



Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [News@StoneBridgePress.news](mailto:News@StoneBridgePress.news) Friday, May 26, 2023

# Eagle Scout spearheads upgrades at Luther Hill Park



Courtesy  
Noah Young recently completed an Eagle Scout project that will greatly help the community.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
SPENCER — Guests will be able to enjoy several upgrades to Luther Hill Park thanks to an Eagle Scout project led by Noah Young.

A senior at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Young is a member of Boy Scout Troop 201. For his Eagle Scout project, he recently teamed up



Local Boy Scouts help improve Luther Hill Park as part of an Eagle Scout project.

with fellow Scouts on multiple improvement efforts at the park. These include the replacement of 14 benches on the beach, in addition to the repainting of their frames.

The team of volunteers also repainted the flagpole and replaced the old flag, which will be brought to the American Legion in town to be respectfully retired.

Additional project tasks included painting picnic tables along the beach; sealing the accessibility ramp that leads to the beach; and repainting two gates on either side of the park, plus two concrete pillars. Reflective tape was then added to help increase visibility at night.

“I wanted to do something for the town, specifically for one of its many parks that has fallen into disrepair. I went to

the town Parks and Rec Committee and asked what they needed, and they said Luther Park had a lot of repairs and renovations needed,” said Young, who has been involved in Scouting since he was six.

Young was assisted in his project by fellow Scouts in his troop, adult leaders in the troop, and past Scouts (one of whom was an Eagle Scout, himself).

Looking ahead to the summer months, Young can’t wait to see guests benefiting from the many improvements at the park.

“The most rewarding part of the project will be seeing people in the town being able to enjoy the new benches and the nicer looking park,” Young said. “My favorite part of Scouting is being able to help the community, as well as the friends I’ve made and the adventures we go on in Scouting, from hiking, biking, whitewater rafting, and much more.”

Young will attend law school at Western New England University in the fall. He hopes to become a public interest lawyer, and he will bring to his career the many lessons he learned during his years in Scouting.

In his free time, Young enjoys reading, skiing, and taking part in high adventure activities with his friends from Scouting.

# Leicester School Board seeks to fill vacant seat

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

LEICESTER — Following Scott Weikel’s resignation from the School Committee earlier this month, officials are seeking residents interested in filling the vacant seat.

Weikel announced his resignation from the committee after the death of his 22-year-old grandson, who suffered from asthma-related complications.

“My mind is not in a good place, and I did not feel I could give the attention to the ongoing issues with the schools and the budget that is needed at this time. I feel like I am letting people down, but I have to focus on what is right for my wife and I,” Weikel told the New Leader. “I thank the town for putting their trust in me last year, and I can honestly say that every vote I made, I did it with what I thought was best for the kids.”

Elected last June as part of a major School Committee shakeup, Weikel worked with fellow committee members and first-year Superintendent Brett Kustigian to achieve significant momentum for the school district over the past year. Among the accomplishments that occurred during the first year of his term was the opening of the new Leicester High School on the campus of the former Becker College.

Officials thank Weikel for his service to the town and his commitment to students. After years of turmoil rocked the school department from 2020-22—including the district’s controversial handling of an oil spill and its subsequent hiring of a public relations firm with taxpayer dollars—residents were desperate for major changes in 2022. During the campaign season leading up to the June 2022 election, Weikel stepped up along with Dylan Lambert to run in support of making positive changes for students.

“I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication he showed us on the committee this past year,” School Committee Chair Donna McCance said of Weikel’s service. “He remained true to his promise of putting the students first and he will be missed.”

Weikel thanked his committee members and school officials for their support and teamwork throughout his term.

Moving forward, the town is accepting applications from residents interested in serving on the School Committee. After receiving applications, selectmen and School Committee members will jointly pare down the list and interview the final pool of candidates before appointing a replacement member.

The 2024 Annual Town Election will determine the holder of the School Committee seat for the next three-year term.

Any qualified resident interested in filling the vacant seat should contact the School Department.

# Boston Post Cane presented to West Brookfield’s Camille Koss



Camille Koss

WEST BROOKFIELD — On Wednesday, May 10, the Town of West Brookfield presented the Boston Post Cane to its oldest living citizen, Camille Koss, who was born on Aug. 19, 1923.

Camille Koss was born in Ware, the daughter of Peter and Sophie Imbier and sister to three brothers. She grew up in Ware on Pulaski Street, and after graduation, went to photography school in New York City. She married John Koss in 1949. John built their home on Mountainview Drive with her brothers. She and John had two chil-

dren, Kevin and Nadine. She worked at the Ware Cooperative Bank for almost two decades. Photography was her main hobby, and she was a member of the Ware Camera Club for many years. She took many photographs of major events in Ware and of the neighborhood children. She was a den mother for the Cub Scouts, once taking them to the television show, Ranger Andy.

In 1968, she and her husband built a cottage on Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield as a summer residence and in 1992, bought a house

on Lakeshore Drive as a permanent residence. Life on the lake was wonderful and her favorite pastime was watching all the children enjoying the activities on the lake. She and John would host extended family get-togethers each summer for swimming, skiing, tubing, and boating. Nadine related that Camille was famous for her chocolate chip cookies, eagerly anticipated by her family and their co-workers. Her other hobbies were polka dancing, ceramics, and crocheting. She made countless afghans and baby blankets for all the new additions. As the years passed, she loved sitting on the patio watching the lake activity, reading a book, or taking a nap.

John Koss passed away in 2015, and while still a resident of West Brookfield, Camille is now staying at Cedarbrook Village since late 2021.

She has five grandchildren, Jessica, Angela, Jonathan, Daniel, and Michael; and seven great-grandchildren.

In a ceremony at Cedarbrook Village, Koss was joined by family and friends.

She was introduced by Historical Commission co-chair Louise Garwood who gave a brief history of the history of the cane. See separate document: History of the Boston Post Cane.

Turn To **KOSS** page **A17**

# LMS students return to Nature’s Classroom



Courtesy

Leicester Middle School students recently enjoyed a trip to a Nature’s Classroom site

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

LEICESTER — For the first time since the pandemic struck, Leicester Middle School students were able to resume a favorite tradition at Nature’s Classroom.

For the 36th year overall, Leicester students have taken part in the educational program offered by the Nature’s Classroom organization. This year marked the students’ first visit to a new site in Yarmouth Port, where they took part in several fun activities that educated them on wildlife and natural resources.

“Students met in field groups where they did outdoor activities like

hiking and identifying plants and animals in nature,” read a statement released by LMS social studies teacher Norman Everett.

In previous years, students visited a site in Becket to take part in the program, but that location was closed in 2020. Even though they weren’t able to visit their traditional venue, students were excited to engage in new opportunities at the Yarmouth Port site.

A total of 56 sixth grade students attended this year’s event.

Students took classes in such areas as egg drops and ancient artifacts. Participants then spent a day on the Cape

Cod National Seashore.

“Students loved their visit to the National Seashore,” read the statement released by Everett. “Students enjoyed meeting and learning from their Nature’s Classroom teachers.”

Located on 44 acres at Cape Cod, the Nature’s Classroom Yarmouth Port site features an array of ecosystems for students to explore, including forests, ponds, fields, and a cranberry bog.

“This outstanding location provides students with the opportunity to discover a variety of land, coastal, and marine

Turn To **CLASSROOM** page **A17**



# Rain fails to dampen spirits at Asparagus Festival



Sturbridge's Amber MacIntosh shows off a creative display of items.

Kevin Flanders



Local vendors offer tasty treats to guests.



Members of the Country Bank team greet guests.



Members of the Clowning for Kidz Foundation say hello to families.



Dana Rier, of Ware, prepares her next selection of items.



Cara Germain and Michael Zueger, of Petersham, get ready for the event.



Local musicians perform at the festival.



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East Quabbin Land Trust members arrive at the event.

WEST BROOKFIELD — Guests and vendors didn't let a soggy Saturday dampen the mood at one of their favorite local festivals.

Held rain or shine each year, the Asparagus Festival draws families from throughout the area. In addition to multiple crafters, the May 20 event also featured live music, signature foods, and appearances from local organizations and departments.

Guests are thanked for their support of the event each year, even during challenging weather.



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# Brookfield announces Memorial Day program

BROOKFIELD — The town of Brookfield will hold Memorial Day ceremonies in memory of veterans of all wars Monday, May 29.

Again is a grateful nation called to refresh the memory of her fallen sons and daughters. The veterans of the republic come once more to reverently call the roll of the “mustered out” and strew with wreaths and flowers their honored graves.

Memorial Day calls upon an united nation to appropriately mark the last resting place of our sons and daughters who saw service while following the flag in times of war and peace.

In Memoriam	
Norman Labonte	Vietnam War Marine Corps
Jesse M. Fimian	Air Force Academy

“Time only enhances the lasting value and demonstrates anew the true significance of Memorial Day.”

### Memorial Day Parade

Assembly of all marchers and all units at the Brookfield Elementary School, 35 Central St., back parking area. Parade starting at 10 AM under the direction of the Brookfield Cultural Council, the Brookfield Selectmen, the Brookfield Fire Department, the Massachusetts State Police and the Brookfield Police

## Brookfield Orchards is the place to be this summer

NORTH BROOKFIELD — If you're looking for a fun family activity this spring or summer, Brookfield Orchards is the place to be.

An array of exciting, family-friendly activities will be held throughout the spring and summer. Upcoming flea markets will take place on June 17 and July 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For lovers of tasty treats and desserts, be sure to celebrate National Fudge Day at Brookfield Orchards (Friday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Meanwhile, local kids won't want to

miss the Touch a Truck program scheduled for July 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The following month, on August 26, guests are invited to celebrate a Let's Get Local event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additionally, a Harvest Craft Fair will be held on Sept. 9-10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The following Saturday, Sept. 16, a fair will feature local authors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Families are invited to pick their own apples, beginning on Labor Day weekend. The next month, a Halloween party will take place on Oct. 29 from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m.

At the Brookfield Orchards country store, families can browse selections of apple pastries, local products and consignment items, and homemade fudge, among other offerings.

To learn more about upcoming events happening at Brookfield Orchards, call 508-867-6858.

The business is located at 12 Lincoln Rd. in North Brookfield.

Department. In the event of rain, parade will be in the BES Gymnasium.

Program at Soldiers' Monument Brookfield Cemetery  
Assembly 10:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance	Selectmen
Prayer	Pastor John Condon
Selection	McGann Marching Band
Gettysburg Address	Michael Tamburri
In Flanders Fields	Nekelle Ferraguto
Salute to the Dead	
In Memory	Town Clerk
Taps	
National Anthem/Raising of the Flag	

Dismissal Selectmen

Program on Brookfield Town Common Assembly 11:30 a.m.	
Pledge of Allegiance	Selectmen
Prayer	Pastor John Condon
Selection	The Lincoln Minute Men
Gettysburg Address	Michael Tamburri
In Flanders Fields	Sarah Regan
Salute to the Dead	
In Memory	Town Clerk
Taps	

National Anthem/Raising of the Flag  
Dismissal Selectmen

Order of March

Fellow Citizens, Comrades of any military organization, all Comrades of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or returned Comrades of the same, Veterans of all wars, all service men and women, Police, Firefighters, First Responders, Civil Defense, Emergency Medical Technicians, Sons of the American Legion and V.F.W, Scouts, 4-H Youths, Recreation Teams, Students and Parade Units are earnestly invited to join us in a proper observance of this day.

All vehicles are welcome.

Be prepared to kick off march at 10 a.m. at the elementary school on Central Street. Program at Brookfield Memorial Cemetery, at 10:30 a.m. Program at Town Common / Memorial Square 11:30 a.m.

Dismissal, noon.

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## Spencer resident Meghan Barry completes intensive research project

WORCESTER — Meghan Barry, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Biochemistry at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Designing Digital Health Prototypes for Ibn Sina Hospital.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

“The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative& Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. “Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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

## Emily Zavala inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Emily Zavala of Spencer was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Zavala was initiated at Salem State University.

Zavala is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is “To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.”

More About Phi Kappa Phi

Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the organization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit [www.phikappaphi.org](http://www.phikappaphi.org).

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts annually approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni. The Society has chapters on more than 325 select colleges and universities in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is “To recognize and advance excellence in all fields of higher education and society.” For more information, visit [www.PhiKappaPhi.org](http://www.PhiKappaPhi.org).

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# SNHU announces Winter 2023 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2023 President's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

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

Brett Barham of Spencer  
Amber Murray of Brookfield  
Lauren Wilcox of West Brookfield  
Juliette Buchanan of Brookfield  
Denis Leo of Spencer  
Krysta Rollins of East Brookfield  
Nicole Bousquet of West Brookfield  
Nathan Novia of Leicester  
Zachary Livingston of Leicester  
Cameron Hafner of Spencer  
Keon Harden of Leicester  
Ronald Trudeau of Brookfield  
Nicholas LeBoeuf of Rochdale

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

# Leicester Senior Citizens Club announces Foxwoods trip

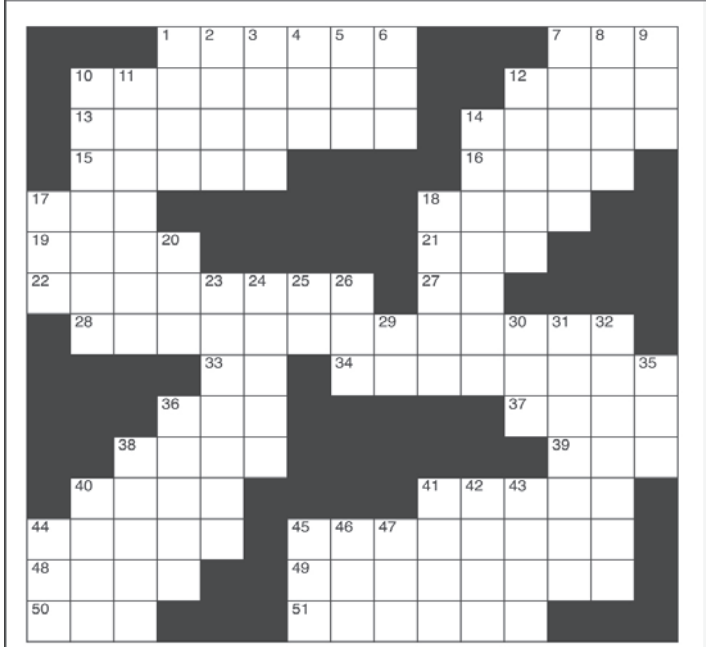
LEICESTER — On Friday, June 23, the Leicester Senior Citizens Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Foxwoods Casino.

