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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, May 14, 2021

Leicester man fatally shot during attack on police station

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – A man was fatally shot by police early Sunday morning after repeatedly ramming his vehicle into the police station and then allegedly pointing a rifle at officers.

The victim was identified by authorities as *Zachary Richardson*, 24, of Leicester.

The May 9 incident occurred just after 6 a.m. According to Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., *Richardson* drove his SUV into the front of the police station. He repeatedly rammed the front doors of the station with his vehicle until he gained entry into the lobby, Early said.

"A dispatcher from the Worcester Emergency Communications Center [remotely] saw the incident occurring, in real time, on surveillance video," Early said.

The dispatcher immediately contacted Leicester police officers and notified them of the threat. When two officers arrived on scene, the driver exited his vehicle and aimed what appeared to be a rifle at the officers, Early said.

Police responded by shooting *the driver, who wasn't publicly identified until the next day*. He was transported by ambulance to St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, where he was pronounced dead.

"This is very early into the investigation, and interviews are still being conducted," Early added.

The State Police assisted heavily during the response and preliminary investigation. Route 9 was closed for several hours following the incident.

"This appears to be an isolated incident, and there is no danger to the public at this time," said Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica during a press conference hours after the incident. "Our

Turn To **SHOOTING** page **A19**



Volunteers and town officials celebrate the recently transformed park at the center of North Brookfield.

Newly created park draws attention in North Brookfield

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Contributions came from throughout the community over the last year to help transform a largely unused space into a hub of activity.

Located at the intersection of North Main Street and School Street, a newly installed small park continues to attract attention from residents. Many

people hadn't even noticed the former space in years prior, but now it's difficult for passing residents to miss the new electronic sign and fresh landscaping.

Whether you're looking for a relaxing place to take your family, or a centralized location to enjoy an outdoor lunch, the new park is becoming a popular venue. Featuring multiple

Turn To **PARK** page **A19**



Selectmen present the Boston Post Cane and a proclamation to Joan Bedard.

East Brookfield's Joan Bedard receives Boston Post Cane

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD – Known by many residents as Auntie Joan – and also, unofficially, as the 'Mayor' of East Brookfield – Joan Bedard has lived in the town she loves for her entire life. Last week, community members joined Bedard and her family in celebrating a lifetime of service and giving.

Bedard, 96, was presented with the town's Boston Post Cane during a May 2 ceremony at the Senior Center. The cane is awarded by selectmen to East Brookfield's eldest resident, but this time around there were no introductions required for the recipient. Local leaders and residents arrived eager to congratulate Auntie Joan.

"You have been a staple of this community for so many years. You are the unofficial mayor of East Brookfield," said State Representative Donald Berthiaume.

Born in 1925 to John and Louise Leger, Bedard attended elementary school at Hodgkins School before moving on to David

Prouty High School. An accomplished soprano, she appeared in town minstrel shows and sang in the choir at Saint John's. Fluent in French, she tutored many students while still in school, in addition to working as a lifeguard at the Lake Lashaway town beach.

After high school, she began working for Wrights in 1942, taking the bus each day from the center of East Brookfield to the factory in West Warren. She designed trim and enjoyed traveling to New York to view the latest fashions.

In 1945, Bedard attended a dance at West Brookfield's Ye Olde Tavern, where she met her husband, Bill. They were married a year later and moved to a home on North Brookfield Road in town, where Joan has resided for over 70 years. They had two children, Anne and Paul, and Bill Bedard was a longtime member of East Brookfield's fire and police departments. During his tenure as police chief, before the days of regular

Turn To **BEDARD** page **A19**

N. Brookfield voters show support for retaining mascot

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Residents at last week's election demonstrated their displeasure with the recent School Committee decision to retire the "Indians" mascot.

In a non-binding question at the May 3 Annual Town Election, voters were asked whether they support keeping the "American Indian Chief" as the official mascot for the town and the public school system. Residents voted 401-168 in

favor of retaining the mascot.

The town does not have the power to force the School Committee to reverse its decision, selectmen said. Still, many officials viewed the vote as an important symbolic statement moving forward.

"This vote sends a message to the School Committee that a lot of people were very upset about the decision and felt they didn't take everything into account," said Select Board Chairman Dale Kiley.

During its Dec. 21 meeting,


the School Committee unanimously voted to retire the junior-senior high school's nickname and logo. The vote took place following extensive research, discussion, and opportunities for remote public comment.

At the School Committee's Nov. 16 meeting, a panel of Native American leaders addressed the controversial topic remotely. Speakers vehemently denounced the use of

Turn To **ELECTION** page **A19**

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School District earns high marks on state evaluation

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Fresh off its latest state evaluation, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District posted an impressive report card.

Every three years, the district undergoes an audit performed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Known as a tiered focused monitoring review (TFM), the latest audit took place this past March.

The 2021 evaluation focused mainly on three areas: special education, English language learning, and vocational technical education. The two-day assessment included an on-site review of school records, plus interviews with district staff members and community members.

In a recent announcement made by DESE officials, the SEBRSD was found to be in compliance with all reviewed criteria. No corrective action is required at this time, DESE leaders said.

For school officials, it was a thrill to learn that the district is meeting or exceeding all state expectations in the areas under review. This past year provided an especially difficult challenge, with school leaders still finding ways to deliver critical education services during hybrid learning. These services include continued high-quality special

education instruction at all levels.

“This achievement is a testament to the hardworking and dedicated district staff that work, day in and day out, to provide our students with purposeful special education programs and services – and all while maintaining impeccable records,” said Kara Westerman, the district’s Director of Student Services. “Compliance is not an option. It’s a state-monitored requirement, and our team service providers, chairs, teachers, and administrators work together to ensure that we are in compliance. I am honored to be a part of the SEBRSD team and so proud of the work that we do here.”

Earlier this school year, in November of 2020, the SEBRSD participated in a tiered focused monitoring review conducted by the state’s Office of Language Acquisition (OLA). The purpose of that evaluation was to review compliance with regulatory requirements focusing on English learner education. At the conclusion of the review, the regional school district was once again found to be in full compliance.

But like any conscientious student, the district leadership team won’t allow itself to become complacent after the impressive reviews.

“For us, as professionals, we are looking to continuously improve and provide high-quality programs and services for not only our diverse learn-

ers, but for each and every student who attends our regional school district. That begins with demonstrating to others that we meet in a substantial manner the regulations and laws,” said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. “It is definitely something that we can all be proud of, especially when one considers that this TFM review process looked at our work as a district during a pandemic.”

In late May, the SEBRSD will conclude the tiered focused monitoring review process in the category of career vocational technical education. The DESE’s Office for College, Career, and Technical Education will conduct reviews of all Chapter 74 vocational education programs, as well as non-Chapter 74 programs funded through federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act allocations.

The upcoming reviews will include evaluations of documentary evidence, as well as on-site interviews and observations. Specifically, David Prouty High School will have the following Chapter 74 program offerings evaluated: business/marketing; early education and care; and criminal justice.

Additional information about the state’s education review process can be found at www.doe.mass.edu.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Spencer New Leader is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.com, news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.

Tour of Brookfields Country Auto Body Open

From Quail Hollow, Oakham Nicklaus Division
(64) Sudden Death Playoff
Reece McLeod
Hoss Ford
Ed McLeod
Doug Brown
Player Division
(63)
Stan Nolan
Bob Demaio
Ken Burnham
George Fisk
Palmer Division
(62)
Chris Smith
Shane Chabot
Eric Borman
Leo Egan
Closest to Pin: Tim Nason Jr. (4’4”)

Memorial Day Parade returns in Spencer

SPENCER – After missing out on most town traditions last year, residents are looking forward to the return of their favorite events this spring and summer, beginning with the Memorial Day parade.

The parade will take place on Monday, May 31, at 9 a.m. The parade route will start at the American Legion and proceed down Main Street. The parade will

take a left onto Elm Street, then proceed onto Chestnut Street and Maple Street before reconnecting with Main Street.

The parade will end at Isaac L. Prouty Memorial Park. Memorial Day services will be held at the park at 10 a.m.

For more information about the event, contact Jerry Perron at 774-200-2102.

FCC W. Brookfield to host Asparagus Chowder fundraiser

WEST BROOKFIELD — Even though the town’s Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival cannot happen again this year, the First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield, 36 N. Main St., is still serving up their famous asparagus chowder! Chowder will be available Saturday, May 29 from 1 - 4 p.m., hot or chilled, & Sunday, May 30, noon - 2 p.m. chilled, from the church kitchen. Chowder will be sold by the quart for \$10 each.

Call Nancy at 413-267-3863 (be sure to leave a message) to reserve your quarts for pick up. Enter driveway through the Church Street entrance.

Welcome Spring!

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

BROOKFIELD

\$45,000, 81 Old Palmer Rd, Lenard, Carrie M, to Lenard, Caron M.

\$65,000, Janes Hill Cross Rd, Kearney, Linda M, and Kearney, Michael K, to Weetamoo RT, and Jankowski, Ellen.

\$68,500, Apple Rd #A, Porra, Paul P, and Porra, Carol A, to Doggart, Nathan, and Doggart, Juli.

\$344,900, 1164 Dunhamtown Brimfield Rd, Gingras, Corey W, and Shaw, Tyler B, to Solodyna, Andrew W.

LEICESTER

\$86,156, Old County Rd, Atlantic Union College, to Lancaster Town Of.

\$389,900, 251 Old Common Rd, Sousa, Jose E, and Sousa, Meredith L, to Keogh, Jacqueline L, and Keogh, Courtney.

\$500,000, 88 Moffett St, Crossman, Laurence T, and Crossman, Jane A, to Nanof, Christopher J, and Nanof, Lauren R.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$197,000, 48 Elm St, Willard IRT, and Willard, Richard C, to Benninger, Brian K.

SPENCER

\$225,000, 135 Chestnut St, Andre Evelyn Est, and Andre, Donald K, to Bibeau, Hunter.

\$300,000, 38 Bruce Ln, Matusko, Jon P, to Bassan, Linda M.

\$326,000, 82 Prince Rd, Cartier, Eric A, and Cartier, Stephanie L, to Frese, Richard E.

WARREN

\$99,000, E Main St, Smith, Timothy R, to Minuteman Farm LLC.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$308,000, 15 Lawrence St, Gordon FT, and Gordon, David, to Levangie, Bryan P, and Levangie, Kelly L.

\$310,000, 14 Richards Ave, Gregory M Ricardi LT, and Ricardi, Gregory M, to Barakian, Matthew A, and Peltak, Natasha C.

\$325,000, 1 Highland Ave, Lombardo, Steven M, and Lombardo, Tracy, to Greiman, Christopher T.

\$531,000, 58 Keyes St, Dorinda M Oconnell RET, and Oconnell, Dorinda M, to Surinder-Sharma, Robert, and Sharma, Jenna M.

Pet of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Name: Emma
Breed: Bloodhound/Mix
Gender: Female
Size: Large
Age: 9 years, 4 mos.



Are you looking to retire? Want a retirement buddy? Me too! My name is Emma and I am a sweet older lady who needs a quiet, chill home where I can flop down and soak up some sunshine. I've lost all my family, which is why I find myself in the shelter today, but I still love all my friends here and am happy to get attention from anyone who stops by. I need a home where I am the only pet. You can see in my picture that I am large, and partially blind, and I've had some surgeries recently that my friends here at the shelter are happy to explain if you're curious. So, if you are looking for a retirement buddy who will occasionally howl their appreciation for you, I might be the one! Head down to the shelter during any of their open hours so we can meet.

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PERSON of the WEEK

JEANNE LYTLE, BROOKFIELD, MA

Jeanne is being recognized for all the work she has done and continues to do to organize events in the town of Brookfield. She also works with elementary students to promote theater, and took the time to audition students to recite the Gettysburg Address or In Flanders Fields for Brookfield’s Memorial Day ceremony.

Thank you Jeanne for all that you do to make the Brookfield Community a great place to live.

Submitted by JT Sargent of Webster, formerly of Brookfield, MA

If you would like to nominate an upcoming Person of the Week, please email your suggestion and the reason you're nominating him or her, or a group of people to June at jsima@stonebridgepress.news.

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Registration # 7640**

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Gavin is a playful young boy of Caucasian descent who has a great sense of humor! Some of Gavin’s favorite things to do are reading and playing basketball. The adults in Gavin’s life say he is engaging and enjoys connecting with others. He is well-liked by his peers, and he thrives off of adult attention. Gavin is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and he functions academically close to grade level. He is a smart boy who enjoys sharing his knowledge of the world

with others.

