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Friday, January 12, 2024

Winter storm slams central Massachusetts

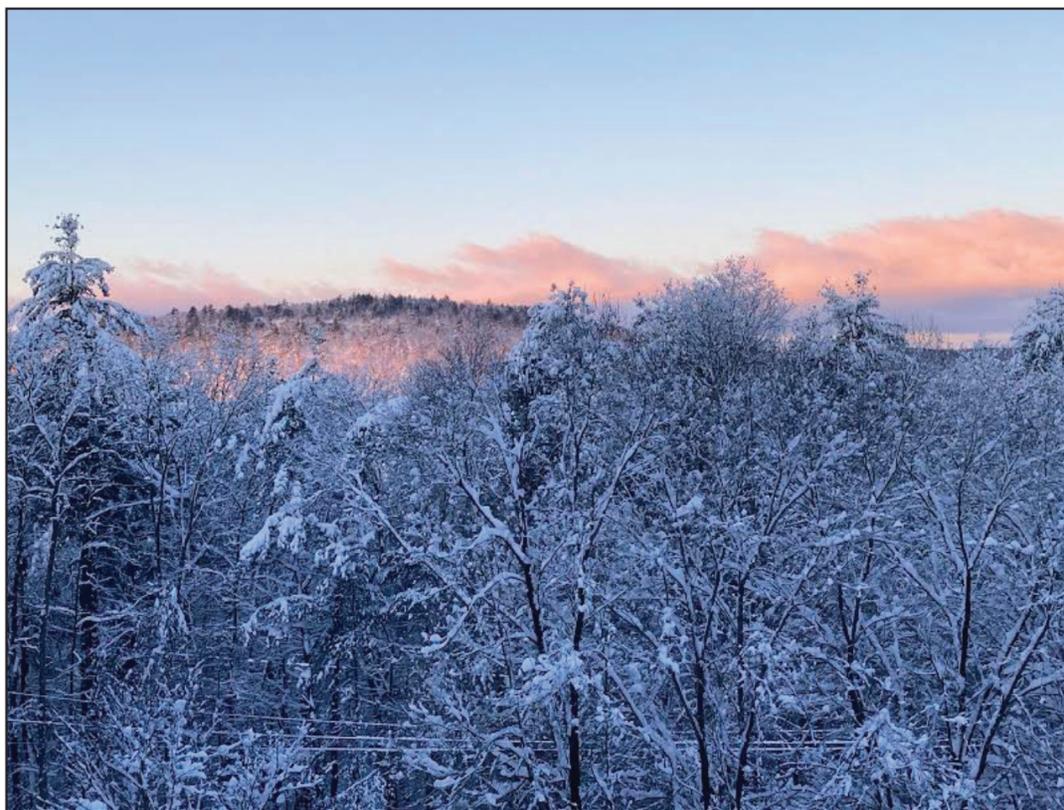
BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

REGION — It took until the first week of January, but area residents finally received their first significant snowstorm of the season last weekend.

The Jan. 6-7 storm brought more than a foot of snow to several local communities. Leicester picked up approximately 15 inches by Sunday evening, with Spencer checking in at 13 inches. Auburn and Warren also saw about a foot, with slightly lesser amounts registered in Sturbridge.

Since the heaviest precipitation occurred overnight into the early hours of Sunday morning, impacts on local roads and travelers were minor, police said. By the time the snow finally stopped on Sunday evening, crews had gotten most roads in good shape for the morning commute.

To give students, parents, and bus operators extra time before class, some local school districts, including the Quaboag Regional School District and the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, delayed school by two hours on Jan. 8. Students in the



Kevin Flanders

Local residents awoke to a snowy scene after a major weekend storm.

Tantasqua Regional School District and Leicester Public Schools also saw a two-hour delay.

While the storm brought headaches for residents who had to clear their driveways and walkways,

it delivered much-needed relief for plow operators who rely on winter white to bring in the green.

After November and December passed with hardly any snow in local communities, plow driv-

ers told us they're hoping for more work in the coming months.

Meanwhile, as residents dug out from the weekend snowstorm, they were already turning their attention to the next major weather event slated for Jan. 9-10. But with temperatures having once again been forecasted to rise, this storm was projected to be mostly wet and windy rather than white.

Looking ahead, local police departments remind drivers to obey winter parking bans and clear their vehicles of snow and ice after storms. Violators may be subject to a citation.

For information on parking regulations in your community, visit the municipal website.

Additionally, residents are reminded to make sure their homes and vehicles are stocked with items that can be used during power outages or vehicle breakdowns during storms. It's best to always stock up on supplies ahead of major winter weather events and be prepared for three days without power, officials said.

Spencer man facing charges in shooting at Worcester State

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — A Spencer man is facing several charges in connection to a series of crimes that occurred prior to a fatal October shooting on the Worcester State University campus.

Authorities said the Oct. 28 incidents occurred during an early morning confrontation between two groups of people who were visiting the university campus. According to Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., neither the victims nor the suspects were students at the university.

“Worcester State University Police responded to a shooting scene around 2:30 a.m. on Oct. 28. Two men were found with gunshot wounds, and both were taken to area hospitals,” read a statement released by DA Early’s office.

Randy Armando Melendez, Jr., 19, of Southbridge, later died from his injuries. The second shooting victim, a 21-year-old man who has not been publicly identified by authorities, was left paralyzed from the waist down.

Kevin Rodriguez, 18, of Lawrence, was indicted last month by a Worcester County grand jury. On Jan. 12, he will be arraigned at Worcester Superior Court on charges of murder; possession of a loaded firearm while not at home or work; and possession of a firearm while not at home or work.

Richard Nieves, 19, of Spencer, and Kenneth Doelter, 20, of Southbridge, are both accused of robbing the 21-year-old man before he was shot.

Doelter and Nieves were both indicted on charges of armed robbery and aggravated kidnapping.

Nieves, who is accused of shooting the surviving victim, was also indicted on charges of armed assault with intent to murder; assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury; discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling; possession of a loaded firearm while not at home or work; and possession of a firearm while not at home or work.

Both Doelter and Nieves will be arraigned in Worcester Superior Court on a date to be determined.

Several agencies have participated in the investigation of the crimes, including the Worcester Police Department; Worcester State University Police; Massachusetts State Police; Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services; and Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office.

Assistant District Attorneys Terry McLaughlin, Lina Pashou, and Timothy Westerman are prosecuting the cases.

LMS student named Project 351 ambassador

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Eighth grader Paula Roberts is congratulated for her selection as Leicester Middle School’s Project 351 ambassador.

Each year, Project 351 brings together eighth graders representing every city and town in the Commonwealth.

Ambassadors unite in Boston for a day of service, followed by a series of projects giving back to their hometowns.

“Project 351 seeks to develop the next generation of community-first service leaders through customized service learning, hands-on community-building, and value-based leadership

training,” read a statement released by the Project 351 organization.

All Project 351 ambassadors are selected by educators at their respective schools. Students chosen to take part in the program must demonstrate an exemplary commitment to bettering their schools and communities

through service projects.

Moreover, school officials emphasize the values of leadership, kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude when making the difficult decision of naming one Project 351 ambassador per town.

Turn To **ROBERTS** page **A12**

Wreaths Across America event pays tribute to those who served

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — Residents and officials recently honored those who served by attending the town’s festivities celebrating National Wreaths Across America Day.

The event took place on Dec. 16 at the Town Common. Several veterans, first responders, and other local leaders took

part in the program.

“The West Brookfield Police Department is so thankful to have been able to participate in National Wreaths Across America Day on the West

Brookfield Common with everyone,” read a statement released by the department. “Thank you to everyone who attended—it was beautiful.”

Each year, the nation- Turn To **WREATHS** page **A12**



Courtesy

West Brookfield officials and veterans celebrate National Wreaths Across America Day.

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Adams targets state rep run

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Even before this year's Election Day happened, Town Councilor Dave Adams had thrown his hat in the ring for next year's state representative race, officially announced Sunday online.

He said he'd run for the 6th Worcester seat as a Republican regardless of whether incumbent Peter Durant wins his special Senate election (which was decided this week, after this paper's deadline).

"I've been thinking about it back and forth, whether I should run for the House, for another Council term, for School Committee," Adams said. "I told [Durant] I'd run if he won, but things changed and now I'm all in."

Adams is in his sixth year on the Town Council, and was previously on both the Board of Health and Redevelopment Authority. He said his primary goals will be to help address agricultural issues, work on Southbridge's receivership and net school spending issues, assist the district towns with various funding concerns (he specifically noted Dudley's recent overrides), help with the recent surge in migrants to our area, and help develop economic infrastructure in the region.

Regarding migrants, Adams said, "there's got to be a limit, but you still have to be a human being with empathy. ... We're all migrants. People come here for a reason, and don't go to other countries for other reasons."

He'd like to see the state devise a "strategic plan" for newcomers and for internal migration of our own citizens. Although he did not link that to climate change, it could help address them, since various projections have shown New England is likely to get migrants from southern states as inland Massachusetts is likely to from coastal areas.

When it comes to broader capital needs, Adams said he'd like to see the state provide money "without a lot of red tape." He specifically pointed to reducing or eliminating the paperwork involved in securing grants and other regulations that take up a lot of local officials' time.

"I'd like to see government shrink a little bit," he said. "We've become too dependent

on it to take care of issues we used to take care of on our own."

That said, though, Adams feels the state need to be providing more infrastructure funding for roads and public buildings, because the costs of those projects "are killing the small towns."

So is that for schools — he noted local per pupil cost in Southbridge was about \$10,000 when he joined the Council, but now it's about \$19,000, but educational outcomes have not risen proportionately. He notes the town has consistently increased its school spending, but the state's minimum requirement has risen faster; Receiver Jeffrey Villar has said Southbridge is at risk of not meeting it this year, depending on how the state's accounting comes out.

Beyond that, Adams said our schools "need to go back to some of the basics of [home] economics, how to spend money, and civics," plus math, writing skills and similar subjects. A large part of that is encouraging more technical education; he noted he has family members who are plumbers and welders "making very, very good money" without huge college debts. Additionally, he said he'd like to see promotion of more personal involvement in community affairs and better understanding of how American government works.

For a little while, Adams talked about recent gun issues, sparked by the Lewiston, ME mass shooting. In that case, he noted the shooter had been recently released from a hospital due to insurance coverage expiring, but had not had adequate care. He said he feels illegal guns "are too easy to get," and we're seeing more mental health issues without legal changes and insurance needed to assist them. But he said he doesn't feel the laws being currently proposed (he didn't specify them) will actually help.

