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Grand opening

WOLVERINES OPEN NEW GYMNASIUM WITH WIN OVER OXFORD



Photo courtesy Beth Johnson

Leicester High players, coaches and school administration take to center court for a ceremonial ribbon cutting before the Wolverines took on Oxford High last Thursday, Jan. 26 for the program's first game inside the new gymnasium. Leicester's varsity team defeated the Pirates, 39-31, while the junior varsity — which played before the varsity tip-off — also won, 48-19.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

LEICESTER — Some town residents label it “Old Becker College.” Others consider it “New Leicester High.” Eventually, all will simply call it “Leicester High.”

As students have transitioned into the new buildings for classes, one component that finally made its debut was hosting a basketball game inside the new gymnasium. After inclement weather pushed the grand opening from Monday, Jan. 23 to Wednesday, Jan. 25, one more poor weather day brought the debut to Thursday, Jan.

26. There, the Wolverines hosted Oxford High in a girls’ basketball JV/varsity doubleheader.

“We moved from the old building on Paxton Street and a little more than half of our kids are here — mostly upperclassmen — which is really nice. And this is now going to be our home gym,” said Leicester athletic director Jennifer Reynolds during halftime of the varsity contest. “(Superintendent) Dr. (Brett) Kustigian worked with the town and they were able to rebrand this for us. They had it all stripped down and repainted for us. We had to wait for that process to go through.”

Gone are the hawk logo on the center of the court and most of the blue paint throughout the gymnasium. Now, the hardwood is adorned in Leicester maroon and the scoreboard reads “Leicester High School – Home of the Wolverines.”

“We’re still in the first stage, the gym part is ready, and we’re going to work on the locker rooms. To get our paw and our ‘L’ into the middle (of the court), it’s really exciting and the kids are excited to be here,” said Reynolds.

Before the varsity contest tipped off, the Leicester players and coaching staff along with school administration

took to center court for a ceremonial ribbon cutting.

“Dr. Kustigian is really supportive of anything that’s going to help the kids. He was really excited for this to get done, our coaches were excited, and it’s cool. It’s an old college campus, but now it’s your home,” said Reynolds.

But there was a basketball game to be won, and senior Ayva Connor got the party started with a steal and coinciding layup just 14 seconds into the game. Connor will go down in the history books as having scored the first points in a varsity game at the new gym.

Oxford tried to spoil Turn To **OPENING** page **A20**

Befford to succeed Darrin as Spencer’s Chief of Police

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Select Board has unanimously named Lt. Michael Befford as the next chief of police.

In a 5-0 vote taken on Jan. 9, selectmen accepted a recommendation made by Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges to choose Befford. He will succeed retiring Chief David Darrin, whose last day will be March 11.

“We have been very fortunate with Dave as our chief, and this will give us a great transition,” said Select Board Chairman Gary Woodbury. “Mike Befford knows how the department runs, and the Board is excited to have an easy transition.”

For town leaders, it’s encouraging to be able to promote from within the department. The search for the next chief produced over a dozen candidates from across the Commonwealth and other states. Ultimately, Befford stood out to Bridges as the top candidate.

“His experience, education, and quality as an officer were key in the selection. Also, Lt. Befford has served Spencer with integrity and with the utmost respect,” Bridges said. “His leadership as a lieutenant—and during those times called upon to lead the department—has been exemplary. We are sure Lt. Befford will continue to serve the Spencer community with distinction in his new role as chief of police.”

Darrin, who is retiring after 25 years at the helm of the department, shares a bond with Befford that predates their time with the SPD. Before he was chosen to lead the Spencer Police, Darrin spent three years as the chief in North Brookfield, where he first worked with Befford.

“Mike was an officer in North Brookfield for the three years I was chief. I brought him over to Spencer as a sergeant in 1998 when I was hired as chief,” Darrin recalled. “He was promoted to lieutenant on Dec. 1, 2019. During his time as lieutenant, he has been in charge of patrol and investigative functions for the department.”

Town officials thank Darrin for his quarter century of service to the SPD. The department enjoyed several advancements in programming and technology during Darrin’s tenure. Innovations he helped bring to the department include mobile data terminals, live scan fingerprinting, and body-worn cameras, among others. The Chief also oversaw the department’s launch of social media pages that have become integral tools

Turn To **BEFFORD** page **A5**

Search goes on for missing Brookfield woman

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD — The search for Brittany Tee continued last week, as police divers investigated multiple water bodies throughout town.

As of press time, Tee, 35, of Brookfield, was last seen on Jan. 10 in the area of Lewis Field on Main Street. She was reported missing to Brookfield Police on Friday, Jan. 13, by her family members.

Tee is five feet, six inches tall, 120 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. Investigators said she was last seen wearing a black winter coat, a hoodie, jeans, and work boots.

On Jan. 24, divers from the State Police searched the Quaboag River and several other local water bodies. The searches produced no evidence connected to Tee’s disappearance.

“Eight Massachusetts State Police divers, working with the MSP Marine Unit and Massachusetts Environmental Police assets, searched the Quaboag River, Quaboag Pond, Dunn Brook, and surrounding marshland,” read a statement released by the MSP. “Two State Police K9 Unit teams and several members of the department’s Special Emergency Response Team participated in search operations as well.”

The State Police does not have plans to continue its water searches.

“Investigators will assess the status of the search and determine the next steps,” read the State Police statement issued on Jan. 24.

The community held a vigil for Tee on the evening of Jan. 24, with residents from throughout the area uniting in prayer and solidarity on the Town Common. Tee’s family members and friends were in attendance, as well as local church officials and others comforting a distraught community desperate for answers.

Meanwhile, Worcester County District Attorney Turn To **SEARCH** page **A5**

Leicester selectmen honor celebrated Christmas display

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Even though Leicester’s Christmas Display has concluded its final season after a 32-year run, the memories and community impact will carry on for years to come.

With each passing year, what began as a simple display of Christmas lights and decorations at Scott and Denise Weikel’s residence gradually expanded into one of the largest privately owned seasonal celebrations in New England.

This year, more than 3,000 visitors arrived nightly on the busiest weekends to see the display in person. As a result of the strong attendance, the Weikels were able to receive \$18,000 in guests’ donations that will once again be used to assist the community.

“It was always great when our yard was full of people, with kids running around and having fun. I have watched kids grow up and come back year after year with their families,” Scott Weikel told the New Leader.

In the early years of



Courtesy

Members of the Leicester Select Board congratulate Scott Weikel (front row on right) and his wife, Denise Weikel (front row on left).

their setup, the Weikels never imagined the display would one day expand to include more than 215 inflatables and countless hours of prep work. Scott Weikel still recalls purchasing one of his first inflatables as a gift for his wife, back when the now popular holiday yard decorations

were new on the market.

As the years went on and the positive community reactions mounted along with the lights, Weikel became determined to continue brightening the spirits of eager visitors who returned year after year.

“The more I saw how much the display meant

to people every year, the more I wanted to add to it,” Weikel said. “It was an incredible experience to do this for the community.”

Last month, a grateful community showed its support for the Weikels during a Board

Turn To **DISPLAY** page **A5**

Pet of the Week

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Breed: Domestic Shorthair/Mix
Gender: Male
Size: Medium
Age: 6 years 5months 6 days

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SEBRSD's top senior earns state recognition

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

Haughey and Principal Nathaniel Malone invited Chen to join them recently in the Central Office for a brief press event.

Malone noted that, "Cody is a high achieving, well-rounded student. He's taken advantage of all that David Prouty has to offer, not only in Honors & AP level courses but also as a member of our school's Chapter 74 Career Technical Education (CTE) program in Environmental Science."

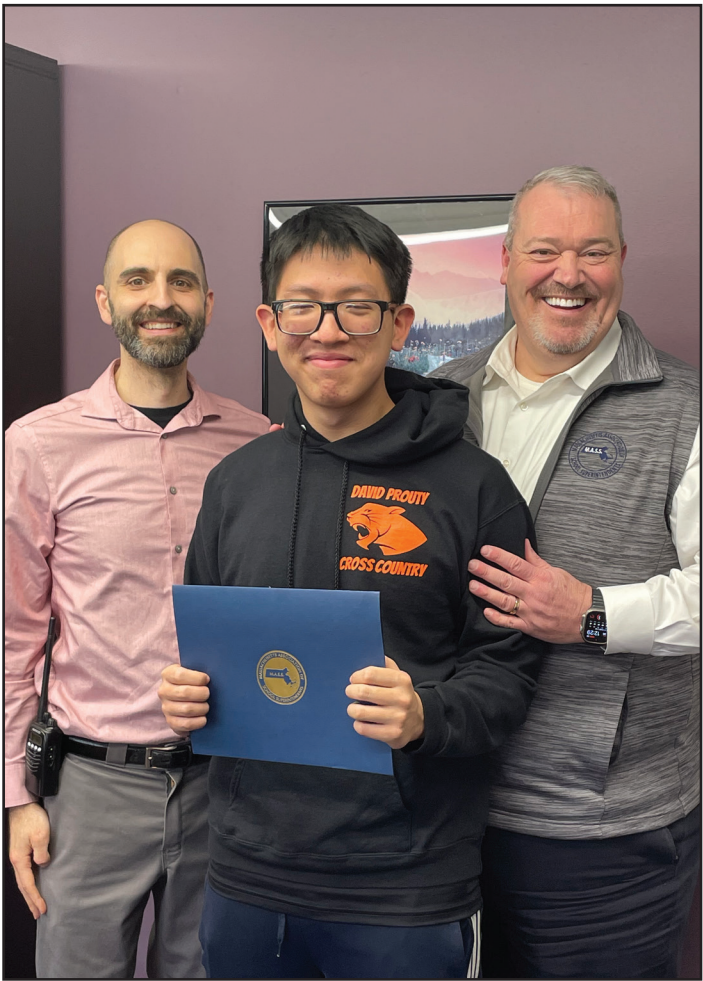
Assistant Principal Sara Kinna added, "Cody has excelled due to his hard work and self-discipline, and

received the distinction as a Rensselaer Medalist his junior year. He is self-motivated and self-disciplined which largely drives his success. Cody is also involved in our school community as a member of the Cross-Country team where he was awarded MVP recognition during his Junior year. He was involved in our student government as a freshman, serving as Class President, and during his senior year he joined the Newspaper Club and volunteered to be the voice of our morning announcements."

"Cody has also found other activities to engage him during non-school days. For example, during the summer break after his Junior year, he served as a volunteer teacher and outdoor supervisor for the Ivy After School Program where he taught English and communication skills to elementary-level Chinese students and helped oversee outdoor recreational activities," added Malone.

"Cody is also self-taught in hobbies such as chess, badminton, and video editing. He has a vast array of interests and is looking forward to exploring new opportunities that a large college or university can offer him," stated his Guidance Counselor Jen Arguello.

Haughey added, "Cody is a deserving young man who has earned the MASS Academic Achievement Award. Cody is an excellent example of the type of edu-



Courtesy
Recently, Superintendent Paul Haughey met to recognize the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's top senior, Cody Chen, with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award. Haughey and Chen are pictured here with high school Principal Nathaniel Malone.

cation that happens here in the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, in general, and David Prouty High School, specifically, as he has taken advantage of every opportunity put before

him. On behalf of all of us within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, many congratulations, Cody! I wish you all the best in all that you do!"

Gobi files locally focused legislation

REGION — With the legislative filing deadline having recently passed, State Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) is eager to voice concerns from her Worcester and Hampshire District.

The five-term senator has refiled several bills on behalf of the communities she serves. These include legislation regarding crumbling concrete foundations and home heating fuel remediation. Both bills intend to create pathways forward for impacted homeowners and alleviate the costs associated with each issue.

Additionally, Gobi has been a vocal proponent of agriculture over the years, defending farmers and advocating on their behalf throughout her career. She has once again filed her legislation: An Act Regarding Raw Milk. The bill would allow for farmers to sell raw milk directly to consumers, off-site. Further, farmers would be able to utilize third parties for delivery, so long as they maintain a contractual relationship with the consumer.

An additional agricultural bill would require the Department of Transitional Assistance, the Department of Agriculture Resources, and the Department of Public Health to operate a healthy incentives program. Under the limits established by DTA, recipients would receive a matching reimbursement for the purchase of healthful fruits and vegetables. The legislation would establish a fund through which appropriations, grants, donations, and federal reimbursements will be used to maintain the programs.

"I am glad to raise my voice on issues that matter. My legislation is intended for the betterment of my communities, and the Commonwealth at large," Gobi said.

Members of the public may email Gobi's communications director, Lucas McDiarmid, at Lucas.McDiarmid@MASenate.gov.

