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Friday, June 9, 2023

## DPHS sends off Class of 2023

SPENCER — Sixty-three times! That's how many times Principal Nathaniel Malone and Assistant Principal Sara Kinnas turned and smiled for the official photographer as they handed diplomas to David Prouty High School's Class of 2023.

The graduates, with their young, bright and shining faces, smiled as well as they walked across McDonough Gymnasium, which was decorated with orange and black ribbons and streamers as well as with flowers, and a massive archway made of black and orange balloons with the sign, Class of 2023 on it.

McDonough Gymnasium had plenty of room for family, friends and others on a warm, late spring early evening with the sun shining brightly.

It was difficult to tell what the graduates were wearing because their black gowns covered their clothes, but their shoes were on full display.

Some wore sneakers

(New Balance, Nike), some dress shoes and many of the women were dressed to the nines with high heels while some wore flats.

Some wore sunglasses and some had decorated their caps with photos, words or their college and university of choice.

Each student was greeted with cheers from family and friends as he or she was presented with a diploma.

Some cheers were louder than others, but everyone was acknowledged.

And after the last student received his diploma tassels were flipped, caps were flung in the air and massive cheer was shouted from the top of their lungs prior to their exiting the gym.

It was a proud night for the graduates and their families, some of whom had enlarged photos of their son or daughter nailed to a stick which they thrust in the air to show their support.

And there were, of course, speeches...

As part of the graduation ceremony, each shop of the Career

Technical Education (CTE) program had the opportunity to speak with a graduating senior highlighting what they learned in their respective CTE Classes. Dylan Stanley spoke about the impact his studies in Environmental Science had on his future plans in environmental engineering, a program he plans to take up at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Jessica Duda, who took part in the Early Education and Care program at David Prouty High School, spoke about her work with young children and how it prepared her for future studies. Jessica plans to become a pediatrician after completing her studies also at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Emily Soter spoke about the impact her studies in the criminal justice program at David Prouty had upon her and how it helped shape her desire to continue her criminal justice studies this fall at Roger Williams University.

The CTE speeches concluded with Class

Turn To **DPHS** page **A16**



## Lightning fire levels Spencer church



Courtesy  
First Congregational Church of Spencer was destroyed by a raging fire that ignited from a lightning strike.

Photo

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The community is rallying in support of parishioners after First Congregational Church of Spencer was destroyed by a fast-moving fire last week.

Firefighters from multiple area departments battled the June 2 blaze, which started when the 160-year-old church was struck by lightning during a line of mid-afternoon thunderstorms.

Fire crews first responded to a fire alarm at the 207 Main St. church at approximately 3 p.m. Firefighters were investigating inside the building when one of the crews outside the church reported seeing smoke in the steeple.

Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons said crews had just begun bringing handlines into the building, when the

smoke suddenly turned black and the fire intensified into a backdraft.

Because Parsons was traveling in Maine when the fire broke out, his son, SFD Lt. Thomas Parsons, initially led the response. Upon arrival on scene, Southbridge Fire Chief Paul Normandin took over the response, per prearranged agreement with Chief Parsons.

Due to the rapid spread and intensity of the blaze, all fire crews were evacuated from the building. Fearing a structural collapse, responders then rushed their fire trucks farther away from the church.

"They had to chop hoses off the trucks with their axes and get them out of there," Parsons said.

A short time later, the church steeple collapsed as stunned residents and officials witnessed the fiery destruction of

Turn To **FIRE** page **A16**

## Leicester students shine at regional music showcase

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Student-musicians recently showed off their skills in western Massachusetts during Music in the Parks programming.

On May 19, Leicester Middle School and High School students traveled to Westfield and Agawam to compete in Music in the Parks, a festival that showcases middle school and high school students.

Leicester's choral groups performed at Westfield High School, while the instrumental groups performed at Westfield State University.

The LHS Chorus performed "The Cuckoo" by Robert Hugh as a warmup, followed by "Tres Cantos," a Brazilian tribal anthem. The group also performed "Dreams of Thee" by William Barnum, with solos from Alex O'Brien and Gabrielle Pietri on flute.

The LHS Chorus received an "excellent" rating for their work at the event.

Meanwhile, the LMS Chorus performed "J'entends le Moulin," a French-Canadian traditional arranged by Emily Crocker. The group also performed "We Will" by Jim Papoulis. During this performance, seventh grader Marielee Valentin delivered a vocal solo, while eighth graders Alexa Butler and Karsyn Bulak provided percussion. The LMS Chorus placed first in its category while earning an excellent rating.

Both the LMS and LHS Choruses were accompanied by Leicester Elementary School music teacher Alyssa Hiltz on piano.

Additionally, the LHS Concert Band performed "KickStart" by John Prescott for its warmup, followed by "Aria Without Words" by Clarence Barber and "Kinetic Dances" by Randall Standridge. The LHS Band earned a rating of excellent.

The LMS Symphonic Band performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" as a warmup, followed by Randall Standridge's "Frogs" and Christina Huss's "Brace for Impact." The LMS Band placed second in its category, along with an excellent rating.

Following the adjudicated performances, the Leicester musicians spent the rest of the day at Six Flags New England as they awaited the awards ceremony.

Leicester Middle School wound up earning the event's prestigious "Esprit de Corps Award" for the second consecutive year.

"Our Esprit de Corps Award recognizes the participating organization that displays an exemplary attitude of positive support and outstanding personal

Turn To **MUSIC** page **A17**

## Spencer native inducted into UN

GENEVA, Switzerland — On April 27 at a ceremony held at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland, United Nations Director General Ms. Tatiana Valovaya issued the United Nations Oath of Office to Christine Comeau of Spencer, inducting her into the United Nations.

Comeau has lived in Geneva since 2006. She began her United Nations career in 2007, when she was posted to the International Trade Center as an advisor to the Executive Director. In 2017, she joined the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to assist in optimizing business processes across its 10 global regions.

In 2019, Comeau was posted to the Division of Administration, located

in the United Nations headquarters at Geneva (UNOG). This office provides services and sup-



Courtesy

Christine Comeau of Spencer receiving her United Nations Oath of Office Certificate from Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland.



# Cusolito offers broad spectrum of experience



Courtesy  
Leicester's Peter Cusolito is running for a seat on the Select Board at next week's election.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER  
LEICESTER — Peter Cusolito is bringing experience across a broad spectrum of service to his bid for a seat on the Select Board. Currently serving as the Chairman of the (Finance) Advisory Committee, Cusolito also volunteered as a member of several workgroups created following the

town's purchase of the former Becker College campus. These included the Reuse Working Group, which was responsible for consolidating the recommendations of all workgroups and preparing a comprehensive recommendation on the disposition of buildings and their contents. "I was tasked with developing the recommendation and presenting it to the Select Board. The Board approved all recommendations in April 2022," Cusolito said of his time on the Reuse Working Group. Prior to serving Leicester in multiple capacities, Cusolito served his nation for nearly three decades. A retired Army Lieutenant Colonel with 26 years of active service, he commanded one of the military's most elite units specializing in homeland defense and terrorism response. After retiring from the military, Cusolito worked as a consultant for government and private sector agencies in the areas of security and emergency preparedness, business operations, and leadership development. He then started Ranger Security and Emergency Preparedness in 2017. Having honed an array of skills ranging across several sectors, Cusolito is hopeful to earn residents' votes at the June 13 election and have an opportunity to serve on the Select Board. With the town facing a number of hurdles in its post-pandemic emergence, next week's election will play an important role in shaping Leicester's path forward. "I believe I have the leadership, financial management, and public administration skills to help bring the community back together and address our short- and long-term financial challenges," Cusolito said. "Leicester is at a crucial point in time. Beyond economic impacts, financial challenges have created social

and political divides. The town needs leadership that promotes unity, direction, and a commitment to follow through on decisions." If elected, Cusolito would focus on goals that fall into five interconnected categories. These include communications; financial responsibility; long-term planning; transparency; and stability. "Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their government is doing. Informed people make informed decisions," said Cusolito, who would also promote an improvement in communications between town departments to enhance coordination and reduce duplication of work. "The town needs leadership that listens and seeks collaborative solutions." Additionally, Cusolito would focus on developing and implementing a comprehensive financial management plan that incorporates data-driven forecasting, sound financial policies, and long-range capital financing strategies. "There are alternative sources of revenue to shift

some of the burden off the residential ratepayers. As Chair of the Advisory Committee, I recommended that all new funding requests be fully vetted to gauge the benefit versus the expense to the community," Cusolito told the New Leader. Cusolito also stressed the town's need for a long-term strategic community plan to serve as a blueprint for goals, planned projects to achieve those goals, and metrics to determine success in meeting the needs of citizens. "Town leadership must be open and honest with the citizens. Too many decisions are made in executive session and approved without public discussion or disclosure," Cusolito said. "Once meeting agendas are posted, they should not be changed unless there is an urgent matter. The Select Board meeting notices have been amended the morning of a meeting almost 50 percent of the time in the past year." If elected, Cusolito would also focus on stabilizing the town's financial capability; continuity of town services; citizen access; and development of the town workforce.

Moving forward, Cusolito believes Leicester's ability to meet its short-term and long-term goals will be contingent on improved communications, transparency, and teamwork. "The biggest challenges in Leicester include a lack of unity and trust in elected and appointed officials. Many in the community believe that we have to choose between a tax increase that low- and fixed-income individuals and families cannot afford, or not adequately funding schools and other town services," Cusolito said. "Reality or perception, this shouldn't be a choice that has to be made. It will take effort and commitment, but the town can regain stable financial and social positions." Outside of municipal service, Cusolito enjoys woodworking, running, and cycling. He has also supported or participated in dozens of marathons and distance cycling events to raise money and awareness for cancer treatment and research. The Annual Town Election will take place on June 13 from noon-8 p.m.

Menard hopes to bring businessman's perspective to select board

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER  
LEICESTER — A long-time business owner in town, Kevin Menard is hoping to bring a unique perspective and skillset to the Select Board. Menard has owned his electrical/mechanical contracting company, KM Kelly, Inc., for the past 19 years. As both the owner and president of his 100-employee company, his responsibilities include creating annual business plans; preparing monthly financial statements; negotiating health plans with the company's insurance provider; and managing the company's 401(k) plan. Additionally, KM Kelly is a member of the Central Mass Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), with Menard



Courtesy  
Leicester's Kevin Menard is seeking a seat on the Select Board.

serving as the residing treasurer. "My 45 years in the construction industry, as well as my 19 years' experience as a business owner and my experience representing NECA in negotiations with the IBEW (International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), provide the experience required as a member of the Select Board," Menard said. Having lived in Leicester for the past 38 years, Menard believes the time is perfect for him to contribute his experience to the betterment of his town. "I appreciate everyone who has dedicated their time to serve on these boards during my time in town. I am at a point in my life where I can start giving back to the community that has served my family well over these years," Menard told the New Leader. "Being a 38-year homeowner and a 19-year business owner in Leicester, I had gotten very involved in the override. During my attendance at these meetings, along with the town meetings, it was clear to me the town could use some assistance with their finances. My experience should be able to provide this assistance." The recently purchased campus of the former Becker College presents plenty of opportunities for Leicester, both in terms of reuse and sales. If elected, Menard would promote his vision for how best to combine these elements

Turn To **MENARD** page **A3**



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# Provencher seeks seventh term as selectman



Courtesy  
Leicester Select Board member Dianna Provencher is seeking re-election.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER**

LEICESTER — Having served six consecutive terms on the Select Board, Dianna Provencher is seeking residents’ support as she aims to continue serving her community.

Provencher’s latest term saw Leicester make several major accomplishments despite going through a challenging pandemic emergence. One of the most significant achievements was the town’s purchase of the former Becker College campus. Prior to residents voting on the purchase, Select Board members worked hard to present the benefits of the acquisition to voters.

“This was a significant

purchase because it allowed our town to own our Common, and it served the purpose of getting a new high school at an incredible price, especially considering how much it would have cost the townspeople to build a new school,” Provencher said.

Following the acquisition of the campus, Provencher worked with fellow Select Board members and the School Department to facilitate the transition of LHS upperclassmen to the site. She also played a vital role in helping to determine how the rest of the buildings on the campus will be used.

“I served on the Becker Reuse Working Group, collaborating with other working groups toward deciding which Becker properties to keep, lease, or sell,” Provencher said. “I have also been working with the Select Board, Superintendent, and School Committee toward getting other buildings ready so that we can bring our freshmen and sophomores to our new campus.”

Throughout her tenure on the Board, Provencher has given back to her community through a number of activities. In addition to serving breakfast at the Senior Center each month, she also created a “Tea and Talk” program that enables seniors to visit the center, have tea and cookies, and talk informally about events in their lives.

“This is held once a month and allows for people to have conversation and companionship, which is very important for our elders to be engaged,” Provencher said.

In 2020, Provencher retired from the CMRPC after serving 12 years as its business manager. Prior to that role, she worked as a senior business analyst for Maxtor Company for over 18 years.

Reflecting on several of Leicester’s most important accomplishments during her tenure, Provencher is confident that she can help lead the town through the critical decisions to come.

A few recent achievements Provencher cited include the town voting to approve 20 acres at Burncoat Park for fields; a right-to-farm bylaw and an Agriculture Committee; and added acreage at Towtaid Park.

In addition to her work on the Select Board, Provencher also serves on the Board of Directors for the Leicester Lions Club, the Board of Directors

for the FSA Farmers Service Agency, and the Worcester County Bee Association. She also serves as a liaison to many other boards in town.

Looking ahead, Provencher is hopeful to continue her service to the town through an important stretch of decisions to be made over the course of the next term.

“Now that we have this beautiful campus for our schools and the town, plus other buildings that we can use to bring in revenue for our town, I will be focusing on strong fiscal management, budgeting, bringing in revenue for the town, and developing short-and long-term plans with the town departments and the School Department,” Provencher said. “I would also like to focus on developing a ‘We are all in this together’ approach toward managing our town.”

Provencher said fiscal management, economic development, and improved infrastructure should be three key focus areas for the town moving forward.

When she isn’t serving her community through various boards and positions, Provencher’s favorite activity is beekeeping. She also enjoys farming and helping people learn how to grow and where their food originates.

“Bees are a very important part of this process, and I like to educate children and adults on bee apiaries. I love setting up at the Leicester Farmer’s Market and enjoy everyone who comes, especially listening to town residents about their concerns and their lives,” Provencher said.

The Annual Town Election will take place on June 13 from noon-8 p.m.

**MENARD**  
*continued from page A2*

and maximize the benefits of the acquisition for residents.

“Short term, the focus has to be on the buildings that were purchased from Becker College. We need to relieve the town of the burden of these buildings that will not be used for the high school,” Menard said. “Not only will the town receive capital funds with the sale of the buildings—they will receive additional tax revenues as well. The town will also relieve itself of a significant amount of cost for such items as maintenance, utilities, and insurance.”

Menard’s long-term priorities are highlighted by the need to generate additional capital funds to support the town budget.

“The best way to add capital funds is to focus on inviting new businesses into town,” Menard said. “There are several parcels of land along Route 9 that I believe would be attractive to new businesses. The board has to develop a plan to attract new business.”

If elected, Menard would also focus on strong teamwork and communications to help repair residents’ frayed faith in their leadership team.

“In attending the many recent over-ride and town meetings, it is apparent the community has lost confidence in the town’s committees and board members,” Menard said. “This isn’t to say they’re not doing a good job. In fact, it can be a thankless job, but it is very apparent they are not in agreement on many issues. The boards have to work together for a common cause, set aside any personal agendas, and do what is best for the whole community.”

Added Menard, “If elected, I look forward to working with the current Board members, as well as any incoming members, to determine the best path forward to bring the town back together.”

Outside of work, Menard enjoys spending time with his wife, Debbie, and his six children who all came up through the Leicester school system. He also has twelve grandchildren.

“We love having them all over for multiple cookouts throughout the summer and getting together for all of the major holidays,” said Menard, who is also a collector of sports memorabilia.

The Annual Town Election will take place on June 13 from 12-8 p.m.

## Nearly 500 students named to Dean’s List at American International College

SPRINGFIELD — American International College (AIC) in Springfield is pleased to announce that 495 students have been named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2023 semester. Dean’s List students attend full-time and have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these diligent and hard-working students.

Justin Howard of W Brookfield  
Nathan Novia of Leicester

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

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# Departed Scouters remembered at annual Scout/Scouter Memorial Service

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** — The Heart of New England Council held its 53rd annual Scout/Scouter Memorial Service on Saturday evening, June 3 at the Walker Scout Memorial in Walnut Grove Cemetery, North Brookfield. Thirty-one area Scouts and Scouters who departed during the past year were remembered at this year's ceremony.

Scout Troop 257 of North Brookfield were honor guards to the rest of the Scout units assembled. Walker Memorial Coordinator John Ebersold welcomed attendees and led the group in the pledge of allegiance. Committee Member Ryan Laroche read the Walker Memorial history.

Walker Memorial Committee Member Joe Klimavich dedicated the new carillon chime system in honor of Norman Walker, the creator of the Walker Memorial Garden.

"The original Memorial Garden design featured a carillon tower with a rather sophisticated mechanism for its time that prompted the chimes to play when someone entered the circle." Klimavich said. "However, over time, the

chimes fell silent."

"A year ago today, we made a commitment to restore the chimes, and with tremendous community support, we have fulfilled that pledge," he continued. "Now, the chimes once again play whenever someone enters the circle. More than 700 hymns and patriotic songs are built into the system, which is programmed to mark the hour and to chime at 10 a.m., and 3 p.m., and to play 'Taps' at 7 p.m. before the system turns itself off overnight."

Klimavich thanked the more than 100 donors who enthusiastically supported the fundraising campaign that funded the new carillon chime system. He also acknowledged several individuals who played a key role in the project:

- Brookfield electrician Joel Berthiaume and his crew for their dedication and expertise in installing the electrical system the carillon chimes, the laser mechanism, and new spotlights on the memorial and flagpole
- Jeff Bezdek and the team at Vox Audio Visual / Bells of America for their design and technical support
- Jeff Tasse of Tasse Oil and Crowley Fuel

whose generous matching gift in honor of Bob LaFlamme and Crowley Fuel's 100th anniversary helped meet and surpass the fundraising goal

- Lisa Giguere Berthiaume, for her early encouragement and support
- The Walnut Grove Cemetery Commissioners Kirk Burnham, Jason Petraitis, and Mary Kularski for their assistance and cooperation
- Ed Bemis of Bemis Farms Nursery for his guidance and generous support with the new plantings
- Carl "Skip" Nielsen for his help in planting the new shrubbery and perennials.
- The Walker Scouting Memorial Committee for their unwavering support of the carillon chimes project and their commitment to preserving this annual tradition.



