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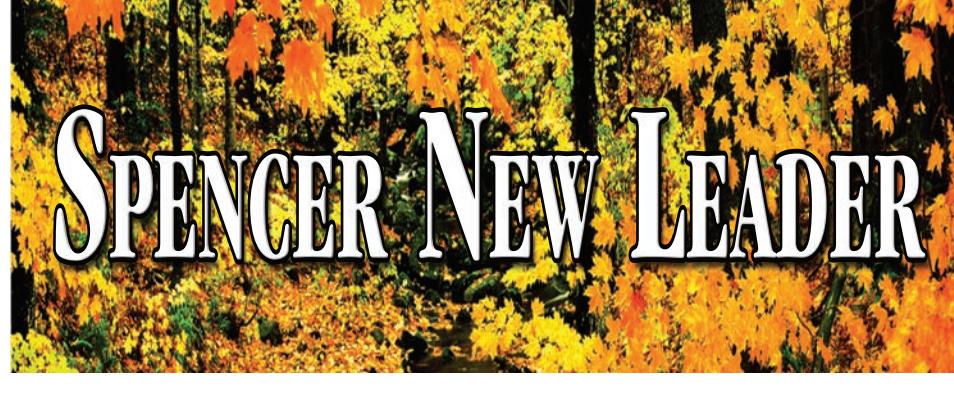
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Friday, November 3, 2023

## North Brookfield students excel in and out of the classroom



Middle school students at North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School receive Students of the Month Awards.



Diago Cruz was named a NBJSHS Senior of the Week.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** — Students at North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School are off to an impressive start to the new year, excelling inside and outside the classroom.

Last week, the middle school celebrated its Students of the Month at the program's first awards ceremony.

"This is a monthly event to celebrate our middle school students with their families. This month's award winners for high academic

achievement were Dante Giangrande and Joshua Haden," read a statement released by school officials.

Both of these students earned a 90 percent or higher average in all of their classes.

Additionally, Autumn Bourassa, Abigail Lindberg, Ian Fantasia, Adrie Ford, and Lydia Qi all received an award for academic achievement by receiving an 80 percent or higher average in all of their classes.

"Adrie Ford received the Student Growth

Turn To **STUDENTS** page A12

## Construction crews see momentum at DPHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

**SPENCER** — With the holiday season on the horizon, construction leaders are working hard to prepare for a busy upcoming year at David Prouty High School.

Less than two months since students and school officials celebrated Prouty's addition-renovation project with a groundbreaking ceremony, construction crews have already completed several major tasks this fall.

Even with a spate of rainy days to contend with in recent months, crews continue to see major momentum.

"Despite Mother Nature's best efforts to slow us down, the site looks amazing and demonstrates a great deal of time, energy, and effort by our construction management team at Fontaine Bros," said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey.

On the morning of Sept. 8, the school community gathered triumphantly atop the hill behind DPHS for the groundbreaking ceremony. The event brought together SEBRSD members, students, local leaders, and state officials to thank everyone who made Prouty's addition-renovation project possible.

Now, with students hard at work each day in class, the construction team is equally busy on the surrounding grounds.

Nick Pimentel, a con-

struction representative for Colliers Engineering and Design (the project's OPM), recently provided an updated list of completed projects. These include the installation of drainage swales on the east and west sides of the football field, as part of the water drainage system.

Additionally, the underdrain at the base of the football field slope has been installed below grade and compacted.

Significant work has also been completed on the site of the future tennis courts, officials said. Meanwhile, several projects have taken place to ready the school for upcoming construction.

"A temporary scaffold staircase and walkway with guardrails was completed underneath the bridge of the existing high school for staff and student use during the upcoming phase of construction," Pimentel said.

The MSBA is covering \$46.8 million of the project costs, while Spencer and East Brookfield will be responsible for the remaining \$64.8 million.

During the Sept. 8 groundbreaking ceremony, state officials congratulated the school community on advancing its project through a highly competitive process.

"The students, teachers, and community members have been unwavering in their support for this project," Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley told guests at the groundbreaking event.

"It's a competitive process to have schools built or renovated. This is a major accomplishment."

Students will continue attending classes in the existing classroom wing while the new structure is under construction.

Looking long-term, the construction plan calls for a renovation of the football field and track in the spring of 2024. The facilities are expected to

## Annual toy drive returns to North Brookfield Savings Bank

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During the Toy Drive, community members are welcome to visit any branch location to make

their donations of new unwrapped toys for children.

All toys collected will be donated to local toy programs in each community, to ensure that local children in need will receive holiday presents. This year, the Bank's Ware branch location will be primarily accepting monetary donations.

Turn To **TOY DRIVE** page A12

## Sheriff's office kicks off winter coat drive



Courtesy  
Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis (back right) joins members of his team in celebrating a coat drive kickoff event.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

**REGION** — The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is team-

ing up with local residents and business partners to help keep community members warm this winter.

Last month, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and the

Turn To **COATS** page A12

## Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy attends MassHire Career Fair

**SOUTHBRIDGE** — MassHire Southbridge Career Fair was successfully held Thursday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at the MassHire Southbridge Career Center located within the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center, 14 Mechanic St., Suite 330. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was one of the featured training providers. The career fair was open to the public.

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lic, and more than 100 training candidates participated. Prospective trainees who may be eligible for MassHire grant funds were provided prescreening at the event. Along with training providers, ten area employers were also in attendance.

MassHire Career Center maintained its strong support for the Practical Nursing Students of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton for the past several years, serving as a resource center. Practical Nursing students on the rigorous program at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy benefit from assistance offered by MassHire. The Practical Nursing students are academically qualified students who, despite other circumstances such as financial or social, have persevered and remained dedicated to their nursing journey and future success.

"Our Practical Nursing students are blessed to be a part of MassHire's programs," said Bolandrina. "MassHire has helped and prepared many of our students and graduates since 2016, with job readiness techniques and tuition grants as they pursue their nursing career and navigate the healthcare system. MassHire gives our practical nursing students a chance to master their expertise in nursing skills and help make a difference in their lives as they start their nursing career."

Career readiness is a significant focus for MassHire. For the academic year 2023-2024, multiple practical nursing students received \$8,000 tuition grants.

In addition to providing support, online and hands-on assistance is available. MassHire also works closely with practical nursing students when they graduate providing support and assistance with NCLEX-PN preparation and the actual exam. Added work includes coaching graduates in resume-writing techniques, job interviewing best practices and other skills that not only help



Courtesy

Photo shows Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Douglas.

during a job search but are also relevant once they're in the workforce. MassHire Worcester Career Center is located at 340 Main St., Suite 400, Worcester, MA 01608, or at [www.MassHireCentralCC.com](http://www.MassHireCentralCC.com).

### About Bay Path

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy runs a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates

receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health, Board of Registration in Nursing ([www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn)). The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education ([www.council.org](http://www.council.org)).



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Pictured: Debra Paciello, Central One Westborough Branch Manager, Traci Heath, Walk Manager from the UMass Chan Medical School, Owen Russell, Central One Vice President of Retail Services.

## Central One Federal Credit Union matches \$2,500 raised by employees to benefit UMass Cancer Walk

SHREWSBURY — Central One Federal Credit Union employees proudly participated in the 2023 UMass Cancer Walk, an annual event that raises vital funding and awareness for cancer research at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester. Through their fundraising efforts, their team, named "The Central One-ders," raised over \$2,600 to benefit this amazing cause. In a show of support and gratitude, Central One was honored to donate an additional \$2,500 to the UMass Cancer Walk.

### About Central One Federal Credit Union

Central One Federal Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit, cooperative financial institution serving Massachusetts residents and businesses. Central One has become one of central Massachusetts's largest federal credit unions serving Worcester County and parts of Norfolk and Middlesex counties. Branches are in Auburn, Milford, Northborough, Shrewsbury, Westborough, and Worcester. To learn more, visit our website at [www.centralfcu.com](http://www.centralfcu.com).

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### TO THE EDITOR:

## West Brookfield church gets important updates – inside and out



WEST BROOKFIELD — As you travel west on Route 9 from Brookfield, the stately white steeple of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield welcomes you to our town. The church

has started two significant improvement projects. One is to repair and paint the steeple and the second is to install a new energy efficient heating system in the church building.

The repairs to our steeple are very much needed. After a series of leaks, the church hired Restco, a local company specializing in historic building restoration, to investigate the steeple. Using a drone, the extent of the problem was assessed. Some repairs, a good scraping, and painting with special sealing paint will ensure the church steeple will continue to be a prominent landmark across from our beautiful town Common for years to come.

The second substantial improvement is an energy efficient heat pump system. The congregation is looking forward to no longer having to wear heavy winter coats and mittens to worship, the Farmers' Market, weddings, funerals and other community events this winter, as was done last year. The new system will also be better for the environment, using electric heat pump technology instead of burning fossil fuels.

According to Dee Blanton, moderator of the church, the members of the congregation have approved a six month capital campaign to raise \$60,000 for these projects. Initial donations have already generated more than \$25,000. The church is inviting church members and the local community to contribute funds toward improvements to this important local landmark. Checks should be made payable to FCCWB and mailed to PO Box 371, West Brookfield, MA 01585. More information on the projects can be found on the church Web site: <http://westbrookfieldcongregation-alucc.org/>.

## Fundación MAPFRE donates \$70,000 to United Way for childcare and nutrition programs

SOUTHBRIDGE — United Way of South Central MA (UWSCM) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$70,000 grant from Fundación MAPFRE, a global non-profit organization that provides social assistance and promotes road safety. The grant is the first major gift this year that will support UWSCM's Bridging the Gap Campaign, which provides funding for critical childcare and nutrition programs in South Central Massachusetts.

"We are grateful to Fundación MAPFRE for their generous support of our partner agencies that provide affordable childcare and nutrition services for families and older adults," said Mary O'Cain, Executive Director at UWSCM. "This funding will help us to ensure that children in our community have access to the high-quality preschool and afterschool childcare and nutrition for families so they can all thrive."

The Bridging the Gap Campaign supports a variety of programs that provide childcare and nutrition assistance to low-income families in South Central Massachusetts. These programs include:

Childcare subsidies that help families afford high-quality childcare at the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley.

Nutrition assistance programs through Tri-Valley, Inc. that provide food to older adults and individuals with disabilities.

A weekly dinner program for families through the YMCA – Tri-Community Branch "What's for Dinner" program.

"Fundación MAPFRE is pleased to support the United Way of South Central Massachusetts in its important work in the community," said Jaime Tamayo, President and Chief Executive Officer of MAPFRE Insurance and Chief Representative of Fundación MAPFRE in the U.S. "We are proud to help the United Way's Bridging the Gap Campaign to provide more essentials to children and adults."

