

SPENCER NEW LEADER

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

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, November 24, 2023

Eagle Scout's project benefits church and community

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
SPENCER — With the recent completion of his Eagle Scout project, James McNicol augmented both his church and his community.

A senior at David Prouty High School, McNicol is a member of Troop 201 based in town. After working hard for several years and earning the opportunity to select an Eagle Scout project, he knew right away which direction he wanted to pursue.

"My Eagle Scout project consisted of removing the old, overgrown bushes on each side of the main entrance of Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, and replacing them with arborvitae trees, flowers, rocks, and mulch," McNicol told the New Leader. "I am a life-long parishioner at Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, so I wanted to do this project to not only make the entrance much nicer to look at, but also to give back to the parish for chartering my scout troop over the years."

McNicol completed his Eagle Scout project in May after receiving assistance from fellow Scouts, friends, and local adults.

The project took several hours to finish, and the results have impressed the entire community.

"I am very happy with the end result, and I think it turned out even nicer than I originally expected," McNicol added.

McNicol officially became an Eagle Scout on Aug. 21 after completing all of the requirements incumbent for the rank. On Nov. 5, McNicol joined his Scouting leaders, friends, and family members at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

First awarded in 1912, the Eagle Scout honor serves as the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank. Only the most dedicated, diligent Scouts across the country achieve the rank.

"To me, being an Eagle Scout means to live a life of honor, service, and leadership. I hope to always use the values that I have learned as a Scout in my everyday life, and always be there to help my community and those in need," said McNicol, who has been involved in Scouting for more than 11 years.

McNicol began as a Cub Scout in Pack 138 at the American Legion in town, spending five years as a member before moving on to the Boy Scouts for the past six years.

Along the way, he has learned countless life lessons while making unforgettable memories with friends.

"Some of my favorite memories have come from the many adventures and camping trips my troop has embarked on over the years," McNicol said. "Some of my favorite activities have been whitewater rafting, backpacking in the White Mountains, and doing community service to give back to the community."

After high school, McNicol plans to attend college and eventually obtain his master's degree in biomedical engineering.

"I hope to improve people's lives through biomedical engineering throughout my future career," McNicol added.



Courtesy
James McNicol's recent Eagle Scout project benefited Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish.

Visitor offers LMS students firsthand account of internment during WWII



Courtesy
From left, Leicester Middle School Principal Doug Daponde, guest speaker Sam Mihara, and LMS social studies teacher Norman Everett.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — Students at Leicester Middle School recently discovered that the best history lessons are provided by those who experienced world-changing events firsthand.

For Sam Mihara, who visited LMS on Nov. 9 as a guest speaker, the World War II era isn't simply a dark, distant chapter in world history to be read about in textbooks. It's an indelible memory of personal suffering for himself and his family.

Mihara, an American-born citizen of Japanese ancestry, was only nine years old when the U.S. entered the Second World War. In 1942, Mihara and several members of his family were forced by armed U.S. military guards to move from their home in San Francisco to a Wyoming prison camp.

The facility was one of several military-run internment camps designated to house West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry. During a time of rampant mistrust and hatred of people with Japanese ancestry following the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, many of the captives were U.S.-born American citizens.

After suddenly becoming prisoners in the land of the free, Mihara and his family soon realized that the nightmare was only just beginning.

"We lived in a room with no electricity, no running water, and hardly any space. It was miserable," Mihara told the New Leader.

Deprived of their liberties, forced to endure punishing winters that saw

temperatures regularly plunge into the negatives, Mihara and his family battled through illnesses and hunger for three years. Only when the war ended in 1945 were they finally released, but their lives would be forever scarred by the tribulations of captivity.

Now, nearly 80 years later, Mihara travels across the country to share his story with students. His goal is to educate young people about the past to ensure the horrors of that era are never repeated.

"We must be very careful and take measures to make sure it doesn't happen again," said Mihara, who has presented at over 500 schools nationwide. "It can happen anywhere, if you have that combina-

Turn To **MIHARA** page **A14**

Spencer voters approve moratorium on commercial solar projects

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Voters at this month's Special Town Meeting approved all articles on the warrant, including moratoriums affecting commercial solar installations.

With the passage of Article 15 at the Nov. 9 Town Meeting, voters authorized a moratorium on commercial energy storage systems at solar arrays until May 2024. Officials told the New Leader the moratorium is important to ensure safe practices moving forward.

"I am pleased that Article 15 passed," said Selectman Ralph Hicks. "The state does not yet allow local regulation of these systems. The state is in the process of drafting such regulations. The moratorium gives Spencer time for the state to write regulations to empower communities to

control these dangerous storage systems, many of which are now near homes and place residents in the path of possible danger."

Officials anticipate that language addressing regulations on commercial energy storage systems will eventually be included in the town's solar bylaw.

Spencer currently has 21 approved large-scale, ground-mounted solar farms either already completed or under construction. Another two installations are in the permitting process.

Officials said many of these installations rely on the use of independent systems to store the energy produced by the solar facilities. The operators of other sites have expressed their intent to use such systems, which officials say has created several concerns.

"The town needs time to study the impact of

this evolution on its current regulation of solar facilities and adjust that regulation as necessary to ensure that it conforms to legal requirements while adequately addressing the impact of large-scale solar facilities on the town and its planning goals," read a statement released by Town Planner Lauren Vivier.

The town's current bylaw contains no regulations governing the use of independent energy storage systems.

"These systems raise significant and evolving environmental and planning issues for the town, thereby creating an urgent need to adopt regulations addressing this use," read a recommendation released by the Planning Board ahead of the Special Town Meeting.

No applications for projects featuring independent energy storage

Turn To **SOLAR** page **A14**

Parade of Lights returns Dec. 9

SPENCER — Local residents and families are once again invited to take in a dazzling seasonal display, as the annual Christmas Parade of Lights will take place next month.

Set for Saturday, Dec. 9, the parade will begin at 7 p.m. The parade route will start at David Prouty High School before proceeding west down Main Street, concluding at the Spencer Highway barn.

"Please join us for a night of beautiful twinkling lights, wonderful lighted floats, and lighted fire trucks to celebrate this festive Christmas season," read a statement released by event organizers.

If you would like to enter a lighted float or vehicle in the parade, all required forms and additional information can be found by visiting the town Web site: www.spencerma.gov.

Forms must be filled out prior to the event and turned in at the parade lineup.

To learn more about the parade route and regulations, send an email to spenclights@gmail.com. Be sure to include "Parade of Lights" in the subject line of your email.

In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be postponed to Sunday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.

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View Nativities from around the world in North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, located in North Brookfield is presenting its Nativities Around the World program for its 13th year. This year, the Nativities Around the World program will be displayed on Nov. 30 from 4-8 p.m., Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

There will be more than 400 nativities displayed this year, and all will be in settings of various Christmas themes. In addition to the nativities, there will be a Sing-Along to help boost the Christmas spirit even more on Friday, Dec. 1 starting at 7 p.m. and followed by a yummy dessert bar accompanied with a warm and welcoming spirit. There is never a charge of any kind, nor any donation solicitation, for any event at the Church, including the Nativities display and the Sing Along and dessert bar. All are warmly welcomed.

The Church is located at 108 New Braintree Rd. (Route 67), 2.2 miles north of the North Brookfield town center.



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LHS Music Department presents 19th annual Holiday Craft Fair

LEICESTER — Guests are invited to attend the 19th annual Holiday Craft Fair presented by the LHS Music Department.

This year's fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the new high school location.

"We are so excited to host the annual craft fair at Leicester High's new campus. This was a huge undertaking, and we are ready to welcome all vendors and shoppers," said organizer Alexis Phillips. "This craft fair is a great place to start your holiday shopping."

The event is a major fundraiser for the Music Department that will benefit students throughout the year.

The program will feature dozens of local crafters, raffles, door prizes, and even an appearance from Santa Claus.

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How nursing student teams unlock faster and bolder collaboration



C H A R L T O N — Imagine a health-care team with proposals on the agenda to increase productivity and decrease medication errors. The clinical facilitators and their teams (based on Clinical placements) have prepped at briefings and debriefings at their respective clinical sites. Team Overlook, led by Dr. Adelina Healy, DNP, MSN, RN with members Christine Abdi, and Cecilia Cummings both of Worcester; Jennifer Kilonzo of Shrewsbury; Regina Njuguna, and Michael Wairimu, both of Worcester, collaborated with Mock Code Team led by Professor

Cheryl Cahill, MSN, RN with members Victoria Boateng of Gardner; Julie Dodson of West Brookfield, Melisa Nale of North Brookfield, Patrick Njunge, Richard Nsiah, both of Worcester; Samantha Stanikmas of Charlton, Ashley Urbain of Paxton, and Cynthia Zayas-Torres of N. Grosvenordale, Conn. Discussions of presentations, standard reports, and case studies were shared during a casual dinner break. No expressions of discontent but eager discussions on how to improve, the risks, concerns, and goals for nursing school success. “No one can afford to just click into a listen mode,” stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN. Student engagement is highly encouraged at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Most students are willing to make recommendations and some have ventured into expressing their thought on how there are better ways to do things. Of the 13 students in attendance, voices are heard and engagement is palpable. The impromptu collaboration between the two teams is just one example of lived-in learning and processes that fully leverage adult learning students at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins in 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) and is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org). For more information, visit www.baypath.net