The cost is \$35 per person. The price includes round trip motor coach transportation provided by the Wilson Bus Company.

The bus will depart the Leicester Senior Center at 7:45 a.m. The bus is scheduled to return at approximately 3:15 p.m.

All payments are due by June 19. Checks must be made out to the Leicester Senior Citizens Club.

For more information about the trip, please call David Wood at 508-330-1118.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Wear away by friction

7. Insecticide

10. Elicited a secret vote

12. Beef

13. Disagreement

14. \_\_ Crawford, supermodel

15. Jeweled headdress

16.. Digits

17. Trillion hertz

18. Snap up

19. Classical portico

21. Residue after burning

22. Large integers

27. Free agent

28. Where ballplayers work
33. Blood type

34. Scottish city

36. Google certification (abbr.)

37. Serbian monetary unit

38. Make a sudden surprise attack on

39. Wood or metal bolt

40. Relaxing attire

41. Famed neurologist

44. Dullish brown fabrics

45. Member of ancient Jewish sect

48. Griffith, Rooney

49. Lawmakers

50. Government lawyers

51. The arch of the foot

CLUES DOWN

1. Nonflowering aquatic plant

2. Britpop rockers

3. National capital

4. Consumed

5. The habitat of wild animals

6. Sun up in New York

7. Cygnus star

8. Male parents

9. Talk to you (abbr.)

10. A place to clean oneself

11. Southwestern US state

12. South Korean idol singer

14. Pirate

17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

18. Mistake

20. Promotions

23. Prepares

24. Partner to flowed

25. State lawyer
26. Patti Hearst's captors

29. Pound

30. Electronic data processing

31. Sports player

32. Treats with contempt

35. Apprehend

36. Excessively talkative

38. Highways

40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid

41. College organization for males

42. Any customary observance or practice

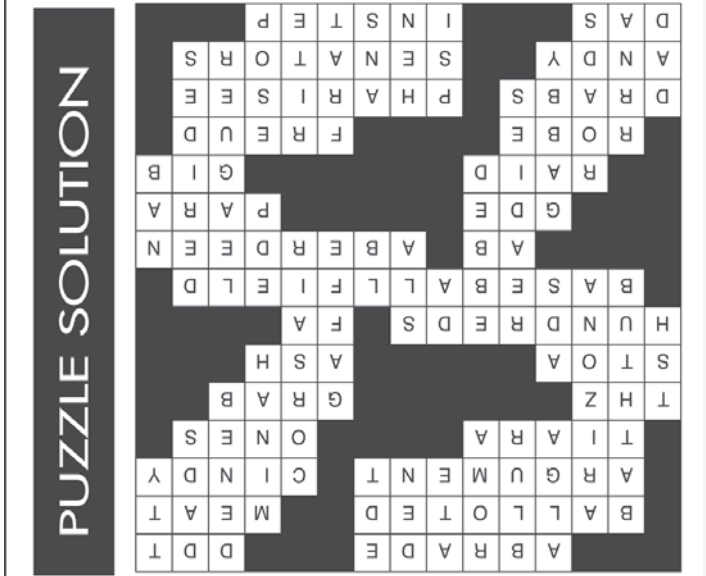
43. Employee stock ownership plan

44. Male parent

45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet

46. Female bird

47. Autonomic nervous system



# SNHU announces Winter 2023 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2023 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

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

Chelsea Sanders of North Brookfield  
Meghan OConnor of West Brookfield  
Deprise Cronin of Leicester

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

# Leicester KOC hosting family dinner

LEICESTER — The Leicester Knights of Columbus will have a family dinner on Thursday, June 8 at their hall at 90 Mandeville St., Leicester, at 6 p.m. Choices are Pulled Pork or Mac'n cheese. Cost is \$15 and includes salad dessert and coffee. Call Don at 508-615-8434 or email at [ohn7g7@yahoo.com](mailto:ohn7g7@yahoo.com) by Thursday, June 1.

# Curry College welcomes Benjamin Carr into Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society

MILTON — Curry College welcomes Benjamin Carr of Leicester into Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

Alpha Phi Sigma recognizes academic excellence of undergraduate and graduate students of Criminal Justice, as well as Juris Doctor students. The goals of Alpha Phi Sigma are to honor and promote academic excellence, community service, educational leadership, and unity.

Alpha Phi Sigma is the only Criminal Justice Honor Society, is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies, and is affiliated with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

About Curry College

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 25 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at [www.curry.edu](http://www.curry.edu).

# Leicester Historical Society hosting tribute to Albert B. Southwick

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society invites the public to attend the Albert B. Southwick Tribute Night.

The event will take place on June 22 at the Leicester Senior Center (40 Winslow Ave.). The evening will include a complimentary food truck from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Coffee and dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. family video tribute, displays of books, photos, and memorabilia.

Guests are also invited to share their memories.

If you are interested in attending, please R.S.V.P. by June 10 to [diane\\_calvano@yahoo.com](mailto:diane_calvano@yahoo.com). You can also send your materials to Diane Calvano (13 Bay Path Rd., Spencer, MA 01562).

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**EAST BROOKFIELD**  
\$269,900, 130 Harrington Ln, Bilal, Rukia, to Messier, David W, and Messier, Susan.

**LEICESTER**  
\$700,000, 10 Oak Bluff Ln, Wingspan Properties LLC, to Boateng, Raymond.  
\$300,000, 59 Lake Sargent Dr, Dandridge, Christopher J, and Dandridge, Eileen, to Apotheker, Gitte N.  
\$299,900, 150 Peter Salem Rd, Connor 3rd, William P, and Connor, Timothy M, to Davolio, Nicholas M, and Davolio, Katelynn M.  
\$254,500, 57 Henshaw St, Fitzpatrick, Cynthia, to 57 Henshaw Street LLC.  
\$229,039, 9 King Ter, Hippert, Kenneth E, and Bk Of Ny Mellon T Co Na T, to Cascade Funding Mtg T, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc.  
\$185,000, 9 King Ter, Cascade Funding Mtg T Hb4, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Cerulle, Robert.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
None

**SPENCER**  
\$500,000, 33 Ash St, Windover, Tucker H, to Cabrera, Balni J, and Tice, Alexis L.  
\$225,000, 22 Sunset Ln, Blodgett Pauline C Est, and Blodgett, Michael G, to Blodgett, Diana J, and Vigneault, Norman R.  
\$135,000, 80 Maple St, Branconnier, Reverend G, to Branconnier, Craig A, and Benoit, Ashley R.  
\$105,000, 27 Maple St, Sasco Mtg Loan T 2006-Wf3, and U S Bank Na Tr, to Hsi Rt, and Macneal Jr, Edward H.

**WARREN**  
\$320,000, 745 Little Rest Rd, Van Ness, Kirk C, to Brindle, Tyler.  
\$40,000, Town Farm Rd, Case, Anna H, to Mckinney, Justin D.

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
\$300,000, 49 Pierce Rd, Peterson, Catherine, to Saccone, Jennifer.

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**TO THE EDITOR:**  
E-MAIL: [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)  
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**SPENCER NEW LEADER**  
**PUBLISHED BY**  
**STONEBRIDGE PRESS**  
**PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER**  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
[frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)  
**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)  
**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**  
JIM DiNICOLA  
508-764-6102  
[jim@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jim@stonebridgepress.news)  
**EDITOR**  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
508-909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
JULIE CLARKE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 305  
[julie@villagenewspapers.com](mailto:julie@villagenewspapers.com)

The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical Postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



# West Brookfield Memorial Day Parade makes post-COVID return

EST BROOKFIELD — The Friends of the West Brookfield Veterans would like to announce that there will be a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29 in the Town of West Brookfield beginning at 9 a.m. The parade will begin at the West Brookfield Elementary School, travel to Pine Grove Cemetery, the West Brookfield Common, Sacred Heart Cemetery and disband at the American Legion Post 244, located at 5 Ware St., West Brookfield.

This will be the town's first full parade since before COVID, in 2019. In 2020, the community remembered and honored our fallen heroes by pulling together a "car" parade, to help 99-year-old WWII POW, Everett Allen, pay tribute to his fallen brothers.

We are excited to have the William Diamond Junior Fife and Drum Corps from Lexington back to march this year. They are always one of the favorite features of the parade. The American Legion, the West Brookfield Fire Department, the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, and Quaboag Youth Baseball will also be joining our Veterans as they march together, honoring and remembering our fallen.

A special thank you to all the members of the community who volunteered convertibles and jeeps to help our veterans who are unable to walk the entire length of the parade. It has been an amazing experience to watch the support financially from local businesses and from the community in the planning and revival of the parade.

# Concerts on the Common kick off July 7

BROOKFIELD — Residents can't wait for the Concerts on the Common series this summer, with performances to take place on Friday nights from 6-8 p.m.

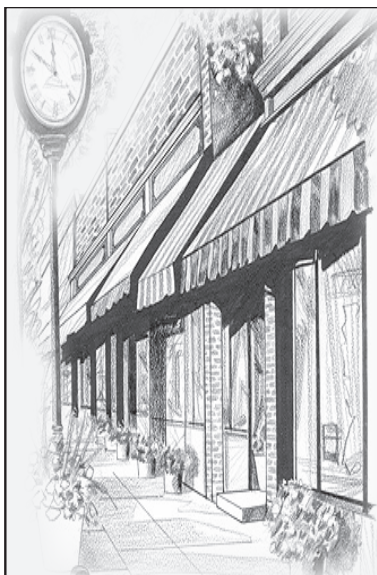
The fun and festivities will kick off on July 7 with a performance from Bad News Jazz. The following week, on July 14, Henry the Juggler will perform at 5 p.m., followed by Sunshine & Blue Skies.

Cold Train will perform on July 21. A Roadside Delights food truck will be on hand for tasty treats.

On July 28, Karaoke on the Common will feature Jammin' Jablanski. Guests of all ages are welcome to participate and show off their talents.

On August 4, The Great Escape will provide a Journey tribute. The following week, on Aug. 11, 4 Ever Fab will deliver a Beatles tribute.

The concerts will wrap up on Aug. 18 with a country performance from Cobblestone Road.



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# Managing the heat of hot peppers



Courtesy — All-America Solutions

Roulette peppers have the citrusy flavor of habaneros but not the heat.

Don't worry if the rest of your family does not appreciate the spicy heat your favorite hot peppers add to entrees, beverages and desserts. Proper pepper selection, care and preparation can help you turn down the heat as needed. Hot peppers' spicy heat is measured in Scoville Heat Units named for Wilbur Scoville. The level of heat was originally determined by a panel of individual tasters. Chili peppers were ground and added to a sugar-water solution. The solution was continually diluted until the panelist found the solution no longer burned their mouth. Each pepper was assigned a number based on the amount of sugar-water solution needed to reach that point. Today a more accu-

rate less subjective high-performance liquid chromatography method can be used for measuring the pungency of hot peppers. Poblano and Siracha rate between 1,000 to 2,500, jalapenos up to 8,000, cayenne can peak at 50,000, habaneros up to 350,000 and one of the hottest, the ghost pepper, at as much as 2,200,000 units. If you like the citrusy flavor of habaneros but not the heat, try the All-America Selections winner Roulette. Ornamental peppers are edible as well as pretty. Most rate anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 Scoville units. Chilly Chili ornamental pepper produces an abundance of attractive yellow, orange and red upright fruit on 10 to 12 inch

plants. As the name suggests, they have almost no heat. Mix with flowers for decorative displays in containers and garden beds.

Peppers grow and produce best when day temperatures are 70 to 80 degrees, and night temperatures are 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Cold, heat and drought are the most common cause of blossom drop, misshapen fruit, and a poor harvest.

Use a hand pruner or garden snips to harvest peppers without damaging the plants. Harvest most hot peppers when fully mature and red for the strongest flavor. Green chili and jalapeno peppers are harvested when green. And some like jalapeno, habanero and Anaheim, are hot whether harvested when green or red. When your summer is filled with long hot days hot peppers tend to be even hotter.

Avoid hot surprises when cooking by labeling hot peppers when growing, harvesting and storing them. Many sweet and hot pepper varieties look similar and confusing the two could be unpleasant. Just keep a glass of milk handy in case you need to neutralize the sting.

Turn down the heat, if needed or desired, when preparing your favorite recipes. Since most of the capsaicin, which gives hot peppers their heat, is in the white membrane that houses the seeds, just remove this and the seeds if you want the flavor with less heat.