### About Fundación MAPFRE

Fundación MAPFRE is a global non-profit organization that provides social assistance and promotes road safety. The foundation was established in 1975 by MAPFRE, a leading insurance company. Fundación MAPFRE works to improve the lives of people in need through a variety of programs and services, including support for children and families, disaster relief, and road safety initiatives.

### About United Way of South Central MA

United Way of South Central MA is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the lives of people in need in the towns of Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton, Dudley and Webster. UWSCM funds more than 26 programs and services that address the critical needs of the community, including education, income, health, and housing.

The 2023 campaign will run through December 31. People can donate online at [www.uwscm.org](http://www.uwscm.org) or by mail to United Way of South Central MA, 176 Main St., Suite 400, Southbridge, MA 01550.

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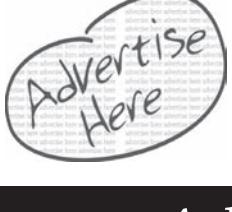
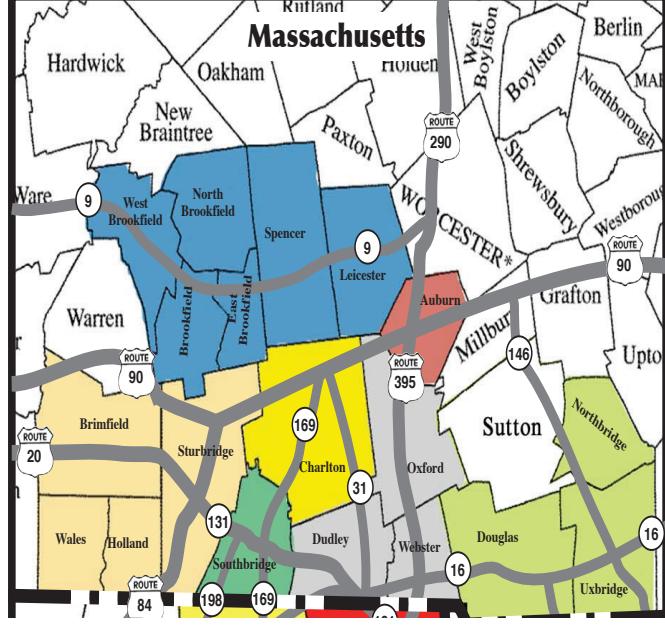
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# *The virtues of intelligence, open-mindedness, and humility*

In a world that often celebrates individual achievement and personal success, it's imperative to remind ourselves of the profound value that lies in being intelligent, open-minded, thoughtful, and not egotistical. These qualities are not only commendable but also essential.

Intelligence, the ability to think critically and solve complex problems, is undoubtedly a valuable asset. It fuels innovation, drives scientific discoveries, and leads to technological advancements that improve our lives. However, intelligence alone is not enough. What truly sets remarkable individuals apart is the wisdom to harness their intellect for the betterment of all.

Open-mindedness is the gateway to growth and understanding. It involves a willingness to consider different perspectives, even when they challenge our own beliefs. Open-minded individuals are more likely to collaborate, learn from others, and adapt to change. They recognize that wisdom often emerges from diverse experiences and viewpoints, and they embrace this diversity with open hearts and minds.

Thoughtfulness is the art of considering the consequences of our actions, words, and decisions on others. Thoughtful individuals recognize the impact they have on the world around them and strive to make choices that contribute positively to their communities. They take time to empathize with the struggles and triumphs of others, showing kindness and compassion.

Egotism, or excessive self-centeredness, blinds us to the needs and feelings of others. It hinders collaboration, fuels conflicts, and impedes personal growth. In contrast, humility allows us to acknowledge our limitations, learn from our mistakes, and appreciate the contributions of others.

When intelligence, open-mindedness, thoughtfulness, and humility converge, remarkable things happen. Individuals who possess these qualities are not only successful in their own right but also inspire those around them to reach greater heights. They build bridges between diverse communities, create empathy in a divided world, and work tirelessly to make our society a fairer, more compassionate place.

In the end, it is the combination of these virtues that creates individuals who are not just intelligent but wise, not just open-minded but empathetic, not just thoughtful but compassionate, and not just humble but genuinely self-aware. They are the ones who leave an indelible mark on our world, showing us that true greatness lies not in the spotlight but in the quiet, meaningful moments of understanding and connection.

## Letter submission policy

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

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

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Salvation is our choice and responsibility, Part 5

To the Editor:

James 4:9: we are given examples of how we need to daily remain near to God. We must daily submit to God's authority, commit our life to Jesus, control our emotions, resist the Devil, and we must daily purify our heart, and we sin and we will sin because of our sinful nature, we must confess and repent and humble our self before Jesus and Jesus will lift of up through the counsel of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

1 Peter 2:24-25: abiding in Jesus is the only way to God, Heaven, and if, for whatever reason, you do not believe in God, that is your choice and consequence.

It is through the love of God that the second person of our Triune God, Jesus came into this world to die in our place and redeem us from eternal death, hell. It is only God [Jesus] who had, has, the authority to redeem us, and God loves us so much He submitted His Son Jesus for our redemption. Now! Today, it is our responsibility to sincerely receive Jesus in our, your heart as the Lord and Savior of our life. The only way any of us are going to Heaven is through Jesus; John 14:6. He is the way, truth, life; "no" one goes to the Father, God except through Jesus.

1 John 1:9: if a small word, big meaning we have made a true, honest, sincere confession to God through Jesus we will be free from our sins and inherit eternal heaven.

1 John 2:15-16: this warning cannot be more specific, explicit — do not love the world. The world itself is good. It is created by God; however, many of the people have been enticed, tempted, seduced by Satan and we who are Christians must rebuke lust, have nothing to do with the immoral pleasures of this world, life it only leads to death.

1 John 3:6, 9: this is very explicit! No one who has accepted Jesus keeps on sinning, "and" there is no scripture that teaches once saved always saved live as you please. We are being warned in [Philippians 2:12] we are responsible to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. That does not indicate to me once saved always saved.

1 John 1:7, 9: to those who have truly made a confession from your, our, heart, the blood of Jesus is precious; Jesus is precious Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb for our sins. Jesus has paid the penalty before God the Father for our sins, and we, as true disciples, Christians, lambs of God forgiven and will rise and be united with Jesus, the second person of our Triune God.

I want to inform you, realize, understand, there is know

1 John 1:7, 9: to those who have truly made a confession from your, our, heart, the blood of Jesus is precious; Jesus is precious Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb for our sins. Jesus has paid the penalty before God the Father for our sins, and we, as true disciples, Christians, lambs of God forgiven and will rise and be united with Jesus, the second person of our Triune God.

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where in the Bible standing firmly for Jesus is going to be easy, God's Word Jesus informs us we will be challenged by Satan, hated by the world, John 15:18-20. Amen!

1 John 2:18-19: again, John is warning and preparing us that the last days, the days between Jesus Christ's first coming the day of our redemption and Second Coming that is when we will be going to meet the Lord God Jesus. There will be a false teacher [the anti christ] that will be trying to deceive us, that will be our responsibility to test the spirit and we do that through Jesus who will counsel us through the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 2:7-9, this is the last book of the Bible. This book is God revealing to us the end times and allowing us to prepare our self against the anti christ and we do that through Jesus, Jesus is the only way, truth and life, and it is our responsibility to be over comers through Jesus. To any of us, who overcomes there will be glorious eternal life in heaven with our Triune God, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit.

What is an overcomer? It is the one by God's grace who receives Jesus Christ through faith into his or her heart, a spiritual birth that allows us to be adopted, become children of the living God and gives us victory over sin, Satan. Have you made that commitment of faith? The time, day is now, the choice is yours, any time and day God is a pure spirit He never sleeps, God is always in the present.

I am closing, ending with some home work for you; hopefully, you will be interested in. [1 Chronicle 16:11] [Psalm 28:7] [Psalm 42:1] [Psalm 73:26] [Matthew 11:28] [Mark 12:30] [John 8:12 & 16:33] [Romans 8:28] [1 Corinthians 6:19-20 & 10:13] [2 Corinthians 12:9-10] [[Galatians 6:9] [Philippians 2:13 & 4:13] [2 Timothy 1:7] [Hebrew 13:4] [1 John 1:9]

Remember this: Matthew 16:16 Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one, Son of the living God. John 6:68-69, where shall we go, Jesus has the Words of eternal life, Jesus has been given authority from His Father and our Father and eternal creator. Matthew 28:18, Luke 10:22, John 3:35, 1 Corinthians 15:27, Ephesians 1:20-22, Philippians 2:9-11.

Asking, requesting you keep us, my wife and I, you're neighbors, this Country USA and the people of Israel in your daily prayers that we are united together through the Holy Spirit, God in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Dwell I in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD

### Biden's world

ist. Biden's Attorney General Garland will put the full force of the DOJ to go after those parents. Do you feel better that your votes got this done?

With his attack on our oil industry and his use of the Progressive Green agenda, he has caused the price of oil to go sky high. Enriching the coffers of the world's leaders of terrorism while crushing oil fields jobs here. The higher energy costs to produce food and goods has pushed inflation to levels not seen since Jimmy Carter, meanwhile companies can't find workers because they get paid more to stay at home. The result is two full blown wars and Biden pumping your tax monies over to foreign governments to fund them. Meanwhile, the Dem backed unions are pushing for 20 to 30 percent raises. This will increase inflation even more. You senior citizens will be happy to know that any money you saved for retirement will barely be able to buy bread. Don't worry, though, if you work for a union or government. Joe and his gang will make sure your pensions are fully funded with taxpayer bailouts. That's their payback to their foot soldiers. Does this make you feel good?

So, in two years, you went from the best economy ever, world peace, and cheap energy, all because you didn't like a gut because he had "mean Tweets." You decided to vote for the Progressives' Puppet and their lies of unity. Yes, you were fooled, and you see the results of your folly. Now it's time to open your eyes and throw the brainwashing of the left off. Vote for Trump in 2024 to bring the world back to one of true peace and unity in America. A time when it was OK to say "God Bless America" and not be attacked by the Dem backed radicals.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

*What should you know about RMDs?*



FINANCIAL

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You may spend decades contributing to various retirement accounts. But for some accounts, such as a traditional IRA and 401(k), you must start withdrawing funds at a certain point. What should you know about this requirement?

To begin with, the rules governing these withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — have changed recently. For many years, individuals had to begin taking their RMDs (which are based on the account balance and the IRS' life expectancy factor) when they turned 70 and a half. The original SECURE Act of 2019 raised this age to 72, and SECURE 2.0, passed in 2022, raised it again, to 73. (If you turned 73 in 2023, and you were 72 in 2022 when the RMD limit was still 72, you should have taken your first RMD for 2022 by April 1 of this year. You will then need to take your 2023 RMD by Dec. 31. And going forward, you'll also need to take your RMDs by the end of every year.)