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Position will remain open until filled. The Town of Charlton is an equal opportunity employer and encourages diversity.





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Spencer PD's Hodgerney works to raise awareness of homelessness

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The police department recently teamed up with a community partner to bring awareness to the rise in homelessness throughout the region.

Although residents often think of homelessness as a challenge exclusive to cities and larger towns, local officials are working with the Open Sky community organization to shed light on an insidious problem in rural central Massachusetts.

On Jan. 25, Spencer Police Sgt. Norman Hodgerney worked with Open Sky housing team member Ashley Leiton for the annual “Point in Time Count.” The goal of the annual census program is to document the number of homeless people currently living in Spencer.

“We worked with Open Sky, one of our community partners, to bring to light something not many people in town know about or realize the number of homeless people who are struggling to survive in Spencer,” read a statement released by the police department.

After trekking through the woods

to reach several camp sites, Sgt. Hodgerney and Leiton were able to identify 18 homeless individuals in town. Food and shelter from the cold were offered to each person, and officials are seeking the community’s help in reaching additional homeless populations.

“We believe there are additional homeless people in need who are flying under our radar and we have not identified yet,” the SPD statement read.

Open Sky Community Services assists the region in several



Courtesy

Spencer Police Sgt. Norman Hodgerney recently worked with Open Sky housing team member Ashley Leiton to assist local homeless populations

areas, including behavioral health; housing and homelessness; career services; and trauma response services.

If you are homeless or have a family member experiencing homelessness, please reach out to the Spencer Police Department at 508-885-6333. You can also contact Open Sky at 508-450-2112.

For local community departments and organizations, the goal moving forward is to regain some of the momentum lost during the pandemic in terms of reaching out to homeless popula-

tions for assistance. In the years since COVID-19 struck, the nation has experienced an increase in homelessness due to lost jobs, early retirements, and high costs. Additionally, funding challenges for substance abuse programs and mental health programs have also contributed to increases in homelessness, officials said.

Even though area police departments already carry a heavy workload of patrols and investigations, Spencer Police Chief David Darrin and other local chiefs have made it their mission to prevent homeless populations from getting overlooked.

“I took an oath to police all of the community. That includes everyone, even the mostly forgotten segment of our population—those without a place to call home,” Darrin told the New Leader. “Having an accurate account of the homeless not only helps us at the local level, but ensures proper funding at the state level to support this population.”

To learn more about programs and initiatives meant to reduce homelessness across Massachusetts, visit www.mass.gov.

LHS senior takes part in prestigious music festival

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Leicester High School senior Cole Delage represented his school last month at one of the region’s most prestigious music events.

On Jan. 14, Delage took part in the Senior Central District Music Festival for the fourth time. After a few years of altered formats due to the pandemic, this year’s event was held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, with a packed audience of families and friends looking on.

LHS teachers and administrators have been thrilled to see Delage’s progression over the years after pouring countless hours of practice into his passion.

“The rehearsals and performances were so much fun. It was great to see Cole in an ensemble that was very different to the one at LHS,” said LHS music teacher Alexis Phillips. “The best of central Mass on one stage is so breathtaking.”

In addition to the support from his schoolteachers, Delage has also received private lessons for several years from Samantha Rallo, a teacher with the Hedera School of Music. Rallo was in attendance at the Jan. 14 festival

to enjoy the celebration of local talent.

This year’s Senior Central District Music Festival marked the first time since the pandemic began that auditions were held in person. In a previous interview with the New Leader, Delage described the many challenges and preparations associated with this year’s audition process.

“This experience was way more nerve-racking than last year,” Delage said of the auditions. “Ms. Phillips was able to stay after school with me several times to prepare for the audition and give me mock trials that cured my nerves. I knew the music and how to play it, but you only get one shot in the audition room, so I had to ensure that I could get everything perfect every time I practiced.”

School officials were not only excited to see Delage’s personal improvements this year, but also the leadership he demonstrated for younger students. In recent years, LHS has continued to build interest in its music program.

“I am looking forward to more students auditioning for Districts in future years since Cole was such a role model for a lot of our students,” Phillips added.



Courtesy

Leicester High School senior Cole Delage with LHS music teacher Alexis Phillips, right, and Hedera School of Music teacher Samantha Rallo.

Jacqueline Robidoux of Rochdale named to University of New Hampshire’s Dean’s List

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Jacqueline Robidoux of Rochdale has been named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for earning Honors for the fall 2022 semester. Jacqueline is majoring in Zoology.

Students named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, and received \$260 million in competitive external funding in FY21 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

To learn more about the opportunities at the University of New Hampshire visit: www.unh.edu.

Leicester Senior Citizens Club announces casino trip

LEICESTER — On Friday, March 31, the Leicester Senior Citizens Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Bally’s Twin River Casino in Lincoln, R.I.

The cost is \$85 per person. The price includes round-trip bus transportation. All payments are due by March 17; checks must be made out to the Leicester Senior Citizens Club.

The bus will depart from the Leicester Senior Center at 9 a.m. The price also includes a Wright’s Chicken Farm buffet dinner. This meal will include all-you-can-eat roasted chicken, roasted potatoes, rigatoni with sauce, and a dessert.

The trip is scheduled to return at approximately 6:30 p.m.

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Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Fall 2022 Dean’s List

WORCESTER — A total of 2,069 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s (WPI) fall 2022 Dean’s List. The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

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

The following students were named to the Dean’s List for fall 2022:

Jacob Bergeron of Spencer, majoring in Computer Science (BS), class of 2026

Samuel Griffiths of Leicester, majoring in Mechanical Engineering (BS), class of 2025

Madison Laflamme of Brookfield, majoring in Engineering - To Be Declared (BS), class of 2026

Grace McGovern of West Brookfield, majoring in Engineering - To Be Declared (BS), class of 2026

Jack O’Neill of Leicester, majoring in Mechanical Engineering (BS), class of 2024

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

Holy Cross announces Fall 2022 Dean’s List

WORCESTER — College of the Holy Cross congratulates the following students who were named to the Fall 2022 Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2022-23 academic year.

Tatiana Coolbaugh of Spencer, member of the class of 2026

Aidan Fahey of Rochdale, member of the class of 2025

Natasha Rollo of Leicester,

member of the class of 2023

Brenna St. John of Leicester, member of the class of 2023

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective,

four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Students named to the University of Vermont Dean’s List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The University of Vermont is proud to announce that the following local students have been named to the dean’s list for the fall 2022 semester.

Jessica Fulmer from Spencer is majoring in Public Communication.

Shayna Minsk from Spencer is majoring in Public Communication.

To be named to the dean’s

list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

About UVM

Since 1791, the University of Vermont has worked to move humankind forward. Committed to both research and teaching, UVM professors -- world-class researchers, scholars, and artists -- bring their discoveries

into the classroom and their students into the field. Located in Burlington, Vermont, one of the nation’s most vibrant small cities and top college towns, UVM top 100 national research university educating over 14,000 undergraduate students, graduate students, certificate and non-degree students, and M.D. students in the Larner College of Medicine.

Paisleigh G. Atwood of West Brookfield named to Dean’s List at Saint Michael’s College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Named to the Dean’s List at Saint Michael’s College for the Fall 2022 semester was Paisleigh G. Atwood, a sophomore public health B.A. major from West Brookfield (01585) and a graduate of Quaboag Regional High School.

About Saint Michael’s College

Saint Michael’s College, founded in the great Catholic intellectual tradition, which also recognizes the principles of social justice and compassion, is a selective, fully residential Catholic college in Vermont’s beautiful Green Mountains. Our closely connected community delivers internationally respected liberal arts and graduate education near Burlington, one of the country’s best college towns. To prepare for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives, young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other and their world.

Christa Tuft joins EXIT Real Estate Executives in Spencer

SPENCER — EXIT Real Estate Executives is pleased to announce that Christa Tuft has joined its growing team of dedicated real estate sales professionals.

EXIT Real Estate Executives, located at 130 W. Main St., Spencer, Massachusetts is a proud member of EXIT Realty New England’s rapidly expanding network of independently owned and operated brokerages across the region.

About EXIT Realty

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

Matthew Livingston named to Siena College Dean’s List

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. — Matthew Livingston has been named to the Siena College Dean’s List for the Fall 2022 semester. Matthew is from Leicester.

To be named to the Dean’s List, a student’s grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.

Founded in 1937, Siena College is a private, Catholic Franciscan, residential, liberal arts college with a student body of about 3,000. Siena College offers 40 degree programs, 80+ minors and certificate programs, and professional curricula in teacher preparation/education, pre-medical, pre-law and social work. A student-to-faculty ratio of 11-to-1, average class size of 21, rigorous academics, Division I athletics, intramural sports and widespread service and advocacy experiences nurture each student’s personal growth while providing the education of a lifetime.

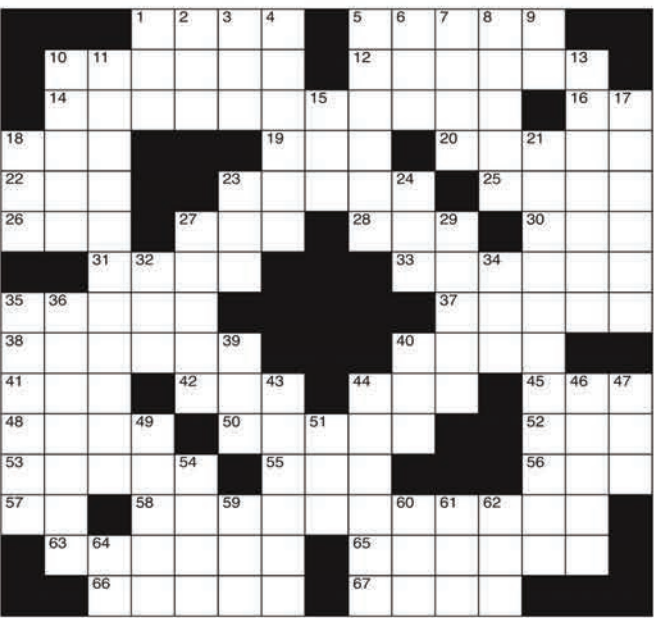
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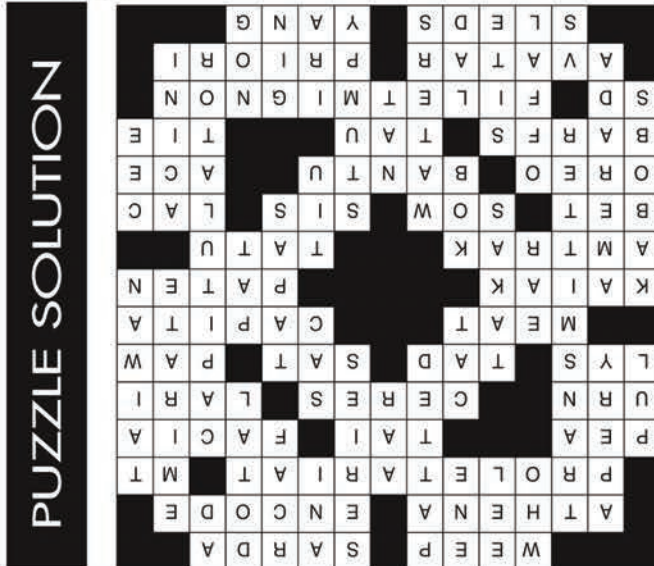


CLUES ACROSS

- Shed tears
- Luxury jewelry designer
- Goddess of wisdom
- Convert into a particular form
- Working-class people
- It borders Canada (abbr.)
- A princess can detect its presence
- Red-brown sea bream
- Defunct retail empire
- Vase
- Demeter’s equivalent
- Monetary unit of the Maldives
- French and Belgian river
- Small amount
- High schoolers’ test
- Animal’s foot
- Some is red
- Per ___ each
- Swedish jazz pop duo
- Plate for Eucharist
- Train line
- Russian pop duo
- Stake
- Plant by scattering
- Female sibling
- City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
- Popular cookie brand
- Group of Niger-Congo languages
- A team’s best pitcher
- Vomits
- 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- Men’s fashion accessory
- Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
- Expensive cut of steak
- Popular James Cameron film
- A ___ relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
- Kids’ snow toys
- Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

- Global public health agency
- Snake-like fish
- Midway between northeast and east
- Dabbed
- TV show
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Canadian flyers
- Of the dowry
- Commercial
- The act of imitating
- Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- Lands of an emir
- Swiss river
- Island
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- One who surrenders under agreed conditions
- Garfield is one
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Small boats used in the Black Sea
- Small savory Spanish dishes
- Body part
- Touch lightly
- Popular grilled foods on a stick
- ___ Hess: oil company
- Antelope with a reddish coat
- Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- Pink Floyd’s Roger
- Short and thick
- Small, sac-like cavities
- Performer ___-Lo
- Entrails of animal used as food
- ___ King Cole, musician
- Where construction is done
- Chap
- Investment vehicle
- Often mixed with tonic
- Holiday beverage egg ___
- Against



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\$499,000, 12 N Brookfield Rd, Kemp Builders LLC, to Lowbridge, Jackson M, and Lowbridge, Jillian M.
\$320,000, 7 Lincoln St Ext, Hibbard Sr, Richard W, and Hibbard, Phyllis, to Hibbard Jr, Richard W, and Perchak, Jaimie S.