"People don't want to divulge mental health problems, but we've got to have some way to identify these issues" before they get guns. Among other things, he said he favors "red flag" laws and

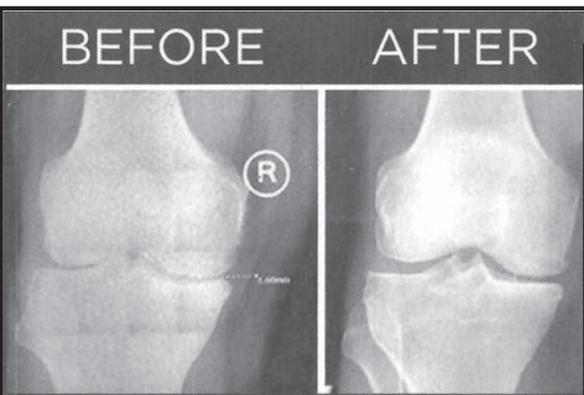
mental health checks, which he said aren't in conflict with the Second Amendment.

Regarding mental health overall, Adams said he feels Southbridge already has "a lot of resources," and the public needs to be talking about the issue more. Overall, he sees a problem with the fact police and schools have both, in some respects, become social workers, and that there is no good single point of contact for people needing assistance.

Adams was born and grew up in Santa Ana, Calif., which he described as a middle-class "bars on our windows community." He went into the Marine Corps at age 19, retiring in 2013 after about 26 years. When he moved to Southbridge, he taught at Trinity Catholic Academy for about five years and got involved in town government and veterans issues. Most recently, he's been spearheading a revamped veterans monument in Dresser Park and serving as Veterans Agent for the town of Oxford.

"I didn't grow up in Southbridge, but I love this town," he said. "... I have nothing I need when it comes to what the state is providing [for state rep pay]. It's just about helping our local communities."

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



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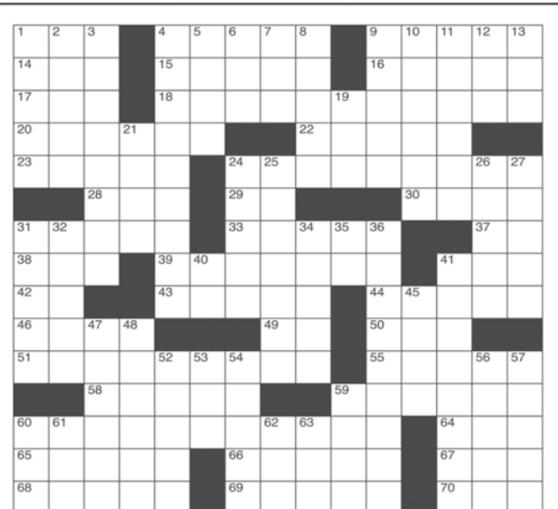
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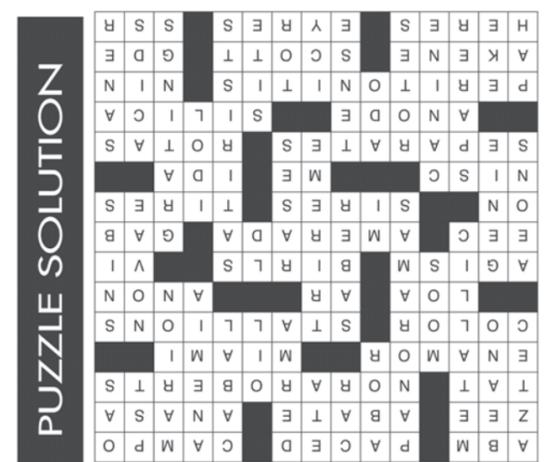


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 4. Moved back and forth
- 9. One-time coach of the Cowboys
- 14. Last letter
- 15. Cause to become less intense
- 16. Genus of tree bugs
- 17. Body art
- 18. Romance novelist
- 20. Be filled with love for
- 22. City
- 23. Make vivid
- 24. Horses
- 28. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
- 29. Atomic #18
- 30. Shortly
- 31. A type of prejudice
- 33. Whirls
- 37. Six
- 38. Old world, new
- 39. __ Hess, oil company
- 41. Talk
- 42. Not off
- 43. Begets
- 44. Cars need them
- 46. Computing architecture (abbr.)
- 49. Of I
- 50. Journalist, activist Wells
- 51. Takes apart
- 55. Lists
- 58. Positively charged electrode
- 59. Hard, colorless compound
- 60. Inflammation of the peritoneum
- 64. Trent Reznor's band
- 65. Simply dry fruit
- 66. "Ivanhoe" author
- 67. Google certification
- 68. French commune
- 69. Medieval circuit courts
- 70. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Indigenous people of Mexico
- 2. Dietary supplement
- 3. Having a particular sheen or luster
- 4. Views
- 5. Academic Bill of Rights
- 6. Automobile
- 7. When you anticipate arriving
- 8. Beef or chicken intestine
- 9. Conspiracy
- 10. Blood disorder
- 11. Long-time NBAer Shawn
- 12. Time zone
- 13. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- 19. Upton Sinclair novel
- 21. What a cow does
- 24. Cavalry-sword
- 25. Ancient Greek war galley
- 26. Stars
- 27. Rebukes
- 31. Billion year periods
- 32. Some are in a bottle
- 34. Tears down
- 35. Lethal dose
- 36. Humorists
- 40. Midwestern US state (abbr.)
- 41. Frameworks
- 45. Rocker Billy
- 47. More thin
- 48. Dog
- 52. Habitual repetitions
- 53. State of fuss
- 54. Uneasy
- 56. Chemical compounds
- 57. More cognizant of reality
- 59. A place to build
- 60. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 61. Supplement with difficulty
- 62. Very slick
- 63. Hill or rocky peak



Police called to New Year's Eve gathering

WEST BROOKFIELD — Police responded to a large New Year's Eve gathering that included multiple youth guests.

Joined by several mutual aid partners, the West Brookfield Police Department responded on Dec. 31 to an undisclosed residence on the west side of town.

"It was reported that there were numerous underage youths that had fled in different directions. Officers were able to reunite youths that were located with their parents/guardians," read a statement released by WBP. "The incident remains under investigation."

There were no weapons involved in the incident, police said. As of press time, no charges had been announced by police.



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OR send to Spencer New Leader
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— REAL ESTATE —

BROOKFIELD
None

EAST BROOKFIELD
None

LEICESTER
\$560,000, 6 Berry Farms Rd, Fiske Hill East Rt, and Flynn, Daniel, to Blueberry Hill Ests LLC.
\$386,000, 66-A New Boston Rd, Birri, Steven A, and Nationstar Mortgage LLC, to V&j LLC.
\$365,000, 114 Cedar St, Smolen, Jeffrey J, to Brothers, Donna.
\$80,000, 279 Holland Rd, Ocala Realty Series LLC, to Perron, Alex J.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
\$560,000, 6 Berry Farms Rd, Fiske Hill East Rt, and Flynn, Daniel, to Blueberry Hill Ests LLC.
\$386,000, 66-A New Boston Rd, Birri, Steven A, and Nationstar Mortgage LLC, to V&j LLC.
\$365,000, 114 Cedar St, Smolen, Jeffrey J, to Brothers, Donna.
\$80,000, 279 Holland Rd, Ocala Realty Series LLC, to Perron, Alex J.

SPENCER
\$680,000, 23 Thompson Pond Rd, Yvette & Shaun Dyson Ft, and Dyson, Shaun E, to Casey, Patrick, and Ismeurt, Katherine.
\$475,000, 10 Lyford Rd, Rmac T Series 2016-Ct, and Us Bank Na Tr, to Gomes, Corey, and Kraucunas, Stacey.
\$375,000, 14 Bell St, Dominguez, Jose M, and Hernandez, Ashlei, to Jimmys Nasco Realty LLC.
\$215,000, 2 Crestview Dr #43, Greenberg Ft, and Greenberg, Ann S, to Tiffany Murphy Prop LLC.

WARREN
\$332,500, 51 Maple St, Zuba 2nd, Jeffrey, to Garcia-Dubon, Eliseo.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$399,000, 232 W Main St, Smith, David T, and Smith, Tammy-Ann M, to Morin, Melissa S, and Dukes, Jeremy.
\$295,000, 12 Cottage St #12, Pelland, Lucy I, to Clark, Pamela J, and Clark, Michael J.

Nursing student collecting donations for soldier care packages



Martin Wanjiru

CHARLTON — A nursing student from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is spending his

free time giving back to those who gives their service to the country. He is collecting items for care packages that will be sent to soldiers.

This is the first year that John Martin Wanjiru of South Grafton is collecting items for soldiers. He spoke in front of the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 and showed samples of items that can be donated. Care bags will be filled and donated to the <https://military-missions.org/> sent via USPS at 570 Delzan Place, Suite 10, Lexington, KY 40503. Although John Martin just started the drive recently, he will collect items until the end of Term 2, by April 12. He feels encouraged and empowered to show appreciation to the vet-

erans. John Martin wants to pursue a career in nursing, having been motivated by his experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Certified Home Health Aid (CHHA), and a direct support professional. "Giving the best version of a nurse whenever I will be working, to create a positive environment for the residents and colleagues," John Martin noted.

Reaching out to his peers, the class of 2024 for help with donations of travel size shampoos, conditioners, lotions, and dental hygiene items. John Martin is a CNA at the River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center since 2021. From 2019 to 2022,

he was a direct support professional at Venture Community Services. Originally from Kenya, he obtained his certification at Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya for CISCO Networking Academy, 2012). He completed his secondary education at Kiamuya Secondary School (Nyeri, Kenya 2009).

As a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, John Martin is certified in BLS/HCP CPR, mental health first aid, and dementia care. He is a member of the admissions panel interview and coordinated the Alzheimer's Association memorial luminary during the longest night in December. Most recently, through

<https://www.betherecertificate.org/> he received his Be There Certificate. The Be There Certificate is a self-paced learning experience designed to increase mental health literacy. The training provides knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to safely support anyone who may be struggling with their mental health. It provides a deep understanding of Be There's 5 Golden Rules — a simple but actionable framework on how to recognize when someone might be struggling with their mental health, your role in supporting that person, and how to connect them to the help they deserve.

Joseph Berthiaume completes intensive research project

WORCESTER — Joseph Berthiaume, resident of Spencer, a member of the class of 2025 majoring in Chemical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled Moving Into Venice.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based

curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving

and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education,

WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and

the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber data, and security sys-

tems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Newsweek awards Briarwood #1 Continuing Care Retirement Community in Massachusetts!

WORCESTER — The Briarwood Community- has been awarded on Newsweek's list of America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities 2024. Newsweek and Statista Inc., the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider, present this prestigious award. The awards list was recently announced. The methodology and list can be viewed on Newsweek's Web site.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) offer long-term care options, allowing residents to access higher-level care if medical needs progress. The communities include Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing Care, and Memory Care. To provide people looking for guidance on CCRCs with a comprehensive resource for informed decision-making, Statista and Newsweek have partnered for the first time to award America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities 2024.

Briarwood, a not-for-profit community, began in 1984 with cottages and expanded to a CCRC in 1993, building an outstanding reputation as a continuing care retirement community in the West Boylston/ Worcester community. For 40 years, Briarwood has evolved into a community that offers independent living in cottages and apartments, traditional and memory care assisted living, an innovative home companion program, and a CMS 5-star-rated Nursing and rehabilitation center-Knollwood.