Troop 257 Scouts Place the Wreath at the Walker Scouting Memorial.

Matthew Ghirarda, Program Director, Heart of New England Council delivered greetings on behalf of the Council, and Committee Member and Chaplain Timothy Josti, Jr. read Psalm 23.

The Memorial Roll Call was read by Memorial Committee Member

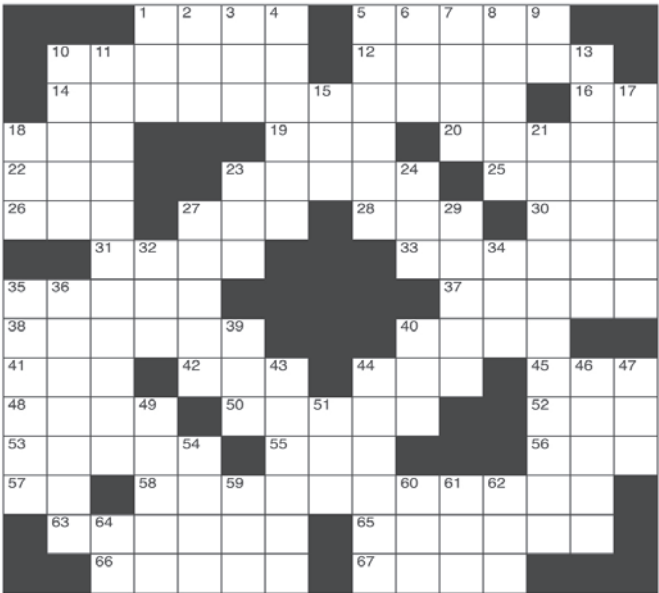
Michelle McCrillis and Ebersold, who provided a brief profile of each Scouter whose name was read.

"All of these individuals being honored today and those we have recognized over the years are bound by a common thread involving their commitment to service to others," Ebersold said. "We thank them for their service."

Scouts from Troop 257 laid the wreath at the Scouter

Statue. Memorial Committee Member Bob Laflamme led the group in Scout Vespers, and East Brookfield Troop 238 Scoutmaster, Jason Dumas read Baden Powell's farewell letter, followed by Ebersold's rendition of Amazing Grace and Taps. After presentation of streamers to each of the units, those assembled were invited to join the Committee for refreshments.

A videotape of the complete 2023 Scout/Scouter Memorial Service may be found on the North Brookfield Cable Access Channel's YouTube channel at youtube.com/@northbrookfieldlocalpublic3445.

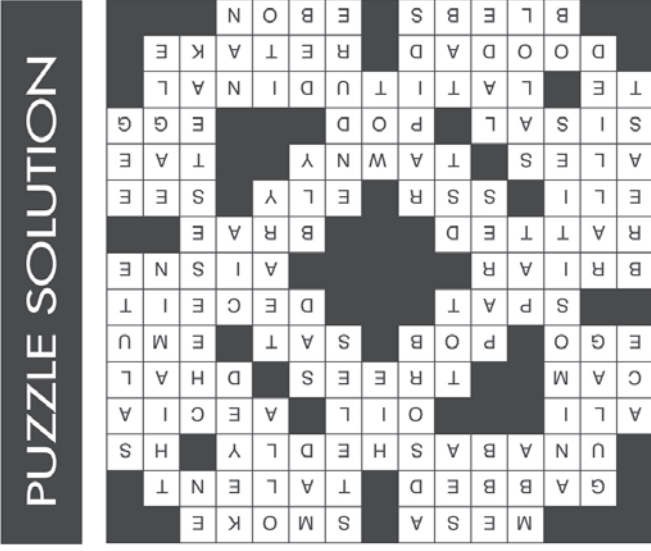


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 5. Where there's \_\_, there's fire
- 10. Talked incessantly
- 12. Skill
- 14. Without shame
- 16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
- 18. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Cluster cups
- 22. Footballer Newton
- 23. They make up a forest
- 25. Split pulses
- 26. Self
- 27. Post-office box
- 28. Test for high schoolers
- 30. Large, flightless bird
- 31. Expecterated
- 33. Falsehood
- 35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
- 37. French river
- 38. Told on
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Peyton's little brother
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
- 45. Witness
- 48. Brews
- 50. Yellowish-brown
- 52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
- 53. Mexican agave
- 55. A type of "cast"
- 56. Encourage
- 57. Atomic #52
- 58. Relating to position north of south of equator
- 63. Gadget whose name you forget
- 65. Another recording
- 66. Small blisters
- 67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Licensed for Wall Street
- 2. " \_\_ and flow"
- 3. A very large body of water
- 4. Accumulate on the surface of
- 5. Central cores of the stem
- 6. Angry
- 7. Ceramic jar
- 8. Scraped a car
- 9. \_\_ route
- 10. Soviet labor camp system
- 11. Strong hostilities
- 13. Vitamin of the B complex
- 15. Go quickly
- 17. Toast
- 18. A team's best pitcher
- 21. A Philly culinary specialty
- 23. Small child
- 24. Unhappy
- 27. Trims away
- 29. Characterized by crying eyes
- 32. Soft touch
- 34. American spy organization
- 35. A person's chest
- 36. Came from behind to win
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Nellie \_\_, journalist
- 43. Great places to kayak
- 44. Suffer patiently
- 46. Majestic bird
- 47. Electroencephalograph
- 49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
- 51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
- 54. Ship as cargo
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
- 61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
- 62. One's grandmother
- 64. Siberian river



## Knox Trail band wins award at music festival

**SPENCER** — The Knox Trail Middle School Band, under the direction of Mrs. Christine Noble, performed beautifully last week at the Great East Music Festivals at the MassMutual Arena in Springfield. As a result of their efforts, they are bringing home the "Gold Medal Performance" plaque for the Knox Trail Middle School trophy case.

"We could not be any more excited for our music program, which has only grown in popularity and quality of performances over the past five years," said Superintendent of Schools Paul Haughey. "Today's gold medal performance speaks to the growth and development of talent that our young people have demonstrated, under the direction of Mrs. Noble, over these past five years," added Haughey. "I speak for a lot of people in our regional schools when I say, 'we could not be prouder' of where we are and where we are going with our districtwide music program... Congratulations to Mrs. Nobles and the entire Knox Trail Middle School Band on a job well done today!"

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\$360,000, 20 Lakeview Dr, Savoy, Cody, to Paige, Jon P, and Perez, Martika.  
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\$235,000, 357 Main St, Kamdhenu LLC, to 2020 5d Realty Inc.

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**WARREN**  
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# East Brookfield remembers those who made the ultimate sacrifice



The community celebrated Memorial Day with multiple programs in East Brookfield.

Courtesy

EAST BROOKFIELD — At a series of Memorial Day observances on May 29, the community came together in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The grand marshal for the programs was Sgt. Irving “Mickey” Lussier, a lifelong East Brookfield resident who was drafted during college and joined the Air Force. In 1969, Sgt. Lussier served in Pah Rang, Vietnam, as a bomb loader in the Munitions Maintenance Squadron. In 1970, Sgt. Lussier was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas and then RAF in Upper Hayford in the United Kingdom from 1970-72.

After his service, Sgt. Lussier returned to East Brookfield and worked as a mechani-

cal engineer at Morgan Construction Company.

Also leading the May 29 programming were speaker Jim Joyce and singer Amanda Lambert, who performed at both the Podunk ceremony and the program in the main part of town.

East Brookfield Elementary School students Tyler Josti and Kinley Sauvageau recited the Gettysburg Address. Lucas Mateucci recited “America’s Answer”, and Madelyn MacDonald recited “In Flanders Fields.”

Also participating in the programs were the East Brookfield Fire Association, Scouting groups, and the David Prouty High School Marching Band.

## Concerts on the Common return July 5

LEICESTER — Leicester’s annual Concerts on the Common Series returns for its 33rd year July 5 with Dan Gabel & The Abletones, an 18-piece big band featuring vocalist Elise Roth performing music of the 1930s and ‘40s. Gabel was on world tour with the Glenn Miller Band. Rain date July 6.

The New Black Eagle Jazz Band appears July 12. A fixture on the international scene since 1971 playing the best in New

Orleans style Jazz, Gospel and Blues! The best musicians you’ll ever hear, and we are blessed to have them appear. Rain date July 13.

July 19 brings Abraxas, the ultimate Santana tribute, performing more than five decades of Santana hits. A great tribute to the spirit of Carlos Santana, sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Rain date July 20.

Michelle “Evil Gal” Willson & The Evil Gal Orchestra are set to per-

form on July 26. It will be a night to remember with this famous powerhouse Blues singer and her fabulous “Evil Gal” Orchestra! Willson is known around the world, and is currently hosting “Morning Vibe Time” for WICN. Rain date July 27.

Hear the music of the King Aug. 2 with “Viva Las Elvis,” a tribute to Elvis Presley by Dan Fontaine & The Memphis Sun Mafia Band. Get your Elvis fix tonight! A great show and tribute to

the King of Rock ‘n Roll. Sponsored by Country Bank for Savings. Rain date Aug. 3.

Changes in Latitude, the premier tribute show to Jimmy Buffett, will take the stage Aug. 9. Come to the beach party, wear your grass skirt, your Hawaiian shirt, kick off your shoes, and join a Conga line! Get your “latitude adjusted here!” Sponsored by Mapfre Insurance & G.E. McKenna Insurance Agency. Rain date Aug.

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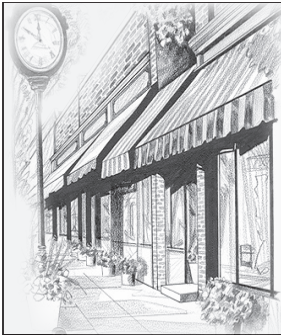
On Aug. 16, we welcome Backyard Swagger, a “smokin’ hot” Country music band playing today’s hottest hits from Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean, Zac Brown, and more. A perfect summer concert evening. Rain date Aug. 17.

The 2023 concert season will come to a close Aug. 23 with The Otters, playing a mix of ‘50s, ‘60s, & ‘70s music. Bring your best gal and enjoy this fun night. What a way to end

the season! Sponsored by LCAC. Rain date Aug. 24.

All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

This project is supported, in part, by a grant from the Leicester Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Leicesterr Savings Bank Fund and the Fontaine Fund.



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# Former Ye Olde Tavern reopens June 2 as Hitchcock Tavern



Courtesy

**It's official! The historic landmark has been renamed Hitchcock Tavern.**

WEST BROOKFIELD — There's a new, old kid on the block in West Brookfield. After a brief soft opening with a limited menu earlier this month, the former Ye Olde Tavern will reopen with a full food and drink menu, many new updates and a new

name, Hitchcock Tavern, on June 2, according to owners Cindy and Roger Larson.

The couple bought the tavern in 2007, and operated it for more than a dozen years before selling the business and moving on to a new ven-

ture, Common Ground Ciderworks, in North Brookfield. They sold the business, but not the building, so when Ye Olde Tavern closed in February, the Larsons decided to reclaim and rebrand the historic landmark that has been serving food and drink to locals and travelers for more than 250 years.

"We chose to return to the original name, Hitchcock Tavern, as a tribute to Captain David Hitchcock, the young patriot who built the tavern in 1760," said Cindy.

"This historic tavern has always been an important part of the fabric of the West Brookfield community, a place where you can enjoy a hearty meal, celebrate an important occasion, or simply gather with friends," she said. "After completing some much-needed renovations and repairs, we are finally ready to welcome the community in once again."

The Larsons also noted the appointment of two key staff members, head chef Mike Rinaldo and general manager Dianne Lincoln.

Chef Rinaldo holds a culinary degree from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. He has been a corporate chef for the Hilton Hotel chain, responsible for restaurants in 47 states. Most recently, he served as executive chef at NU Kitchen, in Worcester. When the new menu is introduced, he expects it will include a number of the comfort foods for which the tavern was previously known.

Lincoln has more than 20 years in restaurant management and more than 30 years in bakery operations. She holds a bachelor's degree in business from Nichols College, Dudley, with a minor in hospitality management.

Many local artisans were involved in recent renovations, including Kevin Frickenberg (floors), Dick Reynolds and his installer, Mike (floors), Ace Botta and Ryan (painting), Tim Nason (painting), Jason Paquette and team (contracting), John Tripp (electrical), Brian Fritze and Brad Gregoire, Tim Pecore (plumbing), and

David Maloney, DM Design Marketing (signage).

Hitchcock Tavern will be open daily at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. On Sunday through Thursday the tavern will close at 11 p.m., with a midnight closing on Friday and Saturday nights. The main dining room is now available for wedding receptions, showers, bereavement gatherings, and other events. To make reservations or to book a function, call (508) 637-1497 or email [info@hitchcocktavern.com](mailto:info@hitchcocktavern.com).

Captain Hitchcock was a noble and public spirited man. In addition to operating the tavern from 1760 to 1811, he generously donated a parcel of land to establish a town common, serving as a central gathering place for residents. This act of philanthropy laid the foundation for community events, celebrations, and a sense of togetherness that has endured for generations.

Situated along the Olde Bay Path Road that stretched from Albany to Boston, the Hitchcock Tavern was a key stop for colonists who traveled

the common stagecoach route.

Across the years, the tavern has welcomed a number of distinguished and interesting guests, the most famous of whom was America's first president, George Washington who dined at Hitchcock Tavern on October 23, 1789 during his presidential tour of the New England states. It is believed that Daniel Shays was a frequent guest before he led the historic event now known as "Shay's Rebellion."

On Nov. 27, 1796, another president, John Adams mentioned his stay at the tavern on his way to his Quincy home in a letter to his wife, Abigail. In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte's younger brother, Jerome, and his bride, Elizabeth Patterson stopped at the tavern during their honeymoon, and in 1824, the famed general and Frenchman, Marquis de Lafayette stayed at the tavern during his last visit to the United States.

Captain Hitchcock and his wife, Martha are interred at the entrance to Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield.

## Space still available for area seniors on Boston trip

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## June 10 is Boat Safety Day on Lake Wickaboag

WEST BROOKFIELD — The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association (LWPA) will again take the lead and partner with the Lake Wickaboag Boat Club (LWBC) to co-sponsor an event to promote boating safety on Lake Wickaboag.

On June 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Coast Guard Auxiliary will screen boats for free at the LWBC. Please consider bringing your boat by the LWBC, especially if you are a new boater. During the inspection, you will learn whether your boat has everything needed to be seaworthy and no citations will be issued if your boat is found to be noncompliant with Massachusetts boating rules. Boats will be inspected on a first-come-first served basis; no reservations are needed. Members and non-members of the LWPA and the LWBC are welcome. Visit [LakeWickaboag.com](http://LakeWickaboag.com) for more information.

## Applications welcome for Cultural Council grants

SPENCER — Each year, the town of Spencer receives several thousands of dollars from the State of Massachusetts to provide cultural activities for our town. The decision as to what the money will be allocated to is decided by the members of the Spencer Cultural Council. These programs range from children's programs in the library to programs for seniors at Senior Living at Prouty, the Spencer Senior Center, the schools and everything in between. Members of the commission are only allowed to serve for six years and because of this, there are openings for new members at this time. If this is something that interests you and you are a resident of Spencer, you are invited to apply.

Applications can be downloaded from [spencerma.gov](http://spencerma.gov) or by contacting the Town Administrator's office at the Spencer Town Hall. For more information, please call Denise Famosa at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, at 508-885-7513, ext. 1.

## Cool off this summer with a great read at Haston Library

NORTH BROOKFIELD — With temperatures continuing to heat up, guests are invited to cool off with a good read this summer at Haston Free Public Library.

The library will have new hours of operation, starting on July 1. On Mondays and Thursdays, the library will be open from 1-7 p.m. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, hours will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday hours will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

The library will still be closed on Fridays, Sundays, and holidays.

This month's Book Group discussion at the library (June 27 at 7 p.m.) will focus on "The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption," a book written by Dahr Jamail.

The library's Movie Discussion Group will next meet on June 26 at 6 p.m. Members will discuss "It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World" (Rated G).

For young readers and their families, be sure to check out June story-time sessions on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

If you are interested in registering for an upcoming program at the library, or to learn more about children's and adult programming, call 508-867-0208 or send an email to [hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com).

A reminder to guests, the library will be closed on June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

## Spencer Summer Concert Series kicks off June 25

SPENCER — The Spencer Parks and Recreation Commission will once again present its Summer Concert Series at Powder Mill Park.

The park is located at the corner of Smithville and Meadow Roads. Shows will run from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

This year's lineup includes the following dates and musical acts: June 25 (She's Busy); July 9 (The Deloreans); July 16 (The Love Dogs); July 23 (Fender Road & Kylie Harris); July 30 (Vivi and Da Funk); August 6 (The Silverbacks); August 13 (The Chain); August 20 (Chuck & Mud); August 27 (Dan Fontaine & Memphis Sun Mafia: Elvis Presley Tribute).

The free concert series is sponsored by Cornerstone Bank.



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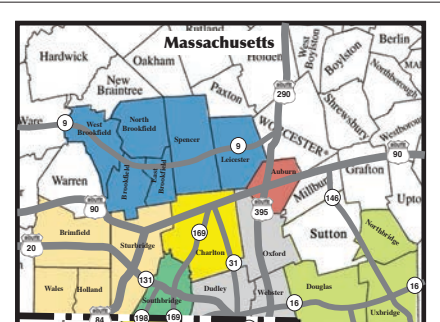
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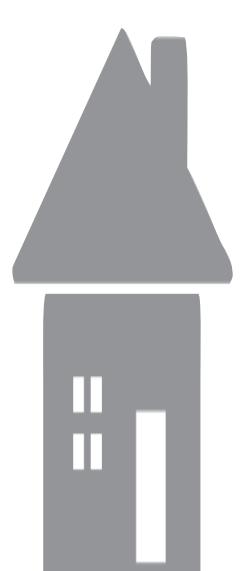
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Spotlighting one group's struggle does not negate another's

We've heard some rumblings about why a Pride Month exists, and how other groups of people should have a month-long celebration. Pride Month isn't a federal holiday like other groups. Just because a group of people are celebrated doesn't mean any other group shouldn't be. Any such comparisons are a case of apples being set against oranges.

