

SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Free by request to residents of

East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

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Friday, January 24, 2025

Area students perform in Rose Parade



Courtesy

Student-musicians from several local schools recently took part in a major event.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Students from several area schools represented the New England Honor Band in the 136th Rose Parade held earlier this month.

Local band students were recommended to apply for the New England Honor Band (NEHB) by their respective band directors. Participants included student-musicians from Leicester, Spencer, the Brookfields, and Auburn.

The following students represented Leicester High School at the event: Sean Alves (bass drum); Russell Baker (trumpet); Trevor Moorghen (tenor

saxophone); Ella Smith (trombone); and Dakota Zinkevich (alto saxophone).

Meanwhile, Leicester resident McKenzie Settle (who attends Millbury High School) played the flute.

David Prouty High School sent senior Zachary Souler, who plays the trumpet.

Representatives from Auburn High School included Calla Anderson (alto saxophone); Karsen Racicot (bass drum); and Claire Smith (cymbals).

Students in the NEHB conquered the 5.5-mile Rose Parade through the streets of Pasadena, CA. They also per-

formed at BandFest, a showcase of all bands participating in the parade.

Leicester Middle School Band Director Kristina Looney, who served as a member of the band staff and a chaperone on the trip, has been thrilled to watch the progression of students.

"I taught six of the NEHB members at LMS during their early years of band. They are all amazing kids and musicians, and it was wonderful to be able to see them as high school students participating in such a huge event," Looney said. "Our Wolverines showed extraordinary dedication, per-

severance, grit, and of course, talent, while in California."

For students, taking part in the parade was an unforgettable experience. Even the unexpected twists and turns along the journey provided thrilling opportunities.

"One of my fellow students had the idea to play 'Sweet Caroline' during a standstill caused by a float in front of us breaking down. I didn't expect the pure excitement and joy received from the audience when we started playing it, and seeing the crowd start singing along made it even more special," said Leicester's

Turn To **STUDENTS** page **A10**

Ground broken on Route 9 reconstruction project

WEST BROOKFIELD — When West Brookfield Highway Superintendent Jim Daley was hired in 2010, he knew something had to be done about the dangerous section of West Main Street/Route 9 between West Brookfield and Ware. At his request, MassDOT agreed to perform a Road Safety Audit in 2012 which confirmed his fears.

This specific portion of road was found to be one of the most dangerous segments of Route 9 in the state due to its high incidence and severity of motor vehicle crashes. He quickly realized that annual Chapter 90 funds which most small towns rely on to fund their road projects, would not be sufficient to fund an undertaking of this magnitude.

Depleting Chapter 90 funds on Route 9 would also make it impossible to do smaller, more routine public works projects in the rest of the town for years to come.

In 2011, the Route 9 Reconstruction project was accepted into the highly competitive, federally and state funded Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). West Brookfield was awarded just over \$8 million dollars needed to fund Phase I, which begins at the Ware town line and proceeds to Welcome Road. Due to the size of the project, it has been divided into three Phases which will take place in succession starting from the Ware town line up to where the State Highway begins near Cutler and Old Warren Road in West

Brookfield, with a total TIP award of about \$30 million. All work is projected to be complete by 2030.

"MassDOT is dedicated to enhancing safety and accessibility along our roadways, and we are proud to collaborate with the town of West Brookfield on this significant reconstruction project," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "We would like to thank our municipal partners for their advocacy on this project and look forward to improved safety, accessibility, and resiliency along Route 9."

Superintendent Daley, just a couple years away from retirement, is pleased to finally be overseeing the start a project he initiated nearly 15 years ago. He is grateful for the guid-

ance he's received from the Engineers at CHA Consulting, the State Aid office at Mass DOT, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning (CMRP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, "without these federal and state funding opportunities, professional collaborations and the support of the West Brookfield town leadership and its residents, a project of this scope would not have been possible in our small town."

"This kind of funding is absolutely essential for the growth and safety of our roadway infrastructure in small-town Massachusetts," said Chairman of the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen

Turn To **ROUTE 9** page **A10**

Legislative breakfast focuses on role of libraries

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — During a legislative breakfast held last week at Leicester Public Library, local patrons discussed with elected officials the many ways libraries are enhancing education and community engagement.

The Jan. 17 event was attended by State Sen. Peter Durant and State Rep. David LeBoeuf. Several other speakers shared stories conveying the importance of library programming for guests of all ages.

"This library has fostered a love of learning and education for my family that is truly priceless," said Alessandra LaTour, whose three children regularly attend the library. "The librarians here have become like a family to us. My kids light up when they hear they're coming to the library."

For library leaders across the area, it's critical to work with local legislators to advo-

Data breach impacts local schools

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Several area school districts were impacted by the recent PowerSchool data breach, including Leicester Public Schools and the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District.

PowerSchool, a provider of student information software for schools around the globe, reported a cybersecurity incident affecting its systems in late December. All school districts using PowerSchool were informed that the incident involved unauthorized access to data systems worldwide.

Over the past week-plus, local school leaders have sent letters to their respective communities outlining steps taken in response to the incident.

"PowerSchool reports that the incident, which occurred in late December, is contained and not ongoing," stated Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "The unauthorized access occurred through one of PowerSchool's support platforms, and they report that they have contained the incident and prevented further unauthorized access."

PowerSchool officials disclosed to school leaders that the incident involved unauthorized access to records containing information on students, families, and staff members. Data included records of names, contact information, and demographics, among others.

Additionally, depending on which school districts students attended and when they graduated, some individuals' social security numbers were also exposed. Meanwhile, staff members or former employees of certain districts also saw their information hacked.

"We have begun our own internal investigation, and we believe that, specifically within Leicester Public Schools, the information that was accessed included student names, home addresses and phone numbers, demographic information, parent/guardian and emergency contact information, custodial information, medical alerts (for example a food allergy), and school operational information, such as grade, year of graduation, student ID numbers and user names, home room, and participation in programs such as special education and EL services," Kustigian's letter read in part.

No student assessment results, grades or academic data, report cards, full health records, full IEPs, or records pertaining to attendance, discipline, or behavior were accessed, Leicester school officials said.

"We do not currently store student or staff Social Security numbers or financial information in PowerSchool, and no password related information was accessed," the Superintendent's letter read. "In the past, the Leicester Public Schools did store staff social security numbers. There are two current LPS staff members whose social security numbers were exposed. Those two staff members have been contacted directly."

Additionally, there are 190 former LPS employees whose social security numbers were exposed, Kustigian confirmed. These individuals will be mailed a separate letter to their most recent address on file.

The Leicester Police Department was also notified of

Turn To **BREAKFAST** page **A12**

Turn To **BREACH** page **A10**



Kevin Flanders

Leicester Public Library Director Suzanne Hall welcomes guests.

Evangelidis mulls run for governor's office

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — After receiving waves of support from across the state following the release of a petition urging him to make a gubernatorial run in 2026, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis said he will carefully consider his options before reaching a decision on his political future.

Posted to Change.org late last month, the online petition titled "Draft Lew for Governor" thrust the longtime Sheriff into the statewide spotlight. Prior to its release, Evangelidis didn't even know of the petition's existence, but he quickly became aware of the strong support when his phone started ringing.

Over the past week-plus, Evangelidis (R—Holden) has received calls and emails from Republicans and Democrats throughout the Commonwealth encouraging him to pursue a campaign for governor in 2026.

"People have contacted me not only to express their support, but also to share their frustrations with the track we're on," said Evangelidis, who has served as Sheriff for the past 14 years. "I want Massachusetts to

do better. Right now, we are going down an unaffordable, unsustainable path."

In a summary posted to the Change.org page, the organizers of the online petition described several frustrations shared by Massachusetts residents and officials, including issues with affordability and disapproval of Democratic Governor Maura Healey's immigration policies.

"With Maura Healey's dangerously liberal policies that have contributed to the crippling debt, overburdened our healthcare system, and prioritized illegal immigrants over hardworking taxpayers in the Bay State, the time has come for change," the petition read in part.

The organizers also cited rising crime in their summary, which Evangelidis confirmed as a major problem in Worcester County. He told the New Leader he is receiving calls and emails daily from residents and officials seeking a change in the state's leadership.

Looking ahead, Evangelidis doesn't plan to rush into any decisions. He is committed to continuing conversations with officials statewide and monitoring condi-

tions as the new year progresses.

"I am also going to continue raising awareness that we have a bad situation right now," said Evangelidis, who opposes the Governor's handling of the migrant shelter crisis, calling for major changes to policies. "I

haven't made my mind up yet [on a potential run for governor]. I am flattered to receive such strong support."

Evangelidis said he will take time to review how a potential run would align with his family situation. He appreciates the many residents and officials

who have reached out to express their support. Many callers conveyed praise for his leadership as Sheriff since his election in 2010.

"I love being Sheriff. I enjoy it every day," Evangelidis said.

Evangelidis previously served as a state repre-

sentative for eight years. He represented the First Worcester District.

Healey has not announced whether she plans to run for re-election to a second term in 2026.

Local officials offer winter weather resources

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — After an uneventful start to winter, area residents dealt with an active week of weather hazards.

A snowstorm on Jan. 19 & 20 caused minor accidents across local roadways. The storm ushered in the coldest air of the season, with overnight lows plunging below zero and highs failing to escape the teens.