Andrew Freilich, Briarwood's Executive Director, stated, "I couldn't be prouder to be part of Briarwood. Our success is a reflection of our outstanding team and an incredible group of residents who enrich our community with their vibrant spirits and diverse life experiences. We're not just a community; we're a family."

There are approximately 2,000 CCRCs in the U.S., which is expected to increase as the population ages. These communities provide programming, amenities, and a continuum of care that adapts to the evolving needs of older adults.

**PART TIME CLERK
VETERANS OFFICE**

The Town of Dudley is seeking a 19.5 hour/week part-time Veterans Office Clerk. This is a Grade 2 position with a starting salary range of \$20.45 per hour. Duties include processing documents for veterans' benefits, preparing for veterans' programs/events, and administrative/clerical work. Ideal candidates will have excellent computer, writing, and customer service skills and the ability to work as part of a team to meet the needs of veterans and their families. Prior experience in a municipal or state veterans office a plus. Submit resume to townadmin2@dudleyma.gov. Applications are available in the Board of Selectmen's office at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA or online at www.dudleyma.gov. EOE.

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Friday's Child

Demitria
Age 19

Hi! My name is Demitria and I'm the life of the party!

Demi has an enthusiastic, very outgoing, and well-spoken personality. She is mindful of and continues to work on her boundary setting and not afraid to reach out for help when needed. Demi is very good at expressing her opinion while connecting to other's energy. Some of Demi's favorite activities are hanging out with her friends, doing her makeup/self-care, cleaning her apartment, and baking. Demi is good at keeping a clean space, advocating for herself, setting boundaries, and goal setting. Demi's favorite memories consist of going to Boston and concerts with friends.

Demi is of Caucasian descent. Demi graduated high school and has a plan to attend college or a university in the future. Her plan is to study Social Work and become a DCF worker. While in high school Demi enjoyed math class and stayed busy in lots of activities like cross country and dance.

Demi would do best with at least one mother figure in her home and a family who loves and supports her. Demi wants to feel comfortable talking to her family and to help her maintain connections with her birth father and extended family.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8833>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The Power of kindness and class

In today's fast-paced world, where the pursuit of success often takes precedence, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the significance of being a class act and a kind person. In recent times, the celebration of ruthlessness, competitiveness, and self-centeredness seems to have overshadowed the virtues of kindness, compassion, and class. As a society, we've perhaps overlooked the incredible positive impact that these qualities can have.

Being a class act goes beyond just politeness; it's about demonstrating grace, dignity, and respect in all our interactions. It involves considering the feelings and perspectives of others and upholding a standard of decency.

In the pursuit of personal and professional achievements, many of us may have inadvertently downplayed the importance of character and values. However, true success should not only be measured by accomplishments but also by the kind of people we become along the way. Kindness is a potent force that can generate waves of positivity. It costs nothing but can yield immeasurable rewards.

In a world marked by division and polarization, the significance of kindness cannot be overstated. We are all part of a broader community, and our collective well-being depends on how we treat each other. Being kind doesn't mean compromising our principles or avoiding necessary debates; rather, it means engaging in those discussions with respect, empathy, and an open heart.

The current absence of kindness and class in our society has resulted in a decline in empathy and understanding. We witness it in the way people engage on social media, in the political arena, and sometimes in our everyday interactions. We have become quick to judge, dismiss, and vilify others, often forgetting that behind every opinion or argument is a human being with their own experiences, hopes, and fears.

It's time for a cultural shift towards embracing the power of kindness and class, not as a fleeting trend but as a way of life. By doing so, we can restore a sense of unity, empathy, and respect in our society.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to set fantasy aside

To the Editor:

Christmas is over, Santa has gone home. 2023 is retired, and 2024 is open for business.

The election bots are already cranking out disinformation at a breakneck speed. There is an attitude that is at least present, if not prevalent, that facts, laws and truth do not matter.

It remains to be seen if the highest court in the land will weigh in on the most important issues of our time. Even if they do, Justice Thomas will likely not recuse himself when making decisions on an insurrection, in which his wife was a major player. Trump's legal team is working full bore on fantasies to present as defense against actual laws that are both clear and have been violated with impunity.

They are alleging that the president is not an officer; and the commander in chief is not military, so need not follow laws that would attach rules to his behavior. It is almost like having a team of fiction writers blasting out crazy theories why nothing applies to Trump. Brother Mark Robillard contends that the actions by Hunter Biden should be grounds to impeach his father. Rep. Comer, who chairs the committee pursuing evidence of actual illegality and attaching it to Joe Biden when he held no office, is now backtracking hand over fist, because investigating the sources of illegal cash flow, actually did turn up illegal payments from at least twenty countries. But, as Paul Harvey would say, the rest of the story is that it went to Trump, while in office. While I am sure Comer and the GOP clown show will not act on it, when Jack Smith writes another indictment on it, will that be partisanship or law enforcement?

I can hardly wait for the convoluted explanation SCOTUS will give

to overturn yet another settled law, Republicans are saying that enforcing section #3 of the 14th Amendment needs an act of congress. I have only been kicking around for 75 years, but am unaware of any other amendment that needs an act of congress to enforce. It will be interesting to see if supreme court justices can read as well as lower court judges, or if the further clarify why we are just disgusted by them, by overturning clear and correct decisions.

Although there is a long tradition of not televising federal court proceedings, there is also a long tradition of not having cases related to presidential candidates which should put weight on transparency being the people's right. Comer tried to get Hunter Biden behind closed doors, where they could come out and make statements of doubtful truth, just like Trump does at his New York fraud trial. Hunter insisted that he would only testify in open hearings- guess they did not really wan testimony.

Maybe if, instead of going to the border for a photo op, the GOP would put legislation on the floor to stop it, they could at least claim the tried. This photo op ain't anything.

Stocks are up, unemployment and inflation are down. Internationally, these are trying times. I am glad Joe Biden is at the helm.

Many of you have forgotten that Trump botched the pandemic and left Biden a closed country. If that is your idea of him keeping his campaign promises, when what he actually did was increase the deficit and give tax breaks to millionaires, I hope you are at least smart enough not to vote for the draft dodging rapist insurrectionist felon.

KEN KIMBALL
 BROOKFIELD

DEI socialism

To the Editor:

What kind of country do you have where the leader rules by mandating policies instead of following those created by the people's Congress? Where the ruling party refuses to allow candidates from their own party challenge their leader in a general election. Where the opposition candidate is charged by the leader's DOJ to interfere in his challenge at the polls. A country where political operatives of the ruling party remove the opposition challenger from the ballots, thus depriving the citizen voters of their Constitutional right to pick the leader of their choice. A country where the ruling party uses the political system they created and their propaganda machines to squash any third parties. Where the ruling party allows a token opposition candidate only if approved by them first. Is it Russia or China? No, my fiends, that's the New America under the DEI Socialist Democratic Party. Instead of membership to the Red Party, their membership is in the DEI. The Dictator at the head of the DEI Socialist party is corrupt Joe Biden.

Those that are members of the DEI Socialist Democrat Party are ardent followers. They feel safe and secure under the watchful eye of their masters. They will obediently jump when told. Dance when told. Mask up when told. Attack any that question the authority of their leader. It's safe, easy, and comforting to be in the cocoon of their all providing government. In the DEI Socialist party, your allegiance to the party is how extreme you can be in your sexual preference and racial identity. Your children are to be taught in schools that those at the extremes are the new normal. If you want to succeed in the world, leaders such as Healy, Buttigieg, and Harris

are shown as champions. Awarded high positions not on merit, but their diversity. Merit based advancement is for racists and misogynists. The only thing that should be considered is sexual preference and your ethnicity. These are all that now matters.

The DEI Socialist Party is striving to change your country. The millions of illegals entering our country are given free housing, free college, and free health care. Dictator Biden and the DEI Party are pushing for full amnesty for all illegals. Why, you ask? Their plan is to change our demographics to fit in with the DEI goals. They also push for legal and easy abortions under the guise of women's rights. All part of their goal to reduce an increase of American birth rate so more room for the illegals. That's why they fund everything for the illegals but refuse to help a young woman who gives birth. Why not spend the money they spend on these illegal law breakers on helping single mothers with support. Things like free health care, free childcare, free schooling, and free financial support. I would rather spend my tax money supporting a baby who would have been aborted than a horde of illegals breaking into our country.

If you want the future to make sense, it's up to you. If you want those who do the best or are the smartest to be advanced into leadership roles, then it's up to you. If you want your tax monies used to take care of our babies and children, then those of foreign countries then there is an answer. Push back against the DEI Socialist Democrats and take back America. Vote Trump in 2024 to "Save America."

MARK ROBILLARD
 SPENCER

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@
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Consider family meeting to discuss estate plans



FINANCIAL
 FOCUS
**TREVOR
 NIELSEN**

At some point, you'll want to share your estate plans with your loved ones — and the first step in this process may be to hold a family meeting.

The best time to hold this meeting is when you're still in good mental and physical shape, and the enactment of your estate plans may well be years away. But what topics should you cover?

Consider these main areas:

Your wishes — and those of your family. Use this meeting to introduce your estate plans and, in a basic sense, what you hope to accomplish with them — leave money to your family, support charitable groups and so on. You'll want to emphasize that you want to be equitable in what you leave behind, but there may be issues that affect this decision, such as disparities in income between grown children or an allowance for a special-needs child. But you'll also want to listen to what your family members want — and you might be surprised at what they tell you. Consider this: More than 80% of the millennial generation would rather know their parents are financially secure throughout their retirement, even if this means that their parents will pass on less money to them, according to an Edward Jones/ Age Wave study.

Estate planning documents — At the time of your family meeting, you may or may not have already created your estate planning documents, but in either case, this would be a good time to discuss them. These documents may include a will, a living trust, financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney and possibly other arrangements. At a minimum, you'd like to give a general overview of what these documents mean, but at an initial family meeting, you don't necessarily have to get too detailed. For example, you might not want to talk about specific inheritances. This is also an opportunity to inform your loved ones of the professionals involved in your estate plans, such as your attorney and your tax advisor.

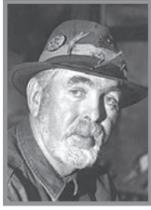
Roles of everyone involved — Not only does a comprehensive estate plan involve moving parts, such as the necessary documents, but it also includes actual human beings who may need to take on different roles. You will need an executor for your will and, if you have a living trust, you'll need a trustee. Even if you choose to serve as the initial trustee, you'll still need to identify one or more successor trustees to take your place if you become incapacitated, or upon your death. Plus, you'll need to name people to act as your power of attorney for health care and finances. Choosing the right people for these roles involves thought and sensitivity. Obviously, you want individuals who are competent and reliable, but you also need to be aware that some family members could feel slighted if others are assigned roles they feel they could do. By being aware of these possible conflicts, you can be better prepared to address them.