Not all retirement accounts are subject to RMDs. They aren't required for a Roth IRA, and, starting in 2024, won't be required for a Roth 401(k) or 403(b) plan. But if your account does call for RMDs, you do need to take them, because if you don't, you could face tax penalties. Previously, this penalty was 50 percent of the amount you were supposed to have taken, but SECURE 2.0 reduced it to 25 percent.

When you take your RMDs, you need to be aware of a key issue: taxes. RMDs are taxed as ordinary income, and, as such, they could potentially bump you into a higher tax bracket and possibly even increase your Medicare premiums, which are determined by your modified adjusted gross income. Are there any ways you could possibly reduce an RMD-related tax hike?

You might have some options. Here are two to consider:

Convert tax-deferred accounts to Roth IRA. You could convert some, or maybe all, of your tax-deferred retirement accounts to a Roth IRA. By doing so, you could lower your RMDs in the future — while adding funds to an account you're never required to touch. So, if you don't really need all the money to live on, you could include the remainder of the Roth IRA in your estate plans, providing an initially tax-free inheritance to your loved ones. However, converting a tax-deferred account to a Roth IRA will generate taxes in the year of conversion, so you'd need the money available to pay this tax bill.

Donate RMDs to charity. In what's known as a qualified charitable distribution, you can move up to \$100,000 of your RMDs directly from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity, avoiding the taxes that might otherwise result if you took the RMDs yourself. After 2023, the \$100,000 limit will be indexed to inflation.

Of course, before you start either a Roth IRA conversion or a qualified charitable distribution, you will need to consult with your tax advisor, as both these moves have issues you must consider and may not be appropriate for your situation.

But it's always a good idea to know as much as you can about the various aspects of RMDs — they could play a big part in your retirement income strategy.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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# Antler analysis

This past weekend was a bit too nice as far as weather for hunting was concerned, but now it is back to reality. Deer hunters have harvested a few impressive bucks locally, which sported some very impressive racks, and tipped the scales at 200 pounds or more. This week's picture of "Nuno" with his 180-pound buck harvested with his bow was impressive indeed, although the antlers were a bit small



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for such a large buck. As some hunters would say you can't make a good meal out of antlers.

Why do some deer have small antlers and others are sporting large antlers? That is a ques-

tion that is often debated by deer hunters! Antlers begin to grow depending on how much daylight there is during the day. It is often called photoperiod. Healthier deer will have heavier antlers because of the density of the bone. The antlers are made up of calcium and phosphorus, and are shed every year, with new ones starting to grow sometime in April, with more sunlight one factor. More next week!



Courtesy

This week's picture shows "Nuno" with his 180-pound buck he harvested recently with his bow.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Who are we, really?

To the Editor:

Like most good American patriots, I vote, fly the American flag at my house, the pledge of allegiance, sing the national anthem, and remove my hat and cover my heart when I hear them. Both of my grandfathers, my father, all of my uncles, both of my sons and two of my three grandkids, have, or are serving in our military. I am on record as mentioning that my family are not immigrants in the normal sense (before someone mentions it, I do also have native bloodlines), but with both of my great grandfathers arriving here from England in the 1600s, we had moved to another British colony.

A spirit of nationalism, and my country, right or wrong, has prevailed since we were throwing tea in Boston Harbor. Woodrow Wilson's "Walk tall and carry a big stick policy" is still de rigueur today. Our Constitution, now well over 200 years old, was designed with the facility to tweak and update it whenever the need was there. We passed prohibition, then, we were funding the cartels of their day, we repealed it. In an effort to limit what fighting in World War I would cost us, we created a debt limit. In my house we handle the debt limit in a more logical and workable fashion. Instead of discussing what will do about paying our bills, we discuss what we will spend and how we will pay simultaneously. We should not be discussing a debt limit ever, instead have a budget and argue about whether we will deviate from it. The Constitution already empowers paying our bills.

Another anomaly that has not only outlived its usefulness is the electoral college. It is bad enough that it is something dating back to just 13 states, and allowing for a perversion of democracy that promotes minority rule, we have just seen a conspiracy fail to overturn the will of the majority and the correct electoral outcome. Recent history has given us two presidents who did not win the popular vote, but more scary than that, several red states have passed laws allowing their legislators to pick electors without regard to votes. I think this is how China does elections.

The clown show that is the race for Speaker of the House, may or may not have ended, as the one member recall provision remains, but it really is inconsequential, as the same lunatic fringe will continue to support Trumps tear it all down agenda, and will deliver exactly zero of their campaign promises. Although the Democrats control both the senate and the Whitehouse, I doubt they could even rally a majority of senate Republicans. I believe there are sane Republicans, but they are silently kowtowing to MAGA radicals. For example, the senate will send them a bill that sends substantial financing to Ukraine, knowing full well, that if Ukraine falls, Putin's next act will be to annex NATO member, former USSR countries and we will be at war.

I happened to catch Mitch McConnell on one of the Sunday talk shows. While I am not one of his biggest fans, he pointed out that most of the aid we

give to Ukraine, is munitions and military equipment made here, employing thousands while losing no US service people in battle. President Dwight Eisenhower, a WWII five star general, pointed out that the military industrial complex, will take your last dollar and leave you to starve, homeless in the streets. It does stagger my imagination that one artillery shell costs more than a Rolls Royce, especially in the volume we are buying them.

While we are on the subject of ordinance, we should look at who uses it and how. Army veteran, who recently spent two weeks in a mental health facility, used his assault rifle to erase 18 or more random Maine citizens. Putin uses missiles and artillery to blow up and soften resistance in civilian occupied areas before troops come in to rape and kidnap children. Israel uses assault rifles to kill Palestinians throwing rocks at them in their illegal settlements in the disputed area. Hamas, a Gaza based terrorist organization, committed an attack on settlers, farms and a music festival, where they brutally slaughtered over 1400 men, women and children and kidnapped a similarly described group of over 200, whom they are holding in and under Gaza in a vast network of tunnels.

In preparation for a ground assault, Israeli missiles have thus far killed 5000 Palestinian men, women and children. There is no report as to damages to Hamas. Perhaps this is paying homage to the Iraq Shock and Awe we undertook after the 3000 we lost on 9/11 to terror attack, even though no Iraqis were involved. I had been concerned that the Israeli's might have trouble recognizing Hamas (like in Vietnam, easily blending in), but the missile attacks virtually confirmed that all Palestinians are now enemies of Israel. Our unconditional support of Israel, now looks more like we are on the Russian, not the Ukrainian side I can now confirm there will not be peace in the middle east anytime soon, if ever.

Abdula, king of Jordan, has been pretty tolerant of our country. He is a graduate of Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. When the UN established Israel, it did not include the city of Jerusalem. That is the location of the Aqsa Mosque, which is the third most important Muslim locale. The temple of Solomon was long gone, leaving just one wall, and the Christian points of the cross are there. Rather than trying to reclaim it, a peaceful coexistence has prevailed.

When President Biden first visited Israel and vowed unwavering support, the Arab leaders he wanted to see all cancelled. Considering that the USA is constantly using our veto power in the UN to defend Israel's border ignorance, their tolerance is nearly ended and the genocide of Palestine may accomplish that. I will not be happy if you send my military grandkids there in support of Israel.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## Durant will bring common sense back to the State House

To the Editor:

The Worcester and Hampshire Senatorial district D06 will be getting a new state senator via the special election to be held on Nov. 7. Some of the towns served by this seat include Leicester, Paxton, Spencer, the Brookfields, and a portion of Worcester. There are 22 in total.

The contest will primarily be between candidates Peter Durant and Jon Zlotnik, both currently serving as state representatives. However, Peter Durant also has experience in private business and municipal government.

Peter comes to this race after a significant win in the Republican primary. When looking at their voting records and stated positions you will find significant differences on some of the major concerns of the day. Peter Durant has a perfect record on

opposing tax increases and supporting small businesses. He is in favor of suspending the gas tax, and is opposed to driver licenses for illegals. He is a supporter of the Second Amendment and opposed to the HD 4607 (formally known as HD 4420).

When I see Jon Zlotnik's positions, it's very clear the differences between these candidates are profound. We need some common-sense reality in our State House, not more sensitivity concerns. Perhaps then, we would not be confronted with such realities as the cost of feeding and housing the people we have invited to our sanctuary state; pure foolishness. I hope you've been able to read between the lines and recognize which candidate I favor. Please be sure to vote on Nov. 7.

LEONARD L. IVEL  
LEICESTER

Pheasant hunting is good for hunters that own a good dog. Goose and duck hunting is hit or miss, with geese often outsmarting the hunter. A couple of local goose hunters set up at a local cornfield only, to have a couple of flocks of birds land at the opposite end of the field. It happens a lot, as mentioned in previous columns.

Trout fishing is starting to improve for the recently stocked fish! Local stocking of trout at various club ponds recently, are also seeing a lot better action, especially with anglers using flies. Small streamers and wets are a good choice of flies at this time of year.

Tautog fishing remains very good in both Mass. & Rhode Island, but you need to do a little searching for the deep holes and structure, and when you find the right spot, action is hot & heavy with some very large tautog being caught. Sea Bass fishing also remains very good in 30 to 40 feet of water out

of Point Judith light!

The big question now

is, will we see ice this year, as we face even more climate change. The fishing industry is holding their breath, as their products of ice fishing gear collect dust from previous years. Electric ice augers have basically replaced the gas

augers, and gas augers at tackle shops are not in high demand. You may need to go North to do a little ice fishing in the future!

Take A Kid Fishing

& Keep Them Rods

Bending!

## Recycle Pumpkins into Seasonal Treats



TAKE  
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TRAINOR

Old Fashioned New England Pumpkin Bread

This is a dense, hearty bread that has been a New England favorite for generations.

Ingredients: 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree; 4 large eggs; 1 cup vegetable oil; 2/3 cup water; 3 cups white sugar; 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour; two teaspoons baking soda; 1 1/2 teaspoons salt; one teaspoon ground cinnamon; one teaspoon ground nutmeg; 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves; 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger; raisins (optional).

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pans. Grease and flour mini loaf pans (recipe makes four mini loaves). Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

\*\* Preserving Pumpkins Too busy to whip up pumpkin treats? If you're pumpkins are relatively fresh, they could keep up to six months! The key to preserving fresh pumpkins is the storage temperature should never exceed 50 degrees. Pumpkins must also be stored in a dry, frost free environment. Here's a tip: Whole pumpkins keep better if picked leaving two inches of the stem on the fruit. Dry them in the sun for a few days before storing. For safety's sake, wipe pumpkins down with a disinfectant soaked paper towel before storing. Whole pumpkins should not be allowed to touch each other in storage. And be sure to keep an eye out for rot spots that may form. Any pumpkins that are found to be decaying should be promptly removed from the storage area.

