officials are also scheduling times for students to visit the Senior Center and assist seniors with phones, computers, and other technologies.

Looking ahead, Senior Center officials are excited about the COA hosting a "Spring Prom" for seniors in April. This event will also feature student engagement from Leicester High School seniors. Any senior citizen in Leicester is invited to attend.

Another popular program the COA wishes to bring back is the "French Parlez Vous Francais" offering, which immerses middle school students in a variety of French-speaking conversations. The Senior Center has members who are French speaking, and students in the past have enjoyed the opportunity to learn from local seniors.

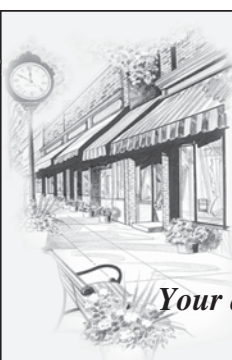
Senior Center officials also plan to bring back a popular Zumba class, with a multigenerational focus that enables younger and older adults to exercise together.

"The Senior Center is a constant buzz of activity," McCance said. "I am honored to work alongside these ambitious people as they fulfill their mission of enriching the lives of the seniors by providing opportunities for volunteerism, education, recreation, and social engagement."



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# School district reports more than \$200,000 in energy savings

SPENCER — Recently, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District received its Annual Performance Assurance Report for 2022 and learned that it had saved \$203,146 during the first period of its Energy Management Services Agreement with Siemens Smart Infrastructure. These savings exceeded initial estimates.

These savings exceeded the guaranteed savings by \$18,403 more than the guaranteed savings of \$184,743, consisting of 1,738,449 kWh of electric energy, 231,307 gallons of fuel oil savings and - 152,335 therms of natural gas (oil to natural gas conversions at David Prouty High School & Knox Trail Middle School). Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District reduced their CO2 emissions by 21 percent. These energy savings are equivalent to carbon emissions reductions of 675 metric tons of CO2, or as much CO2 and 146 passenger cars produce in a year. The

district is maintaining communication with Siemens Smart Infrastructure to maintain these energy savings through the life of this Energy Management Services Agreement. The systems that were upgraded and standardized throughout the 4 schools and business office included:

- Lighting Retrofit & Occupancy Sensors
- Building Envelope Improvements
- Boiler Replacements
- Walk-in Cooler Controls Installation
- Energy Management Systems
- Plug Load Controllers
- Premium Efficiency Motors and VFDs

To learn more about this important energy management program and the savings realized by the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District with Siemens Smart Infrastructure, check out our 2022 Annual Performance Assurance Report.

# Join Paxton seniors on holiday trip to Newport

PAXTON — On Thursday, Dec. 8, area seniors are travelling to the Newport Playhouse in Newport, R.I. to see and enjoy their production of “Christmas for Carol.” This is a world of the hilarious Christmas Comedic Farce production taking place this Christmas season. Carol tends to take Christmas too far at work with decorations, presents and overbearing traditions. With wacky office hijinks, pranks, an office romance and even people caught in their

underwear. This should be a fun performance that all will enjoy.

Prior to the performance, we will enjoy a great buffet. Their buffet is extensive, hearty and does not skimp on quality or selection.

One of the highlights of the day besides the buffet and the performance is the Cabaret after the play, where the company members continue to entertain you with songs and laughter. It tends to be hilarious.

Reservations and payment are due by Nov.

17 to Bob Wilby, 11 Tanglewood Rd., Paxton, MA 01612. Checks should be made payable to Wilson Bus Lines in the amount of \$112.

Our trip that day begins at 8:45 a.m. from the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St. (Route 31 South). Our expected time of arrival back in Paxton is 6:45 p.m.

Come and enjoy the day.

For more information, please contact Bob at 508-792-4662 or [rwilby@charter.net](mailto:rwilby@charter.net).

# Reliant Medical Group nationally recognized for commitment to improve cardiovascular health

WORCESTER — Reliant Medical Group has received three American Heart Association outpatient program achievement awards in recognition for its commitment to reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke by improving high cholesterol, Type 2 diabetes and blood pressure management. The awards recognize a commitment to following the latest evidence- and science-based care guidelines.

Nearly half of all adults in the U.S. have some form of cardiovascular disease, including heart attack, stroke or heart failure. High cholesterol, Type 2

diabetes and uncontrolled high blood pressure are leading risk factors for cardiovascular disease, but with timely diagnosis, research-based treatment and education, these conditions can be managed.

“We are proud to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our focus on reducing our patients’ risk for heart disease and stroke,” said Tarek Elsayy, President/CEO of Reliant Medical Group. “Participating in AHA’s programs assists our clinicians in using the latest science and clinical guidelines to help patients prevent

and manage disease, and live healthier lives.”

This year, Reliant Medical Group received three gold-level achievement awards:

The American Heart Association’s Check. Change. Control. Cholesterol™

The American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association’s Target: Type 2 Diabetes

Target: BP™ recognition jointly presented by the American Heart Association and the American Medical Association.

“Addressing Type 2 diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure management is key for better cardiovascular health – and critical today, when heart disease and stroke continue to be leading causes of death for Americans,” said Howard Haft, M.D., MMM, CPE, FACPE, volunteer science expert for the American Heart Association and executive director of the Maryland Primary Care Program, in Baltimore. “The American Heart Association is pleased to recognize Reliant Medical Group for its commitment to managing patient risk factors related to these diseases.”

# DA’s office committed to keeping seniors safe from scams

LEICESTER – With the holiday season fast approaching, local officials remind residents that scammers are constantly coming up with new ways to take advantage of the giving spirit.

To help area seniors avoid becoming the next victims of a scam, the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office is out in full force this fall season. Last week, the DA’s outreach team visited the Leicester Senior Center for an informational program.

“The holiday season is right around the corner, and Kevin from our outreach team is ready to stop scammers in their tracks,” read a statement released by the DA’s Office. “He spoke to everyone at the Leicester Senior Center about holiday scams and how to spot them.”

*Photo Courtesy*

**The Worcester County District Attorney’s Office recently held an event at the Leicester Senior Center to help residents spot scams.**



# Toyin Adebajo joins Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates

WORCESTER — Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates is proud to announce Toyin Adebajo has joined their Worcester office. Adebajo joins a dedicated team of knowledgeable agents at Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, who bring many years of combined real estate expertise to their clients.

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Each Weichert® franchised office is independently owned and operated.

## Christ Memorial hosting Red Door Fayre

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Area residents are invited to attend the Red Door Fayre at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church this month.

The event is set for Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program will feature raffles; an exquisite

table; a Christmas table; a bake table; pies; and a craft table.

A luncheon will offer clam chowder; cabbage soup; sandwiches; and apple crisp.

The church is located at 133 North Main St. in North Brookfield.

## DARRIN

*continued from page A1*

life—I found these moments most satisfying,” Darrin added.

The police department enjoyed several advancements in programming and technology during Darrin’s tenure. Innovations he helped bring to the

department include mobile data terminals, live scan fingerprinting, and body-worn cameras, among others. The Chief also oversaw the department’s launch of social media pages that have become integral tools for sharing information and receiving tips from the community.

“When I started here in Spencer, the BlackBerry and MySpace were in their infancy. I am proud of the technological advancement I have brought to the department,” Darrin said.

Additionally, the Chief helped establish several programs and initiatives within his department. These include the School Resource Officer Program; the K9 Officer Program; the Child Passenger Safety Seat Program; and kiosks for unwanted pharmaceutical products and needles.

Town officials thank Darrin for everything he has done for the department and the community. From rolling out a series of new technologies and programs, to helping the department navigate the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, Darrin has been a steady presence amid changing times.

“Ever since Chief Darrin’s hiring, there has been great stability in the department,” said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury. “We are very fortunate to have had him in that role, and we hope the next chief will follow in his footsteps.”

Looking ahead to his retirement, Darrin plans to do plenty of traveling with his wife. He is also a ten-pin bowling enthusiast and plans to continue that passion.