Amid the shock of frigid air, officials in area towns reminded residents of where to find warmth in the instance of an extended power outage during cold snaps.

"We are aware of the extreme cold weather warning and want to assure you that we are prepared to open an emergency warming center if needed," read a statement released by Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert. "If you or someone you know requires access to a warming center, please contact us on our business line at 508-347-2525, ext. 0."

The Sturbridge Senior Center can be utilized for warming during its normal business hours, and the public safety complex is open 24/7 if residents require immediate assistance or shelter.

In Leicester, officials use the Senior Center as a warming center if an emergency is declared by the town's Emergency Management Director Jason Main.

"I am in contact with National Grid and track outages. If we have any that are not repaired rapidly, we will

open a center," Main told the New Leader.

Spencer Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges reminds residents that the Senior Center or a school in town would be used as a warming center, in the event of a power outage during frigid conditions.

"A message would be sent out alerting residents where the shelter would be available," Bridges said.

State leaders released several tips to help residents stay safe at home and on the road during cold snaps.

"We're no strangers to the cold, but with these extreme temperatures, it's important to take caution to avoid conditions like hypothermia and frostbite, which can occur during even short amounts of exposure," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "Bundle up in layers of clothing, limit time outdoors, and try to stay active while you're inside."

Prior to heading onto the roads during storms, residents are urged by public safety officials to plan ahead and set aside extra time.

For the safety of other drivers and pedestrians, please clear snow and ice from your vehicle's windows, lights, hood, and roof before driving, police leaders said. Utilize safe winter driving practices, including leaving extra room for braking and stopping in slippery conditions.

Additionally, you can prepare for possible power outages by fully charging your cell phone, laptop, and any essential electronic devices before a storm.

"Check your smoke and car-

bon monoxide (CO) detectors to make sure they work correctly and have fresh batteries," read a statement released by the Governor's Office. "During and after the storm, check your outside fuel exhaust vents, making sure that they are not obstructed by snow or ice."

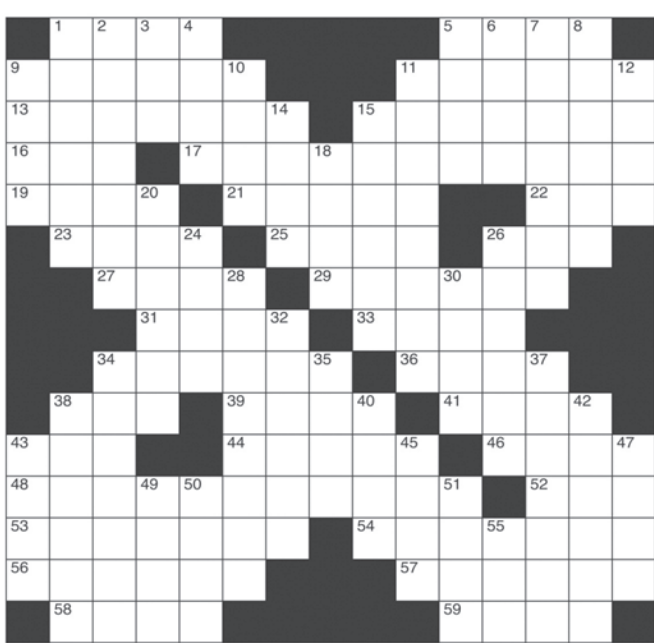
Residents are also urged to follow all recommended safety precautions when using space heaters, a fireplace, or a woodstove.

Meanwhile, traffic safety officials have also released several recommendations to help keep drivers safe on the roads this winter.

"Safety is first and foremost, especially during severe weather," said Massachusetts Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "Plan and prepare for winter storms, as conditions vary from region to region, and storms can lead to road hazards, power outages, and fallen trees and utility wires."

For information on traffic conditions during storms, travelers are encouraged to download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com. The site allows visitors to view live cameras, travel times, and real-time traffic conditions before setting out on the road.

To learn more about winter safety tips, visit www.Mass.gov/Snow.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "Loser" rocker
- 5. Partner to relaxation
- 9. Mixing
- 11. Winged nut
- 13. Expression of blame
- 15. Vast ocean
- 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 17. Multiply
- 19. Meat from a pig (French)
- 21. Related
- 22. Rocker Stewart
- 23. Surprise completely
- 25. Loon
- 26. Canister
- 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 29. Takes forcefully
- 31. Oil cartel
- 33. Palmer and Hepburn are two
- 34. More than one
- 36. Places down purposefully
- 38. Pitching statistic
- 39. Type of sword
- 41. Witnesses
- 43. Body part
- 44. Mixes slowly
- 46. Satisfy
- 48. Strong belief
- 52. One's physique (slang)
- 53. More frightening
- 54. Soup cracker
- 56. Teaches
- 57. One who carries something
- 58. Actor Sean
- 59. Changes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. ___ Aires, city
- 2. Coarse grass
- 3. Type of gene
- 4. Door handle
- 5. Competition
- 6. Muslim ruler title
- 7. Hunting expeditions
- 8. Large mollusk
- 9. Bind securely
- 10. Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 11. 2-point plays in football
- 12. Breezed through
- 14. Type setting
- 15. Felt for
- 18. Codified rules
- 20. Small dome
- 24. Chevrotaian
- 26. Male reproductive gland
- 28. Controversial beliefs
- 30. Z Z Z
- 32. One who confines another
- 34. Bishop
- 35. Garlands
- 37. Bird that flies by the coast
- 38. Optical device
- 40. Greek goddess of discord
- 42. Some are "Rolling"
- 43. Formerly (archaic)
- 45. Thrust a knife into
- 47. German river
- 49. Atomic #26
- 50. Make a grotesque face
- 51. Primordial matter of the universe
- 55. Chinese philosophical principle

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Curry College announces Dean's List

MILTON — Curry College congratulates over 800 students who were named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Meghan Niddrie of Leicester
Lily Smith of North Brookfield

About Curry College
Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at www.curry.edu

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REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

None

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$339,900, 33 Deer Pond Dr, Federal Hm Loan Mtg Corp, to Kerrissey, Alyson.

\$315,000, 8 Meadow Ln, Smith, Timothy M, and Smith, Susan R, to Smith, Matthew J.

\$300,000, 151 Peter Salem Rd, Eisnor, Richard, to St Pierre, Richard, and Collier, Alexandra M.

\$232,000, 107 River St, Caforio Jr, John A, and Caforio, Elizabeth A, to Degre, Bruce, and Degre, Diana.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$31,751, 4 Mccarthy Rd, Rem Real Estate LLC, to Hill, Richard J.

SPENCER

\$355,000, 47 Bacon Hill Rd, Salvadio, Bonnie D, to Cobb, Mitchell.

\$327,500, 20 Bell St, Claire M Dumas Irt, and Dumas, Claire M, to Coffey, Michael J.

WARREN

\$438,000, 436 Old West Brookfield Rd, Nickerson Claire A Est, and Nickerson, Jeffrey A, to Mckean, James A, and Sweeney, Jessie L.

\$330,000, 73 Maple St, 73 Warren St LLC, to White Jr, David L, and Casey, Michaela R.

\$295,000, 214 Southbridge Rd, Blas, Jonnathan, to Melanson, Jesse R, and Ordonio, Stephanie F.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None

LMS student chosen as Project 351 ambassador

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Eighth grader Benjamin Hagglund is thrilled to represent Leicester Middle School as this year's Project 351 ambassador.

Each year, 351 eighth graders—one for each city and town in the Commonwealth—travel to Boston and represent their communities through participation in service projects.

For Hagglund, the selection by LMS leaders was an unforgettable honor.

"Being selected to represent my school as a Project 351 ambassador means to me that the teachers and staff at Leicester Middle School trust me as a leader to go to the Project 351 convention and to represent the school in a positive way," Hagglund said.

In recent years, Hagglund has taken part in several efforts to benefit his school and community. These include volunteering at Special Olympics programs, earning Student of the Month honors multiple times as a result of his leadership, and volunteering in the community.

"I am most looking forward to meeting other people from all around the state that have been selected like me to represent their school and see what kind of ideas they have," Hagglund told the New Leader in advance of the annual Project 351 day of service.

Established in 2011, the Project 351 initiative brings together students who share a passion for giving back, helping those in need, and working with teams.

"Our youth-led movement begins our second decade in celebration

and gratitude," read a statement released by the Project 351 leadership team. "As we mark more than one million of our most vulnerable neighbors positively impacted through ambassador service, we give thanks to those who inspire and enable our journey."

This year's Project 351 day of service is set for Saturday, Jan. 25. As part of the program, ambassadors will listen to guest speakers before fanning out across Boston in support of community organizations. These include Cradles to Crayons, La Colaborativa, the Immigrant Family Services Institute, and several nonprofit organizations assisting veterans and individuals dealing with housing insecurity.

"Project 351 ambassadors are more than just youth leaders. Together, they represent an unstoppable movement for positive change," said Gov. Maura Healey. "These ambassadors, who all bring different backgrounds and experiences, serve as a reminder that we are a stronger state when we work together to solve problems."

Prior to the day of service, Hagglund was eager to meet other youngsters who excel in the classroom and during community projects.