Wear rubber gloves and avoid touch-



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

ing your face and eyes when working with hot peppers as they can burn. Wash your hands, utensils and cutting boards when finished. Turn a portion of your pepper harvest into pickled peppers for the hot pickle fans in the family to enjoy throughout the winter. The key to success and safety is using a tested recipe that contains the right amount of ingredients and processing it properly. Check University or other vetted sources for safe recipes and processing guidelines. Try some of these strategies and mention the many health benefits to encourage reluctant eaters to try hot peppers. Although hot peppers and spicy food can add to the pain and irritation of ulcers, they do not cause them contrary to some of the hot pepper myths. They do, however, provide gastric relief, kill cancer cells, prevent sinus infection, reduce inflammation, and even burn fat. Over time you may be able to turn up the heat on your favorite recipes for all to enjoy.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



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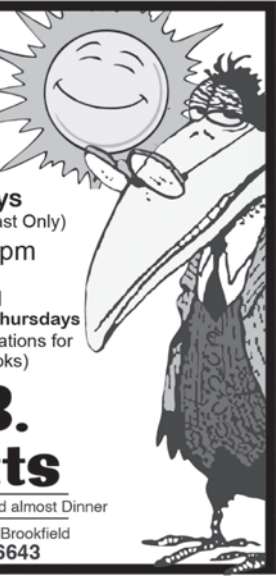
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## LEGALS

**SECTION 00110**  
**OXFORD ROCHDALE**  
**SEWER DISTRICT**  
**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION**

The Board of Sewer Commissioner's request sealed bids to provide Garage Roof Replacement Project; Contract 2023-2. Bidding Documents may be obtained on the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District web page or by calling 508-892-9549 or 508-958-7873 to request contract documents after Tuesday May 9, 2023. Oxford Rochdale Sewer District will receive bids at 28 Comins Road, North Oxford, MA 01537 until 11 A.M. Thursday June 22, 2023 prevailing time at which time bid documents will be publicly opened and read. The Board of Sewer Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids deemed not in the best interest of the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District. Board of Sewer Commissioners Oxford Rochdale Sewer District May 19, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO23P1492EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate of:**  
**Philip Kennen**

**Date of Death: May 5, 2021**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Thomas W. Kennen of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Thomas W. Kennen of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection **at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/20/2023.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate

are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. **WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: May 17, 2023  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
May 26, 2023

**At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**  
**Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**  
**Special Permit– Applicant/Owner: Julie Peloquin, DBA: Black Tulip Massage; Location: 7 Terkanian Drive, Spencer Assessor's Map R32-25. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.3.A.2 (Use of Residence for Business Purposes/ Customary Home Occupation) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to run a professional massage therapy business inside home, with off street parking, and no signage. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district**  
May 26, 2023  
June 2, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. W023C0203CA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Erin Marie Convery**  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Erin Marie Convery of West Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Adam Michael Convery**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/13/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. **WITNESS, HON. LEILAH A KEAMY, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: May 15, 2023  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
May 26, 2023



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## Spring

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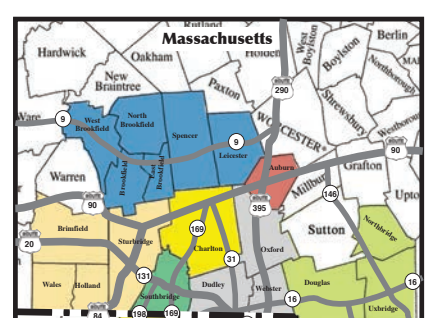
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BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# The Power of open-mindedness

In a world marked by increasing divisions and intolerance, the importance of open-mindedness cannot be overstated. Open-mindedness is not just a desirable quality; it is an essential attribute for both individuals and societies to grow. The willingness to explore new ideas, perspectives, and possibilities is the driving force behind growth, understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

At its core, open-mindedness stands in stark contrast to narrow-mindedness. While the latter shuts out differing opinions and clings stubbornly to preconceived notions, the former opens the floodgates to intellectual advancement. Open-minded individuals recognize the limitations of their knowledge and actively seek to broaden their horizons by engaging with diverse ideas and perspectives. They understand that the world is intricate, and that truth can be found in unexpected places.

An open mind liberates us from the constraints of our own biases and prejudices. It allows us to go beyond the echo chambers of our social circles, where our beliefs are constantly reinforced and seldom challenged. Open-mindedness compels us to question our assumptions, critically evaluate information, and consider alternative viewpoints. This willingness to embrace differing perspectives brings forth empathy, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the human condition.

In today's interconnected world, open-mindedness is more crucial than ever. The rapid advancement of technology has brought individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds, into closer proximity. Without open-mindedness, these encounters may result in misunderstanding, conflict, and the erosion of society. However, approaching these encounters with open minds allows us to discover commonalities, bridge gaps, and foster mutual understanding.

Open-mindedness also serves as a catalyst for progress. History has shown that many of humanity's greatest discoveries were made by individuals who dared to challenge prevailing wisdom and conventional thinking. By embracing new ideas, open-minded individuals pave the way for creativity, problem-solving, and the advancement of society. It is through open-mindedness that novel solutions emerge, technologies are grown, and uncharted possibilities come to fruition.

Open-mindedness does not imply blind acceptance or the abandonment of critical thinking. Striking a balance between open-mindedness and healthy skepticism is crucial. Open-mindedness does not suggest that all ideas are equally valid or that we should unquestioningly embrace every viewpoint. Instead, it means being willing to entertain diverse perspectives, objectively evaluate them, and draw well-informed conclusions.

In a time when polarization threatens to tear us apart, cultivating open-mindedness should be our collective goal. It requires us to engage in respectful dialogue, even with those whose views we vehemently disagree with. Open-mindedness is not a sign of weakness or indecisiveness; it is a strength that allows us to build bridges and find common ground.

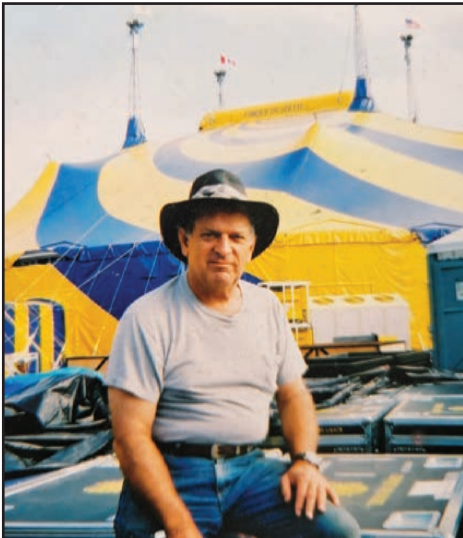
As individuals, we should challenge ourselves to examine our beliefs, confront our biases, and remain receptive to new ideas. We should actively seek out perspectives that differ from our own and engage in meaningful conversations that expand our understanding. We should include ourselves in environments that encourage open-mindedness, where the free exchange of ideas is valued and respected.

Open-mindedness necessitates humility, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to lifelong learning. By embracing open-mindedness, we expose ourselves to the vast landscape of human knowledge and experience, paving the way for progress, unity, and a brighter, well connected future.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## One lucky soldier A VIETNAM VETERAN'S ACCOUNTING



Courtesy

The author in the years after his return from Vietnam.

BY BOB POTVIN  
SPECIAL TO THE NEW LEADER

*Editor's note: As we prepare to honor the memories of those who have sacrificed themselves in the service of our country this weekend, we wanted to share with our readers one of the countless stories of military veterans who are still with us. Bob Potvin is a resident of Brookfield and longtime contributor to the New Leader who served as a radiographer during the Vietnam War. What follows is the first installment in his account of his experiences there.*

Dedication: This dedication is given to the memories of those men and women who were not so lucky. For a lifetime, the sadness, anguish of all Vietnam-era veterans must be deferentially revered. The Wall will stand forever. The names of these casualties were not so lucky. I was.

The Vietnam War was the ugliest of all American wars and the far-reaching implications of how humans behaved will remain with us to this date, 50 years later. Baby killings haunt the American mind. Agent Orange is despicable. Losing over 58,000 Americans still stirs the American soul, and may for 100 more years. Eight million Americans participated in the Vietnam War. Several from the Brookfields were killed or died from battle wounds.

The election of John Fitzgerald Kennedy in 1960 seemingly set the stage for the Vietnam War, but the truth is, it goes back to the Truman administration. The French at Dien Bien Phu went down to a terrible defeat in 1954. America paid for it all, through and through, according to a documentary released in 2010 by Daniel Elsberg. The Vietnam War smoldered for years. Slowly, a build-up was in progress... then, bam; President John Kennedy was assassinated weeks after the leader of South Vietnam, Diem, was killed.

America was in a tizzy. Lyndon Johnson thought a war was necessary. Soon after assuming the office of President, Johnson began the build-up of troops in Southeast Asia, a.k.a. French Indo-China.

At the time, I finished college with a Bachelor's degree. I was concerned about the draft. I went to Mrs. Marion McNamee in Spencer at Local Board 171 and asked her when...she said, "Let the chips fall, Bob." I did.

I was hired by a World War II veteran in the casualty insurance industry: Aetna Hartford. For one year, I worked in a new profession: casualty insurance claim adjusting. I was cocky, beer-drinking and I really didn't have a sense of where I was going in life. Friends all around me were getting drafted or enlisted into the military. St. Louis University was very slow in re-classifying me to 1-A. I took my chances and continued drinking Budweiser...a Saint Louis University education in itself!

Still nothing happened with my draft status. I was transferred to Chicago and settled claims on the South Side. I started squirming as I knew the inevitable was going to happen: conscription. We don't do draft dodging.

Memories of Uncle Albert and his cache of Nazi souvenirs came forward. I was to respond to my country's call. I tried to enlist in the Air Force..."Full" was the response from the recruiting officers in Worcester at the Post Office. "Try the Jarheads" was their response, so I did, and I thought I was going to be a United States Marine. Wouldn't you know it, on March 15, 1966, two days before reporting to Quantico, Va., I received a phone call from Captain William B. Williams: "Bob, can you wait until August? The school is full." I said, "Can I get out of this?" It seemed all of my friends were against my being a Marine.

Dad wasn't a veteran, and couldn't guide me. What to do? I got out of my tentative enlistment by asking. Then



A young Bob Potvin (seated) checks in an x-ray patient at a facility in Vietnam, ca. 1967.

I decided if Uncle Sam wants me, I'll take my chances. I was almost 24 years old, and had my feet on the ground. In the meantime, hippies, beatniks and Vietnam War protestors were running our society...so I thought. America was quickly becoming a mess, and I didn't realize I would be in the middle of it all until I became a soldier.

My draft notice came ordering me to report to the Draft Board Local 171 Selective Service in Spencer on April 22, 1966. I was to be inducted on Friday, May 13, 1966. My parents then drove me to Spencer at 6 a.m. for a bus ride to Springfield for induction. Mother's departing words were incredible: "If you can go to Saint Louis (to college), you can serve your country."

Nine local draftees from Leicester, Spencer and the Brookfields rode the bus to Springfield. In Springfield, I was put in charge of our group. We were to fly from Hartford to Louisville, then to Fort Knox. Fort Dix was full of recruits...so was Fort Knox. Great. My basic training back in the Midwest was going to be fun, I thought, and it was, from doing the daily dozen in calisthenics to running the mile each morning at 6 a.m. and learning how to fire an M-14 rifle. My initial Army experiences were fun indeed.

"This weapon is made for one reason," exhorted Sgt. Smith, a Korean War Army veteran. "To kill another man!" As raw recruits, we greenhorns got the message straight on...war is about killing other people.

I was never gung-ho, so I laid back in the rear flanks. Springtime in Kentucky was beautiful, and we drank our "near beer" and went to bed at 9 p.m. The Army was becoming more fun...by the number. We marched to the cadence of Sgt. Roy's call. "Boots on the ground." In counting cadence...I would mock him. He was befuddled until the time he said, "I've found my wise guy...drop down and give me 20 push-ups, Potvin!" I did. No more mocking Sgt. Roy. Military life is about discipline. I was learning the drill...almost. I hated the U.S. Army with a capital H, yet I endured.

As one of 3 percent of all draftees with a college degree, I felt superior to others, and was humbled constantly. Hey, I worked my way through college and owed no man. Now, I was challenged to get a good MOS (Military Occupational Specialty). I even tried out for being a Chaplain's Assistant. (I didn't want to kill anybody.) I wanted to continue to have fun. One time, we went into Louisville on Liberty and got tangled up with some young ladies of the night. Enough said. Army towns, as they are called, traditional are rife with prostitutes.

My next stop was San Antonio, Texas, for advanced training in x-ray technology 91p20. I was with my own element. The guys and girls were very intelligent. It was like going back to college, I thought. Fort Sam Houston appeared to be a college with its stately buildings and huge campus. All of medical personnel learned their basic disciplines at Fort Sam. I loved it. My luck continued. It was the fall of the year, and I delighted in the intellectual challenges and newfound freedoms.

I made new friends with soldiers from Worcester and the late John T. Swedis to San Francisco and Tom Cleveland and beyond. My bunk mate, today, is a chiropractor, Dr. Larry Bauml from Michigan, and went on to lead our class of 80-something x-ray technicians. Another friend and classmate was Mike Flanagan from Canton, Ohio. Mike was just a kid. I will write about our good fortune in Vung Tau later.

Life was good. I was drinking beer again and [urinating] foam. We learned human anatomy and physiology both in the classroom and in a 1961 Chevrolet convertible. One of my teachers tried to set her hook in my lips, but I spit it out. Let's just call her Marie Osmond. I wasn't ready for marriage. Instead, I went on to Fort Dix, N.J. for OJT and x-ray cohort, Swedis. We had more fun drinking beer. We laughed as only youth can laugh.

## What should you expect from your investments?



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To help achieve your financial goals, you may need to invest in the financial markets throughout your life. However, at times your investment expectations may differ from actual returns, triggering a variety of emotions. So, what are reasonable expectations to have about your investments?