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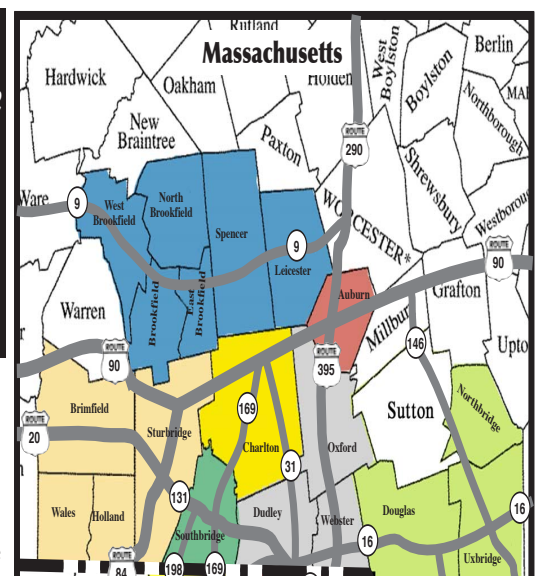
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EDITORIAL

“There are many kinds of strength, and no one kind will suffice”

On Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was en route to give a speech in Dallas, Texas. He was assassinated before reaching his destination, but already written was a speech he was to deliver at the event. Here we are years later reading his words that call for unity and peace. We have taken portions out due to space, however our hope is that this decades old speech will translate into the present. This speech delivers an important message as we head to the polls next week. Remember to vote for the best candidate in any area and try not to fall into the trap of voting along party lines. Local elections should go to the person who is the biggest champion for your area, with the most experience, full stop. Do your due diligence in researching candidates and do not fall prey to smear campaigns. Follow your gut, and most importantly do your civic duty, by voting. The speech reads as follows:

“This Nation’s strength and security are not easily or cheaply obtained, nor are they quickly and simply explained. There are many kinds of strength and no one kind will suffice. “Ignorance and misinformation can handicap the progress of a city or a company, but they can, if allowed to prevail in foreign policy, handicap this country’s security. In a world of complex and continuing problems, in a world full of frustrations and irritations, America’s leadership must be guided by the lights of learning and reason — or else those who confuse rhetoric with reality and the plausible with the possible will gain the popular ascendancy with their seemingly swift and simple solutions to every world problem. “There will always be dissident voices heard in the land, expressing opposition without alternative, finding fault but never favor; perceiving gloom on every side and seeking influence without responsibility. Those voices are inevitable. But today, other voices are heard in the land — voices preaching doctrines wholly unrelated to reality, wholly unsuited to the sixties, doctrines which apparently assume that words will suffice without weapons, that vituperation is as good as victory and that peace is a sign of weakness. “We cannot expect that everyone, to use the phrase of a decade ago, will “talk sense to the American people.” But we can hope that fewer people will listen to nonsense. And the notion that this Nation is headed for defeat through deficit, or that strength is but a matter of slogans, is nothing but just plain nonsense. “Above all, words alone are not enough. The United States is a peaceful nation. And where our strength and determination are clear, our words need merely to convey conviction, not belligerence. If we are strong, our strength will speak for itself. If we are weak, words will be of no help. “I have spoken of strength largely in

Turn To **EDITORIAL** page **A9**

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

Here they come!

To the Editor:  
The progressive proliferators of perverted propaganda want to pick our pocket... yet again! They can’t stop because they’re addicts, like “Keno junkies” or “intersection beggars!” And we all know who “They” are!  
Of the 200 legislative seats in Boston, 78 percent of the House is Democrat and 93 percent of the Senate is Democrat. These frenzied fools continually cater to the non-working class, the climate hustlers, the utopian orthodoxy, and the education/indoc-trination establishment by spewing their standard talking points!  
More money in the coffers of Massachusetts government = better roads and better education, “for the children.” Really?  
The Fair Share Amendment scam has resurfaced as Question 1 on the November ballot! By taking dollars from those who do to redistribute

Second Amendment

To the Editor:  
I have been scratching my head for years trying to understand how the Second Amendment, which was written 250 years ago to make sure the Redcoats would never seize all the muskets that allowed our well regulated minutemen to stand against an army that thought we would stand in rows and shoot at each other. We prevailed largely by hiding behind trees then melting away. Our stand at Bunker Hill was not a victory, except as a motivator.  
I have long thought no matter how many assault rifles in private hands, even though totally devoid of the “well regulated militia” spec, what are the odds that any such group could have any success against current military establishments. Against such an opponent, even SWAT teams would prevail.  
As we approach the upcoming election, it has finally dawned on me that analysis of the events of Jan. 6, 2020 revealed that the patch to overthrowing the government is to be the government. While the phony electors scheme did not work, it led to the deduction to attack the system earlier in the process. Control who votes and whose votes get counted.

and reallocate those dollars to those who don’t, these deranged democrats experience gratification and euphoria via socialist altruism! The democrat delegation considers themselves morally and intellectually superior to those who pay their salaries, and they believe that they can better decide how to spend our money than we can.  
Fiscal 2022 data indicates that the Massachusetts Department of revenue has a surplus of approximately \$2.3 billion, but the Massachusetts Legislature, made up of a disproportionate number of deceitful democrats, believe more needs to be swindled from the Doer’s...the taxpayers, the builders, and the makers!  
Don’t be fooled by these groupthink gluttons!  
Vote no on Question 1!  
JENNIFER GAUCHER  
SPENCER

Intimidate and threaten poll workers until you control polling places, who does the counts and how. Since it is already fashionable to not accept results, pass legislation at lower levels so that outcomes can be overturned and replaced, thereby controlling only electoral results.  
I am finally able to fathom why seemingly rational people into the world and arming them in ways that can erase dozens of wanted and loved children in minutes, have decided to give themselves the participation trophy of no longer needing to accept election results.  
Trump’s election security chief, Krebs, said this was most secure election ever. Barr, who was Trump’s AG, obviously got out of Dodge because of the strong arming and clear evidence there was no fraud, and even Ivanka, who would certainly be on board if it was not a nothing burger, and all rational people who know we can still do elections and democracy 250 years in. Maybe we need to re-assess what ‘Making America Great Again’ should look like, cause this ain’t it.  
KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

Avoid becoming ‘burden’ on grown children

Here’s an interesting statistic: Some 72 percent of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to a 2021 survey by Age Wave and Edward Jones. Both before and during retirement, what steps can you take to avoid burdening your loved ones in the future?

Here are a few suggestions:  
Build your retirement savings. The greater your financial resources, the less likely it becomes that you’d ever have to count on your grown children for financial support. You may have access to a 401(k) or similar retirement plan at work, so take advantage of it. Even with an employer-sponsored plan, you also may be eligible to contribute to an IRA. In addition to offering a variety of investment options, a 401(k) and IRA provide potential tax advantages. And once you do retire, be careful about how much you withdraw each year from your retirement plans and other investments.  
Plan for health care costs. Once you are retired, health care costs will be a significant expense. You may have Medicare, but you’ll also want to consider your need for supplemental health insurance to cover traditional medical costs. And you’ll want to consider another potential health-related expense: long-term care. You may never need the services of a home health aide or a stay in a nursing home, but no one can predict the future. Medicare does not cover most costs for long-term care, which can be quite high. In 2021, the annual national median cost for a private room in a nursing home was over \$108,000, while the median cost for a full-time home health aide was nearly \$62,000, according to a survey by Genworth, an insurance company. You may want

to consult with a financial professional on strategies for protecting yourself from these costs.  
Create necessary legal documents. If something were to happen to you, and you didn’t have the appropriate legal documents in place, your loved ones could be placed in a bind, both financially and emotionally. That’s why it’s a good idea to create documents such as a durable financial power of attorney, which lets you name someone to manage your finances if you became incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney for health care, which allows someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you can’t make them yourself. You’ll want to work with a legal professional to develop the documents appropriate for your needs.  
Evaluate your housing needs. As you enter retirement, you may want to evaluate your living situation. Could you downsize to a smaller home, or perhaps a condominium or apartment? Not only might you save money with such a move, but you could also end up relieving your grown children of the responsibilities and hassles involved in clearing out and selling your home should you become unable to do so yourself during the later years of your retirement.  
By taking these measures, along with others, you can go a long way toward maintaining your independence and putting yourself in a place where you won’t burden your grown children. And that’s a good place to be.

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

Have you ever heard of “Quiet Quitting?”