The reason we celebrate Pride is simply to applaud overcoming and still working to overcome hate and bigotry the LGBTQ community has received for hundreds and hundreds of years. The same goes for Black History month. It's to celebrate the people who have been and still continue to be oppressed. Whether or not you experienced it with your own eyes doesn't matter. It exists.

Simple rights such as not being able to get married and afforded the same rights under federal law as straight couples, not being seated in a restaurant, getting gun downed for being in a gay nightclub, getting murdered for being gay, not feeling comfortable holding hands in public, fear of getting gawked at or harassed, not being able to rent an apartment or buy a house are a few things members of the LGBTQ community has faced.

Even though those things are legal now, it's still an uphill battle. Bad things certainly happen to everyone, but not because of who they love. It is discrimination that fuels that evil.

Pride is simply about being proud of who you are. The most important thing for any individual is to simply be kind, obey the law and focus on your own lives. To judge who another person loves would be odd at best.

Pride Month was initially inspired by the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, and works to achieve equal justice and opportunity for LGBTQ Americans. The purpose of the month is to recognize the impact that LGBTQ individuals have had on society locally, nationally, and internationally.

In some states, it is still illegal for same sex couples to adopt children or acquire fair employment.

The Stonewall Uprising took place on June 28, 1969, and was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the 1960s, the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village was a gay club and refuge for many in the LGBTQ community. On that day, the New York City police raided the inn, sparking a riot among bar patrons and neighborhood residents with the police.

The riot involved hundreds of people and led to six days of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement outside the bar.

A year later, thousands of people marched from the Stonewall Inn to Central Park in what was then called "Christopher Street Liberation Day" marking what is now recognized as the nation's first gay pride parade. Since 1970, LGBTQ+ people and allies have continued to gather together in June to march with pride and demonstrate for equal rights.

We are all Americans, and we must continue to look out for each other and ensure that each and every one of us are treated equally under the law. True freedom is not for just one group of people, it is for all people. Anything less is un-American.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## One lucky solider, Part 3

BY BOB POTVIN  
SPECIAL TO THE NEW LEADER

*Editor's note: Following is the third installment of Bob Potvin's memoir recalling his service as an x-ray technician during the Vietnam War. We rejoin him about to embark after receiving his orders to report to Vietnam.*

Going to Vietnam was exciting or me, believe it or not...from flying right after a New England ice storm at the Worcester Airport to a non-stop commercial flight from New York City to San Francisco was, indeed, fun. I traveled in uniform at half-fare. My OD duffel bag was it. No luggage! I was confident, and a Private First Class. The world didn't owe me a thing. I had earned my keep. Now I had allowed for a couple of days in 'Frisco with Tom Cleveland and Pam, California friends from San Francisco. Sophisticated and earthy, these folks enlightened me to the ways of being a true northern Californian.

At the Oakland Army Base, I reconnected with 15 of my 91p20 classmates. I wasn't alone. I called my sister Jan to check on mother, who still was in shock. Right then and there, I decided to employ my letter-writing skills by sending postcards along the way. Am I glad I did. Written communications are the best weapon a soldier can use. Today, it's e-mail and iPhones and texting that reign supreme.

My Army archives are intact today. They serve as reminders to the truth. "Dear Mom and Dad... Jan. 31, 1967, San Francisco. "Have been taking in the sights - spring-like weather. Feb. 3, 1967: just landed in Honolulu...3:30 a.m. ... about 70 degrees." We refueled at Okinawa, then off to Vietnam. At Long Binh, South Vietnam. Feb. 6, 1967: Arrived safely after 22-hour flight. Oakland is a very busy place. There are thousands of troops. The food is pretty good, with free beer and soda and summer-like weather."

And so it went. I was now earning combat pay for being "In Country." I heard veterans talk about killing Charlie the enemy. I pretended I didn't hear the conversation. Before being assigned to a permanent station, we slept

out in tents at Long Binh Junction. I was too afraid to get up to go to the toilet the first night. Bomb explosions could be heard in the distance. Why me? I asked. I was now back with my buddy, Dr. Larry Bauml.

Our camp was like a scene from "M\*A\*S\*H." Standing in formation, our names were called off over loudspeakers. We received our assignments. When the sergeant got to our names, I can still hear the words "Bauml - 9th Infantry Division. Potvin - 36th Evacuation Hospital." Larry's face was crestfallen; mine puzzled. I ran to the posted map of Vietnam and noticed Vung Tau was on the coast of the South China Sea. How could I be so lucky?

The next move was to take my duffel bag and go aboard a propeller airplane. We flew over the jungles of Vietnam. I still didn't know what I was in for. Next, I recall seeing sand all about and olive drab canvas tents set up, and men walking around, shirtless, in shorts, with absolutely the darkest tans one could hope for. Little did I know I too would sport such a tan a year later. We were nine degrees above the Equator. You have been assigned to the best location in Vietnam, stated my new company commander, David J. Kitchen. Wow, my good luck continued. How lucky can a guy be?

Vietnam is many things to many people. To me, my year was long, lonely, lousy, fun, rewarding, adventurous, drunk, thrifty, and non-combatant. Again, I remained lucky. I even wrote a short poem entitled "A lucky solider that I am and in oh, so many ways, but much too oft my mind forgets where heavier burdens lay."

Vung Tau is a sandy peninsula on the South China Sea. It hadn't been hit by the Viet Cong guerillas in 18 months. Corruption persisted, with 345 bars and VD running rampant. I remained in the thick of it. Surprisingly, I saw GI's run to the young ladies of Vung Tau. These men were innocent, and I thought living with them was okay. With my Jesuit education in college, I knew better. One thing I did participate in, however, was the black market!

The first thing upon arrival to Vietnam was to redeem all greenbacks for

MPC's (Military Payment Certificates). This meant legal tender currency was illegal to own (almost). I quickly learned I could make money owning script. Also, the PX was a source of making money by selling allotted goods.

We were given yellow ration cards. We could purchase cameras (three), radios (three), a record player, tuner, tape recorders (three), watches (two), a typewriter, an electric fan and a small television. Also, we could buy cigarettes and alcohol, all of which ended up for sale on the streets of the Vung Tau village. Cartons of Salem cigarettes cost \$2 and could be sold for \$4. Vung Tau was a resort village; therefore, all goods were readily sold and available on the street at marked up prices. There wasn't any control on the resale of goods.

Early on, in March, Nancy Sinatra came with her famous hit "These Boots Were Made for Walking." Nancy sang from a flatbed trailer. She also visited the wounded soldiers in the wards of the 36th Evacuation Hospital. I didn't perceive Nancy as happy at the time. I also was near coldcocked one night while drinking beer in the social tent I called the so-called friend John Dwyer's bluff. He had a hole in his t-shirt, and I put my finger in it and tore it. "Step outside" was his invitation! I did, only to meet his fist on my nasal bone. The slug knocked me to the ground. Wow! Sheldon Kabaker, MD was my commanding officer and EENT specialist. He packed my nasal passageway with cotton. I received a deviated septum! Two black eyes and some advice from Franklin J. Pepper, MD: "Do some good, Potvin." I did by volunteering to teach adult Vietnam citizens English at the Vung Tau cultural center. For a month, I taught the rudiments of conversational English. But I wanted more adventure. Thom Cox came back from Australia R&R. Cox taught me the ropes, as he was supply clerk.

One time, we traveled to Cholon and witnessed the abject poverty of peasants filtering through our garbage. Not good. Cox knew how to maneuver things. Once, he got a wrecked Jeep M151, brought it from Saigon to Vung Tau and repaired it. Cox was my kind of guy!

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY PAUL HAUGHEY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
SPENCER-EAST BROOKFIELD REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

I hope this Superintendent Update for June 2023 finds you and yours well. Despite a couple of hot days recently, everyone has managed take part or plan to take part in field days, field trips, outdoor learning and end-of-year concerts and graduations in our District Wide Preschool, Wire Village School (Grade 4), East Brookfield Elementary (Grade 6), Knox Trail Middle School (Grade 8), and High School... Please take a moment to join me in recognizing and celebrating our young people, especially the Class of 2023. I am so proud of our graduating Class of 2023! As I indicated in my commencement speech to them, I have learned so much from them and with them over these past four years.

Enrollment: As we approach the end of this school year, I am pleased to report that the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District proudly served more than 1,459 students, which is a 48-student increase over this time last year...

Personnel Report: All of our open positions are posted on SchoolSpring.com for the summer months and next school year. To apply, please go to:

<http://www.schoolspring.com>

ChooseSEBRSD Podcast: Our latest podcast episode "Career and Technical Education: Part 4" is out now and it's chock-full of insights you don't want to miss! 🎧

Get up close and personal with four ambitious students who are making strides in their respective CTE co-op experiences:

🍎 Gianna Mattei, who's shaping the future of Early Education & Care.

🔍 Emily Soter, championing justice in the field of Criminal Justice.

🌱 Cody Chen, striving to save the planet through Environmental Science.

🔧 Brodey Perchak, redefining what's possible in Marketing.

Listen in as they share their co-op experiences. It's time to dig deep into the world of career and technical education!

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/3L5MOowr4gQ7KjnCAfjGKB>

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#NewEpisode #CareerEducation #TechnicalEducation #CTE #Podcast #Education #CareerJourney

MSBA Update: The David Prouty High School "Addition/Renovation" Building Project continues to move forward.

Turn To **SUPERINTENDENT** page **A17**

## Special needs trust could ease families' stress



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If you have a family member with special needs, you might face emotional and physical issues, but you also may be concerned about maximizing the financial support your loved one requires. Consequently, you may want to consider establishing a special needs trust.

This type of trust can help maintain the financial security and lifestyle of an individual with special needs. Furthermore, a special needs trust can allow the trust's beneficiary to receive financial support for supplemental needs without losing public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

Here's how it works: You, as the trust's grantor, establish the trust and name a trustee who is responsible for managing the trust. You can fund the trust with gifts throughout your lifetime or from other sources, such as inheritances or court settlements. But another popular funding mechanism is life insurance, which the trust can purchase on the life of one or both parents of a special-needs child. And as long as the trust is also named the beneficiary of the policy, government benefits will be protected.

In a special needs trust, the role of trustee is important. A trustee must manage the funds within the trust and ensure those funds are used only to supplement SSI and Medicaid, the government programs that typically pay for food, housing and medicine. Instead, a special needs trust can be used for most other expenses, including transportation and travel, education, entertainment, professional services and personal items.

You could serve as trustee yourself or choose a relative or a trusted friend. Ideally, you want someone who's familiar with your wishes and the needs of your family member with disabilities and who is also competent at managing finances and staying current on SSI and Medicaid regulations.

As an alternative, you could hire a professional trust company to manage your special needs trust. This type of company has expertise in asset management and government regulations and can provide you with strict record-keeping of all the financial transactions associated with your trust. If you go this route, you'll want to compare different trust companies' costs and services. For such a personal matter as administering a trust for your special-needs family member, you'll want to be sure you're comfortable with whatever company you select.

Also, you'll want to be familiar with some of the possible areas of concern regarding special needs trusts. For one thing, because the trustee totally controls when and how funds are distributed, beneficiaries can get frustrated if their requests for money are denied. Additionally, while third-party special needs trusts are funded by someone other than the beneficiary, first-party special needs trusts are funded by the beneficiary's own assets — and for these first-party special needs trusts, the trust must typically pay back Medicaid for money it has spent on the beneficiary's behalf after the death of the beneficiary. This repayment could deplete the trust, depriving secondary beneficiaries of any assets they might otherwise receive. Third-party special needs trusts do not require Medicaid repayment.

Consult with a legal professional before establishing a special needs trust to ensure this arrangement is appropriate for your family's situation. But if it is, and if it's managed properly, it can relieve you of some of the stress you may feel over the future of your loved one with special needs.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Smile!

To the Editor:  
Take the time throughout this day to share your smile with someone. Your smile could be just the medicine they need.  
A smile shows appreciation. It's used as a greeting. Displayed when a job is well done. Very contagious. Makes you more attractive. Can change your mood. Has been known to relieve stress. Lowers your blood pressure.  
A smile is inspiring, and an uplifting gesture. Makes you look younger. Has been known to make you appear more confident. Could boost your morale. Tells others life is so good. Takes fewer muscles than a frown. Also a natural drug. Shows sincerity. Displays contentment. Brings joy to others. People could say "Your smile is perfection."  
A smile can be exhilarating, creates a "happy camper" image. Suggests suc-

cess. Helps you live longer. Can generate desires. Assists helping you stay positive. People have said "Wish I had a smile like yours." "Your smile always brightens my day." "Your infectious smile complements your entire persona." Yes, thinking of your "one of a kind smile" gives me the energy and drive to have fun and enjoy the day.  
Smiling can improve your objectives and goals. Please, keep smiling. You look so good when you do. Take the time to enjoy this day; every day, in fact. Share your smile with others. It is the positive thing to do. Make someone happy today by giving them a smile, like only you can do.  
DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.  
SOUTH HADLEY

*Editor's note: The author is a native of Brookfield.*

Another Clean-up Day Success

To the Editor:  
Just a note to thank everyone for their participation in our annual Clean-Up Day.  
We thank all the volunteers who picked up trash. The Highway Department for pick-up, gloves and trash bags.  
Woody's Garage and Big Y for the food and luncheon supplies.  
Everyone working together made

these events possible, and the success that it is.  
Thank you again for caring for our town.  
Sincerely,  
PATRICIA STARK  
ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE AND SPENCER  
RECREATION COMMITTEE

Pine Grove Cemetery in Spencer needs our help now

To the Editor:  
As some of you know, Pine Grove Cemetery came to the town for help over two years ago, and has met with numerous delays. We put a citizen's petition on the annual town meeting to give them \$40,000 a year, which included an override. I was hoping the question would be put on the May ballot, but it wasn't; another delay.  
The selectman are deciding the date for a special election, but Pine Grove needs funds now. The override will cost a \$240,000 home approximately \$7.20 per year so I am asking everyone to

send them \$10 so they can make it through the summer. Please let them know there is a light at the end of the tunnel.  
Please send a donation to  
Pine Grove Cemetery Corporation  
C/O Dean Stevens, President  
210 Reservoir St.  
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Checks made out to: Pine Grove Cemetery.  
Thank you for reading this  
BETH MCPHERSON  
SPENCER

Support energy choice; we should make the decision

To the Editor:  
Do you want an increase to the already high cost of energy? I certainly do not. For many, it is already out of reach.  
House Bill 3196 and Senate Bill 2106 would close the competitive electric market in Massachusetts, forcing customers back to their default utility. Under the competitive market, you can shop and compare rates, save money, and access 100 percent renewable options if you so choose.  
I oppose the bills introduced by Sen. Moran and Sen. Crighton that would close the competitive retail energy market and remove my energy choice.  
I was disappointed to see this legislation introduced again. More than

1,000 Massachusetts energy customers fought against this legislation last year.  
I like being able to choose my energy supplier and the plan that works for me and my household. Competition is important and customers deserve to have a choice and options. This is our right!  
Since when do our elected officials make this decision for us? How and why do elected officials tell us where to shop and how to spend our money? Maybe we should "follow the money." Friends and neighbors say no as loudly as you can. It is apparent that our elected officials are hard of hearing.  
TED BAUER  
LEICESTER

Do not love the world!

To the Editor:  
What God is saying, teaching, is God created this world for us to enjoy according to God's values, standards, and principles, to raise our families and to teach our children to honor and serve Him, God, and to dedicate our self, our life, our children.  
It all started with Adam and Eve. God instructed them how they are to conduct their lives, and instructed them the one thing they were not allowed to eat, and testing their love and obedience by allowing Satan, a fallen angel, Lucifer, who thought he was better than God and was rebuked and cast to earth to tempt, entice Adam and Eve. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve flailed the test, and here we are today, and because of Adam's disobedience and Eve's deception, we today, descendants of Adam and Eve, are born with a sinful nature.  
In spite of Adam and Eve's sin of disobedience, God has not given up on us. God is our creator, and created this world for us to live, love and enjoy according to God's values, standards and principles, and has chosen to give us a second chance through Jesus, instructing us to teach our children

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.

to be dedicated to God. God supplies us with everything we need for our healthy, happy, life today and for eternity; God desires that we are obedient to Him.  
God will allow our devotion to be tested by the defiant Satan, who was once God's super angel Lucifer, who thought he was smarter than God only to find himself cast from heaven, and today, Satan has become the prince of this world with the desire to take as many of us with him into hell, and we descendants of Adam and Eve inherit their sinful nature.  
However, God has given us a second chance through God's Son, Jesus.  
Today, the responsibility of obedience is on us, not Adam and Eve. The world today is still internal because it begins with us, our hearts desire to satisfy the flesh and Satan knows our weakness, our physical desires to satisfy the flesh, and Satan will make every effort to tempt us, as he did with Adam and Eve [Genesis 3: 16]. If Satan also tried to tempt Jesus [Matthew 4: 1-11], he will not hesitate to tempt us.  
Thank God through Jesus for our second chance to redeem our self, the choice is ours. The question you need to ask yourself is, what is your internal choice! To love the world and what it has to offer and or to love God through Jesus and inherit eternal life.  
Now, you need to do some serious soul searching. This world system [Babylon] is temporary, and will one day be destroyed by God. Babylon represents the world. You can confirm this in God's Word the Bible. [1 Corinthians 7: 31] [2 Thessalonians 1: 7-10] [2 Peter 3: 10] [1 John 2: 17] [Revelation 14: 8 & 18: 2] whether or not you believe it is still a fact.  
Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD

Stranger than fiction

To the Editor:  
I used to find our government entertaining, but I am way past that now. Start with the fact that the leading GOP candidate has already had multiple felony indictments, lost a rape judgement and has so many more indictments waiting in the wings, and that his closest competition is another book banning loon who also thinks insurrectionists should get pardons; that should be alarming to every red blooded American.  
Consider this — some states are net winners (producers with good education, healthcare, law enforcement, and high employment with higher wages.

Is it a mystery why these states tend to be blue Dem leaning states? Then there are red net-taker states. They feature the lowest income, worst healthcare and education levels, and much reliance on blue state funded assistance programs...They continue to be red states, presumably by tradition. The red states have delivered a GOP house majority. The GOP who facilitated Trump increasing the deficit \$7 trillion, in some measure delivering tax cuts to millionaires (still in place, yours have expired). The suddenly fiscally conscious GOP has now blackmailed the Biden administration to cut SNAP benefits, creating hungrier kids, or less well off families who will now need to go broke for child care to get a min wage job to retain snap benefits. Years ago, in my house, my wife cured cabin fever giving her entire paycheck for my boy's childcare (thank God only two of them, or would have been net loss).