\*\* Frozen Pumpkins: Freezing cooked, pureed pumpkin is a favored way to preserve the taste and texture of pumpkin. Sugar or pie pumpkins are ideal candidates for freezing as the pulp is thicker and firmer. To easily prepare a pumpkin for pureeing, simply place the whole fruit in the microwave for about a minute or so to soften the skin. This will make the pumpkin much easier to peel. Cut the pumpkin in large slices, peel the skin and remove the strings and seeds. Then cut the slices into smaller pieces. Boil the pumpkin pieces until tender, then mash or process the pumpkin pulp until it forms a smooth, thick puree.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge!

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

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

# Handling estate personal property

In a previous column, I offered tips for estate personal representatives (previously called executors). I focused on what is a taxable estate, securing an estate, and other administrative tasks. In this column, I'll discuss handling the personal property in the estate.

Many of the people that I meet with have been appointed as personal representatives for the first time. Most of these personal representatives don't know what the personal property in the estate is worth. Sometimes a written appraisal is required for taxes or probate, and that will provide an idea of the value of the estate. Oftentimes, simply getting an oral appraisal, estimates, and advice is

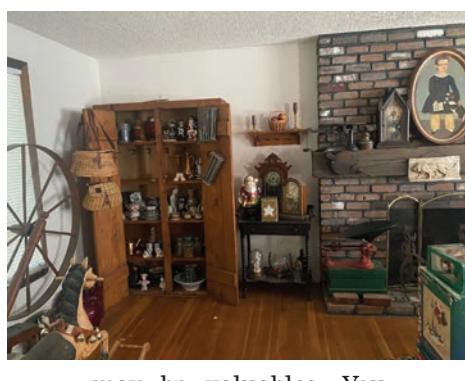


ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
• • • • •

WAYNE TUISKULA

all that is needed.

If you ever become an estate personal representative, there are some things that you can do prior to getting an appraisal, however. You should go through the documents inside of the home. You may find a will, a deed, or other important papers during your search. Sometimes finding and distributing family photos and keepsakes will be very important to family members. While you go through drawers and other locations in the home, you should also be checking to see if there



may be valuables. You could find silver flatware in the drawers of a buffet while you look for personal papers. Jewelry is of course typically found in jewelry boxes but can often be hidden in drawers throughout the estate. The same is true of coins. We often find hidden treasures throughout a house that the personal representative wasn't aware of. We've found gold and silver coins, gold jewelry, and sterling silver under beds, under couches, in closets, in attics, in crawl spaces, and in

many other places we didn't expect.

I've previously discussed items that have dropped in value over the years. Most china sets, glassware, collectibles including Hummels and Lladros, and "brown furniture" sell for a fraction of what they did 25 years ago. There are also plenty of items that may have gone up in value over the years. Some you will immediately recognize, like cars, trucks, tractors, and other vehicles. Collections like art, historical objects, old advertising signs, baseball cards, comic books, art pottery, and watches are just a few of the items that you should have evaluated by an expert. Often a family member or friend may offer advice and let you know what they believe to be val-

able, but it's best to get the opinion of an appraiser.

After the items have been distributed according to the terms in the will or through mutual family agreement, you can reassess. Are there still valuable items that should be auctioned? Are there enough items left to hire a professional to run an estate sale or online auction for you? Estate sale companies typically receive a percentage of sales as their pay. Some also require a flat fee and a percentage of sales. If there are \$5,000 worth of items in the estate, that won't be enough for most estate sale companies to take it on. Other options are to sell the items yourself or donate them to a local charity. There may be items that no one wants, and you can hire a cleanout company or get a dumpster and throw things away yourself. It may seem overwhelming

at first, but these tips can hopefully help make the task less daunting if you ever assume the role of an estate personal representative.

Our next auction will begin in November and will feature art, jewelry, sterling silver, coins, and many of the other valuable items I mentioned in this column. Our current auction with vintage toys, comic books, and posters ends on Nov. 1. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmass-auctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111).

## Gift an Amaryllis for colorful winter blooms



Longfield-Gardens.com — Courtesy

Amaryllis bulbs provide enjoyment as the bulbs sprout, grow, and develop into beautiful long-lasting blossoms.

This holiday, give a gift that keeps giving and requires no dusting. Gift friends and family a beautiful amaryllis that is sure to generate smiles as they watch the bulb transform into beautiful blossoms.

Select unique variet-

ies for the avid gardeners on your list. Double Dancing Queen has 8" blooms with layers of ruffled snow-white petals adorned with brushstrokes of scarlet red. The flowers of Evergreen amaryllis feature mint green petals, and Wild Amazon has long, recurved petals in a blend of brick-red, maroon, ivory, and pale green. Simply nestle the bulbs into decorative bags, as the recipients are likely to have their own containers and potting mix.

Consider gifting the DIY'ers on your list with a growing kit that includes all the essentials: pot, potting mix, decorative moss to cover the soil, and bulb. It's everything they'll need to plant, watch and grow an amaryllis.

New gardeners and those who claim to have a brown thumb will appreciate receiving a pre-planted bulb. You will enjoy the selection and planting process, and the

recipient will get to enjoy the satisfaction of growing this no-fuss gift.

Plant the bulbs in a quality potting mix with the top half above the soil surface. Grow a single bulb in a pot that is seven to eight inches deep and five to six inches across with drainage holes. Or group several bulbs together in a larger container. After planting, water the potting mix thoroughly and place the container in a cool sunny location. Water sparingly until the bulb sprouts, which can take several weeks to a month or more.

Amaryllis may also be grown without any soil at all. Place several inches of pebbles in the bottom of a glass vase or watertight container. Cover the pebbles with water. Set the bulb on top of the pebbles, adding more stones around the bulb to hold it in place, but leaving the top one-third of the bulb exposed. Add water as needed, keep-

ing it just under and not touching the bottom of the bulb.

Look for unique containers, baskets, or other items to showcase these beauties. Check out Longfield Gardens' free downloadable Winter-Blooming Bulbs Inspiration Book for creative ways to display and decorate your home with amaryllis.

Grow a few extra bulbs so you can enjoy the long-lasting blooms as cut flowers. Wait until the buds are fully formed and soft to the touch. Cut the stems to the desired length and place them in a clean vase with fresh water. Secure the stems in place with colorful stones, ornaments, faux berries, or use a vase with a narrow opening.

Create a gift that lasts even longer with a selection of amaryllis bulbs that bloom at different times. Include early blooming bulbs grown in the southern hemisphere, such as

Alaska with its double white flowers, Opal Star with its single sun bleach red blooms, and Cape Horn with jumbo rose pink flowers. Plant these bulbs in early November so your recipient has colorful blooms for the holidays.

Keep the color coming by gifting amaryllis from Holland and other areas in the northern hemisphere. These bulbs bloom from January through March, depending on the variety and when they are planted. Three or more varieties will provide months of midwinter flowers.

Remind your gift recipient to relax while waiting for their amaryllis to start growing. The bulbs don't sprout until they're ready, and it's impossible to know exactly when that will be. Once the bud begins to emerge, the daily transformation is thrilling to watch.

Gifting amaryllis is sure to bring you and those on your gift list lots

of joy. Order bulbs early for the best selection, gather needed accessories, and have fun preparing this unique holiday gift.

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

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# By lifting ourselves, we forge a brighter future

Numerous professionals across scientific, medical, and research fields have worked to understand the correlation between human thought, emotions, and tangible outcomes. Seeking to unravel whether emotions can sway results, if daily thoughts shape reality, and if a consistently positive emotional state contributes to achieving one's dreams.

As an enthusiast of human excellence, I maintain an open yet critical perspective on research in this field, seeking evidence while remaining open to exploring the theories proposed by researchers.

Recently, I stumbled across Dr. David Hawkins. Hawkins is known for introducing a framework called The Map of Human Consciousness, a scale from 0 - 1,000 where each emotion, thought, or attitude is assigned a numerical value.

At the low end, we find states like Shame (20), Guilt (30), and Apathy (50), marked by feelings of worthlessness, blame, and despair. Moving up, we encounter Fear (100), Anger (150), and Pride (175).

According to Hawkins, an individual who predominantly operates from these emotional states tends to perceive their life through a filter of threat, conflict, and comparison.

As we ascend further, we reach the level of Courage (200), a significant turning point where empowerment begins. From here, we move into states of Willingness (310), Acceptance (350), and Reason (400), characterized by optimism, forgiveness, and under-

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standing. At the higher echelons of the map, we find Love (500), Joy (540), Peace (600), and ultimately, Enlightenment (700-1000), realms of profound compassion, bliss, serenity, and spiritual awakening.

So, how did Dr. Hawkins derive these values?

It's a process called Muscle testing, also known as Applied Kinesiology, which is a method used to assess the body's response to various stimuli through the strength of a particular muscle or muscle group, commonly the deltoid muscle in the arm.

The process involves establishing a strength baseline, introducing a stimulus such as a specific thought, substance, or type of stimulus, and then applying pressure to assess whether the muscle holds strong or weak. A strong response is interpreted as positive or 'true,' while a weak response is seen as negative or 'false.'

This process has garnered a lot of criticism

through the years, and on a side note, I have my own story with Applied Kinesiology. The first cat I ever had, "Mitten," I loved dearly and was very sick and on her deathbed.

This idea scales down proportionately: a person at level 600 offsets the negativity of 10 million individuals below 200, while someone at 500 balances out 750,000 people below the 200 threshold.

Hawkins's work suggests that every one of us has the power to make the world a better place just by working on ourselves.

By lifting ourselves, we're doing our part to create a brighter, more united future for the entire human race

and he came up with a protocol that gave her another five years!

Whether the muscle testing had anything to do with it is another matter, but it was an interesting experience, and the whole experience left me with more questions than answers.

Back to Dr. Hawkins.

His work is fascinating, particularly in how he intricately mapped human consciousness, connecting our perceptions, lifestyle choices, and even our influence on the world to our emotional states.

He proposed that our internal emotional landscape doesn't just shape our personal experiences but also holds the power to sway global dynamics.

Hawkins suggested a direct correlation between individual consciousness levels and collective global energy.

In his theory, an individual operating at a high consciousness level of 700 not only perceives the world with profound clarity and lives a life aligned with higher principles but also exerts a powerful, positive influence, counterbalancing the negativity of 70 million people whose consciousness levels fall below 200.

This idea scales down proportionately: a person at level 600 offsets the negativity of 10 million individuals below 200, while someone at 500 balances out 750,000 people below the 200 threshold.