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Quiet quitting is when you do what is required of you at your place of work and no more.  
Some describe quiet quitting as a coping mechanism to avoid burnout from chronic overworking. According to psychologists and advocates of quiet quitting, it’s a way to put mental health first, emphasizing that your life is not your work and your worth is not based on your productivity.  
Mental health is crucial; everyone is different, and the solution to one person’s problem may not be the solution to another person’s problem.  
As I pondered quiet quitting, I had the nagging question, If I were to become a quiet quitter, does that mean I could no longer go ‘Above and Beyond?’ Could I still “go the extra mile?”  
I remember when I was looking for a job once, and my father’s advice to me was to tell the manager, “I’ll show up early; I’ll leave late, I’ll do more than is expected of me, and I’ll do it all with a smile.” And then actually do it.  
If I was a quiet quitter, could I still do that?  
One quiet quitter said, “Quiet quitting isn’t about quitting because we literally still show up to work; we just don’t go the extra mile because we aren’t paid for it.”  
Being overworked and underappreciated is an awful, degrading experience, and refusing to go the extra mile is a way to take back control or at least make you feel like you have control.  
On the other hand, earning a promotion is usually because the person who earns it is known for going the extra mile even when they weren’t paid to do so.  
Another quiet quitter hilariously said, “I thought quiet quitting was when someone was employed but stopped working. Then I learned that quiet quitting isn’t quitting; it’s simply doing all your work without doing any extra duties! Quiet quitting is literally just doing your job!”  
I was laughing after I read that. It’s a good point! When you put it like that, it can make a lot of sense! I guess it all depends on what you want out of life.  
I heard an old saying not long ago, “Make yourself so valuable at work that you can’t be fired.” How do I do that?  
Some of your value as an employee depends on the type of job and duty that you are performing. There are some jobs where you can be valuable to the team and practice quiet quitting, and then there are other jobs where quiet quitting won’t be compatible.  
If I practice quiet quitting, can I still be as valuable to the team as those who are going the extra mile? Probably not. Do you think a quiet quitter is valued by their employer more or less than employees who go above and beyond?  
It’s a fact that productivity partially measures our value in the workplace.  
Who is more likely to get the next promotion? A quiet quitter or someone who goes above and beyond?  
Gary Ryan Blair said, “What is the one thing you can do to persuade people that you are the one for the job, the one thing you can do to earn someone’s vote, the one thing you can do to persuade people to open the doors of opportunity? The answer is as simple as it is profound. Develop a reputation for going the extra mile.”  
Can you be a quiet quitter and go the extra mile? Are the two concepts mutually exclusive? I can’t say for sure, but it certainly seems like it. It appears that quiet quitting is a practice that will lead to fewer opportunities in the workplace and, I suspect, out of the workplace too.  
Is quiet quitting bad? It all depends on what you want out of life. For some people, quiet quitting may be a good method to pursue mental health, and for other people, they may experience greater mental health when they are fully engaged, going the extra mile, and doing their best.



# Watch out for deer collisions

This past weekend was perfect for any outdoor activities. Fishing for trout in local trout stocked waters had anglers catching some 15 inches to 17-inch rainbow trout. Fishing cape ponds also had anglers catching some impressive trout. One angler fished Peters Pond and caught numerous large rainbows. Fishing freshwater ponds at this time of year is extremely enjoyable, and you basically have the ponds all to yourself, as most anglers have put their fishing rods away for the year, and are out deer hunting or bird hunting.

Numerous large bucks have been harvested in Massachusetts to date, and hunters are encountering many deer during their time in the woods. Numerous deer are also being involved with car deer collisions. The rut has already started and bucks are spotted chasing does, which is the reason for the increased car deer accidents. Drivers are reminded that many deer will be crossing roads, as the bucks chase them for mating, as they do every year. Severe injury or death can result to



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passengers or drivers if you become involved with a deer collision. Drivers that hit and kill a deer with their automobile can keep the deer if they want it. Drive safe and remember to pay attention to the road, as a deer can seem to come out of nowhere.

Saltwater fishing continues to provide some great fishing for stripers at the canal, and bottom fishing for tautog and seabass on board charter boats, is slowing because of the economy. Cod fishing in Rhode Island has also slowed! Many anglers have started to winterize their boats and many have already taken the time put them away for the season. Fogging your outboard motor and adding a stabilizer to your gas should help ensure the motor will be ready for spring fishing. This week's two pictures show Bob & Corey Lepage with a couple of king salmon they caught recently on the Salmon River in Upstate New York. The second picture shows Steve Dizek of Northbridge, with some nice rainbow trout he caught, while fishing at his favorite fishing hole. Nice fish!



Bob & Corey Lepage with a couple of king salmon they caught recently on the Salmon River in Upstate New York.

Take a Kid fishing & keep Them Rods Bending!



This weeks second picture shows Steven Dizek with a few nice rainbow trout he recently caught at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club.



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MELINDA  
MYERS

Boost your spirits and winter décor with new shapes and colors of amaryllis. Today, there are many beautiful options beyond the traditional red. Double amaryllis have jumbo flowers with multiple layers of petals. Kick off the season with the early-blooming variety Alaska. Its frilly white petals contrast nicely with the lime green throat and the flowers last for weeks. Early blooming amaryllis are grown in the southern hemisphere and, if planted by early November, they bloom in time for holiday decorating and gift-giving. Extend amaryllis season with doubles that are grown in the northern hemisphere. Start these amaryllis bulbs any time before January for flowers in mid to late winter. Sweet Nymph has layers of creamy white petals that are decorated with coral pink stripes. The blossoms add romantic charm to any setting. The extra-large flowers of Giant Amadeus change colors as they go from bud to mature bloom. The blossoms start out mostly white with a fine red outline. The color of the petals gradually intensifies to blushing pink, rose, and coral. Doublet is another stunning winter-blooming double. Its flowers feature narrow petals in a variety of widths, all with red and white candy cane

## Go beyond the traditional with unique amaryllis varieties

stripes. You can expect two or three flower stalks from each bulb and as many as a dozen flowers. For more subtle beauty, consider double amaryllis Elvas with white petals outlined in red. New varieties of single amaryllis can be equally dramatic. Opal Star is an early bloomer with slightly longer and narrower petals than most. Its muted, pale red flowers feature a chartreuse and white star in the center that extends to the tips of the petals. Cape Horn has broad, rose-pink petals and a white star. Remember to plant these early-blooming amaryllis in the fall so you can share living bouquets for the holidays. Keep the flowers coming with varieties that bloom in January and February. Terra Cotta Star is sure to attract attention with its striking colors and exquisite details. The salmon, rose, buttercream and pistachio petals have dark red veining that makes each blossom a standout. Yellow Star is another unique variety with elegant ivory and lime green flowers that are sure to lift your spirits. Rosy Star's exquisite flowers feature snowy white petals and a rose-pink blush. Don't underestimate red amaryllis as there are many exciting variations to choose from. Charisma is an early-blooming single with petals that display an ombre effect

of red and white. Gervase and Flamenco Queen are later blooming singles with a similar fade on their petals. For extra bold red and white flowers, consider single amaryllis Spartacus or Minerva, and the double variety Splash. Order your amaryllis bulbs early for the best selection. When the bulbs arrive, store them in a cool, dry dark place until you are ready to plant. After you pot up the bulbs, place them in a warm, bright location to encourage them to break dormancy. Once the first bud emerges, you can expect to have flowers in two to four weeks. Enjoy all the beauty that growing amaryllis (Longfield-Gardens.com) provides with only minimal care. Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



Flamenco Queen is a new and unique amaryllis variety with later bloom time.

### EDITORIAL

continued from page A8

terms of the deterrence and resistance of aggression and attack. But in today's world, freedom can be lost without a shot being fired, by ballots as well as bullets. The success of our leadership is dependent upon respect for our mission in the world as well as our missiles — on a clearer recognition of the virtues of freedom as well as the evils of tyranny. "Finally, it should be clear by now that a nation can be no stronger abroad than she is at home. Only an America which practices what it preaches about equal rights and social justice will be respected by those whose choice affects our future. Only an America which has fully educated its citizens is fully capable of tackling the complex problems and perceiving the hidden dangers of the world in which we live. And only an America which is growing and prospering economically can sustain the worldwide defenses of freedom, while demonstrating to all concerned the opportunities of our system and society. "My friends and fellow citizens: I cite these facts and figures to make it clear that America today is stronger than ever before. Our adversaries have not abandoned their ambitions, our dangers have not diminished, our vigilance cannot be relaxed. But now we have the military, the scientific, and the economic strength to do whatever must be done for preservation and promotion of freedom. "The strength will never be used in pursuit of aggressive ambitions — it will

always be used in pursuit of peace. It will never be used to promote provocations — it will always be used to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes. "We, in this country, in this generation, are — by destiny rather than by choice — the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint, and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of "peace on earth, good will toward men." That must always be our goal, and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as was written long ago: "except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain."