Here's one more suggestion: Let your family know that this initial meeting doesn't mean the end of communications about your estate plans. Encourage your loved ones to contact you with questions whenever they want. You may need to hold additional family meetings in the future, but by laying the initial groundwork, you will have taken a big first step in establishing the legacy you'd like to leave.

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.

More deer population control is needed

Finally, a bit of snow and cold weather hit the valley area this past weekend, but it was expected to disappear with the heavy rain that was expected this week. Ice fishing continues looking very poor again this year.



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Maine finally got some ice to fish on last weekend. One particular angler used common sense when he brought along his ice chisel to ensure the safety of the new ice coating on the lake. After cutting a hole a good distance from the shoreline, he returned back to his pickup truck. Suddenly, he lost all his common sense and proceeded to drive his truck onto the ice.

He managed to travel a good distance from the shoreline before he went crashing through the ice. The angler was fortunate that the truck stayed afloat long enough

for him to exit the vehicle and scramble onto safe ice. I do not know how his auto insurance company will handle this claim, but it doesn't look good for him. I will keep any other comments about the angler to myself.

Farmers are having a very hard time making ends meet after a terrible growing season last year, and to make matters worse, deer are destroying their crops all year long. Some areas of Mass. & Rhode Island still have a large population of deer roaming their woodlots and fields. Winters have been mild,

making the deer population grow. Hunters are doing a good job in harvesting more than 10,000 deer annually in the state, but more needs to be done.

Extending the deer season through February is a good start; allowing Sunday hunting with bows, and allowing every bowhunter to possess a crossbow would be a good start. Many family farms have been lost over the years, and have become gobbled up by developers. Just in the town of Uxbridge alone, there were more than eight farms in operation. Most were small dairy farms, but some also raised produce. We cannot lose anymore.

Sportsmen and women are anxiously awaiting the opening of Sportsmen's shows. A complete list of their opening dates and times will be in next week's col-



Courtesy

This week's picture shows the Walker family with my dog Twig after a successful pheasant hunt at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun club recently.

umn. For now, stay off of thin ice!

Take a kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Annual Cold/Flu (& More) Review

It's respiratory illness season, and therefore this week's column will offer an annual review of symptom checkers (with RSV added) to identify your ailment, along with some natural and proactive methods you can employ to increase your odds of staying healthy this season.

Note: This information is offered as a guide only, NOT medical advice. Seek out a health professional to treat any respiratory illness.

Cold, Flu, Covid, RSV? The common cold, the flu, Covid-19, and RSV are all respiratory illnesses caused by different viruses. Symptoms of these maladies can be similar at the start of the illness, they are often treated differently, so it's important to identify them.

****** Most common this time of year are colds and flu, so we'll start with that: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a cold is a milder respiratory ailment that has symptoms that last a few days; the flu can last weeks and result in such serious health problems as pneumonia. While a stuffy nose and aches and pains are symptoms typically present in both colds and flu, a temperature reading can often differentiate the two. A common cold rarely causes a temperature to reach over 101 degrees. Also, body aches are much more common with the flu virus.

****** Cold Symptoms: Symptoms usually begin with sore throat, runny nose followed by conges-

tion and cough. Mucus may become thicker and darker. A slight fever is possible. Cold symptoms usually last for about a week. During the first three days that you have cold symptoms, you are contagious.

****** Flu Symptoms: Flu symptoms usually come on quicker than cold symptoms are typically more severe. They can include a sore throat, (sometimes hacking) cough, congestion, accompanied by headache, fatigue, chills and fever 102 to 104 degrees. Most symptoms improve in about five days, but fatigue can linger on for a week or more. The flu virus can be contagious from the day before the onset of the virus up to a week after.



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

Covid-19 Symptoms (subject to change as new strains are discovered): JN.1 is the latest Covid-19 variant that has increased to account for 39 to 50 percent of all COVID cases. The latest Covid-19 symptoms are typically similar to flu symptoms, but loss of taste or smell is more common, as is diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. Symptoms of severe complications from Covid-19 may include trouble breathing; ongoing pain or pressure in the chest, and changes in the color of the skin, lips, or nail bed.

Research published by the CDC indicate the incubation period of this variant may have shortened to as little as two to three days on average.

****** RSV: Symptoms of RSV mimic the common cold but may become more severe over time. Symptoms can last over a couple of weeks. Typical RSV symptoms are a runny nose, cough, wheezing, sneezing, and reduced appetite. In more serious cases RSV infections can lead to bronchitis or pneumonia.

According to the CDC, People infected with RSV are usually contagious for 3 to 8 days and may become contagious a day or two before they start showing signs of illness. However, some infants, and people with weakened immune systems, can continue to spread the virus even after they stop showing symptoms, for as long as four weeks.

****** How viruses are spread: Respiratory viruses are spread when an infected person releases germs in the air via coughing, sneezing and close contact. Such viruses can live for hours on surfaces such as desks, door knobs, handrails, phones, etc.

****** Home Remedies: The following remedies are effective "first step" treatments for respiratory illnesses. Symptoms that last more than a few days or become severe should be checked by a physician.

*A hot bath can be a powerful cold chaser and in Chinese medicine very hot baths are used to "sweat" out a cold at its earliest stages. To kick up the detox power of a bath, add a few drops of eucalyptus, rosemary or thyme essential oils to

the water. Note: Check with your doctor before taking a hot bath if you are pregnant, diabetic, have heart disease or other complications.

*Giving colds a two-step punch with a double dose of ginger and lemon can relieve cold and flu symptoms. Adding ginger and lemon to a hot cup of tea not only soothes the throat, but ginger's antimicrobial properties and lemon's vitamin C help fight the bug. To break up mucus, add a pinch of cayenne pepper to the hot tea.

*Or try this recipe from Food Network to relieve respiratory ailments: Combine in a mug: the juice of half a lemon, a quarter size piece of fresh ginger, two teaspoons of honey, and 3/4 cup of boiling water. Allow to steep for at least three minutes. Add dark rum if desired.

*It's true that chicken broth can offer cold and flu sufferers relief, but did you know it's the bone broth from the homemade brew that provides much of the healing power? Broth made from boiling bones (for about 12 hours for maximum benefit) offers magnesium, sulfur, phosphorus and other trace minerals that are easily absorbable not always readily available.

*Whether you like it hot or cold, a compress applied to sinuses can relieve congestion quickly. A freeze pack (or bag of frozen vegetables) works as a cold pack on the sinus area to decrease symptoms. Or, heat up a wet facecloth in the microwave (not to hot) and apply across the bridge of the nose for similar relief.

*While there's no cure for the common cold some foods appear to reduce susceptibility to catching colds, or at least reduce the severity of the symptoms. Foods containing beta-carotene, vitamin C, and zinc have shown to have immune repairing and boosting properties. Research suggests that zinc (which is in many over the counter products to prevent colds) can work to reduce the duration and severity of

a cold. But it is only effective if it's started early, at the very first signs of illness.

*Did you know you can reach into the refrigerator to clear congestion? Apple juice and purple grape juice both have properties to help clear congestion and a runny nose. As a bonus dark grape juice is rich in tannins, which have been known to kill viruses.

*Hot foods may be the weapon to battling mucus. Studies show foods such as chili peppers, horseradish and garlic help reduce congestion by driving out mucus. How so? The same agent that induces tears also helps thin out excess mucus.

*Coughs and congestion is uncomfortable, but relief can be as close as your water bottle. Keep hydrated by drinking at least 64 ounces of water a day. Water is the best expectorant, and will help thin the mucus and loosen the cough.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just one more time (with my best friend)

- To tell him how happy I was that he was my best friend.
- To know how many people in Brookfield called us brothers.
- To build small sail boats, made of wood, sails made of cloth.
- To sail boats between homes, along the curb of our street.
- To make model airplanes in the basement of his home.
- To see improvements made to my plane when I returned.
- To start first grade with him at the Blanchard School.
- To play one more game of marbles with him at school.
- To watch him read and do a math problem at the same time.
- To go with him on his 12th grade class trip to New York City and D.C.
- To be with him and his classmates at his high school reunion dinners.

Just one more time...

- To play a few sets of tennis on clay courts built by the WPA.
- To hit a few more fly baseballs to him at the baseball field.
- To watch him play first base for Brookfield High School.
- To watch him play center for Brookfield's baseball team.
- To play ping pong with him at Brookfield's Fire Station.
- To listen to the Hit Parade while playing ping pong.
- To play horseshoes with him at the Brookfield Legion Hall.
- To play with him on the American Legion's basketball team.
- To deliver groceries with him in my dad's Clover Farm truck.
- To do odd jobs for customers when delivering grocery orders.
- To attend one more church Harvest Supper with him.
- To watch him make repairs on his first car.
- To watch him clean and wax his car.

Just one more time...

- To listen to him play his accordion at his home.
- To be his passenger in his car as we toured the Brookfields.
- To watch him work on cars at Woodard's Garage.
- To listen to him play his accordion in Brookfield's town hall.
- To be with him and our friends discussing events of the day.
- To see him join the Navy in Worcester in April of 1951.
- To eat dinner with him and his dad before his Navy career.
- To enjoy this dinner above at the Publick House in Sturbridge.
- To talk to him after he finished taking another USAFI course.
- To hear he was accepted at OCS in Newport, R.I.
- To find out after OCS he an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.
- To be proud, once a Mustang, retired a Commander — Wow.

There really is not any ending to Just One More Time. Just One More Time is all factual. My best friend and I met when we were about five years old. We lived on the same street in Brookfield for about two years, and that is when we built and floated our small wooden sail boats. Growing up in this small town of about 1,300 people in the early 1930s was a great place to develop and mature. Yes, it is a fact we played a lot of sports back then and attended school together until the ninth grade. I went to St. Peter's in Worcester for my four years of high school. He and I played sports together, and when we played against one another, we never, ever had any disagreements. We never argued, got mad or upset with each other. We encouraged and supported all that we did together. We acted like brothers, and may people in town told us we looked, acted like two big brothers. We played sports with enthusiasm, worked very hard doing our part-time jobs, and always encouraging each other in our work and when we played.

My best friend growing up was a Congregationalist, and I was a Catholic. I went to many functions in his church, like fall harvest suppers, and he went to a few masses with me at Christmas. He was a great young man growing up, also a good husband and father. Also, a respected leader in the Navy. He became a Catholic when he married.

I am so very proud to have known him, played sports with him; we were brothers. Just to be with him, Just One More Time.

DONALD L. GAUDETTE
SOUTH HADLEY

Recycle your Christmas tree into the landscape

Don't drag that Christmas tree to the curb to be hauled away by the trash collectors. Give it a second, even third life, in your landscape. No live Christmas tree? Don't worry. I'm sure your friends and neighbors will share theirs.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

greens to reduce problems with winter burn. Place it on the south side of these plants to shade them from the drying winter sun.

Or remove the branches and use them as winter mulch over bulbs and perennials. Layer the boughs over the plants and soil to keep the soil consistently cold. This reduces the risk of early sprouting and winter damage that can occur during winter thaws.