We have just celebrated Memorial Day, soon Independence Day, then Labor and Veterans Day, all as tributes to this supposed world's greatest democracy. Please, then, explain why election day is not a holiday. Why are so many states working so hard to both repress actual history (especially of racism for which we should be ashamed), but also limiting ability to exercise the Constitutional right to vote. In Australia, they require it and pursue it as rigorously as a census. Mail or in person is fine. Given a whole month to vote, and they go looking for you if

you do not. You can file a ballot voting for nobody, but must return your ballot. Compare this to jurisdictions with hours long lines, cannot even be handed a drink of water, and, because it is a work day, can lose job or wages to vote. WTF (welcome To Florida). If you call yourself a patriot and get hinky when people take a knee during the National Anthem, but are OK with this — you are the problem, and do not support or defend the constitution.

Imagine living in a country that is 16 percent of the world's population, but owns 45 percent of the world's guns (one brilliant Congresswoman says we need to get more), but where the greatest danger of death to children is being shot. Imagine embracing a line in the Second Amendment that says "the right to have and bear arms, will not be abridged," but ignoring the first lines of it which say "A well regulated militia being necessary" when what we see ranges from slight to no regulation at all. What level of intelligence to you assign to a society that makes fishing harder than having a gun? Or reading Dr. Seuss?

The age of artificial intelligence is upon us. It will develop into a serious challenge for rational thinking minds. We have not quite gotten to the level of AI dominance depicted in "Terminator" movies, but it is my observation that common sense is no longer common, and, unless polls are all being responded to by AI, it is clearer than ever that it is easier to con people, than convince them they were conned. People are still sending money to a billionaire with his own jet liner, who kept exactly none of his campaign promises, and tried to overthrow the government.

Stop worrying about the whataboutism of Hunter Biden. Start worrying about the people who are on your government payroll, and screwing you, ignoring oaths and laws, and who put their interests way above yours. Start by not promoting the lies they keep feeding you without vetting them, because that is what makes them stranger than fiction.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

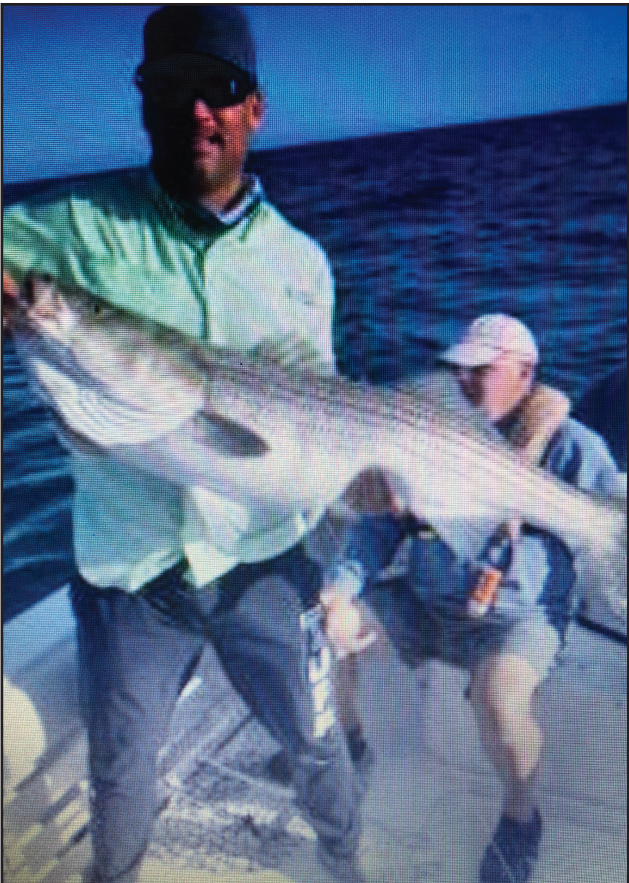
Cold weather catches anglers off guard



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ing their young, and the whitetail deer are often leaving their young hidden in the tall grass fields, as they feed close by. Too often, people think that the deer are abandoned, and remove them from the area. They need to be left alone, as their mother is not far away. This year, waterfowl seem to be having an excellent breeding season, with many geese and ducks being observed in numerous lakes and ponds. This week's picture shows a brood of

six geese at a local club, and they are growing real fast. A pair of wood ducks also had a brood of young that were really small, but have not been spotted in a while now. Hopefully, they did not have a run in with some of the predators in the area.  
This week's picture of William Toner showing a striper he caught off of Block Island recently was hopefully in the slot limit to retain, but it gave him a lot of enjoyment reeling him in any way. Stripers are still being caught at the Canal with some fish in the 30-pound class being caught daily by anglers that know where and how to catch them.  
Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Courtesy

This week's picture shows William Toner with a striped bass he caught fishing around Block Island recently .



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# Preserve the beauty, fragrance, and flavor of your garden

Enjoy your garden throughout the growing season and beyond. Preserve its beauty, fragrance, and flavor in artwork, crafts, and food.

Cell phones with cameras make it easy to capture the seasonal changes in our gardens and environment. Use a favorite photo as the wallpaper on your computer or phone. Turn them into greeting cards to send or pictures to hang on walls, lifting your spirits on gray winter or rainy days.

Break out the colored pencils, markers, or paints and capture the beauty of individual flowers or gardens. Creating art, like gardening, can help elevate your mood, reduce stress, and improve self-esteem.

Start a garden journal, if you haven't done so already. It's a great way to capture successes and even failures to help plan next year's garden or changes to the landscape. Create your own journal on the computer or in a spiral notebook. A waterproof and smudge-proof option like the Rite in the Rain Waterproof Garden Journal can go with you into the garden.

Preserve some of your favorite flowers and memories with a flower press you make or buy, like an heirloom flower press (gardeners.com).

Just place freshly picked leaves and flowers between pieces of paper in the flower press. Use flowers at their peak of beauty for the best results. Arrange the leaves and petals as desired before pressing, since they dry the way you place them. Once your flowers are placed in between the paper, close the press and secure the layers. Your dried flowers will be ready in a few weeks.

Speed up the process with the help of your microwave. The Terra Cotta Microwave Flower Press allows you to harvest, press, dry and create all in the same day. Place the flowers and leaves between the wool felt dividers and secure them inside the terra cotta top and bottom. The wool pads and terra cotta absorb the moisture as the microwave heats for quick drying.

Capture the color, fragrance, and relaxing benefits of lavender by filling small sachet bags with flower buds to place in a desk, nightstand, or drawer. Take this one step further and create lavender wands from 10 to 30 flowering stems and a bit of ribbon. These attractive wands capture the lavender fragrance and make great gifts.

Pickle cucumbers or other vegetables to enjoy throughout the garden season and beyond. You'll find an assortment of pickling crocks on the market but consider elevating your pickles to gourmet status by fermenting them in The Amazing Pickle Barrel made of lightly toasted white oak. You and your guests will enjoy the subtle and unique flavor



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

the oak barrel adds. Keep the flavor of your garden alive all year long. Pick and dry herbs for winter meals and holiday gifts. Gather the herbs into small bundles and secure them with a rubber band. As the stems shrink so does the rubber band. Use a spring-type clothespin to hang the bundles from a clothesline in a dry, airy place that is out of direct sunlight for drying. Save space and dress up the display with an herb drying rack that holds six bunches of flowers, hot peppers, or garlic.

Keep carrots, beets, and turnips fresh and crisp for months after harvest with proper storage. Most gardeners don't have a root cellar or sufficient room in the refrigerator. Consider packing them in layers of damp sand or sawdust placed in a root storage bin. Set the bin in a cool dark place and retrieve the vegetables as needed.

Try these and other creative ways to extend your garden enjoyment beyond the end of the growing season.

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



Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Terra cotta microwave flower presses provide the opportunity to harvest, press, dry and create in the same day.

# Focus can transform your journey

As an individual driven by ambition, I often find myself brimming with the can-do spirit, ready to conquer all that lies ahead. Yet, this enthusiasm often leads me to over-commit, to bite off more than I can chew. With so many tasks and responsibilities flooding my plate, discerning where to focus my efforts becomes a task all on its own.

One of the overwhelming tasks I had to accomplish recently was creating more garage space! So fun.

On my quest for more garage space, I found myself rummaging through the cluttered caverns of my garage, moving dusty boxes, and sorting through a lifetime's worth of memories. That's when I stumbled upon an old book: "The ONE Thing: The surprisingly simple truth behind extraordinary results" by Gary Keller—the co-founder of Keller-Williams Realty.

I cracked it open, and one chapter - "The Focusing Question" - leaped at me.

Let's take a moment to meditate on the concept.

What do the thousand-mile journey and life's goals have in common? They both begin with a single step. However, how do we ensure our first step is in the right direction? We would want to avoid finding ourselves in the middle of nowhere, miles away from our desired destination. Here's where the wisdom of Keller strikes - he says, "The Focusing Question is what keeps our first step from being a misstep."

Yes, you heard right! A question. Why should we care about a question? Isn't it the answers that we seek? But think about it this way: the quality of your answer is only as good as the quality of your question.

As Voltaire said, "Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers."

Gandhi also noted, "The power to question is the basis of all human progress."

So, what is this magic question you ask?

Well, here it is:

"What's the ONE thing I can do that, by doing it, will make everything else easier or unnecessary?"

The genius of this question lies in its simplicity.

Consider my life: running my dream business, managing my mother's water filter business, working a full-time job at a leading hospital, and penning this column for you all. Phew! That's a lot

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

on one platter.

I should have been asking this question years ago!

How can I sift through all these duties, figure out what truly matters, and let go of tasks that don't serve my goals?

This, my friends, is where Keller's question shines. It guides you like a roadmap that points you toward the best possible decision at any given moment.

Now, let's delve into the depths of this focusing question and dissect its parts to reveal its wisdom.

"What's the ONE thing I can do..."

By singling out ONE thing, we streamline our tasks, cutting through the chaos and helping us focus on what truly matters.

"...Such by doing it..."

This is where the domino effect comes into play. It assures that doing this ONE thing will set other things in motion.

"...Everything else will be easier or unnecessary?"

This realization can be groundbreaking: We often find ourselves caught up in a whirlwind of busy work, only to discover later that these tasks didn't contribute to our goals.

The Focusing Question is a dual tool that can clarify our big-picture ambitions and the immediate steps needed to get there. Asking, 'What's the one thing I can do?' allows us to identify our overarching goal.

Once that's clear, we can ask, 'What's the one thing I can do right now?'

This refines our focus, breaking down the grand task into manageable, immediate actions. This way, we're consistently moving closer to our ultimate goal. We take the first step in the right direction and keep building upon it, one well-considered step at a time.

In the end, remember this: The Focusing Question is not a one-time magic spell. It's a compass you must consult regularly to keep you on track, helping you hone in on your next priority.

Since I've started asking myself this question, I've noticed a marked increase in my focus and always know what to do next.

I challenge you to harness its power, and watch how it transforms your journey to success, one step at a time!



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## Friday's Child



**J'Quan**  
**Age 10**

Hi! My name is J'Quan and I am very caring!  
J'Quan is an active young child. J'Quan would describe himself as humorous, kind, and fun to be around. He is a very affectionate child and enjoys showing his love to those he cares about. J'Quan's favorite activities are playing with his Legos, riding his bike, and playing outside.  
J'Quan would thrive in an attentive, supportive family with one or two parents. A family for J'Quan will need to support the relationship that J'Quan has with his sister. A family should also be able to maintain contact with members of J'Quan's birth family. J'Quan would also benefit from a visiting resource.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7705>

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



# Tips Choose the Pick of the Crop

Fresh fruits and vegetables from the backyard garden are a harvest treat like none other. So what's the next best thing to a homegrown crop? Look for weekly Farmers Market events during the harvest season to ensure the freshest picks. Not sure how to choose fabulous fruits and vegetables at an outside market? Read on for our annual guide to help you pick perfect produce from early crops through the end of the season.

**Beans, snap:** Look for small seeds inside straight, fleshy pods. If you can see large seeds through the skin than the beans are probably too old. Avoid beans with dry-looking, rusty, wilted or damaged pods.

**Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower:** Look for tightly compacted flower clusters on broccoli and cauliflower, and compact, uniform sprouts. Avoid wilted, yellow, or dirty heads, and avoid loose, open sprouts or those that are yellow or pale green.

**Cabbage and head let-**

**tuce:** Look for firm compact heads that are heavy for their size. On leaf lettuce, choose unwilted, compact, crisp-looking compact plants.

**Carrots:** Look for deep orange colored and smooth skinned roots. Avoid carrots with purple or green shoulders or pale in color, or ones with forked or crooked roots. Oversized roots usually mean they are woody. If tops are still attached on carrots, they should be fresh.

**Celery:** Choose large, firm stalks with uniform stalk and a white bottom. Avoid spindly, wilted stalks.

**Chard:** Look for fresh, dark green leaves with bright, tender stalks. Avoid wilted, poorly colored leaves.

**Collards and kale:** Check for tender, green, full-sized leaves with tender tips; avoid wilted, tough or overly large leaves.

**Corn on the cob:** Choose for well-filled cobs with plump, straight rows of

kernels. Avoid large, wrinkled kernels.

**Cucumbers:** Pick long, slender cukes that are medium to dark green.

**Peppers:** Look for firm, darkly colored fruit with uniform size, color, and number of lobes. Avoid wrinkled or shriveled ones or fruits that are sunburned (contrasting color spots).

**Radishes:** Choose medium-sized, firm, crisp roots. Avoid wilted or soft roots or those with growth cracks or insect damage. Oversized roots will be pithy. Sunburned crowns are also not desirable.

**Summer squash:** Choose ones that are uniform in size, color, and shape. Avoid large fruits (over mature) or ones with scarred skins, missing stems, or that are soft or wilting.

**Tomatoes:** Look for smooth skinned, firm fruits with uniform color. Avoid fruits with growth splits, sun scald, or overripe (soft) fruits.



TAKE  
THE  
HINT

KAREN  
TRAINOR

**Apples:** Choose firm, well-colored fruit that feels crisp.

**Blueberries:** Pick plump, firm, deep blue berries with their natural waxy silver coating.

**Cantaloupe:** Look for a smooth shallow base; thick, coarse, corky netting that stands out from skin. Should yield slightly when pressed on non-stem end and have the slight scent of cantaloupe.

**Cherries:** Should be dark in color, glossy, plump, with fresh looking stems.

**Mangos:** Pick fruit that has plump, smooth, dark green skin with patches of red, yellow, or orange color; should be slightly soft.

**Nectarines:** Fruit should be plump, slight-

ly soft along "seam"; either orange-yellow or greenish between red-blushed areas depending on variety.

**Oranges:** Choose firm oranges, heavy for its size; smooth-textured, with bright-looking skin.

**Peaches:** Should be somewhat firm, becoming slightly soft; red with creamy, orangy base color.

**Pears:** Look for firm fruit, just barely beginning to soften. Bartletts: pale to rich yellow; Boscs: green to brown yellow.

**Pumpkin:** Look for a pumpkin with an even orange hue. Give it a thump; if it sounds hollow, it is ripe and ready to be picked. Look for hard skin and a hard stem. Leave several inches of stem when you harvest a pumpkin. Doing so will slow down the rotting process.

**Watermelon:** Should be symmetrical with bright green rind with a creamy yellow underside. Choose a watermelon that's heavy for its size.

Win Dinner for Two at

the Publick House

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

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

## Serenity Ayala named to Regis College Dean's List

WESTON — Serenity Ayala of North Brookfield was named to Regis College's spring 2023 Dean's List. Ayala was among those students who earned exemplary grades in their classes.

"This noteworthy achievement is one that requires perseverance, determination, and critical focus - skills that will encourage your continued progress in your undergraduate studies, career, and in life," said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD. "Serenity's unwavering commitment to academic excellence is reflected in being named to the Dean's List."

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis sophomores, juniors, seniors,

and professional studies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additional criteria can be found in Regis' Academic Catalog.

Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. With over 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line with Regis' mission of providing innovative, industry-focused

learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor's completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Regis educates the whole person, preparing our students to pursue excellence, to become change agents in their own communities, and to serve and lead as advocates for a more just and compassionate global society. Visit regiscollege.edu to learn more.

## Hometown residents earn degrees from Salve Regina University

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following hometown residents were awarded degrees during Salve Regina University's 73rd commencement ceremony held in Newport, R.I. Salve Regina President Kelli Armstrong conferred 804 degrees in total during the ceremony, including 589 bachelor's degrees, 207 master's degrees and eight doctoral degrees. Local graduates include:

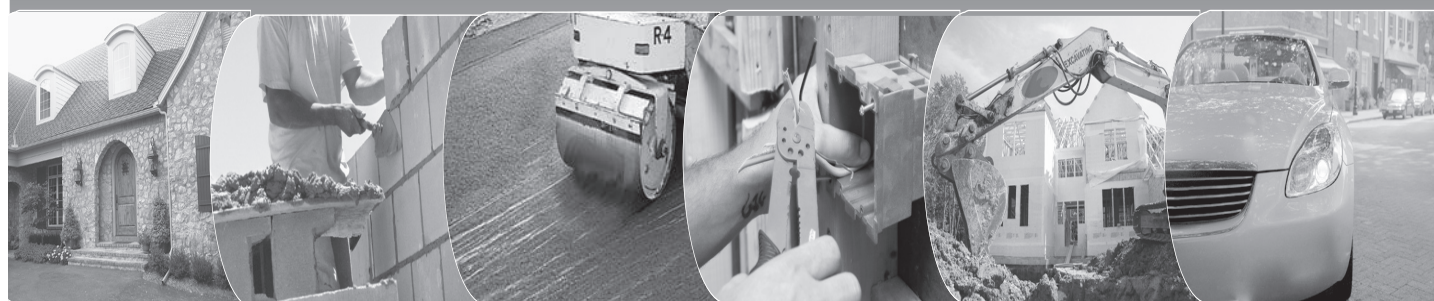
Taylor Fontaine of Leicester: Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Kailyn McCue of Spencer: Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Shane Bowes of Leicester: Master of Science degree in Administration of Justice and Homeland Security.

More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at Salve Regina from across the U.S. and around the world in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master's degree programs, numerous combined bachelor's/master's programs, and doctoral programs in behavior analysis, humanities, international relations and nursing. The Salve Compass program, the university's signature four-year experiential framework connecting college to career, empowers students to explore, define and pursue their academic and professional goals through intentional and transformational programming. The university is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multidisciplinary research center focused at the intersection of politics, policies and ideas.