"My favorite classes at school are STEM, math, and science," Hagglund said. "Some of my favorite extracurricular activities are playing sports like football, basketball, and baseball. I also like to ski in the winter."

In addition to the Project 351 day of service, ambassadors also spend a year leading community projects in their respective towns.

"Project 351 is determined to meet the demand for high quality, enriching service opportunities that reflect the unique gifts and world-changing aspirations of young people," read the statement issued by the leadership team.

Additional service opportunities for ambassadors include alumni mentorship, enrichment programs, and participation in Project 351's Service Leadership Academy.

To date, Project 351 has featured more than 5,000 youth ambassadors who

combined to assist over 1.3 million people.

"Ambassadors build unity, cultivate kindness, and transform lives and communities through service," read the statement released by the organization. "As they serve, they develop the courage, compassion, and capabilities to lead awe-inspiring change."

To learn more about how Project 351 is helping the community while bringing together the next generation of leaders, visit www.project351.org.

Leicester, Worcester police team up to arrest wanted man

LEICESTER — The teamwork of officers from Leicester and Worcester led to the arrest of a man wanted since August.

Fredlief Rasch, 36, of Natick, was arrested on charges of Felony breaking and entering in the daytime; Larceny from a building; Conspiracy (two counts); Trespassing; and Attempt to commit a felony crime.

The investigation dates back to Aug. 21, when Leicester Police officers took reports of larceny at a home on Marshall Street. After processing and departing the Marshall Street scene, detectives learned of trespassing reports at a nearby Leicester home on Mulberry Street on the same day.

Police proceeded to review surveillance footage from nearby homes, resulting in the collection of several pieces of evidence. After gathering further information with help from the Worcester Police Department, a suspect was identified.

"The suspect, who was known to frequently travel between Worcester, Framingham and Natick, was ultimately located in the Main South section of Worcester on Thursday, December 19, 2024," read a statement released by the LPD.

Leicester resident named to Dean's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Gregory Pappas of Leicester has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Dean College is a private, residential New England college grounded in a culture and tradition that all students deserve the opportunity for academic and personal success. A uniquely supportive community for more than 150 years, Dean has woven together extensive student support and engagement with exceptional teaching and innovative campus activities. Our graduates are lifetime learners who thrive in their careers, embrace social responsibility, and demonstrate leadership. This is The Dean Difference.

Hofstra University congratulates Dean's List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the fall 2024 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievements. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

Students named to the fall 2024 Dean's List are listed below.

Abbi Lane of Leicester
Jessica McCarthy of Spencer
Jenna Oberg of N Brookfield

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

After a brief foot pursuit, detectives took Rasch into custody on a related warrant.

Rasch was arraigned at East Brookfield District Court and is being held on \$5,000 bail at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction.

Students named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University President Donna Hodge has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

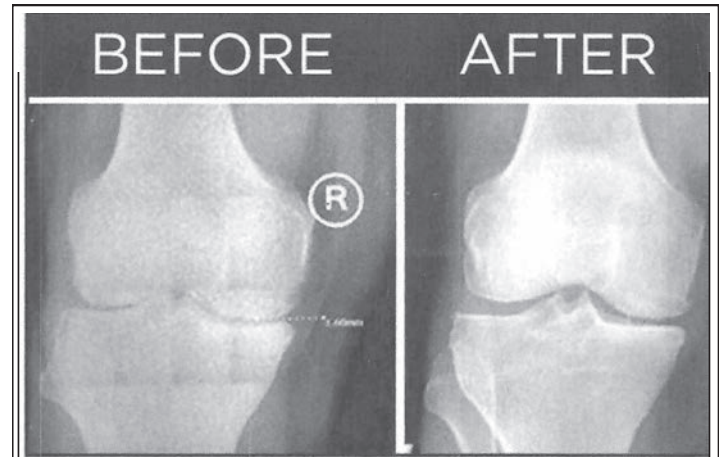
A student is placed on the Dean's List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the university full time.

Fitchburg State University enrolls day and evening students in more than 50 programs of undergraduate and graduate study. The university was established in 1894. Learn more at fitchburg-state.edu.

Leicester
Paige L. Ward

Spencer
Arianna K. Hammond
Liam O'Coin
Dustin Vidito

W. Brookfield
Nicholas C. Lucia



Regenerative Medicine

May be the solution to your knee pain!
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EAGLES CLUB

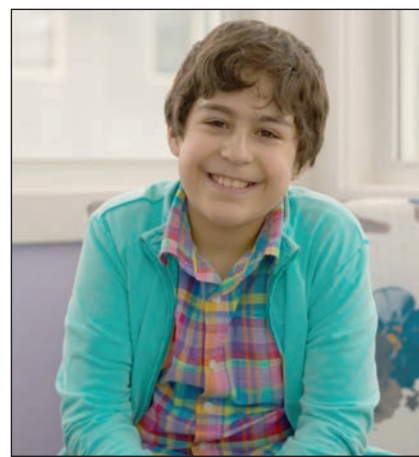
850 Main Street, Leicester
6:15 PM

Attendance is free, but seating is limited, and RSVP is required. Bring a friend or spouse!

To reserve your spot
508-892-8150

WWW.LEICESTERSPINEANDWELLNESS.COM

Friday's Child



Christian
Age 13
Registration # 6521

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6521>

Hi! My name is Christian and I love being active!

Christian is a sweet boy who loves to be on the go. He loves doing anything outside and being active. Christian recently started gymnastics and loves learning new skills. He likes anything to do with cars and trucks. He is an animal lover, especially when it comes to dogs. He is always helping out in the kitchen with meal preparation or cleaning up. Christian hopes to become a firefighter or a veterinarian one day!

Can I Adopt?

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

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

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



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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
 6:40 a.m.: harassment (South Main Street), report taken; 9:33 a.m.: transport prisoner (East Main Street, East Brookfield), transported; 10:47 a.m.: harassment (Green Street), report taken; 11:16 a.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), unable to locate; 11:28 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 11:44 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:22 p.m.: family problem (Main Street), report taken; 3:30 p.m.: suspicious mv (Waite Street), unfounded; 4:02 p.m.: ambulance (Collier Avenue), transported; 4:07 p.m.: residential b&e (Pleasant Street), report taken; 4:41 p.m.: ambulance (River Street), transported; 6:32 p.m.: animal complaint (Hemlock Street), referred; 7:07 p.m.: welfare check (Carleton Road), assisted; 7:27 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:34 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
 12:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:29 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Andrew Townsend Haggerty, 26, 109 Blood Road, Charlton, OUI liquor, speeding,

arrest; 7:51 a.m.: property found (White Birch Street), services rendered; 8:15 a.m.: accident (South Street Extension), report taken; 8:30 a.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 9:13 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street), report taken; 10:01 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 10:56 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 12:34 p.m.: ambulance (Hitchcock Road, Worcester), transported; 12:37 p.m.: fraud (Auburn Street), report taken; 3:12 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), resolved; 3:56 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), assisted; 5:03 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 5:29 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 6:30 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 7:34 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 7:42 p.m.: suspicious person (Marshall Street), services rendered; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:59 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), report taken; 11:21 p.m.: family problem (Craig Street), report taken; 11:38 p.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
 12:12 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, citation issued; 7:36 a.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:06 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), no action required; 8:40 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 9:44 a.m.: runaway (Stafford Street), services rendered; 11:50 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 2:24 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; 3:07 p.m.: ambulance (Hope Avenue, Worcester), transported; 3:54 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:30 p.m.: welfare check (Auburn Street), unfounded; 10:23 p.m.: assist other PD (Mass Pike Eastbound, Auburn), services rendered.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
 1:00 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 3:20 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), report taken; 9:32 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), trans-

ported; 11:58 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:20 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:59 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 2:20 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:36 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 5:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, registration not in possession, criminal application issued; 5:46 p.m.: ambulance (Jaques Avenue, Worcester), transported; 6:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:24 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 7:22 p.m.: ambulance (Parson Hill Road, Worcester), transported; 9:13 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:05 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
 12:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:33 a.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), unfounded; 7:23 a.m.: animal complaint (Deer Pond Road), referred; 7:57 a.m.: ambulance (First Street, Worcester), transported; 8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:12 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 8:33 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 8:59 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:29 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, arrest; 11:37 a.m.: ambulance (Wesley Drive), transported; 12:06 p.m.: ambulance (Park Lane), transported; 1:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:50 p.m.: assist other PD (Park Lane), no service; 1:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:34 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:07 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:30 p.m.: summons service (Verona Street), unable to serve; 4:50 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:19 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), transported to hospital; 5:23 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), unfounded; 6:49 p.m.: summons

service (Verona Street), served; 9:26 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
 6:38 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 7:29 a.m.: assist other agency (Baldwin Street), mv towed; 8:44 a.m.: investigation (Flint Way), report taken; 9:51 a.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 10:45 a.m.: fraud (Stafford Street), report taken; 11:48 a.m.: search warrant service (South Main Street), mv towed; 3:13 p.m.: welfare check (Mayflower Road), assisted; 4:31 p.m.: ambulance (Providence Street, Worcester), transported; 5:58 p.m.: ambulance (Abbott Street, Worcester), transported; 8:00 p.m.: investigation (Greenville Circle), report taken; 8:14 p.m.: residential alarm (Sargent Street), false alarm; 8:33 p.m.: erratic operator (Pine Street), unable to locate; 10:51 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:59 p.m.: disturbance (Craig Street), peace restored.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
 7:05 a.m.: ambulance (Brown Street), transported; 7:35 a.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), resolved; 8:23 a.m.: ambulance (Baldwin Street), resolved; 9:07 a.m.: family problem (South Main Street), lobby service; 9:48 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:00 a.m.: welfare check (Winslow Avenue), resolved; 11:30 a.m.: ambulance (First Street, Worcester), transported; 12:31 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Henshaw Street); 1:27 p.m.: welfare check (Redfield Road), advised civil action; 1:50 p.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), report taken; 3:42 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 3:59 p.m.: ambulance (Park Lane), transported; 4:24 p.m.: fraud (Pine Street), call canceled; 4:38 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 5:03 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 5:37 p.m.: suspicious person (Winslow Avenue), gone on arrival; 5:46 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 6:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:33 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 9:11 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant

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Liam Daniel Flynn of W. Brookfield has been named to Clarkson University's Dean's List

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Liam Daniel Flynn of W. Brookfield, a senior majoring in engineering and management, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University.

Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clarkson University is a proven leader in technological education, research, innovation and sustainable economic development. With its main campus in Potsdam, N.Y., and additional graduate program and research facilities in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, Clarkson faculty have a direct impact on more than 7,800 students annually through nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate STEM designated degrees in engineering, business, science and health professions; executive education, industry-relevant credentials and K-12 STEM programs. Alumni earn salaries among the top 2 percent in the nation: one in five already leads in the c-suite. To learn more, go to www.clarkson.edu.

Leicester resident named to President's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN — Caitlyn Varnum of Leicester has earned a place on the President's List for the Fall 2024 semester. Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Dean College is a private, residential New England college grounded in a culture and tradition that all students deserve the opportunity for academic and personal success. A uniquely supportive community for more than 150 years, Dean has woven together extensive student support and engagement with exceptional teaching and innovative campus activities. Our graduates are lifetime learners who thrive in their careers, embrace social responsibility and demonstrate leadership. This is The Dean Difference.

Zachary Livingston named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Zachary Livingston of Leicester has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2024 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

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

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Roger Williams University announces Dean's List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Bella Kulla of Leicester
Molly McGuirk of Spencer
Bella Miles of Brookfield
Abigail Morrison of Rochdale

About RWU
Roger Williams University is a compre-

hensive university with a liberal arts core and professional programs, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the state capital of Providence, Rhode Island. Across eight schools of study, we provide real-world learning focused on social and environmental justice, small classes, and direct access to faculty and staff. Our students create powerful combinations of degrees, credentials, research and internship opportunities, study-abroad programs, and involvement in clubs, student organizations, and athletics. Our Northeast location facilitates a strategic network between New York and Boston for community-engaged research and career opportunities for our students and alumni. Graduating with a unique skill set and the passion to make an impact in their careers, our students become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

POLICE REPORTS

Street), spoken to; 9:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

12:50 a.m.: medical/general (Leon Drive), lift assist; 2:15-2:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:37 a.m.: animal complaint (Bixby Road), cat crying at door; 6:02 a.m.: medical/mental health (Lake Street); 6:16 a.m. medical/general (Church Street), lift assist; 7:00 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Cherry Street), rep. flames seen; 7:15 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:01 a.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); 9:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Old East Charlton Road), rep. missing goat; 10:02 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:00 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), East Brookfield PD bolo; 11:11 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), test; 11:35 a.m.: fraud (Jones Street), report taken; 11:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 12:04 p.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), investigated; 1:22 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Greenville Street), no contact; 2:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), re: call from another PD; 3:25 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 4:13 p.m.: residential fire (Northwest Road), referred; 4:48 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 5:24 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. to provide statement; 6:01 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), req. ambulance escort; 7:21 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:27 p.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), unwanted party; (total daily mv stops - 0).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

1:00-1:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:01 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 3:50 a.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), rep. injured cat; 6:35 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 6:48 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD; 7:46 a.m.: medical/general (Wilson Avenue); 8:08 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:53 a.m.: mv complaint (Chickering Road), mv not stopping at signs; 10:28 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:59 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:06 p.m.: residential alarm (Lakeshore Drive), services rendered; 12:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), meds del. to wrong apt.; 12:20 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 12:30 p.m. harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 4:11 p.m.: restraining order service (Bixby Road); 4:15 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:08 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 6:13 p.m.: commercial fire (Maple Street), referred; 6:27 p.m.: juvenile matter (Cherry Street), DA referral; 6:53 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 6:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), bf not home yet; 7:21 p.m.: sexual force/fondling juvenile (West Main Street), req. to speak to investigator; 8:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:58 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 1).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

12:23-1:11 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:56 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 1:24 a.m.: burglary/residential (Main Street), Dean A. Dufault, 62, 162 Chandler Street, Worcester, destruction of property/under \$1200, breaking/entering in nighttime to commit a felony, arrest; 3:12/3:21 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Elm, Chestnut streets), tickets issued; 3:48 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 4:24 a.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 8:22 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 9:07 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 10:08 a.m.: medical/general (North Brookfield Road), lift assist; 10:34 a.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), assist ofc. From Palmer; 12:16 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 12:30 p.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Cross Road); 12:44 p.m.: residential alarm (Grove Street), services rendered; 1:09 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: war-

rant; 1:16 p.m.: suspicious persons (Elm Street), spoken to; 2:25 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), line-of-sight issue at Main/School streets; 2:55 p.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 4:52 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Thornberry Circle), req. welfare check; 7:55 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:16 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD w/foot chase; 11:59 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 2).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

12:31-1:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:50 a.m.: suspicious mv (Ash Street), investigated; 2:10 a.m.: parking violation (School Street), ticket issued; 3:43 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:42 a.m.: accident (Thompson Pond Road), report taken; 8:57 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), mattresses dumped in yard; 9:28 a.m.: 911 call (Gold Nugget Road), accidental; 10:42 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 11:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Clark Street), tenant five mos. delinquent w/rent; 11:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), rep. poss. assault; 12:48 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), accident/Flagg Rd. in East Brookfield; 2:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Roys Drive), rep. poss. stalking; 6:36 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 7:22 p.m.: juvenile matter (Maple Street), req. welfare check/child; 7:25 p.m.: DPW call (Lake Avenue), re: road condition; 8:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Duggan Street), rep. footsteps in vacant apt.; 10:39 p.m.: medical/general (Westland Drive); (total daily mv stops - 3).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

12:44 a.m.: officer wanted (Dustin Street), gunshots heard; 12:57-1:41 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:51 a.m.: parking violation (School Street), ticket issued; 10:35 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), 2 mvs blocking path in woods; 11:39 a.m.: parking complaint (School Street), 1:29 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), found feral cat; 3:00 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 4:09 p.m.: accident (Cherry Street), report taken; 4:33 p.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 5:35 p.m.: 911 call (Brown Street), misdial; 5:38 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 5:55 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 6:25 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:31 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 7:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. relay msg. to son; 10:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), req. welfare check/mother; (total daily mv stops - 1).

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

12:15-1:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:16 a.m.: disturbance (Thompson Pond Road), rep. screaming heard; 1:01 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), investigated; 2:41 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:50 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:26 a.m.: medical/general (Williams Drive); 8:51 a.m.: parking complaint (West Main Street), re: camper on property; 9:39 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. assistance; 10:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Crestwood Avenue), req. help for cat; 10:41 a.m.: mv lockout (Smithville Road), assisted; 10:46 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo/TT unit eastbound; 10:54 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 10:59 a.m.: mutual aid (North Brookfield Road), State Police req. dmv check; 11:07 a.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), re: involuntary commit; 11:14 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:51 a.m.: fraud (North Brookfield Road), report taken; 12:45 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), rep. lg. pothole eastbound; 2:32 p.m.: suspicious mv (Langevin Street), investigated; 3:36 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Mechanic Street), referred; 3:55 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 4:47 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 4:57 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 5:22 p.m.: accident (Route 49), mv vs coyote; 7:57 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:52 p.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; (total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

2:06-2:41 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:51 a.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 5:45 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 8:25 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 9:31 a.m.: suspicious mv (Valley View Drive), investigated; 9:39 a.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), re: work done on bldg.; 10:43 a.m.: fraud (Mechanic Street), report taken; 11:15 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:04 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), DA referral; 12:37 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive), lift assist; 1:42 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:50 p.m.: fraud (Lyford Road), report taken; 3:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Linden

Street), req. protective custody for bf; 3:56 p.m.: fraud (South Spencer Road), report taken; 4:37 p.m.: illegal dumping (Water Street), info taken/services rendered; 5:00 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 5:05 p.m.: restraining service (Paxton Road); 6:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. assistance w/mother; 7:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), dog left outside 24/7; 10:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), erratic operator; 11:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), someone going through trash; (total daily mv stops - 2).

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EDITORIAL

Staying grounded in the age of social media

It happens to all of us. You're scrolling through your social media feed, and a post grabs your attention — something outrageous, dramatic, or too good to be true. Before you know it, you've shared it, commented on it, or brought it up in a conversation. But how often do we stop to ask ourselves: Is this actually true? Or, more importantly, why is this being shown to me?

Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter (or X) are marvels of modern technology, but they're also powerful, profit-driven machines. Behind every post, video, or ad you see lies an algorithm, a set of rules designed to keep you engaged. These algorithms know more about you than you might think: your likes, your dislikes, your habits, even the time of day you're most likely to scroll. They're built to serve you content that aligns with your interests, but also content that provokes strong emotions, because emotion equals engagement, and engagement equals profit.

The problem is, emotions like outrage, fear, or excitement can cloud our judgment. This is how misinformation thrives. Social media algorithms aren't designed to prioritize truth, they're designed to prioritize clicks. This means that sensationalized or extreme content often rises to the top, not because it's accurate, but because it grabs your attention. Over time, you might find yourself in an echo chamber, exposed only to ideas that reinforce your existing beliefs while opposing views are filtered out.

This can have real-world consequences. Extremism, divisiveness, and distrust grow when we stop engaging critically with information and simply accept what's fed to us. And it's not just about politics. Think about the misinformation around health, science, or even history that spreads unchecked because it's wrapped in a flashy headline or a viral meme.

So, how do we navigate this algorithm-driven world without losing our grip on reality? The answer lies in slowing down, staying skeptical, and taking responsibility for what we consume and share.

Before hitting that share button, take a moment to verify the information. Check the source: Is it reputable? If it's a website you've never heard of, does it provide evidence or just emotional appeals? Cross-reference with trusted outlets. A quick Google search can save you from spreading misinformation.

Know that your feed isn't a random collection of posts, it's curated for you. If you find yourself feeling angry, overly excited, or even validated after seeing a certain type of content, ask yourself: Is this manipulating my emotions? Algorithms don't care about truth; they care about keeping you scrolling.

Social media platforms often show you content you agree with, which can feel comforting but limits your perspective. Make a conscious effort to follow people or organizations with diverse viewpoints. This doesn't mean you have to agree with everything, but exposing yourself to different ideas helps build critical thinking.

If a post seems overly dramatic, divisive, or paints an entire group of people as "good" or "evil," it's worth questioning. Extremist content often thrives on oversimplifying complex issues, using inflammatory language to provoke a reaction. Real solutions and truths are rarely found in black-and-white thinking.

The online world is just one part of the bigger picture. Building relationships, discussing issues in person, and relying on community engagement can help you stay grounded. Social media is a tool, not the whole world.

Social media is a double-edged sword. It can connect us, inform us, and even inspire us. But it can also mislead, divide, and manipulate us if we're not careful. The algorithms may be powerful, but so are we. By staying wide-eyed, curious, and critical, we can take control of our online experience and ensure that we're not just passive consumers but active participants in seeking truth and understanding.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Limbo stick government

To the Editor:

How many of you are old enough to remember the Limbo? "Jack be nimble, Jack be quick. Jack go under Limbo Stick." "How low can you go?"

I spent some time watching Pete Hegseth's confirmation hearing yesterday. It was already clear that loyalty over experience or qualifications for the job was the top choice factor. The Great Pumpkin had already replaced the VP who refused to ignore the constitution, while counting electoral votes, with someone who would not hesitate to do so.

This is someone who, in addition to suggest ingesting bleach, and horse meds, had said "If we have nukes why not use them?"

He suggested they could be used to explodes hurricanes or aimed at south of the border cartels.

It is my belief that, only sane qualified people like Maddis, Kelly and others in leadership positions, kept him from acting on these crazy ideas.

His idea of correcting having experienced qualified people buffering his impulses, replaced by those who would just do his bidding, makes our country far less safe.

I watched the Senate hearing for his Secretary of Defense choice, Pete Hegeseth. What a perfect clone of his fearless leader and perfect loyalty over competence or qualification choice, to count on to push back against bad and hasty decisions. When asked if ordered to use troops against citizens, if he would do so, or follow the constitution, he did not say he would follow

the constitution.

Like the TV personality who chose him, they have many things in common. Several wives they have cheated on. In his case, one gave birth two months after he had moved on to the third one. A management commonality having helmed two bankruptcies, He is on record against women serving in the military. Even his own mother had negative comments about how he interacts with women. Like Bozo, he also has multiple nondisclosure agreements with women.

Former coworkers have cited him being drunk, joining strippers on stage and needing to be picked up and carried home. Is this the guy with the nuclear codes, you want answering the phone when the insomniac stable genius calls in the wee hours?

I can hardly wait for the hearings for RFK, who will explain why we do not want polio vaccines, Or the billionaire owner of the WWE explaining her take on education, or national security chief whose friends include Putin and Syria's expelled leader.

When it comes to draining the swamp, and restocking it, wouldn't it make more sense to improve our environment instead of adding lead.

While California continues to burn in high Santa Anna winds, if you think drill baby drill is the right answer, you are the problem. We are currently the highest fossil fuel ever in the whole world. Let's hope we survive long enough to enjoy cheap eggs and gas.K

KEN KIMBALL
 BROOKFIELD

Global overheating and our cauldron and grandchildren

To the Editor:

We see more and more global warming clues all the time — the worst ever city wild fires in Los Angeles, and before that one in Maui, Hawaii and the worsening on annual forest fire throughout the Southwest USA and Canada. The hurricane late last year that dumped never before seen rains, then flooding especially in North Carolina and Tennessee. Dangerously rising ocean waters from Miami to Boston and beyond. Locally, flooding in New England and rising water temperatures in hour hometowns that have made it dangerous to swim in our ponds and lakes.

Never mind the rest of the world.

Having been around for more than a few decades, I can easily see the changes myself that global heating has caused

People who study the weather and climate tell us the same thing - global heating started in the 1850's, and has continued ever since. Dangerously 2025 was the warmest year on record, until 2024 ended last month. Then it became the warmest.

Until the end of this year.

Those same people tell us that we have gone past the "Tipping Point." Now, like going over a fast-flowing river, we can't paddle back. We can only look for ways to slow down or find a place to beach our boat.

This means that for our children and grandchildren will not have the climate and environment of my youth, but will rather have to deal with one that becomes warmer and more dangerous than the one we have today.

So what can we do, even though the new Trump MAGA administration and its billionaire donors and similar believers want to "Drill Baby Drill," which will more quickly make it hotter and hotter?

First, to reduce global warming on an individual and community basis we can do our best to cut gas or fossil fuel use by being limiting its' use and substituting for and promoting other sources of power like solar, wind, water, and even safe nuclear power sources.

Then, for our children and grandchildren, we should strongly again and again, let those in charge, be politicians, government officials or in the private sector know business know we want all efforts made to slow and then stop.

Finally a belated thank you to Ralph True and his columns which helped me better appreciate our lovely local environment and wildlife who live in it.

KEVIN KANE
 SPENCER

Eight days a week

Sometimes, life feels so busy I dream of having one more day in the week. How great would that be? Eight days a week - just like that Beatles song! It sounds great, but let's think this through.

POSITIVELY
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 MOORE

you finally learn to paint, start that podcast, or bake croissants from scratch! Imagine having dedicated time for personal growth—no interruptions, just you and your creative spark.

name it. We could call it the "Get your life together" day!

It sounds great, but adding an eighth day might plunge the world into chaos.

Holidays would go rogue. Weeks wouldn't align with months, so Christmas might land in February, and New Year's could appear in July.

Imagine singing "Jingle Bells" in a heatwave or explaining to your kids why Thanksgiving dinner now involves sunscreen

Turn To **POSITIVELY**
 page **A7**

You can put more into your 401(k) this year



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Once you retire, you'll likely need to draw on a variety of financial sources — and one of the most important ones may be your 401(k). And for 2025, you can put even more money into your plan than ever.

You can invest in your 401(k) in one of two ways, depending on your employer's plan. With a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, which can lower your taxable income, and your money can grow tax deferred. If you have a Roth 401(k) option, you can contribute after-tax dollars, which aren't deductible, but your eventual withdrawals will be tax-free if you've had your account at least five years and you're at least 59 and a half.

For either a traditional or Roth 401(k), as well as similar plans such as a 457(b) (for government employees) or a 403(b) (for educators and employees of some nonprofit groups), the contribution limit has increased by \$500 for 2025, to \$23,500. If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$7,500, for a total of \$31,000. And under the SECURE 2.0 legislation, if you are between 60 and 63, you have a higher catch-up contribution — \$11,250, instead of \$7,500, for a total of \$34,750.

If you can afford to contribute the full amount to your 401(k) or similar plan, consider doing so. Of course, not everyone is in that position. If you're a younger worker, you may well have other financial obligations, such as paying off student loans. And even if you've been in the workforce for a while, you may be putting away money for other things — such as your children's education — as well as your own retirement. But even if you can't "max out" on your 401(k), try to contribute at least enough to earn your employer's matching contribution if one is offered.

Regardless of how much you contribute to your 401(k), consider these suggestions on managing the money within your plan:

Create a portfolio that fits your risk tolerance. Most 401(k) plans offer up to a dozen investment options, while some plans offer many more. You obviously want to increase your 401(k) balance as much as possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean putting all your 401(k) dollars into the most aggressive funds available. Instead, consider spreading your 401(k) contributions among a range of investments, which can help you lower your risk level while still giving you opportunities for long-term growth. Everyone's risk tolerance is different, though, so you'll want to evaluate yours when constructing your 401(k) portfolio.