Or set the tree in the landscape for a bit of added greenery. Secure it in a snow pile or use stakes and guy wires in milder climates where the soil is not frozen. The birds will enjoy the added shelter and you will enjoy watching these visitors to your landscape.

Then consider adding a bit of food for your feath-

ered visitors. Decorate the trees with fruits, berries, and seeds the birds can enjoy. Stringing cranberries and popcorn is a fun family activity and makes an attractive outdoor garland. Slices of oranges on colorful yarn and homemade bird ornaments can complete the adornments.

Sweep up the fallen needles that were under your tree indoors and use them as mulch in the garden. Place them directly on the soil or atop the snow. As the snow melts, the needles will be right where they belong. And don't worry, they will not make the soil too acidic. In fact, as they break down, they add organic matter to the soil.

As spring arrives, consider chipping and shredding your tree into mulch for trees and shrubs or pathways in the landscape. No chipper? You and your neighbors may want to rent a chipper to shred these and other prunings for use as mulch in your landscapes.

And, if this is not possible, check for recycling resources in your com-



Melinda Myers

Removing the branches from Christmas trees and layering them over bulbs and perennials keeps the soil consistently cold, reducing the risk of early sprouting and winter damage.

Move your locally grown Christmas tree outdoors after the holidays. Avoid trees imported from other states that may host invasive insects that can infest your landscape and nearby Christmas tree farms. Your local municipality or Department of Natural Resources has more information on any threats and disposal recommendations for your area.

Use your cut Christmas tree to protect evergreens in your landscape from winter winds and sun. They make excellent windbreaks while shading sensitive plants in your landscape. Strategically place your discarded tree on the windward side of rhododendron, boxwood, and other broadleaf ever-

munity. Many municipalities have special pickups for Christmas trees. These are chipped, shredded, and made available for citizens to use in their landscapes.

Lake communities often sink the discarded trees to the bottom of lakes and ponds to provide habitat for the fish. Another great way to give your tree a second life.

And once you discover the value of this free resource you may find yourself collecting a few more from the neighborhood. However, your family may ask that you wait until dark to drag your evergreen treasures back home.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's*

Handbook, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Learning to lead

Lately, I have been trying to read more. I bought a book I have been told to read many times, but I have never been interested enough till now. Reading it has caused me to have significant reflections on the last few years.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

roadmap that you can navigate to success should you decide to commit.

I never thought the dream I was trying to accomplish was too big, but I heard from my business partner that my dad confessed to him early on that he thought what we were trying to accomplish may not be possible!

One of the chapters in the book discusses that to navigate successfully to your dream, you will need to find a balance between faith with facts! Some people have their heads up in the clouds so high that they never bother to look at the facts. It is essential to assess the situation and strike a balance. Also, you do not want to be so fact-oriented that you cannot

dream and have faith, but knowing the facts of the situation will keep you grounded and let you know if you need to scale it back.

Once you find the balance between faith and facts and decide to keep moving forward, it is important to realize something. It was the biggest realization I have had in a long time; a reality check.

For the last few years, I have worked with a team of people who are all experts in their field to accomplish a big vision. I believe in the dream and what we are doing; I have balanced the faith with the facts, and I was naive enough to think that is all I needed: a great team and a grand vision.

I learned something

while reading this book that I should have known, and maybe subconsciously, always have known. Just because you have an excellent vision for the future, a great team, have balanced faith with facts, and are willing to work hard to make your dream a reality does not mean you will get there.

The book I am talking about is "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" by John C. Maxwell.

In it, I discovered something quite profound. No matter how positive you are, how beautiful your vision is, or how hard a worker you are. You will never rise higher than your leadership ability.

If your vision is a 10, but your leadership is only a 5, you will only

accomplish half of your vision. Wow! If you have a big dream, you would like to accomplish, that should send shivers down your spine.

It is not the size of the vision and the execution of it that will ensure success. It is not your work ethic; it is not your positive attitude. All of these are essential, and combined, these qualities will take you a long way, but one of the determining factors in how far you can advance your vision is your ability to lead!

According to Maxwell, your success will never surpass your leadership ability. Your leadership level is the cap on how high you can take your vision.

That made me nervous to read that; I have never

thought of myself as much of a leader.

The book was worrisome in many ways but also provided strong reassurance.

Maxwell says, "Champions don't become champions in the ring- they are merely recognized there...if you want to see where someone develops into a champion, look at their daily routine."

In the same way that investing in the stock market will not make you instantly rich, you can never become a leader in a day. It only happens through consistency, regular learning, practice, and focus. You can learn to lead!

Financial fitness for a new year

It should come as no surprise that January is the favorite month for gym owners and fitness instructors. The start of a New Year brings new resolutions, and approximately 12% of new gym memberships are signed during this period. If you want to get in shape, hiring a professional instructor makes sense, right?

But what about other New Year's resolutions, like financial fitness? Recent data shows American's are recognizing the importance of financial fitness and it is a financial goal which tops the list for "America's Top New Year's Resolutions 2024". While there are basic financial exercises individuals can (and should) do on their own, many individuals may also benefit from the professional guidance of a financial planner.

If you've never received a formal financial plan (or perhaps it's been a while), the team at The Capstone Planning Group can review your goals and develop one for you. Some of the more

common financial items we evaluate include:

Planning for retirement: Have you determined how much money you'll need to meet your desired retirement lifestyle? Have you analyzed your sources of retirement income (i.e., Social Security, Pension, 401k, etc.)? Have you established a sustainable withdrawal and tax-efficient spending strategy?

Insurance analysis: If you have a spouse and/or children, are you carrying an appropriate amount of life insurance? Life insurance can protect your spouse and children from the potentially devastating financial loss that can result if something happened to you. Long Term Care (LTC) insurance may also be worth consideration for some individuals.

Estate Planning: Have you established a Will, Power of Attorney (POA), Health Care Proxy, and considered using a Trust to pass on assets to the next generation? Estate

FINANCIAL FOCUS

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE
CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

planning involves determining how an individual's assets will be preserved, managed, and distributed after death (or if they become incapacitated).

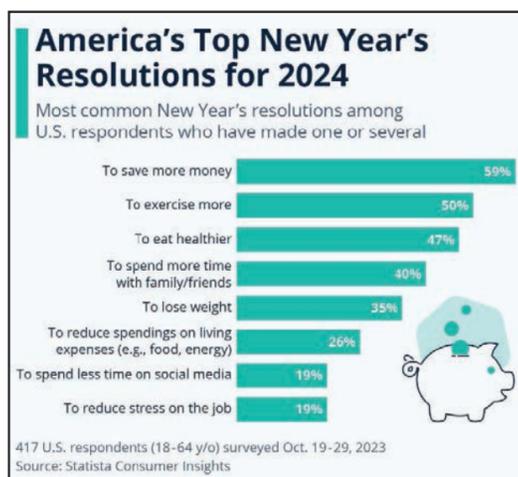
Investment Analysis: Have you reviewed your investment portfolio's performance and current asset allocation? Are you properly allocated based on the current environment or should you make adjustments? Do you know what your targeted "risk score" is and if your portfolio falls within that range? Could you benefit from adding downside protection or a principal protected strategy to your account?

While the exact tools needed to achieve "financial fitness" will vary from person to person, the financial planning pro-

cess is generally the same. It involves an assessment of each person's current situation, identifying goals, income needs, risk score, and an attempt to mitigate risk(s) when possible. A formal financial plan provides a written document outlining these areas and it provides actionable recommendations. If financial fitness is a priority for you in 2024, consider reaching out to The Capstone Planning Group for a complimentary consultation.

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor.

About The Capstone Planning Group
The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group



or call 508-764-0046.

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Civil War memorabilia and firearms 2023 auction results



I've shared results from our 2023 auctions over my last three columns. In today's column, I'll focus on Civil War memorabilia and firearms that sold well at auction.

Firearms manufactured in or before 1898 are considered antiques, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Antique firearms can be sold without having to be transferred by a federally licensed firearms dealer.

We sold several antique rifles and pistols from a northern central

Massachusetts estate in our August auction. One of the rifles from the collection was a British Tower rifle. The Union Army used these .577 caliber rifles during the Civil War. It is estimated that around 500,000 rifles were imported during the war. The Enfield was a very accurate rifle, and many considered it to be the best firearm in the world at the start of the Civil War in 1861. The Enfield in our auction brought a little over \$1,000.

Later in the 19th century, an American rifle became known as "the

gun that won the West." Oliver Fisher Winchester started out in the men's shirt business in 1810 but bought a controlling interest in Volcanic Repeating Arms Company in 1857. Winchester refined designs and formed the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in 1866, according to the company's website. In 1873, the Winchester repeater rifle (the gun that won the West) was developed with lever action, allowing for faster firing. We sold an 1894 Remington lever action rifle that also sold for a little over \$1,000.

It's not only the hardware that appeals to collectors. Letters from Civil War soldiers provided insights into the battles they fought and also offer a window into how the war affected the soldiers and their family members back home. The Library of Congress has many letters online for academics and also people who are generally curious. Locally, Brandeis University and Wellesley College received a grant to preserve Civil War letters for students, scholars, and researchers. They have nearly 450 letters in their collection.

Two sets of letters from Blackstone Valley estates were the top selling military related items in our 2023 auctions. A group of Civil War letters



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

\$3,775. The consigning family was pleased to have these important letters be sold to somewhere they can be researched and appreciated.

Our major auction of art, sterling, gold and platinum jewelry, and historical items recently ended. We are now accepting consignments of vintage collectibles, including sports cards,

from Charles Carr along sold with a plate showing Lieutenant Charles Carr died in 1864, brought \$1,300 in our January auction. A larger group of letters sent by George Maynard to Nellie Brown in Westborough, Mass. brought non-sports cards, comic books, and other memorabilia for a spring auction. Later in the spring, we expect to run another auction with more art, jewelry, sterling silver, and other antiques and collectibles. I will also be teaching my night class at the Bay Path Evening School in Charlton again in the spring and I'll be at the Learning in Retirement event in Danielson, Connecticut on May 6. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to other upcoming events.

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

E. Brookfield native named to SRU dean's list

SLIPPERY ROCK, Pa. — Daniel Blazejewski of E. Brookfield was named to the dean's list at Slippery Rock University for the fall 2023 semester. The dean's list consists of SRU undergraduate students who earned an adjusted semester grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, based on a schedule of at least 12 newly attempted and earned credits.

Slippery Rock University is a four-year, public, coeducational, regional comprehensive university that offers a broad array of undergraduate and select graduate programs to more than 8,000 students. SRU is one of 10 institutions and 14 campuses that make up Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. SRU is fully accredited by the Middle State Commission on Higher Learning.

Founded in 1889, SRU is shaped by its teaching (normal) school heritage. For more than 130 years, the university has embraced the same hard-working, tenacious personality espoused by the people of western Pennsylvania. With a steadfast yet adaptable commitment to intellectual development, leadership and civic responsibility, SRU provides students with a comprehensive learning experience that helps them become engaged citizens and succeed in their lives and professional careers.