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$365,000, 624 Henshaw St, Sackschewski, Oscar, and Jones, Nicole R, to Castro, Samuel B, and Rodriguez, Lubia G.
\$295,750, 18 Monterey Dr, Roberts, Kristen M, to Collins, Kerri.
\$252,300, 33 Deer Pond Dr, Boisvert, Eileen J, and Newrez LLC, to Federal Hm Loan Mtg Corp.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$315,000, 8 Brickyard Rd, Havens, Christina M, and Kneeland 4th, James F, to McNulty, Madison, and Aday, Alex J.

SPENCER

\$385,000, 26 High St, Wells, John C, to Walker, Ryan.
\$290,000, 150 Paxton Rd, Ryan, Christopher M, and Ryan, Jane C, to Mts Realty & Dev LLC.

WARREN

\$235,000, 138 Coy Hill Rd, New England Hm Buyers LLC, to Savary, Marissa.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None

DISPLAY

continued from page A1

of Selectmen meeting. In addition to receiving a town citation recognizing the impact of Leicester Christmas Display, the Weikels also received a State House proclamation.

"The Weikels put out a donations box at the request of others who wanted to contribute. However, they refuse to use the donations to pay for the police details or electric bills. Instead, they use it to give back to the community," said Select Board Chairman Allen Phillips.

Police details were required for the last several years after the display began drawing thousands of visitors nightly. The Weikels thank the police department for its support and facilitation over the years.

"We never could have done this for all these years without the help of the Leicester Police," Scott Weikel said.

Even though the display began as a well-kept community secret, the magic of the setup quickly spread to surrounding towns, states, and eventually other countries.

"People don't just come from the Worcester area—they come from all over the world," Weikel said.

Added Phillips, "When people ask where I live, I tell them Leicester and usually they say, 'Where is that?' I tell them near the Christmas Display house and they know exactly where. The display has become an icon in the area."

Looking ahead to the holiday season this year, residents will experience an inevitable void in the absence of a beloved community tradition—but their memories aren't going anywhere. Equally enduring is the spirit of giving the Weikels fostered for more than three decades. Community donations received at Leicester Christmas Display over the years

have benefited several local residents and organizations. The Weikels have worked with Hearts for Heat, Deja New, local schools, and multiple other organizations to help improve the community.

"When I hear about people down on their luck, it means a lot to be able to help them out," Weikel said.

Although he will miss almost everything about the annual display, Weikel won't pine for the arduous prep work and maintenance. This year, he began setting up the display in mid-October and didn't finish until Dec. 1. It took him three days just to run the extension cords needed to power the display.

And then there was the yearly maintenance gauntlet, with Mother Nature doing frequent battle with the decorations. Snow events were always a hassle for the Weikels and their guests, but icy conditions could occasionally present the trickiest situations.

"Some nights, I was out there at two in the morning clearing snow and ice. Other times, I was out there in the middle of blizzards, trying to get everything uncovered," recalled Weikel, who often had to forgo dinners to ensure that the operation was running smoothly.

During a particularly strong holiday season snowstorm a few years back, Weikel was worried that it would take days for him to dig out. That's when the entire Leicester High School football team and coaching staff stepped up to get the display back in the game.

Memories like these will always give the Weikels a smile. And long after the lights of Leicester Christmas Display went dark for the final time, the countless memories the Weikels created for their community will shine with a persisting light.

SEARCH

continued from page A1

Joseph Early, Jr., continues to request that residents and business owners submit any surveillance footage they have from the last month.

On Jan. 17, an expanded land search of the area included law enforcement personnel from multiple agencies. Unable to locate Tee, searchers were joined over the next several days by members of the State Police Marine Unit, the State Police Dive Unit, the Environmental Police, and the State Police Air Wing.

In total, searchers have scoured hundreds of acres of deep wilderness and icy waterways over the past month.

"Investigators continue to review all of the videos and tips that have been submitted from people," Early said during a Jan. 19 press conference. "We appreciate all members of the public who have given us tips. Tips can be left anonymously."

Investigators also released additional photos of Tee last month, including images captured by a surveillance camera on Jan. 6.

As of press time, the investigation was still being treated as a missing person incident and not a potential criminal situation, officials said.

Anyone with information that might assist investigators is urged to call the dedicated tip line at 508-453-7589.

BEFFORD

continued from page A1

for sharing information and receiving tips from the community.

Looking ahead, officials are eager to see Befford carry the department into its next chapter.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for him, and I'm sure he'll make a great chief," said Selectman Ralph Hicks.

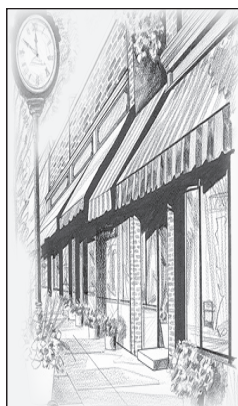
Befford is looking forward to the opportunity to lead the department he has served for 25 years.

"I am excited to continue to serve the community, work with town leaders, and lead the men and women of the Spencer PD," Befford said. "I am appreciative of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator for choosing me to lead the Spencer PD into the next chapter."

Added Befford, "I would like to thank Chief David Darrin for his support and experiences over the years, and I wish him a long and happy retirement."

Stay tuned to the New Leader for a full feature on Befford when he begins his new role next month.

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To create your own indoor garden of greens, all you need are seeds, a container, potting mix, and a sunny window or artificial lights. Select a container or planter with drainage holes or reduce maintenance with the help of self-water-



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

ing containers like the Viva Round or Square self-watering planters. Their water reservoirs reduce watering frequency.

Fill the container with a quality potting mix that is well-drained and retains moisture. Plant seeds as recommended on the seed packet. You can grow each type of green in its own container or mix them up for an attractive display in larger planters like the Tartu Elevated Rectangular Planter (gardeners.com).

Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil moist while waiting for the seeds to sprout. Reduce the need for frequent watering by covering newly planted containers with a plastic sheet or dome. Once sprouts appear, remove the plastic and begin watering thoroughly when the top inch of soil begins to dry.



Courtesy – Gardener's Supply Company

Tabletop light stands work well on kitchen counters and provide plenty of light for greens to grow.

Boost productivity and increase planting space with the help of artificial lights. You will find a variety of setups for any space in your home. Counter and tabletop light stands like the Micro Grow Light Garden can be conveniently located in the kitchen or dining room. Stand-alone light shelves provide more growing space within a small footprint. Furniture-grade light stands make them easy to use in any room in the house.

Grow greens you and your family like to use in your favorite recipes and salads. Green or red leaf lettuce is easy to grow indoors, and its mild flavor is most appealing to children and picky eaters.

Spinach is another popular and easy-to-grow leafy green vegetable used fresh in salads and smoothies or added to soups and sauces. It contains many vitamins and nutrients, including iron, folic acid, and calcium.

Kale is considered a superfood. This nutrient-dense vegetable is packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. If the flavor is a bit too intense for you, try the baby leaf types that are milder in flavor, or try braising kale for a milder flavor and more tender texture.

Add a bit of peppery flavor to salads, soups, pastas, and other dishes with arugula. Add a spicier flavor with mustard greens. Sauté mustard greens or add them to your favorite Southern, Asian, Indian or savory dish.

Include color and flavor in your winter meals with beet greens. The leafy part of this vegetable is often overlooked but is the most nutritious part of the plant. Use these the same way you would spinach or kale. You can purchase beet varieties selected for growing the best greens to harvest from baby to full size.

Make it more fun by getting others involved. Hand family members and guests a plate and kitchen shears so they can harvest and help prepare the meal.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Even in the darkest of times, one person can make a difference

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

On a sprawling plantation in Maryland, Harriet Tubman took her first breath into a life of servitude, surrounded by fields of cotton, tobacco, and sor-

row. At age five, Harriet was bought by a cruel trapper who forced her to work in the icy rivers, setting muskrat traps. Soon she was too sick to work and was brought back and made to be a caretaker for the plantation owner's baby; any cries from the baby would result in a brutal whipping for Harriet.

One day, while the plantation owner and his wife were in a heated argument, Harriet spotted a bowl of sugar, something she had never tasted before. Sneaking a pinch of the sweet treat, she was seen by the Master's wife. Harriet bolted out of the house and hid in a pig pen for five hungry days rather than face another whipping. With no food or refuge, she returned and was beaten brutally.

Harriet's faith was a defining force in her life that guided her every step of the way. Rumors of escaped enslaved people reaching freedom in the North captivated Harriet. She prayed for a life beyond the constraints of slavery.

Despite her hardships, she found love for a free man named John Tubman. She often confided in John about her dream of escaping, but he threatened to report her if she ever tried.

Harriet said, "I had reasoned it out in my mind; there were two things I had a right to, Liberty or Death, and if I couldn't have one, I would have the other."

One day, a Quaker woman approached her as she worked in the fields. The Quakers were a religious society known for their commitment to anti-slavery beliefs. The lady told Harriet that she could come to her house if she ever wanted to escape.

It was the first time Harriet had met someone part of the whispered-about Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses and secret routes used by escaped slaves to reach freedom.

Escaping at night when her husband was asleep, Harriet arrived at the Quaker woman's house, where she was given food and taught to navigate using the north star, as she would always travel by night.

As she made her way towards her freedom, Harriet was taken from one safe house to another, each one offering her food and shelter along the way.

Delighted to be a free woman in Philadelphia, her mind eventually turned to family. One day news reached Harriet that her sister Mary, her children, and other relatives were to be sold at the auction house, and she was determined to rescue them.

Harriet again traveled by night, returning to the county where she once lived in slavery. With determination in her heart, she devised a plan with Mary's husband, a free man, to help her free Mary and her children. He showed up at the auction house with a forged letter, claiming the plantation had a buyer for Harriet's family, and they were to return home immediately.

The guard hesitated, his hands hovering over his rifle as he read the letter. Mary's husband held his breath for an eternity, wondering if the ploy would work. It did, and Harriet wasted no time, whisking them away to freedom. She was now a conductor on The Underground Railroad.


Harriet faced new dangers with the passage of laws allowing captured escaped slaves to be returned to their owners, even when found in the North.

Determined, she saved for a house in Canada, where she planned to bring escaped slaves. Harriet embarked on multiple rescue missions from Canada.


It wasn't long before Harriet was a legend amongst enslaved people; they sang gospel songs in the fields about her. They called her Moses, sent to set her people free.

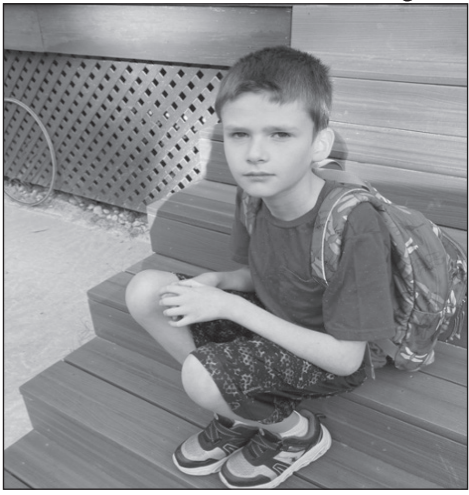
A reward was placed on her head, and she was sometimes forced to disguise herself as a man as she traveled from plantation to plantation to rescue any who desired freedom. She made 19 trips and rescued over seventy enslaved people.

Her legacy serves as a reminder that even in the darkest times, one person can make a difference, and that we all have the power to overcome fear and stand up to tyranny in all of its forms.