Ideally, you hope that your investment portfolio will eventually help you meet your goals, both your short-term ones, such as a cross-country vacation, and the long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement. But your expectations may be affected by several factors, including the following:

Misunderstanding – Various factors in the economy and the financial markets trigger different reactions in different types of investments — so you should expect different results. When you own stocks, you can generally expect greater price volatility in the short term. Over time, though, the "up" and "down" years tend to average out. When you own bonds, you can expect less volatility than individual stocks, but that's not to say that bond prices never change. Generally, when interest rates rise, you can anticipate that the value of your existing, lower-paying bonds may decrease, and when rates fall, the value of your bonds may increase.

Recency bias – Investors exhibit "recency bias" when they place too much emphasis on recent events in the financial markets, expecting that those same events will happen again. But these expectations can lead to negative behavior. For example, in 2018, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell almost 6% — so investors subject to recency bias might have concluded it was best to stay out of the markets for a while. But the Dow jumped more than 22 percent the very next year. Of course, the reverse can also be true: In 2021, the Dow rose almost 19 percent, so investors who might have been susceptible to recency bias may have thought they were in for more big gains right away — but in 2022, the Dow fell almost 9 percent. Here's the bottom line: Recency bias may cloud your expectations about your investments' performance — and it's essentially impossible to predict accurately what will happen to the financial markets in any given year.

Anchoring – Another type of investment behavior is known as "anchoring" — an excessive reliance on your original conviction in an investment. So, for instance, if you bought stock in a company you thought had great prospects, you might want to keep your shares year after year, even after evidence emerges that the company has real risks — for example, poor management, or its products could become outdated, or it could be part of an industry that's in decline. But if you stick with your initial belief that the company will inevitably do well, and you're not open to new sources of information about this investment, your expectations may never be met.

In many areas of life, reality may differ from our expectations — and that can certainly be true for our investments. Being familiar with the factors that can shape your expectations can help you maintain a realistic outlook about your investments.

*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](mailto:trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com).*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't feed the trolls, don't support the recall

To the Editor:

I begin by expressing my deep affection for my town, not through blind admiration. North Brookfield, while not inherently more exceptional than any other town, holds a special place in my heart. It is intertwined with the history of my family and myself. However, when we truly love something, we must confront its problems head-on and call them out.

In the past five years, the use of social media as a weapon has taken control of our local government. Individuals with no discernible talents beyond sowing chaos have managed to manipulate residents, leading to a troubling trend of recalling officials whenever there is any disagreement with the status quo. Even worse, elected representatives have embraced these attempts to stifle dissent.

Having served on various town committees for over two decades, I can confidently say that the dismal current state of affairs is unparalleled. Let us delve into the ongoing recall petition that targets Brooke Canada and Doug Borowski. They are unjustly accused of: 1. Demonstrating bias towards members of the Democratic town committee, 2. Allegedly endorsing immoral behavior, and 3. Consistently attempting to suppress freedom of speech.

None of these charges hold any basis in reality. It remains entirely unclear what specific actions or inactions Doug Borowski, as a member of the Board of Health, has taken regarding the recent dispute involving men dressing as women and lip-syncing to Disney songs. The proponents of the recall petition have merely copy-pasted the same unfounded allegations onto a recall for him.

As it stands, the Select Board currently holds the majority votes to block the performance. Despite this, Ms. Canada, who holds a dissenting view, is being subjected to a recall? If people are so vehemently opposed to the event, they should exert pressure on Mr. Tripp and Mr. Petritis to take a stand. However, it is highly unlikely that they will change

their positions from an abstaining vote. Why? Because town counsel has informed them that engaging in an expensive court process would likely result in defeat, with the event proceeding regardless—because the town common is for everyone. Consequently, they opted to abstain from voting. It is disheartening to witness their lack of conviction, yet the response is to recall Ms. Canada instead of holding them accountable.

This issue extends beyond men dressing up and lip-syncing; it sends a chilling message to anyone aspiring to run for or participate in town government: “Conform or face recall.” Ms. Canada, who managed to secure a tie against an incumbent Select Board member and subsequently defeated a candidate who received considerable promotion and support from Mr. Tripp, seems to be a sore point for them that they simply cannot move past.

I once had an electrician doing work at my house and we discussed how different people are. He said something like, “People live their lives differently, and it takes all kinds, and that’s okay.” I was impressed by that, I appreciate the live-and-let-live approach. I wish that guy was still around. I think dressing up and being different—being true to yourself—takes courage. Nobody is obligated to attend the event on the town common. In the future perhaps a permit should have a disclaimer that the issuance of a permit does not mean that the event is endorsed by the town, only that it allows the permit holder to use that space.

Meanwhile, North Brookfield is grappling with an \$800,000 deficit. Yet we find ourselves fixated on this trivial matter. Enough is enough. The town must cease allowing policy decisions to be dictated by baseless accusations orchestrated by vulgar internet trolls, who shamelessly seek attention without considering the potential harm inflicted upon our community.

TREVOR BRUSO  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Regular old reality

To the Editor:

I figured a response to Mark Robillard's Altered Reality deserved a response. The first untruth is we are in far better shape now than we were four years ago, because the country and schools, so many businesses, and most sporting events were closed, shut down, and on life support.

After virtually the entire world starts to re-open, a simple rule of supply and demand kicked in (again, worldwide), and re-establishing the supply line, was in many ways, hampered by sources who did not survive, workers who made alternate arrangements, and, as always, a lesson I learned from a former boss- the right price is what people are willing to pay.. When asked about our pricing he told of the man who walked into the store and asked why our eggs were \$4 a dozen, but only \$2 across the street. When asked why he did not buy them there, he said they were out. He responded that they would be \$2 a dozen when we were out too.

Anyone with a decent memory will remember the “too big to fail” bank fiasco that occurred because the banks had again dumped the lessons that caused the Great Depression in the 1930s. Our Congress responded by passage of the Dodd-Frank legislation that prohibited the bank speculation levels that made no sense. An example was when I was trying to buy a business I had run for years, but when I pitched it to the bank, they put disaster liquidation values on the assets I was buying from my retiring boss. Because of good will, I could have started up cheaper, but would have to compete with the existing business when sold. These rules only existed for me. Banks had been investing up to 5 times their worth, which allowed them to go underwater, while foreclosing homes and businesses. Dodd-Frank was designed to stop this, but was repealed under Trump (in fairness, many Dems, including Barney Frank,

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.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

Nothing Burgers

To the Editor:

The Democratic Party and their controlled media like to label their crimes “Nothing Burgers.”

When the FBI, in collusion with members of the Democratic party, created false information called the Steele Dossier to try to take down the duly elected president of the United States, no one gets charged. Previously, this would be viewed as treasonous mutiny and be subject to the rule of law. Not today, when the DOJ is a politically controlled by Biden LLC and Bidens DOJ. They ignore it and instruct their news outlets to call it a “Nothing Burger.”

What happens when current President's drugged up son forgets a laptop at a repair shop with all types of nefarious information about payments from foreign countries to fake LLC companies? You would think it would be of interest by the FBI and IRS, but not when controlled by the Dems. Not when you have the DOJ and IRS in collusion with Biden LLC. When we have Vice President on tape bragging that he told Ukrainian officials to fire the judge investigating Burisma, where Hunter was “working,” or else he would withhold millions in aid. (A clear “quid pro quo,” unlike the fake one they tried to take down Trump on. What happens when we have patriotic whistleblowers from both with proof that their bosses were instructed to obfuscate and bury the evidence. They get attacked by the Dems. When Comer and Congress demand the info, they are stonewalled by Biden's DOJ. They then instruct their media outlets and Dem colleagues to call the congressional investigations of it a “Nothing Burger.”

Those who question the validity of paper ballots counted long after the election are “Election Deniers” and conspiracy mongers. Unless you're a Dem like Stacy Abrams. Those who demonstrated against “the guy hiding in the cellar” beating a guy campaigning in the open are called insurrectionists and

Real costs due to fake debt ceiling concerns and “Altered Reality”

To the Editor:

As an example of how “fake” the MAGA “Republican” concerns about the debt ceiling are, listen to our worst ever president, Donald Trump. First, he said on a televised CNN “Town Hall” program he that he was opposed to raising the current debt ceiling . Asked why he raised the debt ceiling (three times ) when he was in office, he replied “Because then I was the President.” In other words, for Trump and the MAGA “Republicans” in Congress, raising or not raising the “fake” debt ceiling depends on whether it is good for them or bad for the Democrats. This is true even if it weakens the USA and strengthens Xi Jinping's China.

This time, it has done both.

One very important current example concerns the MAGA “Republican” fake debt ceiling crisis which much weakens our USA and while strengthening Xi Jinping's China.

President Biden and his administration, like Obama's, know that Asia has become most important mainly because of China's aims to overcome the United States and become the dominate world power. The Obama administration, however clumsily, moved to counter China by getting 10 concerned Asian and American countries to line up in an alliance called the Trans Pacific Partnership. Trump after becoming President, immediately dumped it, partly because it was not his program, but Obama's. Sound familiar? Re-read paragraph one.

Then liking the idea of ruling in ways similar to cruel dictators like Xin Jinping and North Korea's Kim Jong, he cozied up to them, At the same he ignored or insulted our more democratic Asian allies. This helped China, to move forward.

Working with again close partners Japan and Australia, the “Bidens,” with two years planning, again tried to develop a partnership to counter Jing Xinpings China beginning this week by:

Having the world's eight great democratic economic powers meet in Japan to discuss China and other issues, Meet separately in Australia with the host and the, apart from China, the two most important Asian countries, Japan and India, Travel to Papua New Guinea, to meet with the leaders of Pacific Island Countries, a region where China has become more and more active.

brought down by the Biden LLC DOJ with 20-year sentences. Those who fight CRT in schools and are pro-life are now labeled as “domestic terrorists” by the Biden DOJ, with the FBI raiding their homes. The leftist media, such as those on “The View,” say black people and minorities who don't agree with the Dem views are “White supremacists.” So, you can be a white supremacist now even if you aren't white. This is true Orwellian double speak from a one party controlled fascist state. No dissent allowed under threat of arrest.

Remember, it was Dem Sen. Schumer who warned Trump if he questioned the FBI that there was 100 ways for them to get him. What we have here is a government controlled by one party in collusion with the governments police system. A system that was never created by the Constitution, but was created in the early 1900's to supposedly to protect America from foreign threats. Instead, we have a weaponized police force used by one party to control our country. Their allegiance is not to the American people but to their Deep State controllers. Their media outlets have the tools to spread propaganda directly via phones. When RFK Jr. comes out and says he thinks they had something to do with his uncle's assassination, they label him a nut. The Dems and their controlled media whitewash the corruption and control by calling it a 'Nothing Burgers!'

How soon till they control what you drive, how you cook, what is acceptable speech, what you can think, and where you can live. You know they are already doing this to you under the guise of Climate Change. Its time to vote in 2024 to get rid of the “Nothing Burger Party” and get vote in the president that loves the Quarter Pounder instead. Vote Trump in 2024 to save America.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

But what happened?

Because of the MAGA “Republicans” fake debt ceiling crisis and the real worry of not paying what the USA owes and its impact, Biden had cancel his Australia and Papua New Guinea meetings. So instead of meeting with countries to counter China, he was forced to cancel two Heads of State meetings and come home to discuss with MAGA Republicans a crisis they made up.

A last question: If you were an Asian leader (or one in anywhere else) after two self-inflicted failed efforts to counter China, would you trust the USA - including its' self-centered “Our America First” MAGA Republican minority - to reliably lead the way?

(A personal note, over a decade or so, I have lived, worked and extensive travelled in India, Pacific Island Countries, and Australia.)

Now let's go from global to local. While disagreeing with what it says, last week's “Altered reality” letter deserves a welcome – a diversity of expressed opinions is almost always better than just one.

With time and word limitations and a fact checking focus some comments on the first column of the letter.

Inflation is not “rampant”; in fact it has begun to decline, Banks are still lending money, if with more difficult conditions, The government is hardly the only source of money, the private sector, investors, foundations etc. remain huge sources , The Biden government has no plan to nationalize businesses, rather it often subsidizes and protects them, Government doesn't say that White (colored) people are the greatest “threat”, but rather of U.S. terrorist organizations, reactionary right wing white nationalist supremist ones are the most dangerous, Tens of millions of immigrants are not flowing through our Southern Borders. In fact, because of Biden, the numbers are trending downwards - for good and bad reasons Sadly the last time Congress voted on immigration, Republican President George Bush's attempt to have a sensible, if flawed immigration plan approved by Congress failed because of lack votes from his own party , and Social Security money is not used to assist immigrants .

Facts should always “trump” fake.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

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# Sometimes, fishing is about more than catching fish

The much needed rain sure helped with farmers crops, and also filled reservoirs for water this summer. Brooks and streams that still hold numerous trout were also helped with the recent rain, and will help to ensure the final stocking of trout by MFW will sustain them for weeks to come. Memorial Day usually signals the end of the spring stocking of trout; however, if they have more trout to stock, it could go a bit longer. Very few complaints were heard from local anglers this year pertaining to local stocking of trout. They sure are larger in size, back to the early days of my trout fishing, when a 12 inch trout was a big fish! Catching native brook trout was kept secret from other anglers for many years, until the internet showed its ugly face.

Last week, a local angler and his buddy headed out to catch a few haddock. It's not that they did not try! They traveled to their local hot spots without



THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH TRUE

a single fish to take home, after a long day. They were not alone. No one could find the haddock, or even a cod fish, although they cannot be retained! Party boats in the area had the same problem!