Located in western Pennsylvania, the 660-acre campus is less than an hour's drive north of Pittsburgh, one hour south of Erie, and 45 minutes east of Youngstown, Ohio. Two major highways, I-79 and I-80, intersect 10 miles from the University, conveniently linking it to the entire commonwealth and its contiguous regions.

Christmas Cantata concert at Baptist Church

EAST BROOKFIELD — Here is the confirmation email about the postponement of the Jan. 7 concert.

The Christian Community Choir, a local interfaith choir here in East Brookfield, was scheduled to have a Christmas Cantata concert on Jan. 7 at St. John's Church in East Brookfield. It has been postponed, due to the prediction of snow. This choir will now be performing the Christmas Cantata concert called "Christmas is Coming" on Sunday, Jan. 14 at St. John the Baptist Church, 131 Blaine Ave. in East Brookfield, at 3 p.m. Dr. Kathleen Hosterman, director, Fr. Don Ouellette and the members of the choir are extending this invitation to you.

The celebration of the Christmas season (Catholic calendar) has just been extended! A wonderful reception will follow in the church hall. Come experience this extension of the Christmas season celebration!

BAY PATH ANNOUNCES GRADE 10 HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School congratulates the following students in grade 10 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors

Jacob Archambault, Logan Barriere, Vincent Bedard, David Betancur, Isabella Bitar, Dominic Boyd, Aleah Brink, Samuel Ceppetelli, Charles Congdon, Emily Corey, Jocelyn Evans, Jayla Fowler, Hannah Ingalls, Natalie Ingles, Nicholas Jalbert, Phoebe Lawendowski, Felix Menard, Alexis Messina, Alexis Moody, Gianna Morelli, Tyson Moriarty, Cole Paradis, Jacob Pratt, Kayleigh Ramm, Sawyer Schultz, Luke Smolski, Gaige Thompson, Gabriel Turcotte, Esmerelda Velez, Ava Wall

Honors

Helena Adkins, Addison Aho, Nicholas Albright, Sarah Amlaw, Violet Aucella, Alexander Audunsson, Victoria Bachand, Emma Baldyga, Arianna Belanger, Emma Berry, Ryan Berthiaume, Edward Blash, Brianna Brink, Lucien Brodeur, Alissa Burlingame, Dimitri Burt, Liam Carlson, Lily Chartier, Nathan Chenevert, Hunter Coombs, Jacob Creeron, Valentina Culberson, Connor

Czechowski, Joseph Daige, Abigail Dejong, Myiah DeLaRosa, Treyton Dery, Cody Dombroski, Savannah Dubois, Aedan Ellis-Morris, Jayson Everitt, Matthew Falcigno, Yelena Feliciano, Anika Ferrantino, Ethan Ford, Aiden Giroux-Provencher, Anthony Gonya, Aliyah Gonyea, Airanna Gonzalez, Anna Guay, Isaiah Harris-Harrington, Sadie Hawley, Luke Heller, Kolton Hemenway, Jacoby Henderson, Liam Hesselton, Lillian Horner, Joshua Jeffers, Tabian Keegan, Samuel Kittredge, Cassie Kotomski, Marshall Lafond, Joel Landor, Jomar Landor, Gabrielle Lapan, Miranda Linde, Michael Lulu, Cullen MacLeod, Philipos Makrodimitrias, Ava Mastrototaro, Emily McDonald, Madeline McDonald-Trimby, Sebastian Moniz, Chase Newman, Liam Nicoll, Sebastian Nieuwenhoff, Benhamin Nocchi, Connor O'Brien, Matthew Obycki, Kelsey Olson, Angelica Padilla, Niti Patel, Landon Pelletz, Amari Pereira, Adam Phaneuf, Samuel Prefontaine, Leah Raymond, Grace Retailic, Taylor Richard, Marian Rodriguez Rivera, Vincent Rose, Nathan Rouille Montoya, Nathan Steen, Yandel Torres, Thadeus Tweneboea, Sebastian Vargas, Elias Vega, Natalie Vigeant, Marcanthony Weld, Hunter White, Zaylie Whiteman, Katherine Widebeck, Trey Wilkin, Madison Williamson, Haylee Zurowski

Principal's List

Adriana Alicea, Sarah Appiah Kubi, Megan Bell, Jayden Bernard, William Blash, Riley Boucher, Dominic Brodeur, Victoria Callahan, Thomas Choquet, Frederick Cierpich II, Marianelys Cintron Perez, Aiden Coleman, Hailey Costa, Brody Cunningham, Lorelie Curboy, Samuel Davis, Eliseo Diaz Villegas, Jr., Max Domineck, Christopher Dufresne, Grace Dumas, Genevieve Dupont, Caden Edwards, Mya Federico, Jordan Ferreira, Leia Foster, Zariyah Frechette, Riley Gilmore, Jocelynn Gordon, Molly Grant, Deirdra Holton, Joshua Irons, Jr., Christian Johnson, Zackery Kelleher, Ayden Kennedy, Allison Klar, Kristine Laflash, Nia Laforest, Zachary Landry, Elyse Laramie, Vincent Latorre, Alyssa Lopez, Mia Lussier, Bradley McCarthy, Cheyenne Mitchell, Kyle Mondor, Klay Monti, Jackson Mullins, Aydan Nanigian, Oskaryna Nunez, Maddox Parente, Mariah Pereira, Jordan Russell, Jaxon Sitko, Ashley Tingle, Gabriela Vazquez Hernandez, Londyn Walker, Ethan Wall, Nash Zimmer

Editor's note: Due to space limitations, the ninth grade honor roll will be published in next week's edition.

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SPORTS

Rams ramp up defensive intensity to take down Leicester



Jayda McLeod goes up for a layup for Leicester



Leicester's Grace Bujak and Northbridge's Delaney Mahoney face off for the tip-off



Allie Blair puts in a layup to get points on the board for Leicester



Leicester's Kassidy Poce dribbles against a tight Northbridge defense



Leicester's Jordan Giggey breaks through the Northbridge press

NORTHBRIDGE — On Friday, Jan. 5, the Leicester girls' varsity basketball team traveled to face the Rams in this early winter league match-up. The Wolverines are 2-2 and the Rams 4-1 going into their first games of

2024. Last season when these two teams met up, the Rams came away from that very close, overtime match-up with a 48-42 win.

Leicester Head Coach, Chris Barry, acknowledged the strength of

their opponent going into the game saying, "Northbridge is a solid team with a very good player in Molly Gahan. We need to defend her well and limit her scoring. They play man-to-man defense so we will need to execute our offense well and take care of the ball."

Leicester has had a nice long winter break; they haven't played since Dec. 21. Coach Barry, confident in his players' abilities, said, "We are also dealing with some sicknesses this week but should be ready to go, we need to play hard and handle all aspects of the game well."

Northbridge Head Coach, Jeff Kozik, is pleased with how well his team has jelled so quickly this season. He commented, "They are fun to coach and always bring a good energy."

Coach Kozik said that even though they set expectations to win every game, "Leicester has talented players and are a solid team. Our players need to jump on it early and carry momentum to see the game through."

Leicester came out hungry to control the game, they were first to break the stalemate by sinking their first basket after three minutes of back-

and-forth play. Leicester followed up with a 3-pointer to go ahead 5-0 through the first four minutes. Northbridge then mirrored Leicester's efforts with a basket and 3-pointer of their own. The first quarter ended tied, 5-5.

Northbridge didn't waste any time getting a quick six points on the board in the first minute and a half of the second quarter. Northbridge pressed, took advantage of Leicester's ill-timed passes, and outscored Leicester 27-1. Northbridge went into half-time with a commanding 32-6 lead.

In the third quarter, Northbridge continued to work hard off the boards, scoring on second chances. Northbridge was able to hold Leicester to just three points while add-

ing 11 to their point total; leading 43-9 with eight minutes left.

Leicester tried to link up passes and work shots from outside the paint, but Northbridge's bench was able to maintain their comfortable lead. Leicester was able to

stop Northbridge from putting any more points on the board throughout the fourth quarter but came up short, falling to Northbridge 43-12. Molly Gahan scored 22 points for Northbridge and Jordan Giggey scored 6 points for Leicester.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK — WARRIORS REMAIN UNDEFEATED IN BOYS' SWIMMING

Both Tantasqua's boys' and girls' swim teams competed against Grafton on Wednesday, Jan. 3, with the boys taking a win and the girls sustaining a loss: Boys 102-48 and Girls 58-112. Top finishers from Tantasqua were Zach Hilborn in the 200 freestyle, Ethan Zhu in the 50 free and 500 free, Ethan Korenda in the 100 free, and Evan Dambly in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke. Abby Korenda in the 100 breaststroke and the 400 free relay team of Alison Regan, Makena Pentoney, Tori Stendrup and Abbey Korenda. Season records for the boys are now 4-0 and girls 0-4.

Tantasqua's boys' and girls' swim teams then competed against Wachusett this past Friday, Jan. 5 with a win for the boys and a loss for the girls (B: 81-55, G:73-90). Top swims for the boys were made by Evan Dambly in the 200 free, Ethan Korenda in the 50 free and 100 free, Ethan Zhu in the 100 butterfly and the 100 back and Jonah Stenderly in the 100 yd. breaststroke. For the girls, Sasha Hildago won both the 200 and 500 freestyle, Abby Korenda won the 50 free and 100 breaststroke and Ali Regan won the 100 butterfly. Records for the boys 5-0 and the girls 0-5.

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LEGALS

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

Maryellen Lindquist has filed a **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to reconstruct a retaining wall located at 21 Jolicoeur Avenue, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
January 12, 2023

§504 Child Find Notice:

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination in publicly funded activities the North Brookfield Public Schools has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate, and if eligible, provide access to public education to students with impairments in its jurisdiction.

For additional information about the rights or parents of eligible children, or for answers to any questions you might have about identification, evaluation and placement into Section 504 programs, please contact the District's Section 504 Coordinator at the following:

Mrs. Ann Knapp
Interim Director of Student Services
10 New School Road
North Brookfield 01535
508-867-3166

Public Notice Child Find_PNPS_504
January 12, 2023

NORTH BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PUBLIC NOTICE
Special Education
Child Find Notice

Under federal and state special education regulations, North Brookfield Public Schools has a duty to locate, identify, refer, evaluate and, if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities who reside in NB.

For parents or guardians of children ages 3-21 years of age who have a disability or developmental delay, and who would like more information, please contact: Mrs. Ann Knapp Interim Director of Student Services and Child Find Coordinator at the following:

Mrs. Ann Knapp
Interim Director of Student Services
10 New School Road
North Brookfield 01535
508-867-3166

January 12, 2023

DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS NOTICE: DECEMBER 2023

In compliance with the Massachusetts Student Records Regulation, the North Brookfield Public School District will destroy the Special Education records of ANY former North Brookfield Public School student who transferred, graduated, withdrew, or terminated from special education programs or services **prior to January 31, 2024.**

This is in accordance with the requirement to destroy such records after a period of seven years. Any parent, guardian, or student ages 14 and older can obtain their inactive records within three weeks of this notice.