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Age 11

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Take time away from your phone

Most weeks, our Editorial column spins off of a subject we curious about. While the subject of cell phone and screen addiction comes up often, this week, our perspective on the issue noticeably shifted after receiving a wise tip. A national news story broke, relaying that many younger people are switching to flip phones as a way to curb mental illness and burnout. There are several tips as far as screen time and how to manage it. The first one is to ignore your phone, don't even look at it, until 30 minutes after you wake up. In that time, sit down, have your morning coffee, and read a book. When you start to scroll on your phone just after waking up, you put yourself into what's called a passive scrolling phase, which can derail your entire day and ward off productivity. A few days of following this new advice, and there is a noticeable sense of comfort and relaxation that can carry you throughout your day. It's like taking 30 minutes every morning to get back to the basics and recall simpler times. Most people feel like they are in control of their phone use, but are you? How can you determine if you have a phone addiction, or are just part of the modern era grind? We've said it before, and we'll say it again — nothing beats the days of watching "Jeopardy!" uninterrupted, without the pressure of responding to a ding from your phone. In 2011, only 35 percent of the population owned Smartphones; today, 81 percent do. It is our main form of communication, so much so that now there is a term called nomophobia, or the fear of going without your phone. Excessive cell phone use is a huge problem for many. As far as addiction goes, some experts say the dopamine connection the phone offers can be linked to something akin to a drug addiction. The triggering of that chemical in your brain, reinforces compulsive behavior. When we can't predict when we will receive a text or a "like" on social media, we check our phones more often. Adolescents are more vulnerable to this problem than any other age group. Excessive use in that age group is such an issue that most teenagers never turn off their phones. Experts say that the younger a child has access to a phone, the sooner the problems begin. Problematic cell phone use is linked to low self-esteem, low impulse control, depression and anxiety. Signs you may have a phone addiction could be that you reach for your phone if you're bored, you feel anxious or upset if you can't get to your phone, you wake throughout the night to check it, or your phone has caused you to get into an accident. Other signs could be that you spend most of your waking hours on your phone, and that it interferes with personal relationships or work. When trying to focus on work, or any task, you are significantly disrupted, and your concentration is thrown off. Ways to break the addiction in order to fix your relationships, your health and other responsibilities include figuring out if there is a larger issue as to why you're using your phone so much. Are you avoiding something else bigger? Resolving the larger issue at hand, could cause a decrease in phone use. Change your settings to remove notifications and other alerts, set your screen to dark mode at night, keep your phone out of sight and never charge it in your bedroom. After a certain time, set your phone up so that only emergency contacts can get through to you, everyone else can wait. Try replacing games on your phone with real in person games or develop a hobby you've been wanting to try. Too much cell phone use can develop into a loss of control. There have been some experiments where people have gone two days without their phones. Some people choose to give up their phones all together, while others make significant changes to reduce use. The potential risk of depression, insomnia and lack of productivity just isn't worth it. Think back to pre-cell phone times. While there are safety benefits to having a phone, we don't need to be connected 24/7, and we don't need to respond or answer our phones just because they ding. Your responsibility is to yourself, and it is revelatory how much you can get done if you just unplug. Take a breather, shut your phone completely off for 15 minutes and see how you feel. If you do try this trick, send us an email, and let us know what you find. If you are willing to take it one step further, and switch to a flip phone temporarily, let us know how that goes. Flip phones are very affordable and often come without a plan, and can be purchased at most stores.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reporting a theft

To the Editor:

Where is the country that I grew up in? We never locked cars or front doors. We thought about locking the front door when we were going on a week-long vacation, but if we had a key, nobody could find it. This was youth as a baby boomer. One of my school chum's fathers was a cop. When he retired, he had never drawn his gun. The only really scary thing was being taught to hide under your desk in case of nuclear attack, without even knowing we would have been vaporized. When I got older, my dad said we would set up lawn chairs out front if we knew an attack was coming.

Fortunately, it never did. That same training is being done in schools today, as part of shooter drills. Of course, the major difference is that being shot actually is the major cause of death for children in school.

We learned that capitalism was the greatest system in the world and fueled our upward mobility when we joined the work force. We have collectively been so creative and innovative that we created outsourcing and focused investments to the third world and bang for the buck, getting not just clothes and sneakers with high price tags to be made in sweat shops that OSHA would lock down in a heartbeat, but TVs, computers (chips, too), cell phones and solar panels — consumed here — are almost all imports. There is one area of marketing and manufacturing that we are the champions at.

We make and consume more assault rifles than anyone anywhere. We place gun ownership above life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and only acknowledge the part about your right to gun ownership not being abridged., while ignoring the part of it being necessary to a Well Regulated Militia.

While I acknowledge that most gun owners are responsible people (and really do not need assault rifles), the miniscule percentage who have more killing capacity than they should be entrusted with, on the 29th day of January, are responsible for 44 events where more than four people died, as of this morning. I will say it again — nobody not in uniform needs an assault rifle, unless you prefer a Baghdad lifestyle and carry it when you leave the house, no matter what. One of my former tenants, a former Iraqi math teacher, went home to visit family, and said how important it was to say goodbye when you left the house because it was not assured you would make it back. Here we are.

The border crisis is the result of two things. 1) We either are or are not the country described on the words on the base of the Statue of Liberty,

or we aren't, and 2) When Donald Trump took office and decided to cut off the foreign aid to South American countries, that funded the government sponsored goon squads to keep the drug cartels and coyotes under control, they were the first to head for our border, allowing the cartels to recruit from those who remained, many of whom sold out or abandoned everything to get away. Under such circumstances, you or I might well have done the same. The last amnesty was under Reagan. Many did not seek citizenship. What they sought was safety and work. An immigration reform bill passed and made it to Trumps desk, but Fox news talked him out of signing it'

Fast forward to today, and our attempt to fight crime, not by addressing the injustice, inequality and inadequacies of our society, but by failure to keep the American dream alive for the masses and starting from the very top, from the courts, White House and legislature, so invested in partisanship and algorithm driven rhetoric, that we continue to tolerate low approval ratings and blatant law breaking. Today the themes have included defund the police, train the police, investigate the FBI, the DOJ and the Whitehouse (including family members). Some cities have decided to deputize what is little more than another street gang, but in uniforms and police cars.

Does anyone remember when George W. Bush suggested the stock market as a good alternative to Social Security? Imagine what will happen to our retirement accounts if the Debt limit is not raised and hits default. Only a warped mind thinks spending and paying are different discussions.

If I had a dollar for every time someone mentions the constitution, especially among those who pledged to support and defend it, then ignored it, I could pay off the national debt. The January 6 committee proved how fragile our democracy is, and how easily corrupted (Some people may not be aware of the extent of the conspiracy, because Fox did not air it). That said, not only could the country be better served by a neutral poll taker, but the British no confidence rules that change leadership holds appeal for me. With half the people now alive under 40, my condolences, you missed a great country, but don't be fooled into thinking that is what MAGA is. Like Black Lives Matter is a true statement usurped as an organization.

"It is easier to con people, than to convince them they were conned."
— Mark Twain

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Would you want this to happen in your neighborhood?

To the Editor:

Some of you are aware that a commercial [gas, oil] heating fuel company in Brookfield wants to install two — each tank 70,000 gallons — propane gas tanks; each tank will be installed above the ground. Those tanks are 70 feet long, nine feet in diameter, and will be 15 feet high when installed. The tanks are not just a potential hazard; they are also an eye sore in a residential neighborhood, and the tanks would be 500 feet from an elementary school and school zone. Question! Do you, would you want those tanks in your neighborhood?

Those tanks would be supplying local fuel delivery trucks. There would be frequent in and out commercial traffic in a residential and school zone neighborhood, "and" I am not sure how often those 70,000 gallon tanks would have to be refilled? My wife and I and the residential neighbors and the elementary school are a

concern for their safety [potential hazard] of the elementary school children and Brookfield residents. My wife and I and the residential neighbors are requesting your help, contribution to raise \$7,000 for legal fee. We are requesting a Jury trial and or the judge will deny the commercial dealer the special permit needed to install those tanks.

Thank you for your help, support, and consideration.

I am not a cell phone user. I am told you need to go to GoFundMe.com/ Brookfield Ma. And/or GoFundMe.com/Brookfield propane tanks and my picture will come up and explaining our concern and explain how you can make a contribution. Thank you!

Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Could you cope with long-term care costs?



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We all want to stay healthy and live independently throughout our retirement years. Unfortunately, that won't be possible for some of us, so it's a good idea to be prepared for health-related challenges — such as the need for long-term care.

As you may know, long-term care covers a variety of services, ranging from occasional visits from a home health aide to full-time residency in a nursing home. But while these types of care may vary in duration and intensity, they all have one thing in common — they're expensive. Genworth, an insurance company, reports these median annual costs:

Over \$100,000 for a private room in a nursing home

Over \$60,000 for the services of a home health aide

Furthermore, Medicare typically pays very few of these expenses, which means the burden of payment will likely fall on you — or, even worse, on your adult children if you can't afford the care you need.

Of course, you could hope that you will avoid these costs simply by not requiring any type of assistance — but the odds aren't necessarily in your favor. In fact, someone turning 65 today has an almost 70 percent chance of needing some type of long-term care services in their remaining years, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

So, how can you protect yourself from the potentially enormous costs of long-term care? You could decide that you'll pay out of pocket — if so, you'll need to incorporate into your retirement budget a reasonable estimate of potential long-term care costs, and you may need to make some significant changes to your saving and investment plans. And the earlier you begin, the better.

Your other option is to purchase some form of long-term care insurance. Essentially, three types of coverage are available:

Traditional long-term care insurance – A traditional long-term care policy covers long-term care expenses in your home or at a nursing facility. But policies will differ in terms of what services are covered and how benefits are paid. And you may also be able to choose whether you want inflation protection. Also, with some policies, you can deduct the premiums from your state and federal taxes. (Your tax advisor can evaluate a policy you're considering for potential tax benefits.)

Hybrid long-term care insurance – In addition to providing coverage for home health care or a nursing home stay, a hybrid long-term care policy also offers a death benefit, so if you never need long-term care, your family could benefit from the policy's proceeds.

Life insurance with a long-term care rider – You can find a life insurance policy that lets you add long-term care coverage through a "rider," or optional add-on. With this type of policy, you can use some of the death benefit to pay for your long-term care needs.

Which policy is best for you? There's no one right answer for everyone. A financial professional can help you evaluate all your options within the context of your overall investment and protection strategies. But keep in mind that all long-term care policies tend to get more expensive as you get older, so if you're considering this type of coverage, you may want to get started sooner rather than later.

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.

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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.

Why is Wallum Lake being neglected?



This week’s picture shows Chris Henchey and a couple other trap shooters, lined up for some target practice at the *Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club range recently. The range is open to any shooter that enjoys the sport ,every Sunday starting at 10 a.m. Come join in for sume fun.

This week, Captain Mel True will sponsor his annual fishing show Feb. 4 & 5 at the Whites of Westport. The Tried & True fishing show will have more than 85 vendors selling new and used fishing tackle. Doors open at 9 a.m. both days. Tickets will be available at the door at \$10 each; children under 12 are free. The show has a lot to offer for both seasoned anglers, and those that are just getting started. Videos of fishing by numerous boat captains will be available, showing the best tactics to catch the big ones, and where to go. It will be a fun packed day for young and old!

The warm weather continues, but this week, there could be enough cold temperatures at night to freeze up some of the small ponds, which could make for some ice fishing activities, but only for the seasoned anglers. A couple of

inches of good black ice is all that is needed to hold one angler to fish on, but walking on these ice conditions needs the constant checking of ice with a chisel ,as you navigate the new frozen ponds. Small Rod & Gun club ponds could also become safe to fish on, and provide some good fishing for hold-over trout. No more than one angler fishing in one spot, needs to be emphasized. Bunching up in one spot could cause unsafe ice, and a bad outcome. Stay safe and always fish with a friend!

Word has been received of a winter stocking of trout in numerous Rhode Island ponds, but Wallum Lake received nothing! Rhode Island also stocked some lake trout in a few of their ponds, along with some rainbow trout and salmon. It is unheard of in the past, that a state like Rhode Island was stocking lake

trout. The salmon were not Broodstock salmon, but were similar to other strains. More information will be gathered for next week’s column.

If Wallum Lake continues to be neglected by both Massachusetts and Rhode island, Sportsmen need to take matters into their own hands, and privately stock some lake trout into Wallum. The lake is ideal to introduce lake trout into, as it has the depth of water to sustain a lake trout, and the forage fish in the lake would provide plenty of food for the fish to feed on. It is a shame that both Mass. & Rhode Island cannot work together to make Wallum Lake a trophy trout pond, but do not expect any good news in the near future.

A bit more news on local Rod & Gun Clubs in the area. Most have a waiting list of sportsmen waiting to join. Be sure to pay your dues early to avoid being left out because you are late with your renewal. There also seems to be a lot more shooters that are joining clubs that are mainly interested in joining the club to use the ranges. There seems to be a lot more gun owners than



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in past years, and it shows at the gun ranges ,and at gun shows like the one last week in Marlborough! The lines outside to get into the show were long, with many leaving the show without getting in. There are more Gun owners that are licensed to carry because of the dangerous world that we live in today. Mass shootings by individuals that are illegally carrying a firearm are increasing every day, and it is not going to stop anytime soon. I hate to turn on the news, like everyone else! What has made this country so violent?