Hawkins's work suggests that every one of us has the power to make the world a better place just by working on ourselves.

By lifting ourselves, we're doing our part to create a brighter, more united future for the entire human race

# OBITUARIES

Sheila J Saunders, 87



Sheila J (Emmons) Saunders, 87, of Leicester passed away peacefully, surrounded by family after a brief illness on October 22, 2023.

She was the beloved wife of Robert P. Saunders

who passed away in 1996. She leaves her children, Wendy L. Wood of

Norton, Michael P. Saunders and his wife Rebecca of Rochdale, Steven R. Saunders and his wife Elizabeth of Spencer, Pamela M. Shocik of Leicester, Timothy J. Saunders and his partner Felicia Phaneuf of Mansfield, and Tracy L Scolaro and her husband John of Lynnfield; Fifteen grandchildren; Jodi Scola, Lauren Miller, Jocelyn Weaver, Andrew and Nicholas Saunders, Crystal Hippel, Kimberley and Isabelle Saunders, Jacqueline Tisevich, Christopher Shocik, Tammy Falcon, Tucker and Jarrett Saunders, Chaelyn Noone, Isabella and Natalia Scolaro; 28 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, extended family mem-

bers and friends.

She was born in Worcester, the daughter of the late Hannah (Willard) and Chipman Emmons. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her sister and best friend Nancy Morgan and her brothers Paul, and Kenneth Emmons.

Sheila spent most of her life in Leicester where she made lifelong friends and memories in the community, especially during her time involved in the Leicester Drum and Bugle Corp, holding a special place in the hearts of all who knew her. Sheila was happiest spending time with family and dear friends and rooting for the Red Sox.

A funeral mass was celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 28th at Aloysius St. Jude, 491 Pleasant St., Leicester. In accordance to her wishes there will be no calling hours.

Sheila's family would like to thank the entire medical team at St. Vincents Hospital, Worcester for their wonderful care and support. In Lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Creutzfeldt- Jakob Disease Foundation in memory of her niece Dori Morgan Houston.

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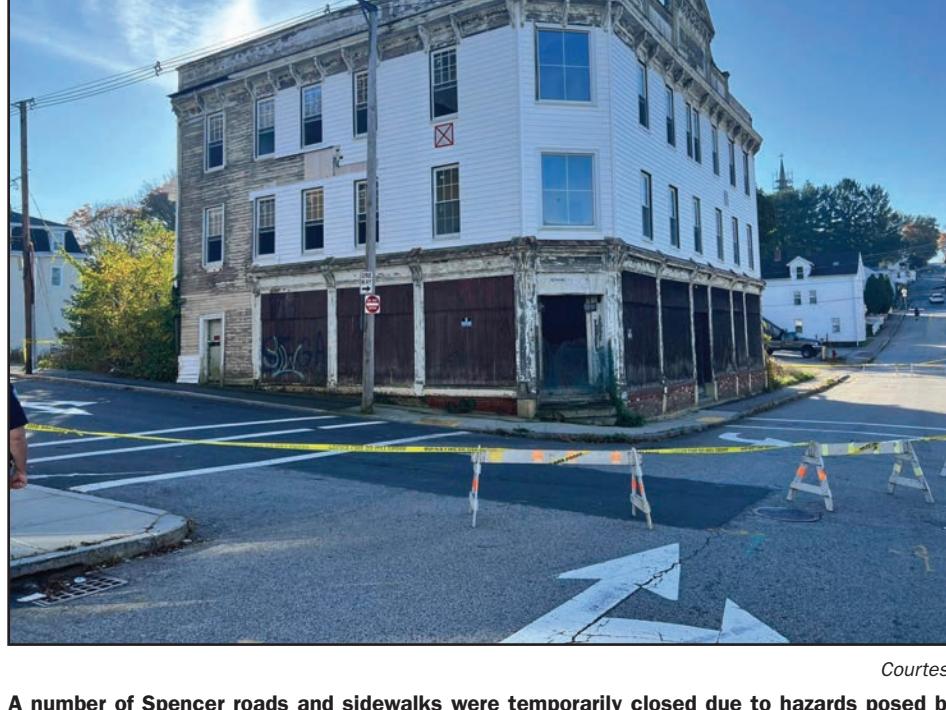


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Courtesy

A number of Spencer roads and sidewalks were temporarily closed due to hazards posed by a blighted building.

## Lamoureux Building shored up amid safety concerns

SPENCER — Several downtown streets and sidewalks were briefly closed last month due to threats posed by a blighted building on the verge of collapse.

On Oct. 25, portions of roadways and sidewalks around the condemned Lamoureux Building were closed. Residents were asked to avoid the area of Cherry, Mechanic, and Wall Streets around the building.

Later that day, crews were on site to add temporary shoring and support to the structure. Once the building was stabilized, officials reopened the roads and sidewalks.

No date has been announced for when the building will be razed.

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**STUDENTS**

continued from page A1

Award for all the progress she has made this year. And Jaylannie Bandilla won the Good Citizen Award for demonstrating kindness and considerate actions toward staff and students," the school's statement read.

Autumn Bourassa, Dante Giangrande, Aniyalee Grajales, Joshua Haden, Trinity LaMarche, Drake Sanborn, Vida Stretch, Jasyas Torres, Anthony Ortiz, and Khayden Correra-Rodriguez each won awards for perfect attendance.

The awards ceremony ended with a drawing for a gift card to Dunkin' Donuts, which was won by Khayden Correra-Rodriguez.

School officials thank all families who attended the event to support their students.

Moreover, five middle school students were recently chosen by their teachers to attend a leadership conference at American International College. Titled, "Start a Wave," this program is intended to build community leadership skills for participants.

"Students will participate in personal reflection, group challenges, and dynamic discussion, and return to their schools ready to start a positive wave," the school's statement read.

The following students will take part in the conference: Vida Stretch, Adrie Ford, Talyn Bussolari, Dylan Woodward, and Josh Haden.

Additionally, the school congratulates Project 351 ambassador Ian Fantasia. Project 351 is a grassroots, youth-led movement for positive change. One eighth-grade student from each town and city across the Commonwealth is chosen to participate in the Project 351 leadership program.

"These students will attend a kickoff meeting in Boston where they meet with the Governor and various members of our local and state government," the school's statement read.

At the high school, officials recently selected their first Senior of the Week, Diago Cruz.

"Diago exemplifies what it means to be a North Brookfield student. He is a hard worker and a positive role model in our school," the NBJSHS statement read.

Meanwhile, the NBHS sophomore class won the school's first attendance contest by averaging a 97 percent attendance rate.

In other school news, NBJSHS scheduled its first annual flag football tournament for Oct. 26. The event was organized to raise money for the school's new bleachers.

Last month, the school's junior and senior classes attended a Wachusett College fair.

"There were over 100 colleges in attendance for our students to visit. The day ended with a trip to Assumption College, where the students had lunch and took a tour of the campus," the school's statement read. "Special thanks to Ms. Pelissier for putting this together."

In March, school officials plan to hold a career fair in the gymnasium for NBJSHS students in grades 9-12.

**TOY DRIVE**

continued from page A1

tions to help their local toy program partner the Ware Police Department, who has reformed their program to be more tailored to each family in need. Our Belchertown location will only accept donations of toys, not funds, as their local toy program partner the Belchertown Police Department, has also reformed their program.

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

"As a local bank that places a high importance on embracing and committing to the values of kindness and community support, North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to continue the tradition of hosting our Annual Toy Drive at our locations," said Nicole Syriac, Digital Marketing Strategist at North Brookfield Savings Bank. "We

**COATS**

continued from page A1

Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association kicked off their annual winter coat drive with events in several area towns.

This year's goal is to deliver 4,000 new winter coats to those in need across the county.

"As the winter season approaches, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association are gearing up for their annual winter coat drive to ensure that those in need stay warm and comfortable during the winter months," read a statement released by the Sheriff's Office.

On Oct. 17, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association hosted their annual coat drive kickoff event at Pepe's Italian Restaurant in Worcester. The program helped raise

**DPHS**

continued from page A1

be ready for use in 2026.

Meanwhile, the spring and summer of 2025 are slated to see a renovation of the baseball field. The project will include upgrades to the concession stand, and use of the facilities is scheduled for 2027.

The tennis courts will be renovated in the summer of 2026, with use of the facilities expected in the fall of that year.

The summer of 2026 will also feature the demolition of Prouty's current classroom building. By then, the new classroom wing will be fully constructed and ready for student use.

Last fall, residents in Spencer and East Brookfield supported the \$111.6 million addition-renovation project at elections and special town meetings in both communities.

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**LEGALS****Commonwealth of Massachusetts****The Trial Court****Probate and Family Court****Worcester Probate****and Family Court****225 Main Street****Worcester, MA 01608****(508) 831-2200****Docket No. WO23P3723EA****CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION****Estate of:**

Louis Armand Lachance

**Also known as:** Louis A. Lachance**Date of Death: 09/22/2023**

To all interested persons:

**A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative**

has been filed by

**Daniel Louis Lachance of Ware MA**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Daniel Louis Lachance of Ware MA**be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

**10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/21/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection fol-

lowed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: October 24, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

November 03, 2023

**Town of Spencer  
Conservation Commission  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:

**Todd Ryan** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a proposed deck located at **8 Woodland Lane**, Spencer, MA.

**Robert Gregoire** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a proposed deck, home, driveway, and dock located at **9 Washburn Terrace**, Spencer, MA.

**Michael Revelli** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission

want to ensure that every child can have a wonderful holiday season, this year and every year. We know this goal is possible with the continued support and kindness of our local community. We invite all of you to visit us, as you have so generously done in the past, to make your contribution."

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

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

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

West Brookfield Branch, 128 West Main Street, Route 9 – partnering with the West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program

Ware Branch, 40 Main St., Route 9 – partnering with the Ware Police Department Holiday Toy Program

only accepting monetary donations for 2023

Belchertown Branch, 4 Daniel Shays Highway, Routes 9 and 202 – partnering with the Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program, only accepting toy donations for 2023

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

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

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

funds for this year's mission.

The Oct. 17 fundraiser drew several community sponsors eager to support the coat drive. These included Saint Francis Community Health Care, The Gun Parlor, Mercadante Funeral Home, Athol Savings Bank, Falcone Enterprises, The Savickas Family, NEPBA Local 550 Worcester County Correction Officers, The Krock Family & Commerce Associates, Berkshire Bank, and Tito's Handmade Vodka, among other local organizations.

From Oct. 24-27, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team distributed thousands of coats to community members and organizations.

"These coats will provide warmth and comfort during the colder months, and serve as a symbol of support and care from local law enforcement," read the statement released by the Sheriff's Office.

For Evangelidis and his team, it's always inspiring to work with commu-

nity members and local businesses to help ensure that residents stay warm this winter.