The Mass. seabass fishing for recreational anglers opened on May 20, with a daily limit of four fish. It is such a great eating fish, that many anglers will still spend the time and money to catch a few to take home for the dinner table. Of course, it is not just about catching fish. The time spent on the saltwater with friends and family is priceless, and if you get on the water just before sunrise, you will see some amazing picturesque views from Mother Nature. You do not see views like that at your local fish market!

This week's picture of an angler with a two-pound calico bass (crappie) reminds me of my earlier days, when the calico bass. was extremely abundant. My older brother Mel and I would

go fishing off of the bridge at Meadow Pond on Main Street, which was less than a quarter mile from our home.

Using a fly rod with a mickey finn fly attached to a leader, we would catch a stringer of the tasty fish for our dad to clean and make a great fish chowder. I do not remember catching a calico that big, but they were a lot of fun to catch. When the state started to spray DDT to kill mosquitos, it also negatively impacted birds and fish, after they ate the poisoned insects. It was awful! Hopefully, a lesson learned!

Ticks are extremely abundant this year, and can cause some major health problems for man & pets. Be sure to keep your pets on preventive medication. The medication is extremely expensive, but the alternative of losing your pet will be devastating!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



This week's picture shows George Spitz of Webster with a two-pound Calico bass taken at Webster lake! Nice fish!

Courtesy

# Tips to Keep Garden Flowers Fresh

Many a dreary winter's afternoon has been brightened by the thought of the first flowers of the season. After months of planning and plotting a flower garden, few simple pleasures compare to a bed of brilliant blooms.. Looking ahead to a garden of blossoms, this week's column offers some tips and tricks to keep those precious flowers fresher longer.



TAKE THE HINT  
.....  
KAREN TRAINOR

flower stems, preventing water uptake. In addition, soft water is usually high in sodium, which is toxic to some flowers such as carnations and roses. Also, some municipalities add fluoride to water, which is harmful to gladioli and freesia. No matter what your water source, if you haven't had your water tested, but suspect it isn't good quality, the best bet would be to use distilled or bottled water for your fresh flowers.

Another factor of flower-friendly water is temperature. Experts recommend warm water for most freshly cut flowers. Warm water contains less air than cold water and the stems will take the liquid in quicker, resulting in faster hydration.

The cleanliness of the water is yet another factor, as bacteria and fungi grow rapidly in vase water, and can block the flower stems from soaking in needed water. Vases and containers should always be washed with a weak bleach and water mixture between uses.

For optimum flower life, water should be replaced every third day with the addition of an appropriate preservative.

Florists usually recommend commercial powdered preservatives to prolong the life of cut flowers, and the packets are handy and easy to use. The active ingredients in these solutions usually contain three elements: a sugar to nourish the flowers, a biocide to inhibit bacteria growth and an acidifier to lower pH. However, if you prefer to go the homemade route, the following solution can be easily concocted:

To one gallon of water add a twelve ounce can of

Sprite, or a similar lemon lime soft drink. The sugar in the soda provides food for the flowers and the citric acid works to lower the pH of the water. Also add a tablespoon of chlorine bleach to the gallon solution. The bleach will serve as an antibacterial to keep the water clean.

From Garden to Vase: Proper cutting, trimming and prepping is crucial to flower longevity, and experts tout several "golden rules" to increase the lifetime of fresh flowers:

It's important to harvest garden flowers when the sun is down, typically late evening or very early morning. Flowers are best for cutting then, as they are well hydrated and contain the highest carbohydrate reserves. When harvesting garden flowers, bring a bucket of water into the garden and cut stems with sharp garden shears, immediately placing each flower into the bucket of water.

Once inside the house, recut the stems. Using a sharp knife, cut stems under water, then place them into a holding vase or bucket with water and floral preservative. To do this properly, you will need a sharp knife and a dishpan or pot filled with warm water. Hold the stem under water and cut off at least two inches of the stem at an angle. The

cut is done under water to prevent air from entering the cut. After cutting, lift flower straight up and out of the tub, ensuring a droplet of water on the cut stem. Then place into the holding water with preservative. For best results, allow garden flowers to set in the solution for about eight hours prior to arranging in a vase.

When ready to arrange, remove all foliage that will be below the water level of the vase or container when arranged. Cutting off the greenery is important because if left on, it will decompose in the vase and encourage bacteria and fungi growth.

Dirty vase water produces ethylene, which in turn causes fresh flowers to wilt and die prematurely. High levels of ethylene are also present in ripening fruits and vegetables, so keep flowers a safe distance away from these sources. And be sure to always remove wilting flowers from an arrangement.

When displaying your arranged flowers, avoid setting them on a warm surface, or near a heat source. Also note that flowers set in direct sunlight will wilt quickly. To extend their vase life, move flowers to a cool room overnight.

However, no matter what you do, the sad fact is: garden flowers with the greatest fragrance typically have the shortest vase life.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

Do you have a 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

# HELLO NEIGHBOR!

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## Late bloomers

Do good things come to those who wait? I don't know; I guess it all depends! Growing up, they said my age group belonged to the microwave generation—impatient, wanting everything 'popcorn quick.' That made it especially hard when I couldn't accomplish my dreams instantly.

My journey in competitive swimming began when I was only five-year-old. I remember those early practices where the promise of a tootsie roll at the end of each lap was my only motivation to keep going. However, as I paddled through the years, my love for the sport took root, growing with me from Junior high to College.

I wasn't always the fastest, and to soften the blow of losing a race, my dad often told me, "You're a late bloomer, Toby." Giving me hope that one day, I would attain the victory.

A late bloomer is a phrase he used to describe a person who fulfills their potential later than expected; they often have talents that aren't visible to others initially.

My dedication was unwavering as I continued, but my speed in the pool could have been more impressive, particularly towards the end of high school and into College. I wasn't the slowest, but my gold medal was often out of reach. I often took solace in the fact that "I'm a late bloomer." Just like my dad said.

In the lull between high school and College, I stumbled upon triathlons. This thrilling combination of endurance sports had my heart racing even before I hit the starting line. I knew I was no longer a late bloomer and was delighted to win first place in my age group!

My victory could have been more impressive after discovering I was the only one racing in my age group, winning by default. It turned out I was still a late bloomer.

When I finally let go of the notion that I was going to be a professional swimmer, it initially felt like an admission of defeat, but it was really a recalibration of direction.

While I could feel my ego taking a hit, always in the back of my mind, I heard my dad's voice, "It's okay, Toby, you're just a late bloomer." A course change isn't about accepting failure but acknowledging the many avenues to the finish line.

Not hitting it big in the pool wasn't a failure. Instead, it was life nudging me to look beyond, to find where my natural strengths lay. Sometimes, instead of focusing on 'what might have been,' you must look at 'what could still be.'

A common belief is that shifting goals is akin to giving up. But that's not the whole truth.

Remember, only you know your own heart. Shifting your focus isn't necessarily waving the white flag—it might just be the turn you need toward your real win. Sticking with a lost cause doesn't make you a hero—sometimes, the real bravery is in stepping away from the familiar and venturing into the new.

Being a late bloomer doesn't always mean you'll grow where you originally planted. If life compels you to reroute and venture in a different direction, don't mistake it for failure. Instead, it's a sign that your success is about to blossom—you're just a late bloomer.

It's not about the speed you reach your goals but more about the resilience and determination you develop along the way. Developing the ability to change course when the initial plan doesn't work out and seeking success on



# OBITUARIES

## Edward B. "Butch" Hart, 72



**N O R T H  
B R O O K F I E L D** - Edward B. "Butch" Hart, 72, of North Brookfield, died peacefully at home on Friday, May 19, 2023 after a short but fierce battle with a brain tumor.

He leaves his mother Helen Hart of North Brookfield; his daughter Jaime Hart of Boston; a brother Neil Parker and his girlfriend Linda Wilson of North Brookfield. He was predeceased by his father Edward Hart and his brothers, David and John Hart. Butch was loved by many, including his many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and Linda's sons Jason Strom, his wife Rebecca and their children Kayleigh, Travis and Jeromi Strom & his partner Heather and their children Brandon, Fiona and Finnley. He was raised in Wheelwright and was a graduate of Quabbin High School. Butch had recently retired after a long and satisfying career as a general con-

tractor. He loved building houses and teaching others how to make a living from construction. He also made a point to enjoy life. He was an avid scuba diver, traveling around the world with lifelong friends from Inland Divers. Many summers were enjoyed boating on Lake Winnepesaukee, while the winters were spent on the slopes around the US. He also enjoyed trips around the country and New England on his Harleys, especially if stops for ice cream were involved. His family would like to thank the amazing team at Laura's Guardian Angels for making his final days comfortable. Friends and family are invited to attend calling hours on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 11:30AM-1:30PM in Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House, Inc. P.O. Box 12, North Brookfield, MA 01535 or online at: <https://nbtownhouse.com>. An online guest book is available at [www.pillsburyfuneralhome.com](http://www.pillsburyfuneralhome.com)

## Shirley M. Morrisette, 89

**N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D** - Shirley M. Morrisette, 89, of North Brookfield passed away at home on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. She was the wife of the late Arthur E. Morrisette who she was married to for 54 years. She was born to the late Jamie Lawrence and the late Viola (Dunlop) Swindlehurst on January 8, 1934.

She leaves her sister, Anne Kupiek of Ware, her niece Cheryl, nephew James Sweeney and family, and many other nieces and nephews. Shirley will be mourned by caregiver and dear friend, Karen Bessette of North Brookfield, her friend Janet Quaterale of North Brookfield, and many other friends. In addition to Shirley's parents, she was predeceased by her brother, James Swindlehurst and sister, Betty Sweeny of Ware.

Shirley was a very proud custodian at North Brookfield Public Schools, before retiring in 1996. She was a very gifted seamstress, often making her own clothing and curtains. She loved Sally's (Salvation Army Store) in Spencer, and helped set up the store before it opened. Shirley enjoyed many activities, from doing the polka at

dances at the VFW in North Brookfield to finding bargains at yard sales, and even going on a cruise to Hawaii. Those that knew her best knew she was funny and kind. She was very proud of her husband Art's service in the military and his woodworking skills.

Shirley's caregiver would like to thank the North Brookfield Police Department and the North Brookfield EMS for their kind and diligent care of Shirley during many ambulance calls to her home.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements. Services will be held at the convenience of the family.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com).

## Jacqueline E. Gifford, 85



**N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D** - Jacqueline Edith (Child) Gifford passed away peacefully in her home on May 18, 2023 at the age of 85. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend.

For many years, Jackie was involved in 4-H and women's fellowship at the First Congregational Church. She enjoyed everyday adventures, vacationing and especially going on cruises. She was a talented dancer, participating in local round and square dance events, along with ballroom dancing with her husband. Jackie was an avid Celtics fan and loved listening to the games. Her Siamese cats held a special place in her heart as well as on her lap.

Jackie is survived by her four children; Diana Krusell and husband Jay,

Henry Gifford and wife Gloria, David Gifford, and Ellen Stetson, as well as her sister, Patricia Szlosek. She was also a loving grandmother to 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

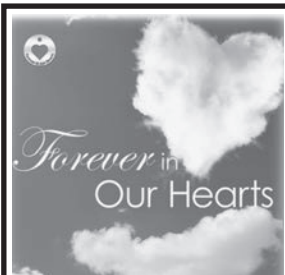
The family is deeply grateful to her caregivers whose remarkable dedication and compassion enabled Jackie to remain comfortably in her home. Special thanks to the Overlook Hospice nurses for their skilled and loving service.

A graveside service will be held June 13th at 1:30 PM in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton, MA.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 200 Ivy Street, Brookline, MA 02446.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)



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## Spencer Summer Concert Series kicks off June 25

**SPENCER** — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission will again be presenting a Summer Concert Series at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer. Shows are from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. This year's lineup includes the following dates and acts.

June 25	She's Busy
July 9	The Deloreans
July 16	The Love Dogs
July 23	Fender Road & Kylie Harris
July 30	Vivi and Da Funk
Aug. 6	The Silverbacks
Aug. 13	The Chain
Aug. 20	Chuck & Mud
Aug. 27	Dan Fontaine & Memphis Sun Mafia: Elvis Presley Tribute

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster and Worcester.

### POSITIVELY

continued from page A10

a path less traveled.

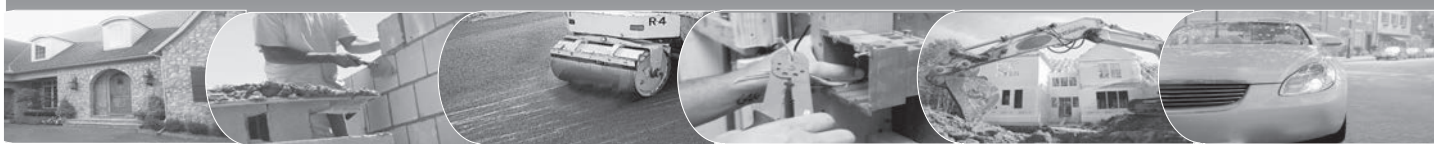
As a kid, I'd listen to my father's words and feel a comforting sense of validation. Now, those words resonate with even deeper significance. They remind me that it's okay to take my time and that blooming late doesn't mean blooming any less brilliantly.

Don't be quick to deem your ventures as failures if they don't work out as planned. Your goals may shift, and your dreams may evolve, but it's all part of our unique blooming process.

Sometimes, the journey you've embarked upon isn't the one that will ferry you to the shores of success.

Being a late bloomer doesn't necessarily mean you've missed the boat. Sometimes, it means you're getting ready to captain your own ship.