The Mass. Fish & Wildlife Headquarters in Westborough has only a few employees at their desk because of Covid. If you need to talk to someone about an issue, you need to e-mail the person you are trying to contact. Sitting down and discussing your problem or looking for information face to face, is a thing of the past! Hopefully, this Covid thing is over soon!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Tea for Two (or more) is Good for the Body & Soul

The daily English ritual of Tea Time may be more than a social break - in fact evidence suggests it may be just what the doctor ordered! The simple habit of sipping a cup of hot, steaming tea is being reexamined and is hailed as a cure all for many common ailments in addition to its role as a warm, comforting refreshment. In recognition of National Tea month in January – OK so by the time you read this, it might be February!), the following information highlights the many ways tasty tea truly is terrific!



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cold and flu season. As a bonus, the natural, herbal gargle tastes great.

* Medical studies reveal green and black teas take center stage when it comes to boosting the immune system. Test-tube studies also suggest that the flavonoids in tea may have more antioxidant activity than certain better-known antioxidants like vitamins C and E.

*According to researchers at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, green tea is packed with caffeine and catechin polyphenols, substances proven to speed up the body’s calorie-burning ability. A study they performed showed drinking three cups of the Ancient Japanese cure per day can rev up your metabolism as much as an average man walking 17 minutes!

*Studies reveal green and black tea contain fluoride and polyphenols that prevent plaque from sticking to your teeth? Studies show tea decreases the activity of the oral enzyme amylase, which is responsible for breaking down starch into sugar in the mouth. In addition, the tea plant naturally contains fluoride in its leaves which makes tooth enamel stronger and more resistant to acids. Tea also inhibits bacteria growth in the mouth.

ful day, while the oatmeal serves as a soother for sensitive skin.

To make: Combine one half cup of loose green tea leaves (available at health stores) and one half cup rolled or instant oatmeal. Place the mixture in a muslin or cheesecloth bag to make a sachet. Then hang the bag from your bathtub spout with string or ribbon and let the warm water rush over it while filling the tub. Once steeped, remove the bag and enjoy a relaxing soak for 15 minutes or so.

**

Treat Tired Eyes: If late nights and little sleep are making your eyes puffy, this quick and easy treatment will erase the telltale signs as well as a costly cream. Brew loose tea (try a calming herb, such as chamomile) and chill in the freezer until very cold but not frozen. Dip a cotton pad in the tea to saturate, wring out, and place on puffy areas. Lay back and keep pads on for at least ten minutes.

**

Acne Aid Alternative: Studies claim green tea can be as effective as 4% benzoyl peroxide in treating acne. Better yet, the research reveals the tea is gentler on the skin than the chemical. To try at home, simply apply brewed green tea to the skin with a cotton ball.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The “debt ceiling” and addressing America’s needs

To the Editor:

First, a shout out to the Editor and the “other” KK for their excellent contributions to the Jan. 18 to the New Leader “Viewpoint” page.

It strongly seems that another “Kevin,” the jelly-kneed Speaker of the House (last name McCarthy) and a group of ultra right-wing “Republican” members of Congress and their Multimillionaire supporters need a “problem” for their most important “solution.”

The “solution” they want, consists of having the very wealthy paying even less income and other taxes.

The non-existent “problem” is one they return to again (2011) and again (1994), when Democrats are in the White House. (But never when Republicans occupy the White House.)

This non-existent problem is called the “Debt Ceiling.” In fact, raising the debt ceiling just allows the national government to pay for expenses that Congress has already approved in national government’s annual budget.

The “real” problem is one for which Journalist Binyamin Appelbaum provides good information. During the 50 years ending in 2021, The United States spent 21.8 percent of the national income we produced. Meanwhile it collected 17.3 percent of this income in taxes. The government then covered the 2.5 percent gap between the two by borrowing money.

The US government has no problem borrowing the money to close the gap. Likewise our credit rating remains high and will continue to do so as long as we continue to pay our bills. In fact, the way the United States borrows money, “Credit Bills” remain among the highest valued in the world.

Also, even with this government borrowing, the American private sector, massive corporations and big and small businesses, generally have had no difficulty in borrowing money and our economy has continued to grow.

All these positive things could stop in its tracks if our government stopped paying some or all of the bills for things it has already ordered or bought. This means simply raising the total amount the government can borrow, that is raising the “debt ceiling.”

The “Debt Ceiling,” however, isn’t the real problem. After all, it can get done with a simple vote in Congress.

Rather, the real “problem” we have is that our national government collects less in taxes than it spends. We need to change that.

However, most of the money the government spends is difficult to reduce

without real harm being done to our country and people. As examples, about 63 cents of every dollar the national government spends goes to “mandatory” or required programs such as Social Security, Medicare and similar costs.

The next 15 cents of every dollar goes to “discretionary” funding meaning Congress can somewhat decide how the money is spent. However, much of this needs to be provided to important programs like veteran’s health care, highway and other infrastructure construction, subsidies for law enforcement, education etc. That gets us too 78 cents of every dollar spent.

The final 22 cents of the dollar? It goes to defense and interest payments on our country’s debt.

Applebaum, who specializes in business and finance, goes on to say that our government needs to spend more, not less to provide our families and our country with the basic resources, education, skills, and opportunities to lead healthy, productive lives that contribute to our America’s well-being.

Right now, we don’t do that when it comes to millions without health insurance, good child care, education, infrastructure etc.

In fact, other wealthy nations spend 50 percent more than we do when it comes to a spending for their families and the public good. That gives those countries and others competitive advantage.

Meanwhile, yet again, many “Republicans” and their wealthy donors want to use the debt ceiling “crisis” to cut taxes again (They also want to drastically weaken the Internal Revenue Service so they can’t audit wealthy tax cheaters and dodgers). Should these “Republicans” succeed not only will the United States become less competitive, but programs we depend on like Social Security, Medicare, infrastructure, education family well-being programs will suffer and the very rich will get even richer.

So, to summarize Applebaum:

The debt ceiling is a fake problem ultra-right wing “Republicans” and their wealthy donors are trying to use to further cut the taxes they have to pay.

Their tax cuts, if approved would damage our families , communities, communities, the public good and America’s competitiveness.

Instead, to better help them, we need to raise taxes on those large corporations and the very wealthy who aren’t paying their fair share.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER



Ceviche makes Valentine’s Day dinner special

Valentine’s Day dinners out on the town can be special. However, there is no denying that reservations can be difficult to come by and some establishments must limit their menus for this busy night to make it easier to serve a packed house. Because restaurants can be so busy on February 14, some couples may opt to stay in and enjoy a special home-cooked, romantic meal.

Shellfish may not be served at home on a regular basis, which makes it an option for a memorable Valentine’s Day dinner. Ceviche is popular along Mexico’s western seaboard and consists of very fresh raw seafood that is “cooked” by the action of lime juice.

This Valentine’s Day, romance-minded home cooks can whip up this recipe for “Ceviche” from “The Complete Mexican, South American & Caribbean Cookbook” (Metro Books) by Jane Milton, Jenni Fleetwood and Marina Filippelli.

- Ceviche
Serves 6
- 7

7

7

into serving pieces

7

3

1

1

1/4

2 teaspoons dried

1

Ground black pepper

Fresh oregano sprigs, to garnish
- Crusty bread and lime wedges to serve (optional)

1. Spread out the shrimp, scallops and squid in a non-metallic bowl. Squeeze six of the limes and pour the juice on the mixed seafood to cover it completely. Cover the dish with plastic wrap and set aside in the refrigerator for 8 hours or overnight.

2. Drain the seafood in a colander to remove the excess lime juice, then pat it dry with paper towels. Place the shrimp, scallops and squid in a bowl.

3. Cut the tomatoes in half, squeeze out the seeds, then dice the flesh. Cut the onion in half, then slice it thinly. Cut the avocado in half lengthwise, remove the pit and peel, then cut the flesh into 1/2-inch dice.

4. Add the tomatoes, onion, and avocado to the seafood with the oregano and seasoning. Squeeze the remaining lime and pour on the juice. Garnish with oregano and serve with crusty bread and lime wedges, if desired.



Valentine’s Day indulgence done devilishly right

If asked to describe the favored foods of Valentine’s Day in a single word, “decadent” might prove the most apt descriptor. Foodies and non-foodies alike recognize that Valentine’s Day and chocolate are intertwined, making the day an ideal time to indulge in something decadent. This Valentine’s Day, couples can share their love for decadent delights by working alongside one another to whip up this recipe for “Devil’s Food Layer Cake” from Elisabeth M. Prueitt and Chad Robertson’s “Tartine” (Chronicle Books).

- DEVIL’S FOOD LAYER CAKE
- Yields 1 10-inch cake; 12 to 16 servings
- Cake layers
- 13/4

4 1/2

1

1/2

1 1/4

1

1

2 3/4

5

1 1/4

Cups all-purpose flour

tablespoons cornstarch

teaspoon baking powder

teaspoon baking soda

cups cocoa powder

teaspoon salt

cup unsalted butter, at room temperature

cups sugar

large eggs

cups full-fat buttermilk
- Chocolate Ganache
- 24

3

1/2

ounces or 32 ounces bittersweet chocolate

cups or 4 cups heavy cream

cup plus 1 tablespoon caramel

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Butter and lightly flour the sides of two 9-inch cake pans, knocking out the excess flour. Line the bottom of each pan with parchment paper cut to fit exactly.

To make the cake layers, sift together the flour, cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda, cocoa powder, and salt into a bowl and set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium-high speed until light and creamy. Slowly add the sugar and continue to beat on the same speed light in color and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition until incorporated before adding the next egg. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with the rubber spatula. With the mixer on low speed, add the flour mixture in 3 equal batches alternately with the buttermilk in 2 batches, beginning and ending with the flour mixture. Stop the mixer, scrape down the sides of the bowl and then mix again for another few seconds.

Divide the cake batter evenly between the prepared cake pans. Bake until the top springs back when lightly touched or a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Let the cakes cool completely in the pans on a wire rack.

When the cakes are cool, turn them out by inverting the pans, and then turn the cakes upright. Using a serrated knife, slice off the domed portion from the top of each cake to make the tops flat. If you want to decorate the cake with crumbs as described in the headnote, reserve the slices for making the crumbs.

To make the crumbs, preheat the oven to 250 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a nonstick liner. Break up the cake slices and spread on the lined baking sheet. Place in the oven and toast until completely dry, about 1 hour. Let cool completely, then transfer to a food processor or blender and process until finely ground. Sift the crumbs through a



Valentine’s Day presents an opportunity to shower loved ones with special gifts, including treats. Dessert is a significant component of Valentine’s Day, as chocolates and cakes are given and consumed in abundance.

French macarons are a great sweet for amateur bakers to add to their Valentine’s Day repertoire. Making macarons often is a labor of love, so offering a sweetheart a plate of these chewy, meringue-based cookies really shows you care. Vary the filling of choice depending on your beloved’s favorite flavors.

Enjoy this recipe for “French Macarons,” which utilizes the Swiss meringue method, courtesy of Karli Bitner and her “Cooking with Karli” blog. Weighing the ingredients produces more reliable results.

- FRENCH MACARONS
- Make 20 macarons
- 100

100

100

100

grams powdered sugar

grams superfine almond flour

grams egg whites

grams granulated sugar

Food coloring, if desired
- Vanilla buttercream filling
- 4

1 1/2

1

tablespoons butter, at room temperature

cups powdered sugar

teaspoon vanilla extract



medium-mesh sieve. (Don’t use a sieve with fine mesh or the crumbs won’t pass through.) Set aside.

To make the ganache, place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl, using the smaller amount of each ingredient if you will be decorating the cake with crumbs and the larger amount if you will not. Bring the cream to just under a boil in a small saucepan. Pour the cream over the chocolate. Let the mixture sit for a few minutes without stirring until the chocolate is partially melted, and then stir with a rubber spatula until smooth and shiny.

To assemble the cake, split each cake into 2 layers to make 4 layers in all. Transfer 1 layer to a serving plate. Using an offset spatula, spread 3 tablespoons of the caramel evenly over the cake layer. Spread a thin layer of ganache (about 1/4-inch thick) over the caramel. Top with a second cake layer, and again spread with 3 tablespoons caramel and then a thin layer of ganache. Top with the fourth cake layer. Refrigerate the cake until the center seems firm, 1 to 2 hours. Cover the remaining ganache with plastic wrap and leave at room temperature for finishing the cake.