Adjust your portfolio as needed. It's a good idea to review your 401(k)'s investment mix at least once a year to see if it's performing as you'd hoped. But be patient — one "down" year doesn't necessarily mean you must make changes. However, as you approach retirement, you may want to lower the risk level of your 401(k) by moving some of your dollars into more conservative vehicles. Still, even when you're retired and have started drawing money from your 401(k), you might want to keep some growth potential in it to help you stay ahead of inflation.

By contributing what you can afford to your 401(k), and by carefully managing the investments within your plan, you can help maximize the value of this powerful retirement savings vehicle — and give yourself a key asset to help you enjoy your retirement years.

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.

Transportation memorabilia – Part 2

I recently shared my top 10 list of categories that have been selling well and will be highlighting these 10 in upcoming columns. Number 10 on my list is transportation memorabilia. I discussed ships and trains in my last column and today will focus on air travel and automobiles.

Many people have fond memories

POSITIVELY

continued from page A6

and barbecue grills instead of turkey and mashed potatoes. Santa might quit in protest!

Payroll would be a nightmare—when is payday? Who knows! HR would give up entirely, and accountants would cry themselves to sleep.

Solstices and equinoxes, those dependable markers of seasons, would go completely out of whack. Farmers wouldn't know when to plant crops. Benjamin Franklin, who started the Farmer's Almanac, might come back to write a pamphlet titled: "Leave the Calendar Alone, You Fools!"

Your circadian rhythm—already clinging to life thanks to caffeine—would give up entirely. Owls would start hooting at rush hour, your cat would decide 3 p.m. is now breakfast time, and your smartwatch would scream, "I don't know what day it is!"

Okay, eight days - bad idea. Still, seven doesn't feel like enough.

Let's flip the scenario: what if we lived in a world where the week only had six days? You don't know what you got until it's gone.

Suddenly, the seven-day week we take for granted would feel like a luxury. That seventh day—the one we rely on for rest, errands, or just catching our breath—would be gone. Imagine the chaos of squeezing everything we currently do into fewer days.

Without the seventh day, weekends would shrink, leaving little time to recover from the grind of the workweek. Rest wouldn't be optional—it would become a desperate need. Perhaps we'd have to find new ways to recharge during the week, taking shorter, more deliberate breaks to avoid burnout.

Losing the seventh day would make finding time for hobbies or creative pursuits even harder. Gone are the lazy afternoons spent painting, writing, or tinkering with a new project. Play and creativity would need to be crammed into the workweek, likely pushed aside by more "urgent" demands.

Family dinners, game nights, and community events would become a rarity. Without the seventh day, many of us would feel perpetually rushed, sacrificing time for relationships, and the value of connection would become clearer, but finding the time for it would be even harder.

Life without that seventh day means laundry piles up, errands get delayed, and "to-do" lists spill into the rest of the week. Chaos would become the new normal as we struggle to fit everything into an already packed schedule.

If the world switched to a six-day week, the chaos would be equally absurd as eight days a week but in reverse!

Einstein might rematerialize to say, "Yes, time is relative, but this is ridiculous!"

Okay, maybe the problem isn't with the number of days. It's not about having more or less time; it's about making the time I already have more meaningful.

If you're like me, wishing for more time in the day or more days in the week, it's not about getting that extra time; it's about making the time we have work better.

The solution isn't in more days—it's in making the ones we already have truly count.

of their first car or still think about a car they wanted but couldn't afford at the time. Some buyers also simply like automobile advertising signs or other memorabilia that reminds them of traveling by car. In 1961, NBC aired a show called "Merrily We Roll Along" where host Groucho Marx announced that Americans had a "love affair" with automobiles, according to a Bloomberg article. That "love affair" has resulted in a strong market for automobile memorabilia.

Perhaps surprisingly, age isn't the most important thing when it comes to vintage cars. Many collectors want cars from the mid-20th century, the era that they grew up in. Older cars like Model T's in very good condition often bring figures in the \$10,000 range or less. We sold a 1931 Auburn (Auburn Cord Duesenberg company) for \$8,400 in 2020. Newer classic cars have sold much better for us though. A 1970 Plymouth Satellite that needed restoration sold for over \$13,000 in 2023. Another project car, a 1954 Corvette, sold for nearly \$23,000 and a 1962 Corvette in better condition went for over \$30,000 in 2021.

Other automobile memorabilia also has collector appeal. We sold a small metal building that was part of an Auburn, Mass., gas station several years ago. After paying close to \$3,000, the winning bidder relocated it to New Hampshire where he was recreating an old-time gas station. We also sold some signs from the former gas station that brought figures in the hundreds.

Other auto-related pieces can bring



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
•••••
WAYNE TUISKULA

even higher returns. A 1920s Wayne Roman Column Five Gallon Pump in restored condition sold for \$18,000 at auction in 2020. I'm sure some readers of this column remember "Flying A" gas stations. The brand was used until 1970 when it became part of Getty. An embossed porcelain 62 inch "Flying A" sign brought \$5,500 last year. Another sign that many of you will be familiar with is the Mobil Oil Pegasus. The Pegasus was part of Mobil Oil's advertising from 1932 into the 1960s. An older Pegasus neon sign went for \$24,000 at auction in 2015.

Some people prefer to get somewhere faster and travel by air. We sold two collections of aviation memorabilia in our January 2024 auction. An Admiral Byrd flights over Arctic & Antarctica commemorative bronze medal sold for \$660. The other collection of airline memorabilia came from a Pan Am flight attendant (then called stewardess) who was on the crew with presidents. Her cap and badges brought over \$400. Three silver appreciation coins she received from President Eisenhower reached nearly \$2,900. A piece of fabric from the Hindenburg with documentation sold for nearly \$800 in one of our auctions last year. Airline travel posters are also desirable. A circa 1940s Pan Am Clipper airplane poster promoting Caribbean travel soared to \$2,500 in a 2023 auction. The winning bidder might have liked the graphics or maybe it was a New Englander dreaming about escaping the cold weather for a Caribbean vacation. We will be offering some travel post-



ers from a Boson estate in our late spring/early summer major auction. In the meantime, we are cataloging a Civil War memorabilia auction, a Beacon Hill online estate auction, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are always accepting consignments of estate jewelry, sterling silver, art, coins, and other items in our top 10 list. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Be a weather watching gardener

Each gardening season seems to offer new growing challenges. Our gardens are exposed to more drastic and variable weather with changing weather patterns. Floods, droughts, wind, temperature extremes, and unseasonable weather episodes can have immediate and long-term impacts on our plants.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
•••••
MELINDA
MYERS

Record significant weather extremes that can negatively impact plant health and longevity. Check with local nature centers, botanical gardens, and extension services for gardening calendars. Many include information

on significant weather events in your area. You can then add your observations for future reference. Refer to this information as needed in the future to help diagnose plant problems that may result from these extremes.

Large trees and other established plantings are often overlooked when weather extremes occur. Extended dry periods, temperature extremes, and flooding can stress and weaken these plants making them more susceptible to insect pests, diseases, and decline in the coming years.

Always select plants suited to the growing conditions and start watching for those that appear to be more tolerant of extremes. Visit local public gardens and consult with your



Melinda Myers

Rain barrels can help manage the water on your property and provide water to use in your gardens.

Turn To GARDENING page A10

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

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LEGALS

To the owners of the hereinafter described parcels of LAND situated in the Town of Leicester in the County of Worcester and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to all concerned: You are hereby notified that on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM local time in Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524 in the gymnasium, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Sec 52 and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Treasurer, it is my intention to assign and transfer the Tax Title held by the Town of Leicester covering the following described parcel to the highest bidder at public auction, for all taxes thereon with interest and all necessary and intervening charges of any balance of said taxes, unless the same has been paid in full before that date. The minimum bid for the unit will be the aggregate amount of taxes, interest and fees due on the account for the property that remains on the list below on the day of the Auction. In the event there are multiple parties bidding the same price, the bidding will go up in increments of \$1000.00. All Bidders must pre-register by Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 2:00 PM. To pre-register, please call the Treasurer's Office at 508-892-7004. Rules of sale will be available at the Office of the Treasurer. Leveille William J and Leveille Elizabeth M located at 474 MARSHALL ST in Leicester, containing 1.209 Acres

of Land and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds- Book/Page 5052/56.
Minimum bid: \$11,072.03.
January 24, 2025

**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. WO25P0008EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:
Florence V. Hickey
Date of Death: November 28, 2024
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **Susan V. Hickey of Spencer, MA**

A Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Susan V. Hickey of Spencer, MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties

are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
January 24, 2025

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**

Docket No. 25 SM 000108
**ORDER OF NOTICE TO:
Gerard P. Pinto a/k/a Gerard Paul Pinto Gail P. Pinto a/k/a Gail Patricia Pinto**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, As Trustee for the Benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2020-1
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in

Spencer, numbered 41 Kingsbury Road, given by Gerard P. Pinto and Gail P. Pinto to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., dated December 11, 2002, and recorded in Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 28382, Page 259, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 03/03/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

11
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 01/15/2025
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
January 24, 2025



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Eastern student Julia Trainor makes fall 2024 Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them is Julia Trainor of Rochdale, a junior who majors in English. To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2024-25 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

Elizabeth Manfield of Spencer named to Provost's List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Elizabeth Manfield of Spencer achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall 2024 semester, earning a spot on the Provost's List at Hofstra University. Her major is Psychology.