## St. John the Baptist Harvest Thyme Craft Fair returns Nov. 19

EAST BROOKFIELD — This year's St. John the Baptist Parish's Harvest Thyme Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will take place in the parish hall. There will be raffles, gift baskets, a lottery tree, silent auction, gift certificates, attic treasures, and craft tables. Craft tables can be available

to rent by calling or emailing Lou Meyerderks (508-885-5456 or [LouLouxxMike@gmail.com](mailto:LouLouxxMike@gmail.com)). A café will also be available with delicious food: meat pies, soups, baked goods, chili, cider and more. Come and join us for this wonderful and fun event! 131 Blaine Ave., East Brookfield, MA. 508-867-3738.

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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. WO20P3391GD**  
**NOTICE AND ORDER**  
**PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF**  
**GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR**  
**PERSON PURSUANT TO**  
**G.L. c. 190B, §5-212**  
**In the interest of:**  
**Haley Lynn Primo**  
**Of: Spencer, MA**  
**MINOR**  
**NOTICE TO ALL**  
**INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** a hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Nicole Aucoin** on **October 7, 2022** will be held on **11/08/2022 08:30 AM** **Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **CR 12, Worcester Probate & Family Court, 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608**

**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person

at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

**4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: October 13, 2022  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
November 4, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**Docket No. WO20P3389GD**  
**NOTICE AND ORDER**  
**PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF**  
**GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR**  
**PERSON PURSUANT TO**  
**G.L. c. 190B, §5-212**  
**In the interest of:**  
**Monique Elise Primo**  
**Of: Spencer, MA**  
**MINOR**  
**NOTICE TO ALL**  
**INTERESTED PARTIES**

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** a hearing on a

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Ray Holmes  
Tree Warden  
November 4 2022

Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Nicole Aucoin** on **October 18, 2022** will be held on **11/22/2022 08:30 AM** **Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **CR 12, Worcester Probate & Family Court, 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608**

**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

**4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: October 20, 2022  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
November 4, 2022



Desiree Butler of West Brookfield appointed to Nichols Senior Advisory Council

DUDLEY — Desiree Butler of West Brookfield is one of 26 students appointed by Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M to the 2022-2023 Nichols Senior Advisory Council (NSAC). NSAC, now in its second year, comprises students who have played significant leadership roles in the Nichols community. Their role is to advise the president and senior administration on issues related to the senior class and the college in general. In monthly meetings, the council will discuss plans, initiatives, and trends and issues in higher education. In announcing this year's council, President Sulmasy said, "In addition to helping Nichols become a leader in higher education and enhance the overall experience for all of the community, the meetings are also intended to assist participants in developing communication skills, which are so important to career advancement."

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.

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Thank you to all our ABC'S of Fall Advertisers!  
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Please find the answers (business names) on page 2.

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P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550 or take a picture and email to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) by November 16.  
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# When is the right time for kids to start volunteering?

Aristotle once said the essence of life is “to serve others and do good.”

It’s well documented that volunteerism offers many benefits to those who are recipients of the charitable work as well as the volunteers.

According to The Corporation for National & Community Service, one in four Americans volunteers. Volunteers come from all walks of life and various age groups. Nearly one-quarter of all volunteers are people under the age of 24.

Parents and guardians who want to introduce their children to volunteerism may not know when is the right age to do so. Many experts agree that there isn’t a definitive age for children to get involved in volunteering. In fact, no child is too young to volunteer. Joseph F. Hagan Jr., M.D., a clinical profes-

sor of pediatrics at Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, says helping out during the toddler and preschool years helps shape a child’s sense of morality.

Rather than wondering if a child is too young to volunteer, adults should focus on finding the right activity to match the child’s age. For example, a three- or four-year-old child can fill bags or boxes with donated food or help gather blankets and towels to donate to an animal rescue. However, a toddler or preschooler may not have the stamina to complete a 5K walk.

Volunteerism doesn’t even have to be in the traditional sense of working with an established charity. A youngster can pick flowers from a field and deliver them to an elderly neighbor. Or a preschooler can invite a child playing alone



to come play together. A toddler who loves sorting items can help sort recycling items at home and watch a parent deliver them to the recycling center.

Another way to engage kids in volunteer work is to match their interests with the tasks. Many kids can’t get enough of animals, so they may want to help out an animal organization or be involved with a conservation group. A child can collect change to “adopt” an

endangered species.

Kids also can visit a children’s hospital and deliver gifts to youngsters battling illnesses. In such situations, kids may be more engaged if they can help kids their own ages.

Children are never too young to volunteer. Finding the right fit can inspire a lifetime of giving back that benefits youngsters throughout their lives.

# Bacon makes pumpkin pie even better

Pumpkin pie is a fall favorite, but it’s also a perfect pie to serve throughout the holiday season.

There are many different pumpkin pie recipes, even though it’s difficult to improve on pumpkin pie which is known for its creamy consistency and warm spices. But pumpkin pie can be even more delicious with the addition of an extra-special ingredient: bacon.

This recipe for “Joe’s Incredible Bacon Pumpkin Pie,” courtesy of Royal Bacon Society and Allrecipes, uses maple-cured bacon as well as tangy cream cheese to increase the appeal of pumpkin pie. This may be one slice of pie that is hard to put down.

**Joe’s Incredible Bacon Pumpkin Pie**  
Serves 12

- 1/2 cup cubed fresh pumpkin
- 1 1/2 cups cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup half-and-half
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 (10-inch) prepared graham cracker pie crusts
- 16 slices maple-cured bacon

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.
2. Bring a small pot of salted water to a boil; add the pumpkin and cook until soft enough to easily pierce with a fork, about 10 minutes. Drain.
3. Mash the cooked pumpkin with a potato masher in your favorite large

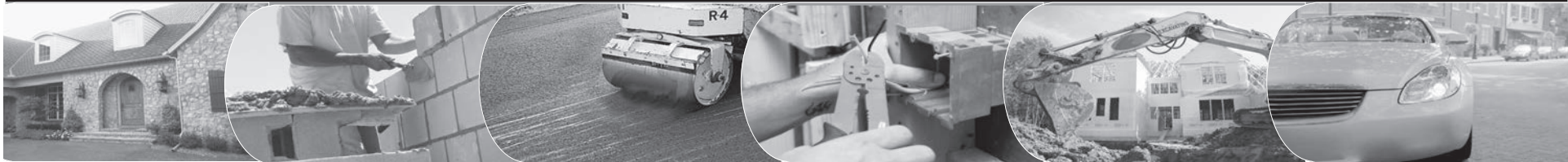


4. Place the bacon in a large skillet bowl. Mix the cream cheese and brown sugar with the mashed pumpkin. Whisk in the eggs one at a time. Add the vanilla, half-and-half, cinnamon, ginger, allspice and cloves; stir until you have a thin batter. The batter should be slightly thinner than pancake batter. Pour the batter into the pie crusts.

over medium heat until evenly brown. Trim soft, fatty bits from strips. Press seven pieces of bacon into the batter of each pie with a fork.

5. Bake the pies in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Decrease the heat to 375 F. Top each pie with two pieces of cooked bacon and bake.