ALL BOARDS CLERK - The Town of Brookfield seeks an All Boards Clerk to fill a 15 hour a week position, Tuesday - Thursday. Applications accepted until the position is filled. Full job description at brookfieldma.us

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town Administrator at townadministrator@brookfieldma.us

Application reviews to begin December 7th.
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LEICESTER — Leicester High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year:

High Honors
12th Grade: Grace Bujak, Patrick Harrington, Jasmine Hunter, Steven Jyringi, Meghan Le, Charolette Libby-Toler, Austin Muturi, Jasmine Ngo, Ryker Roberts, Adam Skoglund, James Sweeney

11th Grade: Kayla Bouchard, Jason Fournier, Alexis Herbert, Kyle Huff, Ngoc Ly, Gia Norcia, Sedona Richard

10th Grade: Brandon Escobar, John Gahagan, Christopher Moffat, Tyler Williams

9th Grade: Inal Bouzid, Kelsey Cole, Luke Marjault, Joshua McCormick, Sabrina Wright

Honors
12th Grade: Rina Appiah, Molly Baker, Shawn Bloniasz, Andrew Boisvert, Chloe Bouchard, Jayden Clark, Maria Clarke, Hannah Collette, Michelle Dacri, Ashlyn Deary, Matthew Direnzo, Elizabeth Gallagher, Mason Griffiths, Nicklaus Hellstrom, Logan Mandella, Emily Mayotte, Jillian Morrison, Kevin Moss, Vincent Nguyen, Nora Oliver, William Panepinto, Jamie Phan, Logan Potter, Oprah Roberts, Tyler Ross, Alexander Russo

11th Grade: Jenna Abusalah, Jayden Benton, Patrick Colonies-Kelley, Jacob Cruz, Dylan Delage, Ryan Delage, Kathryn Dolimount, Kaiden Fevens, Vivian Giles, Benjamin LaPointe, Jack Ledbetter, Madeline Milionis, Alexander Ngo, Jordan Patterson, Ella Smith, Elizabeth Sosa

10th Grade: Tomas Acero, Isaac Anderson, Abigail Baker, Kate Barbato, Avery Bullock, Nicholas Caforio, Jacob Cosper, Jason Fuller, Shane Garrahe, Eliannie Guzman Bueno, Emily Hunt, Natalia Kallio, Vincent Lopez, Crislary Martinez Castillo, Zoe Morales, Elias Narvaez, Nola Perry, Alexander Samia, Lucas Sampaio, Jack Skoglund

9th Grade: Estefania Aguirre, Jacob Beaulac, Karsyn Bulak, Alexa Butler, Margaret Dillon, Taylor Gallant, Jahnisha Layne, Jeremy Ledbetter, Arianna Lemerise, Jacqueline Lyons, Valerie Maynard, Kaidyn McDowell, Nayeli Merino Canas, Robert O’Neil, Arunas Orloff, Gianna Panepinto, Ava Petruzzi, Gracie Quinn, Jillian Rodrique, Taylor Rodrique, Phuc Truong, Abigail Valinski, Mary Van Hazinga, Camron Wells

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Masonic Lodge AED/ CPR & 1st Aid Courses were a great success during recent OPEN House Weekend!

American Heart Association Certified classes to be given on specific Saturdays, November and December. We will be sponsoring and conducting reduced rate classes to support the surrounding community for an AED/CPR class is combined with the Basic First Aid class for Certification. There will also be a “Stop the Bleed” Certificate class. Classes will require sign-up in advance & pre-payment made to: **JOEL H. PROUTY LODGE of Masons** 780 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA. 01501

Dates are as follows:

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12.09.2023 | Stop the Bleed | \$65.00 w/ Certificate |
| 12.16.2023 | AED/CPR & Basic First Aid | *** \$65.00 w/AHA Certificate |

Classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. *** Must be 10 people for the AED/CPR Basic First Aid Class to be held to justify the instructor. Fees will be returned if we don't get 10 students or the second date can be used.
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Webster Five donates \$25,000 to WCAC Emergency Fuel Fund



Courtesy From left, Brian Westerlind, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Webster Five; Marybeth Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, WCAC; and Don Doyle, President and CEO, Webster Five.

AUBURN — Webster Five is helping the Worcester Community Action Council’s

(WCAC) Emergency Fuel Fund get ahead of the cold with its recent donation of \$25,000. This con-

tribution marks the first significant gift the Fund has received for the 2023-24 heating season.

demand for emergency heating assistance grows, WCAC is working to ensure that some of the most vulnerable households in the region – seniors, disabled individuals, veterans, and families with young children – have access to this basic necessity during challenging times.

Last year, WCAC received a total of 16,000 applications, representing a 44 percent increase in new and first-time applicants and a 20 percent increase in applications overall. Webster Five’s donation in 2022 supported approximately 60 households with emergency fuel deliveries, among nearly 1,200 households WCAC served with emergency utility payments over the course of the year.

WCAC anticipates an equally busy season with a significant demand

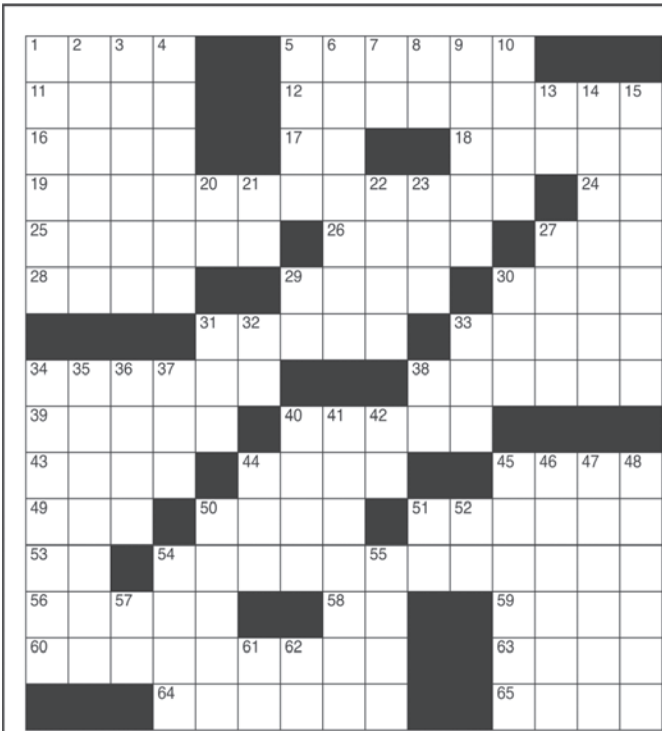
from the community, having already received 6,000 applications prior to the program opening on Nov. 1. With federal funds still awaiting release and WCAC’s emergency fund having been completely depleted, WCAC was left with limited resources to address the growing needs of Central and South-Central Massachusetts residents.

“At Webster Five, we’re committed to investing in our community and supporting our neighbors during times of need,” said Don Doyle, President and CEO, Webster Five. “By making this donation early in the season, we hope to help WCAC get a jump start on funding for what is likely to be numerous requests. We’re proud to support this organization and the important work it does.”

“We are exceeding-

ly grateful for Webster Five’s ongoing support of WCAC and the Emergency Fuel Fund,” said WCAC Chief Executive Officer Marybeth Campbell. “This donation comes at a critical time when our resources are stretched thin and will make a lasting impact on the lives of families in our community who are facing no-heat emergencies.”

“As a board member of WCAC, I’ve had the privilege of seeing the significant contributions this organization makes every year to vulnerable households in our community,” said Brian Westerlind, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Webster Five. “I’m thrilled that Webster Five has continued to be an active partner of WCAC and their initiatives in combatting fuel insecurity.”



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 5. Requesting
- 11. Give temporarily
- 12. Happiness
- 16. Military branch
- 17. - __, denotes past
- 18. Middle Eastern city
- 19. Air hostesses
- 24. Partner to Pa
- 25. Percussion instrument
- 26. Popular computers
- 27. Decrease light
- 28. Valley in the Osh Region
- 29. “To __ his own”
- 30. Absence of difficulty
- 31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church
- 33. Trims by cutting
- 34. Impact
- 38. Military member
- 39. A French river
- 40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Narrow valley
- 51. A way to disentangle
- 53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)
- 54. Recommending
- 56. Genus of legumes
- 58. Friend to Larry and Curly
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer
- 64. Denoting passerine birds
- 65. Separate by category

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Colorless fluid part of blood
- 2. Of a main artery
- 3. Photographic equipment
- 4. Confirms a point
- 5. Developed over time
- 6. Not the leader
- 7. __ Lang (country singer)
- 8. Adults need one
- 9. Nests of pheasants
- 10. Antelopes
- 13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Japanese three-stringed lute
- 15. Type of cat
- 20. Cools your home
- 21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 22. Pouches
- 23. Trigraph
- 27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
- 29. __ route
- 30. Body part
- 31. Bridge building degree
- 32. Indicates position
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. Tasty snack
- 35. Part of a quadruped
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. Of I
- 40. City in Utah
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. Hammer is one
- 44. A “nightmarish” street
- 45. Performers
- 46. Slang for cut or scrape
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Provokes
- 51. Home to college’s Flyers
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of mackerel family
- 55. Zero
- 57. __ and behold
- 61. The Palmetto State
- 62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

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As winter approaches and the

Brookfield event celebrates spirit of the season

BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield Cultural Council will help get local residents into the spirit of the holiday season with a special program next month.