They may do so by contacting:
Office of Student Service
508-867-3166

by January 22nd, 2024.

ALL UNCLAIMED STUDENT RECORDS MEETING THE ABOVE CRITERIA WILL BE DESTROYED AFTER THE JANUARY 22nd, 2024 DEADLINE!

January 12, 2023

North Brookfield Public Schools McKinney-Vento Child Find Notice IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- In a shelter;
- In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation;
- In a car, park, abandoned building, bus, or train station;
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship, Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. There also may be support available for your preschool-age children If you believe your children may be

eligible, contact the North Brookfield Public School's McKinney-Vento liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. The District's McKinney Vento Liaison is:

Mrs. Ann Knapp
Interim Director of Student Services
10 New School Road
North Brookfield 01535
508-867-3166
January 12, 2023

Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards Brochure:

A special education Parent's Notice of Procedural Safeguards is available from the Office of Student Services. This brochure is available in a number of different languages at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/prb>.
January 12, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO20P2740EA

Estate of: Ann L. Dick Date of Death: 07/24/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Cathy Dick of Warren MA** and **Anmarie Kilborn of North Brookfield MA**

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First and Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/30/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court
December 28, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
January 12, 2024

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. WO24P0013EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Robert E. Tee Date of Death: 07/07/2017

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Susan M. Tee of Spencer 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: **Susan M. Tee of Spencer 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 02/06/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of as-

sets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 03, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
January 12, 2024

Town of Spencer, MA Tree Public Hearing

In accordance with MGL Ch 87 §3, The Town of Spencer, MA Tree Warden will hold a public hearing in-person or remote on **Monday January 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** at 3 Old Meadow Road, Spencer, MA. (Water Dept.) to consider the proposed removal of trees: Sunberg Road.

The Remote meeting may be accessed by:
Dialing in from your phone: 1 (224) 501-3412

Enter Access Code: **928-904-381**
Or join from your computer: <https://www.gotomeet.me/TownofSpencerUF/meeting-room>

Information pertaining to these particular trees may be viewed at spencerma.gov
Ray Holmes
Tree Warden
January 12, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Docket No. WO23P4468GD In the interests of Jayla L. Wright, of Spencer, MA NOTICE AND ORDER: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF A MINOR

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

1) Hearing Date/Time: A Hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 12/27/2023 by Mamie Williamson of Rock Island, IL will be held 1/29/2024 at 8:30 a.m. Guardianship of Minor Hearing located at Worcester Probate & Family Court.

2) Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File an original with the court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3) Counsel for Minor: the minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4) Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have the right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the application of Appointment for Counsel Form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5) Presence of Minor at Hearing: a minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: December 28, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
January 12, 2023

ATTENTION SPENCER RESIDENTS A PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE SEWER COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD TO DISCUSS SEWER RATE FEES IN-PERSON OR REMOTE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M.

SPENCER WATER DEPARTMENT
3 OLD MEADOW RD.
SPENCER, MA. 01562
January 5, 2024
January 12, 2024

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. WO23P4410EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Suzanne Martin Date of Death: 10/01/2023

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **David Martin 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: **David Martin 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 01/23/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: December 21, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
January 12, 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. WO23P4486EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Raymond J. Delisle Date of Death: 12/04/2023

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Darlene Emco-Rollins of Charlton 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: **Darlene Emco-Rollins of Charlton 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 01/30/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

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

Date: January 03, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
January 12, 2024

For Legal Advertising Information Call 508-909-4127 email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

OBITUARY

George R. Paradis, 87



SPENCER- George R. Paradis, 87, formerly of Howe Village, died peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 21st. at Brookhaven Assisted Living in West Brookfield.

He was the husband of Gisela (Reuss) Paradis who died in 2006.

He leaves his daughters; Susanna M. Sadosky and her husband James of Spencer and Christina G. Halbedel and her husband Kenneth of Warren, his grandchildren; Jessica Wentworth and her husband Jeremy of Woodstock, CT, James Sadosky and his wife Jennifer of Spencer; Aaron and Rebecca Halbedel of Warren and several great grandchildren, several brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

He was born in Haverhill, the son of

George E. and Theresa (Daly) Paradis, graduated from Worcester Boys Trade School and later served his country with the US Army during the Vietnam War.

George was a longtime draftsman for U.S. Envelope in Worcester, retiring in 1990.

George's funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, 2024 at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church St., Spencer. Burial with Military Honors followed in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Second Chance Animal Services, P.O. Box 136, E. Brookfield, MA. 01515. The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

ROBERTS

continued from page A1

For LMS leaders, it was a thrill to honor Roberts with their selection.

"Paula is the epitome of each Project 351 value. She constantly exudes kindness in her treatment of others in the classroom and is a quiet strength among her peers," read a statement released by LMS. "Paula leads by example, as is evidenced in her meticulous work, thoughtful participation, and inclusive nature."

Throughout her time at LMS, Roberts has excelled in the classroom and during service projects through school groups.

"Paula's service as a National Junior Honor Society member demonstrates her compassion, as our chapter continually works with our town's senior citizens and local food pantry," read the statement issued by LMS. "She shows gratitude to her educators and community by using the written word to convey

appreciation for others and their service. We are proud to have Paula Roberts represent Leicester Middle School and the town of Leicester at Launch Day on Jan. 13 in Boston. This will be the beginning of her ambassador journey."

The Project 351 leadership team looks forward to meeting the next class of ambassadors this month. Since the establishment of the program in 2011, thousands of youngsters have met fellow leaders while learning valuable skills.

"We believe that inside every young person is a brave, bold leader with dreams of a better world and the skill, passion, and creativity to achieve their vision," read a statement released by the Project 351 organization. "When called to serve, this generation responds with urgency. This untapped potential is our most precious resource and an extraordinary force for good."

To learn more about how Project 351 unites students from across the state for a day of service, visit www.Project351.org.

WREATHS

continued from page A1

al program helps guests remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the importance of upholding freedom.

Individual towns and cities across the U.S. celebrate the program with unique events in their respective communities. Like the West Brookfield program, many communities hold events at town centers.

"This past year, National Wreaths Across America Day took place at over 4,225 participating locations across the country, including Arlington National Cemetery," read

a statement released by the Wreaths Across America organization. "Volunteers remembered our nation's heroes as they said their names aloud, honoring over three million veterans this year."

The Wreaths Across America organization thanks all communities, volunteers, guests, and sponsors for making the event a success each year.

"What I love most about this day, and this mission, is that it is so much more than just the placement of a wreath. The wreath is the catalyst. It brings together communities—families and strangers—to learn about those who have

served and sacrificed," said Karen Worcester, the Executive Director of Wreaths Across America. "This mission and the events happening today provide the opportunity to teach kids about what freedom is."

To learn more about the national program and how you can get involved in next year's effort to celebrate those who defended freedom, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Planning is already underway for the 2024 version of National Wreaths Across America Day. The event will be held in communities nationwide on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Jordan Clark named to Husson University President's List

BANGOR, Maine— Congratulations to Jordan Clark of Brookfield, who has been named to Husson University's President's List for the Fall 2023 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Clark is studying toward a degree in Criminal Justice with a Certificate in Forensics, a Paralegal Certificate and a Masters of Criminal Justice Administration at Husson.

Full-time students who earn President's List, Dean's List and Honors List recognition must be enrolled as an undergraduate, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours over the course of 21 weeks, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted, and achieve a designated semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

For 125 years, Husson University has prepared future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has offered quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; and communication. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:15 a.m.: mv stop (Burncoat Street), verbal warning; 1:24 a.m.: ambulance (Brookside Drive), transported; 1:41 a.m.: ambulance (Park Lane), transported; 1:51 a.m.: welfare check (Tobin Road), report taken; 2:35 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), mv towed; 9:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred to ACO; 9:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Mannville Street), referred to ACO; 10:48 a.m.: ambulance (Moose Hill Road), transported; 11:58 a.m.: welfare check (Peter Salem Road), report taken; 12:17 p.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 12:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:10 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 1:50 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 3:11 p.m.: suspicious mv (Old Stafford Turnpike), resolved; 4:51 p.m.: debris in road (Henshaw Street), resolved; 5:13 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 5:53 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 8:12 p.m.: family problem (Peter Salem Road), peace restored; 9:18 p.m.: suspicious mv (Waite Street), resolved.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:56 a.m.: ambulance (Ledge Avenue, Spencer), transported; 9:01 a.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 11:04 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:56 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), served; 11:59 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:25 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), referred to ACO; 2:18 p.m.: ambulance (Reservoir Street), transported; 2:44 p.m.: ambulance (River Street), transported; 3:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:49 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, mv lights violation, criminal application issued; 5:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:30 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

1:16 a.m.: animal complaint (Chapel Street), services rendered; 1:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:17 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Hospital), transported; 5:17 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:49 a.m.: animal complaint (Manville Street), referred to ACO; 8:47 a.m.: harassment (Main Street), report taken; 11:52 a.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 12:47 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), services rendered; 3:08 p.m.: harassment (Main Street), services rendered; 4:17 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:55 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:49 p.m.: assist citizen (Henshaw Street); 8:03 p.m.: disturbance (Monterey Drive), resolved; 8:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:16 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 9:27 p.m.: suspicious mv (Henshaw Street), resolve.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

12:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning;

4:12 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 4:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 4:45 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 9:29 a.m.: family problem (Henshaw Street), peace restored; 10:01 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), services rendered; 11:25 a.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), served; 1:30 p.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), spoken to; 1:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:11 p.m.: assist citizen (Lakeview Drive); 2:27 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), transported to hospital; 2:59 p.m.: disturbance (Utica Street), spoken to; 3:14 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:20 p.m.: suspicious activity (Maighan's Way), services rendered; 6:39 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), spoken to; 7:40 p.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 8:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Waite Street), investigated; 9:16 p.m.: erratic operator (Paxton Street), investigated; 10:04 p.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), transported.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

1:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:48 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 1:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:17 a.m.: ambulance (Temple Street, Spencer), transported; 2:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:34 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), services rendered; 2:52 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Hospital), transported; 3:00 a.m.: parking complaint (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 9:56 a.m.: ambulance (South Street), assisted; 10:20 a.m.: missing person (Rawson Street), transported to hospital; 10:24 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Hospital), transported; 10:38 a.m.: ambulance (Lafayette Lane), transported; 10:57 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 11:20 a.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, criminal application issued; 12:03 p.m.: erratic operator (Peter Salem Road), services rendered; 12:16 p.m.: keep the peace (Parker Street), report taken; 12:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Town Beach Road), referred; 1:11 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 2:58 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), referred; 4:12 p.m.: investigation (Whittemore Street), report taken; 4:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:04 p.m.: disturbance (Brown Street), unable to locate; 5:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:34 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Jade Cortes Guadalupe, 25, 43 Pleasant Street, #2R, Spencer, larceny under \$250, shoplifting by asportation, obstruction of justice; name and address redacted from police log, larceny over \$1200 by single scheme, arrest/2; 9:25 p.m.: ambulance (Tanglewood Road), transported; 10:06 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:19 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