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# SPORTS

## Bay Path teams battle in State Vocational Tournaments

BASEBALL ADVANCES TO CHAMPIONSHIP, WHILE SOFTBALL FALLS IN TITLE GAME

**BY NICK ETHIER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**CHARLTON** — The State Vocational Tournament gives all of the vocational technical high schools throughout the state a chance to shine against their own and, luckily for Bay Path Regional, both the baseball and softball teams qualified for their respective four-team Large School tournaments.

In baseball, the top seeded Minutemen played host to No. 4 Bristol-Plymouth on Wednesday, May 31. And softball, ranked third, first beat No. 2 Monty Tech on Tuesday, May 30 before hosting No. 4 Greater New Bedford for the championship on Thursday, June 1.

The baseball team defeated the Craftsmen, 5-1, and will play No. 2 Shawsheen Valley for the State Vocational title, presumably after both teams conclude play in the MIAA's Division 4 State Tournament, where both squads are seeded in the top five of the 40-team bracket. Softball, meanwhile, defeated Monty, 5-2, and then lost in the

title game to Greater New Bedford, 5-1.

"This is when it's fun," said baseball head coach Mark Sansoucy of tournament time. "This is what you wait the whole season to play, and to win the league (Colonial Athletic League) on top of it, is great."

For the baseball team, starting pitcher Matt Rousakos shook off his prior start — a 6-0 loss to Hudson High in the semifinals of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association's Class B Tournament — and was very effective against the Craftsmen, tossing a complete game seven hitter, allowing one run with seven strikeouts and a walk. The run Rousakos surrendered came in the top of the first inning.

"Matt always seems to get stronger as he goes. His ERA was under 1 for the whole season up until the last game," Sansoucy said of Rousakos on the hill.

When asked about the start of the game, Rousakos said: "In the first inning they got two good hits, sat on my curveball. And then I settled

in and my defense played great."

Rousakos then gave a shout out to center fielder Zack Moody, who made back-to-back diving catches to end the third inning and keep the Minutemen within reach at 1-0.

"That kind of turned the momentum," said Rousakos. "That was the third inning and then in the fourth inning we put up two."

"How about Zack Moody out in center field? The most unselfish player, he doesn't even hit a lot and he just plays defense. He's unbelievable," added Sansoucy.

In the bottom of the fourth, Joe Fritze and Zack Fritze led off with singles and Rousakos followed with a one-out, two-RBI single into left

field. That turned out to be the winning base knock.

"He threw me a first-pitch curve. I was sitting on curve and I saw a fast-ball," Rousakos said of the pivotal at-bat. "I just got my hands on it, it was inside and I turned on it."

"He's batting .480, he's our leading hitter. Matt's just having a year," added Sansoucy. "He's a gamer."

Bristol-Plymouth threatened in the sixth inning with a one-out single, but Bay Path catcher Dylan McDonald easily threw the runner out while attempting to steal second base.

"Since the day he came to Bay Path, he's just gotten better and better and better every year. He's the one kid that I saw progress more than

anybody," Sansoucy said of McDonald, a senior tri-captain along with Rousakos and Zack Fritze, who went 2-for-3 and scored a pair of runs against the Craftsmen.

The Minutemen put the game away with a three-run sixth inning.

"That was huge. It gave me a lot of confidence going back out there," said Rousakos.

Jacob Delvalle provided a two-RBI double to left, and McDonald added an RBI single up the middle.

Rousakos then tossed a 1-2-3 seventh to finish things off in style, as he threw the complete game in 97 pitches.

Bay Path then opened the Division 4 State Tournament on Monday, June 5 by hosting No. 29 Whittier Regional

Vocational Technical in the Round of 32. There, the Minutemen improved to 19-3 with a 5-1 victory.

Over on the softball diamond, Savannah Steiner helped Bay Path defeat Monty with a home run and a single. And, against Greater New Bedford, Steiner kept up the offensive surge with a 3-for-3 day, including an RBI triple to left field in the bottom of the seventh inning.

"She's been swinging the bat very well, one of our hottest hitters the last couple weeks," head coach Rich Carrero said of Steiner's recent play.

Unfortunately for the Minutemen, the team combined for four total hits and 10 strikeouts, four looking.

"My biggest disappointment would be the backward K's," said Carrero. "We normally don't strike out 10 times a game."

The Bears scored twice in the top of the first inning to set the tone and then added two more runs in the fifth and once more in the seventh for their five runs.

"They're a good team," Carrero said of Greater New Bedford. "They play a really tough schedule. Last year they won Division 3, the whole thing."

The Bears won the Division 3 State Championship last spring and they are seeded 10th this year.

"They swing the bats well, they play good defense (and) their pitcher was deceiving. She didn't look overpowering, but she could send it," Carrero said of lefty pitcher Hayleigh Silva.

The Minutemen appeared to have gotten to Silva in the fifth inning as they looked to make a comeback. Steiner singled, but pinch runner Kalli Sheehan was thrown out trying to steal second. Kirsten Congdon then drew a walk, but Rachel Gormley's line drive was caught at third base and Congdon was doubled off first, ending the inning.

Carrero remained optimistic about his team, though.

"We still have the big one coming," Carrero said of the Division 4 State Tournament. "We wash it away and start fresh on Monday."

The Minutemen, the No. 18 seed in the bracket, played at No. 15 Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical in the Round of 32 and won the game, 5-4, with Steiner continuing her hot streak via a two-run homer in the seventh inning.

Both the baseball and softball teams will compete in the Round of 16 after press time.



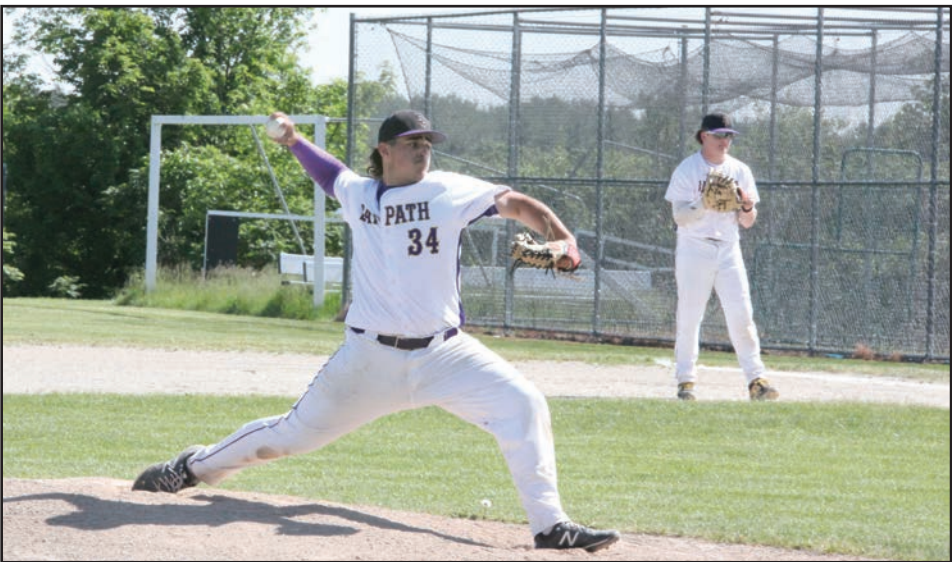
Bay Path left fielder Jacob Delvalle gets underneath a pop fly in foul territory and records the out.



Joe Fritze of Bay Path rounds the bases while scoring a run for his team.



Bay Path's Miranda Linde sits back and waits before swinging at the incoming pitch.



Matt Rousakos of Bay Path tossed a complete game victory versus Bristol-Plymouth.



Bay Path's Dale Nussey catches the ball and waits to tag out a Bristol-Plymouth runner attempting to steal second base.



Bay Path's Sam Buchanan throws a pitch against Greater New Bedford.



Shortstop Grace Jones of Bay Path records an out on a popup near the second base bag.

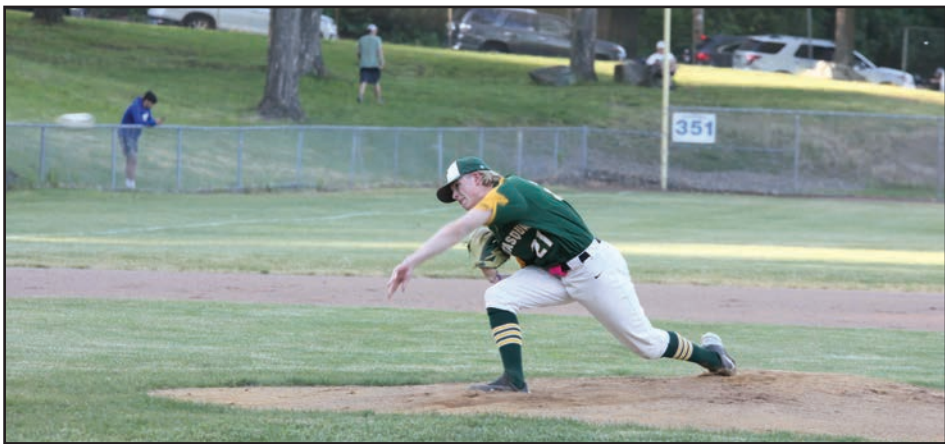


Second baseman Rachel Gormley of Bay Path calls for the ball while right fielder Gabbi Lapan relays it in. The end result was a play at the plate, where the Minutemen successfully recorded an out.



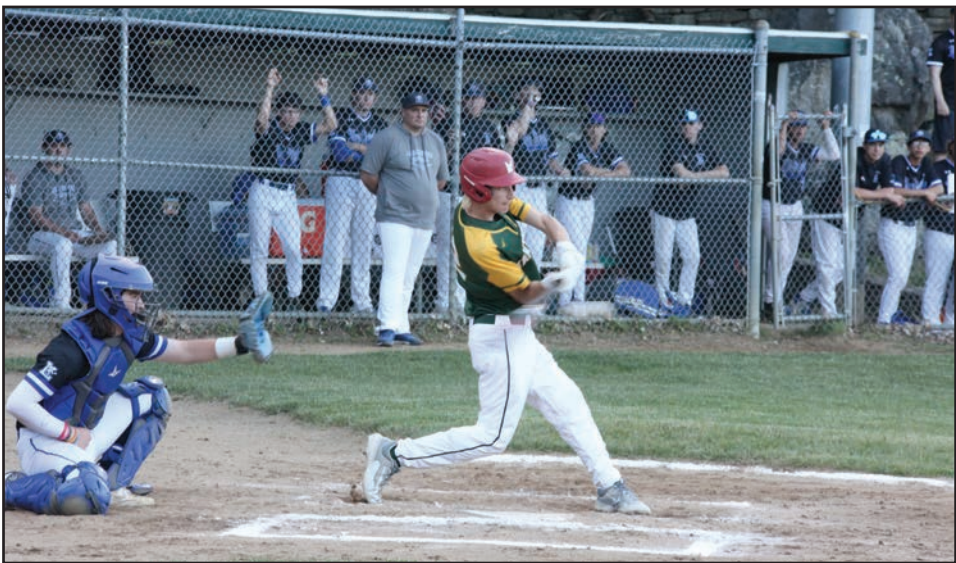
SPORTS

Warriors lose control in third inning as Leominster wins CMADA Class A title

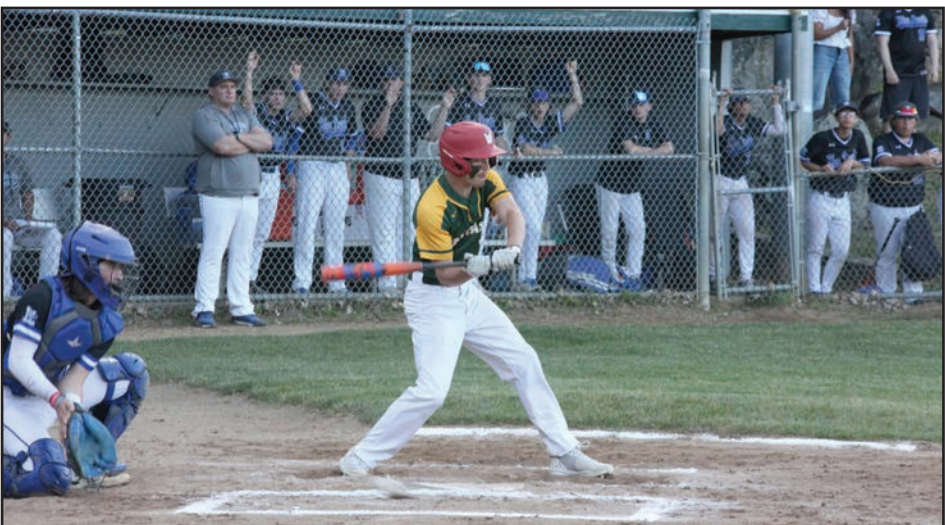


Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Miles Blake releases a pitch to the plate versus Leominster.



Jack Rapose of Tantasqua swings to contact versus Leominster.



Tantasqua's Ryan Wright checks his swing at a low pitch in the dirt.

**BY NICK ETHIER**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**WORCESTER** — Tantasqua Regional sophomore Miles Blake, a left-handed pitcher for the Warriors, is one of the best in the area. He guided third seeded Tantasqua to the championship game of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association's (CMADA) Class A Tournament by throwing a complete game one-hit-

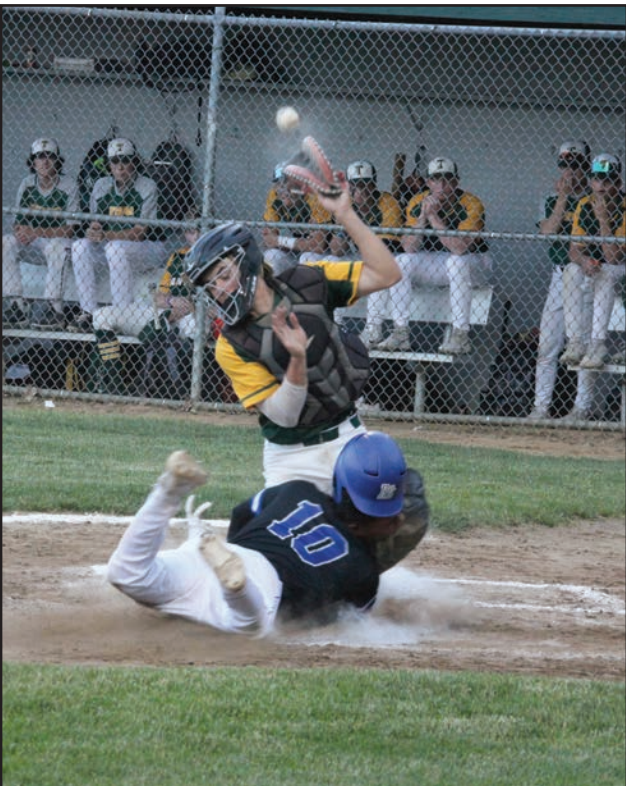
ter against second ranked Wachusett Regional in the semifinals, a 1-0 Warriors' victory. And, against No. 1 Leominster High in the CMADA Final at Tivnan Field at Lake Park on Wednesday, May 31, Blake returned to the bump. He stranded the bases full of Blue Devils in the first inning and struck out the side in the second as Tantasqua had a 1-0 lead.

But, in the third frame, Blake's accuracy wavered. He hit the leadoff batter, gave up back-to-back singles and then hit another, as head coach Jon Leroux went to the mound to pull Blake. By the time the third inning concluded, Leominster had sent 12 to the plate and scored eight runs. The Blue Devils ultimately won the CMADA title, 13-5. "It snowballed. We lost the ability to throw strikes, everyone in the game. We didn't do well enough at anything to beat a good team like a Leominster today," said Leroux. "You've got to bring your A Game when you play them, and we didn't have an A Game today."

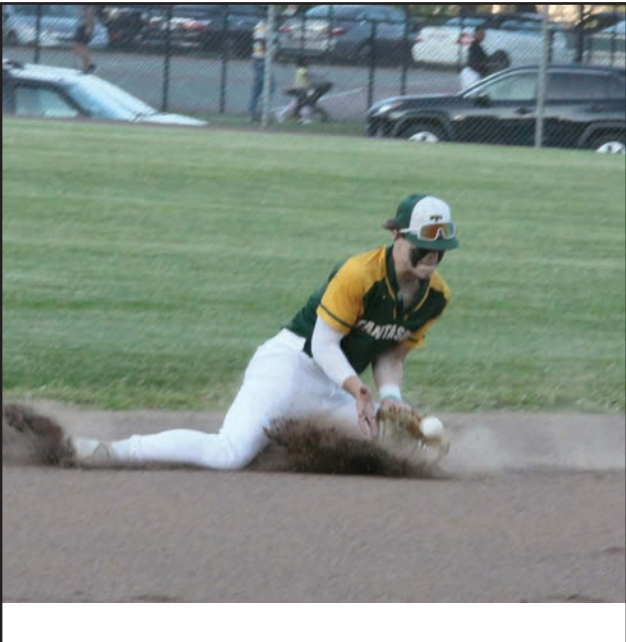
Joe Amaru took over for Blake and he hit the first batter he saw. Blake and Amaru combined to hit five, walk two and give up six hits. "Here and there he seems to have a bad inning, which happens," said Leroux of Blake, a Northeastern University recruit. "He's a young kid. You hope that he can learn from it and come

back and do better." Leroux speculated that Blake will do just that, noting that he's "been awesome" for the majority of the season. Tantasqua took its 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Chace Fredette singled, stole second, took third on a groundout and scored on a wild pitch. The Blue Devils added a run in the fourth to go ahead, 9-1, before the Warriors attempted to mount a comeback. Cole Nussey reached on an error and Colm McGrath hit an RBI triple to left field. Fredette (2-for-4) followed with an RBI triple and Devin Krochmalnyckyj ripped an RBI single. Next up was Henry Blake (2-for-3), and his RBI double to left field made the deficit a manageable 9-5. "Giving up eight runs in one inning, it's hard to come back for anybody. It was good to see our kids still had a fight left in them," said Leroux. "We didn't quit, which was good to see. Hopefully we can build on that going forward to the State playoffs."