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# Local memorabilia auction



In previous columns, I've noted that finding historical objects is one of the most enjoyable parts of my job. I am especially interested in local history, so the auction I'm currently cataloging, featuring Worcester related items from the early 1700s through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has been especially exciting. Most of the impressive collection is comprised of items from other

Massachusetts and New England towns. Some of the earliest pieces are land deeds and other legal documents from the area. Several books printed by printer and revolutionary war soldier, Isaiah Thomas of Worcester, are also part of the collection. The collection includes many books about Worcester and towns in Worcester County from the early 1800s. There are also bound editions of the Worcester Massachusetts Spy and other newspapers from the late 1700s and early 1800s. Additionally, it features local history books from many towns throughout Massachusetts. Beyond the books, the collection has plenty of other items that will appeal to local collectors. There are many pamphlets, price guides and other materials from factories when Worcester was an industrial center, postcards showing points of local interest in the city along with local fire and police badges, and some taxi badges, just to name a few. Norton Company produced stoneware crocks and jugs, and they will also be represented in this auction.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
**WAYNE TUISKULA**

Advertising items are always popular with collectors. A corner of the hall is set up like an old pharmacy. Apothecary jars, a mortar and pestle, and other medical items are displayed like they would have been in a drug store during the turn of the century. The collection was moved from a closed Torrington, Connecticut drug store to the Worcester location where it is currently housed. A recreated country store occupies the opposite corner of the room. There are multiple tin cans of cleaners, soap and food products that you would have seen in a country store during the turn of the century. There are also large signs advertising Andreson and Patterson (Worcester) Ice Cream, a large Cincinnati Water Purifier by Ross Brothers Washburn and Moen Steel Barb Fencing (barbed wire) sign. Ross Brothers distributed seeds via mail from their Worcester location. Worcester is known for producing Valentine's Day cards, and this collection includes some from the 19<sup>th</sup> cen-

tury along with a Whitney Valentines card sample book circa 1930s. Hopefully this collection of items from the "Heart of the Commonwealth" offers something that will warm your heart. The auction will open for bidding in mid-November. There will be a preview in Worcester (I'll provide the location in my next column) on Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4. The auction will end on Monday, Dec. 7 and local pickup will be available on Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11. Bidding ends on Nov. 15 for our online jewelry, coins and sterling auction. The sports card and memorabilia auction with the rare Virginia Brights baseball tobacco cards ends Nov. 17. The auction with art, historical memorabilia, antiques and collectibles will begin in a couple of weeks. I hope to see some of you this Saturday, Nov. 5 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Leicester Senior Center to raise money for the Leicester Historical Society. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Please contact us at [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) for antiques and collectibles auction services.



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# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19  
12:48-2:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:52 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 3:11 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 3:50 a.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 4:40 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 7:42 a.m.: open door (Main Street), bldg. secured; 8:58 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), struck neighbor's trailer hitch; 9:08 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:25 a.m.: lost/found (Adams Street), keys found; 10:21 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:32 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Greenville Street), hang-up; 10:58 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:13 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), harassed by former employee; 12:43 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo/arrest; 1:59 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), loose dog; 2:14 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:03 p.m.: parking complaint (Temple Street), mvs in no parking zone; 3:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 5:18 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:07 p.m.: medical/general (Westland Drive); 7:01 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo/assault w/firearm; 7:23 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 7:51 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet found; 8:30 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 9:02 p.m.: medical/general (School Street); 10:24 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:45 p.m.: suspicious persons (Pleasant Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 4).  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20  
12:22-3:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:32 a.m.: suspicious mv (Chestnut Street), investigated; 1:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mechanic Street), mv blocking entrance; 5:01 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), accidental; 8:28 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:11 a.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), issue w/tenant; 9:44 a.m.: medical/general (Prouty Street); 10:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), poss. stalking issue; 10:48 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), dropped trash in road; 10:55 a.m.: medical/general (Mercury Drive); 11:36 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:38 a.m.: accident (Northwest Road), re: earlier accident; 12:34 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), dead bear cub; 12:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), noise inquiry; 2:33 p.m.: residential alarm (Washburn Drive), service rendered; 4:32 p.m.: fraud (Greenville Street), rep. identity theft; 4:32 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), trying to contact person; 5:53 p.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 6:45 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), employees being harassed; 9:06 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:26 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:29 p.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); (total daily mv stops – 3).  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21  
12:12 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 1:54-3:09 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:14 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 2:17 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:57 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 8:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Fairview Drive), loose dog in Leicester; 8:29 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), barking dogs; 10:21 a.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), lg. pothole; 10:51 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:59 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 1:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), re: dump trucks; 2:11 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 2:22 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), misdial; 2:36 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mv ran red light; 2:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Rustic Lane), req. help retrieving property; 3:42 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:02 p.m.: illegal dumping (Greenville Street), mattress/boxes; 4:03 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 4:08 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 4:10 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 4:34 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 4:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Paula Bay), issue w/tenant; 5:47 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:12 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), out of control teenager; 8:41 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (Main Street), info taken; (total daily mv stops – 0).  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22  
12:04 a.m.: disturbance (Brooks Pond Road), loud explosion heard; 12:22-1:37

a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:37 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 2:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), spoken to; 8:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Brooks Pond Road), spoken to; 8:47 p.m.: chemical/fuel spill (South Spencer Road), referred; 9:54 a.m.: fire alarm (Pleasant Street), referred; 11:51 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), pty blowing leaves into road; 11:53 a.m.: 911 call (Buteau Road), open line; 12:36 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 12:45 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Linden Street); 1:17 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dead bobcat; 2:31 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:58 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 4:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Woodchuck Lane), gunshots heard; 5:26 p.m.: threats (Main Street), report taken; 5:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. PD assistance; 6:28 p.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/run; 7:26 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 9:18 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 11:18 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), gunshots heard; (total daily mv stops – 3).  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23  
12:16-12:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:51 a.m.: fire (Sullivan Street), referred; 8:29 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 8:47 a.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), loose dog; 9:03 a.m.: officer wanted (Polar Springs Road), question re: gun laws; 9:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Prospect Street), missing cat; 10:47 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), noise complaint/train; 11:18 a.m.: officer wanted (High Street), pty blowing leaves into road; 12:05 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 12:37 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 2:10 p.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 6:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), poss. illegal burn; 8:08 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 8:58 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 9:10 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:20 p.m.: accident (Chestnut Street), hit/run; 9:31 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:03 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:08 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chestnut Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 2).  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24  
12:44-3:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:15 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 8:08 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:19 a.m.: odor of gas (Temple Street), referred; 8:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Bixby Road), injured cat; 9:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Woodside Road), missing cat; 10:36 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo/armed home invasion; 11:37 a.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), accidental; 11:43 a.m.: vandalism (Wilson Avenue), neighbor cut trees on her property; 12:47 p.m.: citizen complaint (Cranberry Meadow Road), bridge height not posted; 1:14 p.m.: fraud (Bay Path Road), poss. census scam; 1:33 p.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 2:03 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Candlewood Drive); 2:36 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 3:07 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), resolved; 4:21 p.m.: mv repossessed (Chestnut Street), info taken; 4:30 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:31 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:34 p.m.: parking violation (Clark Street), ticket issued; 5:40 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 6:28 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), info taken; 8:58 p.m.: medical/general (Main Arrest); 9:55 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:34 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD/poss. mv break-in; (total daily mv stops – 2).  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25  
12:01-1:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:19 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 8:56 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info from Shrewsbury PD; 9:03 a.m.: parking violation (McDonald Street), ticket issued; 10:12 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 11:31 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 11:46 a.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 12:30 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 4:11 p.m.: restraining order service (Chestnut Street); 4:20 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 4:31 p.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), trashed dumped by restaurant; 4:58 p.m.: suspicious persons (Temple Street), investigated; 5:21 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), water shutoff/non-payment; 5:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Briarcliff Lane), bear in yard; 6:05 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 6:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: alarm

registration; 7:02 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 7:17 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 7:26 p.m.: suspicious persons (Sampson Street), services rendered; 8:58 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:58 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:21 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. harassment; (total daily mv stops – 2).  
###  
Leicester Police  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20  
9:12 a.m.: welfare check (Burncoat Street), unable to locate; 11:31 a.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 1:05 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 3:02 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), assisted; 3:09 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:35 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:13 p.m.: summons service (Soojians Drive), unable to serve; 5:26 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:40 p.m.: summons service (Brookside Drive), served; 6:59 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 9:15 p.m.: open door/window (Main Street), investigated; 9:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, failure to stop/yield, report taken; 10:03 p.m.: ambulance (Cottage Street, Spencer), transported; 10:19 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated.  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21  
10:04 a.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 12:03 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), message delivered; 12:17 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Hospital), transported; 1:36 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 2:25 p.m.: ambulance (Park Avenue, Worcester), no service; 2:29 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 3:47 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 3:57 p.m.: ambulance (Jacques Street, Worcester), transported; 6:35 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to.  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22  
3:49 a.m.: welfare check (Gleason Way), spoken to; 11:44 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 9:14 p.m.: erratic operator (Paxton Street), gone on arrival; 10:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved.  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23  
12:37 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mulberry Street), Christina M. Amelin, 45, 1093 Main Street, #2, Leicester, warrant, arrest; 2:08 a.m.: transport prisoner (South Main Street), transported; 7:52 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 12:01 p.m.: ambulance (Sever Street, Worcester), transported; 2:26 p.m.: ambulance (Dunanderry Way, Paxton), transported; 4:10 p.m.: investigation (memorial School Drive), report taken; 4:45 p.m.: summons service (Waite Street), unable to serve; 4:53 p.m.: summons service (Harding Street), unable to serve; 5:06 p.m.: sum-