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

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The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.ma-reinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



Spencer officials reviewing bylaws for solar

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – After securing full approval for a moratorium on large-scale solar projects, officials are taking steps toward tightening town bylaws. The Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office recently approved an article from Spencer’s Special Town Meeting in November 2020. The article imposed a one-year moratorium on the use of land or structures for large-scale, ground-mounted solar installations. During the moratorium period, the Planning Board will review zoning bylaws pertaining to large-scale solar projects and make proposed revisions. All Planning Board recommendations will be forwarded to selectmen for approval to the Fall Town Meeting warrant. Voters will then decide whether to accept the bylaw revisions. “We want to make sure we have the proper language that protects

our neighborhoods and town,” said Selectman Gary Woodbury. “We need to slow down, take a hard look at what we have here, and do what’s right for the townspeople.” Spencer has received at least 17 large-scale solar proposals in recent years, with seven projects advancing through the permitting phases and becoming operational. Surrounding communities have also been inundated with solar proposals. “We want to make the bylaw more user-friendly for the town. Companies have taken advantage of this,” said Select Board Chairman Ralph Hicks. Added Woodbury, “We want to make sure we don’t lose the town’s rural character. We have to be cautious about this.” One of the major concerns for officials in Spencer and surrounding towns is the lithium batteries in solar units. Additionally, many solar projects require extensive clear-cutting of trees

and ground vegetation. Spencer’s existing bylaw is inadequate for protecting the town’s environmental resources while mitigating other negative effects of solar installations, officials said. “During the moratorium period, the town plans to assess these issues and amend the zoning bylaw to address the impact of these facilities on the town’s environmental resources and its planning goals,” read a statement released by Assistant Attorney General Nicole Caprioli, who announced the approval of Spencer’s moratorium. In their bylaw review process, Spencer officials may also study the possibility of requiring fees upfront for the eventual decommission of solar fields, officials said. Throughout the Route 9 corridor, area communities continue to tighten their restrictions on solar growth. At West Brookfield’s 2018 Annual Town Meeting, voters overwhelmingly passed

a bylaw that is restrictive to the number and type of solar installations that can operate in town. West Brookfield was also the first community in the nation to adopt a bylaw requiring solar companies to provide upfront funding for the decommission of a solar field. The funding must be provided before a company can become eligible to receive a building permit. The life expectancy of solar battery containers is about 10 years. Because the lifespan of an average solar field is approximately 20 years, officials in area towns fear that solar companies could exit agreements early and leave towns with costly disassembly responsibilities. “Decommissioning is a major concern for selectmen in all area towns,” Woodbury said. Spencer residents will vote on the bylaw revisions during the Fall Town Meeting.

Write-in unseats incumbent in Brookfield School Committee race

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

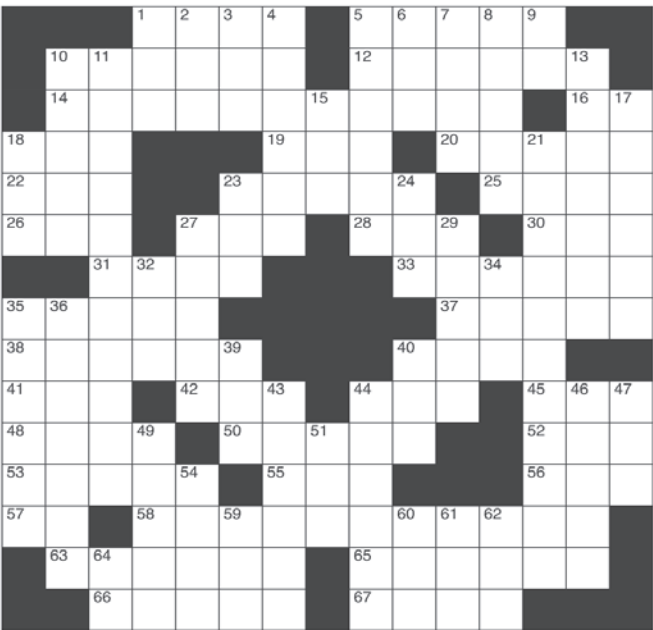
BROOKFIELD – Last week’s election saw a handful of contested races, highlighted by a write-in candidate unseating an incumbent. In the Tantasqua Regional School Committee race, incumbent Pamela Fitzgerald was narrowly defeated by write-in candidate Danielle Lamoureux-

Kane. The race came down to just 17 votes (144-127). “I’m enormously grateful for the support I received for my last-minute, write-in campaign for Tantasqua Regional School Committee,” Lamoureux-Kane said. “The next few years, as we emerge from the pandemic and deal with resulting academic deficiencies, mental health challenges, socioeco-

nom ic inequities, and budget constraints, will be a critical time to evaluate and transform how we educate our students. I ran to be the ears and voice for families who feel left out of important school-community communications and the decision-making process — and I think that message resonated.” For the five-year Planning Board seat, Christopher Gorman bested David Ayers, 223-72. In the battle for Water Commissioner (a three-year term), Alan Jones defeated Marlene Fairbrother, 195-81. For the Public Library Trustee race, incumbent Carol Plumb (218 votes) and Rebecca Morin (155 votes) each earned seats. Erica Lee Robert (87 votes) fell just short.

For the vacant Select Board seat, unopposed candidate Adam Jolicoeur earned 232 votes. With experience serving on the Planning Board, he is looking forward to bringing his knowledge and skills to the Select Board. Jolicoeur replaces departing Selectman Clarence Snyder, who did not seek re-election. “I’m honored to have been elected as a selectman. Brookfield is, I believe, continuing its upward trajectory and has a lot of positives to look at and focus on,” Jolicoeur told the New Leader. “I’m hoping to continue the positive work of Mr. Snyder, while also working on the areas of concern that I can best apply my knowledge and expertise. Technology and the arts are my

passion. My background outside of municipalities, in my perspective, brings a unique viewpoint to the town.” Jolicoeur has been involved in Scouting for 25 years, as both a youth Scout and an adult leader. Additionally, active in Freemasonry since he was 18, Jolicoeur has had the opportunity to take part in several service projects, including providing clothing and food to those in need; helping to lead safety and identification programs for children through the MyCHIP program; and providing support at local events. Voter turnout for the May 3 election was 12 percent. For more information about upcoming municipal events, visit www.brookfieldma.us.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Large, flightless birds

5. Lifts and moves heavy objects

10. Hyundai sedan

12. Wear away by erosion

14. Arranged alphabetically

16. Top prosecutor

18. ___-de-sac: Dead-end street

19. Digital audiotape

20. Linguistics pioneer

22. Singer DiFranco

23. Arms of the sea

25. Near-reach weapon (abbr.)

26. Ballplayer’s accessory

27. You get one at the beach

28. U.S. founding father

30. W. Australia indigenous people

31. Amounts of time

33. Put on the shelf

35. Russian dynasty member

37. City along the Elbe River
38. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf

40. Actor Damon

41. ___ King Cole, musician

42. Company that rings receipts

44. Scatter

45. Basics

48. Part of a door

50. Indicates silence

52. Moved quickly on foot

53. Monetary units

55. A place to crash

56. Many subconsciouses

57. Group of countries

58. About line of latitude

63. Female follower of Bacchus

65. A dentist can treat it

66. Dull brown fabrics

67. Int’l nonprofit

CLUES DOWN

1. Midway between northeast and east

2. Partner to cheese

3. One from Utah

4. A way to move

5. Playing cards

6. Baseball stat

7. Long river in western Asia

8. Grandmothers

9. Entertainment legend Sullivan

10. Steam bath room

11. One who kills

13. Food

15. Swiss river

17. Fleet

18. Taxi

21. Working class

23. More (Spanish)

24. High schoolers’ test

27. Heavily built goat antelope
29. Murdered in his bathtub

32. Tease good-naturedly

34. Morsel

35. Cause persistent resentment

36. A radioactive element

39. Perform in a play

40. Witty remark: Bon ___

43. A great place to kayak

44. Conclude by reasoning

46. In an unfavorable way

47. Complex of nerve tissues (abbr.)

49. Machine for making paper

51. Feline

54. Yugo’s hatchback

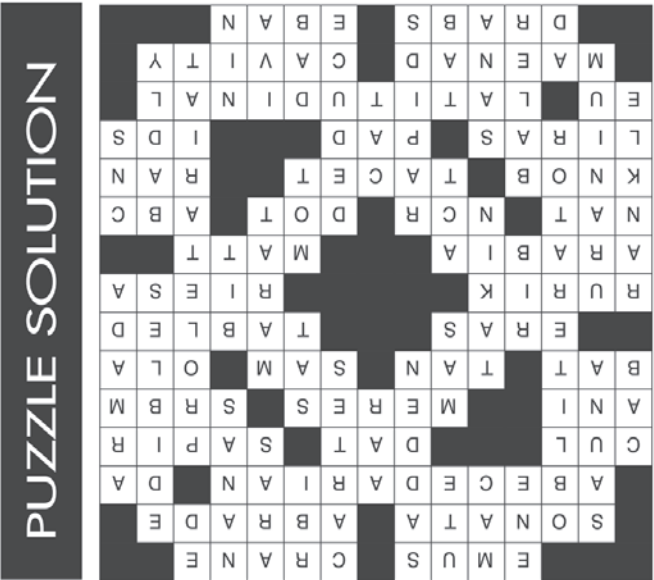
59. Check

60. Press against lightly

61. Wind-pollinated plants

62. ___compoop

64. Commercial



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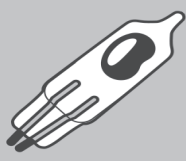
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Joseph Facteau of West Brookfield presents research during annual undergraduate symposium

WORCESTER — Joseph Facteau, of West Brookfield, was one of 38 students selected to present an original academic research project at Assumption University's 27th Annual Undergraduate Symposium, held virtually on April 19.

The University's Annual Undergraduate Symposium showcases the academic research and scholarly achievements of Assumption students working in collaboration with dedicated faculty mentors. The Undergraduate Symposium provides the campus community with the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation of and applaud the individual and collective accomplishments of the University's faculty and

students.

Facteau, a member of the Class of 2021, presented "Henry Kissinger and the 'Inevitability of Tragedy' as a German Exile." Joseph's project explored the early life of Henry Kissinger, a controversial yet incredibly influential figure in the history of the Cold War and also American politics, and how his interesting life as a German exile would shape his later political career in the United States.

"As an institution of Catholic liberal education, Assumption prioritizes involving students actively in the search for truth and beauty. The Undergraduate Symposium promotes a collaborative teaching model and fac-

ulty-student research opportunities, as well as helps foster intellectual development and professional growth," said Greg Weiner, Ph.D., provost and academic vice president. "These presentations, supported by faculty mentors and reviewed by their peers, showcase what students have learned and how that knowledge is applied to develop in-depth, thought-provoking research projects."

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and cen-

turies-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

DIY Repairs on Vintage Finds

Brimfield Flea market time is right around the corner, and despite the fact that only a few fields are expected to open due to COVID restrictions, eager shoppers itching to get back in the antiques game are prepped to snap up bargains at the famous shows as well as at area yard sales. While good deals on vintage wares are exciting finds, chances are many old items will need a little TLC before being put into active duty.

To usher in a new season of flea markets, tag sales and estate auctions, this week's column will review a roundup some of my favorite tricks to transform your (not so perfect) bargains into fantastic finds!



TAKE
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TRAINOR

Marble repairs can break the budget, but this do-it-yourself tip does the trick for a lot less! Small cracks in marble can be hidden with a mixture of wax and chalk dust. Melt a candle the color of the marble, blend in chalk dust to give it body and apply to the crack carefully with a paintbrush.

Aged linens are lovely, but are often found with stains. Take a tip from housewives of the past to keep vintage textiles terrific: To remove rust stains from old linens the chemical free way, simply rub lemon juice and salt directly on the stain and hang in the sun to dry. For stubborn stains on sturdy

linens, boil them in a pot of hot water to which a little eco friendly powdered laundry detergent has been added. Let cook for about twenty minutes. Hang out in the sun to dry. If the stain is not gone, try leaving linens out for subsequent sunny days until stain has faded.

If your less than perfect porcelain or glass piece needs repair, the following chemical free glue often yields great results: You'll need: two packets (½ ounce) unflavored gelatin; two tablespoons cold water; three tablespoons skim milk. To do: In a small bowl, sprinkle gelatin over cold water. Set aside to gel. Heat milk to boiling point and mix into softened gelatin. Stir until gelatin is dissolved. Apply a thin layer of warm glue to edges of glass, being sure to align break. Press firmly and apply masking tape over fix. Then prop the piece

in a box filled with sand for support until completely dry, or tape and clamp the item to ensure a tight adhesion.

Old wicker is gorgeous, but it isn't always without its splits and breaks. Here is the easiest way to repair old wicker: For breaks that require the two pieces to be fused: Coat each half of the break with Elmer's glue, applying glue to area around break points. Cover wicker on both sides with wax paper and clamp the broken piece between boards overnight. If the break requires further strength, it can be further reinforced by weaving wire through the surrounding wicker to secure. Wicker splits can be repaired in the same manner.

Was that antique mirror a deal because of its peeling silver? Before you dish out

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A12**

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Vacation care for container gardens



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Planning a few long weekends or a vacation may have you rethinking your garden plans. Don't let time away from home stop you from growing flowers and vegetables in containers.

Irrigation systems with timers and self-watering pots are options to make container gardening and vacation care easier. You may, however, just be looking for ways to adapt your existing container gardening care while on vacation.

Find a plant sitter and take time to provide needed plant care instructions. It can be difficult, but you may be able to convince the person stopping by to feed the cat to water your plants. Move containers to a shady spot to extend the time between watering. Make sure the hose is handy. The easier the task, the more likely it will be done, and your plants will survive. Sweeten the deal by offering to share the harvest or return the favor when they leave town.

Create your own self-watering system with a 5-gallon bucket and strips of absorbent material like cotton fabric strips or rope to serve as wicks. Place the bucket amongst your containers. Run the fabric wick from the 5-gallon bucket into the drainage holes of your containers. As the soil dries the water will move from the water-filled bucket into the container moistening the soil. Use long wicks that reach and rest on the bottom of the bucket. Add a lid with holes for the wicks to slow evaporation.

Use an individual setup to create a water reservoir for each container. Set each pot on its own enclosed water filled container. Cut holes in the lid of the water filled container and run wicks into the drainage holes of the pot.

Test whatever system you create before leaving on vacation. You want to make sure everything is in place and working.

For short trips consider using a wine bottle or two-liter soda bottle. They can be used alone or combined with commercial products to help regulate the flow. Just punch a hole in the soil and insert a water filled wine or soda bottle. With cap in place, punch 10 holes in the bottom of the plastic bottle before filling with water and setting in the soil. Evaluate and

test how many bottles you need per pot and how long they can sustain your plants.