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# Local student-athletes take part in Special Olympics School Day Games



Kevin Flanders/Courtesy

Local student-athletes enjoyed the Leicester Special Olympics School Day Games last week.







BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

**L E I C E S T E R** — Student-athletes from throughout the area represented their schools last week at the annual Leicester Special Olympics School Day Games.

Held on May 19 at the middle-high school, the event featured over 140 athletes from Leicester, Spencer-East Brookfield, McAuley Nazareth, Old Sturbridge Academy, Grafton, and Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Schools.

The event kicked off with an opening ceremony featuring the Assabet Valley Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard leading the athletes around the track. Joining them

were Leicester Police Sergeant Alexander Samia and Patrol Officer James Murphy, as well as local officials.

Leicester High School senior Steven Jyringi carried the Special Olympics torch during the ceremony. Opening remarks were delivered by long-time community leader and volunteer Harry Brooks, who helped facilitate the event.

Over the next few hours, teams of athletes competed at seven stations showcasing various skills. These included running, throwing, relay races, jumping, soccer, and an obstacle course. The event also featured crafts, face painting, and a newly added musical

instrument jamboree.

“It’s always an exciting day when the Leicester Public Schools hosts the Special Olympics,” said School Committee Chair Donna McCance. “Harry Brooks does an amazing job coordinating the School Day Games, which involves many staff, volunteers, and students all pulling together to make this a spectacular event for our athletes and school community. I consider it a gift to be around the positive energy of everyone involved.”

Officials thank everyone who came together to make the event an unforgettable success for athletes and their families. Volunteers represented multiple local schools and organizations, including

the Leicester Lions Club and the JROTC.

“This was my first Special Olympics in Leicester. It is great to see our school community come together to celebrate our students,” said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian, who was hired last summer. “I want to thank Harry Brooks and all of the organizers of the event. Our staff is amazing and I am honored to work alongside LPS teachers, paraprofessionals, and other staff. Finally, our students are incredible and they inspire me.”

The event wrapped up with a closing ceremony that celebrated all athletes and volunteers.

For organizing committee members, the event

represents the culmination of a yearlong planning process. The end result is a day of smiles and celebrations for local athletes.

“It takes a real community effort to pull off such a fantastic day for our student-athletes, and we are so thankful for their support,” said committee member Lenore Rust. “We want to thank over 80 volunteers for the day, including high school students, school staff members, committee members, as well as many community members.”

Select Board member Dianna Provencher was among the volunteers in attendance to lend a helping hand.

“The Leicester Public Schools has been hosting

the Special Olympics for about eight years, and every year it gets better and better. Everyone enjoyed this memorable event,” Provencher said.

Local business and community partners are also thanked for their instrumental support each year. This year’s event sponsors include Leicester Lions Club; G&L Plumbing and Heating; Everlift Industrial Truck Service; Giguere’s; Country Bank; Electrical Wholesalers; the Leicester/Spencer Eagles; Spellane Auto; Spencer Agriculture Association; Hillcrest Country Club; S&R Properties; LCAC; Jess West Music; Paradise Pizza; and Frito Lay.





# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, MAY 11  
12:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:58 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 5:47 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 9:28 a.m.: ambulance (Victoria Drive), transported; 9:49 a.m.: parking complaint (Stafford Street), services rendered; 11:48 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), service rendered; 12:02 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 3:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 3:26 p.m.: suspicious activity (King Street), spoken to; 3:37 p.m.: fraud (Henshaw Street), report taken; 4:05 p.m.: ambulance (Lakeside Avenue, Worcester), transported; 4:47 p.m.: parking complaint (Locust Street), spoken to; 4:49 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 5:02 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:06 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 5:28 p.m.: harassment (King Street), unfounded; 5:32 p.m.: fraud (Deer Pond Road), report taken; 6:01 p.m.: check welfare (Main Street), spoken to; 6:13 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 9:06 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street, Spencer), resolved; 9:12 p.m.: ambulance (Chandler Street, Worcester), transported; 9:55 p.m.: disturbance (Towtaid Street), services rendered; 10:10 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unfounded; 11:59 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), verbal warning.

FRIDAY, MAY 12  
1:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:37 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 1:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 2:13 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 2:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 4:29 a.m.: ambulance (Leela Lane), transported; 7:06 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:31 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:57 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 8:07 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 8:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:50 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:04 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 9:27 a.m.: mv stop (Market Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 10:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:32 a.m.: mv stop (Winslow Avenue), verbal warning; 12:00 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 12:06 a.m.: fraud (Spring Street), report taken; 2:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:37 p.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), Robert Reno Piccinin, 56, 5 Town Beach Road, #20, Leicester, op w/suspended license, arrest; 5:36 p.m. ambulance (Silver Street, Worcester), transported; 5:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 7:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, exhibiting another's license, criminal application issued; 7:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:51 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 7:58 a.m.: mv stop (Willow Hill Road), verbal warning; 8:25 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 10:44 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chapel Street), unfounded; 11:37 p.m.: ambulance (Charlton Stret), transported.

SATURDAY, MAY 13  
12:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:51 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 3:00 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 3:10 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Jonathan DeJesus Velazquez, 20, 48 Barnes Avenue, #1, Worcester, unlicensed operation, op w/suspended registration, arrest; 6:01 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:09 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:46 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:12 p.m.: parking complaint (Brickyard Road), resolved; 4:45 p.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), verbal warning; 5:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:35 p.m.: ambulance (Cottage Street, Spencer), transported; 10:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:22 p.m.: assist citizen (Laurelwood Avenue); 11:07 p.m.: disturbance (Mannville Street), unfounded.

SUNDAY, MAY 14  
12:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:55 a.m.: mv stop (Crystal Street), written warning; 1:14 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 1:30 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:35 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 1:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:24 a.m.: mv

stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:34 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Drive), verbal warning; 2:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 4:58 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), report taken; 10:43 a.m.: accident (Main Street), call canceled; 1:02 p.m.: ambulance (Chandler Street, Worcester), transported; 1:26 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 1:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred to ACO; 2:21 p.m.: ambulance (Water Street), transported; 3:04 p.m.: attempted b&e (Broad Street), report taken; 3:17 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:46 p.m.: assist citizen (Broad Street); 5:28 p.m.: malicious mischief (Havana Road), resolved; 6:29 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 8:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:31 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), spoken to; 9:13 p.m.: ambulance (Kelly Square, Worcester), transported; 9:26 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, motorcycle eqpt. violation, criminal application issued.

MONDAY, MAY 15  
12:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:25 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 1:22 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), spoken to; 9:15 a.m.: suspicious activity (Redfield Road), gone on arrival; 9:21 a.m.: ambulance (Patricia Drive, Oxford), transported; 9:35 a.m.: larceny (Mayflower Road), services rendered; 11:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO; 12:42 p.m.: ambulance (Pryor Road), transported; 1:05 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 1:52 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), no action required; 1:59 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 2:32 p.m.: assist other PD (Marshall Street), spoken to; 3:13 p.m.: family problem (Carleton Road), spoken to; 3:25 p.m.: commercial alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), false alarm; 3:29 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Reservoir Street), spoken to; 3:31 p.m.: harassment (Main Street), spoken to; 4:08 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 4:22 p.m.: assist citizen (Atwood Road); 4:44 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Brown Street), referred to ACO; 5:25 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:52 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 6:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 7:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Bottomly Avenue), animal complaint; 8:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:36 p.m.: assist citizen (Mayflower Road).

TUESDAY, MAY 16  
12:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, op w/suspended license, failure to stop/yield, criminal application issued; 4:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:06 a.m.: mv stop (Bunker Hill Road), verbal warning; 10:07 a.m.: mv stop (Bunker Hill Road), verbal warning; 10:14 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:14 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 12:30 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 12:35 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 12:56 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 1:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:58 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:15 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 2:35 p.m.: welfare check (Hemlock Street), assisted; 5:53 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 6:12 p.m.: malicious mischief (Paxton Street), resolved; 7:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO; 10:22 p.m.: disturbance (Sargent Street), resolved; 11:22 p.m.: assist citizen (Marshall Street).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17  
12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, number plate violation, criminal application issued; 12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:44 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 2:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:11 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 9:22 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:10 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 2:49 p.m.: suspicious mv (Memorial School Drive), resolved; 3:12 p.m.: welfare check (Washburn Square), call canceled; 4:07 p.m.: harassment (Stafford Street), no service; 4:20 p.m.: assist citizen (Tobin Road); 4:27 p.m.: investigation (Waite Street), report taken; 4:34 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 5:12 p.m.: assist citizen (Tobin Road); 5:49 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 6:03 p.m.: assist citizen (Hemlock Street); 7:09 p.m.: erratic operator (Paxton Street), unable to locate; 7:32 p.m.: investigation (Salminen Drive), report taken; 7:49 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 10:30 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), citation issued; 10:53 p.m.: larceny (Pleasant Street), report taken; 11:10 p.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street).

## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10  
12:34-2:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:53 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), unwanted parties; 1:13 a.m.: parking violation (McDonald Street), ticket issued; 2:25 a.m.: suspicious mv (Meadow Road), resolved; 5:10-5:22 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:30 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; sometime between 5:30-6:48 a.m.: officer wanted (no location noted on police log), Diallo Leasine Frys, 30, 27 Everard Street, Worcester, disturbing the peace, indecent exposure, arrest; 6:48 a.m.: animal complaint (Westland Drive), re: aggressive pit bull; 6:54 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:19 a.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), aggressive dog in area; 9:57 a.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found; 9:57 a.m.: medical/general (Watson Street); 10:17 a.m.: animal complaint (Bixby Road), re: spay/neuter voucher; 10:42 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 10:58 a.m.: animal complaint (Lake Avenue), re: status of dogs; 12:42 p.m.: restraining order service/2 (West Main Street); 1:14 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:14 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), loose dogs; 2:08 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), resolved; 3:10 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lake Street), kids spray painting bldg.; 3:13 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 3:16 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Avenue); 4:37 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), referral from DA; 6:12 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:38 p.m.: RV complaint (Thompson Pond Road), spoken to; 8:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Adams Street), rep. of harassment; 8:44 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:54 p.m.: medical/general (Ledge Avenue); (total daily mv stops – 1).

THURSDAY, MAY 11  
1:00-2:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:06 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 6:33 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 7:53 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), fire suppression test; 8:13 a.m.: fire alarm (Bixby Road), work being done on system; 10:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), req. welfare check; 11:36 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 12:50 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:15 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:37 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), inquiry re: filing report; 2:37 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 3:37 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 3:55 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 4:10 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 4:20 p.m.: fraud (Pope Street), unemployment scam; 4:37 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:54 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), req. escort to p/u mother; 10:11 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 10:28 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), someone in vacant apt.; 10:49 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:41 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; (total daily mv stops – 0).

FRIDAY, MAY 12  
12:40 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: warrant/search (Temple Street), Jose M. Aldea, 33 Temple Street, Spencer, possession Class A drug, possession w/intent to distribute, arrest; 3:20 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pearl Street), accidental; 4:15 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), bolo (issuing dept. not noted on police log); 5:05 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), trailer plate found; 8:14 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:59 a.m.: animal complaint (Valley Street), missing cat; 9:18 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 9:38 a.m.: elderly matter (Howe Village), re: previous incident; 10:48 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), updated mv info; 10:58 a.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), open line; 12:09 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Laurel Lane), sick raccoon in yard; 12:59 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 1:08 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), open line; 1:09 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), open line; 2:12 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:22 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Meadow Road), referred; 2:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), mail carrier bit by dog; 2:54 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 4:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Bellevue Drive), prob. w/neighbor's dog; 5:25 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kids vandalizing mv; 5:30 p.m. lost/found (West Main Street), backpack/meds missing; 5:49 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:49 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 6:16 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Old East Charlton Road), no contact; 6:24 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: RMV/immediate threat; 7:10 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator of mc; 7:49 p.m.: mv complaint (Cherry Street), speeding; 8:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), c/o smoke from nearby fire pit; 8:56 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Maple Street), someone shooting of M80s; 9:04 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), lift assist; 9:07 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), sound of bottles breaking; 9:47 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 10:48 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 10:56 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, MAY 13  
1:01-2:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:37 a.m.: vandalism (Vista Lane), someone was in mv; 7:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), rec'g calls for someone else from Spencer PD; 7:53 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 10:11 a.m.: suspi-

cious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 10:53 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Meadow Road), illegal burn; 11:29 a.m.: fraud (G.H. Wilson Road), acct. opened in caller's name; 11:39 a.m.: officer wanted (McDonald Street), req. welfare check; 12:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 1:15 p.m.: suspicious persons (McCormick Road), unwanted party in area; 1:25 p.m.: 911 call (Meadow Road), open line; 2:14 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Kingsbury Road), brush fire; 2:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: mail rec'd; 3:09 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Kingsbury Road), brush fire reignited; 3:12 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 3:18 p.m.: fraud (High Street), unemployment scam; 4:54 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 5:04 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 6:35 p.m.: 911 call (Thompson Pond Road), rep. mv accident; 8:14 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 8:37 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), raccoons on property; 9:14 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 11:06 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mvs "peeling out"; 11:20 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 11:32-11:37 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:40 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 11:40 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), noise complaint; (total daily mv stops – 3).