mons service (Trenton Street), served; 5:16 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 5:25 p.m.: summons service (Chestnut Street), served; 5:36 p.m.: summons service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 7:08 p.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 7:11 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:48 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken.  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24  
2:34 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), unable to locate; 3:28 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 8:22 a.m.: harassment (Rawson Street), report taken; 9:14 a.m.: ambulance (Folsom Street), transported; 11:48 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 3:30 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Hospital), transported; 4:01 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 4:51 p.m.: mv stop (Willow Hill Road), verbal warning; 5:06 p.m.: ambulance (May Street, Worcester), transported; 5:28 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:17 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:12 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO.  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25  
10:16 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 10:37 a.m.: fraud (Willow Hill Road), report taken; 12:05 p.m.: restraining order service (Burncoat Lane), served; 12:13 p.m.: investigation (Beech Street), report taken; 2:05 p.m.: welfare check (Rawson Street), spoken to; 2:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:14 p.m.: animal complaint (White Birch Street), referred to ACO; 3:39 p.m.: investigation (Putney Court, East Brookfield), report taken; 3:41 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 4:52 p.m.: ambulance (Lafayette Street, Worcester), transported; 5:32 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 7:22 p.m.: suspicious mv (Marshall Street), unable to locate; 7:40 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Whittemore Street), services rendered; 8:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 8:23 p.m.: residential b&e (Sconset Avenue), invesgated; 9:04 p.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 10:20 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported.  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26  
5:51 a.m.: welfare check (Rawson Street), gone on arrival; 8:29 a.m.: property found (Main Street), resolved; 11:32 a.m.: assist other agency (Watch Street), investigated; 11:41 a.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), resolved; 12:54 p.m.: investigation (Auburn Street), investigated; 3:57 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:28 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:54 p.m.: restraining order service (Hemlock Street), unable to serve; 5:58 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 6:04 p.m.: restraining order service (Hemlock Street), served; 8:59 p.m.: suspicious person (Chapel Street), unable to locate; 9:03 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street, Worcester), transported.  
###



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Bacari does well in school, and although he is currently unsure of the type of career he would like to pursue, he enjoys animation and creating cartoons and comics.

Legally freed for adoption, Bacari is looking for a forever family that he hopes will be loving, structured, but not too strict. All family constellations will be considered, including those with older or younger children in the home. Bacari does have biological connections that an adoptive family would need to help him maintain. He also feels connected to his community and would love to have that fostered, as well.

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





# SPORTS

## Behind Barnett, David Prouty again succeeds in CMADA Tournament

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

SHREWSBURY — With the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) beginning statewide postseason tournaments last fall, local athletic directors put their brainpower together and decided to form Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association (CMADA) tournaments where schools can still have the former “District Tournament” feel.

The David Prouty Regional girls’ varsity soccer team can thank the MIAA for their decision, as the Panthers have not only embraced the CMADA Tournament, but they have also found success as for the second straight year Prouty has earned the No. 3 seed in Class D before advancing to the championship game.

This year, the Panthers began with a home matchup against No. 6 Narragansett Regional on Thursday, Oct. 27. Prouty had an offensive explosion and came away victorious, 8-2. Eliana Barnett potted four goals, Olivia Pepin added two more, and Olivia Charette and Emilee Larson also scored. Pepin (two), Larson (two), Barnett and Charette also assisted on goals.

Then, playing at St. John’s High’s Pioneer Field on Saturday evening, Oct. 29, Prouty took on second-seeded Notre Dame Academy in the semifinals. And the Panthers continued their love for the CMADA Tournament, bringing a 2-0 victory home with them.

David Prouty began the season 5-8 but has found its stride and is in the midst of a five-game winning streak, improving to 10-8.

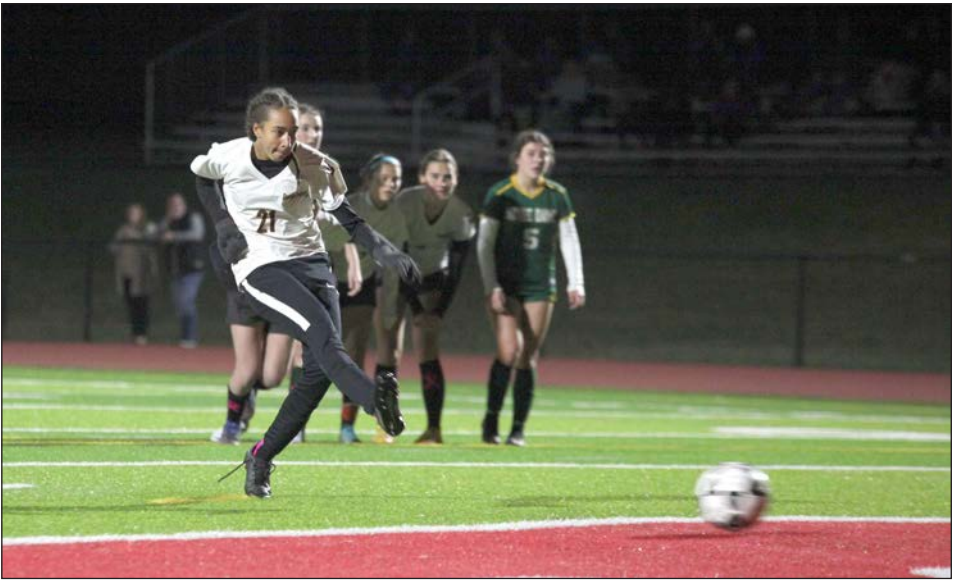
“We started with some struggles, and just as of lately it doesn’t even feel like it’s things that I’m doing as much as it’s the kids coming together,” said head coach Derek Blodgett.

“As the season goes on, we just get better and better,” added Barnett, who continued her stellar postseason play with a two-point effort against the Rebels.

With the game scoreless in the 18th minute, Barnett was dragged down in the box. A penalty was called, and there was no doubt as to who was taking that shot.

“If I have an opportunity to put a goal in the back of the net, she’s the shooter,” said Blodgett.

Barnett calmly shot low, past diving NDA keeper Zoe Davenport to give the Panthers a 1-0 lead.



Nick Ethier photos

David Prouty’s Eliana Barnett successfully converts a penalty kick versus Notre Dame Academy.

“My mind is blank when I’m taking PK’s, I don’t hear anything,” Barnett said of how she focuses when going one-on-one with the keepers.

The score remained 1-0 into the second half when Barnett was again part of the Panthers’ second goal. In the 47th minute

Turn To **SOCCER** page **A18**



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OXFORD - LAND - RTE 20 General Business Zoned! Marijuana OVERLAY DISTRICT! Vacant LAND, Level & cleared. 39.549 SF **\$419,000.**  
PUTNAM - LAND Zoned General Business .29 acre 103' frontage. Water, Sewer, & city gas available. 2 street entrances. **\$125,000**  
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**On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg**




**Webster Lake 13 Loveland Rd**

Eastern Exposure & Amazing Sunrises! Beautiful shoreline, 3 bedroom Cape features eat in kitchen w/island, fireplace living & dining room. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms with 1/2 bath! Lower Level walkout, fireplace Family Room! Half bath.

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**Webster Lake 13 Bates Point Road**

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**21 River Road – \$515,000**



**Milford:** 3,000 Sq. Ft. Cape, 4 bedrooms, Fireplace, Cathedral ceilings sitting room, 3.5 baths, Ideal for extended family, Updated kitchen with gas cooktop, Two-car garage.

**24 Woodridge Road – \$649,900**



**NEW LISTING!**

**Webster:** 2 units, Hardwood floors, updated roof kitchen, baths, 3 bedrooms, Near Webster Lake and boat ramp.

**142 Killdeer Rd., – \$419,900**



**SYMCZAK SELLS**

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**Northbridge:** 4 full baths, 1 half bath, Contemporary design on nearly 2 acres, 4 bedrooms, 22' Cathedral ceiling living & dining room.

**219 Pollard Rd. – \$600's**

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# Make the move!

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## SPORTS

# Lambert's five scores help Pirates top Leicester in postseason precursor

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

LEICESTER — The football was being thrown all over the Becker Field for Oxford High when they traveled to Leicester High to take on the Wolverines in a game played Friday, Oct. 28.