1:24 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), services rendered; 1:59 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 2:49 a.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 3:51 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), Isabella Angelica Sosa, 20, 20 South Street, Cherry Valley, negligent operation, failure to stop for police, marked lanes violation, arrest; 10:09 a.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 10:15 a.m.: investigation (Flint Way), report taken; 10:23 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 10:54 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), no name, address, or charges recorded on police log, arrest; 11:33 a.m.: mv

stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:47 p.m.: restraining order service (Marlboro Drive), unable to serve; 1:30 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:36 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 2:01 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 2:53 p.m.: threats (Town Beach Road), spoken to; 2:59 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:34 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:21 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:31 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:56 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

6:54 a.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 7:49 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 7:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:29 a.m.: parking complaint (Denny Place), spoken to; 8:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:06 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, criminal application issued; 9:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:40 a.m.: fraud (Crystal Street), report taken; 11:42 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 11:53 a.m.: parking complaint (Soojians Drive), unable to locate; 1:10 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 3:45 p.m.: summons service (Hemlock Street), unable to serve; 4:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), report taken; 5:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:13 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 5:27 p.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Street, Spencer), transported; 5:28 p.m.: parking complaint (Stafford Street), resolved; 5:32 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 5:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred to ACO; 5:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:45 p.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), assisted; 8:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 9:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Adailton Ferreira Ferreira dos Santos, 51, 8 Gilman Street, Worcester, op w/suspended license, arrest.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

12:31 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 12:54-2:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:24 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:02 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:17 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:07 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Maple Street), Tammy L. Broomfield, 45, 28 Maple Street, Spencer, warrant/2; Hugo Lionel Solano, 35, 185 Ash Street, Spencer, warrant, arrests/2; 10:38 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:44 a.m.: medical/general (Buteau Road); 10:59 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (Woodside Road); 11:49 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), rep. accident; 1:08 p.m.: mutual aid (Highland Street), req. welfare check; 1:21 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street); 1:58 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street) re: threatening texts/calls; 3:26 p.m.: mutual aid (Shore Drive), assist state police; 4:18 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:15 p.m.: suspicious persons (Greenville Street), investigated; 7:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. advice; 7:34 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 11:15 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); (total daily mv stops - 1).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:34-2:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:23 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 5:34 a.m.: fire alarm (Jolicoeur Avenue), referred; 7:23 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:24 a.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:17 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:50 a.m.: mutual aid (Browning Pond Road), re: RMV/immediate threat; 11:49 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), water over road; 1:08 p.m.: domestic abuse (Sullivan Street), rep. restraining order violation; 1:34 p.m.: disabled mv (Clark Road), assisted; 3:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. increase police presence; 3:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), dead raccoon on trail; 3:49 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 4:21 p.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); 4:53 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 5:49 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:54 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:00 p.m.: 911 call (Washburn Drive), hang-up; 7:30 p.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); (total daily mv stops - 0).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:03 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 12:55 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:25 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: issue at work; 7:41 a.m.: medical/general

(Ledge Avenue); 7:59 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 9:31 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 10:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 10:10 a.m.: suspicious persons (Maple Street), investigated; 10:32 a.m.: commercial fire (Main Street), referred; 11:35 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), RMV/immediate threat; 12:46 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), resolved; 2:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), req. welfare check; 2:47 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 3:07 p.m.: RV accident (Greenville Street), kids/mopeds in street; 3:54 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 4:27 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 8:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Laurel Lane), re: threatening text; (total daily mv stops - 0).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

12:55 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; 1:09 a.m.: fire alarm (Blueberry Hill Drive), referred; 1:12 a.m.: suspicious persons (North Spencer Road), investigated; 1:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:02 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:23 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:49 a.m.: officer wanted (East Charlton Road), c/o hunter on property; 10:11 a.m.: medical/general (Spring Street), 10:45 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:48 a.m.: fraud (Paxton Road), att. to cash stolen check; 12:23 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:46 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), misdial; 2:00 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:59 p.m.: officer wanted (McCormick Road), c/o hunter on private property; 3:28 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lake Street), investigated; 3:41 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:44 p.m.: disturbance (South Spencer Road), resolved; 4:35 p.m.: elderly matter (Clark Street), req. welfare check; 4:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street) erratic operator; 5:49 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), 2 mv's/tires blown; 6:58 p.m.: suspicious mv (Cherry Street), investigated; 9:11 p.m.: fire alarm (Paxton Road), referred; 10:20 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), North Brookfield PD bolo; 11:43 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

12:18-2:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:18 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 12:40 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd/2; 4:10 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 5:00 a.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); 8:11 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 8:48 a.m.: larceny (Wall Street), report taken; 9:26 a.m.: medical/general (Crown Street); 10:20 a.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), req. assist w/custody swap; 10:44 a.m.: residential alarm (Cherry Street), services rendered; 11:52 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:09 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 1:59 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 4:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Northwest Road), c/o speeding/burnouts; 7:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Fourth Avenue), c/o harassed by sister; 7:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), fem. fell/unable to get up; 8:43-9:16 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:36 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); (total daily mv stops - 3).

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

1:40 a.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), c/o scam calls; 1:50 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo; 2:55 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:52 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 8:26 a.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), re: issue w/dogs and owner on rail trail; 8:47 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 10:29 a.m.: mv lock-out (Paxton Road), assisted; 11:35 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist state police; 12:48 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:10 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 4:02 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 4:53 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), son/gf fighting; 5:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Brown Street), issues w/neighbor's dog; 6:42 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lloyd Dyer Drive), c/o son being harassed; 8:14 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; (total daily mv stops - 2).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

1:26-2:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:26 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 10:14 a.m.: restraining order service (Temple Street); 10:35 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 11:49 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 12:10 p.m.: accident (Donnelly Road), report taken; 2:10 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Cherry Street), misdial; 2:29 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), apt. lockout; 3:30 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 4:54 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), assisted; 5:54 p.m.: medical/general (Mercury Drive); 7:33 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: msg. on tip line; 8:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), re: daughter's phone; 9:02 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), lost lottery ticket folder; 11:40 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), rec'd info; (total daily mv stops - 3).

###

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Step into a winter wonderland at Haston Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
NORTH BROOKFIELD — Haston Free Public Library invites local youngsters and their families to check out a winter wonderland this month.
From Jan. 22-27, the library's children's department will be transformed into a winter wonderland. Held in celebration of Winter Wonderland Week, the program will include winter-themed decorations, games, and goodies.
Additionally, kids are invited to January story sessions at the library. Held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., the programs include seasonal books paired with special craft activities. This month's crafts will feature beaded snowflakes, snowy trees, and snowmen on a stick, among others.

Meanwhile, students can attend a special story-time program on Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. Call the library to learn more about this opportunity.
The library also has plenty of exciting and educational programs available for guests of all ages this winter. These include programs for teens and adults.
The library's Art Club meets on the first and third Monday of each month from 4-5 p.m.
The library's Movie Discussion Group will not meet this month, but please call the library to learn more about this exciting program.
Craft Night for Adults will resume in February at the library.
"Stay tuned for information about our fun Valentine's Day craft," read a statement released by the library.

The library's Book Club will meet on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. This month's book selection is "The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois," written by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers. The Book Club is the perfect opportunity to meet fellow readers and enjoy great books this winter.
A reminder to patrons, the library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
To learn more about library programs this winter, or to register for an activity, call the library at 508-867-0208.
For additional information about library activities for guests of all ages, send an email to hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.



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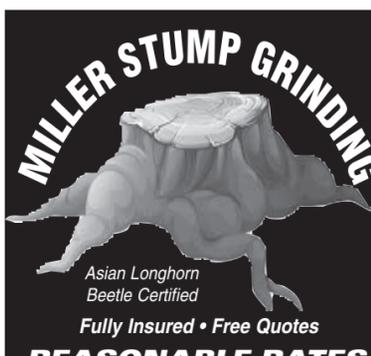
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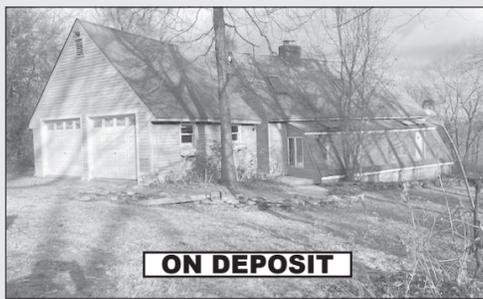
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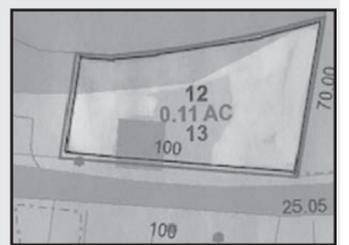


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When disaster strikes

THE ROLE OF MRC AND CLASS OF 2024 VOLUNTEERS

CHARLTON—The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Class of 2024 recently welcomed Lois Luniewicz of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).

Luniewicz emphasized that when crises such as floods, wildfires, hurricanes and other disasters happen, they create gaps in care across the affected communities. Displaced populations and compromised healthcare infrastructure increase the patient care burden at clinics, health systems, and hospitals. The necessity of assistance from medical response teams and the activation of

alternate care sites cannot be over emphasized.

From <https://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/> "The objective of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program is to strengthen communities by establishing a system for medical and public health volunteers to offer their assistance and expertise to existing medical and emergency service providers during times of community need."

According to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN academy director, "At Bay Path Practical

Nursing Academy, we intend to create awareness and encourage practical nursing students' volunteer participation in the MRC." Bolandrina signed up as a volunteer in 2016. The MRC volunteers are called upon to organize public health, medical, and other volunteer activities in support of existing MRC programs and resources that improve the safety and health of the community. Increasing awareness for disaster preparedness and strengthening partnerships with community emergency networks is a good start to mitigate

care gaps. MRC volunteers play a significant role as they work together

to coordinate treatments, deliver emergency care, and fill resource gaps."



Courtesy

Shown in photo, seated is Lois, behind her standing are the volunteers who signed up, from left: Patrick Njunge, Jamal Kimani both of Worcester, John Martin Wanjiru of North Grafton, and Michael Wairimu of Worcester.

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Sheriff's Office brings joy of music to local children



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Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, center, and his team help spread the joy of music to local youngsters.

REGION — Thanks to strong community support, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office continues to bring the joy of music to local kids.

Last month, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Group made multiple donations to UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center. These included donations of musical

instruments, as well as monetary donations to benefit the facility's Child Life Services initiatives.

These programs include the facility's Music Therapy Program, Canine Therapy Program, and the Community Closet.

Operations Group organizes a memorial golf tournament in honor of former colleague Jason Bristol, who passed away in 2018. The funds raised at the event are used to benefit the community through a number of projects.

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