The council will present its “Crazy Christmas Hat, Santa Parade, and Tree Lighting” event on Sunday, Dec. 3. The program will begin at 4:30 p.m. in front of Town Hall.

Guests can get started on the festivities right now by making your own “Crazy Christmas Hat.” “You can also buy a crazy hat, but bought hats can’t be entered for a prize,” read a statement released by organizers.

There will be first, second, and third place winners. Use your imagination and come up with unique designs.

The program is open to guests of all ages.

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“We will meet in front of the Town Hall, where there will be a Christmas backdrop for your family photos,” the promotional statement read.

Guests will then sing favorite carols as they walk to the gazebo to light the tree with Santa.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be available at the program.

To learn more about the event, send an email to lytlej1234@gmail.com.

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The Highway Department is looking for part-time employees to plow snow this 2023/2024 winter season. These are temporary, non-benefited, on-call positions. HE-2B CDL preferred but not required; Class D is acceptable. The Town is also looking for plow contractors with their own equipment. For more information, call the Highway Department at 508-892-7021. Applications are available at the Office of the Town Administrator, 3 Washburn Square - 3rd Floor, Leicester. MA 01524 during normal business hours. Applications can also be completed online at www.leicestenna.org by clicking on the “Job Opportunities” link from the homepage then selecting “Employment Application.” The Town of Leicester is an equal opportunity employer.

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SPENCER ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

BROOKFIELD

\$369,900, 56 Town Farm Rd, Deberadinis, Carlton J, and Deberadinis, Carol E, to Ferrentino, Caterina.
\$138,000, 29 S Maple St, Chabot, Joseph P, and Chabot, Kelly S, to Big Buff LLC.

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$339,900, 238 W Main St, Novia, Lana A, and Novia, Donald F, to Lachapelle, Cheyeene R, and Lachapelle, Gary J.

LEICESTER

\$478,905, 905 Pleasant St, Ogowang, Mildren A, to Reese, Tyler C.
\$231,000, 7 Woodland Dr, Hartwell, Jennifer, to Janiero, Eduardo.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$272,500, 19 Pine Croft Ave, Rabadou, Michael W, and Rabadou, Theresa M, to Burton, Wayne, and Burton, Judy.

SPENCER

\$300,000, 36 Grove St, Surowiec, Matthew, to Bratkon, Samantha.
\$299,900, 8 W Main St, Zachariewicz, Linda A, to Vega, Joe R.

WARREN

None

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$325,000, 28 Roy Ter, Adams, Mark H, and Adams, Kenneth R, to Bombard, Madyson J, and Redmond, Connor W.

Inspire Kids Choir lives up to its name



Kevin Flanders

Members of the Inspire Kids Choir perform at Wire Village School.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Inspire Kids Choir embodied its name last week with a debut concert that wowed the community.

Held on Nov. 16 at Wire Village School, the performance showcased the talents of students in grades K-4 from Spencer and East Brookfield. Youngsters inspired families and community members in attendance with a range of songs.

“Singing in a group helps us to relate to one another on a deeper level,” said program organizer and musical director Lauren Curren. “Music can be a powerful tool to express any given emotion. It is a way to say something without feeling the vulnerability that a spoken conversation can induce. There is support in the rhythm, the text, and the melody.”

As children, Curren and fellow Inspire Kids Choir co-director, Marcelle Bastille, were in a program based out of North Brookfield called Cool Kids Choir. Last year, Curren received mentorship from the program director of that choir, Bonnie Milner, of Long View Entertainment.

“I’m so grateful for her encouragement and support. After a year, I felt ready and excited to create a program in my own community,” Curren told the New Leader. “While some of the methodology is inspired by Cool Kids, we really have had to adapt to the kids here. What I have found through our new start is that the community makes the program what it is. Wire Village has been incredibly supportive of Inspire. The school and community are so lucky to have such wonderful faculty and staff at this school.”

Music has been a constant creative outlet in Curren’s life. Her experiences range from studio recording, school chorus programs, musical theater, various band performances, and variety shows that raised money for people in need.

Now, with the rise of Inspire Kids Choir, Curren and her team are inspiring the next wave of young musicians to meet new friends and build bonds through creativity.

“It has been such a beautiful exchange to teach the music along with the lessons of the songs, and then to listen to the innate wisdom and understanding that the kids have. It leaves us all inspired,” Curren said.

The Inspire Kids

Choir leadership team is thanked for countless hours of dedication to local youngsters. The team includes co-directors Lisa Rafferty and Marcelle Bastille; sound engineer Scott Griffin; program supporters Jennifer Cooney and Matt St. Louis; and junior directors Rianna Ortiz and Greenly Waugh.

“I am consistently filled with immense gratitude and pride to be a part of a team that willingly offers up the most

valuable things—time, patience, and love,” Curren added. “We are all a part of something that creates connection, builds camaraderie, and lifts the voices of the next generation.”

Program leaders, school officials, and local families were thrilled to see a packed house at the first ever concert.

“I’m so proud of the kids. It is pure magic to see the community

come together to support them,” Curren said. “The children are such a reminder of the hope and joy in this world, and it’s an incredible privilege to see them shine so bright.”

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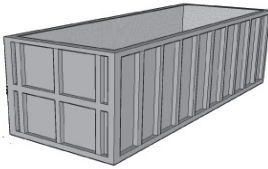


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Leicester Senior Center salutes local veterans

Local veterans and officials attend a recent event at the Leicester Senior Center.



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Senior Center officials thank all staff members, volunteers, guests, and community leaders who joined forces to make the annual Veterans Breakfast a success.

The emcee for the Nov. 9 program was Leicester Veterans' Services Officer Jason Main, who enlisted in the Navy in 1991 as an undesignated fireman. Over the years, he rose through the ranks and eventually became a Chief Master at Arms before retiring in 2017 after multiple combat tours.

While still on active duty in 2011, Main, along with his wife, began the Friends Never Forget nonprofit.

The guest speaker at the Nov. 9 program was Lt. Col. Shannon McLaughlin, a State Judge Advocate with the Massachusetts National Guard.

"Lt. Col. McLaughlin has a diverse background, including the fields of legal, counterintelligence, and logistics," said Senior Center Director Rachelle Cyr. "She deployed to Afghanistan and has more than 20 years of military service, including time in both the Navy and Army. Her speech was riveting."

Senior Center officials also sent out a big thank-you to Chief Ron Tyson, of the Air Force JROTC based at South High Community School in Worcester. Tyson and his cadets led the event's MIA/POW ceremony.

Senior Center Outreach Coordinator Nancy Lamb,

is also thanked for delivering the event's invocation. Seniors and staff members wished to commend her for outstanding efforts throughout the year.

"She goes beyond the duties of outreach and is often found assisting those who need some medical attention," Cyr added. "She is very devoted to her job and to the center. Any person who knows Nancy has wonderful words to say about her."

The following organizations and businesses are also thanked for their support of the Veterans Breakfast: Country Bank for Savings; the Leicester Police Alliance; the Senior Center's Golden Needles Group; The Senior Citizens Club of Leicester; Dr. Laconte; The Lions Club; George McKenna Insurance, Inc.; and VIBRA of Leicester.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office also played a major supporting role for the event.

Meanwhile, Director Cyr and her team wished to thank all volunteers for their contributions. Many of this year's volunteers included local department leaders and committee members.

"For those who come and work, kudos to a job well done," Cyr said.

Additional thanks are extended to the Senior Center's newsletter editor, Genevieve Grenier.

"Both Nancy Lamb and Genevieve spend hours preparing the Binienda Room for special events," Cyr said. "Thank you also to Bill Lamprey,

Diane Bergin and daughter Nancy, and Dorothy Dudley for setting up the tables."

Leicester High School National Honor Society students are thanked for serving guests.

"These young people are a wonderful testament to a generation of young adults who are high achievers we can be proud of," Cyr said. "Thank you as well to the student chorus for coming in and singing the National Anthem for us."

Area veterans and their families look forward to the Senior Center breakfast each year. During her keynote speech, Lt. Colonel McLaughlin reminded guests that the families of veterans play important daily roles at home to enable their service.

"We should all take a moment to honor and thank the families of our military men and women," McLaughlin said.

Among the local officials in attendance were newly elected State Senator Peter Durant, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, School Committee Chair Donna McCance, Police Chief Ken Antanavica, the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, and town committee and department leaders, among several others.

"This was a well-attended ceremony to honor the generations of those who served. It was a recognition of the sacrifices they made for our freedom," said McCance, who also serves as Vice Chair of the Council on Aging.

Friday's Child



Gavin
Age 14

Hi! My name is Gavin and I like making people laugh!

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Gavin would bring great joy to a family where he can be the youngest or only child. Gavin needs a family that can provide him with structure and consistency, and be open to maintaining contact with his sibling.