Remove the cake from the refrigerator. Using the rest of the ganache, frost the top and sides of the cake with the offset spatula. If you are going to coat the cake with the toasted cake crumbs, the cake must be evenly frosted and the ganache must be soft enough for the crumbs to adhere. If the ganache has hardened, use a kitchen torch to soften it slightly, or put the whole cake into a 400 F oven for 10 seconds or so, just until the chocolate looks shiny. Sprinkle the crumbs evenly over the top of the cake, then tilt and turn the cake so that they spill over the sides, adhering to them as they fall. If you are using only the ganache and not the crumbs, the ganache will be thicker on both the top and sides.

Serve the cake at room temperature. To store, cover tightly and keep in a cool place for up to 4 days. It is not necessary to keep this cake in the refrigerator.

Sweet cookies for your sweetheart

- Up to 2 tablespoons heavy cream
Food coloring, if desired
1. Measure out all ingredients.

2. Sift together the powdered sugar and almond flour. Set aside.

3. Add 1 cup of water to your sauce pan or to the liner of your Instant Pot.

4. Heat the water over medium heat until steaming.

5. While the water is heating, add the egg and 3 tablespoons of the measured out sugar to the bowl you’ll be using for the double boiler.

6. Once the water is steaming, place the bowl over the steaming water and whisk until the egg whites are foamy and white. When they are foamy and white, remove the bowl from the pan or Instant Pot and set on a hot pad on the counter. Turn off the burner or Instant Pot.

7. Add the remaining sugar to the egg whites and mix using an electric hand mixture until the egg whites are white, glossy and can form stiff peaks.

8. Add the food coloring now if you’d like to color your macarons. Mix until combined.

9. Add the powdered sugar and almond flour to the bowl and mix with your mixer for 8 seconds. After the 8 seconds is up, use a silicone spatula to stir and smear the batter from the outside of the bowl towards the center. Turn the bowl as you do this to make sure all of the batter gets stirred equally.

10. Do this until your batter thins and is able to drizzle a ribbon of batter for a few seconds without it breaking.

11. Transfer the batter to a piping bag equipped with a round piping tip.

12. Pipe equal circles onto a silicone or parchment-lined cookie sheet. Make sure that your piping bag is straight up and down. Apply equal pressure and release pulling straight back up. Repeat with the remaining batter.

13. Bang the pan gently but firmly onto the counter a few times to remove any air bubbles.

14. Preheat oven to 300 F.

15. Allow the macarons to dry out as the oven preheats, for about 20 to 30 minutes. Your macarons should be dry to the touch before going into the oven.

16. Bake for 11 to 13 minutes at 300 F. The macarons should not turn brown.

17. Allow the macarons to cool completely on the pan.

18. When the macarons are completely cool, make your filling.

19. Make your filling by combining all ingredients using either a stand mixer or your electric hand mixer. Slowly add in the heavy cream (you can substitute milk if you’d like) because you want a thick buttercream so it doesn’t squirt out while eating the macaron.

20. Once the buttercream is mixed together and your desired consistency, gently pipe some frosting onto the bottom side of one cookie and then sandwich the frosting with the bottom side of a second cookie to create your macaron.

21. Repeat with remaining cookies.

Plan a special Valentine’s Day



Couples have been commemorating their love for one another in February for quite some time. Couples may go about such celebrating in their own unique ways, but it’s not uncommon to focus on a night out on the town.

Valentine’s Day is a busy holiday for

many businesses, but especially so at restaurants and other romantic venues. So it’s best to plan ahead to ensure a perfect evening. These tips can help you organize a Valentine’s experience to remember.

Tip #1: Reserve early

The closer to Valentine’s Day, the more likely popular restaurants will be all booked up. If the goal is to dine at a particularly trendy spot — or anywhere but the most obscure establishment — be sure to make a reservation well in advance. Start planning the Valentine’s Day dinner in December so you won’t have to look far and wide to book a reservation. If a restaurant does not take reservations that far out, ask when they will start collecting names for Valentine’s Day and book the moment you can.

Tip #2: Secure transportation

One way to make the night more romantic is to snuggle in the back seat of a vehicle and have someone else do the driving. This also is a safer option if you plan to pop a bottle of bubbly or sip some wine while celebrating. Hiring a limousine, luxury car, horse-drawn carriage, or something similar also will require advanced reservations. However, going the extra mile can make the night memorable.

Tip #3: Emulate a scene from a favorite film

The person you love may adore a romantic movie, whether it’s a classic or more recent tear-jerker. When planning a romantic evening out, consider

reenacting a movie scene with you and your special someone in the starring roles. For example, recall when Tom Hanks met Meg Ryan at the top of the Empire State Building in “Sleepless in Seattle.” Include a visit to the observation deck or roof as part of a whirlwind Valentine’s Day experience.

Tip #4: Attend a live music performance

Music can touch the heart and soul. That makes an evening watching a band play or enjoying a musical on the stage even more memorable if it occurs on Valentine’s Day. Select an intimate venue to add to the romantic ambiance of the night.

Tip #5: Think outside tradition

While dinner and a movie are Valentine’s Day favorites, any activity done together can be memorable and romantic. Why not book a couple’s cooking class? Or enjoy a winter sport like skiing or ice skating? Or warm up after window shopping on Main Street by sipping hot cocoa and snuggling on the sofa under a blanket at a nearby B&B?

Romantic nights out on Valentine’s Day can be made even more special with some forethought and planning.



Planning your Valentine’s Day proposal

February 14 is a day dedicated to love. And for couples who are pondering their futures together, Valentine’s Day may seem tailor-made for wedding proposals. According to a survey of 1,000 married adults by James Allen, an online diamond and bridal jewelry retailer, people really love getting engaged on Valentine’s Day. Forty-three percent of Millennials report favoring Valentine’s Day for proposals — whether they’re doing the asking or being asked.

There are a few things to keep in mind when considering whether or not to pop the question on Valentine’s Day. Here are some ideas for planning the proposal.

Make it your own

Even if the proposal is taking place on one of the most popular days of the year to get engaged, interject some personality into the occasion. Include important elements that are dear to the person to whom you are proposing, such as favorite flowers or a preferred restaurant. Restaurant reservations may be hard to come by on Valentine’s Day, so you may want to select a more private meal at home or something catered unless you want to share your proposal with a crowd.

Visit possible locations in advance

Think about where you would like to propose and visit those areas at different times of the day. Timing a proposal during sunset with the rays creating a warm glow on a park bench or on the incoming tide can make it more magical. Adjust proposal area plans for busier crowds expected on Valentine’s Day.

Have the ring at the ready

Jewelry shops are in demand around Valentine’s Day, so be sure to choose and have the ring sized well in advance of the proposal. This ensures the ring will be ready in time. If the ring will be a surprise, get hints beforehand to understand your loved one’s design tastes. Consider bringing a friend along when shopping to offer support and advice.

Use chocolate to your advantage

Boxes of chocolate are ubiquitous on Valentine’s Day. Nestle the ring inside of a box of truffles or another favorite confection and have the question “Will you marry me?” attached to the inside of the box.

Hire a photographer

Work with a photographer to capture the moment, whether it’s a professional photographer or a friend enlisted for the task. This way you can be fully immersed in the moment as it unfolds, and then look back on the experience from a different perspective when the photos are printed.

Valentine’s Day is a popular time for wedding proposals. With a little planning, the occasion can be even more special. TF232684

SOCIAL MEDIA TEXT: There are a few things to keep in mind when considering whether or not to pop the question on Valentine’s Day. Here are some ideas for planning the proposal.

Accounts vary on Valentine’s Day origins

Valentine’s Day is a bright light in the middle of the winter . Come February 14, sweethearts celebrate their love and affection for one another on this day devoted to happy couples.

The origin of Valentine’s Day has generated much speculation over the years. Most early accounts do not point to heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates. Rather, a few distinctive tales may paint the picture of early Valentine’s Day, and they have nothing to do with stuffed animals or romantic dinners.

Roman festival

One of the earliest records of the term Valentine’s Day is traced to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival. This annual event held on February 15 included animal sacrifices and priests called the Luperci who would take pieces of animal hide and touch it to the foreheads of women in the hopes it would make them more fertile. Fortunately for the squeamish (and the sacrificial animals), Pope Gelasius I ended Lupercalia and replaced it with St. Valentine’s Day by the end of the fifth century.

Two or three St. Valentines?

Most people attribute the origins of Valentine’s Day to the holiday’s namesake, St. Valentine. But it seems that Valentine was the surname of a few different individuals. According to History.com, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who decided that single men made better soldiers than those with families or wives. Claudius outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine disagreed with the decree and would perform marriages in secret. Others believe it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop beheaded by Claudius II outside of Rome, who was the true namesake.

Yet another Valentine may have been jailed and fell in love with a jailer’s daughter while in prison. He purportedly wrote to her, beginning the first Valentine card or letter tradition. Other stories say the imprisoned Valentine actually was writing to a blind woman he purportedly healed, and signed the



note “from your Valentine.”

It is hard to know who is who in regard to the name Valentine, as the stories and the people behind them are used interchangeably. Some historians believe they actually are the same person rather than several Valentines, while others insist there were multiple martyred individuals.

However you slice it, the defiant actions of one or more people named “Valentine” set the course for centuries of romance to follow.



4 facts about St. Valentine

Saint Valentine is the patron saint of lovers and engaged and married couples. He also is the name behind the holiday that inspires images of red hearts and rose petals in the middle of February.

Not much is actually known about St. Valentine because records are sparse. However, these facts have emerged.

- St. Valentine could be one of at least three individuals who were martyred. In fact, some believe there were about a dozen St. Valentines.
- Of course St. Valentine is known for presiding over lovers. However, he’s also the patron saint of epilepsy, watching over those who experience seizures associated with the disease.
- Visitors to the Basilica of Santa Maria in Rome can find the flower-adorned skull of St. Valentine on display. Other parts of St. Valentine’s skeleton are on display in the Czech Republic, England, France, and Ireland.
- Some people think Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented Valentine’s Day. In his “Parlement of Foules,” he speaks of a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine’s Day. This association became more established after Chaucer’s poem received widespread attention.



POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
9:49 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:22 a.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 10:42 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), services rendered; 3:15 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:13 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:20 p.m.: assist other PD (Marshall Street), services rendered; 4:27 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 5:08 p.m.: fraud (Ingram Road), name and address redacted from police log, improper use of credit card under \$1200, improper use of credit card over \$1200, larceny over \$1200 by single scheme, larceny of credit card, larceny over \$1200 from disabled person or person over 60, report taken; 6:26 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, citation issued; 7:03 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, report taken; 7:27 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported; 8:05 p.m.: mutual aid (Leicester Street, Oxford), resolved.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20
7:07 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:43 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 10:02 a.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 10:22 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 10:57 a.m.: trespassing (Tobin Road), resolved; 12:02 p.m.: school incident (Paxton Street), assisted; 12:51 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 1:09 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 1:29 p.m.: family problem (Towtaid Street), assisted; 3:01 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Hospital) transported; 3:37 p.m.: assist citizen (Towtaid Street); 3:52 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:18 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 4:21 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:59 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 6:04 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 6:24 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 7:15 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), advised civil action; 11:40 p.m.: disturbance (Burncoat Lane), report taken.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
4:08 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), assisted; 10:00 a.m.: wires down (Main Street), resolved; 11:03 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), resolved; 11:09 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 1:06 p.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), services rendered; 2:34 p.m.: assist other agency (Green Street), no service; 2:54 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, report taken; 3:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 4:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:19 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Ellen M. Melanson, 64, 5 Pioneer Valley Road, Spencer, shoplifting by asportation, arrest; 4:55 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street, Worcester), transported; 5:08 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:32 p.m.: mv stop (Harberton Drive), spoken to; 5:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:16 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:01 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), resolved; 7:27 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 7:42 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), spoken to; 7:46 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:10 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:11 p.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), assisted.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
12:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 12:53 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Street), resolved; 1:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (Town Beach Road), unfounded; 12:44 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO; 1:04 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 1:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Hemlock Street), referred to ACO; 4:05 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Ridge Drive), call canceled; 6:35 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), mv towed; 6:45 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), gone on arrival.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
12:58 a.m.: debris in road (Marshall Street), resolved; 5:16 a.m.: debris in road (Washburn Square), resolved; 8:38 a.m.: ambulance (Ridgewood Road, Paxton), transported; 11:50 a.m.: ambulance (Bottomly Avenue), transport-

ed; 1:20 p.m.: investigation (Rawson Street), report taken; 1:43 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 6:57 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation; 9:59 p.m.: debris in road (Whittemore Street), services rendered; 10:28 p.m.: suspicious activity (Crestwood Road), no action required; 10:34 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), no action required.