Increase the watering-holding ability of your potting mix with a product like Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com). This organic soil additive made from wool waste holds up to 20 percent of its weight in water. It releases water as needed, so you do not have to water as often.

Further reduce the need to water by growing more drought tolerant plants. Zinnias, lantana, sunflowers, and succulents look beautiful and tolerate drier soil conditions.

A beautiful and productive container garden does not have to stop you from enjoying a long weekend or vacation out of town. Make plans for your container gardens as you plan your next trip.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Photo Melinda Myers

Water or wine bottles can be combined with commercial products to help regulate the flow of water to container gardens while away on vacation.



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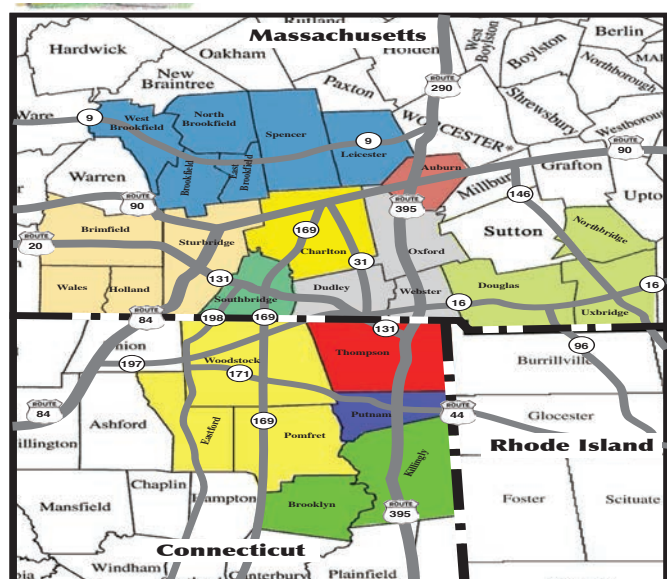
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EDITORIAL

Equalizing access to education

It's that time of year when high school seniors are committing to colleges and making a plan for what will happen after graduation day. College tuition has become so incredibly unaffordable that many students are opting out or seeking a career in various trades, in which they stand to make more money than a classmate with a four-year degree — depending, of course, on which route they take.

Harvard University cost ten schillings per year in the early 1700's, which was equal to about a pair of shoes and two pairs of stockings. Interesting to note is that back then, most jobs did not require a degree, license or certification and laborers learned via apprenticeship. If the price of Harvard over time had risen at the same rate as prices generally equaled to the rate of inflation, tuition today would cost \$1,703 per year. However, that is not the case, and the current tuition at Harvard is upwards of \$67,580.

As a society, we stress the need for a solid, good education. Any job that pays a livable wage requires you to have a degree, however many students are not making much more than their counterparts who chose to enter the work force right out of high school. Really this depends on where you live and what you do.

The significant increase in college tuition has angered many parents and students. One has to wonder how a financial aid office at any given school comes up with the numbers for a student's financial aid package. In one recent example, a college in Massachusetts, cost \$73,000 per year. Yes, you read that right. A student with a single mother who makes in the ballpark of \$30,000 a year was offered \$13,000 in financial aid for the year. Does this school discriminate based on socioeconomic status? One has to wonder. Are wealthy students somehow more special than their less fortunate counterparts?

Students who do make it through the four years will graduate with an exorbitant amount of debt, a bill they could potentially be paying well into old age.

Way back when, state universities were free, however did include a small fee. In the 1960's, social and legislative changes turned higher education into a business, hence the student loan debt crisis we see today.

Through some research, we discovered an interesting time line that laid out the path higher education has taken since its inception during Medieval times in Europe. Back then, few of these schools charged tuition and were supported by the government or a church, and areas of study were limited.

In 1796, Thomas Jefferson proposed an education system that was supported through taxes. He did this because he believed that for a government to truly work, that its people needed to be educated. As a result, in 1818, the government began subsidizing elementary schools and Jefferson used a \$15,000 grant to start the University of Virginia.

In the early 1800's, many colleges did not charge tuition; however, only the wealthy could afford the living expenses incurred during study. In 1810, students lived as simply as possible, keeping room and board rates extremely low, compared to today's living conditions.

In 1870, Harvard's tuition was \$150 per year, while Brown University was just \$75. This equals to about \$3,000 in today's terms. Again, only the wealthy could afford to attend.

A spike hit in 1920 when admissions doubled between then and 1930. The cost was about \$250 per year, with 20 percent of college aged Americans attending university.

The G.I. Bill was passed in 1944, but has since been modified.

In 1965, the Higher Education Act passed. This act helped provide financial assistance for those who needed it. In 1973, in today's dollars, an average year, at an average school cost just over \$9,000 and just over \$2,000 for an in state public school.

In 1972, only 49 percent of high school graduates went on to college. Back then, grants covered 80 percent of the costs. Today more and more students are

Turn To **EDITORIAL** page **A12**

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An “assault rifle” is not an “assault weapon”

To the Editor:
Mr. Har-Yarok, “Assault weapon” is a term coined and defined by leftists to categorize a type of firearm which they view as evil. An “assault rifle” is capable of fully automatic fire. They are not the same. Continuing to believe and spread the lies they are the same takes a special level of stupid, which is systemic in the DNC, as well as too many in the GOP.

You are obviously ignorant of history, which is quite full of “inferior” forces causing major headaches for the opponent who possesses “superior firepower.” That type of hubris is what lead the nitwits in DC to launch their disastrous adventures in Korea,

Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan. It seems that the insurgents were neither sufficiently impressed, or afraid, to the point they simply cry uncle.

As I previously wrote, the problem is not “too many guns,” it is too many progressives successfully pushing their agenda of decadence, perversion, tribalism, depravity and violence. You can deny the truth, the facts, but they do not change.

Drone on, Mr. Yarok, drone on, and be sure to lick the hands of your masters; you might receive an extra special treat.

R. MICHAEL SMALL
NORTH BROOKFIELD

We need to embrace humility, not pride-fulness

To the Editor:
The following letter (updated) was written back on Nov. 30, 2017 but, I believe it is just as fitting today as it was then.

From the Sunday morning TV show, “Turning Point, with David Jeremiah”: The CEO of a Fortune 500 company was driving home with his wife and he decided to stop at a gas station to fill his tank. He went into the station to pay while the attendant pumped the gas. He looked out the window and saw that his wife had gotten out of the car and was having a friendly conversation with the attendant. After the attendant finished, his wife gave him a hug and a kiss on the cheek. The CEO asked the cashier who he was, and he was told the two of them grew up together, and they were quite the couple all through high school. They broke up when she went off to college.

When the CEO got back into the car and drove off, he told his wife that he knows what she was thinking. She asked him what he thinks he knows. He said, ‘you were thinking that if you hadn’t married me you may have ended up the wife of a gas attendant.’ ‘No, dear,’ she said, ‘I was thinking that if I had married him, he may have become the CEO of a Fortune 500 company and you may have ended up a gas attendant.’

Some may say the story is funny, and others may find it insulting. I

think that all would find both husband and wife to be very prideful. It has been said that pride is the arch enemy of humility.

Humility has been defined in the Bible (and I paraphrase): 3 Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than you. 4 ... look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. PHILIPPIANS 2

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if our Presidents, Representatives, Senators, Executives, Judges, Justices and Bureaucrats were more humble than prideful? President Trump was not evil. President Biden and Vice President Harris are not evil. Republicans and Democrats are not evil. Federal judges are not evil, although I find many to be illiterate when it comes to the law as written. People in the swamp may be misguided but they are not evil. Letter writers to the Editor are not evil, although Omar may be an exception. If we all (myself included) start to listen to each other and respect each other’s opinions and most of all start looking at the interests of others, maybe, just maybe things could get done for the benefit of all.

It has been said that God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we could listen twice as much as we talk.

JIM REID
SPENCER

Black and blue

To the Editor:
Growing up in Worcester, I had many friends that needed a job. So happens one of my friends worked at the Worcester House of Corrections. He was able to get many of them jobs up there. Some of these guys were strong, tough guys. Boy, did they get an education fast in that job. You find out quick what it’s like when society expects you to be babysitters for their problem people, with the expectations that you cannot respond to their assaults. Inmates with Hepatitis or AIDS from their drug use throwing feces on you as you walk the halls. Your only recourse is to do nothing. You see, the ACLU and the courts have made it clear. The inmates can basically do anything they desire to you, but you cannot respond back unless you want to be fired or sued. Pretty good place to work. Who the heck in their right mind would want to do this job?

Now consider yourself as a police officer in the inner cities where most of these inmates did their crimes and will be going back to after getting beefed up in jail. You see, they go into jail, use the gyms, eat good food so they’re in top shape to continue in their careers.

From the desk of Trump

To the Editor:
Under the Former Presidents Act of 1958, Donald Trump is entitled to not only a pension and Secret Service protection, but a staff and an office paid for by the General Services Administration.

Our most recent former president, after a few months, finally got back on the Internet — sort of, given his social media ban. Using his GSA staff he launched the “Official Website of the 45th President” at 45office.com. Interestingly, Donald Trump prefers to be referred to as “the 45th president of the United States” which while true it avoids making mention of whether he is or isn’t currently the president. The Web site looks like a very proper former president’s website until of course you click on “news” and read some of the “statements” released. The subject

matter and general attacks seem like they came from the 45th president himself but the capitalization, punctuation, and even grammar just seems too good for DJT himself. I can only imagine he has been dictating these rants to his poor GSA staff and they are typing them out with proper grammar.

While I was mildly amused, it was no replacement for his Twitter feed, now banned for life...until... “A BEACON OF FREEDOM ARISES” and there is now, finally, “A PLACE TO SPEAK FREELY AND SAFELY.”

The long vacation that our 45th President gave us from listening to his daily old man rants is over, we are starting to see the magnificent “new communications platform” (as described by Fox News) that Trump

Turn To **TAYLOR** page **A10**

First-time home-buyer? Follow these steps

Is homeownership a goal of yours? It does offer some benefits, in addition to meeting your basic need for shelter. The equity you build in your home can be a valuable financial asset, and you may get to deduct your interest payments on your taxes. But if you’re a first-time homebuyer, what steps should you take?



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First, make sure the time is right for you in terms of your personal and financial situations. For example, are you fairly confident that your employment is stable and that your earnings won’t decline? Of course, external events can also play a role in your decision. A recent study by Morning Consult and Edward Jones found that 12 percent of respondents postponed purchasing a house during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But if you’re ready and eager for homeownership, consider the following moves:

Save for a down payment. The more money you put down for a home, the lower your monthly payments, although there’s also a point at which overly large down payments can be financially unwise. However, if you can make a down payment of more than 20 percent of the purchase price, you can generally avoid having to pay for private mortgage insurance on top of your monthly payments. Also, as a first-time homebuyer, you might qualify for down payment assistance from your local or state housing authority or a nonprofit group.

Check your credit score. A higher credit score gives you a better chance for a lower interest rate. You can request a credit report from annualcreditreport.com, and you might be able to get a credit score for free from your bank. If you need to improve your score, you may want to delay your home purchase.

Learn how much you qualify for – and how much you should spend. Once you think you’re ready to begin the home-purchasing process, you may want to contact a few lenders to determine the size of the mortgage for which you qualify. Be aware, though, that just because you can get a mortgage of a certain amount, does not necessarily mean that you should. You don’t want to become “house poor” – that is, you don’t want to spend so much on your house payments that you are cash strapped and can’t afford to save for other goals, such as college for your children or a comfortable retirement. You may want to establish a budget for how much you can readily afford to pay for your mortgage each month – and try sticking to it before you buy the house. If you have extra savings, put it toward your down payment.

Prepare for unexpected costs. You can plan for your mortgage, utilities, taxes and insurance – but when you own a home, you’ll always encounter unexpected costs. You may need to get a new furnace, repair your roof or face any number of other maintenance issues. To help prepare for these costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments or take on added debt to pay for these unanticipated expenses.

Homeownership can be a rewarding experience – and the rewards will be even be greater when you’ve “done the numbers” and prepared yourself financially.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

God’s moral and civil law

To the Editor:

In spite of what the present newly elected socialist government is dictating to us today, our first responsibility is to God’s moral and civil law. [Romans 13} Why, you ask? Because God established the authorities that exist today, however, if the authorities neglect, disregard, abuse, disrespect God’s law we the peoples first responsibility is to respect, acknowledge obey God’s law.

This law, God’s law, is Romans 13. God is warning us not to be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Most to many people [Christians] understand that we are to live at peace with the state as best we can as long as the state allows us to live by God’s moral law.

Many of us believe that some of the state’s officials have become so corrupt that the people [Christians] should have as little to do with what is going on. God’s Word teaches we are to remain good citizens, and we are not expected to compromise our godly beliefs. We are responsible to God, Jesus and not to a government that practices deceiving, illegal procedures “and” we are responsible to vote for those who live, believe and practice Godly principles, and to serve this country in any way that will help protect this country “and” most of all to serve God’s moral law.

We, as godly believers [Christians], are responsible to God, Jesus, and then to the state government. Our responsibility to the government is essential, providing the governments priority is focus on God’s moral truth, law.

The first responsibility of the people is making the state they live in better by electing the people who have godly moral principles, and we must not rebel against those who govern us and maintain the law, unless what they are imposing or asking us to do clearly is violating God’s moral law.

We who profess to be godly and are abiding by the governments civil laws [ordained of God] should have nothing to fear from the police who maintain the law and justice in our state, cities and towns.