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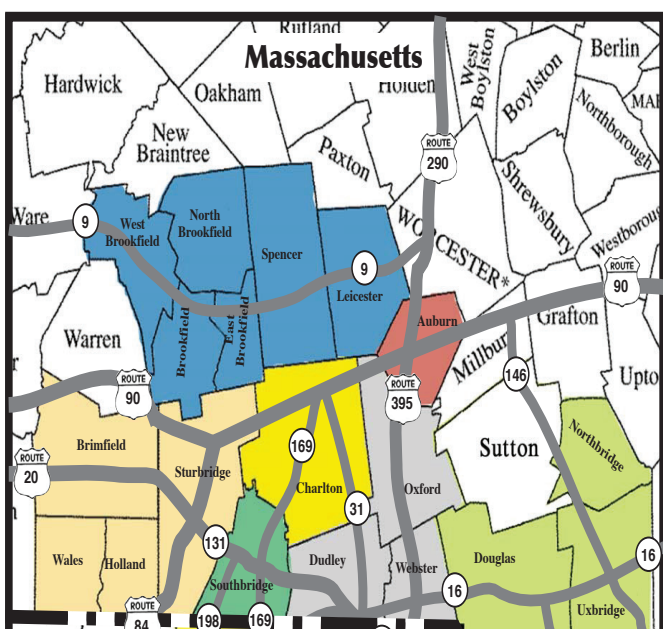
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EDITORIAL

Rediscovering the lost art of handwritten recipes

In an era of digital convenience and instant gratification, some of life's most cherished traditions are quietly slipping away. Among these, the art of handwritten recipes. These are a tangible connection to the flavors of our past, the love of our grandmothers, and the warmth of family gatherings. In a world dominated by cooking apps and online recipe repositories, the simple act of putting pen to paper to share culinary secrets seems almost archaic. Yet, it's precisely this nostalgia and intimacy that make handwritten recipes a lost art worth preserving.

Handwritten recipes are more than just a list of ingredients and instructions; they are pieces of culinary history, infused with the personality and heritage of those who penned them. Each smudged, stained, and dog-eared card or piece of paper tells a story, a tale of generations passing down family traditions, the evolution of tastes and preferences, and the love and care that goes into creating a homemade meal.

The act of writing out a recipe by hand is an act of devotion. It's a moment where the cook imparts their wisdom, tips, and variations to the next in line. The penmanship, the flourishes, and the personal notes ("This one's always a hit at family gatherings!") add a layer of character that cannot be replicated by sterile digital text.

One of the most remarkable aspects of handwritten recipes is their adaptability. They are not bound by the limitations of standardized formats and measurements. Instead, they encourage creativity and experimentation. A pinch of this, a handful of that, and a dash of love, these imprecise yet heartfelt instructions allow each generation to put their own spin on the family classics, ensuring that the recipes remain dynamic and relevant.

In an age where convenience often trumps sentimentality, it's easy to overlook the value of preserving handwritten recipes. But as we flip through fading recipe cards and rediscover the treasures hidden in old recipe boxes, we are reminded that these handwritten culinary heirlooms are more than just instructions; they are a link to our past, a source of inspiration, and hold tradition.

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 Have platform, need candidate

To the Editor:

We are assuredly living the Chinese curse "May you live in interesting times." Firstly, anyone who has read section #3 of the 14th Amendment, better not be saying we need to follow the Constitution, but is willing to ignore it to support Trumps run as dictator for life, just proves the constitution must prevail. I could do chapter and verse on why the draft dodging, lying, rapist, con man should be banned, but considering the polls, I would be addressing a cult who drank the Kool Aid.

After reading my earlier comments, you might think I am pushing another Biden term, which I do believe that better option than the other guy.

Employment is up, inflation is a bit more stable, I believe Biden the steadier proven hand in an unstable world.

World leadership —This is not just a statement of fact based upon military, economic, political, and ethical standards.

Like 9/11, Islamic radicals committed a disgusting act of terrorism. There was never any doubt that they, and we, would respond.

The guilty would be sought out and be punished. Unlike when Bostonians were told to stay home and lock your doors, until the marathon bomber was caught, Hamas lives beneath the infrastructure of Gaza. Palestinians were told leave or suffer consequences because we are coming to irradiate Hamas. Whether by choice or duress, many didn't and over 10,000 have died. Palestinians are seeking help from us to get the Israeli advance to stop. Considering that the small group of 9/11 terrorists contained neither Iraqis or Afghans, and we killed nearly 200,000 of them we cannot impeach their motives. It is said that the never-ending settlements in the disputed territory, might have prompted the attack. Even after our nation has used its Security Council veto most times in defense of Israel, it must be noted that our homeland was taken from people who lived here thousands of years before us. Maybe we need to sit this one out in every form. That said, we should be arming Ukraine and lessening Russian advance and influence at every opportunity.

On the economic front, we need to stop spending the money of the yet unborn. This nation was founded on Puritan town meetings.

We still experience it in similar form in Brookfield. I was privileged to be an elected member in West Springfield, but the principle is much the same.

What will we spend money on, where will the money come from, is there a need to borrow, how will we pay it back?

I am sad to point out that we now consider running less of a deficit to be a success story, when the simple fact of the matter is that the interest we pay on the debt will exceed all other spending from collections. The sadder part is that some think that shutting down the government saves money, when the reality is the hit to our GDP and credit rating will cost far more than staying open.

While I am not saying we can immediately fix our nutty spending, every homemaker struggling in this economy, knows how to set priorities-food and shelter, healthcare and a way to get to work. Only bang for the buck can get us out of this rut, I heard the GOP debaters saying we need more multibillion dollar ships, because China has them. Christie was right- build subs with million dollar rockets that destroy billion

dollar ships

The last I heard was that we spend more than the next highest spending eight nations on military. With two grandkids currently in uniform, I am proud of them, but think we ought to make the effort to keep the most effective but only at four or five times what others spend.

The town government I was involved in had a rob Peter to pay Paul rule. If you proposed spending you had to include a funding plan showing where the money would come from, unlike the \$2 trillion tax cut portion of the last administration's \$8 trillion dollar deficit.

As near as I can tell, it is almost unheard of for congress to actually produce or pass a budget. Instead of focusing on that sensible step, they foolishly turn paying for the spending they already approved into a different issue. I have said many times, we pay these goofs almost \$200,000 a year, to overspend in trillions. Let's pay a million a year, and get better help.

Only the Supreme Court Justices have a lower rating than politicians. It is clearer now than ever, why many of the founders abhorred political parties or factions. It was their belief that honest capable people doing what they thought right and best would be far superior to having a system that rewards polarization and radical differences of opinion. These Bozos that used to pass equal rights laws at 96 and 98 percent, can't even do that anymore. Making America great again involves having inspirational leadership, focused on doing the right thing.

Stop threatening Social Security and Medicare. Take off the cap that billionaires pay off in the first week, and call it the American Security tax.

Only if it will represent 10 percent of your retirement income can you collect anything. Call it payback to the country you thrived in.

Revisit the law that says you are a citizen if born here. Should only be if here legally.

We are now being invaded by millions being housed, fed and educated on our dime. While we would like to say we are still that place described on the statue of liberty, we simply cannot afford it anymore. We are having enough trouble housing, feeding and educating our citizens. The right answer cannot be apply for entry and stay on our dime two years awaiting an answer: by then we will have anchor babies, marriages and disappearances. Increased immigration courts and send some back. Setting aside that the country is going broke, I noticed that hotels were cancelling reservations to get on the homeless gravy train. In addition to the often required linguists for schools, our own kids and grandkids are not being well served. My brother was telling me about the homeless housing being built in his town at a million dollars a unit. He pointed out that it would be cheaper to give them half million dollar homes.

Instead of spelling out my whole pennywise dollar foolish agenda, I will give you a dream team of candidates.

Joe Manchin for president, because he is not a real Democrat, believes in energy independence first, and knows spending must change. And for Vice President, Adam Kinzinger, who is not a real Republican, knows right from wrong, and displays those rare traits, honesty, integrity and common sense.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Where else but in America!

To the Editor:

Many interesting events and happenings are taking place in our political system today. This letter briefly discusses a few.

In the year 2024, the White House could change its location to the Big House, yet some have known it as the Crossbar Hotel. If this happens, the Oval Office would then become a cell office, with very limited space and no privacy.

One presidential candidate is now leading in the battleground states' polls. The reason given for this fact is, many pollsters claim this candidate gets more court time than his opponent. It is also a fact that his opponent has difficulty keeping in step sometimes when he walks. It also appears he needs more nap time than most people.

Oh! A Congressman who was elected to Congress recently based on his false resume plans on running again, but this time on a true resume. He serves on two low level committees in Congress, and of course, votes. Oh, and he was just indicted on 13 criminal charges.

Another Congressman claims he keeps many of his 13 gold bars he received for and from whomever in the refrigerator; they give more light when the door is open. He keeps many of the

\$500,000 in Benjamins in his clothing inside his closets. It is a family tradition. Oh, and the new Mercedes Benz in his garage is a gift to his wife from someone, somewhere!

Almost forgot! A senior senator who had a 19-second pause in one of his speeches. He just stopped talking mid-sentence and stared into space. Doctor said he is okay; perhaps it is a new technique for people to think and reflect on what the senator was saying.

Just one more important fact and event. Congress ousted its speaker and rejected two more candidates for the position. Finally, they voted unanimously for someone to lead as Speaker of the House. Only time will expose the results.