"As recipients tell us, these coats represent so much more than a winter jacket—they represent a community that cares," Evangelidis said. "The department has received countless displays of appreciation from the recipients, which shows just how much of an impact this gesture has. This is a special time of the year for the Sheriff's Department, and we're looking forward to connecting with the community members we serve."

Distribution events were held throughout Worcester County, including locations in Worcester, Webster, Southbridge, and Gardner, among others.

To learn more about projects and initiatives run by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, visit [www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com](http://www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com).

**Veterans Day parade  
route announced**

SPENCER — The Spencer Veterans Day parade will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 3:30 p.m.

The parade route will start at the American Legion and proceed down Main Street, turn left onto Elm Street, then left onto Chestnut, left on to Maple Street, back to Main Street, and end at the Isaac Prouty Memorial Park for the unveiling of the newly installed World War II and Korean War memorials.

We welcome all groups and organizations to attend this year's services. For more information, please contact David Caputo, Senior Vice Commander, Gaudette-Kirk Post #138, Spencer, at (508) 615-3338.

**Christ Memorial Church  
hosting Red Door Fair**

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Christ Memorial Episcopal Church invites guests to attend its Red Door Fair this month.

The event is set for Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located at 133 Main St.

The fair will include raffles; an exquisite table; a Christmas table; a bake table; a craft table; and a homemade luncheon.

In honor of Veterans Day, lunch will be offered free to veterans.

**Chair**

Zoning Board of Appeals

October 27, 2023

November 3, 2023

Carlos Hernandez, owner of a 2009 Honda Civic, Plate# N/A Vin#2HGF-G1299H526452, has abandoned vehicle on 09/03/23 at Deer Pond Auto/JR'S Towing LLC. Deer pond will seek ownership of vehicle after 21 days of first ad placement if vehicle is not reclaimed and charges paid for. November 03, 2023

**Notice of Public Hearing****Town of Spencer****Tax Classification**

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on November 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, relating to classification and taxation of property according to use.

Interested taxpayers may present their views verbally or in writing to the Board of Selectmen at Memorial Town Hall prior to or during said hearing.

If you are not able to attend in-person, you may dial in from your phone:

1 866 899 4679 Enter Access Code:

479-429-349

Or join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/TownofSpencerMA/boardofselectmen>

November 03, 2023

# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

12:31 a.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), verbal warning; 12:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:17 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 9:33 a.m.: illegal dumping (Towtai Street), referred; 9:52 a.m.: malicious mischief (Main Street), report taken; 12:00 p.m.: mv stop (Willow Hill Road), written warning; 12:36 p.m.: ambulance (Marlboro Drive), transported; 12:51 p.m.: keep the peace (Carleton Road), resolved; 1:08 p.m.: hit/run accident (Washburn Square), report taken; 3:06 p.m.: ambulance (Whittemore Street), transported; 4:09 p.m.: welfare check (Charles Street), assisted; 4:48 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), report taken.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

12:22 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:01 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 7:37 a.m.: erratic operator (Paxton Street), gone on arrival; 9:20 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 10:03 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 11:11 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 11:15 a.m.: property found (South Main Street), report taken; 11:18 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:18 p.m.: ambulance (Parent Street, Spencer), no action required; 12:39 p.m.: assist other PD (Bottomly Avenue), report taken; 1:42 p.m.: ambulance (Hastings Road), transported; 2:31 p.m.: RV complaint (Logan Street), spoken to; 3:19 p.m.: investigation (Logan Street), report taken; 4:02 p.m.: ambulance (Brookside Drive), transported; 4:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:11 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 5:39 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:56 p.m.: investigation (Logan Street), report taken; 8:42 p.m.: family problem (Henshaw Street), resolved; 9:10 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street, Charlton), services rendered; 10:12 p.m.: ambulance (Power Station Road, Charlton), services rendered; 11:16 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 11:30 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), resolved; 11:51 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

12:15 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), gone on arrival; 12:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:46 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 1:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, speeding, criminal application issued; 2:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Brain Joseph Lehtola, 39, 3 Anthony Street, Webster, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 9:54 a.m.: ambulance (Hunton Memorial Highway), transported; 10:06 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), Fabio Geovanny Sanchez Rivas, 40, 4 Lewis Street, #2, Worcester, straight warrant, arrest; 12:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO; 1:23 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital; 3:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), resolved; 3:39 p.m.: debris in road (Moose Hill Road), resolved; 3:59 p.m.: suspicious mv (Bond Street), resolved; 4:45 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:50 p.m.: ambulance (Hunton Memorial Highway), citation issued; 5:44 p.m.: family problem (Henshaw Street), resolved; 6:40 p.m.: harassment (Sargent Street), Martika Perez, 33, 20 Lakeview Drive, Leicester, violation of harassment prevention order, arrest; 6:46 p.m.: debris in road (Marshall Street), resolved; 9:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:00 p.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), resolved; 10:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:18 p.m.: sus-

picious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 11:35 p.m.: suspicious (Paxton Street), resolved.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

12:03 a.m.: threats (Pleasant Street), report taken; 2:25 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 6:11 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:50 a.m.: disturbance (Dale Court), Kevin Robert Provencher, 45, 5 Dale Court, #2, Rochdale, a&b w/dangerous weapon, straight warrant, arrest; 9:28 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 3:55 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), peace restored; 4:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Street), referred to ACO; 4:53 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), Kendrick Kranwinkel, 30, 1093 Main Street, #3, Leicester, a&b w/dangerous weapon, arrest; 6:56 p.m.: accident (Rawson Street), report taken; 6:59 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:05 p.m.: accident (Rawson Street), report taken; 7:34 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 10:25 p.m.: assist citizen (Brickyard Road); 11:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, citation issued.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

2:31 a.m.: disturbance (Hemlock Street), assisted; 5:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:18 a.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 6:39 a.m.: welfare check (Burncoat Lane), call canceled; 9:38 a.m.: debris in road (South Main Street), resolved; 10:12 a.m.: animal complaint (Dale Street), referred to ACO; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Dale Court), citation issued; 11:09 a.m.: investigation (Hunton Memorial Highway), report taken; 11:38 a.m.: investigation (Craig Street), report taken; 12:43 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), resolved; 12:55 p.m.: investigation (Clark Street), report taken; 1:15 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 1:35 p.m.: parking complaint (Tobin Road), resolved; 1:49 p.m.: stolen mv (South Main Street), resolved; 2:12 p.m.: fraud (Craig Street), report taken; 2:22 p.m.: assist other agency (Mannville Street), services rendered; 2:26 p.m.: suspicious person (Mannville Street), resolved; 2:44 p.m.: drug violation (Main Street), resolved; 2:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred to ACO; 3:02 p.m.: malicious mischief (Main Street), report taken; 3:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:26 p.m.: animal complaint (Laurelwood Avenue), referred to ACO; 4:37 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 4:43 p.m.: malicious mischief (Main Street), report taken; 5:59 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), restraining order served; 7:25 p.m.: suspicious activity (Pleasant Street), resolved; 7:26 p.m.: residential alarm (Mannville Street), call canceled; 7:33 p.m.: ambulance (Warren Avenue), transported; 11:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

1:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:20 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), spoken to; 1:51 a.m.: mv stop (Waite Street), verbal warning; 4:11 a.m.: mv stop (Hunton Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 7:52 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 8:24 a.m.: neighbor dispute (Mill Street), services rendered; 10:44 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), no action required; 12:10 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 12:44 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival; 1:19 p.m.: welfare check (Deer Pond Drive), assisted; 1:52 p.m.: restraining order service (Clark Street), served; 2:38 p.m.: investigation (River Street), report taken; 3:31 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unfounded; 4:26 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), peace restored; 5:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street), report taken; 5:24 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 5:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO; 6:20 p.m.: suspicious person (Hunton Memorial Highway), gone on arrival; 6:42 p.m.: ambulance (Hunton Memorial Highway), transported; 8:12 p.m.: ambulance (Clark Street), transported; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street, Worcester), verbal warning; 8:56 p.m.: commercial alarm (Washburn Square), false alarm; 9:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 10:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:18 p.m.: sus-

Street), verbal warning; 10:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Latricia Renee Vancalette, 46, 8 Aldena Road, Worcester, OUI liquor, misc. mv eqpt. violations; arrest; 11:57 p.m.: welfare check (Hunton Memorial Highway), transported to hospital; 11:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Warren Avenue), resolved.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

12:28 a.m.: ambulance (Hunton Memorial Highway), transported; 7:03 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:20 a.m.: ambulance (Sabina Circle), transported; 8:50 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:13 a.m.: fraud (Woodland Road), report taken; 11:05 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 11:14 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:41 p.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), unable to locate; 2:46 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 4:21 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:41 p.m.: ambulance (Bixby Road, Spencer), transported; 5:03 p.m.: ambulance (Hunton Memorial Highway), transported; 5:56 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), resolved; 6:05 p.m.: suspicious person (Hunton Memorial Highway), resolved; 7:49 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 10:10 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 11:24 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted.

## #

## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

12:33-5:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:48 a.m.: parking violation (Temple Street), ticket issued; 7:08 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:06 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), car horn sounding; 9:10 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 9:52 a.m.: disturbance (Lakeshore Drive), neighbor issues; 10:09 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), info change; 10:20 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), outcome not recorded on police log; 10:35 a.m.: animal complaint (Lake Avenue), animal in walls; 10:57 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:10 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 1:19 p.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 1:48 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:01 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 2:42 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address/2; 3:04 p.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 4:41 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), assisted; 5:08 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 5:39 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), re: overdue motorist; 5:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Bemis Road), req. property check; 6:16 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), State Police bolo/erratic operator; 7:45 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 9:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Sullivan Street), re: threats from ex; 9:11 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:12 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 10:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; (total daily mv stops - 1).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

12:27-2:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:31 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 1:04 a.m.: parking violation (Summit Street), ticket issued; 1:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), unauth. use of mv by son/accident; 2:42 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), resolved; 7:19 a.m.: 911 call (McDonald Street), outcome not recorded on police log; 7:30 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), rep. temp. road closure; 7:41 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:35 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 9:28 a.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 9:48 a.m.: animal complaint (Brown Street), c/o barking dog; 10:34 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 10:38 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), re: rabid raccoon; 10:53 a.m.: animal complaint (Northwest Road), cow/calf in road; 11:24 a.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), accidental; 12:10 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 1:19 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), raccoon/poss. injure/sick; 1:52 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:04 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), road crew blocking lane of traffic; 2:07 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 2:15 p.m.: officer wanted