“Throwing downfield is part of the game. We run the spread, so we try to go after it,” said Oxford head coach Jeff Clarkson. “We saw the opportunity and took the opportunity.”

All the Pirates did in their first three possessions was run eight plays — four passes, four runs — and accumulate 21 points, all in one quarter plus 14 seconds. All three touchdowns came via the air; with quarterback Lucas Lambert connecting with Connor Fantasia on strikes of 17 and 56 yards, and Brett Morgan on a 47-yard heave. Lambert was 4 of 4 passing for 135 yards on those three drives.

“At the beginning they only had one deep safety and we have so many play-makers that I just had to get it to them,” explained Lambert. “I love throwing a long touchdown and going down there

meeting my receiver in the end zone and jumping up with them, it's great.”

Leicester had the ball twice in that span, turning it over on downs once and punting once.

The Wolverines did cut the deficit down to 21-7 nearing the midway portion of the second quarter, though, when quarterback Mason Griffiths called his own number from a yard out. Then, after Oxford turned the ball over on downs on the ensuing possession, Leicester thought it was now a 21-14 game when Griffin Metcalf busted off a 62-yard run to the house, but it was called back due to an offensive holding call.

The Wolverines had to punt, and the Pirates scored in the final minute of the first half (Lambert 13-yard QB keeper) and about five minutes into the second half (Jadan Morales 2-yard rush), all but ending the game with the score now at 34-7.

“We went from cutting it to 21-14, touchdown called back, and five minutes later it's 34-7. Game over,” said Leicester head coach Tim Griffiths.

The Wolverines did score the next two touchdowns, making the score 34-21 with 8:38 to play on another Mason Griffiths QB run, this one from 10 yards out, and a Griffiths (8 of 14 passing, 112 yards) to Hunter Senior 79-yard quick hitter; but Oxford ultimately bled the clock and scored on a Lambert 11-yard run with just over a minute to play to end it.

The Pirates are now 7-1.

“It's been a pretty good season, really good,” said Lambert, who against Leicester was 10 of 13 passing for 211 yards while adding 69 rushing yards. “Even that loss to West Boylston, I feel like that's going to help us in the playoffs.”

Oxford lost to the Lions on Oct. 14, 51-15, but West Boylston is the top seed in the upcoming Division 7 State Tournament. Clarkson agreed that losing to the Lions could ultimately help his Pirates.

“I think getting punched in the mouth by West Boylston was a good wakeup call for our team,” he explained. “Just getting ready for the playoffs, it's been a

wild ride this year.”

The Pirates are seeded No. 3 in the Division 8 State Tournament and will host No. 14 Taconic High of Pittsfield on Friday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. Lambert is excited for the playoffs, the same tournament that Oxford reached the semifinals in last year before falling to eventual state champion Randolph High, 8-6.

“I think we will definitely use that experience, clean up all the mistakes we made in the playoffs because we don't want to go home the way we did last year,” said Lambert.

The Wolverines will now play in a pair of non-playoff games (the first at home against Tyngsborough High on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m.) before the Thanksgiving Day battle with Auburn High. But Tim Griffiths was not pleased with the performance against Oxford or the majority of the eight-game regular season as Leicester went just 2-6.

“Both sides of the ball, putrid,” he said of the game with the Pirates. “It was a comedy of errors. Tonight's game was our season in a nutshell.”

## Quaboag girls' soccer ends regular season with boost by defeating Minutemen

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Olivia Bagg and Jenna Duff scored eight minutes apart in the final 16 minutes of regulation to help lead the Quaboag Regional girls' varsity soccer team past Bay Path Regional, 2-0, on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

With the win the Cougars

closed out their regular season with a 7-9-2 record. Quaboag, despite its sub-.500 record, will participate in the Division 5 State Tournament, based on its power ranking in the division. As of Oct. 28, The Cougars were ranked No. 13 in the Division 5 power rankings, with the top 32 teams earning automatic bids.

“The fact that we are solidly

in the state tournament despite being under .500 record-wise is a testament to the strength of the schedule we play,” Quaboag head coach Norm St. Denis said. “Our schedule is brutal. We're in a tough league [the Southern Worcester County League], which has several strong teams — Northbridge, Uxbridge, Auburn, Grafton and Tantasqua — but we also play Monson, which is 15-0-2 and ranked No. 1 in Division 5, as well as Doherty and Notre Dame of Worcester.”

Bagg put Quaboag ahead, 1-0, in the 64th minute of the match. The senior captain lofted a right-to-left shot from 20 yards out that rubbed off the underside of the crossbar where it meets the goalpost. The ball bounced straight down and, thanks to it spinning in the right direction — from the Cougars' perspective, anyway — right into the goal.

“One of my teammates took the original shot,” Bagg said. “It got deflected and the rebound came right to me and I just one-timed it. The shot felt good when it left my foot, but I was worried about it being too high. I heard it hit the crossbar and then I saw it in the back of the net. That made me very happy.”

Duff, a junior, potted an insurance goal for the Cougars in the 72nd minute, scoring from nearly the same spot as Bagg. Duff's goal, which entered the goal on a lower trajectory than Bagg's, also went into the left side, just out of the reach of Bay Path goalie Arianna Flores.

“My teammate, Lily Gianfriddo, realized I was set up for a shot, so she popped the ball over to me,” Duff explained. “She placed it right on my foot, which gave me time to settle the ball and get it onto a grassy spot. When the ball left my foot I felt it was a really good shot. It felt so nice. It was a really smooth shot.”

St. Denis said he had a feeling of relief as he watched Duff's goal sail into the net.

“Getting that second goal was big,” St. Denis said. “We didn't have a lot of scary things going on in our own end, defensively, but you never know. A one-goal lead late in a game is never enough. A two-goal lead is much more comforting.”

Junior Paige Leach posted the shutout in net for Quaboag, making five saves, the last coming with five minutes to play on a direct shot from right out in front from about 12 yards away. “Paige is our backup goalie,

but due to injury she is now our full-time goalie,” St. Denis said. “Victoria Morgan has been an All-Star goalie for us for three years, but she tore her ACL. Paige has been excellent since stepping in. We have a lot of confidence in Paige. She was probably the best backup in the league and now she's doing great in the starting role.”

Bay Path slipped to 8-8 with the loss. The Minutemen then hosted Northbridge High in their final regular-season game of the season on Oct. 31, which resulted in a 5-0 loss. As of Oct. 28, Bay Path was ranked No. 28 in the Division 4 power rankings, so they could very well reach the State Tournament with a sub-.500 record as well.

Minutemen head coach Tammy Legere, while disappointed by the loss to the Cougars, was pleased with the effort her players put forth.

“I feel like we did a great job defensively against [Quaboag]; we held them from scoring for a long time,” Legere said. “Sophia Balestracci and Hanna Cavan played well for us up top and Jenna Defosse, my defender in the back, kept us in the game. Jenna has played amazing all year. Madison Nolin, our center midfielder, played well also.”

## Wong named MIAA Boys' Lacrosse Official of the Year

Long-time local high school boys' lacrosse referee Randy Wong has been named as the 2021-2022 MIAA Boys Lacrosse Official of the Year.

“Having been selected for this award among multiple candidates, you stood out based on your dedication to the sport and officiating credentials,” MIAA Associate Athletic Director Richard L. Pearson said in a letter commending Wong. “It is with pride we will honor you as a representative of this important aspect of athletic competition.”

Wong was recently recognized at the MIAA's game officials banquet on Oct. 25 at the association's headquarters.

Wong joined the Eastern

Massachusetts Lacrosse Officials Association in 2002 and will complete his 22nd year of service on the field this spring. He has held various lacrosse leadership roles as a certified trainer and observer, Central Mass co-chair, and Board Secretary. In addition to his high school officiating, he is also a men's college lacrosse official as well as a youth lacrosse referee and assigner of youth officials in the Central Mass. area.

Those interested in becoming a lacrosse official should contact newlaxref@gmail.com or visit the EMLOA website <http://emloa.org/become-a-ref/>.