In conclusion, thinking of our political system and all the great things we can do in our country, my thoughts must be, and are, positive. So allow me to end this letter with an outstanding service club motto and two of its four-way test statements.

Rotary International's motto is "Service Above Self."

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.
SOUTH HADLEY

Editor's note: The author is a former longtime resident of Brookfield.

Now is the time to think about ice safety



Courtesy
Ryan shot this deer in Mass. recently. Nice buck.



Mike shot this impressive buck locally with his bow and arrow. Nice.

This week, I noticed a bit of ice on some local ponds, although it quickly vanished during the day. There could be hope for anglers that love to ice fish, but first we need a few minus-20-degree days to make it happen. First ice is always a bit tricky to fish on, but using common sense could save someone's life. My rule of safe ice is that at least three inches of good black ice will safely hold one person. The problem is, ice thickness changes, and needs to be constantly monitored, as you move about the ice covered pond or lake. Constantly cutting small holes in the ice every 10 feet or so is necessary to ensure your safety. Anglers that bunch up around a hole that is being fished, is also extremely dangerous. Don't do it!

More in the coming days and weeks



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on ice safety, and with school vacation just around the corner, a good talk with

your children about staying off of the ice without parental supervision, needs to be done now!

Deer hunters are harvesting some impressive deer in the Valley area, as this week's two pictures show. Archers have some of the best archery equipment manufactured, and it is being used to harvest some impressive deer.

Pheasant hunting is open through Dec. 30 in Mass. (excluding the two weeks of shotgun deer season) pheasant stocking will stop this past Wednesday. Bolton flats were not stocked this year because of extreme flooding in the area.

Fall trout stocking has been finished in the Central District, with more than 12,500 fish being stocked in local waters.

Shotgun deer season opens in Mass. on Nov. 27, plus deer hunters can also purchase a black bear permit for \$10, as the bear season is open with the deer season in all zones. There were a lot of bear sightings in the valley area, and you could be lucky enough to cross paths with one this year.

Have a great Thanksgiving and stay safe over the holiday season.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Can you make charitable giving less ‘taxing?’

Once again, it's the season of generosity. In addition to considering gifts for your loved ones, you might want to think about charitable gifts as well. But what should you know before making gifts to charities? And what impact might these gifts have on your financial and tax situation?

First, you may want to create a gift budget by deciding just how much you will give to charitable organizations over the rest of the year.

Next, look closely at the groups to whom you wish to contribute. You can find many reputable charities, but some others may be less worthy of your support. One of the red flags of a questionable organization is the amount of money it



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spends on administrative costs versus the amount that goes to its stated purpose. You can check on the spending patterns of charitable groups, and find other valuable information about them, on the well-regarded Charity Navigator Web site (charitynavigator.org).

Once you've established a gift budget and are comfortable with the groups you choose to support, you might turn your thoughts to another

key issue connected with charitable giving: tax benefits. A few years ago, changes in the tax laws resulted in a large increase in the standard deduction, which meant that many taxpayers found it more favorable not to itemize — and lost the ability to take charitable deductions. But if you still do itemize, your charitable gifts or contributions to tax-exempt groups — those that qualify as 501(c)(3) organizations — can generally be deducted, up to 60 percent of your adjusted gross income, although lower limits may apply, depending on the nature of your gift and the organization to which you're contributing.

Other, more long-term avenues also exist that combine charitable giving with potential tax benefits. One such possibility is a donor-advised fund, which allows you to make an irrevocable charitable contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction. You can give cash, but if you donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, your tax deduction would be the fair market value of the assets, up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. Plus, you would not incur the capital gains tax that would otherwise be due upon the sale of these assets. Once you establish a donor-advised fund, you have the flexibility to make charitable gifts over time, and you can contribute to the fund as

often as you like.

Another possible tax benefit from making charitable contributions could arrive when you start taking required minimum distributions, or RMDs, from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and 401(k). These RMDs could be sizable — and distributions are counted as taxable income. But by taking what's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can move money from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charitable organization, possibly satisfying your RMD, which then may be excluded from your taxable income. You must start taking RMDs at 73 but you can begin making QCDs of up to \$100,000 per year as early

as age 70 and a half. (This amount will be indexed for inflation after 2023.)

Establishing a donor-advised fund and making qualified charitable distributions are significant moves, so you'll need to consult with your tax advisor first. But if they're appropriate for your situation, they may help you expand your ability to support the charitable groups whose work you admire.

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

Holiday Gifts from Your Kitchen

For generations, the most heartfelt holiday gifts have come from the kitchen. From homemade garden jellies and jams to fresh from the oven cookies, homemade goods have long been a favorite holiday treat. With this in mind, this week's column offers an easy twist on traditional food gift suggestions. Today's busy families demand convenience, and the following dry mix recipes serve as the ideal "little something" that is sure to be appreciated. Just mix the ingredients up, package it in style, add a gift tag and you've created the ultimate gift of good taste!

Peppermint Mocha Drink Mix

Sharing a cup of this hot drink is the perfect break from the holiday bustle. Peppermint Mocha is reminiscent of holidays of yore, but without the hassle of preparing it. Pack this mix in a glass mason jar; add a candy cane and tag to the bow.

Ingredients: 1/3 cup instant coffee; one cup skim milk powder; ½ cup nondairy creamer (powdered); ½ cup granulated sugar; ¼ cup cocoa powder; ¼ cup chocolate instant pudding mix; six or seven red and white striped mints, crushed.

Directions: Place all

ingredients in a food processor or Magic Bullet and pulse until thoroughly mixed and pulverized.

Add instructions to mix three tablespoons of drink mix to ¾ cup of hot water;

Gourmet Spice Mixes

Dry spice mixes are a familiar sight in gourmet food shops - complete with hefty price tags! Trendy spicy blends make the perfect Mason jar gift for your favorite cook. Simply mix the ingredients in a canning jar or festive tin and add a tag identifying how to use the spices. Of course, if you wanted to spend a bit more, you could pack it all in a big shiny pot with an assortment of cooking utensils.

Spice Mix: Crab Boil

This popular boil mix is used for boiling shrimp, lobster, crayfish and crab.

Ingredients: One quarter cup pickling spices; one quarter cup sea salt; two tablespoons mustard seeds; two tablespoons whole black peppercorns; two tablespoons hot red pepper flakes; one tablespoon celery seeds; one tablespoon minced dried chive; two teaspoons ground ginger; two teaspoons dried oregano; five bay leaves.

Directions: Add all of

the ingredients to the bowl of a food processor fitted with the metal blade. Process on pulse until the mixture forms a coarse powder.

Include the following instructions: For cooking shrimp, add one quarter cup of the spices, along with two teaspoons salt, to a large saucepan of boiling water or half water and half beer. For lobster or crab, use one part distilled white wine to three parts water. Add the seafood and cook for two minutes, or until just cooked through. Remove the seafood and serve or chill. Makes one cup.

Spice Mix: Chili Seasoning Mix

Pack this spicy mix up, include a recipe card for retro Chili Con Carne, and bask in the compliments you'll receive!

Ingredients: one cup sweet green pepper flakes; three quarters of a cup chili powder; one quarter cup ground cumin; one half cup onion flakes; one quarter cup parsley flakes; one teaspoon gar-

lic flakes; one half teaspoon red pepper flakes

Directions: Place all ingredients in a one quart jar, cover tightly and shake well to mix. Makes 2 3/4 cups

Classic (mid-century) Con Carne Recipe: In a medium size heavy saucepan over moderate heat, brown one pound ground beef and drain off any fat. Add one can (1 pound) tomatoes, drained and chopped, and 1 cup water or beef broth. Stir in one half cup Chili Seasoning Mix. Reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in two cups cooked and drained red kidney beans and heat through. Serves four.

Mulling Mix

Charles Dickens's appearance of mulled ciders and wines in A Christmas Carol made the spiced drinks a holiday tradition that continues to this day.

Whether used in cider or wine, this traditional blend of spices takes center stage at holiday time. Tie the mix in a cheesecloth bundle and include steeping instructions for a sure-to-be-appreciated gift!

Ingredients: Three tablespoons orange peel (dried)* two tablespoons each of: whole cloves; whole allspice; crystallized ginger; two cinna-

mon sticks, broken into pieces.

Directions: Smash the cloves, ginger and cinnamon sticks (until almost pulverized) into small pieces. Add orange peel and chopped ginger. Put two tablespoons of this mix into a cheesecloth square to make a pouch and tie up the top tight with kitchen string.

***To dry orange peels:** Place thin rinds on a cookie sheet and bake in a 275 degree oven for up to 25 minutes. You want them dehydrated, not browned. When cool, dice into small pieces.

Mulled Apple Cider

Ingredients: a half gallon of apple cider (orchard fresh is best); 1 mulling spice bag

Directions: Pour cider in large saucepan, drop in the spice bag. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 30-40 minutes. Serve hot.

Mulled Wine

Ingredients: 1/3 cup granulated sugar; 1/2 cup water; one mulling spice bag; three cups dry, red wine (one 750 ml bottle).

Directions: In a sturdy pan, mix sugar and water over medium heat. Stir until sugar dissolves. Turn heat to low and pour in wine and drop in spice bag. Heat slowly until wine is hot, but not boiling. Serve immediately.