We, as God’s believing people, have a responsibility before God, Jesus, to love, to obey God, Jesus, making every effort to love and help our neighbors. [Matthew 19: 18-19]

What exactly does this mean? There are those who are hungry, who need clothing, shelter, need a job, work to earn money. We need to help has best we can without becoming co-dependent, enablers. God’s moral and civil law supersedes any one who comes against us. God, Jesus, is very explicit — we are to love humanity and help those less fortunate without becoming co-dependent we are to help others help themselves. God’s Word teaches if you don’t work you don’t eat [2 Thessalonians 3: 10]

What Romans 13: 12-14 is teaching is the night is nearly over, referring to our present evil time, days, the day refers to the time when Jesus Christ will return, “why” will Jesus return, because there is so much dissention and jealousy, gross obvious sins, orgies, drunkenness, sexual immorality between man and woman and homosexuals, so much hatred, murder, strife, lust, fornication, adultery. The world has become out of control — the worshipping of Satan, the rejection of God, Jesus; that is why we are witnessing the Coronavirus. ‘Corona’ is Latin for Crown; God has removed His crown, protection off America, and God is calling us to confess and repent [2 Chronicle 7: 14] “and the newly elected president Joseph Biden I believe is God’s judgment on America and calling us to confess. We need, must humble our self, repent, pray, seek God’s face, God’s moral law “and” when we do God will restore us.

Let me ask you! What are your beliefs? Do you believe in God, Jesus? Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe Jesus died on the cross yesteryear for our salvation? Do you believe Jesus is our, the only Savior for our eternal [souls] life? That Jesus is the Son [God] of the living God? Are you a true believer or a lukewarm believer? Let me share with

Turn To **BLAIS** page **A10**

Republican leadership & the economy

To the Editor:

This has been an interesting week in Republican politics, specifically in the House of Representatives. It looks like they are going to kick out Liz Cheney as the conference chair because she’s not only insufficiently loyal to President Trump, but also because she’s saying he is not the person the party should be following.

The coming leadership ouster of Liz Cheney is about much more than the sacking of the number 3 House Republican; it is an unconditional surrender of one of our two major parties to President Trump and his big lie: that the 2020 election was somehow stolen. Liz’s crime is not that she isn’t conservative; it is that she isn’t “conservative” as defined by today’s Republican Party, which means unquestioning loyalty to the defeated former president. She stands accused of telling the truth that the election was not stolen and for criticizing the 45th president for inciting the January 6 insurrection. This episode is just the latest chapter in the party’s purging of its legacy – the Bushes, the McCains, Romney, and now the Cheneys. These names appeared 8 presidential tickets since 1980 and are now essentially ex-communicated for not going along with Donald Trump and his lies.

Perhaps this will help the GOP electorally in the short term, but what does it mean for our democracy when the political institution representing roughly half of the country refuses to accept free and fair election results and rejects its own who choose principle over party? What the party is saying is essentially, “If you don’t go along with the ‘big lie,’ you need to go.” The Republican Party is still Donald Trump’s party; you basically have to lie to qualify - that’s the standard.

If we’re honest, this is not a party Liz Cheney can be a leader of. The leadership is supposed to raise money and help other members get reelected. She probably will be less effective, given that she just isn’t willing to lie. Elise Stefanik, who will likely replace Cheney, is now

on board with the Republican Party... Now. Interestingly, Stefanik endorsed John Kasich in 2016, sat out the 2016 convention because Trump was the nominee. Stefanik voted with Trump less often than Cheney - opposing him on NAFTA, criticizing his border wall, and even voted against the 2017 tax cut. Wyoming and Liz Cheney are both very conservative. Upstate New York and Elise Stefanik are moderate, but now she’s a roaring Trumper, so she’s the one to be conference chair.

The Republican Party used to be a party about values, substantive policy issues, and a counterweight to the Democratic Party. It is now all about being loyal to Donald J. Trump.

Congresswoman Stefanik has continued to insist that election fraud was widespread last year along with the Republican base. In a country with a lot of problems, it seems that Republicans picked the one area that isn’t broken to focus all their energy, and that’s elections. The net effect of these voter suppression efforts is likely to be small; however, it could be the difference between winning and losing closely fought purple states, and the optics given American history is just horrific. The amount of energy going into these claims of election fraud and supposed remedies just shows that we are in a land of theater. It’s not about anything but the symbols of showing that Donald Trump was right all along and reinforcing his narrative.

These election laws seem like a solution in search of a problem but that is only looking at it from the surface. The reality is that from a Republican perspective these laws are a solution to a problem; the problem is too many Democrats are voting. In the end, that’s what this is all about. Democrats who didn’t used to always show up at the polls either for convenience or because of other tactics such as understaffing and long lines voted by mail in droves. All of these laws are about stopping as many Democrats as possible from vot-

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A10**

A response to North Brookfield’s Superintendent There’s only one set of facts

To the Editor:

A remarkable letter appeared in last week’s New Leader. In a lengthy and somewhat testy discourse, the Superintendent of North Brookfield Schools attempted to rebut the contents of an anonymous flyer regarding the schools which had been sent to many households in the town. This is not something that well paid public officials generally do, especially when the source of the irritant is concealing his or her identity. They usually prefer to “let sleeping dogs lie” and hope nothing much comes of the complaint(s).

In this case, the unsigned “broad-side” consisted of a bill of particulars alleging poor-if not disastrous-policy decisions regarding the schools made by the three-member school committee and endorsed, apparently, by the superintendent. The writer’s concerns related to fiscal questions, curriculum issues, and the matter of the renaming of the school mascot from that of “The Indians” to something less likely to raise the hackles of white, pearl-clutching, suburban liberal women (often teachers) and their emasculated male counterparts.

As I don’t live in or pay taxes to that town, I’m not interested in the finances of their schools; if the residents want to pay even more as they watch those institutions circle down the drain, that’s their prerogative. Any town that can afford to pay their schools’ CEO \$150,000 a year to preside over a few administrators, teachers and 570 students-a system that doesn’t seem to attract students but does lose some-must have plenty of cash on hand to pay their bills.

What does interest me, though, are the issues regarding curriculum and the renaming of school mascot because the implications associated with both subjects have broader significance than to just the town currently under discussion. What is happening in North Brookfield is going on all over the country and reflects the angst caused by the political upheaval forced on all of us by the cultural Marxists who now control education at all levels, the media, entertainment, and government.

First, the teams’ nickname of “The

Indians”: As I have written before, the term has been in use for more than 60 years, and has become a No. Brookfield tradition. The superintendent’s letter to the newspaper shows he has entirely bought into the left wing argument that the name is insulting to Indians (my term, not his), and buttresses his argument by quoting from some aggrieved Nipmuc Indian he met somewhere who claims the Indian people don’t like having teams whether in grade school or at the pro-level named “in honor” of the original occupants of the land.

I don’t believe that is true. In my reading on the matter, I have found a majority of Indians polled either are indifferent on the subject or are proud to see their heritage celebrated by the naming of so many things in tribute to them. The United States is, as far as I know, the only country in the history of the world that during and after violent clashes all over the landscape with the indigenous people, began to name nearly everything after their quondam enemies. There are tens of thousands of towns, counties, cities, more than half the states, geographical land and water features (Lake Sacajawea, anyone?), schools, businesses, and, yes, countless teams named for Indian individuals and tribes. These names were conferred, I must add, almost entirely by white men in legislatures (local, state, and federal) who, in many cases, had fought in desperate battle against the very people they now wished to honor.

Consider the name Indiana: “The Land of the Indians.” Consider the first five states to be added to the original thirteen, those of the Northwest Territory, all named for Indian tribes found in that area: Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

And what example better serves to highlight the respect shown to some aspects of the North American Indian culture than the naming of helicopters used by the U.S. military, especially the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps: Apache, Blackhawk, Chinook, Kiowa, Sioux, Chickasaw, Mojave, and

Turn To **MCREA** page **A10**

To the Editor:

After my week off last week, there are several items worthy of addressing.

Mr. Reid did have a letter in the April 30 edition of the New Leader, “Can one man’s truth be another’s lie”... It seems as though the thesis of this letter is that there are no facts, ever. Everything is an opinion and there are no ways to prove a difference between facts and falsehoods so therefore anything that is claimed must be an opinion. It’s almost like Mr. Reid is saying “my facts are my opinion, your facts are your opinion, and how dare anybody accuse anybody else of lying.”

Former president Trump’s lies are not opinions. Whether to believe his lies or not is not a valid opinion. We are all entitled to our opinions but that doesn’t make anything one might say or believe an opinion. We are not entitled to our own set of facts. There is only one set of facts, there is only one reality, and claims/statements/utterances contrary to truth are simply false.

Mr. Ivel seems to take issue with language that is considered offensive to gradually fall out of favor while other language takes its place. It’s almost as if he’s saying. “No! I like the negative and offensive connotations; they must remain! It is tyranny to treat others with respect!” Regarding the rest of his rant – the free market has done wonders, but we need the government as a referee. The continent with the least government interference in the economy and daily life is Africa and I doubt he wants that type of economy and social structure here. Without a referee and a general authority determining the rules of the game and providing a safety net human societies quickly fall into violent warlord/peasant societies where everybody loses except for perhaps the aristocracy.

On to Mr. Reid’s letter of May 7... I am impressed with Mr. Reid’s apparent grasp on those facts which support his opinion that Democrats are responsi-

ble for governmental dysfunction, and that Republicans are generally good. It makes me think he is also aware of the facts that refute that opinion but chooses not to remember. He is totally right that the filibuster rules began to erode for federal judges under Harry Reid. Removing the filibuster for all federal judges except for the Supreme Court was instituted by Harry Reid in 2013 and was referred to as “the nuclear option” at the time.

For some history, the concept of eliminating the filibuster for judicial nominations was suggested in 2005 by Republicans who weren’t happy with Democratic-led filibusters against George W. Bush’s judicial nominations. The standoff was de-escalated by a group of seven Democrats and seven Republicans, all of whom agreed to oppose the nuclear option and oppose filibusters of judicial nominees except in “extraordinary circumstances.” After that several previously blocked nominees were brought to the floor and voted on.

In 2013, after Barack Obama was re-elected, the Republicans started filibustering nearly all of President Obama’s nominees, because Obama equals bad. They wanted to wait for the next president to fill those judicial spots four years later. In the history of the United States 168 judges had cloture motions, with 82 (nearly half) of them during the Obama administration and only 38 during W.’s term. Obama had been cock-blocked more than any prior president by a factor of two to three times. Harry Reid did eliminate the filibuster for (non-SCOTUS) judges and he was warned it would come back to bite him, and then Mitch McConnell extended the “nuclear option” to Supreme Court seats so he could seat Neal Gorsuch in the seat stolen from the Obama administration while saying, “you punched first.” Mr. Reid – I know you know this.

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GOOD



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HAR-YAROK

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The Republicans represent a slight minority of Americans, so their only path to power is playing dirty, out-maneuvering within the rules, or outright cheating. Would Mitch McConnell not have created his own nuclear option for Gorsuch had Harry Reid let him successfully steal dozens of lower level judicial appointments? Are the Democrats supposed to never hit back as they get abused by the minority party over and over?

The founders of our nation intended for the capital to not be in a state but there were almost no people living there at the time; today, over 700,000. The Constitution dictates a maximum size of the district, not a minimum. No constitutional amendment would be necessary to admit the places where American citizens live as a state if the federal district was shrunk to include the Capitol building, the mall, and the White House. New York City could be its own state, split from the rest of New York if congress admitted it – much like when Maine was split from Massachusetts or West Virginia from Virginia. Deficits are caused both by taxation and spending – a deficit occurs when we spend more than we tax. Trump's tax cuts were not offset by

MCRAE

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Lakota? Were these names chosen because generals in the Pentagon (again, ironically, almost certainly old white men) thought the Indians danced and drummed well? Of course not, it was an effort to infuse into the ranks a glorification of traits Indian warriors had traditionally displayed: resolution, endurance, mobility, cunning, agility, and, above all, courage. Aretha Franklin sang about it in “Re-s-p-e-c-t!!!” Their warrior ethos, by the way, didn’t end with the pacification of the tribes: 32 American Indians have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their heroic service in the American armed forces.

But, the superintendent, being a well-educated man, certainly knows all this, so why does he, like other school leaders in this state (all liberals, to be sure), mouth this leftist boilerplate about the nickname reflecting a racist, white supremacist, patronizing attitude that only degrades and insults the Indian people? Very simple. He’s a liberal, clearly, and doesn’t want to get the cold shoulder at the next state-wide conclave of the School Superintendents Association.

Personally, I couldn’t care less what a community chooses to call their school teams. North Brookfield could become known as the Duckbill Platypuses if that’s what the people want. But, that’s the issue, isn’t it? It’s the business of “the people!” Three moonbat committee members should not be allowed to decide for the townsfolk—who pay the bills, after all– such fundamentally cultural issues as school nicknames. And that’s why this imperious decision should be resisted in a very determined manner. The irony is, of course, all these liberals go on and on about their veneration of “democracy,” and then casually tell the people that they need to just shut up and live with what the Committee, the “experts” have decided. Never mind letting “We the people” decide something that might not go the way the better folks need to see it go.

As far as the curriculum issue is

any spending cuts nor were they offset by economic growth as was claimed 4 years ago, so yes, they blew up the deficit.