Leominster added two runs in the fifth and another two in the sixth — Lucas MacNevin, Steven Parent and Hunter Normandin pitched for Tantasqua after Miles Blake and Amaru as the five totaled seven walks and six hit batsmen — to account for the 11-5 final score. "We'll flush this and go back to what we do. We'll go back to the fundamentals the next couple of days and we'll be fine," said Leroux. "We'll bounce back and we'll be



Catcher Henry Blake of Tantasqua attempts to block home during a play at the plate.



Tantasqua shortstop Devin Krochmalnyckyj takes to the ground to cleanly field a ball hit his way.

Division 3 Softball Round of 32  
(10) Greater New Bedford 13, (23) Tantasqua 1 — The Warriors, who battled all season long to reach the 10-win barrier, couldn't get it going against the Bears — the reigning State Champions. As a result, Tantasqua finished with a record of 10-11.

Division 2 Boys' Lacrosse Round of 32  
(16) Sharon 11, (17) Tantasqua 8 — A tough loss for the Warriors saw their season come to a close at 14-5. Tantasqua rattled off two five-game winning streaks this spring.

Sunday, June 4

Division 5 Baseball Round of 32  
(16) Saint John Paul II 8, (17) Quaboag 1 — In a game where the winner had the right to take on the tournament's top seed, the Cougars fell short and finished the 2023 season with a record of 9-11.

Division 4 Girls' Tennis Round of 32  
(16) Quaboag 4, (17) Millis 0 — A shutout propelled the Cougars (15-2) into the Round of 16 and a date with No. 1 Hamilton-Wenham (18-1). The matchup was scheduled for after press time.

Friday, June 2

Division 4 Boys' Tennis Round of 32  
(2) Cohasset 5, (31) Leicester 0 — The Wolverines had a tall task in taking on the second-highest seeded team in the bracket. There, Leicester's season finished off at 11-9. Three days prior the Wolverines bested No. 34 Hampden Charter — East in the Preliminary Round, 5-0, to be able to take on Cohasset.

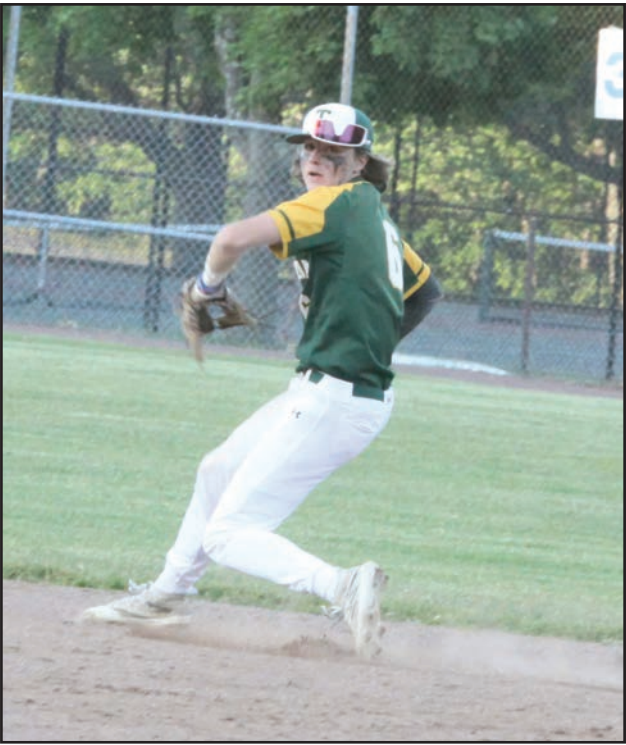
Thursday, June 1

Division 4 Boys' Tennis Round of 32  
(1) Weston 5, (32) Quaboag 0 — Much like Leicester, the Cougars were up against it when taking on the tournament's No. 1 team. Quaboag wound up with a record of 10-10. To reach the Round of 32, the Cougars defeated No. 33 Frontier Regional in the Preliminary Round, 3-2, on Wednesday, May 31.

Division 4 Girls' Tennis Preliminary Round  
(26) Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion 4, (38) David Prouty 1 — The Panthers, who squeaked into the tournament at 9-9, weren't able to keep their season alive in this matchup.

Wednesday, May 31

Division 4 Girls' Tennis Preliminary Round  
(29) South Hadley 3, (36) Leicester 2 — A close first round matchup didn't go the Wolverines way, as their season concluded with a record of 10-9.



Second baseman Hunter Normandin of Tantasqua looks over toward first base before firing the ball off that way.

good on Monday." The Warriors, seeded fifth in the Division 3 State Tournament, hosted No. 28 Dover Sherborn in the Round of 32 on Monday, June 5. There, with Miles Blake pitching once again, the Warriors rebounded from the CMADA loss and won a 3-2 decision. Tantasqua will host No. 12 Pittsfield in the Round of 16, after press time.

QUAIL HOLLOW GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB RESULTS

Pit's Crew  
First place (-8): Dennis Trela, Dick Brown, Galen Johnson, Dick Whipplee  
Second place (-7): Rich Ford, Ed Murray, Bob Buzzle, Charlie Keys  
Third place (-7): Kent Seith, Tom Lewandowski, Paul Guerin, John Kelly

Still Harts League  
First place (+11): Dale Mimeault and Mike Roseberry  
Second place (+10): Peter Garipey and Lisa Kularski  
Third place (+10): Glenn Damato and Ed McLeod  
Most over quota (+9): Todd Allen

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# OBITUARIES

## Paul J. Thibeault, 71



OAKHAM- Paul J. Thibeault, 71, died Sunday, May 29 at his home after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

He leaves his wife of 10 years, Deborah (Sauvageau) Thibeault, two sons, Matthew Thibeault of Worcester, Richard Thibeault of Ware, two stepsons, Michael Anderson and his wife Kelsie of East Brookfield, David Anderson of Oakham, a step-daughter, Alicia Anderson of Charlton, two sisters, Diane Pelkey of New York, Gail Litchfield of Barre, three grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first wife Jacqueline Thibeault.

Born in Worcester, he was the son of Edmond & M. Marguerite (Fortier) Thibeault.

Mr. Thibeault worked in research and development at St. Gobain in Worcester, retiring in 2021. Before that, he worked at Coes Knife, and Liquid Air.

He graduated from South High. He was an avid hunter, outdoorsman, and Harley Davidson rider. He rode in the Pan Mass Challenge several years to raise money for cancer research. He

was a past president of Sober in the Sun.

Paul enjoyed ballroom dancing, the theatre, the beach in Wells, Maine, projects around the house and yard and cuddling on the loveseat with his dogs.

Family oriented, Paul especially loved his grandchildren: Blake, Bentley, and Noelle.

He was a friend of Bill W and assisted many members in recovery.

Paul was an executive director at Sovitaja Park in Rutland where he enjoyed eating, dancing, teaching dance lessons, and visiting with other members. As a member of Greendale Retired Men's Club, he loved attending the President's Balls and Christmas Dinners.

A Funeral Mass was held Friday, June 2 at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 114 Princeton St., Jefferson. Family and friends are asked to go directly to the church. Burial will take place at a later date at the convenience of the family. Calling hours were Thursday from 4-6 p.m. in the J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Suite 250, Framingham, MA 01701.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

## Charles Joseph Ciaffone (Chuck), 79



Durham, NC – Charles Joseph Ciaffone (Chuck), age 79, died on April 21, 2023. He was born on December 28, 1943 to the late Charles and Rose Ciaffone.

Chuck grew up in Melrose and Sturbridge, MA and spent his summers at Little Sebago Lake in Maine. He attended Tantasqua high school and graduated from Mount Hermon Prep. He attended Clark University, Worcester, MA, where he and Nancy met and fell in love. He earned his BA in English from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY. Chuck was a technical writer and documentation planner for IBM from 1966-1995 in Kingston NY and Charlotte and RTP NC. He was a competitive swimmer in prep school and became a bicyclist: recreational, commuting, and licensed racing, and rode as captain on their tandem with Nancy as stoker. The kids say he instilled a love of bad puns, good ice cream, and dark ales. He loved reading while listening to straight-ahead

jazz on WNCU, walking his dog in the neighborhood or a state park, and staying in small villages to exploring the moors and pubs of North Yorkshire.

Chuck is survived by his wife Nancy Ciaffone who, in fall of 1964, took one look at him and fell in lust at first sight. First date in January of 1965; marriage in May of 1966. He is also survived by his children Vikki Ciaffone of Burlington, VT, Mari Nealson of Durham, NC, and Charles and Trish Ciaffone of Micaville, NC, by grandchildren Ardyn Flynt of North Hollywood, CA, El Nealson of Durham NC, and Jesse Ciaffone of Micaville , and by his brother Robert and wife Gloria Ciaffone of East Brookfield, MA. Chuck was preceded in death by his sister Betty Ciaffone.

The family will plan a memorial service at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, Durham NC.

The Ciaffone family is under the care of Hall-Wynne Funeral Service. Online condolences: [www.hallwynne.com](http://www.hallwynne.com) – select obituaries.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Charles , please visit our Tree Store or plant a tree.

## Rene O. Lambert, 85



West Brookfield / North Brookfield - Rene O. Lambert, 85, of West Brookfield and former long time resident of North Brookfield, passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2023 at UMass Mem. Med. Center - University Campus following a sudden illness.

He leaves his daughters, Renee Lambert of Sequim, WA and LeeAnn King and her husband George of Hardwick; his sons, Donald Ryel and his wife Donna of West Brookfield, Ronald Ryel and his wife Lori of North Brookfield and Richard Lambert of Holland; 14 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and friends. Rene was predeceased by his wife, Janet (Guimond) Lambert, his sisters, Nina Deras and Cecile Duso; and his brother, Roger Lambert. He was born in Gloucester, son of the late, Didace and Simone (Hamel) Lambert.

Rene worked for 42 years as an Offset Printer at the William E. Wright,

Company before retiring.

Rene was a loving and devoted family man. He was an avid Red Sox fan and enjoyed playing Cribbage and Pitch. Rene always looked forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

He was a communicant of St. John the Baptist Church, past Grand Knight and 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the John Cardinal Wright Assembly.

A Funeral Mass for Rene was held Friday, June 2, 2023 at 10:00AM in the St. John the Baptist Church, Blaine Ave., in East Brookfield. Calling hours were held on Thursday, June 1, 2023 from 5 to 7PM in the Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 E Main St., in West Brookfield. Burial was in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery, Greenwich Rd., in Ware following Mass. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105 or Knights of Columbus Council #11080, Charitable Fund, PO Box 951, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

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

## Shirley L. Johnson, 83



SPENCER - Shirley L. Johnson, 83, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the Lifepath Hospice House in Sun City, FL, surrounded by her loving children, after an illness. She is survived by her three daughters - Kim Monette and her husband Richard, Jeri Lynn Mahaney and her husband John, Tanya Bressette and her husband Brian, and her son, Walter, Jr. and his wife Michelle, her eight grandchildren - Eric (Jenna), Jason (Amanda), Alyssa, Amanda (Michael), Katrina (Christopher), Johnny (Alexandra) Melissa, and Walter; her six great-grandchildren - Dylan, Ella, Gabriel, Oaklynn, Tucker and Connie; Shirley is survived by her brother, Ronald "Butch" Fritze, and sister, Elaine Gordon. She was predeceased by her sister Judy Marszalek. Her husband, Walter, died in 2020. They were married 63 years. Shirley missed him terribly. They are now reunited.

Born in Spencer to Alice (L'Ecuyer) and William Fritze. Shirley attended David Prouty High School. Shirley married the love of her life, Walter, September 5, 1959. They were devoted to the town of Spencer where they raised their children and watched their grandchildren and great grandchildren grow. Shirley served as the President of the Spencer Fire Department Womens' Auxiliary. She also served on the Spencer Civil Defense. During the years that the Fire Department held their

annual Spookwalk, Shirley would best be remembered for her famous role of "Gazelda". Her friends and family took delight whenever she would reprise that role on demand, yelling, "I am Gazelda!" In their retirement, Shirley and Walter would spend the winters at their home in Fort Lonesome, Florida.

Shirley loved bingo, trips to the casino, shopping, and most of all spending time with her family.

She spent some years working at Brookfield Orchards making apple dumplings and Leinonen's Greenhouse planting flowers. She enjoyed her apartment at Astorwood Place where she would spend time with her friends in the community room making puzzles and having luncheons. She spent time with her cousin Barbara Nolin and her husband Stan, her best friend since high school, Gail Lacaire; her new friends Susie, Rosemary, and Rita and the other friends she made when she moved to Astorwood. She will be greatly missed by her "Monday Bingo Biddies" Anna, Diane and Lynne.

Her family would like to thank her good friends, Edie and Jeannie, for taking such good care of her while she was spending time at her home in Florida and when she became ill. They have always been a tremendous support to her.

There are no calling hours. A celebration of Shirley's life will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Second Chance Animal Shelter in East Brookfield, MA.

# Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District continues to realize savings with Siemens

SPENCER — Siemens is pleased to present the Year 2 Performance Assurance report which details the collective performance of the eight facility improvement measures (FIMs) that Siemens installed in your facilities under the Performance Contract Agreement for this annual period.

This report covers the performance period from March 1, 2022, to Feb. 28, 2023. The Performance Contract Agreement guaranteed \$190,285 in Savings for this annual period. The Annual Realized Savings for this annual period amounted to \$203,199, which exceeds the guarantee by \$12,914.

Cumulatively, this Performance Contract Agreement has achieved \$668,258 in Realized Savings, which exceeds the guarantee by \$293,230.

Overall, the reconciled savings from the contracted Measurement & Verification methodology shows the project is on track to be successful. The reconciled savings include both one-time pre-retrofit and post-retrofit measurements, on-going continuous measurements, and stipulated energy cost savings.

To learn more about this important energy management program and the savings realized by the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District with Siemens Smart Infrastructure, check out our 2023 Annual Performance Assurance Report.

# Tour the world at your library this summer

EAST BROOKFIELD — Visit the world right from your library with the East Brookfield Public Library's Summer Reading Program!

Each week, we will visit a different part of the world through stories, arts and craft activities, and events. All ages are welcome to attend! Adult caregivers are required for all children under the age of 12; one caregiver is required for every 2 children. All programs unless noted are for both children and adults.

Earn a raffle ticket for every time you come to the library. All raffles' drawings will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3 at 2 p.m.

Our kickoff event will be "Visit the World of Magic", starring Ed Popielarczyk! Ed Popielarczyk is a professional magician, balloon sculptor, and ringmaster. He has been entertaining children and family audiences for over 35 years. You can check out his website at: <https://www.edpop.com/>

Come see the Comedy Magic Show on Thursday, June 22 at 2 p.m.! Ages four and up; all children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Registration is required.

[www.StonebridgePress.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, MAY 25  
12:04 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 6:43 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Street), referred to ACO; 7:24 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 7:38 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 7:56 a.m.: ambulance (Olney Street), transported; 7:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:05 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 8:20 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:40 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:56 a.m.: mv stop (Edward Street), assisted; 10:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:06 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Kahilil Malik Crittendon, 29, 14 Havana Road, Worcester, op w/license suspended for OUI, arrest; 1:07 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:00 p.m.: investigation (Hankey Street), report taken; 8:08 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted; 8:53 a.m.: welfare check (Lake Drive), resolved; 9:17 p.m.: assist other agency (Pleasant Street), resolved; 10:35 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), unfounded.

FRIDAY, MAY 26  
12:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:30 a.m.: mv stop (Waite Street), Jared Nathaniel Stevens, 18, 273 Stafford Street, Worcester, failure to stop for police, failure to dim headlights, speeding, negligent operation, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, failure to stop/yield, trafficking methamphetamine/>18 gm/<36 gm, possession Class D drug w/intent to distribute, possession Class B drug/2 counts; possession Class B drug w/intent to distribute, possession Class D drug, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of large capacity firearm in commission of a felony, carrying a firearm w/out a license, possession of firearm large capacity feeding device, possession of ammunition w/out LTC/FID, arrest; 6:47 a.m.: ambulance (Lake Avenue), transported; 9:02 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 9:25 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:58 a.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 10:32 a.m.: disturbance (Ingram Road), report taken; 10:32 a.m.: property found (South Main Street), resolved; 10:48 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 11:44 a.m.: suspicious person (Chapel Street), resolved; 12:04 p.m.: suspicious person (Waite Street), report taken; 1:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Brook Street), referred to ACO; 1:10 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:02 p.m.: restraining order service (Henshaw Street), served; 2:47 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 2:55 p.m.: stolen motor vehicle (Brown Street), report taken; 4:17 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (McCarthy Avenue), resolved; 4:50 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:56 p.m.: assist other agency (Stafford Street), no service; 6:11 p.m.: mv stop (Charles Street), verbal warning; 6:15 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street), false alarm; 9:31 p.m.: harassment (South Main Street), spoken to; 9:53 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 11:12 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken.

SATURDAY, MAY 27  
12:15 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:46 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 4:18 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 9:00 a.m.: ambulance (River Street), transported; 10:00 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 10:14 a.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 11:04 a.m.: erratic operator (Pine Street), referred; 11:14 a.m.: welfare check (Pine Street), report taken; 12:21 p.m.: ambulance (Clark Street), false alarm; 12:24 p.m.: illegal dumping (Mannville Street), report taken; 1:25 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 3:17 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Street), referred to ACO; 6:09 p.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:35 p.m.: erratic operator (Henshaw Street), unfounded; 9:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (Washburn Square), spoken to; 10:44 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street, Worcester), transported.

SUNDAY, MAY 28  
12:05 a.m.: ambulance (Masonic Home Road, Charlton), transported; 12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:53 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), peace restored; 1:44 a.m.: family problem (Peter Salem Road), report taken; 3:17 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unable to locate; 8:02 a.m.: animal complaint (White Birch Street), referred to ACO; 8:54 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 9:19 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:09 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 10:27 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 10:37 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), report

taken; 12:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:36 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:04 p.m.: erratic operator (Paxton Street), unable to locate; 1:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Waite Street), referred to ACO; 2:06 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 4:07 p.m.: property found (Soojians Drive), resolved; 4:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred to ACO; 5:49 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 6:13 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 7:01 p.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), written warning; 7:17 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 8:08 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), Cindy W. Manyara, 28, 320 Pleasant Street, Leicester, marked lanes violation, speeding, OUI liquor, negligent operation, failure to stop for police, arrest; 8:49 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), unable to locate; 9:38 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

MONDAY, MAY 29  
12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (Washburn Square), mv towed; 12:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:22 a.m.: mv stop (Orland Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 6:10 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:33 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), call canceled; 12:09 p.m.: assault (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 6:10 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), call canceled; 7:12 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 7:32 p.m.: welfare check (Monterey Drive), resolved; 8:01 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:03 p.m.: wires down (Reservoir Street), removed hazard; 8:06 p.m.: wires down (Huntoon Memorial Drive), call canceled; 8:52 p.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:17 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO.