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.

Keeping tropical plants healthy

Tropical plants are filling our homes and workspaces, adding beauty, relieving stress, and boosting creativity, productivity, and focus. Keep these plants healthy and looking their best by providing for their basic needs.

Select plants that will thrive in the growing conditions found in your home or office and with your level of care. Busy gardeners should look for low-maintenance plants like ZZ plants, Chinese evergreens, pothos and philodendrons while others may choose ferns, peace lilies, baby tears and gardenias that require a bit more attention and care.

Light is the most common limiting factor when growing plants indoors. Matching the plants to the desired light is the first step in success. Plant tags, university websites and plant books can provide you with this information. If you are lucky enough to have an east- or west-facing window you can grow a wide variety of plants. High-light plants should be kept within two feet of these windows. Low-light plants can be set up to six feet back or off to the side of an east- or west-facing



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window or in front of one that faces north. Keep in mind buildings, awnings, trees, and sheers can decrease the amount of sunlight reaching the plants.

Fortunately, there are now more options for decorative energy-efficient grow lights available, expanding your indoor gardening opportunities. Pendants, clip-ons, floor lights and furniture-grade plant shelves provide the needed light for plants and add decorative elements to your home.

Proper watering is next on the list of key factors for healthy growth and longevity of indoor plants. Most tropical plants prefer evenly moist soil comparable to a wrung-out sponge. Water thoroughly preferable with tepid water when the top few inches of potting mix are starting to dry. Pour off any excess water that col-

lects in the saucer. Allowing plants to sit in water can lead to root rot and plant death.

To achieve proper watering enlist the help of moisture-retaining products like organic Wild Valley Farms wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com). Made from wool waste, this sustainable product reduces watering by up to 25 percent and increases pore space in the soil for proper drainage and better plant growth.

Create attractive clusters of plants while increasing the humidity that most tropical plants need for healthier growth. As one plant loses moisture through the leaves, often called transpiration, the neighboring plants benefit. Go one step further by utilizing gravel trays. Set plant pots on pebble-filled saucers or trays. Allow excess water to collect in the pebbles below the pots. As this water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plants. This also reduces your workload by eliminating the need to pour off excess water that collects in the plant saucer.

Add a few terrariums

for plants like Venus fly trap, ferns and spike moss that grow best in high humidity and moist soil conditions. Purchase one or create your own from an old aquarium, or another clear glass container and add a lid to create a closed growing system. Select or create one that supports plant growth, complements your home's décor, and reflects your personality.

Provide a warm, draft-free location for your tropical plants. Most prefer the same temperatures, 65-75 degrees, that we do. Don't worry if you turn down the heat at night, most plants will be fine. Just do not trap them between the curtain and window where it is much colder than the rest of your home. Avoid cold drafts from doors and windows and hot drafts from heat registers that can be detrimental to your plant's health.

You may need to move plants, adjust grow lights, and fine-tune watering as you get to know each plant's needs. Once you place them in the right location and provide the correct amount of light and water, your plants will grow and prosper.

Melinda Myers has



Melinda Myers

Philodendron is just one of the low-maintenance tropical plant options.

written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden

Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Wetlands and Waterways
MassDEP Boston Office
100 Cambridge Street Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the replacement of Bridge #S-23-012, on North Spencer Road (Route 31) over the Seven Mile River in the Town of Spencer, Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division, Ten Park Plaza, Room 7360, Boston, MA 02116. The main objective of this project is to replace a structurally deficient bridge with a new bridge on similar alignment and same functional equivalent. There will also be some minor roadway widening to accommodate additional shoulder width. Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division at the above address, attention Courtney Walker or by emailing courtney.l.walker@dot.state.ma.us. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114 or heidi.davis@mass.gov within twenty-one days of this notice. Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
November 24, 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:
Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permit– Applicant: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T Mobility), Owner: Town of Spencer; Location: 17 Lake Street & 42 Highland Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U15-1. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.5 (Wireless Data Transfer Facilities), of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to maintain a temporary Wireless Data Transfer Facility. The property is in the Village Residential (VR) zoning district.
November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Sam Alkhoury for the property located at 154 West Main Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to propose a mix-use development with associated parking, storm-water management area, on-site sewage disposal system, utility connections & their associated appurtenances. Special Permit as per section(s) -3.1 Basic Requirements, 5.1 Site Plan Review and 5.3 Signs (meets the intent) (et al)
November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO23P3841EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Kjell Gunnar Jensrud Date of Death: 04/06/2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nancy E. Jensrud of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
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 12/05/2023 .**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 07, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 24, 2023
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO21P3378EA Estate of: Mary Martha Cummings Date of Death: 07/08/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Mary L Smith of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
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 12/12/2023.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court
November 15, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
November 24, 2023

Town of Spencer Notice of Public Hearing
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws that a public hearing will be held on December 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, on the application of Wedgewood Beverage Inc., d/b/a/ Fern Hill Barn, Lucas Funderburk, Manager, to transfer the all-alcoholic pouring license of Zukas Hilltop Barn, Inc. located at 89 Smithville Road, Spencer. Described premises:13,970 sq. ft. space includes restaurant, kitchen, banquet/bar area.
John J. Howard, Chairman, Board of Selectmen
November 24, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court
Notice of Public Hearing
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws that a public hearing will be held on December 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, on the application of Wedgewood Beverage Inc., d/b/a/ Fern Hill Barn, Lucas Funderburk, Manager, to transfer the all-alcoholic pouring license of Zukas Hilltop Barn, Inc. located at 89 Smithville Road, Spencer. Described premises:13,970 sq. ft. space includes restaurant, kitchen, banquet/bar area.
John J. Howard, Chairman, Board of Selectmen
November 24, 2023

225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO23C0587CA CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Wendy Lorne Holup Casey A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Wendy Lorne Holup Casey of Spencer MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Wendy Lorne Holup
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/12/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10, 2023
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
November 24 , 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:
Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permit– Applicant: Minutemen Property Management, LLC, Logyn Shea, Owner: Ken Keyes; Location: 5 R Jones Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R24-07. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.9.2.2 (nonconformities), of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to a 8 x12 farmers porch addition. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.
November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:
Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Special Permit– Applicant: Rebecca Fournier, Owner: 2019LLC; Location: 16 Wall Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U07-28. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.3.20 (Tattoo parlor studio), of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to expand pre-existing business services to include permanent make-up and tattoos. The property is in the Town Center (TC) zoning district.
November 24, 2023
December 1, 2023



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Native food and medicine abound in fall



Del Bachand selects the next herb to talk about from a table full of samples.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Although most leaves are down and plants are going to sleep, Nature still has gifts if you know where to look. “It’s the perfect time of year to harvest rose hips,” not to mention several other wild herbs, foods and medicines, Webster herbalist Del Bachand told about 40 people at the Grange last week. “If you’re wondering if it’s ripe or not, watch the birds.” For her, the major rule is this: harvest in thirds – taking a third for you, leaving a third for wild-life and leaving a third for the plant’s own future generations – and not to take the ones with seeds. That’s been Native practice for a long time, a wise recognition that humans

aren’t the only ones living here. The useful parts can be flowers, leaves, stems, bark or roots depending on the plant, purpose and time of year. One great example is dandelion, whose flowers and leaves are edible during spring and summer (but tend to get bitter as time goes along). In fall and winter, the root is available for medicinal use as a diuretic, high in potassium, good for heart patients and a liver cleanser. She notes it’s “good for people who might take meds, which always store in your liver.” It’s “much more potent” now because inulin gets sucked into the roots for winter. Bachand said this year’s been a good one for root-gathering; being fairly wet, they’re easi-

er to dig (she just uses a fork) and grind up. “If you wait until they dry whole, you’ll need a sledgehammer to break them up,” she added. Like many things, she doesn’t advise drying them in an oven “because inevitably some of the benefits dissipate.” Break them apart now, then leave them in a cool, dry, dark place instead. Bachand notes it’s quite bitter, so she mixes it with peppermint, which “covers the taste of a lot of things.” That might be good to remember if you use another herb – boneset, which she described as “the most vile tasting herb you’ve ever had in your life.” In traditional medicine, it’s a particularly useful herb this time of year, since it’s “used to

kill the flu” and similar respiratory ailments, she said. It only takes a small amount, steeped in tea and drunk fast, then “chase it down with something that tastes good.” Boneset tea is made of two or three of its leaves; don’t use the white or pink flowers. As with many plants, Bachand encourages her students to make sure they’re completely dry before storing them in containers, otherwise they’ll get moldy. (For rosehips mentioned earlier, the tiny native ones can be eaten straight off the plant, but bigger cultivated ones need to be deseeded first or they’ll mold from the inside.) As most people know, flus often come with headaches, and nature helps those too. One of the