Mr. Robillard, I want to thank you for writing in. You make points about conservatives and Trump supporters I could never from the perspective of “Exhibit A.” From black-on-black crime, to Biden sending money to make sure people don’t work, to Biden opening the border to bring the workers in, calling people monkeys, to calling criticism of Biden’s administration hate speech... it’s just great. I especially liked the surgically implanted masks w/ neck feeding tubes. I could never describe this pro-Trump anti-Biden, COVID ignoring point of view better than Mr. Robillard can from the cockpit. Keep writing, I love it!

Mr. McRae is always interesting; his concerns are neck deep in culture wars, as always. Funny that in early 2020 he wrote of an “epidemiological disaster,” but now that Trump has weighed in and the culture wars taken shape, is calling pandemic mitigation methods “irrational fear.” A recent study out of the University of Washington counts more than 900,000 deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 when considering the increased mortality, home deaths which weren’t looked into, etc. ...But yeah, Trump wanted to pretend it was fake so his disciples must as well.

concerned, the superintendent claimed he was willing to provide to the author of the anonymous flyer the list of the 165 titles of materials some of which are deemed by the complainant to be inappropriate for the children of the schools, especially at the lower grade levels. Here’s a thought: since the superintendent took the time to pen a long letter to the New Leader, why wouldn’t he continue to show his good faith by simply publishing the list in question and let the community do their own research on what is in the nature of the materials? I am willing to bet there is some stuff on that list that would probably cause an insurrection if parents were to research it. Don’t hold your breath, North Brookfield, it’ll never happen.

Like all educrat officials, the superintendent hides behind his claim that decisions made in the schools are reached by “experts” in the field whose judgment should be trusted. You’ll pardon me for asking, but are these the same kind of “experts” who have–all around the country–run the once leader-of-the-world American public schools into the ground? The same people who have lowered standards across the board? Who have presided over an abandonment of real academics requiring hard effort in favor of fluff? Who produce graduates, in far too many cases, who have wasted twelve years of their lives and are only borderline literate and lacking in the most fundamental knowledge and skills needed to become a contributing member of society? I witnessed the “experts” during my thirty years as a classroom teacher. God save us from such geniuses.

Anyway, it will be interesting to see if any parents who really love their children and who want the best for them will suck it up and get into the serious business of finding out just what exactly is going on with your kid(s) education. If you have no other option but the local school, you better get involved. It’s a fool’s mission to leave it up to the “experts.”

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

I loved Mr. McRae’s the tirade about the “America-bashing and white-hating Critical Race Theory” and the opposition to the 1619 project. Like Mr. Robillard, Mr. McRae makes my case for what is wrong with right-wing America better than I ever could. My only hope is that he sends his screeds to his children to read because I’m sure they’re proud...

I was a little surprised, although I shouldn’t have been, to read about North Brookfield’s recent election in the T&G; the headline was that the town had adopted a “town mascot” of the “Indians.” All I have to say is wow. I guess the possibility of a racist symbol going away really energized the voters of North Brookfield to come out and vote in May for a non-binding resolution. Nothing really galvanizes an electorate like of the possibility of less racism and stereotyping going forward. The fact that this passed 401-168 shouldn’t be that surprised for a Trump town.

This non-binding resolution’s passage doesn’t make native mascots such as the feathered Indian head in North Brookfield any less racist. It doesn’t make it any more acceptable in 2021. It doesn’t change the fact that European settlers invaded land occupied by others, committed genocide on the indigenous population here, and now want to use stereotypes of the indigenous people

ROSENBERG

continued from page A9

ing as a means of increasing Republican power and increasing their electoral chances.

This week’s job numbers were quite disappointing – we are seeing a sharp slowdown in the number of jobs created.

We’re doing two experiments that are unprecedented in American history. We have never spent \$6 trillion, or 28 percent of our GDP, in such a short period of time by going into debt. If the rest of Biden’s plans pass, we’ll be looking at \$10 trillion. We’ve also never seen the Federal Reserve embark on such expansionary monetary policy. This experiment might pay off, or it might result in inflation. The enhanced unemployment might strengthen the labor market or it might lead to labor shortages as large numbers of people choose to stay home.

We still have a global pandemic, people are still being reticent, and as much as folks want to get out and restart their lives, the pandemic isn’t quite over. There are people who can’t find

BLAIS

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you the truth as I am convicted through and from the Bible. There is absolutely “nothing” that exist that God, Jesus, the Triune God has not created, has not established. The universe, these planets, this world our planet all that exist has been created and established by God. There is no authority except which God has established, and God has given us, the people, the responsibility to take care of His creations, all human life, living creatures, plants, space was not included for us to explore and neither was a deceiving elected socialist government.

This newly elected government and the newly elected officials want to introduce, establish a socialist government, a government that rules [dictates] the people. Why has God allowed

ple as sports mascots. Whether something is or isn’t racist is not a popularity contest, but there was a popularity contest in North Brookfield and racism won, easily.

I’m happy to say that the COVID-19 crisis is finally waning in the USA. As the population gets vaccinated our cases/day continue to fall. Last week only 297,066 people who had successfully avoided COVID for 15 months got sick, and that number is awesome! That is an 83 percent reduction from January, only 300k people! For COVID deaths, we still had 4,865 deaths last week, and 80 percent reduction since January! The deaths have been stubbornly stable for the past five weeks or so, so perhaps a dull background roar of 5,000 deaths/week we didn’t used to have is the “new normal” we’ve been waiting for...

At this point, the pandemic really should be mostly behind us. All adults should be vaccinated by now, vaccine appointments are going unfilled. Vaccines for children 12-15 should be approved within days. By the winter we should be able to vaccinate children as young as six. This pandemic will only be behind us if everyone gets vaccinated, and gets boosters in the fall.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

jobs, are too afraid to get out there, and even though lots of states have vowed to re-open, they are doing it slowly and the threat of variants reversing our progress remains.

Wealth has concentrated the last few decades at the top. Corporations have done extremely well, corporate profits have risen as ordinary Americans have stagnated. We had a large deficit going into the pandemic and we now exit with a debt-to-GDP ratio greater than 100 percent, and a historically high deficit. Since we need to tax things to pay for things, it seems like taxing the wealthy who have done well in recent decades and are flush with cash is the place to look.

They are still in the middle of negotiations but raising the corporate tax rate from 21 to 28 percent is reasonable, especially when we consider that it was 35 percent just four years ago. Taxing capital gains and dividends at regular income tax rates for people earning over \$1 million is reasonable – what are those folks going to do, not buy stocks?

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

this newly elected president, government? So that we the people would, will humble themselves, pray, seek God; seek God’s face [2 Chronicle 7: 14] “and” return to God and God “will” restore us, this country, this nation.

Do not be deceived; God is alive, God will be exalted among the nations and exalted in the earth [Psalm 46: 10]

Do not be deceived; God will not be mocked, a man and woman will reap what they sow. [Galatians 6: 7]

I truly believe and convicted this newly elected presidential government is God’s judgment on America, we are being warned to confess and repent and return to God, Jesus. The choice is ours, God can and will bless America when we call out to Him in humble repentance.

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

starts posting 3 times a day to a website nobody looks at? It asks for my phone number so it can send me a text when he posts? Give me a break!

It’s just so sad. He could have and should have stayed this off like his advisors told him to by diversifying away from Twitter and platforms not controlled by him while he was president and he had no interest. Now he comes out with a running list of rants on a website nobody checks. He might as well have a chalk board in front of Mar-a-Lago to write his thoughts on that the media monitors.

Also, this week, Facebook’s quasi-independent oversight board finally issued a decision on their indefinite ban of Trump in the wake of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot and it passed the decision back to Facebook proper. The oversight board decided that the immediate ban on Jan. 7 was justified given he severely violated Facebook’s Community Standards regarding praise or support of people engaged in violence, but it wouldn’t be justified with the indeterminate and standardless penalty of an indefinite suspension. The board bounced it back to Facebook to review and develop a penalty that is consistent with the rules as applied to other users of its platform.

It seems that the door is still open for either a restoration of Trump’s Facebook account or a permanent disabling, the ‘ask’ right now is for Facebook to develop clear standards and what is impermissible is an undefined period with no criteria for when or whether his Facebook will be restored.

So as Trump’s never-ending flow of inappropriate utterances, we now have a website to look at for our daily fix, and we have six months to find out what Facebook’s final answer is.

RICHARD TAYLOR
SPENCER

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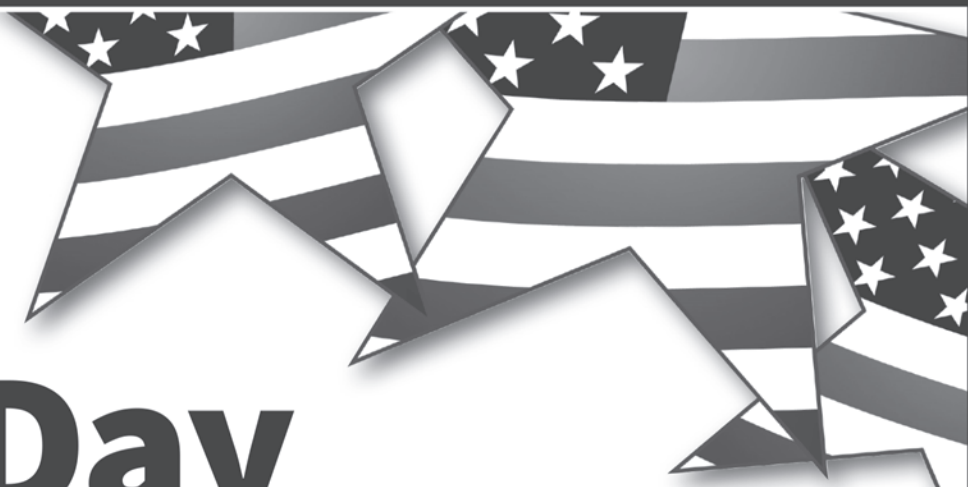
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TRAINOR
continued from page A5

big bucks to resilver the glass, try “foiling” the eye by taping pieces of aluminum foil to the backs of the offending spots. Or, if you can’t live with a tin-foil patch, completely remove silver from the back of the old mirror with a razor blade. Have a new mirror cut to fit the size of your frame and attach it to the frame behind the old glass. Voila! You have the look of the old glass with a nice clear view! ***

Retro liquor decanters are fabulous finds, but the alcohol they once held will often leave dark stains. What do to? Treat it with an organic acid such as citric acid, white vinegar or a mixture of one tablespoon of salt to a quarter of a pint of vinegar. Leave in the glass or decanter for 24 hours, shaking occasionally, then rinse and dry thoroughly. If stains are still there, repeat the process although tough stains may never completely be removed. ***

To save serious cash on commercial wax wood restorers, check your shoe shine kit. Lackluster wood finishes on mahogany or cherry furniture or frames can be instantly renewed with a coat of cordovan color wax shoe polish. ***

Black and brown sponge

on type shoe polish are also great touch up tools for old wrought iron pieces. ***

Swinging sixties plastic furniture and accessories are hot collectibles. But many of the vintage pieces on the market are well used - and scratched up! The good news is, you can sometimes hide surface scratches on plastic simply by applying a good coat of car wax. ***

Want to spruce up silverplate cutlery without hash chemicals? Try the old fashioned tin foil technique to remove silver. It’s quick and easy, especially if you have several pieces to clean. Fold a thick piece of tin foil and place it in the kitchen sink to cover the entire bottom. Add the tarnished silverware and fill sink with boiling or very hot tap water to fully cover the pieces. For each quart of water add one teaspoon each of salt and baking soda. Soak the silver for several minutes until the tarnish is gone. Remove silver, rinse and buff dry with a soft cloth. Note: Homemade methods may leave a dull white luster on pieces or damage them. Don’t polish valuable or enameled silver this way and always test a few pieces first. ***

If the veneer is bubbled on your vintage furniture piece, place a piece of stiff cardboard on the wood and press with an iron set at medium heat.

Press until you the heat softens the glue and you can feel the wood give a bit. Then press down and weight the area until the glue has redried. ***

Vintage trunks are affordable finds, but they often come with a musty odor from basement storage. Here’s a quick fix: Simply sprinkle some powdered cat litter box deodorizer generously in the trunk. Close it up and let it sit for a week. Better yet, after you’ve mowed the lawn, toss some grass clippings inside and close the lid. Stir the grass each day for a week. The chlorophyll from the grass will absorb the smell! ***

Old games and boxes sometimes still wear their original price tags written in permanent marker. Try wetting a Mr. Clean Eraser and carefully

rubbing away the ink. This works well on glossy finishes. Be careful, if you start wearing away the paper, stop. Or try removing marker on washable surfaces with hair spray. Spray on and immediately wipe off. Repeat as necessary. **

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 renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you

readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Please note the contest had been suspended due to COVID restrictions for seating in restaurants. It is expected to start up again in June. All entries have been collected and will be entered into an upcoming drawing.

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

EDITORIAL
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heading off to school, leaving less grant money to go around. In 1975, the rates started to increase faster than inflation. Prior to the 1970s, tuition rates increased roughly two to three percent each year. In 2003, the cost went up 14 percent in just one year. In 1987, the rate for a public school saw a 44 percent change.

In the late 1990’s, the debt was so bad that people put off weddings, having children and making other big lifetime decisions.

The year 2008 saw an increase of 439 percent since 1982, while income has only increased 147 percent. If things continue as they are in 2028, the cost will be \$340,800 for a private school education per year and \$95,000 for a public school.

Americans over the age of 60 currently owe more than \$86 billion in unpaid loans, and many of them are concerned

that the government will garnish their Social Security, leaving them with nothing.

The proposed American Families Plan is slated to include, for those who wish, two years of free community college tuition. Expenses for books and supplies would be funded by the student. In our small rural communities, we see high school seniors who really want to go to college, but just can’t afford it. Often times they are working part time jobs to help support their own families which is commendable. It is extremely difficult, especially in rural areas for high school students to save up enough money to afford even a community college.