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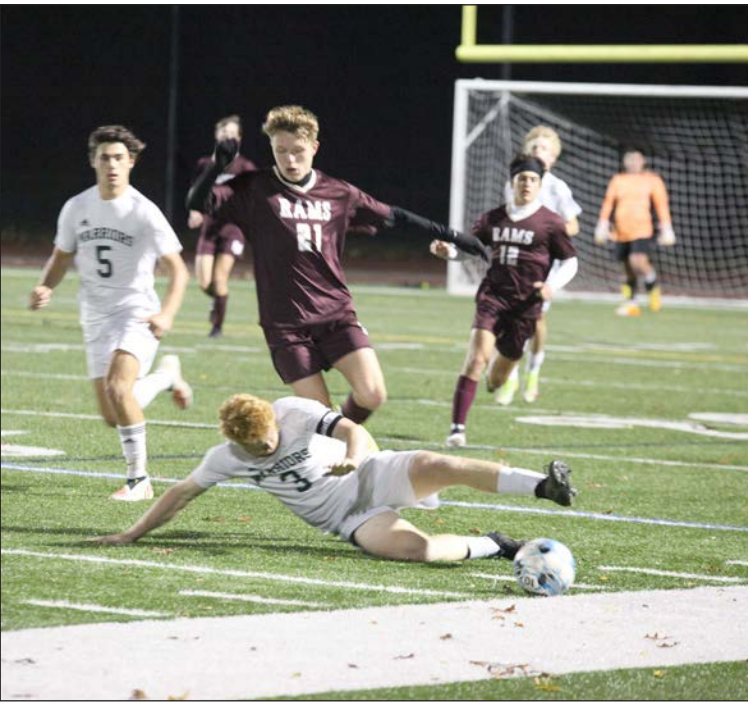
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SPORTS

With win over Tantasqua, Rams earn berth into State Tournament

WARRIORS FINISH 11-4-3,  
ALSO REACH STATES



Tantasqua's Paddy McGrath slides in and steals the ball away from Shepherd Hill's Dan Gronek.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

DUDLEY — Heading into the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Tournament, neither the Shepherd Hill Regional nor the Tantasqua Regional boys' varsity soccer teams had a top-eight seed in Class A, so both squads played in a pair of non-playoff games. In the first matchups the Rams defeated South High, 4-2, while the Warriors lost 2-1 to Wachusett Regional.

That meant that everything

was on the line for Shepherd Hill when they played host to Tantasqua at Carmignani Field on Thursday evening, Oct. 27 in the second non-playoff matchup. The Rams needed a win or a tie to reach or exceed the .500 mark and automatically qualify for the Division 2 State Tournament. And The Hill had previously lost to the Division 3 State Tournament bound Warriors earlier in the season, 2-1, so any outcome was in play.

"We show up and play terribly and we show up and play



Trevor Harris of Tantasqua hustles toward the ball as Shepherd Hill's Adrien Roach gives chase.

wonderfully," Shepherd Hill head coach Tim Cormier said of his team's up-and-down season.

But the Rams came out and played a good soccer game, and they were rewarded for it. Shepherd Hill won the match, 2-1, and improved to 8-7-3 to finish a point above the .500 ledger.

"We knew what it was going to be," Cormier said of the battle with their rivals in Tantasqua. "We knew it was going to be physical, we knew that both teams were going to want it, we don't really like each other."

"Overall, we played pretty well for having a bunch of guys out," added Warriors' head coach Matt Guertin. "We had opportunities and didn't put them in. Congratulations

to [Shepherd Hill] for making it in."

The Rams scored first in the 30th minute when Adrien Roach blasted a free kick into the upper left-hand portion of the net.

Tantasqua tied the score in the 50th minute, though, when Cole Casinghino threaded a pass into space and Aaron Lidonde ran up to the ball. One touch later and Lidonde's shot found the back of the net.

Shepherd Hill gained a corner kick three minutes later, and they took advantage of the opportunity. The ball was serviced in, and it found the head of Owen Kondek for the goal.

That was it for the scoring, but not for the action. Unfortunately, the game took a turn with five seconds to play, a Shepherd Hill striker



Jack Barrows of Shepherd Hill collects a pass with a Tantasqua defender on his back.

and Tantasqua keeper Braylon Casinghino getting tangled. Casinghino was ultimately given a yellow card — which will not result in any sort of State Tournament suspension — but the Rams didn't get out of the scrum as lucky. Mike Sobocinski was given a red card for his retaliation toward Casinghino, and he will miss Shepherd Hill's first two playoff games.

"That card is going to be a hindrance, but anything can happen," said Cormier. "It is what it is. He sees his player getting pushed to the ground and it's either fight or not."

The Warriors finished 11-4-3 and Guertin's main concern heading into States is finding a way to ramp up the offensive production.

"Defensively, we look pretty good and we're sound. We just need to score a little bit more," he said.

The State Tournament brackets will be released after this publication's deadline.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

**Tuesday, Oct. 25**  
**Warriors' Pieczynski performs well at Golf State Championship** — Tantasqua Regional freshman Sam Pieczynski shot a solid round of 4-over par 76 to finish tied for 16th in the Division 2 State Golf Championship at Maplegate Country Club in Bellingham. Pieczynski's round highlights included five birdies and a pair of chip-ins.

**Thursday, Oct. 27**  
**North Middlesex 3, Tantasqua 1** — The Warriors needed to tie or defeat the Patriots in the final game of the season to earn a spot in the Division 3 Field Hockey State Tournament. Unfortunately for Tantasqua, though, North Middlesex came out on the winning side.

The Patriots scored early on and led 1-0 after a quarter of

play. After North Middlesex doubled its lead in the second quarter, the Warriors showed signs of life by making it a 2-1 game — the halftime score — with just 1:09 to play until the break. Brooke Cadarette possessed the ball at the top of the scoring circle and sent it toward goal. Olivia Viapiano then tipped the ball in for the score.

With the Patriots looking to

again take a two-goal lead in the third quarter, Tantasqua goalie Ella Grant made three big saves in a matter of minutes, including a diving stop following a North Middlesex corner. But the Patriots did score with about six minutes to play in the frame to surge ahead, 3-1.

The Warriors then generated three corners in the final quarter, but it wasn't to be as they finished 8-9-1 — one point shy of reaching States. The latest Power Rankings also had Tantasqua 38th, or six spots out of automatic

inclusion into the tournament.

**Friday, Oct. 28**  
**Tantasqua 35, Nashoba 21** — In a high-flying affair, the Warriors' football team held off the Wolves, improving to 3-5 in the process. Quarterback Adam Howe was part of four touchdowns, throwing and rushing for two each. His passing touchdowns were caught by Liam Hubacz and Isaac Colon. Abner Colon-Martinez had the other score on a 2-yard rush. Luke Marvin kicked five successful extra points. Nashoba is now 5-3.

**A PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN**  
Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this, my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother, oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth.

I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, succor me and this necessity. There are none that can withstand your call. Oh show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times).

Holy Mary, place this cause in your hands (3 times). Sweet Mother I pray for this cause in your hands (3 times). Holy Spirit, resolve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all even against me in that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once and again that I never want to be separated from you even in spite of material things. I wish to be with you in eternal glory.

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Tantasqua's Alivia Facticeau goes low for a sweeping hit down the field.



Tantasqua battled with North Middlesex until the bitter end, but the Warriors came up on the short side of a 3-1 decision and missed out on the Division 3 State Tournament by one point.





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## SOCCER

continued from page A14

Barnett sent a perfectly placed through-ball down the middle of the field. Charette then collected the ball, took a touch or two and lofted a shot over Davenport and into the back of the net, doubling

Prouty's lead to 2-0.

"I knew [Charette] had a ton of space in front of her, so if I could get it over the defender she's free," explained Barnett.

Blodgett called the goal "a thing of beauty."

"As Eliana passed the ball over and Olivia took her first touch, I looked over and I saw how far

out [the goalie was] and I mouthed to myself, 'chip it over,' and not even a half-second later...so just a really smart, heads-up play," the coach added.

With Barnett now up to five goals and two assists in two CMADA games, Blodgett had nothing but praise for his skilled junior.

"She's a special player; she really is. Eliana, the way I see her, is one of those once-in-a-lifetime players, complete players," said Blodgett.

With the Rebels (10-7-1) pressing the issue, Jocelyn LaMonda earned her shutout by making all but two of her 11 saves in the second half.

The CMADA championship game will be played after press time, but the Panthers will take on a similar opponent in the top-ranked Whitinsville Christian School. It is a rematch of last year's Class D final, which the Crusaders won 2-0.

David Prouty will then take part in the Division 5 State Tournament, where the latest projections had the Panthers ranked 14th. Those brackets will also become available after press time.

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