TUESDAY, MAY 30  
12:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:33 a.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), report taken; 2:26 a.m.: property found (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 5:21 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:42 a.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 11:01 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 3:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:41 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 3:51 p.m.: welfare check (Parker Street), transported; 3:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:20 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 4:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:30 p.m. mv stop (Rive Street), written warning; 5:41 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), no action required; 5:42 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 5:56 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 5:56 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 6:23 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 6:36 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 6:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Brook Street), resolved; 9:18 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), report taken; 9:42 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 10:05 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:07 p.m.: suspicious activity (Paxton Street), spoken to.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31  
12:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:17 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 5:27 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 9:21 a.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred to ACO; 9:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:56 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:04 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:20 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:44 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:52 a.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), written warning; 11:01 mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:56 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 12:03 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 12:11 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 1:01 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 1:30 p.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), services rendered; 2:40 p.m.: ambulance (Bottomly Avenue), transported; 7:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:13 p.m.: welfare check (Ingram Road), resolved; 8:25 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 8:26 p.m.: animal complaint (Towtaid Street), referred to ACO; 9:17 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, b&e building in the nighttime to commit a felony, larceny of mv, larceny from building, report taken; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:46 p.m.: residential alarm (Rawson Street), false alarm.

##

## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24  
1:05 a.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), re: uncle looking in window; 1:22-3:19 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:40 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), grate off manhole; 7:59 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), bat in bedroom; 8:18 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: issue w/ex-bf; 8:27 a.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 8:44 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:48 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), grass needs cutting; 8:49 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 9:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: issue w/housemate; 11:29 a.m.: restraining order service/2 (West Main Street); 11:37 a.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), accidental; 11:41 a.m.: lost/found (Pleasant Street), found MA license; 11:46 a.m.: DPW call (Charlton Road), low-hanging wire; 1:47 p.m.: suspicious mv (Cherry Street), mv parked on lawn; 1:59 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 3:09 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lake Street), no contact; 3:19 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), bear in area; 3:35 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 4:30 p.m.: larceny (Depot Road), pkg. not delivered; 4:56 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), pre-recorded solicitation; 5:57 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 6:08 p.m.: parking complaint (Howe Village), encroachment on hdcp spot; 6:43 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), loose dogs/Sturbridge; 8:27 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), verbal altercation; 8:45 p.m.: disturbance (Starr Street), unwanted party; 8:50 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (total daily mv stops – 1).

THURSDAY, MAY 25  
12:53 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 12:56-3:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:09 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 6:31 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:10 a.m.: mv complaint (Valley Street), mv blocking construction area; 8:27 a.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 8:38 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 9:00 a.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 9:00 a.m.: residential fire (Mechanic Street), referred; 9:16 a.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), verbal altercation; 9:19 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 10:37 a.m.; 911 call (Main Street), open line/hang-up; 11:12 a.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), sprinkler test; 11:35 a.m.: animal complaint (High Street), found kitten in basement; 12:48 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), walk-in report taken; 1:37 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:49 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), req. speed enforcement; 2:55 p.m.: DPW call (Crestview Drive), cloudy water; 4:33 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 5:58 p.m.: juvenile matter (Northwest Road), spoken to; 6:05 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic m/c operator; 8:46 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), assisted; 8:52 p.m.: animal complaint (Chickering Road), bat in house; 11:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chestnut Street), investigated; 11:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: threats; (total daily mv stops – 10).

FRIDAY, MAY 26  
2:09-2:36 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:37 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD/party making threats; 6:19 a.m.: 911 call (Woodside Road), misdial; 8:58 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (Ash Street), services rendered; 9:15 a.m.: trespassing (Main Street), party trespassed in store; 9:42 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 11:21 a.m.: juvenile matter (Dale Street), kids hit front of house; 11:26 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:45 a.m.: fraud (Old East Charlton Road), re: poss. scam; 12:04 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), fight; 12:06 p.m.: mv complaint (Chestnut Street), speeding; 1:09 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 2:58 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 3:08 p.m.: RV complaint (Valley Street), ATV on park grounds; 3:22 p.m.: 911 call (South Spencer Road), accidental; 3:43 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Road), re: accident; 3:53 p.m.: 911 call (Mechanic Street), accidental; 4:16 p.m.: fraud (Bay Path Road), computer hacked; 4:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 4:34 p.m.: 911 call (Williams Drive), hang-up; 4:51 p.m.: animal complaint (Vine Street), dog bite; 6:33 p.m.: suspicious persons (Mechanic Street), investigated; 7:27 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 7:34 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), tree down; 7:58 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 10:09 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, MAY 27  
12:02-2:24 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:27 a.m.: accident (Old Meadow Road), mv vs deer; 7:22 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 8:50 a.m.: medical/general (Grant Street); 9:08 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 9:57 a.m.: accident (Thompson Pond Road), report taken; 10:01 a.m.: medical/general (North Brookfield Road); 10:08 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chestnut Street), accidental; 10:15 a.m.: officer wanted (Borkum Road), req. welfare check; 11:07 a.m.: mv complaint (Chickering Road), erratic operator; 11:43 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 11:47 a.m.: suspicious persons (Wilson Street), report taken; 11:52 a.m.: officer want-

ed (Woodside Road), spoken to; 12:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), lift operator damaging house; 1:49 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (Chestnut Street), info taken; 3:31 p.m.: 911 call (Browning Pond Road), open line; 4:11 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 6:18 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Spencer Road), no contact; 7:22 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 8:07 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), speeding; 8:51 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 10:55 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 11:18 p.m.: 911 call (Route 49), misdial; 11:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Route 49), debris in road/removed; 11:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), heard gunshots; 11:59 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SUNDAY, MAY 28  
12:07-2:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:22 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:38-5:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:50 a.m.: mutual aid (Mechanic Street), Ware PD/req. welfare check; 6:25 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:40 a.m.: building checked, secure; 8:50 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 10:06 a.m.: lost/found (Hastings Road), keys found; 10:43 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 10:53 a.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; 12:12 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), services rendered; 12:23 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 12:58 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), dog in mv/windows closed; 2:23 p.m.: 911 call (Sycamore Avenue), accidental; 2:50 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 3:16 p.m.: 911 call (Duggan Street), accidental; 5:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Briarcliff Road), barking dog; 6:58 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 7:03 p.m.: mv complaint (Cranberry Meadow Road), speeding; 7:05 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:15 p.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), open line; 9:14 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: neo-Nazi sign on railing; 9:16 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:02 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:53 p.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 11:27 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 2).

MONDAY, MAY 29  
12:51-1:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:22 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Elm Street), no contact; 1:32 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dog bite; 2:05 a.m.: disturbance (Taylor Street), trespasser; 2:05 a.m.: stolen property (Pleasant Street), electric bike stolen; 5:45 a.m.: vandalism (Lake Street), school window smashed; 7:51 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:09 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 8:23 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 11:14 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), concerned for sister; 11:17 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 12:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), re: items found; 1:15 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Oakland Drive), no contact; 1:20 p.m.: larceny (Mechanic Street), meds stolen from mv; 2:24 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 4:44 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 4:54 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 5:01 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), investigated; 5:34 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), open line; 8:19 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), found dog collar; 8:48 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), issues w/neighbor; 9:37 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 9:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), re: earlier incident; 10:24 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 10:53 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 2).

TUESDAY, MAY 30  
1:22 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), State Police bolo; 2:04-3:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:16 a.m.: parking violation (McDonald Street), ticket issued; 6:15 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:14 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:30 a.m.: accident (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 9:08 a.m.: fire (Maple Street), cat stuck in bathroom; 9:15 a.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 10:25 a.m.: animal complaint (North Brookfield Road), have abandoned kitten; 10:32 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Valley Street), misdial; 11:34 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:10 p.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 1:11 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:33 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:48 p.m.: bylaw violation (Main Street), mv vs dog; 3:28 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 3:52 p.m.: suspicious mv (Charlton Street), investigated; 4:08 p.m.: suspicious persons (Maple Street), investigated; 4:11 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:30 p.m.: restraining order service (Old Meadow Road); 4:48 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), iPad found; 4:55 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. blackmail; 5:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), c/o jay-walking; 5:01 p.m.: suspicious persons (Franklin Street), saw items taken from yard; 5:31 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), re: prohibited turn; 5:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pond Street), investigated; 5:42 p.m.: juvenile matter (Park Street), fight developing; 5:53 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), LTC change of address; 6:32 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lake Street), spoken to; 6:43 p.m.: suspicious persons (Clark Road), investigated; 7:03 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 8:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:27 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 8:46 p.m.: animal complaint (G.H. Wilson Road), missing dog; 8:55 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (Pleasant Street), son left w/backpack; 8:56 p.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); (total daily mv stops – 11).

##



**DPHS**  
*continued from page A1*

President Charlie Lascom praising and thanking his friends as well as the faculty, especially Mrs. Bridges, who he said “was instrumental in guiding his studies of business and marketing.”

“Our teachers taught us to approach every new situation with an open mind,” he said. “With their help, we identified our strengths and worked to identify and overcome our weaknesses.”

Valedictorian Cody Chen gave an impassioned speech to the audience and his classmates on the importance of “showing up” as a way of meeting the challenges they faced throughout their high school years and would face in their futures...

Most of those ups and downs were caused by the coronavirus pandemic which hit in March of 2020.

But he too praised the faculty.

“Faculty members showed up every day to

make sure we got the most out of high school,” he said.

And he learned other things besides what was taught in the classroom.

“I learned how necessary it is to live each day to its full potential,” Chen said.

Salutatorian William Anderson told how he found his path in his studies of environmental science and how he liked to learn as much as possible in the Career Tech Education (CTE) program; and would continue his studies in this

area at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the fall, thanks to the teachings of his Environmental Science Teacher, Mr. Barnett.

The David Prouty Permanent Scholarship Fund awarded more than \$40,000 in scholarship monies on top of the money awarded a day earlier at Senior Day. Mr. Stein Berthiaume, an active member of the Permanent Scholarship Board, spoke from the heart about the importance of David Prouty

and the role it plays in the lives of the community noting the fact he was part of the first class ever to graduate from McDonough gymnasium. He then congratulated the graduates on a job well done prior to handing out the scholarships.

Principal Nathaniel Malone spoke to the impact the class of 2023 had on the school and the community-at-large, making sure the vote for the high school building project passed last October – making this commencement the last

time any class would graduate from this gymnasium. He concluded his remarks by urging the graduates to be open to new friendships, new opportunities and many new adventures.

And finally, Superintendent of Schools, Paul Haughey, urged the graduates to chase their passion and keep working for it...

“You will never – and I mean never- work a day in your life if you love what you do!” Haughey said before congratulating the Class of 2023.

**FIRE**  
*continued from page A1*

a church that had stood since the Civil War. Within thirty minutes of the six-alarm fire breaking out, the historic church on Route 9 was destroyed.

No injuries were reported from the incident. The adjacent Senior Living at Prouty facility (195 Main Street) was evacuated through the night due to heavy smoke. The building sustained minor damage to its roof from embers.

“Eleven residents stayed at the Senior Center on Maple Street. Officers transported those residents in need,” said Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford.

Senior Living at Prouty residents were able to return home the next day. By then, the church had been fully demolished by crews and Route 9 was reopened.

Parsons told the New Leader several longtime fire officials described the blaze as the fastest, hottest fire they’d experienced in their careers. Firefighters from over 20 local departments participated in the response.

With the iconic church now reduced to rubble, its countless memories can never be destroyed for community members who have uplifted each other by offering support to the church family.

“It’s devastating for our community. This was one of the most historic buildings in town,

and we feel terrible for the parishioners,” said Select Board member Gary Woodbury.

Added Selectman Ralph Hicks, “It was a landmark for anyone driving down Route 9. Today reminds me of that cold January day in 1982 when the Massasoit Hotel pretty much burned to the ground. Both were two of the oldest Spencer buildings that were lost forever due to fire.”

The church was built in 1863 after the original church on the site was destroyed by a fire in 1862. From worship services, to Vacation Bible Schools, to marriages and community programs, residents and their families have memories of the church going back generations.

“It is a devastating loss. The church has stood like a sentinel standing watch over our town,” said Sen. Anne Gobi, of Spencer. “While I was not a parishioner there, I have been to many services and events through the years. It is a welcoming congregation, and my heart goes out to the faithful who attended services and spent so much of their time and shared their talents to support the church.”

Church members gathered on June 4 at First Congregational Church of Leicester (1 Washburn Square) for Sunday services. Moving forward, the Leicester church will serve as a familiar place of comfort for displaced

parishioners.

“I have been in touch with Rev. Bruce MacLeod, who is the current Pastor of both the church in Spencer and the First Congregational Church in Leicester,” wrote Rev. Carol Steinbrecher, Area Conference Minister for the North Central Region, in a letter to the community. “The one bit of good news is that the two churches have been sharing worship and alternating buildings, so the Spencer congregation has a familiar place to go to be with friends who will comfort and care for them.”

Added Steinbrecher, “I have been inspired by the immediate outpouring of concern and offers of help being expressed by churches, pastors, con-

gregations, friends, and neighbors from all over our conference.”

Support for the church family has also poured in from across the country on social media. Local officials plan to inform residents in the coming days of various ways to support the church family as they begin the rebuilding process.

“My heart goes out to the parishioners who have lost their spiritual home. It is my wish that they will be able to rebuild the church and copy the beautiful facade and towering steeple that existed for 160 years,” Selectman Hicks said.



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## MUSIC

continued from page A1

behavior throughout the festival weekend,” read a statement released by Music in the Parks. “Personal integrity, quality character values, a desire for excellence, and a spirit of cooperation serve as the cornerstone qualities of the Esprit de Corps Award.”

For Leicester students, the trip was an unforgettable experience in their musical journeys.

“It felt so good for me to present and express our music to others, and get judged on it to see what we can make better. It was one of the best experiences in my life,” said sixth grade band member Liam Gentile. “I hope next year that I will have another opportunity to go to Music in the Parks once again.”

Added seventh grade band member Alena Martinkova, “When they announced that Leicester Middle School won the Esprit de Corps Award, I jumped to my feet and started cheering.”



Courtesy

Leicester eighth graders Hannah Spratt, left, and Mary Van Hazinga receive the “Esprit de Corps” trophy on behalf of the LMS Music Department.

## Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College recognizes the following local students for being named to the Dean's List for academic excellence for the 2023 spring semester:

Valerie Guzman from Spencer. Guzman has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Jacob Halfrey from Spencer. Halfrey has a primary major of Exer Sci / Applied ES.

Hannah Schultz from North Brookfield. Schultz has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-OT.

Julianna Torres from Rochdale. Torres has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

## SUPERINTENDENT

continued from page A8

Within Module Six: Detailed Design, we are currently working on pre-qualification subcommittee efforts. Our next School Building Committee meeting is planned for Thursday, June 15 at 6 p.m. via zoom or in-person at the Wire Village School. As well, please join me in welcoming a few new Ex-Officio, Non-Voting members to our School Building Committee. They are: Mr. Michael Befford, New Police Chief serving the Spencer Police Department; Mr. Steve Femino, New Director of Facilities and Operations for the regional school district; and Mr. Joe Lazarick, New Police Chief serving the East Brookfield Police Department.

AlphaBest Update: AlphaBest will continue to provide services throughout the summer months for the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District. To learn more or to obtain summer information, please contact the Director of Programming, Mrs. Kimberly Jennings, at phone number: 781-664-8840 or by email at: [kjennings@alphabest.org](mailto:kjennings@alphabest.org). Thank you.

White Sweater Recognition Luncheon 2023! Yesterday, seniors who have maintained an “A” average for their four years of schooling at David Prouty HS were recognized for their stu-

dent achievement... They are (from Left to right): Paige Parenteau, Jessica Duda, Marlee Domey, William Anderson and Cody Chen. Please join us in congratulating them - and celebrating their due diligence, and perseverance!

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! As mentioned above, on Friday, June 2nd, 2023, our entire learning community celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2023 by recognizing our graduates in an indoor ceremony in the McDonough Gymnasium of David Prouty High School. Once again, please join me in congratulating our David Prouty HS Class of 2023!

Future Teachers! Please join us in recognizing these five David Prouty HS seniors, who plan to become teachers after college. They are: Axel Power, Braeden Cashman, Brielle Hart, Kaitlyn O'Neill, Jocelyn Lamonda, & Emily Brown.

Save the date: The Knox Trail Middle School Graduation is planned for Thursday, June 15 (Start Time 5 p.m.).

And finally, the last day of school is a half day for grades K-11 within the district and will be Tuesday, June 20, 2023. As always, I deeply appreciate your continued partnership and support of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you and your children this school year! #Innovate #Inspire #Achieve

## Area residents named to Bridgewater State dean's list

BRIDGEWATER — The following Massachusetts residents were named to the dean's list for the spring 2023 semester at Bridgewater State University:

Auburn  
Emily Healy,  
Jenna Nelson and  
Ava Novakoski.

Blackstone  
Madison Abrants,  
Zoe Bergeron,  
Meagan Brodeur,  
Brad Chausse,  
Cassandra Demotte,  
Alexis Harrison,  
Erin McGuire,  
Matthew Montgomery,  
Abigail Putnam,  
Mia Russo,  
Stephanie Spear  
and Alex Staples.

Brimfield  
Spike Austin and  
Giana Uwazany

Brookfield  
Sarah Tavares

Charlton  
Samantha D'Arcangelo,  
Shaelyn Donovan,  
Molly Johnson,  
Matthew Kustigian and  
Ryan McKenzie.

Charlton City  
Kayla Canty

Douglas  
Madalyn Carr,  
Samantha Gibson,  
Alisa Guertin, Lauren  
Johnson, Joshua  
McCullen and  
Cody Winchell.

Fiskdale  
Nate Eliason and  
Allison Morin

Grafton  
Ashley Berardi  
and Sabrina  
Lincoln-Salfity

Milford

Julia Cacciola,  
Shane Cosquete,  
Jayden Fernandes, Tiago  
Filadelfo, Bianca  
Guerreiro, Ashley  
Haley, Sami Houston,  
Tessa Houston,  
Ashley LaVergne,  
Devin MacLean,  
Brenna Mackie,  
Nick Matias,  
Anthony Miano,  
William Pointer,  
Yasmin Silva,  
Eric Stockwell  
and Kayleigh  
Wilcox.