Often times those students who do attempt to save thousands of dollars, have to do so by giving up after school activities such as soccer, band etc. If the cost of colleges hadn’t increased so drastically, we wouldn’t need to think twice about this.

Many parents who make

just over minimum wage are drowning in debt after taking out Parent Plus loans, just to see to it that their children can get an education. Even trade schools are rising in cost.

A two-year tuition free community college (not universities — there’s a difference) would be a great opportunity for any American wanting to get a jump start on their education, especially for those students who come from lower income households. Seniors who would never otherwise have had a chance at an education would now be offered one. Any opportunity for us to help educate our youth, especially those with the most need, is a good one.

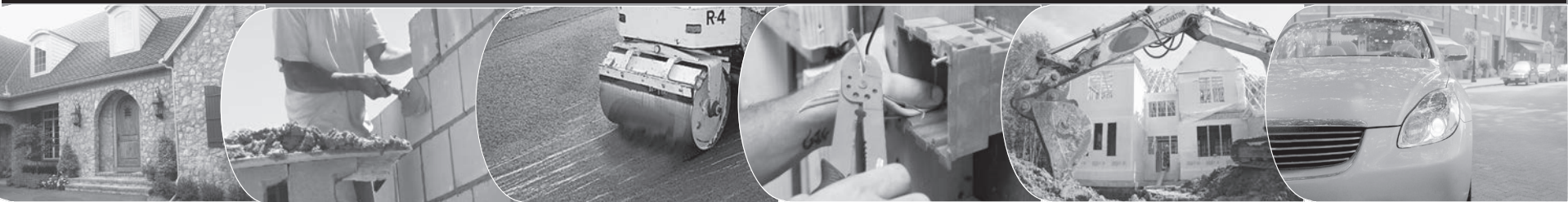
Oftentimes, it’s hard to empathize with people, until you put a face to it. If you think hard enough, you can easily think of an individual in your life who could have really benefited from an opportunity such as the one mentioned above.



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ROBILLARD

continued from page A8

they do, you expect to have the support of society. If you don't have that behind you, then who the heck in their right mind would do the job? I wish all these Democratic liberals, instead of trashing the Blue, would do something to solve the issue. Go up to the jail and work as a corrections officer. Join the police force in an inner city. I guarantee after a short while, they would be changing their tunes. Maybe Omar and Talib could pull up to a robbery and kindly ask the 13- or 14-year-old flashing their weapon to please put it away and come peacefully to jail. Maybe Tim McGovern or Maxine Waters could walk the aisle of a prison and

jump in to break up a fight between inmates by saying "Please stop this!" Maybe Sen. Marky or Warren could walk the hall and have the feces of an inmate with AIDS hurled at them. Don't bet on it. They have big mouths but no courage. Wherever they go they make sure they have adequate security, Maybe Har or Terrance could "make the world a better place" by doing one of these jobs. Don't count on it. Some people's only courage is pointing out what others are doing wrong but never doing the hard work. These people live in a fantasy land where they think everyone is respectful and nice too each one always. Human nature has equal parts good and bad. The fear of arrest is one of the only things that keeps us all in check. That is

the foundation of a safe society. I would not want to do these thankless jobs. I admit I don't have what it takes to handle that day in and day out. That's why I stand with them and back them. They are the hero's that have chosen to risk their lives to make our society safe. They deserve your support and the support of our locally elected government. Unfortunately, we know this door knob of a president is run by socialist liberals whose goal is to destroy our society. Hopefully we can make it to 2024 and get a real leader back in like Desantis or Trump to fix the stuff this idiot is breaking.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER



LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P1448EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Robert Richard Brunell
Also Known As:
Bob Brunell
Date of Death: 04/21/2021**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Debra Brunell of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Debra Brunell 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 05/25/2021**.

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: April 29, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

May 14, 2021

**A.C.78A
COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS
PROBATE COURT
20P3608PM**

To all persons interested in the estate of Patricia S. Gallant of West Brookfield in said County, person under conservatorship.

A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell – private sale– certain real estate of said Patricia S. Gallant for her maintenance. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the first day of June 2021, the return day of this citation. Witness Leilah A. Keamy, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-ninth day of April 2021.

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register

May 14 2021

**LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joanne R. Emerson to BNY Mortgage Company LLC, dated July 11, 2005 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Regis-

try of Deeds in Book 36810, Page 344 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Kondaur Capital Corporation, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of Matawin Ventures Trust Series 2020-1 is the present holder by Assignment from BNY Mortgage Company LLC to Seattle Mortgage Company dated July 8, 2005 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 36810, Page 353, and Assignment from Seattle Mortgage Company to Bank of America, N.A. dated June 28, 2007 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 41471, Page 380, and Corrective Assignment from Seattle Mortgage to Bank of America, N.A. dated March 7, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 48661, Page 248, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated November 19, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 50044, Page 10, and Assignment from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development dated September 16, 2015 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 54497, Page 293, and Assignment from The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Kondaur Capital Corporation, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of Matawin Ventures Trust Series 2020-1 dated August 19, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 63103, Page 393, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 3 Spring Street, Spencer, MA 01562 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on June 10, 2021, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon, situated on the east side of Spring Street, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of the premises to be conveyed at an iron pipe in the easterly line of said Spring Street and running N. 81° 35' E about 187 1/2 feet by land now or formerly of Alice R. Brown to land formerly of Briggs; Thence turning and running S. 16° 5' E 83.85 feet on the center line of a wall and by land formerly of said Briggs; Thence turning and running westerly by a wire fence, by land now or formerly of Edward J. and Ethel B. Talbot, 210 feet to Spring Street; Thence turning and running northerly along Spring Street, 83.85 feet to the point of beginning. Containing about 15,450 square feet of land.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 36810, Page 341.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale. Kondaur Capital Corporation, not in its

individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of Matawin Ventures Trust Series 2020-1

Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Emerson, Estate of Joanne R.,
20-037544

May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021
May 28, 2021

**Brookfield Planning Board
Notice of Public Hearing**

In accordance with M. G. L., Chapter 40A, and the provisions of the Brookfield Zoning Bylaws Section 4, Use Regulation Table, §6.1.i; Section 12, Solar Energy Systems; Section 8.C., Site Plan Approval; and Section 12.C., Special Permits; the Brookfield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on an application for a Site Plan Revision and Review and Substantive Amendment to a Special Permit originally granted in March 2019 for a Commercial Large-Scale Solar Power Generation Installation on property owned by James Evan Turner and Steven S. Skowrya, located at 0 Off Cronin Rd., Warren, 0 Long Hill District, Brookfield (with access at 452 Cronin Rd., Warren), both located in a Rural Residential District.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 via Zoom, starting at 7:30 pm or as soon thereafter as can be heard. Meeting details, agenda and how to attend remotely will be posted at www.mytowngovernment.org/meeting/5679235840606208. A copy of the application may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk at Brookfield Town Hall during normal business hours.

Sharon Mahoney, Chair
Brookfield Planning Board

May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

**Brookfield Planning Board
Notice of Public Hearing**

In accordance with M. G. L., Chapter 40A, and Brookfield Zoning Bylaws Section 4, Use Regulation Table D.3.r and Section 12.C., Special Permits; the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on an application by Christina Predella for a Special Permit for the operation of a weekly outdoor Artisan Market and Farm Stand on property located at 80 Lake Rd. in a Rural Residential District.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 via Zoom, starting at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as can be heard. Meeting details, agenda and how to attend remotely will be posted at www.mytowngovernment.org/meeting/5679235840606208. A copy of the application may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk at Brookfield Town Hall during normal business hours.

Sharon Mahoney, Chair
Brookfield Planning Board

Friday, May 14, 2021
Friday, May 21, 2021

**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: Bercome Equipment has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a Septic System located at 45 Kingsbury Road, Spencer, MA.

Brianna & Mike Dodd have filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to prune trees, remove an apple tree & build a shed at 170 Greenville Street, Spencer, MA. Wayne St. Germain has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to enlarge a deck at 40 Wilson Street, Spencer, MA. Charles Randall, Jr. has filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to repair a septic system at 3

Norcross Road, 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, May 26, 2021, at which time all persons having an interest may call in to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 7:00 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
May 14, 2021

**Town of Spencer
Tree Public Hearing**

In accordance with MGL Ch 87 §3, The Town of Spencer, MA Tree Warden will hold a public hearing by remote meeting only (Broadcast Live) on **Monday May 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.** to consider National Grid proposed removal & trimming of trees - McCormick Rd. 20 trees various sizes.

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://tinyurl.com/SpencerUFmtgRoom>
Information pertaining to these particular trees may be viewed at spencerma.gov

Ray Holmes
Tree Warden

May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

**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. WO21P1444EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:**

Michael C Falish
Date of Death: 06/19/2007

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Determination of Heirs** has been filed by **Quicken Loans LLC f/k/a Quicken of Detroit MI**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Quicken Loans LLC f/k/a Quicken of Detroit MI**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 06/01/2021**.

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: April 28, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

May 14, 2021

OBITUARIES

Philip E. Kennen, 81

SPENCER- Philip E. Kennen, 81, passed away at the Lutheran Home surrounded by his loving family on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 after a brief illness. He was the son of Clayton Winthrop and Florence(Partridge) Kennen.



He was born on March 4th, 1940 in Worcester, MA. and was raised in Leicester. Philip was a graduate of Leicester High School and attended Leicester Jr. College before he enlisted in the Air Force. After his service in the Air Force he began working at David Clark Company on the Apollo project where he was involved in the testing and constructing of the space-suits. After a brief stint at O.S. Walker in Worcester, he began working at Berlin Corp. in Shrewsbury for the remainder of his career where he had the pleasure of traveling around the world. After his retirement, he enjoyed working at Klems in Spencer for many years.

Phil met the love of his life Barbara in seventh grade in Latin class. They were married in 1963. In 1965, they

bought their forever home on beautiful Thompson Pond in Spencer, where they raised their family. Phil enjoyed every minute of the lake life with his family!

He was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Barbara (Stearns) Kennen. He leaves behind 4 children Thomas Kennen and his wife Margaret of Spencer, daughter Samantha Kennen of Provincetown, daughter Michelle E. Kennen of Spencer, son Michael Kennen "Uncle Boo" and his wife Michelle A. of Spencer; 3 grandchildren Matthew Kennen, Travis and Julieanna Tong all of Spencer, a great grandson Chace Kennen of Spencer; his siblings Marilyn "Sis" (Kennen) Flavin, Bruce Kennen of Spencer and many nieces and nephews as well as his beloved dog Shadow.

The family would like to extend their thanks to all of the staff at the VA in Boston, Harrington Cancer Center, and the Lutheran Home.

Friends and family are invited to attend calling hours on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 5-7PM in Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St Spencer. The funeral will be held on Wednesday at 11:00AM in the funeral home. Burial with military honors will be held in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen St., Suite 250, Framingham, MA 01701.

Anna Maria Hughes, 96

PAXTON- Anna Maria (Hajdukiewicz) Hughes, 96, of Paxton, died peacefully at her daughter's home, on Monday, May 3rd.



Her husband of 61 years, Lloyd D. Hughes, died in 2007. She was predeceased by her sister Julia Holub of Vienna, Austria who she was reunited with 11 years after World War II. She leaves her daughter Janine Hughes Goldberg and her husband Gary of Paxton, her granddaughters Julie Goldberg of Paxton and Ashley and her husband Jeremy Gnozzo and their children Greyson, Luca, Vivianna and Maverick of Charlotte, NC.

Anna Maria was a staff librarian at the Richard Sugden Library in Spencer for over 25 years, retiring in 2005. She was also a 35-year member and past Chairman of the Spencer Historical

Commission. During her tenure on the Commission, she was instrumental in placing many of the town's properties on the National Register of Historic Places. She was awarded the Town's Meritorious Service Award by the Board of Selectmen in 2006, commemorating her 35 years of dedicated service to the community.

She was born in Lithuania, the daughter of Witold and Julia (Boldok) Hajdukiewicz and lived in Spencer from 1955 to 2014 after meeting the love of her life and marrying him on February 14, 1946 in Hersbruck, Germany. Anna Maria lived a long and fulfilling life and will be greatly missed.

Private funeral services and burial were held in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to TriValley, Inc., 10 Mill St., Dudley, MA 01571. The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., is directing arrangements for the family. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Dr. Joseph E. Zegarra, 84

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Dr. Joseph E. Zegarra, 84, of North Brookfield died in the arms of his beloved wife "Pattie," on Friday, May 7, 2021.



Joseph leaves his wife, Patricia Zegarra, his sons John Hanlan and David Hanlan, his daughters Julia and Susan, his sister, Katherine de la Pena Zegarra, and nine grandchildren. His other son Michael Hanlan predeceased him in 1991.

Joseph traveled extensively with his parents Letha and Edmund Zegarra. They lived in several states as well as Peru (where he was born), Panama, Greece, and Cuba. Thus grew his love for travel and great interest in history. He was also an avid reader and enjoyed a good round of golf with friends, especially on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina with Ed Motrucinski.

Joseph had a long career in education after graduating from Earlham College and serving his country in the United States Army Intelligence Corps. He received his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Ball State University.

His professional experience started as an instructor in Marion, Indiana. Joe went on to be a professor at Ball State University before moving to Massachusetts and becoming a professor at Worcester State College where he met and later married his wife. They moved on to Dudley where he became the Director of Continuing Education at Nichols College. However, his favorite job was after retirement when he became a costumed interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village.