(Main Street), issue w/business in town; 2:48 p.m.: restraining order service (Sullivan Street); 3:02 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:19 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report rec'd; 3:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. assistance w/bldg. entry; 4:24 p.m.: burglary/business (Cherry Street), warehouse broken into; 4:34 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 5:08 p.m.: citizen complaint (Greenville Street), re: construction flagger; 5:48 p.m.: mv lockout (Paxton Road), services rendered; 7:52 p.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), alarms chirping in PD; 8:15 p.m.: mutual aid (Church Street), req. welfare check; 9:48 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 0).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

12:02 a.m.: suspicious persons (Maple Street), investigated; 12:36-4:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:31 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:53 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:04 a.m.: mv complaint (Paxton Road), work crew blocking buses; 8:11 a.m.: vandalism (High Street), damage to mv o/night; 8:54 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), daugh. hasn't ret. mv; 10:27 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 11:10 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 11:59 a.m.: accident (Water Street), report taken; 12:14 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:54 p.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), mv damaged by TT; 1:14 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 1:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Marble Road), re: parking at b/day party; 1:36 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 2:49 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 3:50 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 8:40 p.m.: officer wanted (G.H. Wilson Road), rep. extortion; 10:56 p.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), noise complaint; (total daily mv stops - 0).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

12:22 a.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), noise complaint; 2:26-3:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:34 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), set off by employee; 7:51 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), test; 8:31 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:09 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog/Leicester; 1:35 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 2:33 p.m.: parking complaint (Maple Terrace), mv parked facing wrong way; 7:24 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), c/o previous incident; 7:26 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. ride; 7:32 p.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), noise complaint; 10:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (Wire Village Road), investigated; 11:25-11:58 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 0).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

12:04-12:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:36 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 3:14 a.m.: disabled mv (Hastings Road), assisted; 6:22 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 9:01 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 9:44 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Gardner PD bolo; 10:32 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:48 p.m.:

medical/general (Northwest Road); 12:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), rep. dog bites; 12:54 p.m.: accident (G.H. Wilson Road), report taken; 1:12 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 1:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 2:10 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo/stolen mv; 2:30 p.m.: suspicious persons (Valley Street), investigation; 5:31 p.m.: vandalism (Ash Street), sign spray painted; 6:29 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: poss. harassment prevention order violation; 8:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), family issue; 10:06 p.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), misdi; 10:06 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); (total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

3:05-3:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:03 a.m.: medical/general (Whittemore Court); 7:11 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:31 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 8:06 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), unwanted party; 8:18 a.m.: mv complaint (Valley Street), re: aggressive motorist; 9:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), TT can't navigate detour; 9:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), no trespass order served/2; 10:49 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 11:24 a.m.: restraining order service (Pearl Street); 12:30 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 12:43 p.m.: residential alarm (Taylor Street), services rendered; 3:47 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: rocks in road; 5:53 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Main Street); 6:38 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 7:06 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 10:05 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Auburn PD bolo; 11:51 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), unwanted party; (total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

1:13-2:17 a.m.: building checked, secure; 3:25 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:25 a.m.: suspicious activity (West Main Street), investigated; 8:13 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), re: road closure; 8:34 a.m.: officer wanted (Kittredge Road), re: earlier incident; 8:40 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:42 a.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 10:04 a.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street); 10:25 a.m.: vandalism (South Spencer Road), dog station "ripped apart"; 11:16 a.m.: medical/general (Crown Street); 12:34 p.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), canceled; 2:54 p.m.: accident (Roys Drive), report taken; 2:55 p.m.: medical/overdose (Smithville Road); 3:02 p.m.: medical/general (Olde Main Street); 3:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Highland Street), req. welfare check; 5:23 p.m.: DPW call (Mechanic Street), wall leaning; 5:37 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 8:25 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), mv vs deer; 9:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Route 49), investigated; 9:53 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; (total daily mv stops - 1).

# # #

## Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Joshua and I always try my best!

Joshua is a friendly and active boy that wishes to meet Tom Brady and get his signature, play in the NFL, and live a happy life. His social worker describes him as bright, engaging, and extremely curious. Joshua loves sports, especially football and basketball. The legendary Tom Brady is one of his role models and he hopes to be a quarterback just like him one day. Joshua was involved with the ski club this year and enjoyed the winter. He makes friends easily and is doing well in school, including participating in clubs outside of regular hours. His favorite classes in school are computers and gym and he likes to read the Dogman book series. A phrase that he says represents him is "never give up, win or lose!"

Josh took the time to share a memorable event from his life, "I remember when I was at the 'town' football field and I was on the field most of the time. I had three important tackles during the game and my name was announced on the speakers three times. I had lots of fun because I played a lot!" Josh also has "favorites" that he shared with us, including: Jaguars being his favorite animal because of the football team The Jacksonville Jaguars, Spring being his favorite season because it is nice and warm, Justin Bieber being his favorite musical artist, and cheese being his favorite pizza topping. Joshua also likes to draw and watch scary movies. Joshua has expressed that he would like a family with siblings and pets. He hopes that they will be a sport loving family and will play football and basketball with him. Josh currently visits with his birth parents 5x/year and would have

## SPORTS

# *David Prouty tops Pioneers, fights back to .500*



David Prouty quarterback Logan Josti fires off a 10-yard first quarter touchdown pass.

SOUTHBRIIDGE — Although the David Prouty varsity football team began its season 0-4, all of those losses were by two scores or less. And the Panthers shook off those losses the next four weeks, defeating Bartlett (36-12), Murdock (48-14), Quaboag (8-0) and then finally Southbridge (42-0), the last coming Friday, Oct. 27 at McMahon Field, to improve to 4-4 in the regular season finale.

Prouty got the scoring started early in the first

quarter when quarterback Logan Josti hit JJ Neiray on a 10-yard pass. Then, later in the half, the Panthers' Jamison Kondratowicz found the end zone on a 5-yard run and Josti hit Finn Hitchner on the two-point conversion pass.

Prouty took a 22-0 lead into the halftime break when Josti's deep pass to Neiray from 65 yards found pay dirt. Josti then connected with Kondratowicz on the two-point pass.

The Panthers then put the game away with 20 more points in the second half.

David Prouty didn't quite qualify for the Division 8 State Playoffs, though. Instead, they will play a non-playoff game Friday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m.

The Pioneers (0-8) will also compete in a non-playoff game Friday, Nov. 3, where they will host Murdock at 6:30 p.m.



Finn Hitchner of David Prouty crosses the goal line during his two-point conversion reception.



David Prouty's Cam Goodrich fights for additional yardage while carrying the ball.

## Pirates get past Leicester, make case for State Tournament



Nick Ethier photos

Leicester's Mason Griffiths breaks through the line of scrimmage while carrying the ball.



Jack Ledbetter of Leicester fakes receiving the ball, while quarterback Mason Griffiths takes off with it.



Leicester's Anthony Dagostino gets low to tackle Oxford's Andruw Martinez.

OXFORD — A win over Leicester was necessary for the Oxford varsity football

team to have any chance at qualifying for the Division 7 State Tournament. The Pirates entered the game seeded 17th, with the top 16 qualifying.

And, when the two met on Friday, Oct. 27, Oxford got the job done. The Pirates held a 17-7 halftime lead and eventually won a 30-15 decision.

Oxford got the scoring started in the first quarter on a 20-yard QB keeper by Kellen Clarkson. But the Wolverines pulled ahead in the second quarter, 7-6, with a Mason Griffiths 3-yard TD run before also booting the point after kick.

The Pirates then scored on a Clarkson to Andruw Martinez 24-yard TD, and Clarkson added a two-point run. Alexander Perry then kicked a 30-yard field goal as the first half clock expired.

Oxford boosted its lead to 23-7 in the third quarter on a Clarkson to Martinez 8-yard TD before Leicester cut the deficit down to 23-15 when Griffiths called his own number from 10 yards out. Griffiths then added the two-point run.

The Pirates closed the door in the fourth quarter with a Clarkson to Jordan DeLeon 6-yard passing touch-

down. Perry then kicked the PAT for the final point.

Oxford improved to 5-3 and had to wait until Sunday, Oct. 29 to learn their fate. The Pirates jumped up to the No. 16 seed, qualifying for the playoffs. They will play at No. 1 Uxbridge (8-0) on Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. The Spartans defeated Oxford back on Sept. 22, 50-14.

The Wolverines dropped to 2-6 and didn't qualify for the Division 7 Tournament. Leicester will play in a non-playoff matchup at Nipmuc on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m.

## HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK — TANTASQUA FOOTBALL GAINS THIRD VICTORY

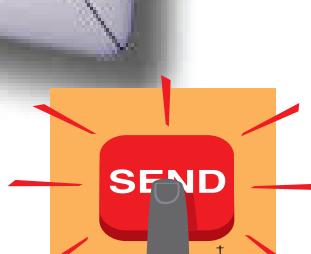
On Friday, Oct. 27, the Tantasqua varsity football team traveled to Bolton and soundly defeated the Wolves, 35-13. The Warriors trailed after the first quarter, 10-7, but won the second frame by a 21-3 count to surge ahead, 28-13. Overall, quarterback Adam Howe completed 15 of 16 passes for 233 yards and a pair of touchdowns, which were caught by Jack Rapose (7 catches, 142 yards). Brandon Denham added a pair of rushing scores and Logan Arrastia added another TD on the ground. Luke Marvin successfully booted all five of her PAT's through the uprights. Tantasqua improved to 3-5 with the win.

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# SPORTS

## Freshmen help propel Douglas past Wolverines, into CMADA Class C Final



Grace Bujak of Leicester gets on her horse, racing toward the loose ball.



Leicester keeper Jill Rodrique dives to her right in order to make a save and keep the ball from going into her net.

**From left, Leicester's Taylor Rodrique and Douglas' Emily Ramsdell do battle for possession of the ball.**

LEICESTER — Jarred Stand, head coach of the Douglas girls' varsity soccer team, noted that this year's version of the Tigers is one of the most skilled he's had in years.

And that is a result of every player on the roster being able to contribute at a high level, from seasoned seniors to ready-to-go freshmen.

"It's because of our upperclassmen over the years getting better each year, but then we bring in some freshmen that are really talented," said Stand.

The freshmen stood out when third seeded Douglas took on No. 2 Leicester in a Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association (CMADA) Class C Tournament Semifinal on Saturday, Oct. 28. The ninth graders scored three of the Tigers' four goals in a 4-1

victory.

"We try to attack from different places. We had an outside mid, we had a holding mid, we had a striker. It was a freshman at all different levels," explained Stand.

Julia Kaminski (16th minute), Sevanna Sroczenski (40th minute) and Arianna Delgado (70th minute) were the freshmen goal scorers, as sophomore Allison Gordon (33rd minute) also tallied for Douglas.

Senior Mya Benoit scored in the 42nd minute off a corner kick for the Wolverines, her cross pinballing off a Tiger and finding the back of the net.