more common wild analgesics is found in the willow/birch family of trees, which was the original source of salicylic acid, better known as aspirin. Bachand said that’s in the bark, and harvested by simply cutting a strip of it (but don’t take one all the way around the tree, that’ll kill it). Break the strips in pieces and steep them in oil in a dark place for a moon cycle, shaking it a couple times a day and topping off the oil occasionally, since the bark will soak it in. She likes pure grapeseed oil, which is high in vitamin E and has natural antimold properties, for that and many other uses. Some trees, by contrast, were Native food sources. This year looks to be a mast year, so acorns and nuts are plentiful. Most sources say acorns (except maybe white oaks) need to be leached (soaked a few times and drained) to get rid of the tannins that’ll make them very bitter, but Bachand said if they’re dried thoroughly before being pounded into flour, they should be fine. She notes they can’t be ground if wet, and handling acorns was usually someone’s job in Native culture. Often near oaks are pignut trees, which come in two varieties – pignut and shagbark (the latter is often called a shagbark hickory). At this time of year, “there are little green balls everywhere, like a baby green pumpkin,” that are the nuts. They’re edible; shagbarks often split upon hitting the ground, pignuts are harder. Once those ones dry, though, the shell becomes thin and easy to remove. This time of year is also one for some berries. One is hawthorn, which Bachand uses for tinctures. She warns that cannot be used by people who are taking heart/blood pressure meds, since it serves the saem purpose. “If you lower your blood pressure too much,

you’ll pass out,” she said. Another is teaberry (sometimes wrongly called winterberry). That’s also red, and it produces a very strong analgesic – so strong it cannot be eaten. “Never ingest the [berries or] oil from that. One tiny drop can make you sick, a few will land you in the emergency room,” she said. Instead, she makes an oil or salve from it for arthritis and various aches for topical use only. It shouldn’t be used by people allergic to aspirin, she added. Regarding tinctures, she said she prefers to base them in vegetable glycerin, not alcohol. The glycerin “will keep a couple of years,” but you can also use syrup. Dosing depends on use. That led her to point out a critical thing to remember about herbs – “Be careful when you’re picking things, because for every medicinal plant there’s a look-alike that’s poisonous.” She later noted “everything that’s a medicine can also be a poison” depending on dose and/or part of the plant. Bachand had a few other warnings to keep in mind: “Never pick anything from underneath the power lines because [the utilities] spray” (that’s usually wise advice regarding plants growing close to roads, too) and “I do not recommend going on the internet for anything. Some sites tell you to ingest everything. You can get really sick from that.” Instead, she recommends one specific book – Corinne Martin’s Herbal Remedies from the Wild – for its detail and line drawings. This story only covers a small number of the plants Bachand discussed, and many, many more also have medicinal and/or food properties.

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

Leicester Public Library to host art supply swap

LEICESTER — Guests are invited to take part in an art supply swap next month at Leicester Public Library. Hosted by The Drip Cup Café, the event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring gently used art supplies and swap them for something new to you. Drop-off availability for the event begins on Dec. 7. The library is located at 1136 Main St. To learn more about the event, visit www.thedripcupcafe.com.

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
12:20 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:03 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 6:29 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Road, Spencer), transported; 9:27 a.m.: debris in road (McNeil Highway), services rendered; 11:00 a.m.: suspicious activity (Gleason Way), spoken to; 2:13 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:39 p.m.: welfare check (Rawson Street), spoken to; 3:19 p.m.: fraud (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:03 p.m.: suspicious activity (Cricklewood Drive), spoken to; 6:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Pine Street), gone on arrival; 6:17 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Putney Court, East Brookfield), Steven M. Courtemanche, 38, 635 Pleasant Street, Rochdale, larceny of a firearm, arrest; 8:05 p.m.: trespassing (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 8:31 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), citation issued; 9:10 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:35 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:14 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 11:25 p.m.: accident (McNeil Highway), report taken.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
12:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:37 a.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), verbal warning; 3:47 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), Jason Michael Walsh, 37, 5 Marble Road, Spencer, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, speeding, arrest; 9:17 a.m.: ambulance (King Street), transported; 9:48 a.m.: keep the peace (Main Street), peace restored; 11:46 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 11:54 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), referred; 12:24 p.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), verbal warning; 1:31 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 3:51 p.m.: welfare check (Upton Street), transported to hospital; 5:44 p.m.: RV complaint (South Main Street), resolved; 6:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:16 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Olney Street), gone on arrival; 8:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, lights violation, criminal application issued; 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:05 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Cricklewood Drive), referred to ACO; 10:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Jennifer Leigh Ippolito, 41, 228 Concord Street, Framingham, larceny/forger/counterfeit; Rashad Rasan Ashmore, 38, 101 Paine Street, #1, Worcester, op w/suspended license, failure to appear upon recognizance, no inspection sticker, attempt to intimidate witness/juror/police/court official, arrests/2; 11:11 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
3:53 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 7:31 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 7:44 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 12:33 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 12:54 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 1:19 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:38 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 3:01 p.m.: ambulance (Flint Way), transported; 5:06 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 5:16 p.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Street, Spencer), transported; 6:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:25 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 6:54 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 7:01 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 7:26 p.m.: parking complaint

(Church Street), ticket issued; 8:15 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, marked lanes violation; name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal applications issued/2; 9:00 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:14 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:44 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:38 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:03 a.m.: ambulance (Dale Court), transported; 10:05 a.m.: ambulance (Waite Street), transported; 10:07 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Marshall Street), referred to ACO; 12:37 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 1:17 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 4:33 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Lakeview Drive), unable to serve; 5:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 5:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:52 p.m.: welfare check (Mannville Street), resolved; 6:28 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:37 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), spoken to.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13
12:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 4:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 5:50 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 5:58 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:37 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:56 a.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), spoken to; 8:01 a.m.: welfare check (Bottomly Avenue), resolved; 10:28 a.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 11:47 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:10 p.m.: investigation (Whittemore Street), report taken; 1:41 p.m.: investigation (Elmwood Avenue), report taken; 1:59 p.m.: suspicious person (Rawson Street), services rendered; 4:40 p.m.: restraining order service (Salminen Drive), unable to serve; 5:48 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:18 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
12:58 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 1:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:45 a.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:04 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:36 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 10:04 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 12:49 p.m.: assist other PD (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 1:45 p.m.: restraining order service (Salminen Drive), unable to serve; 3:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:49 p.m.: mutual aid (Maxdale Road, Worcester), transported to hospital; 10:19 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 10:35 p.m.: suspicious person (Pleasant Street), resolved.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
12:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 3:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:23 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 4:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:21 a.m.: threats (Main Street), report taken; 10:07 a.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 10:23 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:04 a.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 11:58 a.m.: ambulance (Grove Street), transported; 1:14 p.m.: assist other agen-

cy (Tobin Road), resolved; 1:32 p.m.: assist citizen (Charlton Street); 3:36 p.m.: missing person (Victoria Drive), report taken; 4:30 p.m.: suspicious person (Paxton Street), unable to locate; 4:48 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 5:20 p.m.: parking complaint (Clark Street), resolved; 5:40 p.m.: investigation (Victoria Drive), report taken; 6:03 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:08 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 9:00 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Mayflower Circle), Charles Anthony Zilembo, 65, 8 Mayflower Circle, Leicester, warrant, arrest; 10:14 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken.
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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
12:27 a.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), drill; 12:28-2:37 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:02 a.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), drill; 1:43-1:51 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Valley View Drive, High Street), flyers issued; 1:53 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 2:59 a.m.: parking violation (Cherry Street), flyer issued; 6:20 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 7:15 a.m.: mv lockout (Meadow Road), assisted; 7:39 a.m.: lost/found (Chestnut Street), backpack found; 7:42 a.m.: medical/general (Water Street); 8:43 a.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), accidental; 8:54 a.m.: DPW call (East Charlton Road), wire down; 9:40 a.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), c/o being recorded by neighbor; 10:15 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 10:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Street), req. welfare check; 10:44 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), no contact; 10:52 a.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 11:31 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:07 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), resolved; 1:09 p.m.: DPW call (School Street), wire across road; 1:23 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), dead coyote; 2:00 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), re: earlier incident; 3:49 p.m.: disturbance (Temple Street), unwanted party; 5:24 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 5:59 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), resolved; 6:07 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:33 p.m.: mv repossessed (Parent Street), info rec'd; 7:58 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), unwanted party; 8:03 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 8:59 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), mv shining lights into apt.; 9:44 p.m.: odor of gas (Main Street), referred; 11:01 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops – 0).
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
2:11-4:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:13 a.m.: accident (Min Street), report taken; 7:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Condon Drive), re: dead deer; 7:15 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 8:06 a.m.: LTC/FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:20 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:58 a.m.: fraud (East Charlton Road), report taken; 2:53 p.m.: fraud (Bixby Road), report taken; 3:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), welfare check; 3:25 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (West Main Street), re: agricultural burn tomorrow; 3:53 p.m.: restraining order service (North Brookfield Road); 4:58 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:12 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 8:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Drive), rep. road rage incident; 8:40 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (Bixby Road), report taken; 10:25 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 11:51 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 11:51 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 4).
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
12:02-4:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:32 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 7:45 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 8:04 a.m.: odor of gas (Main Street), referred; 8:17 a.m.: residential alarm (North Brookfield Road), services rendered; 10:47 a.m.: 911 call (Route 49), re: deer strike/Sturbridge; 10:56 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:37 a.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 11:52 a.m.: larceny/shoplifting (West Main Street), drill stolen; 1:49 p.m.: 911 call (Mechanic Street), wants medication returned; 2:04 p.m.: DPW call (Charlton Road), hanging wire; 3:41 p.m.: fire (Paxton Road), referred; 5:31 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 5:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), re: poss. b&e; 6:44 p.m.: mv complaint (Valley Street), truck doing burnouts; 7:02 p.m.: 911 call (Northwest Road), accidental; 9:25 p.m.: juvenile matter (South Spencer Road), re: threatening texts; 10:43 p.m.: 911 call (Ethier Drive), open line; 11:51 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops – 3).
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
12:27-2:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:51 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), State Police req. assistance; 12:57 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 2:13-3:04 a.m.: parking violations/5 (Church, Mechanic, Chestnut, Mill streets, Bay Path