Joe was also a member and past clerk of Worcester Friends Quaker Meeting where he followed his faith and belief that "there is that light of God in everyone." He was a loving, peaceful, humble, and generous man to all who knew him. Joe will be greatly missed.

Calling hours for Joe will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 from 2 to 4PM in the Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Joseph's name may be made to the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com



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A fisherman's paradise



Photos Courtesy

Six-year-old Katelyn with her prize-winning derby fish at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club.



Riley & Emma Palmer and Savannah Beals enjoyed their day at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club last week. It seems as though most youngsters caught trout. They were not all monster trout, but the youngsters all had a good time.

Living in New England is a sportsman's paradise. The three seasons provide hunting & fishing opportunities that are hard to match anywhere in the country. We also rarely see violent storms like they encounter out West on a yearly basis. The big storms upset residents for years in other parts of the United States. A few windstorms that we encounter on an annual basis are nothing like those in other parts on the country. We have had a lot of wind lately, keeping charter boats and private fishing vessels tied up at the dock.

For those that brave the elements like rough seas, fishing has been very good. Cod and haddock fishing has been great on most days on the North



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Right Whales

A local angler took his 30-foot boat out to Stellwagen Bank last week which took him slightly over 4 hours to get to his destination. He reported close to 40 commercial draggers in the area and decided to fish in 250 feet of water to stay away from the commercial fleet. They managed to catch their limits of 15 haddock, and one cod apiece. Reeling fish to the surface from that depth had an adverse effect on the survival of undersize fish. One angler reported that the eyes of the fish were popping out of there head because of the pressure change. Cod also have their bladder pop, but most boat captains take a small needle which is inserted into the bladder, releasing the air before they are tossed back into the ocean.

There are sure to die and become crab bait if simple precautions are not taken. Haddock are more likely to die trying to return to the bottom of the ocean.

What a waste of fish. Allowing anglers to catch and keep all cod and haddock up to 16 fish per day would sound a lot more sensible. With that many draggers working one area like Stellwagen, the fish population is sure to crash again after sportsmen were limited to catching haddock and cod for many years hoping to rebuild fish stocks. Numerous wolf fish were also caught and released, as they too are restricted species to retain.

Porgies are also starting to enter coastal waters which will soon be followed by striped bass. Unfortunately, stripers now have strict regulations on them allowing rod & reel anglers one fish daily and only stripers in the 28-inch to 36-inch length to be retained. It is known as the slot size. Again, this year, all striper fishing with bait, requires anglers to use circle hooks only. The circle hooks do help in hooking the fish in the mouth most of the time, but also cause a lot of misses when the bait is ingested and the hook pulls out.

Anglers need to remember not to set the hook but rather to just start reeling the fish in. It gives the hook the chance to pull into the mouth area and become set as the hook slowly turns and finds its mark. It does work, but many anglers like to set the hook themselves, ensuring a good hook up. Mass. fish biologists agree that a lot of released fish will die after being released, but still feel it is better to use circle hooks to minimize killing fish. Photo ops of large stripers before they are released, also



Pete Walker with a four-and-a-half-pound brown trout caught at Ashland Reservoir last week.

need to be done in a matter of minutes to ensure the fishes survival.

Wild Turkey hunting has been great so far with many big toms being harvested locally. The birds became extremely vocal last week as the big toms go in search of a hen. Many hens are on their nest by now, so funding a new chick to hang around with is becoming harder to find. Turkey hunting ends on May 22 in Massachusetts!

The Singletary Rod & Gun Club will hold their annual Kids fishing Derby May 16 , this Sunday, starting at 8 a.m. The derby will end at 11 a.m. The club pond was stocked with trout prior to the event. As the Pandemic continues on a downward trend, more and more events by area clubs are being planned,

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POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28
1:39 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 5:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), missing dog; 8:15 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Streety), speeding/school zone; 10:02 a.m.: restraining order service (Pearl Street); 10:12 a.m.: lost/found (Mechanic Street), debit card found; 10:15 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 10:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), req. help w/ flag; 10:53 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:57 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), services rendered; 11:03 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), re: expired inspection sticker; 11:27 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street) truck losing load; 12:48 p.m.: animal complaint (Fourth Avenue), loose dog; 1:07 p.m.: suspicious persons (Old Farm Road), investigated; 4:27 p.m.: mv lock-out (Maple Street), assisted; 4:33 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (McCormick Road), unattended camp fire; 5:25 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bixby Road), open line; 6:16 p.m.: medical/dental (West Main Street); 7:55 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:01 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unruly male; 10:45 p.m.: mv reposessed (Howe Village), info taken; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

THURSDAY, APRIL 29
1:02 a.m.: accident (Laurel Lane), report taken; 9:02 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:23 a.m.: mv complaint (Bixby Road), speeding; 11:25 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 11:52 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 1:24 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:21 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 4:07 p.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), unauth. use of dumpster; 5:10 p.m.: mv theft (West Main Street), lost/stolen plate; 6:55 p.m.: fraud (Wire Village Road), burial insurance scam; 7:39 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:15 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), custody issue; 9:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), family issue; 10:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Deer Run Road), investigated; 11:00 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 11:30 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); (Total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, APRIL 30
2:32 a.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 10:07 a.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 10:14 a.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 12:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Grant Street), illegal burn; 12:52 p.m.: restraining order service (Valley Street); 1:16 p.m.: medical/general (Gold Nugget Road); 1:43 p.m.: restraining order service (Cherry Street); 1:54 p.m.: medical/general (Rene Drive); 2:22 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:43 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Temple Street); 2:46 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lambs Grove), no contact; 2:55 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Clark Road); 3:02 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), being followed; 4:02 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Thompson Pond Road), brush fire; 4:11 p.m.: vandalism (Donnelly Road), att. theft/catalytic converter; 4:41 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:00 p.m.: mutual aid (G.H. Wilson Road), officer assistance; 5:11 p.m.: DPW call (McCormick Road), tree down; 7:06 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), neighbor issue; 7:31 p.m.: officer want-

ed (Browning Pond Road), kayak w/ no kayaker; 7:41 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Wire Village Road), misdial; 8:06 p.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/run; 8:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Wilson Avenue), open line; 9:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), tenant issue; 9:04 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

SATURDAY, MAY 1
12:41 a.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), domestic dispute; 3:43 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:14 a.m.: mutual aid (Route 49), poss. domestic dispute; sometime between 8:00-10:08 a.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police report; 10:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), abandoned mv; 11:15 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:18 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), protester in intersection; 12:46 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 2:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadowbrook Road), bear in area; 3:32 p.m.: RV complaint (South Spencer Road), assist East Brookfield PD/Flagg Road; 3:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Kittredge Road), multiple gunshots heard; 4:19 p.m.: lost/found (Hastings Road), keys found; 4:31 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Longview Drive), no emergency; 6:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 7:25 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

SUNDAY, MAY 2
12:38 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:07 a.m.: mutual aid (Greenville Street), accident in Leicester; 2:47 a.m.: medical/general (Norcross Road); 6:32 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), dead deer/roadside; 8:43 a.m.: 911 call (Donnelly Road), no contact; 10:21 a.m.: 911 call (Mechanic Street), accidental; 10:45 a.m.: suspicious persons (Meadow Road), investigated; 11:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), req. assistance/sick daughter; 12:07 p.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/run; 12:11 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 12:31 p.m.: residential alarm (North Brookfield Road), services rendered; 12:34 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Spencer Road), accidental; 1:27 p.m.: juvenile matter (Maple Street), family issue; 1:41 p.m.: illegal dumping (Hastings Road), investigated; 2:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 2:16 a.m.: 911 call (Holmes Street), accidental; 7:02 p.m.: disturbance (North Spencer Road), accident/disturbance; 7:04 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), spoken to; 7:49 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Mechanic Street), no contact; 8:19-8:23 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:20 p.m.: parking violation (High Street), ticket issued; 11:33 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bixby Road), accidental; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

MONDAY, MAY 3
6:44 a.m.: disturbance (Church Street), unwanted parties; 6:59 a.m.: parking complaint (Chestnut Street), mvs in bus stop; 8:04 a.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), animal in bldg.; 8:49 a.m.: restraining order service (Langevin Street); 9:14 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), lg. potholes; 10:06 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 10:31 a.m.: building checked, secure; 10:31 a.m.: fire alarm (Pope Street), referred; 1:29 p.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), loose dog; 1:37 p.m.: 911 call (Valley Street), late entry/no emergency; 2:20 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), aggressive driver; 2:21 p.m.: parking complaint (Chestnut Street), blocking

stop sign; 2:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 2:56 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), misdial; 3:41 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:56 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), debris in road; 4:19 p.m.: warrant service (Cherry Street), Sean Patrick Curran, 39, 99 Cherry Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 4:53 p.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 5:53 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:02 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 8:23 p.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 8:43-9:18 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:43 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), child w/phone; 10:09 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:58 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; (Total daily mv stops – 6).

TUESDAY, MAY 4
2:25 a.m.: suspicious persons (R. Jones Road), investigated; 8:06 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 11:02 a.m.: medical/general (Vine Street); 11:05 a.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), unsafe driver; 12:58 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 1:00 p.m.: lost/found (Adams Street), ear pods missing; 1:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), info given; 1:22 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), runaway; 2:27 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Temple Street), possum in closet; 2:48 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: harbormaster; 3:45 p.m.: suspicious person (Vine Avenue), investigated; 6:07 p.m.: mv complaint (Bixby Road), speeding; 6:27 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 8:17 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 8:29 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 8:55 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), tailgating; 8:57 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:16 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), neighbor issues; 9:45 p.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); (Total daily mv stops – 3).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, APRIL 29
6:09 a.m.: breaking/entering (River Street), spoken to; 8:29 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:47 a.m.: malicious mischief (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 10:48 a.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 2:29 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), field interrogation.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30
7:16 a.m.: ambulance (Chandler Street, Worcester), transported; 7:18 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 11:06 a.m.: debris in road (Towtaid Street), removed; 3:29 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 4:13 p.m.: investigation (Salminen Drive), services rendered; 5:33 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:29 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 9:19 p.m.: hazardous condition (Auburn Street), rem. hazard; 9:36 p.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), no action required.

SATURDAY, MAY 1
12:19 a.m.: runaway (Charles Street), report taken; 2:28 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), gone on arrival; 3:48 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), Maurice Levert Rogers, 33, 392 Main Street, #2, Leicester, vandalizing prop-

erty, arrest; 12:43 p.m.: family problem (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 12:50 p.m.: larceny (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 3:14 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 3:57 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 4:31 p.m.: mv stop (Whittemore Street), name and address redacted from police log, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv, no inspection sticker, mv towed; 5:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street) written warning; 6:06 p.m.: assist citizen (Leela Lane), services rendered; 6:17 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Jose A. Cepeda, 54, 23 Orne Street, Worcester, shoplifting by asportation/3rd offense, op w/ suspended license, failure to stop for police, failure to stop/yield, negligent operation, failure to appear upon recognizance, straight warrant, arrest; 7:16 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 8:10 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Ryen Thomas O'Connor, 32, Main Street, Worcester, shoplifting by asportation, arrest; Gabriel Medina-Rodriguez, 20, 280 Purchase Street, Milford, shoplifting by asportation, arrest.

SUNDAY, MAY 2
4:54 a.m.: disturbance (Salminen Drive), transported; 12:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 1:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:48 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), gone on arrival; 4:18 p.m.: residential alarm (Felix Street), false alarm; 9:02 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, MAY 3
8:24 a.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 9:25 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 11:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:25 p.m.: fraud (Henshaw Street), report taken; 1:39 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 2:30 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), message delivered; 3:57 p.m.: residential alarm (Pine Street), false alarm; 4:15 p.m.: summons service (Lexington Avenue), served; 5:22 p.m.: fraud (Siani Road), report taken; 5:56 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), served; 8:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, MAY 4
10:16 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 10:49 a.m.: family problem (Sabina Circle), spoken to; 12:26 p.m.: fraud (Brookside Drove), spoken to; 1:33 p.m.: fraud (Crestwood Drive), spoken to; 1:58 p.m.: assist other agency (Clark Road), services rendered; 2:03 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), spoken to; 2:56 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), no action required; 3:05 p.m.: keep the peace (Auburn Street), services rendered; 4:16 p.m.: disturbance (Pine Street), peace restored; 5:18 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 6:07 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), spoken to; 7:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Auburn Street), report taken; 8:30 p.m.: welfare check (Mulberry Street), spoken to.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5
12:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 6:10 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), no action required; 9:55 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:56 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), unable to locate; 10:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued.

The crossing from poor country to here

I always try to make sure my column has a point to it. I want to share a life lesson and encourage readers to live an optimistic and positive life. As for this column, I really don't know what the point is, other than I'm missing my mom and dad now ... and decided to write about them. I hope you'll allow me just this once.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

May I?
My dad grew up in the coal mining area of deep southern Illinois. If you asked my dad what nationality we were, he'd usually laugh, then respond, "Hillbilly." My mom was from Sands Springs, Oklahoma. When asked the same question, Mom would say, "Okie."

As such, they lived their newly married years bringing their culture with them to their new northern Illinois home. I remember early in my life, eating lots of squirrel, rabbit, and catfish. I remember a neighbor asking my dad in disbelief about eating squirrel, to which he answered, "When you catch a squirrel, it's like being given a free chicken."

I look back and realize two things. 1. It was part of my parents' culture, and 2. It was an economic issue. My mom would fry squirrel just like chicken and it was delicious. I loved it. The rabbit was usually made into a soup or stew and the catfish fried in cornmeal.