TUESDAY, JANAURY 24
1:15 a.m.: ambulance (Cherry Street, Spencer), transported; 7:13 a.m.: accident (Main Street), mv towed; 8:37 a.m.: ambulance (Foster Street, Worcester), transported; 9:31 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:25 a.m.: vandalism (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 11:56 a.m.: restraining order service (Waite Street), served; 1:37 p.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 2:13 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:30 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street), advised civil action; 4:15 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street, Worcester), transported; 4:34 p.m.: arrest warrant serviced (Locust Street), unable to serve; 5:02 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Auburn Street), unable to serve; 5:18 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Howard Terrace), unable to serve; 5:20 p.m.: ambulance (Chelsea Street, Worcester), transported; 5:23 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Redfield Road), unable to serve; 8:02 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), Scott Michael Jubinville, 28, 395 Pleasant Street, Leicester, OUI liquor, open container of alcohol in mv, arrest.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
6:26 a.m.: notification (South Main Street), assisted; 7:04 a.m.: hanging wires (Pine Street), no action required; 10:15 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Sheena Rae DiBenedetto-Petukhov, 15 Kinney Drive, Worcester, 35, all other offenses, arrest; 11:47 a.m.: ambulance (Salisbury Street, Worcester), transported; 1:10 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:16 p.m.: ambulance (Woodland Road), services rendered; 1:51 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:06 p.m.: ambulance (Lakeside Avenue, Worcester), transported; 3:07 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:56 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 4:02 p.m.: investigation (Dale Street), spoken to; 4:28 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Hammond Street), referred to ACO; 5:27 p.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 6:47 p.m.: ambulance (Carleton Road), transported; 7:38 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Montague Street, Worcester), unable to serve; 8:41 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), Malik Alexander, 27, 35 Hayes Street, #3, Worcester, op w/suspended license/subject offense, possession of Class A drug w/intent to distribute, arrest; 9:03 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken.

Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
12:14-1:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:40 a.m.: parking violation (Cherry Street), ticket issued; 3:04 a.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 7:48 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), Mass. DTA card found; 8:57 a.m.: firearms dealer license issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:09 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: refund from business; 9:55 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Grove Street), open line/kids w/phone; 10:10 a.m.: fraud (Walnut Street), rep. fraud; 11:02 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Elm Street), Lucas James Hubbard, 21, 27 North Street, West Warren, warrant, arrest; Alec J. Ramsey, 26, 26 Elm Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 11:17 a.m.: fraud (West Main Street), rep. c/c fraud; 12:18 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 12:59 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:08 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), juv. spit at teacher/left school; 2:04 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:22 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:40 p.m.: animal complaint (Cranberry Meadow Road), loose dog; 3:09 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist State Police/ID female on Route 9; 3:54 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:10 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo/missing person; 4:45 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 4:59 p.m.: attempted larceny (Meadow Road), re: attempt to steal from register; 6:37 p.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 6:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Bell Street), re: poss. Sec. 12; 7:57 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:21-9:55 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops

- 1).
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
1:00-4:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:36 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 7:04 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:42 a.m.: 911 call (Hasting Road), hang-up; 8:33 a.m.: multiple LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:40 a.m.: fraud (Howe Village), re: poss. mail fraud; 10:19 a.m.: accident (Lyford Road), truck stuck under bridge; 10:22 a.m.: accident (Maini Street), TT unit damage traffic control lights; 12:02 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Adams Street), re: continuing harassment; 12:26 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 1:17 p.m.: identity theft (Lake Avenue), rep. PayPal fraud; 1:24 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 2:04 p.m.: fraud (Wire Village Road), rep. bank account fraud; 2:04 p.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), re: messages to daughter via TikTok; 2:42 p.m.: fire alarms (Bixby Road), referred; 2:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Crestview Drive), req. welfare check; 3:44 p.m.: fraud (Lake Avenue), rec'd scam call; 4:25 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), slippery conditions; 5:01 p.m.: mutual aid (Elm Street), Devens PD req. welfare check; 5:20 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:45-8:01 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:17 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 11:41 p.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 2).

FRIDAY, JANAURY 20
12:21-2:43 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:30 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 1:29 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:31 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 3:00 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 5:50 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:14 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:54 a.m.: parking complaint (Temple Street), truck parked in road; 9:56 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), seeking info on homeless son-in-law; 11:36 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:40 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 11:59 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), re: gift card purchases; 12:06 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), why is animal rescue closed?; 12:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: custody issue; 12:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), req. welfare check; 12:42 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:21 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 1:37 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), open line/hang-up; 2:43 p.m.: commercial fire (Main Street), referred; 5:33 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street), lift assist; 7:08 p.m.: accident (Clark Road), report taken; 7:11 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), slick road conditions; 7:22 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:28 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:56 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:50 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chestnut Street), open line; (total daily mv stops - 0).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
12:48 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:52 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:23 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 2:44-3:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:58 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 3:05 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), Route 31S snow-covered; 3:24 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), Route 49 snow-covered; 4:49 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), hand-up; 4:55-5:24 a.m.: parking violations/2 (West Main Street, Thornberry Circle), tickets issued; 11:17 a.m.: suspicious persons (Clark Road), unwanted party; 11:47 a.m.: 911 call (Buteau Road), open line/hang-up; 11:52 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), check forged; 12:04 p.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 12:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), needs place to stay; 1:43 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Crown Street), referred; 2:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), loose dog; 2:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), spoken to; 3:29 p.m.: illegal dumping (Smithville Cross Road), file cabinge/dresser dumped; 3:39 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:48 p.m.: vandalism (Emmett Street), basement window broken; 5:20 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 5:48 p.m.: medical/general (Franklin Street); 6:57 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 10:21 p.m.: hit run/accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 11:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bay Path Road), resolved; 11:49 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
12:01 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:00 a.m.: disturbance (Elm Street), re: drunk/wants to leave; 2:21 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:45 a.m.: officer

wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:57 a.m.: animal complaint (Borkum Road), barking dog; 8:50 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:52 a.m.: building checked, secure; 9:04 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), crosswalk lights not working; 12:32 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 1:03 p.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), tree limb down; 3:35 p.m.: disturbance (Bellevue Drive), unwanted party; 6:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 6:35 p.m.: suspicious persons (Tom Casey Road), investigated; 6:41 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), secondary roads snow-covered; 6:48 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:13 p.m.: medical/overdose (Bellevue Drive); 8:34-8:53 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:16 p.m.: medical/general (Wire Village Road); (total daily mv stops - 1).

MONDAY, JANUARY 23
1:17 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 1:30-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:26 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/5 (West Main Street), assisted; 9:22 a.m.: residential alarm (Ashview Drive), re: paid alarm reg. fee; 10:08 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), spoken to; 10:48 a.m.: harassment prevention order (Bixby Road); 11:11 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), re: concerned about bridge; 11:45 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 12:18 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:39 p.m.: parking complaint (Elm Street), mv blocking basement access; 12:39 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), off road; 1:35 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:37 p.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 2:03 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), system off line; 2:15 p.m.: mv complaint (Terkanian Drive), speeding; 2:17 p.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 2:37 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 3:15 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), off road; 3:27 p.m.: accident (Paxton Road), off road; 3:39 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 3:43 p.m.: disabled mv (Browning Pond Road), off road; 3:49 p.m.: accident (North Brookfield Road), off road; 3:54 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), off road; 4:28 p.m.: incident (West Main Street) redacted from police log; 5:24 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:24 p.m.: disabled mv (Thompson Pond Road), can't make hill; 6:05 p.m.: mv lockout (South Spencer Road), assisted; 6:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), stuck in road; 6:30 p.m.: residential alarm (Washburn Drive), services rendered; 6:30 p.m.: accident (Thompson Pond Road), town mv off road; 6:41 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), AAA req. assistance; 6:49 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), off road; 9:02 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:02 p.m.: medical/general (School Street); 10:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), services rendered; 11:03 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street) hang-up; (total daily mv stops - 0).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24
1:05 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 1:11 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 1:49-2:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:18 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 2:29 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 2:34 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 5:15 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:22 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:21 a.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 9:04 a.m.: odor of gas (Temple Street), referred; 9:59 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), resolved; 10:16 a.m.: 911 call (McDonald Street), accidental; 11:07 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 11:08 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbor issue; 11:52 a.m.: restraining order service (Adams Street); 12:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 1:27 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), St. Vincent cath lab down; 1:32 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 2:46 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:11 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:28 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), spoken to; 4:00 p.m.: medical/general (McDonald Street); 4:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadowbrook Road), aggressive dog; 5:13 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), mv vs deer; 6:41 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:35 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), St. V's cath lab down; 8:34 p.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); 8:51 p.m.: disabled mv (Ash Street), services rendered; 9:56 p.m.: suspicious mv (Gauthier Road), investigated; 10:14 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:18 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; (total daily mv stops - 1).

LEGALS

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 58 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dylan Hammond to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, said mortgage dated September 18, 2020, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 63300 at Page 33 and now held by Movement Mortgage, LLC by virtue of an assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns to Movement Mortgage, LLC dated January 11, 2022 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66928, Page 145 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on February 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon located in the northeasterly part of Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, containing 3.6 acres on the southerly side of Thompson Pond Road, formerly known as Old County Road, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the southwesterly line of said road at land formerly of one Lyon called the Makynen lot; THENCE South fifty degrees fifty minutes West three hundred fifty-seven (357) feet; THENCE North forty-five degrees West four hundred and thirty-one (431) feet; Those two courses run by the Makynen lot, in part; THENCE North fifty-five and one-half degreed East three hundred twenty-two (322) feet to said road; THENCE easterly on said road four hundred eighteen (418) feet more or less to the place of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor (s) by deed recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated September 18, 2020, and recorded in Book 63300 at Page 29 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for Movement Mortgage, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868

January 20, 2023

January 27, 2023

February 3, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Frank Riedle and Aline G. Riedle** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Countrywide Bank, FSB dated March 21, 2008, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42607, Page 288; said mortgage was then assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by virtue of an assignment dated March 29, 2011, and recorded in Book 47288, Page 344; and further assigned to Green Tree Servicing, LLC by virtue of an assignment dated June 18, 2013, and recorded in Book 51147, Page 140; and further assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF10 Master Participation Trust by virtue of an assignment dated December 5, 2018, and recorded in Book 59879, Page 8 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on **February 23, 2023**, on the mort-

gaged premises. This property has the address of 76 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, MA 01562. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

A certain tract of land situated in Spencer, Massachusetts on the Westerly side of the Paxton and Spencer Road and on the Southerly side of Marshall Street bounded and described as follows to wit: BEGINNING at the Southeasterly corner of the within described premises in the said Westerly line of Paxton and Spencer Road at land formerly of Maurice Barsky and now of Nelson Bros; THENCE N. 7 Degrees 30' E. fifty-six (56) feet to a point; THENCE N. 7 Degrees 30' W. sixty (60) feet to a point; THENCE N. 43 Degrees W one hundred forty (140) feet to corner of stone walls; the last three courses being along the said Westerly line of Paxton Spencer Road and on the said Southerly side of said Marshall Street; THENCE S 45 Degrees W. by other land of Maurice Barsky two hundred ninety (290) feet, more or less, to land of said Nelson Bros at a pine tree; THENCE S 87 Degrees E. by land of said Nelson Bros., three hundred ten (310) feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. Containing an area of one (1) acre, more or less, and being Lot #16 as shown on a revised plan dated September 2, 1952, made by Joseph Swartz, Civil Engineer. For title see deed in B. 17765, P. 153.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. Dated: January 10, 2023 U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of LSF10 Master Participation Trust By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 55346 (RIEDLE) January 27, 2023 February 3, 2023 February 10, 2023

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 37 Paxton Road, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian T. Parenteau and Hui C. Parenteau to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, and now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation, said mortgage dated March 22, 2018 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58686, Page 83, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated June 29, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 67848, Page 336; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on March 30, 2023 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Real property in the City of SPENCER, County of WORCESTER, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, described as follows: PARCEL I BEGINNING AT A POINT, SAID POINT BEING THE MOST EASTERLY PART TO BE CONVEYED ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 8° 3' WEST ONE