SUNDAY, MAY 14  
12:11 a.m.: disturbance (North Spencer Road), unwanted party; 2:02-2:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:20 a.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), unwanted party; 3:31 a.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), unwanted party; 5:39 a.m.: disturbance (Church Street), unwanted party; 6:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), re: dead cat by roadside; 7:55 a.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), open line/disconnect; 9:40 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:53 a.m.: officer wanted (McDonald Street), evicted tenant ret. to residence; 10:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), mv struck porch; 11:13 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), rep. needs help; 1:09 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), loud/speeding mvs; 3:05 p.m.: larceny (Lincoln Street), ladder taken; 4:07 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 4:17 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 4:54 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), loose/injured dog; 4:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), dead tree in road; 7:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), family issue; 7:26 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 7:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. welfare check; 7:38 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), investigated; 8:14 p.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), dead roosters in bag/roadside; 9:11 p.m.: protective custody/adult (Default Road), unwanted party; 10:05 p.m.: animal complaint (Starr Road), loose dog/limping; 10:16 p.m.: medical/general (Alta Crest Road); 10:47 p.m.: disturbance (Elm Street), noise complaint; (total daily mv stops – 8).

MONDAY, MAY 15  
12:53-2:38 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:40 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 8:50 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 9:29 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 9:33 a.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 10:05 abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:08 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:38 a.m.: restraining order service (Roys Drive); 12:27 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Brookfield Road), misdial; 1:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), loose dog; 1:28 p.m.: medical/general (Westland Drive); 2:05 p.m.: officer wanted (R. Jones Road), re: rem. of mv from property; 3:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 4:58 p.m.: mv repossessed (Roberta Bay), info taken; 5:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: stolen scooter; 7:07 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 8:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), re: threats rec'd; 8:43 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:33 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 11:50 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 4).

TUESDAY, MAY 16  
12:06-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:54 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 2:09 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:24 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:56 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 4:55 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 5:10 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:52 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:00 a.m.: 911 call (Irving Street), accidental; 6:31 a.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), misdial; 7:41 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 8:55 a.m.: fire alarm (South Spencer Road), sprinkler test; 9:29 a.m.: medical/general (Sunset Lane); 9:29 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 9:35 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), disconnected; 10:25 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:39 a.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; 2:24 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: issues w/individual; 3:05 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Northwest Road); 3:39 p.m.: suspicious persons (McCormick Road), person in paddock area; 4:02 p.m.: juvenile matter (Hastings Road), son missing; 4:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dog at school again; 5:27 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:50 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), earlier vandalism; 6:50 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 7:38 p.m.: medical/general (Bacon Hill Road); 7:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), threatened by ex-bf; 8:24 p.m.: mv complaint (Cherry Street), speeding; 9:06 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:07 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), m yelling at f; 11:59 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 5).



# SPORTS

## Tantasqua at the top of SWCL girls' track and field team championship

WARRIORS COMBINE FOR SIX WINS, WHILE UXBRIDGE'S CAHILL TOPS THREE EVENTS



Nick Ethier photos

David Prouty's Eliana Barnett prepares to stick her landing in the long jump event.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — Oxford High was again host to the Southern Worcester County League girls' track and field championships, which took place under nice — albeit at times windy — conditions on Tuesday, May 16.

Tantasqua Regional won the team title while accumulating 131 points. Uxbridge High was next best at 113 points. The Warriors (six) and Spartans (five) combined to win 11 of the 16 events.

The individuals who placed in the top six in each event earned points toward the team total, with places one-six being awarded 10, 8, 6, 4, 2 and 1 points.

The results are as follows:

#### Team Standings

1. Tantasqua, 131 points
2. Uxbridge, 113
3. Auburn, 55
4. David Prouty, 42
5. Millbury, 40
6. Grafton, 38
7. Oxford, 35
8. Leicester, 23
9. Quaboag, 10
10. Northbridge, 9

#### Individual Results

##### Shot Put

1. Lily Brayman, Uxbridge, 32-10.50
2. Maeve Whittemore, Auburn,



Nina Dykas of Leicester releases the discus for the winning throw in the Southern Worcester County League championships.

32-00.50

3. Payton Banfill, Oxford, 30-11.00
4. Emilee Larson, David Prouty, 28-00.50
5. Jewelisa Richardson, Oxford, 25-10.50
6. Nina Dykas, Leicester, 25-05.75

##### Discus Throw

1. Nina Dykas, Leicester, 86-09
2. Gianna Noyes, Uxbridge, 84-11
3. Emma Robertson, Oxford, 80-07
4. Maeve Whittemore, Auburn, 80-02
5. Milla Mace, Uxbridge, 74-06
6. Isabelle Alden, Tantasqua, 71-11

##### Long Jump

1. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 16-05.00
2. Katherine DeFosse, Auburn, 15-07.00
3. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 15-05.00
4. Keoni Savoie, Tantasqua, 15-01.00
5. Tess Chevalier, Tantasqua, 14-06.00
6. Lili Shiers, Tantasqua, 14-05.00

##### Triple Jump

1. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 34-02.50
2. Kendall Gilmore, Uxbridge, 34-00.50
3. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 33-00.25
4. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 32-00.50
5. Ava Chevalier, Tantasqua, 32-00.25
6. Haley McCormack, Tantasqua,



Quaboag's Bella Grover looks ahead while getting over a hurdle in the 100-meter event.

##### High Jump

1. Haley McCormack, Tantasqua, 5-02
2. Lili Shiers, 4-08
3. Bella Grover, Quaboag, 4-06
4. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 4-06
5. Katie Riley, Tantasqua, 4-06
6. Sydney Vyskocil, Grafton, 4-04

##### Javelin Throw

1. Milla Mace, Uxbridge, 90-01
2. Gianna Noyes, Uxbridge, 81-06
3. Kadienne Patterson, Leicester, 81-05
4. Hannah Irish, Millbury, 77-08
5. Jorelys Ignacio, David Prouty, 75-02
6. Emma Robertson, Oxford, 74-02

##### Two-Mile Run

1. Cameron Davis, Oxford, 12:04.62
2. Sabrina Tibeado, Uxbridge, 13:45.08
3. Haley Courtney, Tantasqua, 14:06.89
4. Rose Winston, Millbury, 14:10.49
5. Jezlyn Easo, Grafton, 14:15.94
6. Danielle Chrabaszcz, Northbridge, 14:51.13

##### 100-Meter Hurdles

1. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 15.41
2. Katherine DeFosse, Auburn, 15.57
3. Haley McCormack, Tantasqua, 16.67
4. Katie Riley, Tantasqua, 17.35
5. Jordan Patterson, Leicester, 18.16
6. Annie Maynard, Oxford, 19.12

##### 100-Meter Dash

1. Keoni Savoie, Tantasqua, 12.68
2. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 12.95

3. Tess Chevalier, Tantasqua, 13.58
4. Annie Maynard, Oxford, 13.75
5. Eunice Kinsumba, Leicester, 14.02
6. Emily Moreau, Grafton, 14.14

##### One-Mile Run

1. Tessa Kline, Tantasqua, 5:34.02
2. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 5:41.41
3. Emily Flauto, Northbridge, 6:14.49
4. Parker Tunley, Quaboag, 6:15.73
5. Eabha Twohig-Mann, Uxbridge, 6:29.59
6. Wren Curewitz, Auburn, 6:37.48

##### 4x100-Meter Relay

1. Tantasqua, 53.63
2. Uxbridge, 55.81
3. Grafton, 56.00
4. David Prouty, 56.21
5. Auburn, 57.88
6. Oxford, 58.18

##### 400-Meter Dash

1. Allie Shrayner, Grafton, 1:02.02
2. Kendall Gilmore, Uxbridge, 1:02.08
3. Lili Shiers, Tantasqua, 1:04.78
4. Ava Marcucci, Tantasqua, 1:04.86
5. Bridget Kennedy, Grafton, 1:05.01
6. Grace Bujak, Leicester, 1:06.17

##### 400-Meter Hurdles

1. Kathryn Cahill, Uxbridge, 1:08.73
2. Katherine DeFosse, Auburn, 1:12.95
3. Claire Godek, Tantasqua, 1:16.10
4. Maeve Croucher, Grafton, 1:16.90
5. Maryah Moldrow, Millbury, 1:21.89
6. Riya Dalal, Grafton, 1:22.33

##### 800-Meter Run

1. Molly Hilditch, Auburn, 2:26.88
2. Mila Nikiforow, Millbury, 2:32.79
3. Olivia Magierowski, Tantasqua, 2:38.24
4. Cameron Davis, Oxford, 2:39.33
5. Alexis Nordman, Auburn, 2:46.91
6. Emmalyn Romano, Uxbridge, 2:52.05

##### 200-Meter Dash

1. Keoni Savoie, Tantasqua, 26.25
2. Eliana Barnett, David Prouty, 26.71
3. Ava Chevalier, Tantasqua, 27.95
4. Kendall Gilmore, Uxbridge, 28.54
5. Allie Shrayner, Grafton, 28.66
6. Bridget Kennedy, Grafton, 28.68

##### 4x400-Meter Relay

1. Tantasqua, 4:33.33
2. Grafton, 4:55.54
3. Millbury, 5:02.25
4. Auburn, 5:10.62
5. Northbridge, 5:19.57
6. Leicester, 5:21.28

## SWCL boys' track and field team championship goes to Uxbridge

SPARTANS' ROSS AND CASO DOUBLE WINNERS, ALONG WITH AUBURN'S PAPIERSKI AND QUABOAG'S STEVENS



Nick Ethier photos

Christopher Pinkowski of David Prouty gets over the hurdle in the 110-meter event.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — A colder and windier afternoon from a day before when Oxford High played host to the girls on the track, the Southern Worcester County League boys' track and field championships were held back in Oxford on Wednesday, May 17.

Uxbridge High won the team championship, accruing 87 points, just a half-point higher than second place Grafton High. The Spartans won six of the 16 events, while the Gators topped just one.

The top six finishers in each event scored points for their team (first place got 10 points, second place 8, third place 6, fourth place 4, fifth place two and sixth place 1).

The results are as follows:

#### Team Standings

1. Uxbridge, 87 points
2. Grafton, 86.5
3. Auburn, 77
4. Tantasqua, 66.5
5. Millbury, 46
6. Southbridge, 34
7. Leicester, 29
8. Quaboag, 24
9. Northbridge, 21
10. Oxford, 20
11. Bartlett, 5

#### Individual Results

##### Shot Put

1. Garrett Papierski, Auburn, 46-01.00
2. Ian Gahan, Northbridge, 40-02.00
3. Dominic Hammond, Auburn, 38-04.50
4. Chris Talbert, Millbury, 38-01.50
5. Aidan Diamond, Oxford, 37-11.25



Leicester's Dylan Delage gets plenty of air while leaping in the triple jump.

6. Nate Noyes, Uxbridge, 37-08.50

##### Discus Throw

1. Garrett Papierski, Auburn, 133-11
2. Jorge Lopez, Southbridge, 119-08
3. Ian Gahan, Northbridge, 110-10
4. Jullian Rosenburg, Uxbridge, 106-07
5. Dominic Scichilone, Northbridge, 103-11
6. Johnatan Miranda, Southbridge, 102-08

##### Long Jump

1. Owen Stevens, Quaboag, 20-06.00
2. Luis Gonzalez, Southbridge, 19-05.50
3. Gavin Hallfelder, Uxbridge, 19-03.25
4. Nicholas St. George, Grafton, 19-01.75
5. Brett Morgan, Oxford, 18-07.50
6. Anthony Cintron, Auburn, 18-07.50

##### Triple Jump

1. Luis Gonzalez, Southbridge, 40-03.50
2. Kweku Akese, Auburn, 39-09.50
3. Calvary Jamoko, Grafton, 39-03.25
4. Erik Manilut, Bartlett, 36-03.50
5. Jemil Jalloh, Millbury, 36-03.50
6. Max Brayman, Uxbridge, 36-01.00

##### High Jump

1. Owen Stevens, Quaboag, 5-10
2. Anthony Phillipo, Millbury, 5-08



A determined Andrew Gagnon of Quaboag prepares to put the shot.