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

LEGALS

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permit & Variance– Applicant/ Owner: Jimmy George: Location: 20 Whittemore Cove, Spencer Assessor's Map U17-08. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.9.2 (Nonconforming Structures) and a Variance under Sections 5.5.3 (Maximum building Coverage) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to build an addition of deck with overhang that is 5 feet from the side property line. The property is in the Suburban Residential (SR) zoning district.

January 24, 2025
January 31, 2025

Brookfield Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing
In accordance with M. G. L., Chapter

40A, and the provisions of the Brookfield Zoning Bylaws Section 4, Use Regulation Table, §3.f.1; Section 5, Accessory Uses, §D, Signs; Section 10, Sign Regulations; Section 8.C., Site Plan Approval; and Section 13.C., Special Permits; the Brookfield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on an application from Jeffrey Wexler for a Special Permit and Site Plan Review for a professional office and associated signage located at the place of his residence, 34 Fiskdale Road (MA Route 148), Brookfield, Massachusetts, in a Rural Residential district.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, in the Banquet Hall of Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central St., Brookfield, MA, starting at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as can be heard. Meeting details and agenda will be posted at www.mytowngovernment.org/01506. A copy of the application may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk at Brookfield Town Hall during normal business hours.

Kevin Erkila, Chair
Brookfield Planning Board
January 17, 2025
January 24, 2025

cer, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Keith Scott to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper its successors and assigns and now held by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, said mortgage dated December 17, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61605, Page 268, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated July 5, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69343, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on February 14, 2025 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: Land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, on the southerly side of Hebert Road being shown as Lot 9, on a plan of lot in Spencer, Mass. owned by James D. McGrath, dated July 26, 1973, plan and survey by Theodore P. Drazek, R.L.S. and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds on July 31, 1973, Plan Book 385, Plan 20, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the southerly side of Hebert Road said point being 242.72 feet from the southeastern corner of the intersection of Hebert Road and Jolicoeur Road, being the northwestern corner of the lot herein described;

Thence S. 19° 31' 50" E. 267.70 feet along other land now or formerly of James D. McGrath to a point at other land now or formerly of McGrath;

Thence N. 42° 33' 10" E. 78.70 feet along other land now or formerly of McGrath to a point;

Thence S. 80° 59' 10" E. 69.93 feet along other land now or formerly of McGrath to a point;

Thence N. 15° 30' 42" W. 270.34 feet along other land now or formerly of McGrath to a point in the southerly line of Hebert Road;

Thence S. 68° 24' 40" W. 150 feet along the southerly line of Hebert Road to the point of beginning.

Containing 35,300 sq. feet of land, more or less.

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

For Mortgageor's Title see deed dated December 17, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61605, Page 266.

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.

TENTHOUSAND (\$10,000.00) 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 by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886

Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC

Present Holder of the Mortgage

Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-05010

January 17, 2025
January 24, 2025
January 31, 2025

Notice of owners of funds held by the Town of Leicester and deemed abandoned. Per MGL C200A S9A, unclaimed property less than \$100.00 will become the property of the town on July 23rd, 2025; unclaimed property of \$100.00 or more will become the property of the town on January 24th, 2026. To claim owned funds, go to www.leicesterma.org and visit the Treasurer Collector Department Page for a claim form under "Unclaimed Property".

Check#	Vendor	Amount
128821	Disctict E Track and Field	\$ 150.00
128899	Comm of Mass	\$ 33.20
129226	Boucher Raymond F	\$ 24.76
129313	Turcottte Consulting	\$ 5.98
129515	Mass Veterans Services Officers Association	\$ 30.00
129828	Michael A. Wilson	\$ 124.95
130384	KGLN5 LLC	\$ 19.03
130456	Tello Gerald Francis	\$ 149.56
130502	David Bellantoni	\$ 120.00
130662	Charter Communications	\$ 149.98
130713	Nancy Lamb	\$ 107.93
131166	Kenneth Antanavica	\$ 20.00
131290	Dara Shiner	\$ 20.00
131630	Fisher Randi L	\$ 52.25
131768	ED Info Solutions	\$ 2,745.00
132075	BP Leicester Fee Owner LLC	\$ 725.38
132114	Faulkner Frederick D	\$ 9.97
132117	Foy David P	\$ 31.96
132141	Jacques Steven F Trustee	\$ 1,037.52
132146	Ladago Edward G	\$ 134.71
132175	Mercier Joseph	\$ 144.32
132179	Morse Lee	\$ 9.40
132212	PHH Mortgage	\$ 42.28
132229	Socha Joseph M	\$ 81.06
132248	Travelin Bones	\$ 122.76
132262	Wade Michael	\$ 6.32
132269	Wood John F	\$ 27.31
132338	Marcel Michael Plumber/Gas	\$ 16.86
132343	Mcnemesis	\$ 7.91
132368	Saint Intony Inc	\$ 14.83
132435	Webster Square Medical Center	\$ 85.00
132631	David Foy	\$ 10.00
132658	Mark Olson	\$ 50.00
133008	Cultivate Holdings LLC	\$ 14.64
133031	Hood John	\$ 14.81

January 24, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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STUDENTS

continued from page A1

Dakota Zinkevich.

LHS Band Director Alexis Phillips thanks all event organizers for a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the students.

“Coming from a small town, they really appreciate all the opportunities they are given, and they rise to every challenge,” Phillips said. “They are bringing back fond memories, shared bonds, and strong marching techniques they can pass on to more students to come through the program as we progress.”

Phillips helped prepare students from Leicester, DPHS, Millbury, and Auburn to memorize the music for the parade. She even asked students to march and play their instruments while on treadmills during one of many after-school rehearsals.

Several other music educators from throughout the region are thanked for getting their students ready to perform on the brightest national stage.

“The students have learned so much through this experience, and music educators are beyond thankful for the New England Honor Band,” said David Prouty High School Band Director Kelsey Forfa. “The memories, friends, and music techniques they gained will follow them forever.”

Added Prouty senior Zac Soulor, “It was amazing to march on the largest parade on television and to show how much New England has to offer. My favorite part was meeting other groups from around the globe.”

Tournament of Roses President Edward Morales visited Leominster High School in September for a meet-and-greet event. Local students were able to meet the directors and staff of the New England Honor Band.

This year’s band was led by Jonathan Waters, who directs the Bowling Green State University Falcon Marching Band. Other band staff members included the following decorated musicians from across New England: Mary Bauer (Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, Vt.); Tabitha Greenlees (Fitchburg High School); and Kristina Looney (Band Director at Leicester Middle School).

The New England Honor Band leadership team was thrilled to assemble another group of talented young musicians in 2025.

“The New England Honor Band isn’t just a band—it’s a symphony of passion, talent, and camaraderie,” read a statement released by band leaders. “Our ensemble comprises over 300 dedicated marching band members, each bringing their unique musical voice to the grand stage.”

All members of the band must be nominated by a music educator in order to be eligible for consideration.

While in California, New England student-musicians also enjoyed plenty of sightseeing opportunities, including stops at Santa Monica Pier, Hollywood, and Disneyland, among others.

To learn more about the band, visit www.newenglandhonorband.com.

BREACH

continued from page A1

the incident by school officials.

“We are seeking additional information from PowerSchool, and we will continue to keep the community up to date,” the Superintendent’s letter read. “Protecting student and staff information has been—and will continue to be—a central value of our district. We will do everything we can to keep you informed.”

LPS officials set up a website to provide additional information regarding the incident. To access the site, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/lpsma.net/lpstechnology/powerschool-data-breach>.

Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District leaders also worked quickly to inform the community of the incident and highlight steps taken in response.

“PowerSchool has assured its customers that the incident has been contained, and there is no evidence of continued unauthorized activity,” read a letter released jointly by SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey and Technology Coordinator Christian Gemme.

SEBRSD leaders participated in a webinar hosted by PowerSchool’s senior executives, during which they provided customers with detailed information about the incident.

The SEBRSD’s IT team confirmed that sensitive, personally identifiable information was exported from the district’s Student Information System (SIS) as part of the incident.

Student records that were export-

ed include: name, date of birth, address, web ID (email login), gender, race, and medical alerts (not including detailed medical data, but instead notices to staff regarding alerts for a seizure disorder, allergy, etc.).

Similar staff records were exported as a result of the breach, officials said. A full list of the exported data fields and other pertinent information will be posted on the district’s website.

“Our current understanding indicates that only PowerSchool SIS data was exported. The breach did not affect PowerTeacher Pro (grades), Special Programs, Naviance (a college or career readiness platform), or other teaching and learning tools,” read the letter released jointly by SEBRSD leaders. “Student disciplinary records, counseling records, IEPs, medical records, or 504 plans were not obtained.”

In addition to the data extractions listed above, the SEBRSD’s IT team has evidence that the social security numbers of former students, who either graduated or transferred out of the district between 2001-2009, were also obtained, as well as the SSNs of some former employees.