HUNDRED (100) FEET ALONG WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 79° 21' WEST TWO HUNDRED FORTY-ONE AND EIGHTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (241.85) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 14° 47' EAST ONE HUNDRED FOUR AND FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (104.45) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 79° 21' EAST TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE (229.00) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING IN THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; BEING LOT #2 ON A PLAN OF DIVISION OF LAND IN SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS OWNED BY TIMOTHY D. MORSE AND LINDA MORSE DATED MAY 5, 1969 THEODORE P. DRAZEK, R.L.S., NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASS., RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 336, PLAN 8. CONTAINING 21,300 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS. PARCEL II BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 8° 3' WEST ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET ALONG WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 79° 21' WEST TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR AND TWENTY-FOUR HUNDREDTHS (224.24) FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GEORGE E. RICE TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 69° 54' WEST THIRTY-ONE AND FOURTEEN HUNDREDTHS (31.14) FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GEORGE E. RICE TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 14° 47' EAST ONE HUNDRED FIVE AND EIGHTEEN HUNDREDTHS (105.18) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 79° 21' EAST TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF WIRE VILLAGE OR PAXTON ROAD TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING LOT #3 ON PLAN OF DIVISION OF LAND IN SPENCER, MASS., OWNED BY TIMOTHY D. MORSE AND LINDA MORSE DATED MAY 5, 1969 THEODORE P. DRAZEK, R.L.S., NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASS., RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 336, PLAN 8. CONTAINING 23,100 SQUARE FEET OF LAND, MORE OR LESS. BEING ALL OF THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY CONVEYED TO BRIAN T. PARENTEAU AND HUI C. PARENTEAU, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY FROM TIMOTHY D. MORSE, JR. AND DONNA M. MORSE, BY DEED DATED NOVEMBER 27, 1998 AND RECORDED NOVEMBER 30, 1998 IN/AS BOOK 20730 PAGE 69 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS. APN #: U17/7/ 1/ /

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated November 27, 1998 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20730, Page 69. TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
January 27, 2023
February 3, 2023
February 10, 2023

**Notice of Public Hearing–
Planning Board**

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday February 21, 2023 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard: Stormwater Permit – Applicant/Owners: James Burtt, Location: Lot 4B Eagleton Road, Spencer Assessor's Map

R38-19. The applicant is requesting a Stormwater Permit, section 4.11 of The Spencer Zoning Bylaw for a proposed single-family home with common driveway. The property is located within the Suburban Residential (SR) zoning districts.

February 3, 2023

February 10, 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. WO20A0325AD
CITATION G.L.c. 210, § 6
In the matter of:
Jordan Francis Moreau**

To:

Andrew Moreau
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been filed by said court by

Mariam Eccleston of Souothbridge

,MA

Jeremy Eccleston or Spencer, MA in requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Jordan Francis Eccleston

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERE-TO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Worcester** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) 0 ON: **04/11/2023**

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 12, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

February 3, 2023

February 10, 2023

February 17, 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. WO23P0204EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Richard Joseph Comeau
Also known as:
Richard Comeau,
Richard Joseph Comeau, Sr.
Date of Death: 09/19/2021**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Melba C Comeau of East Brookfield 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:

Melba C Comeau of East Brookfield MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/21/2023**. 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: January 23, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

February 3, 2023

SPORTS

Panthers shake off slow start, defeat hard-working Auburn

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

AUBURN — Traveling to Auburn High to take on the Rockets, the undefeated David Prouty Regional boys' varsity basketball team started slow and was down 5-0 early. But the Panthers went on a 16-4 run to end the first quarter thanks to a timeout called by head coach Pat O'Connor, a big block and a quick 3-pointer. That spurt ignited Prouty and they never trailed again in the contest, as they defeated Auburn by a final of 65-41 on Thursday, January 26.

The Panthers are now 12-0, while the Rockets dropped to 4-7.

Following David Prouty's timeout, the defense converged on Auburn guard Jordan McFadden, who made a pass to Tyler Kohler. Prouty's JJ Neiray was able to block Kohler's shot, and the Panthers went the other way. Braeden White's ensuing 3-pointer tied the game at 5-5.

"We were not ready to play, we were sleepwalking, I could feel it, I wanted to wait. I didn't want to call the timeout, but I had to call it to wake them up and they certainly responded," expressed O'Connor. "I could tell we were sleepwalking right from the get-go, we made a big mistake defensively on something we had talked about quite often and I knew. It was as simple as, "we have to wake up, let's go."

The Panthers took control and played their game for the rest of the night and were led by Neiray's defense and beautiful offense by senior guards White and Cam Hoekstra, who poured in 21 and 16 points, respectively. White scored 16 of his game-high 21 points in the first half. O'Connor loved how his team as a whole responded after the slow start, but specifically pointed out the play of much-improved Neiray, who played with amazing energy from start to finish.

"He is awesome, he is one of the most improved players from last year to this year," O'Connor expressed about Neiray. "He is a huge reason we have been so good. He brings energy, is extremely coachable and he is in the right spot at the right time. Obviously, he is a great athlete that is where you see the blocks and the rebounds, but I think that he is so bought in and our defense at times is like they're on a string and working as one unit. He guards bigger players, so he ends up on the back end, but his energy, effort, and how much he has improved from last to this year is a huge reason we have been successful."

It wasn't the outcome the young Auburn team wanted, but the effort until the final buzzer was phenomenal. Head coach Dan Koen was pleased with his team's performance despite the outcome.

"We have a young team and we have



Tyler Patchen of David Prouty moves the ball back and away from an Auburn defender while attempting a shot from the interior.

faced a little adversity with some injuries and some sort of sickness stuff, so we were missing some guys," stated Koen. "We knew we were going up against a very talented team, so we had to make sure we tried to scrap and try and get any easy baskets we could against them. I was very proud we did compete until the end. Prouty is just a tough, tough team. It was a tough matchup for us."

It was a tough offensive night for the Rockets, but there was one thing that stood out throughout, and that was the effort on the offensive glass. Auburn did a great job creating extra possessions with the focus they showed in that aspect of the game. McFadden led all Rocket scorers with 15 points and Logan Bostock chipped in 9.

"We do have a tendency to struggle to score at times, especially when teams pressure us a bit, so any time we can get an easy basket around the hoop, extra possessions for us is something we put a lot of emphasis on and work on in practice," explained Koen.

Lastly, there is a lot of season left for the Rockets and Koen explained the message he is expressing to his young team.

"We have to take it one game at a time, each game is different, and each opponent is different. We have had a

little bit of success, we have hit a bit of a rough patch right here, but there are a lot of games left. We have to keep working on getting better each play,

each minute, each hour, each day, each game, and hope it builds to something that is successful," concluded Koen.



Photos courtesy Mark Seliger, www.SeligerPhotography.com

David Prouty's Braeden White pushes off a chest pass down the court.



Braeden Cashman of David Prouty lays the ball up and over the reach of Auburn's Jordan McFadden.



David Prouty's Cam Hoekstra passes the ball out of Auburn's defensive triple team.



Auburn's Jacksen Bolduc reaches in to steal the ball away from David Prouty's Cam Hoekstra.

SPORTS

Trio of Maddi's score, Proulx phenomenal in net as Auburn defeats Saint Joseph Prep



Nick Ethier photos

Auburn's Olivia Viens holds off a Saint Joseph Prep defender while carrying the puck down the ice.



Maddi Leonard of Auburn scans the ice while stick-handling the puck toward Saint Joseph Prep's zone.



Auburn's Maddi Wall attempts to maneuver around a Saint Joseph Prep defender.



Leah Medeiros of Auburn prepares for a faceoff versus Saint Joseph Prep.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN — Scoring at the end of a period is quite the morale booster for any hockey team, and the Auburn High girls' varsity squad did so twice — nearing the ends of the first and second periods — when hosting Saint Joseph Prep of Boston at the Horgan Arena on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Maddi Wall and Maddi Meyer had those goals, Maddi Langevin scored in the third period and goalie Rachel Proulx was a rock in net, stopping 28 shots as the Rockets won a 3-1 decision.

"As we go through a game, we take it one period, one shift, at a time. I talk to the girls about getting better, and when we're not doing well and we're a little bit flat, and then all of a sudden you have one real good shift at the end of the period, it sets the pace for the start of the next period," said Auburn head coach Pete LaPrad regarding the goals by Wall and Meyer.

Wall's goal came with 42 seconds to go in the first period. She collected the puck along the goal line and banked it in off goalie Kate Dolson's pads. Meyer's tally came with even less time on the

clock. In fact, following her goal — a wrist shot from the slot following a shot by Langevin and a save by Dolson — there was less than a second remaining, so both teams went straight to the locker room for intermission.

In that second period, with the game still 1-0 in the Rockets' advantage, Proulx was the best player on the ice. She turned aside all 14 Saint Joseph Prep shots thrown her way.

"Both goalies this year are doing really, really well," LaPrad said of Proulx and Tori Horne. "I have always said through the years, we coach from the goalie out. The goalie is the most important place on the rink. When your goalie is standing on her head and she's making saves like Rachel did in that period, it just sets the pace for everybody."

Saint Joseph Prep did break the ice just 24 seconds into the third period, as Maeve McGrath took a wrist shot that beat Proulx, with Mary McElroy grabbing the assist.

But the Rockets retook a two-goal lead midway through the period when Langevin took a pass from Maia Tatum and,

much to her delight, noticed an empty net. That was because Dolson was pulled, as Saint Joseph Prep thought that a penalty was being called on Auburn. It was just a potential icing call, though, which got waived off.

"We talk to the girls constantly about this game is as much mental as it is skill. She got the puck, someone from the bench yelled 'open net,' she looked up, had the open net and hit it," LaPrad said of Langevin's heads-up goal. "It's not an easy thing to do under pressure, throw the puck and hit the net from half ice."

The Rockets' defense then killed off a Saint Joseph Prep (2-9) power play, their only man-advantage of the game, late in the contest to solidify the 3-1 victory.

"Our special teams, power play and penalty kill, are doing really, really good this year," said LaPrad. "We have good systems and they're doing a good job."

Auburn, whose team



Auburn goalie Rachel Proulx holds her ground as a Saint Joseph Prep player attempts to score.

is a co-op that also includes skaters from Tantasqua Regional as well as Grafton High, Notre Dame Academy, Sutton High and the Worcester Public Schools, is now 7-5-1 on the season.

"We have elevated

our level of competition, schedule-wise, to where we're playing pretty much everyone in Division 1. We're playing big schools, strong teams, and we are competing," said LaPrad. "If we can stay around .500, we're very happy. That's what

we're shooting for."

If the Rockets finish .500 or better following the conclusion of their 20-game regular season schedule, they will automatically qualify for the Division 1 State Tournament.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK — WARRIORS PREPARE FOR SWIM LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, Jan. 28

Tantasqua boys 93, Grafton 56 — Swimming at the Whitinsville Community Center, the Warriors emerged victorious and improved to 6-3 in the process. Ethan Zhu, Ethan Korenda and Sam Merchant all placed first in their respective events, and Eben Mazeika qualified for swim sectionals.

Grafton 91, Tantasqua girls 74 — First place finishers for the Warriors were Zoey Zhu, Kira Dambly and Sasha Hildago, as the girls' loss dropped the team's record to 4-5. Both swim teams are set to host the league championships this week.



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STATE BAIL ADMINISTRATOR
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
catherine.coughlin@jud.state.ma.us

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DUDLEY DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

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OPENING

continued from page A1

the party, though, and scored the next 16 points bridging the first and second quarters to surge ahead, 16-2. A floater from junior Maeve Nelson stopped the bleeding to make it 16-4 with about three minutes to go in the second, and senior Sarah O'Connor beat the halftime buzzer with a 3-pointer to trim the deficit down to 18-7 at intermission.

"I think the girls felt a little bit of pres-

sure to win on this opening day," said Leicester head coach Chris Barry. "We didn't really talk about it, but I think they had that. We've had slow quarters, but that's one of the slowest halves we've had in a long time."

But the Wolverines came out hot in the third quarter, winning the period by an 18-3 margin to grab a 25-21 lead as play entered the final frame.

"Just to see a couple shots go down in a gym like this was huge," said Barry.

"We had to get used to the new envi-

ronment and the new hoops," added O'Connor, who noted that her 3-pointer just before halftime played a huge part in her individual and the team's big second half. "It gave me a push to keep shooting. Barry always tells me to never stop shooting even if it doesn't go in."

O'Connor helped put the game away for Leicester by scoring 11 more points in the fourth quarter. When all was said and done the Wolverines defeated the Pirates by eight points, 39-31.

O'Connor scored a game-high 23 points, Connor added 8 more, and Leicester improved to 3-8 on the season.

"I will be bragging about it, it's very cool," O'Connor said of winning in the debut of the gym.

The Wolverines also won the junior varsity game, 48-19. All future JV and varsity games will be played at the new gym, with middle school contests to take place at Paxton Street.

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Ayva Connor of Leicester scored the first varsity points inside the school's new gymnasium with this layup.

Leicester's Maeve Nelson finds enough space in Oxford's defense to drive the ball toward the basket.

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