3. Hunter Senior, Leicester, 5-08
4. Gavin Hallfelder, Uxbridge, 5-06
5. Thatcher Sweeney, Uxbridge, 5-06
- T6. Bryce Tessier, Tantasqua, 5-04
- T6. Jackson Shea, Grafton, 5-04

##### Javelin Throw

1. Derek Plowman, Tantasqua, 146-02
2. Cameron Murphy, Tantasqua, 131-04
3. Jason Bein, Millbury, 127-07
4. Aidan VanArsdelan, Oxford, 119-03
5. Jack Ledbetter, Leicester, 119-02
6. Ryan Gilbert, Grafton, 116-08

##### Two-Mile Run

1. Aidan Ross, Uxbridge, 9:33.24
2. Luke Herren, Grafton, 10:14.44
3. James Bernard, Uxbridge, 10:35.01
4. James Segatore, Tantasqua, 10:47.09
5. Jason Fournier, Leicester, 10:49.35
6. Max Deary, Uxbridge, 10:51.22

##### 110-Meter Hurdles

1. Nolan Charbonneau, Millbury, 15.91
2. Cameron McNally, Auburn, 16.42
3. Avant Fitzpatrick Tantasqua, 16.47
4. Cooper White, Leicester, 16.67
5. Kweku Akese, Auburn, 17.53
6. Hayden Plumb, Auburn, 17.56

##### 100-Meter Dash

1. Aditya Kaki, Grafton, 11.42
2. Liam Donagher, Grafton, 11.42
3. Shane Wellman, Auburn, 11.45
4. Cameron Murphy, Tantasqua, 11.56
5. Zack Oliveira, Uxbridge, 11.61

6. Jeremiah Kinsumba, Leicester, 11.77

##### One-Mile Run

1. Camden Foley, Tantasqua, 4:48.10
2. Nate Davis, Oxford, 4:58.58
3. Vincent Miles, Auburn, 5:00.88
4. Luke Perras, Grafton, 5:02.13
5. Jason Fournier, Leicester, 5:05.94
6. Abhinav Sood, Grafton, 5:07.24

##### 4x100-Meter Relay

1. Uxbridge, 45.62
2. Tantasqua, 46.44
3. Millbury, 46.57
4. Quaboag, 47.98
5. Grafton, 48.24
6. Southbridge, 49.96

##### 400-Meter Dash

1. Cameron Caso, Uxbridge, 53.66
2. Logan Mayo, Grafton, 54.21
3. Luis Gonzalez, Southbridge, 55.22
4. Matt Szela, Oxford, 55.81
5. Declan Donagher, Grafton, 56.33
6. Nathan Leboeuf, Auburn, 56.45

##### 400-Meter Hurdles

1. Cooper White, Leicester, 1:00.48
2. Bryce Tessier, Tantasqua, 1:00.52
3. Nolan Charbonneau, Millbury, 1:01.07
4. Cameron McNally, Auburn, 1:03.17
5. Larry Lamar-Perkins, Grafton, 1:07.19
6. Josh Kurutu, Grafton, 1:09.59

##### 800-Meter Run

1. Aidan Ross, Uxbridge, 2:05.90
2. Luke Herren, Grafton, 2:06.56
3. Vincent Miles, Auburn, 2:11.60
4. Alex Mazzarelli, Northbridge, 2:12.03
5. Dylan Delage, Leicester, 2:13.25
6. Abhinav Sood, Grafton, 2:15.06

##### 200-Meter Dash

1. Cameron Caso, Uxbridge, 23.02
2. Aditya Kaki, Grafton, 23.26
3. Shane Wellman, Auburn, 23.38
4. Liam Donagher, Grafton, 23.76
5. Avery Mitchem, Tantasqua, 24.21
6. Erik Manilut, Bartlett, 24.39

##### 4x400-Meter Relay

1. Uxbridge, 3:52.68
2. Grafton, 3:55.43
3. Tantasqua, 3:55.85
4. Millbury, 3:58.59
5. Auburn, 4:01.27
6. Northbridge, 4:13.35



# Slow start hampers Tantasqua in loss against Nipmuc



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Elyse Genaway rips a first inning single.

**BY NICK ETHIER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

UPTON — It may have taken the Tantasqua Regional varsity softball team over an hour and a half to get from Sturbridge to Nipmuc Regional for their contest against the Warriors on Friday, May 19. But make no mistake about it, Tantasqua head coach Nate Orzech did not blame the traffic on his team's performance, which ultimately turned into a 12-0 loss after five mercy-rule shortened

innings where Nipmuc (11-6) opened the game with seven runs in the bottom of the first. "It's got nothing to do with the bus ride. It's got to do with practice yesterday," said Orzech. "Practice was not good yesterday and it translates into the next day." Tantasqua opened the game with three well-hit balls in the top of the first — a flyout by Alexis Taudel, a sharp single by Elyse Genaway and a flyout by Emma Quinn — but Nipmuc countered

with their seven runs on five hits, coupled with four Tantasqua errors. "I thought we did a good job in the top of the first with our bats," said Orzech. "In the bottom of the first it gave us no chance." Three of Tantasqua's miscues were throwing errors, and many Nipmuc hits into the outfield were not tracked down properly. "This is a team that hits the ball and you've got to be on your toes and make plays," said Orzech. Nipmuc — which also scored once in the second inning, three times in the third and once in the fourth — had nine hits. Kara Johnson and Ella Fernald were both 2-for-3 and scored two runs, while Keegan Kelley hit a solo homer to right-center field. Janelle Scirocco finished with three RBI. Orzech did not place blame on pitcher Katelyn Schneider, as many of the runs allowed were unearned. She also struck out four and walked three. "She pitched well today," Orzech said of Schneider. "It doesn't look like it, but this is one of her better performances this year." In addition to Genaway, Tantasqua's other hits came off the bats of Taudel, Schneider and Alexi Hague, while Alex Lemovitz and Claire Beane each drew a walk against Nipmuc pitcher



After securing a grounder, Tantasqua pitcher Katelyn Schneider remains crouched before throwing the ball over to first base.

Kate Julian, who tossed all five innings and struck out two. The loss dropped Tantasqua to 9-8. "Coach Moccio said it best. You've got to flush this and play again tomorrow at 10 o'clock in the morning," Orzech explained of what assistant coach Frank Moccio told the girls after the Nipmuc game. Tantasqua then played at Blackstone-Millville Regional about 18 hours later on Saturday, May 20 and won a 15-6 decision. That boosted the Warriors' record to 10-8, which officially punched Tantasqua's ticket into the Division 3 State Tournament. But first, the Warriors will play in the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association's Class A Tournament. Eighth seeded Tantasqua



Shortstop Alexis Taudel of Tantasqua flips the ball over to third base to force out Nipmuc's Brynn DiAnni.

was set to take on No. 1 Wachusett Regional on Tuesday, May 23, after press time.

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**Webster Lake 27 South Point Road**  
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OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- ft sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage. **\$811,000.**

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**KOSS**

continued from page A1

Anne-Marie Nolan shared a short biographical history of Koss and her family and how they came to West Brookfield. See separate document: Camille Koss Biography

Koss then received a commemorative pin and certificate from Selectman Roland Sickenberger. The original cane is now held in Town Hall.

Massachusetts Senate and House citations honoring the occasion were presented by Donna Farmer (Rep. Berthiaume's office) for Sen. Anne Gobi and Rep. Donald Berthiaume.

**CLASSROOM**

continued from page A1

natural environments," read a statement released by Nature's Classroom. "There's even a low ropes course, a collection of cable, platform, rope, and log elements designed to safely push individuals outside of their comfort zones and foster teamwork and cooperation."

Since 1973, Nature's Classroom has provided students from throughout New England with outdoor recreation and education experiences. For more information about opportunities offered by the organization, visit [www.naturesclassrooms.com](http://www.naturesclassrooms.com).

## QUAIL HOLLOW GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB RESULTS

**Pit's Crew**

First place (-8): Glen Wuerthele, Doug Perkins, Steve O'Brien, Dick Whipplee

Second place (-7): Gary Herl, Graham Entwistle, Dick Ullman, Kevin Grace

Third place (-7): Joe Desimone, Sean Baxter, Paul Guerin, Dave McCluskey

**Hole-In-One**

Paul Cousineau scored an ace on the 160-yard sixth hole. The hole-in-one was witnessed by Matt St. Louis.

**Spring Member-Member****Men's Division**

First place (63): Bob Luukko and Ernie Warburton

Second place (64): Ryan Toomey and Rich Casault

Third place (64): Mike Rigiero and Tom Cournoyer

Fourth place: Rick Rearick and Adam Kettles

**Mixed Division**

First place (62): David and Tina Burke

Second place (62): Art and Barbara Rossi

**Women's Division**

First place (68): Carolyn Semon and Sandy Curci

# Richard Sugden Library hosting program on Bathsheba Spooner

SPENCER — Who Was Bathsheba Spooner? Join us Thursday, June 15 at 6 p.m. at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, on the Main Floor. Hear stories about Bathsheba Spooner's life as Ed Londergan, award winning author, shares from his newest book "Unlike Any Other."

Based on a true story, the events that follow Bathsheba's life, her decisions, and her ultimate demise will show readers that Bathsheba Spooner was, in fact, "Unlike Any Other."

Join the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, Program Mailing Lists! If you are not receiving emails about our library programs which includes in-person and virtual programs, sign up on the library Web site: [www.spencerpubliclibrary.org](http://www.spencerpubliclibrary.org), stop by the library, or call us at 5058-885-7513.

## Leicester Garden Club to host plant sale

LEICESTER — The Leicester Garden Club will sponsor a plant sale on Saturday June 10, 9 a.m. to noon at the Leicester Rod and Gun Club pavilion, 1015 Whittemore St. Many different garden items will be for sale including perennials and pot arrangements. The public is welcome.

## St. Joseph's Parish hosting strawberry festival

NORTH BROOKFIELD — St. Joseph's Parish invites the public to join in its 30th Annual Strawberry Festival Saturday, June 17 from 5-7 p.m.

The menu for this family-style meal includes baked ham, homemade baked beans, homemade potato salad and cole slaw, rolls, coffee, water, and the always delicious strawberry shortcake. Takeout is also available.

For tickets, priced at \$15 for adults and \$7 for children age five to 10, please call the Parish office at (508) 867-6469.

St. Joseph's Church Hall is located at 296 North Main St., North Brookfield.

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## Friday's Child



Maxum "Max"

Hi! My name is Maxum and I like to build with LEGOS and try new things!

Maxum, who likes to go by Max, is an energetic and creative child. Upon meeting him, Max can present as a shy and quiet child, but once he gets comfortable, he opens up and engages easily. Max likes to build with LEGOS and play video games. He is very active and enjoys playing outside. He loves to play sports and has a great arm! Max likes to draw and watch superhero movies.

Max attends a collaborative school and has special education supports to assist him at school. He is doing well and making progress in school. Max has a lot of curiosity and likes to learn and try new things. Max enjoys playing with his peers and is able to make friends easily.

Max would do best in a home that is adventurous, playful, and compassionate. He has two sisters that he would like to maintain a relationship with. Max currently visits with his birth parents four times a year and per his open adoption agreement will visit with his parents two times a year once the adoption is finalized.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6670>

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

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



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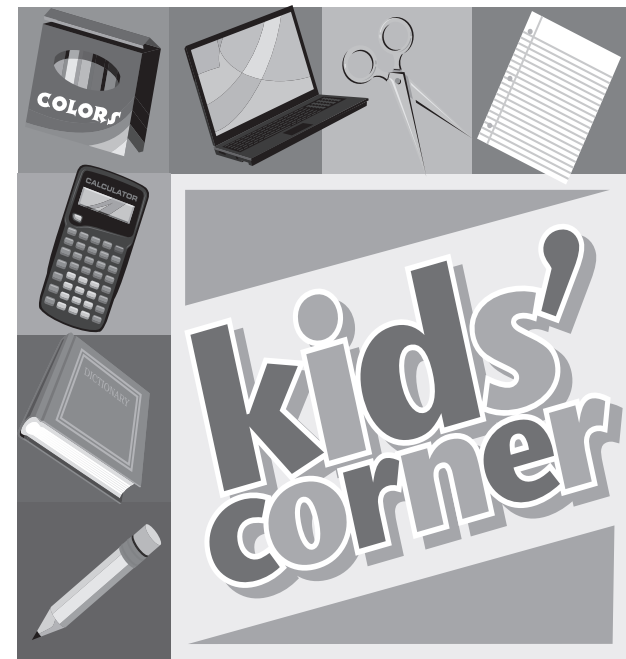
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- **1869:** BOSTON UNIVERSITY IS CHARTERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
- **1917:** SEVERAL POWERFUL TORNADOES RIP THROUGH ILLINOIS.
- **1967:** THE BEATLES RELEASE "SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND."

### New Word

**FAMILIAL**

relating to or occurring in families

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Father  
**SPANISH:** Padre  
**ITALIAN:** Padre  
**FRENCH:** Père  
**GERMAN:** Vater

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**ALL SCHOOLS-ALL CLASS REUNION**

**Friday June 2, 2023**

**Dinner and Comedy Show**

**Featuring:**  
*The King of Boston Comedy Steve Sweeney*  
*Comedian / Magician Johnny Pizzi*  
*and Singer Billy Pezzulo*

At The  
**Spencer Country Inn**

**Buffet:**  
**Roasted Chicken, Meatballs, Ziti, Salad.**

**Cash bar. Dinner 6:00 pm**  
**Show 7:30 pm 50/50 Raffle**

**Tickets \$39 at:**  
**comedyatspencercountryinn.eventbrite.com**

# Join area seniors on a trip to Boston June 27

PAXTON — Most seniors are early risers, so the 7:15 a.m. departure from the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St., Route 31 south, shouldn't bother most of us.

Our first stop will be in Boston at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for The US Senate. The Institute has a full-scale replica of the United States Senate Chamber. We will enjoy a one hour guided tour of the interactive exhibits. Learn how the US Senate works, the importance of the Electoral College. You will have two hours to visit this important site to our freedom and democracy. It doesn't matter about your politics, but this is important to how our government works. The

Museum is located on a beautiful site on the Boston Harbor.

Upon leaving there, we will head to the Cheesecake Factory restaurant in Cambridge. There our group will be given a special menu with an entree, and, of course, a piece of Cheesecake for dessert.

After a delightful lunch, we will board the Charles River Cruise Boat. On the Charles River, we will be able to view the wonderful skyline of Boston, Beacon Hill, the Esplanade, Back Bay, Boston University and MIT and the various rowing boathouses on the tour. Our trip on the Charles will take about 70 minutes and with the good weather, it should be a great cruise on the water.

There will be a little time for shopping at the Cambridgeside Gallery if you wish. We will depart Cambridge at 4 p.m. with plans to be back in Paxton by 5:30 p.m.

The cost of this day in Boston is \$108 per person. Reservations must be made by Friday, June 16, to Bob Wilby at 508-792-4662 or [rwilby@charter.net](mailto:rwilby@charter.net).

Checks should be made payable to Friends of Council on Aging (FOCOA) and mailed to 11 Tanglewood Rd., Paxton, MA 01612.

**Memorial Day Remembrance**

**TROY CORMIER**  
10/2/1963  
5/19/2018

*Gone but will never be forgotten.  
We love you, Troy, and miss you so much.*

Mom, Todd & Lynne, Tracy & Donna,  
Trevor, Collin, Ashley and Terry.  
North Brookfield, MA.

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