Road), flyers issued; 5:26 a.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 5:40 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:52 a.m.: residential fire (Prospect Street), referred; 6:21 a.m.: accident (G.H. Wilson Road), mv vs deer; 6:56 a.m.: excavator repossessed (Old Meadow Road), info rec'd; 9:25 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), req. welfare check/Windham, ME; 10:15 a.m.: officer wanted (Ledge Avenue), re: pkg. rec'd; 11:01 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 11:29 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:14 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Browning Pond Road), resolved; 2:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), req. info; 3:52 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), fire truck out of gas; 4:54 p.m.: medical/general (Kittredge Road); 4:59 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mv/no lights; 5:04 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 5:12 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 5:54 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 6:15 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: missing dog; 7:10 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo/arrest; 7:17 p.m.: medical/general (Collier Circle); 10:33 p.m.: suspicious persons (Water Street), investigated; 11:30 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; (total daily mv stops – 1).
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
12:17-2:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:27-4:49 a.m.: parking violations/6 (Blueberry Hill, Taylor drives, Collier Circle, Grove, Mechanic, Church streets), flyer issued; 6:08 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:35 a.m.: fire alarm (Norcross Road), referred; 7:29 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 8:53 a.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street), referred; 9:12 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 9:59 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:07 a.m.: animal complaint (Lake Street), injured bobcat under porch; 10:12 a.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road), 11:58 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), question re: boarding horses; 1:39 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Chickering Road), referred; 2:39 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), spoken to; 4:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Grant Street), missing dog; 5:03 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 5:29 p.m.: officer wanted (East Charlton Road), re: rollerblader in street; 6:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), tailgating; 6:56 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 7:09 p.m.: fire alarm (Grove Street), referred; (total daily mv stops – 1).
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13
12:05 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 12:06 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), status not recorded on police log; 12:32 a.m.: disorderly conduct (Main Street), services rendered; 5:10 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:43 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 7:59 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:18 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:30 a.m.: residential alarm (Woodland Lane), services rendered; 9:07 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:37 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), re: issues w/tenant; 12:34 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: air pistol; 1:14 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: MWCC student; 1:20 p.m.: residential alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 2:01 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 3:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address/2; 7:36 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 1).
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
12:38-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:04-2:44 a.m.: parking violations/9 (Mechanic, Church, Greenville, Valley, Sullivan, Vine streets, Blueberry Hill Drive, Old Farm Road), flyers issued; 5:05 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 5:14 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:20 a.m.: parking violation (McDonald Street), ticket issued; 5:23 a.m.: medical/general (Overlook Drive); 6:02 p.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), icy conditions; 7:08 a.m.: medical/general (Depot Road); 7:32 a.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); 7:53 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:54 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), resolved; 8:23 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 8:59 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:00 a.m.: medical/general (Lyford Road); 9:57 a.m.: mv repossessed (Temple Street), info rec'd; 10:02 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), accidental; 11:19 a.m.: disturbance (Brooks Pond Road), neighbor dispute; 11:37 a.m.: 911 call (Lambs Grove), accidental; 1:19 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:04 p.m.: disturbance (Hastings Road), fem. req. police; 2:16 p.m.: commercial fire (Ash Street), services rendered; 4:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 5:20 p.m.: accident (Thompson Pond Road), report taken; 7:34 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo/arrest; 8:01 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 9:28 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 10:19 p.m.: disturbance (Pond Street), m/f verbal altercation; (total daily mv stops – 1).
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SPORTS

Locals in Leicester's Fournier, Tantasqua's Foley race in cross-country state championships

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR
DEVENS — A pair of cross-country standouts

MIHARA
continued from page A1

tion of hate, public hysteria, and leadership that allows it to fester.”

LMS leaders were honored to host Mihara earlier this month. For LMS social studies teacher Norman Everett, who was recently accepted into a workshop titled, “Echoes of History: Mistreatment and Incarceration in the American West,” it was a privilege to invite Mihara to speak to eighth grade students in Leicester.

“Our eighth grade curriculum addresses Japanese incarceration, but our students often think of it as something that happened a long time ago on the other side of the country,” Everett said. “Having Sam come to the school creates a more personalized connection to the whole event. It also allows them to see the whole story.”

During his presentation at LMS, Mihara addressed his family’s experiences with anti-Japanese propaganda before World War II, his struggles while imprisoned, and his journey toward becoming a nationally celebrated educator and speaker.

“He was able to address the topic in a level of detail that only someone who experienced incarceration can do,” Everett said. “To prepare our students for Sam’s talk, we provided a short book for students to read on the topic. We also provided students with the opportunity to create their own questions for Sam. Overall, it was an excel-

in Leicester junior Jason Fournier and Tantasqua senior Camden Foley had return trips to Fort Devens, host of the State

lent learning experience for our students.”

In addition to his educational presentation, Mihara’s story of perseverance and dedication after emerging from imprisonment also inspired local students.

After WWII ended, Mihara and his family returned home to San Francisco. He went on to study at U.C. Berkeley as an undergraduate, then earned an engineering degree from UCLA’s graduate school. He ultimately became a rocket scientist and joined the Boeing Company, where he served as an executive on space programs.

School officials thank Cornerstone Bank, DCU, and Country Bank for combining to cover all costs associated with Mihara’s speaking fees.

Additionally, LMS eighth graders are thanked for their engagement and preparedness.

“Eighth grade was chosen as the audience because Japanese incarceration is included in the Massachusetts eighth grade civics curriculum,” Everett added. “Mr. Lemerise, the eighth grade civics teacher, introduced our students to this topic before Mr. Mihara’s lecture. He also worked with our students to prepare questions for Mr. Mihara. At the end of the lecture, five students came to the stage to ask those questions.”

Championships. This year’s races — which were held on Saturday, Nov. 18 — produced better results for the locals.

Fournier, racing in the Division 3 meet, went from 43rd place last fall to a 27th place finish this time around. In Division 2, Foley finished in 38th place, up from his 82nd spot in 2022.

“I think I felt pretty good. I didn’t feel any cramps, I didn’t feel any soreness, so that was good. It was the first race in a while that I felt like that,” said Fournier. “I’m pretty happy. I was hoping for some rain out here because I really like running in the rain. A lot of people fall back down, and that really helps me.”

“Last year my arms froze up. I feel like I flex my arms when I run, so they get fatigued halfway through. It’s something I’ve tried to work on,” added Foley. “I’m not upset with how I felt in terms of up here in my head.”

For Fournier, who crossed the finish line of the 5K course in 17:17.59, the upcoming summer offseason — after he plays basketball and competes in spring track and field — is where he plans to work to make his senior cross-country season his best.

“I’m going to work the hardest I’ve ever done in the summer and try to get to my best ability in my senior year — try

to get better and better,” Fournier noted.

Foley will compete in this weekend’s Foot Locker Northeast Regional before turning his attention to the winter and spring track and field seasons.

“I’m super stoked because I signed up for the Foot Locker. It’s how some people qualify for the National meet,” he said.

Foley, now a three-time State runner — he raced in Wrentham as a sophomore — finished the race in Devens in 17:10.20, thanks in large part to a strong final kick down the home stretch where he ran past many competitors.

“Before every last kick that I do, I close my eyes for a good two seconds and then just run as hard as I can. It’s some random thing that I got into. I feel like I reach down and grab something inside of me. I then open my eyes and do it,” explained Foley, who is proud of his accomplishments. “My mom brings it up all the time. She says, “You should be so proud of this,” and I am.”



Leicester's Jason Fournier gives it everything he has down the home stretch of the Division 3 Cross-Country State Championships. Fournier finished in 17:17.59, good for 27th place.



Camden Foley of Tantasqua sprints toward the finish line of the Division 2 Cross-Country State Championship meet. Foley finished in 38th place with a time of 17:10.20.

SOLAR
continued from page A1

systems will be accepted by the town during the moratorium period.

Meanwhile, with the passage of Article 14 at the Special Town Meeting, voters authorized a moratorium on the construction of large-scale, ground-mounted solar installations. This moratorium will also run until May 2024.

“The Planning Board is recommending a temporary moratorium on further development of large-scale commercial solar facilities,” the board’s statement read. “Several of the amendments adopted at the Nov.

10, 2022 [Town Meeting] were rejected by the Attorney General due to conflicts with the laws of the Commonwealth regarding regulation of solar facilities and the most recent court case.”

The latest moratorium will allow the Planning Board to review the existing bylaw and address several concerns, officials said. These include the concentration of solar facilities in certain zoning districts; the loss of prime agricultural lands; decommissioning costs; the loss of open space; visual impacts; and deforestation.

To learn more about the articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant, visit www.spencerma.gov.

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