Millbury  
Jackson Cudmore,  
Madie Forget,  
Audra McDuffie,  
Derek Paris, Ty  
Pogorek, Blake  
Samuelson and  
Zack Smith.

Millville  
Aaron Canali,  
Charlie Dakai,  
Myra Dehestani

and Justin  
Sauter.

North Brookfield  
Sam Rischitelli

Northbridge  
Meghan Coughlin

Oxford  
Taylor Carter,  
Corinne Holmes,  
Danielle Johnson  
and Abigail Rice.

Rochdale  
Jane Toohil

South Grafton  
Stratos Bonos and  
Thomas Waller

Southbridge  
Alyssa Gonzalez,  
Kolby Lamoureux and  
Amelia Tieri.

Spencer  
Richard Butler  
and Morgan  
Girard

Sturbridge  
Megan Hooker

Sutton  
Kyla Rae and  
Nathan Tougas

Upton  
Allison Ceruti  
and Patrick  
Dunham

Uxbridge  
Lilyanna Bain,  
Amanda Brochu,  
Geovanna Freire,  
Grace Martel,  
Brenna Neill and  
Samuel Warner.

Webster  
Brett Smith and  
Aryanah Walker-  
Sanchez

West Brookfield  
Paige Latter and  
Adam Tweraser

Whittinsville  
Jill Casey,  
Mackenzie Gifford,  
Omar Osman,  
Kim Shorey and  
Nathaniel  
Survell.

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### Lasell University students named to Spring Dean's List

NEWTON — The Spring 2023 Dean's List includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. The list includes:

Mikayla Bokis of Spencer  
Julia Cabana of Spencer  
Dillon Winkelmann of Spencer

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications, at (617) 243-2386, or smocle@lasell.edu.

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**email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news**

### Local students named to Dean's List at Stonehill College

EASTON — The following local students were among nearly 1,000 students named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List at Stonehill College:

Katheryn Stapel of Leicester  
Isabella Ortiz of Leicester  
Shelby Wessell of Rochdale

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

## LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO23P1897EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Estate of:**  
Theresa M. Ingemi  
**Also known as:**  
Theresa Mary Ingemi  
**Date of Death: 03/07/2023**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kathryn A. Premo of Holden MA and John J. Ingemi, Jr. of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Kathryn A. Premo of Holden MA and John J. Ingemi, Jr. of North Brookfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised** administration

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection **at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/04/2023.**

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 time-

ly 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: June 01, 2023  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
June 9, 2023

**Notice of Public Hearing—**  
**Planning Board**  
**The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday June 20, 2023 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**  
**Major Site Plan Review/Special Permit/ Stormwater Permit – Applicant: Peter Rundle-Solar Smart, LLC, Owners: Hillside Baptist Church, Location: 472 East Main Street, Spencer, MA; Assessor's Map R34-8-1. The applicant is requesting a Major Site Plan Review, Special Permit, and Stormwater Permit under**

**sections 7.2, 7.4, and 4.8.9 of The Spencer Zoning Bylaw and Stormwater Regulations to develop a large-scale ground mounted solar PV array (2.917 MW). The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR)/ Commercial (C) with the arrays in RR zoning districts.**  
June 2, 2023  
June 9, 2023

**Town of West Brookfield**  
**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Brian Snyder for the property located at 32 Church Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes create an apartment at the current dwelling in General District. This requires a Special Permit as per section(s) -3. Use Regulations § 3.22 Residential Use (et al)  
June 2, 2023  
June 9, 2023

**Notification of Aquatic Treatment – Lake Lashaway**  
Lake Lashaway in East Brookfield and North Brookfield will be treated with herbicides to control nuisance aquatic vegetation on **Tuesday, June 20, 2023.** The use of the lake will be restricted as follows:  
Swimming, boating and fishing (1 day) – Restricted until June 21st  
Livestock watering (Agricultural) (1 day) – Restricted until June 21st  
Direct drinking (2 days) – Restricted until June 22nd  
Irrigation (5 days) – Restricted until June 25th  
The work is being funded by lake resident donation and the Lake Lashaway Community Association, Inc., pursuant

to permits/licenses issued by Mass Dep (License No. WW04-0001135) with approval from the East Brookfield & North Brookfield Conservation Commissions. Work is being performed under contract with The Pond and Lake Connection Lake Management, 1112 Federal Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804.  
June 9, 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. WO23C0296CA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Anastasia Yiana Johnson**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Anastasia Yiana Johnson of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Anastasia Yiana Estremera**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/27/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.**  
**WITNESS, HON. LEILAH A KEAMY, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: May 26, 2023  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
June 9, 2023

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# Local residents earn degrees at Clark University’s 119th Commencement ceremonies

WORCESTER — Clark University awarded 1,300 degrees (590 Bachelor’s, 681 Master’s, and 29 doctoral degrees) to the Class of 2023 and conferred three honorary degrees during their 119th Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 21. Speakers heralded the graduates for their accomplishments, and the resilience and ambition they exhibited when their college experience was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lori Buckley, of Leicester graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Communication.

Robbie S. Wilson, of West Brookfield graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Music.

In his opening remarks, President David B. Fithian noted that the undergradu-

ates were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout all four years of their college careers, a collective experience that he said resulted in a more creative and tenacious learning community.

“You became experts in the evolving art of remote learning and navigating uncertainty,” Fithian said. “You experienced a uniquely challenging time in our history, and you proved to be stronger than maybe you even imagined you could be.”

Robert D. Putnam, Malkin Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government and author of a number of books examining the decline of community in American Society, including “Bowling Alone” and “The Upswing,” delivered the commencement address. Putnam urged

the graduates to seek new ways to bring Americans together across divides of politics, region, race, religion, ethnicity, class, and gender.

“Our country today faces unprecedented political polarization, economic inequality, social fragmentation, and moral self-centeredness, but you - collaborating with others - can reverse those trends,” he said. “Your generation didn’t cause these problems, but only you can lead the way toward a more diverse, more tolerant, more cohesive, more equal society. A society in which rather than shout or shoot at one another, we listen to one another - actually listen.”

Honorary degrees were conferred to Putnam; Ruth Wilson Gilmore, a professor, scholar, and author considered a pioneer in the field of

carceral geography and a forceful activist in the prison abolition movement; and Ronald Carter, a legendary jazz bassist, bandleader, Grammy Award winner, and distinguished professor emeritus.

The “transformative power of education” was the theme of remarks by the graduate ceremony student speaker Idriss Laouali Abdou.

“Imagine growing up in a community where you and your friends had dreams you knew were impossible to achieve. That was the reality for me growing up in Niger,” said Abdou, who served as the vice president of the School of Management Student Council and the graduate advisor for Clark’s Caribbean and African Student Association.

“I was fortunate enough to pursue my studies in

Morocco and France, and now here in the United States as a Fulbright scholar,” he said. “My personal journey is just one example of how education can change lives. As members of the Clark community, I know that each of you has a story to tell, challenges to overcome, and successes to celebrate.”

In her address to fellow undergraduates, student speaker Glory Phipps, a philosophy major, compared her class’s journey to that of a rose growing from concrete, an analogy inspired by a poem written by the late rapper Tupac Shakur. Phipps spoke about the optimism she and her classmates shared at the start of their Clark experience, and how they persevered during the pandemic.

“We made it through by focusing on our passions. We fought for

issues we believed in. We began to use our voices for the greater good,” said Phipps, who served on the Student Council, the Black Student Union, the Latin American Student Organization, and the Mock Trial team. “No matter how many times we were struck down we still got up.”

That perseverance, President Fithian said, is why the world needs Clarkies.

“Today’s world needs minds that can understand a variety of perspectives. Today’s world needs those who value research-based and evidence-informed solutions to complex problems. Today’s world needs individuals who aren’t afraid to be themselves, and who aren’t afraid to challenge convention,” he said. “Today’s world needs you.”

## QCC ANNOUNCES DEAN AND MERIT LISTS

W O R C E S T E R — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2023 Semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 439 students were named to the college’s Dean’s List and 826 students were named to the Merit List.

Dean’s List

Students who meet the criteria below and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester are named to the Dean’s List:

All grades must be “C” or higher. (No grades of “I” or “X” are permitted).

Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college level

Auburn: Logan Alexander, Emily Briddon, Jacqueline Cetrone, Zoe Coleman, Kelly Do, Erika Goff, Daquan Gooch, Emelis Henriquez, Angel Medina, Chanel Napoli, David Zona

Blackstone: Reno Caretta, Jacob Ridlon, Declan Shave

Brookfield: Emily Pope, Tay-Lynne Pope, Vanessa VanGerven

Charlton: Molly Cloutier, Emanuel Desouza, Zenyah Figueroa, Jordan Goulas, Jordan Keefe, Kellen Kinnes, Vitor Kuhn Scariot, Haley LaFortune, Jessica Lapierre, Amanda McDermott, Alexia McFarlin, Chase McKenney, Nicole Mulvey, Hanna Palmer, Jordyn Poirier, John Price, Maged Samwael, Dylan Smaltz

Cherry Valley: Cilia Lannon

Dudley: Anthony Awad, Mina Boktor, Isabella Freitas, Thalia Hernandez, Nicole Karp, Emily Kolodziejczak, Christopher Lincoln, Amanda Wisnowski

East Brookfield: Grace Haight

East Douglas: Caroline Beard, Hayden Krasner, Hannah Rosenkrantz,

Ashley Schofield

Fiskdale: Drew Howard

Grafton: Jeremy Barrett, Evan Ducharme, Harrison Klumpenaar, Brinna Smith

Holland: Haley Dulmaine, Zane Salameh

Leicester: Camden Crocker, Nikolas Dagostino, Jason Edson, Jackie Long, Cassidy Saksa

Millford: Shanay Patel, Amanda Silva

Millbury: Gabriella Bianchi, Clarence Johnson, Madison LeClaire, Eric Renaud, Julia Silva Santiago, Nicholas Terp, Stephanie Xiao

Millville: Amelia Tober

North Brookfield: Liam Carlson, Deborah Hill

North Grafton: Fadi Alkoht, Sean Manning, Holly Martin

North Oxford: Shannen Hennessy, Gracy Mauch

Northbridge: Vivian Adams, Bronte Chosta, Nicholas Cleary

Oxford: Joseph Gallant, Allison Hamel, Ashley Hamel, Chloe Hatstat, Blake Lentine, Amanda Listewnik, Brandon Pen, Julie Viola, Tyler Wilson

Rochdale: Stephen Collins, Kailyn Orrell

South Grafton: Nicholas Fobert

Southbridge: Kandy Alvarado, Kendall Barton, Evan Duffey, Bianca Fantaroni, Daniel Fuentes, Rosalie Groleau, Giovanni Hernandez, Anthony Lang, Emily Maldonado, Jacob McDonald, Ogochukwu Nwasolu, Abigail St. Laurent, Venus Streeter, Payton Vega, Amber Warden

Spencer: Matthew Heffernan, Thomas Heffernan, Lourdes Morales, Kyle Paquette, Kyle Sadusky, Yujia Wei

Sturbridge: Abby Arena, Brian Gagnon, Ryan Manners, Zoe Melanson

Sutton: Aliyssa Courville, Katherine Fields, Conor Hickey, Disha Khanna, Amanda Moulton, Tehreem

Zainab

Upton: Adrienne Guertin

Uxbridge: Hailey Bergman, Antonio Demalia, Alexandra Gonzaga, Abigail Hanscom, Solomon LeFrancois, Jeremy Lutton, Nicholas Maracle, Justin Meola, Abigail Vanderbrug

Wales: Jalissa Gardner

Webster: Makayla Blanchard, Ashley Denham, Sean Flynn, Hlaing Htoo, Karma Lama, Falcone Modjom, Kasey Pechie, Jullia Pinheiro, Beatriz Roman, Kyle VanCott, Tyler Verrier

West Upton: Logan Quinn, Omer Rona

Whitinsville: Alison Beaupre, Melissa Sue Chenevert, Hunter Fabri, Alianna Georges, Patrick Spain

Merit List

Students who meet the criteria below and have earned six or more credits in a given semester, but fewer than 12 credits, are named to the Merit List:

All grades must be “C” or higher. (No grades of “I” or “X” are permitted).

Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college level

Auburn: Zahraa Alshammari, Diana Bies, Hannah Chapdelaine, Angela DiTommaso, Laura Keister, Paul Landry, Hao Mai, Emily Mills, Anthony Miranda, Maria Misenti, Aidan Owusu Mensah, Julia Paz, Matti Phaneuf, Sara Ruffi, Matthew Seaman, Cameron Szalay

Blackstone: Jordan Geoffroy, Joshua Johnson, Molly Malloy

Brimfield: Haileigh Chase, Lillian Morrell, Tye Zola

Brookfield: Kerry Gromosky, Jordan Miller, Hailey Myers

Charlton: Caitlyn

Bussiere, Christopher

Chute, Jordan Daigneault, Theresa Duke, Johnson Ebe, Natasha Emco-Rollins, Kalia Gonzalez, Loriauna Graika, Jacob Heywood, Abigail Joesten, Lindsey Rodriguez, Hannah Sharma, Rebecka-Dawn Walley, Demerice Wolfenden

Cherry Valley: Stephanie Grayum

Douglas: Jason Michalski

Dudley: Aria Butler, Yakeydy Calderon, Katelyn Cathey-Johnson, Xavier Collazo, Shannon Germain, Michaela Goritsas, Michael Grant, Grace Jocson, Daniel Kelley, Heather Lamprey, Julie Milner, Kalli Rojas, Nicholas Ru, Clarice Smith, Ann Marie Taylor, Nicholas Whitley, Gabriel daSilva

East Douglas: Jessica Bates, Abigail Bonneau, Ashlinn Collins, Britni Conner, Hunter Dunn, Gladis Fonseca, Jacob Masi, Marlene Muika, John Murphy, Mark Pepin, Ethan Soyenthisane

Fiskdale: Carina Holt, Tristan Shaw, Warren Zelenak

Grafton: Haley Becotte, Mackenzie Collins, Amber Dumas, Chad Duplessis, Michele Medeiros, Abigail O’Toole, Debokkawe Pannasiri, Catherine Spinney, Tracy Torteson, Audrey Ziegler

Holland: Beau Boudreau, Robert Smith, April Swanson

Leicester: Ryan Butler, Amy Carr, Amanda Frascolla, Linnette Lamptey, Constantino Rodriguez

Millford: Mariana Ferraz, Ian Flannery, Kyle Perry, Anthony Rodriguez

Millbury: Mari Alkhamisi, Katherine Bloom, Sandra Bravo, Jacob Brodeur, Kyliegh Corey, Christian Donaldson, Eva England, Ivie Lapointe, Melissa

McMillen, Lily Nguyen, Kailey O’Neil, Lucas Ogasahara, Abdoul Aziz Salim Ouedraogo, Michael Quitadamo, Drassan Simon

Millville: Danielle Zaloudek

North Brookfield: Kristina Blankenship, Marisa Dunphe, Valeria Gimenez Fandino, Kyle Pagnoni

North Grafton: Franklin Burkey, Riley Cass, Ella Gullede, Nathan Jewers, Rabia Mateen, Brooke Nyren, Julia Pampalona, Christopher Whisenant

North Oxford: Antony Bradford, Nicole Dayutis, Julianna Marcoux

Northbridge: Aaron Bishop, Kyran Bishop, Krystal Bonafilia, Sarah Bowen-Catlin, Katrina Havey, Octavia Zahoruiko, Anthony Zanca

Oxford: Samantha Balko, Nina Cardoni, Alexandra Chumsae, Tommy Estevez, Wilfrid Foto Tasse, Ariana Gelardi, Jennifer Gum, Kimberly Lindsey, Ellie Makowiecki, Brady Parmentier, Nicholas Rawson, Kelly Ritchie, Jared Torosian

Rochdale: Isabelle Maynard

South Grafton: Nicholas Carter, Nahum Echevarria-Jordan, Anthony Fisher, Tiffany Maynard, Nicole Parella, Joseph Salib, Joshua Steinbrecher

Southbridge: Kristina Bachand, Mikayla Battaglia, Kasey Chickerling, Joseph Clem, Christina Crosby, Caitlyn Deliddo, Yarielis Diaz, Kelaia Espinoza, Margaret Githui, Scarlet Guzman Gil, Catherine Hamblin, Rhiannon Hogan, Denise Inthirathvongsy, Hilary Lapan, Hilda Maldonado, Caleb Powell, Jose Quinones, Mayra Ramsey, Milady Rentas, Alexa Rivera, Luzyvette Sagastibelza-Lopez

Spencer: Engy Abdelmasih, Caitlyn

Berthiaume, Katherine Boria, Melissa Consiglio, Sarah Decker, Ashton Evans, Gary Janke, Mary Kagotho-Saydee, Matthew LaBaire, Eric Lammi, Kayla McQueston, Stefanie Natale, Halie Parham, Danielle Provencher, Michael Roy, Nathaniel Rybicki, Christine Shute, Melissa Trotter

Sturbridge: Brynlee Beaucage, Adam Mazeika, Marcus Przybycien, Alexander Starr, Josephine Tokaya

Sutton: Matthew Kearney

Uxbridge: Kelsey Brooks, Silvia Castro, Inna Embden, Mayra Marquez, Edrick Pereira, Joshua Plumer, Sadie Schultzberg, Megan Wingfield

Webster: Samir Azzaoui, Adrienne Chomes, Timothy Dziedzic, Jennifer Gardner, Venusie Gonzalez, Bianca Grenon, Kerri Heenan, Nichole Lambert, Garrett Mann, Justice Minka, Jacob Mobley, Lays Napoli, Samantha Nelligan, Clayton O’Connor, Lukasz Perzan, Trisha Powers, Heather Quinn, Elena Ralph, Bianca Ramos, Dayna Riley, Christian Rivera Sierra, Mariah Rivera, Yarie Rivera, Patricia Rose, Jinson Salazar, Janice Serrano, Justin Smith, Maria Verdejo, Panagiotis Vlahos, Leekha Williams, John Zamoider

West Brookfield: Emily Barrett, Israel Hickey, Karlie Mason, Heath Swope

West Upton: Catherine Aviles, Gianna Dowd, Kendal Rodriguez

Whitinsville: Cameron Deforest, Randy Diaz, Travis Gould, Emily LaFleur, Amy Mikulecky, Joshua Pinoos, Erin Vierck

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