"We lost to a very good team. I thought the second half we really played the way we wanted to," said Leicester head coach Joe Mercier. "It's staying disciplined, staying con-

nected."

The Wolverines (8-5-3) had one last regular season game to play before embarking on the Division 4 State Tournament.

"A lot of hard work went into this. All their preseason training in

June, they had a motto: 'we're working now to play in November,'" said Mercier. "That's what we're geared towards. It's been a great season and we're far from done."

Douglas, meanwhile, improved to 9-7-2 and were slated to play No. 1

Sutton for the CMADA Class C Championship, after press time. And then the red-hot Tigers will play in the Division 5 State Tournament.

"Our goal is to be playing better each and every half, each and every game," said Stand.

"Against a very good Leicester team today we were able to score four goals, so we are building to where we want to be."

## Warriors play great game to take down Marlborough in CMADA opener



Tantasqua's Lilina Shiers breaks free from Marlborough's defense for her first goal.



Tess Chevalier of Tantasqua tracks down a loose ball.

STURBRIDGE — The Tantasqua girls' varsity soccer team put it all together when hosting Marlborough on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

"Solid performance offensively, defensively



Tantasqua's Eve Van Wickler (foreground) and Nicki Vejack (back) tightly defend Marlborough's Ava VanBuskirk.

and in the middle," said Matthew Rickson, head coach of the Warriors. "All three lines did their job and did it well."

Tantasqua, seeded third in the Central Mass. Athletic Directors

Association (CMADA) Class A Tournament, defeated the sixth ranked Panthers, 4-1.

The Warriors' Lilina Shiers scored in the eighth minute when she collected a high-arching pass from Eleanor Colati. The ball landed in front of both Shiers and the Marlborough keeper, but Shiers was the first to track it down and she then had the open net to shoot into.

The Panthers' Ava VanBuskirk then tied the game in the 16th minute, but from there the play was all Tantasqua.

"We kept organized and played our game," Rickson said of when Marlborough tied it up. "They remained focused. They work off each other. They see someone working hard and they work harder or just as hard."

Shiers scored the eventual game-winner in the 20th minute, with Kaydie O'Neil assisting, and Shiers completed a hat



Ava Chevalier of Tantasqua (12) keeps right with Marlborough's Emma Reynolds.

trick early in the second half when the Warriors had a corner and Colati sent in a perfect ball with Shiers scoring via a header. Eve Van Wickler

(Emma Pesaturo assist) scored the game's final score.

Tantasqua then played No. 2 Algonquin in the CMADA semifinals on

Saturday, Oct. 28, losing in a tight game, 1-0. The Warriors finished the regular season 14-4 and will next play in the Division 3 State Tournament.

## SPORTS

# Minutemen lose heartbreaker in final minute to BMR, but remain postseason bound



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Kaiden Brochu takes off for a big gain while rushing the football.



Quarterback Corey Scovil of Bay Path launches a pass toward teammate Brayden Downes.



With teammate Kaiden Brochu helping on the ground, Bay Path defender Estaban Pimentel tackles Blackstone-Millville's Ethan Arzgian.

BLACKSTONE — The 6-1 Bay Path versus 6-1 Blackstone-Millville varsity football matchup on Saturday, Oct. 28 had all the makings of being a very close matchup, and that turned out to be true. Unfortunately for the Minutemen, though, they came out on the wrong side of the final score, losing to the Chargers in the last minute, 31-27.

"They played really physical," Bay Path head coach Cody Giampa said of Blackstone-Millville. "We knew they were

going to do that, and we just didn't meet that challenge today. We played well in spurts, but when you're playing good teams, you can't play well in spurts. You have to play well all the time."

Now with a record of 6-2, the Minutemen had to sweat out whether or not they qualified for the Division 6 State Tournament. They found out their fate on Sunday, Oct. 29, and Bay Path received the 16th and final seed in the postseason. They will play at No. 1 Norwell (7-1) on Friday, Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Bay Path's touchdowns came on a Brayden Downes 6-yard run, a Downes 20-yard run, a Kaiden Brochu 2-yard

## Tigers pepper Bay Path net, earn first round CMADA Tournament victory



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Nicholas Marchessault retrieves the ball back in his team's defensive end.

DOUGLAS — The Douglas boys' varsity soccer team continued to pepper Bay Path's net when the two met in the first round of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association (CMADA) Class B Tournament on Tuesday, Oct. 24. And, although it took 26 minutes to score, the Tigers eventually wore down the Minutemen.

Second seeded Douglas ultimately defeated No. 7 Bay Path, 4-0.

The Tigers' first goal came off their third corner kick where Chris Dame sent the ball in and



Shaun McLaughlin of Bay Path dribbles the ball down the field.

and overtime, the game remained tied at 2-2 and went to penalty kicks. There, Douglas won the game and advanced to the CMADA final to play

Oakmont after press time. After that, the Tigers will have one of the top seeds in the Division 5 State Tournament.

Bay Path next took



Bay Path's Zachary Moody drives the ball down the left side.



Keeper Cayden Young of Bay Path reaches back to make a save before Douglas' Chris Dame can get to the ball.

on No. 8 Lunenburg on Thursday, Oct. 26 in a consolation game. The Minutemen lost, 2-0, and

had one final regular season game to go before the Division 4 State Tournament.

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# State officials scramble to address worsening migrant crisis

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

REGION — State officials are scrambling to manage a dire new phase of the migrant crisis, which has rapidly worsened amid heavy demand for shelter.

Gov. Maura Healey recently announced that, by the end of October, the state would no longer be able to add units to its emergency shelter system for families experiencing homelessness.

"For months, the state's emergency family shelter system has been expanding at an unsustainable rate to meet rising demand driven by increasing numbers of newly arriving migrant families and slower exits of families in long-term emergency shelter stays," read a statement released by the Governor's office late last month. "The state will not be able to accommodate more than 7,500 families, or approximately 24,000 individuals, and will likely hit this number by the end of the month."

As of Oct. 16, there were nearly 7,000 families with children or pregnant women in emergency shelters across Massachusetts, which remains the only right-to-shelter state in the nation. About half of the individuals in emergency shelters are children, officials said.

Healey also announced several actions that her administration has taken to address the crisis, including the appointment of Lt. General Leon Scott Rice as Emergency Assistance Director.

"For months now, we have been expanding shelter capacity at an unsustainable rate to meet rising demand. Despite the heroic work of public officials, shelter providers, and the National Guard, we have reached a point where we can no longer safely or responsibly expand," said Healey. "Lt. General Rice has extensive experience leading large-scale emergency management operations, and we are confident he is the right person to lead us through this new phase of the emergency shelter system."

Additionally, the Governor's team pledged to focus on helping families exit shelters quicker and move into more permanent housing. To do this, officials plan to add new initiatives for connecting eligible individuals with work opportunities.

Since the summer months, the Governor and her staff have remained under intense scrutiny for their handling of the crisis, which has dominated a turbulent first year for the new administration.

"The Governor and I understand the strain that has been placed on Massachusetts communities over the past year, as we have all come together to ensure that families have access to the shelter and resources they need," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "Together, we will move forward on our efforts to connect families with work and permanence."

ment housing, while continuing to call on the federal government to help us meet this moment."

In his new role, Rice will oversee management and coordination of the state's emergency shelter system, including leading the Healey Administration's Incident Command Team. Launched in May, the team includes representatives from multiple state agencies.

"He will be responsible for implementing this new phase of the emergency shelter system, coordinating directly with local, state and federal officials, and updating the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on daily developments," read the statement released by the Governor's office.

Rice has more than 40 years of experience with the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard, retiring as a Lt. General and disabled veteran in 2020. He was the Director of the Air National Guard from 2016-20, managing an \$11.5 billion budget and more than 100,000

personnel spread across every U.S. state and territory. He also served as the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard from 2012-16.

"I'm honored that Gov. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll have placed their faith in me to lead this critical mission to ensure the safety and wellbeing of families in Massachusetts," Rice said. "I've spent my career leading large-scale organizations and emergency response operations, and I've learned that communication and partnership are key to meeting any challenge."

As of Nov. 1, the state is no longer able to add new shelter units. Families seeking shelter will be assessed by teams across the state, and those with health and safety risks will be prioritized for placement, officials said.

Families who are not immediately connected with shelter resources will be placed on a waiting list.

Meanwhile, the Healey Administration plans to expand sup-

ports for rapid rehousing and rental assistance initiatives, such as HomeBASE. This will facilitate additional transitions to permanent housing, officials said.

State leaders are also calling on the federal government, local communities, faith-based organizations, and others to help support homeless families during this difficult period.

"Gov. Healey will continue to use every tool at her disposal to advocate for federal assistance to this federal problem. She has made multiple requests to Department of Homeland Security Secretary (DHS) Alejandro Mayorkas for federal funding and improvements to the work authorization process," read the statement released by the Governor's office.

Last month, a DHS consultant team visited Massachusetts to evaluate the situation, holding multiple meetings with officials over two days and visiting shelters.

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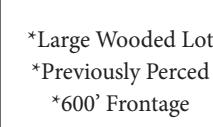
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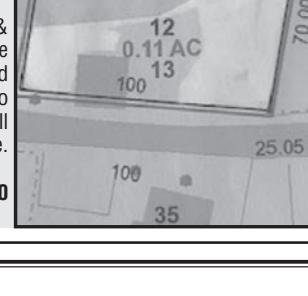


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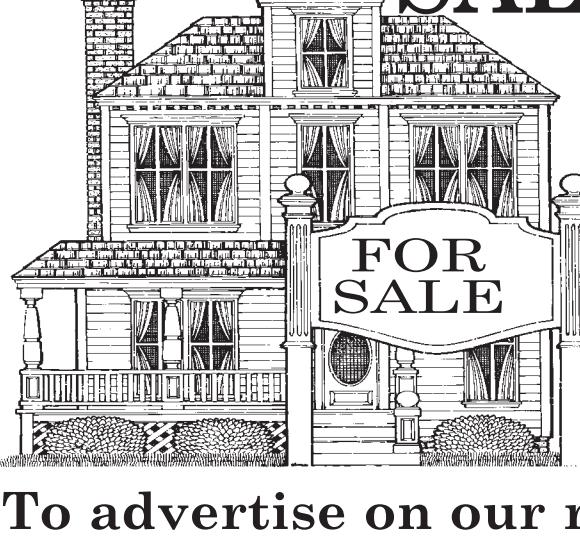


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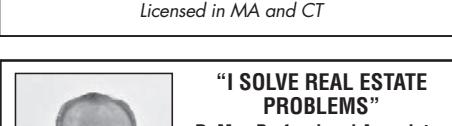
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