“While we do not generally store SSNs for current staff or students, we have identified a small number of individuals who may have been affected. If your child had protected information noted above that was affected by this incident, we will notify you of the specific category of information through a separate email,” read the letter released by SEBRSD leadership. “This email will be specific to your child and

provide contact information in the event you want to follow up directly with school staff.”

PowerSchool officials reported to school leaders nationwide that the company immediately mobilized a cross-functional response team following the incident. Responders included senior leadership and third-party cybersecurity experts.

Additionally, PowerSchool leaders conducted a full password reset and further tightened password and access control for all customer support portal accounts.

“We do not anticipate the data being shared or made public, and we believe it has been deleted without any further replication or dissemination,” read a statement released by PowerSchool officials.

PowerSchool leaders will also provide credit monitoring to affected adults and identity protection services to affected minors in accordance with regulatory and contractual obligations.

“The Spencer-East Brookfield RSD has reported this matter to law enforcement, and our response will continue to be guided by legal counsel. The district intends to fulfill its notification requirements per Massachusetts General Law,” the joint statement read. “We take our commitment to data privacy very seriously, so you can expect an additional update as soon as possible.”

North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick released a statement indicating that his district does not use PowerSchool and was unaffected by the incident.

ROUTE 9

continued from page A1

Eric Von Bleicken.

“Thanks to our Highway Superintendent’s due diligence and persistence in applying for these federal and state monies, we can move ahead.”

Identified by a 2012 Road Safety Audit as one of the most dangerous sections of Route 9 in

the state due to the high number of motor vehicle incidents, the section between West Brookfield and Ware will be reconstructed with the primary objective of improving safety for all users.

The initial Phase I portion of the project consists of a large amount of full depth road reconstruction as well as resurfacing a one-mile section of

West Main Street/Route 9 between Welcome Road and the Ware town line. The roadway will also be widened to include a five-foot shoulder on each side, to improve safety for all roadway users including emergency vehicles, maintenance vehicles, disabled vehicles, and to provide bicycle accommodation. Drainage modifications will improve

ter runoff which will also help prevent icing during winter conditions. All existing guardrails will be replaced, and new signage and pavement markings will be included.

Travelers should expect temporary lane closures and increased delays during the construction of Phase I which is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2026.

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GARDENING

continued from page A1

University Extension specialists and other plant experts when selecting new plants for your gardens.

Adapt your landscape maintenance and design to reduce the negative impact of flooding, drought, and temperature extremes. Protect plant roots from temperature extremes with a layer of organic mulch. Incorporate organic matter into the soil to improve drainage and increase the water-holding ability of fast-draining soils. Cover the soil with plants and mulch to help protect the soil from compaction and erosion during heavy downpours. Healthy soil is the key to growing plants that are better able to tolerate environmental stresses.

Manage water that falls on your property. Check with your local municipality for any restrictions or support for these efforts. Create rain gardens to capture, clean and direct rainfall to groundwater to help manage water where it falls. These also support pollinators and provide added beauty to your landscape. Enlist the help of rain barrels, if permitted, to capture rainwater to use on ornamental plantings and containers when needed.

Take this interest one step further and volunteer to be part of a network of volunteer weather watchers. The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a non-profit community-based network of volunteers that provides daily measurements of rain, hail, and snow that fall in their backyards.

The goal of the Network is to provide more localized weather information to scientists, researchers, resource managers, decision makers and more. The data is used for natural resource, educational and research applications.

Weather watching is a great project for the family or classroom. It helps boost gardening success while increasing our awareness and knowledge of what’s happening around us.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, Revised Edition, and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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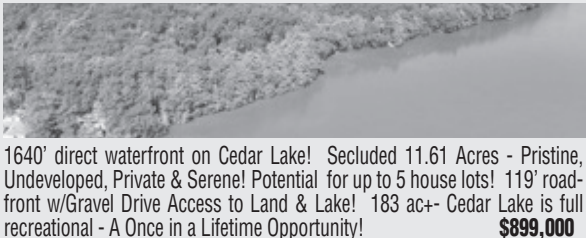
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BREAKFAST

continued from page A1

cate for state funding that provides the lifeblood for community programs, resources, and materials.

“The library community welcomes the opportunity to share with our legislators how important state funding to library line items is—and the impact it has on our communities,” said Leicester Public Library Director Suzanne Hall.

From weekly youth reading sessions and craft activities to events designed specifically for teenagers, to historical programs and author talks for adults, local libraries are hubs for learning and engagement.

“The library is a place of discovery, creativity, and connection,” LaTour added.

Patrons also utilize libraries for several online resources and projects, including creating resumes, researching topics for school or work, and checking emails. Meanwhile, library book

groups, writing workshops, and movie clubs continue to connect residents from area towns who have similar interests.

“It’s been great to see libraries transform into community centers where people can come in, feel welcome, and have a great experience,” Durant said.

Added LeBoeuf, who holds regular office hours at Leicester Public Library, “Our libraries are key hubs for people in our communities seeking support and advice.”

In addition to covering the costs of programs and materials each year, state funding and grants are also integral for library construction and renovation projects.

In 2019, Leicester Public Library completed a two-year, \$8.9 million renovation and expansion. State funds helped make the project possible.

“Our renovated and expanded building wouldn’t be here without the Massachusetts State Library Construction Grant Program,” Hall said.

State funding also assists library staffs with borrowing items from other libraries; acquiring and sharing electronic resources; staff training opportunities; and library advocacy.

During the Jan. 17 event, additional speakers represented several boards and organizations. These include the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Massachusetts Library System, and CWMARS (the library’s

regional consortium).

“Our goal is to help libraries stay at the center of their communities. We want to thank our legislators for recognizing the importance of support for libraries,” said Terry McQuown, who leads the Massachusetts Library System’s consulting and training services team.

Speakers also emphasized the importance of funding resources to assist library staffs amid an increasingly acrimo-

nous national climate fraught with book challenges and bans.

“Librarians are dealing with increased service demands, while coping with book and intellectual freedom challenges,” said Vicky Biancolo, who chairs the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Added Hall, “Massachusetts is a model of how states can support and adequately fund their libraries, and I am thankful to work in

a community and a state that supports libraries, access, and the freedom to read,” Hall said.

Following the presentations, guests enjoyed tours of the Local History Museum located at the library. The museum contains several fascinating artifacts showcasing the rich history of Leicester and the surrounding area.



State Sen. Peter Durant expresses his support for local libraries.



State Rep. David LeBoeuf describes programs and initiatives supporting local libraries.

Search leads to multiple drug charges for Leicester man



Several items were recovered during a drug bust in Leicester this month.

LEICESTER – A man is facing multiple drug charges after police executed a search at a Leicester residence earlier this month.

On Jan. 6, officers assigned to the Western Worcester County Major Crimes Task Force, which includes membership from the Leicester and Spencer Police Departments, executed a search warrant at a home in town.

The task force was assisted in the search by the LPD’s K-9 unit.

During the search, police seized a kilo of cocaine with an approximate street value of \$80,000, along with over \$4,000 in cash.

The suspect, Luis Daniel Burgos Cruz, 37,

of Canovanas, Puerto Rico, was taken into custody.

Burgos Cruz was arraigned on Jan. 7 at East Brookfield District Court. He is facing the following criminal charges: Trafficking in cocaine (200 grams or more) and Conspiracy to violate the drug law.

Following a dangerousness hearing, the suspect was held without bail. He was due back in court on Jan. 14 for a detention hearing.

“We would also like to thank the Massachusetts State Police for their response to the scene, and again at the station with translational assistance during booking,” read a statement released by the LPD.

Printmaking exhibition opens at ArtWorks Gallery



WARE

ArtWorks Gallery invites printmakers of all disciplines and genres to submit entries to their first ever dedicated printmaking exhibition. All subject matters and printmaking techniques will be considered. The deadline for entry is Thursday, Jan. 2, by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org. ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main Street in Ware. “Under Pressure: A Printmaking Exhibition” will be on display from Jan. 25 to Feb. 23. The show will open with a reception on Jan. 25 from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for this exhibition is Mary Teichman. A long-time member of The Society of American Graphic Artists, The Boston Printmakers, and The Printmaker’s Network of Southern New England, Teichman’s etchings are in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, The Boston Athenaeum, The New York Public Library, The National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Boston Public Library, and The Museum of the City of New York, among others. Through the years, Teichman has participated in over 275 national and international invitational and juried exhibitions, including The Brooklyn Museum’s 22nd National Print Exhibition, Associated American Artists New Talent in Printmaking in New York City, The Rene Carcan International Prize for Printmaking in Brussels, the National Original Print Exhibition in London, The Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair in London, The Taiwan International Invitational Exhibit, and New England on Paper at the Boston Athenaeum.

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13
ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13’s gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware, Massachusetts and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.

SNHU announces Fall 2024 President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2024 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

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

Rosanna Lopez of West Brookfield
Cameron Hafner of Spencer
Kyle Paquette of Spencer
Melody Serrano-Rodriguez of Spencer

Marco Santana of Rochdale
Chelsea Sanders of North Brookfield
Valeria Contreras of North Brookfield

Nida Orloff of Leicester
Krysta Tarves of East Brookfield
Tianna Laraia of Brookfield

SouthernNewHampshireUniversity (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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2025 Storm Date: Sunday February 16th