I realize many of you are grossed out while a few may have some of the same early memories. When you were born into the Great Depression as both of my parents were, I think you ate what was available and were grateful.

Today, I look at my kids, nieces and nephews and realize they'll be shocked to believe their dad and uncle ate squirrel ... and I did. Mom breaded the squirrel and fried it like chicken in an old cast iron skillet. After removing the squirrel, she'd make a milk gravy that we'd pour over the squirrel and fried potatoes. It was delicious.

I guess if tuna can be labeled "Chicken of the Sea," squirrel can be labeled "Chicken of the Tree's." And I'd choose fried squirrel over tuna anytime.

My mom and dad are both gone but their lives and culture still course through our veins. I was born in Kankakee County, but I still feel as though the little coal mining town of Sesser, Illinois is home. There is a world of difference between where I live now in a growing suburban area, but when back in Sesser, I'm immediately transported back, unconsciously using the dialect and accent of the area.

While on a book tour a few years ago, the route took me near Sand Springs,

Oklahoma and I stopped at the family cemetery to see my two oldest brothers. Once again, even though I had not been there in forty years, it immediately felt like home in ways my real birthplace never has.

The older I get, the more I yearn to relive my early days. To be scrambling up and down the streets of Sesser. To run past Caesar Marlow's Bar and hear the voice inside yell, "Hey, aren't you Gene Moore's boy?" I'd stop and walk in. Someone would buy me a kiddie cocktail and start telling me stories about my dad and his baseball career. Getting up before the sun with my grandfather to go to the barn and get a bucket of coal for the furnace was an early morning joy. And yes, eating squirrel. The son of a Hillbilly and Okie is who I am, and I could not be prouder.

Our family prospered in an adopted life in the suburban north and our cuisine changed along with it. One thing that never changed was country music on the weekends and WSM Radio and the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights.

I moved to Chicago and received a degree in music education. And for a while, I turned my nose up to the music of my youth, but now it's back in my life and I love it. The food and music are permanent threads in the fabric of our family. Over Memorial Day weekend when we all get together, just open

your car window and follow the sounds of Merle Haggard, George Jones, Ray Price and Dwight Yoakum ... and point your nose to the smell of Barbecue Ribs. There you'll find the kids and grand-kids of a Hillbilly and Okie, celebrating our family and heritage ... without the squirrel.

My mom and dad were far from perfect people. At times, I think I may have been unfairly critical of their lives and parenting skills. The truth is they loved us and did the best they knew how. I was never hungry or without clothes. Their children all turned out well and successful. Their grand kids and great grand kids are wonderful. I'd say all-in-all mom and dad raised a successful family. They never left us and always loved us. I wish they were here so I could thank them.

As the saying goes, "What is remembered, lives." I guess I not only want my parents remembered in our family, but I also wanted you to know them too.

And besides ... no one could fry squirrel like my mom.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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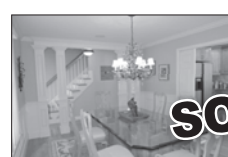
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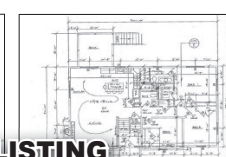
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SOLD



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DUDLEY - 12 Susan Drive! Ideal 7 Rm Split! Beautifully Landscaped 18,615' Lot including a Heated In-Ground Pool w/Pool House! Fully Appliance Kitchen w/Corian Counters, Island, Hrdwd Floor & Door to the Deck! Dining Rm w/Hrdwds & Slider to Deck overlooking the Pool! Living Rm w/Bay Window, Brick Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert & Fujitsu Wall Mount A/C Split Unit! 3 Comfortable Bdrms all w/Double Closets, Spacious 12x16' Master! Hallway Full Bathrm w/Skylight & Door to the Master! Lower Level 13x24' Family Rm w/Recessed Lighting! Convenient Half Bath! 2 Car Heated Garage! Many 2018 Updates - Roof, Siding, Windows, Buderus Furnace, Hot Water Super Store, Oil Tank & Pool Liner! Out Back a Garden Area & Storage Shed! Town Services! Won't Last! **\$339,000.00**

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Median Price	\$332,000	\$375,000	▲
Market Volume	\$4,846,200	\$5,431,500	▲
# of Homes Sold	13	13	►
Avg Days on Market	23	36	▲
Month Supply Inv.	1.00	.44	▼

WEBSTER

	April 2020	April 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$258,500	\$342,500	▲
Market Volume	\$2,856,325	\$6,070,650	▲
# of Homes Sold	15	10	▼
Avg Days on Market	53	21	▼
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A. 2 11 16 12
Clue: Strong emotion

B. 9 11 5 17 12 13
Clue: Female parent

C. 15 24 26 5 23
Clue: Presents

D. 23 3 12 18 24 21 2
Clue: Beyond ordinary

Answers: A. love B. mother C. gifts D. special

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Ability to be bonded.

Please see full job description for complete list of qualifications and responsibilities. Salary: \$24.85 - \$26.76/hr depending on qualifications. Please apply online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources> no later than May 13, 2021

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Submit application letter, resume and standard Town application form, available at www.spencerma.gov to Town of Spencer, Human Resources Department, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562. Open until filled. Reviews begin immediately. Subject to Union Rules and Regulations.

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BEDARD
continued from page A1

911 dispatch operations in area communities, the town's police phone was located in the Bedards' home. All calls – day or night, emergency or routine – came to that phone line, with Joan Bedard often answering and relaying information.

Joan also established her own private school, Happy Day Kindergarten. She rented a room at Hodgkins School, and the cost of kindergarten to parents was \$1 per day. She was known for baking cupcakes for each child's birthday, and she helped countless local students get

ELECTION
continued from page A1

Native American mascots and nicknames by any school, organization, or sports franchise.

Members of the public also had an opportunity to speak remotely on Nov. 16 or submit written comments to the committee. School leaders remain firmly supportive of the process and the decision that was reached.

"The School Committee had a thorough process of gathering information and feedback on the issue. They held a hearing in November and made a thoughtful decision based on that information," said North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Richard Lind. "I understand this is a highly emotional issue for many people, and many may be disappointed with the decision of the School Committee. However, the School Committee and staff's role is to create an environment that is safe for all members of our community. It is clear from the research and the feedback from the Native American panel that spoke at the hearing that indicated these nicknames, logos, and mascots do not create a safe environment for all students, staff, families, and visitors. The research indicates these nicknames and mascots actually hurt Native people, particularly young people, and also cause harm to non-native people."

During the Nov. 16 remote public meeting, many Native American speakers discussed stereotypes and the harm they believe certain nicknames and logos cause. Several other schools throughout the state and New England have also recently done away with Native American nicknames.

"Native American tribes across Massachusetts, including the Nipmuc Nation, have issued official statements calling for the end to this practice," added Superintendent Lind. "North Brookfield is a strong community, and that strength comes from the people, not a nickname. Based on all of this, I support the School Committee's decision to retire the Indian nickname and logo."

In recent months, several residents elected to convey their frustrations with the School Committee's decision

PARK
continued from page A1

benches that were funded by town residents and groups, the park is the perfect spot to take in a warm spring day.

The park's creation was spearheaded by Selectman John Tripp, who put in countless hours of volunteer work. He even performed the electrical work to get the front sign working; it now displays the upcoming weather and municipal informational items to passing drivers.

"John did an excellent job of organizing this," said Police Chief Mark Smith. "The project was phenomenal. This is something everyone in town can use and enjoy."

Tripp was assisted in the project by a long list of donors who contributed time, money, or supplies. Each bench has a specialized plaque recognizing the individual, group, or business that funded it. One bench was funded by the police department, with others purchased by local families and businesses.

Multiple area businesses also donated supplies, including East Brookfield's Howe Lumber and also Spencer-based Bond Sand, Gravel, and Asphalt.

"This town always comes together when there is a need," Selectman Tripp said. "People want to do whatever they can to help out."

The tree located at the center of the park was donated by Town Clerk Tara

a strong start in education.

"You helped instill a love of education in them. You had a tremendous impact on their lives," Sen. Anne Gobi told Bedard during the ceremony.

In her recent memoir, "All Ya Need is Love," Bedard wrote about how the power of family, friends, and an appreciation for humorous moments can help immensely in life's most trying times. Over the last near-century, Bedard has endured no shortage of hardship – the Great Depression; the deaths of family members and friends; the struggle to find the right words of support after her husband responded to distressing emergency calls on the job; and most

directly to selectmen. These residents included NBJSHS alumni members who were concerned about the effects on school traditions and history.

"We have a lot of alumni in town who played for the Indians. They told us there were never any negative connotations. The mascot is a symbol of pride for the town," Kiley added.

Following the decision to retire the nickname, school officials assembled a Rebranding Committee comprised of school staff members; parents and guardians; students; and community leaders. The school department is also working with HEARD Strategy, a locally based marketing company that offered to perform consulting services at no cost to the district. The owner of HEARD Strategy, Jake Messier, graduated from NBJSHS in 1989.

In late March, the Rebranding Committee shared a survey with the community to receive feedback on the top six suggested new mascots. Based on survey results and the first draft of mascot images from HEARD Strategy, the committee has narrowed down the top six choices to two final mascots.

"In the next few days, HEARD Strategy will be sharing the final versions of the two mascots with the committee," said Jeanne Powers, the district's Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. "The committee plans to send another survey out to students, faculty/staff, parents/guardians, and the greater North Brookfield community very soon to weigh in on which of the two mascots people prefer. Following this survey, we will work with HEARD Strategy to finalize the selected mascot and moniker to include the school colors and town name."

By the end of the month or early June at the latest, the committee plans to present the final mascot to Superintendent Lind for his approval. The mascot must then go before the School Committee for final approval.

Also at last week's election, incumbent School Committee member Elisabeth Melad (287 votes) was defeated by Christie Omasta (328 votes) and Ronald Ryel (325 votes). Two School Committee seats were available.

Voter turnout for the election was 17 percent.

Hayes in memory of her son, James "Jamie" Perry (1983-94). The tree will be lit each December as part of a Christmas program.

Although the park doesn't have an official name, it has become known to many residents as the Corner Park. Because of the hard work of officials and numerous community contributors, the park required no town funding.

Last Sunday, May 2, multiple town officials and residents came out to enjoy the park. They have been thrilled by the constant improvements, including the installation of a walkway and plants.

The following individuals, businesses, and families are thanked for their contributions to the park: John and Mindy Tripp; Dale and Karen Kiley; Jason and Michelle Petraitis; Bond Sand and Gravel; Fred Smith Trucking; Techo-Bloc; Brian and Tara Hayes; Pizza Palace; Brandon Avery; Tina Floria; Troy Brown Electric; Ernie Grimes; Rich Goodell; Paul Hargraves; Sharon Donovan; Richard Lee; Skip Carlson; Bob Banthin; North Brookfield Liquor Store; John and Carol Hawkins; Jim and Lisa Grace; the North Brookfield Police Department; the North Brookfield Highway Department; Dennis and Carol Kelley; Jeff and Holly Smith; Alex Tripp; Jason Benoit; Howe Lumber; and John Murphy, among several others.

recently the COVID-19 pandemic – but through it all she has lived by the words comprising the title of her book. And in the process she has set an example that continues to inspire her community.

On May 2, after spending much of the last year away from many friends during the pandemic, Bedard's Boston Post Cane ceremony was far more than a celebration. It was a reunion.

"It is a special honor for us to present this cane to you," said departing Selectman Ted Boulay, a longtime friend of Bedard and her family.

Bedard was also joined by multiple family members at the ceremony. She has five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

In her later years, Bedard has been active with the town's Historical Commission, Council on Aging, and Senior Center. She also served as an election worker in town.

At the May 2 ceremony, Bedard talked about the thrill of getting back out into the community more regularly. Many seniors have been isolated over the last year-plus, but they are looking forward to reconnecting at Senior Center events over the summer.

Before the pandemic hit, Bedard was a daily attendee at the Senior Center, where she loved taking part in card

SHOOTING
continued from page A1

thoughts and prayers go out to everybody involved in this incident. More information will be provided as it becomes available."

The front entrance to the police station features two steel doors that open outward. The suspect accessed the station with his vehicle by pulling up the handicapped entrance ramp leading to the building, police said.

"Almost the entire vehicle was into the lobby," Chief Antanavica said.

Richardson was known to the Leicester Police from at least one previous incident, Early confirmed. He had a pending traffic-related case in East Brookfield District Court, with a court date set for June 1.

Officials said surveillance video of the incident will not be released until

games and other activities.

Last weekend, surrounded by her friends and family, Bedard felt right back at home at the Senior Center.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to be here," Bedard told guests. "Half of the hall is filled with my great-grandchildren. My family and friends are a treasure."

Added Bedard, "I have made a lot of friends at the Senior Center. It is a wonderful place for seniors to spend their day."

The Boston Post Cane tradition began in the nineteenth century, when gold-headed canes were given to the eldest citizens of each town by the leading newspaper of the time, The Boston Post.

Because East Brookfield was incorporated as a town after the original Boston Post Cane, and countless congratulatory wishes, Auntie Joan has plenty of unforgettable memories from her big day.

From all of us at the New Leader, congratulations to Joan Bedard on receiving the Boston Post Cane.

later in the investigation. Early did not provide further details on the suspect's weapon that was described as appearing to be a rifle.

"We're very fortunate that no one else was hurt," Early said. "The police have a hard, hard job – at six in the morning, you're staring at what appears to be a rifle as you show up to the scene."

Per police department policy, the two officers involved in the incident were automatically placed on administrative leave, pending an investigation. The State Police will lead the investigation.

Leicester's police station has not been open to the public since the regional dispatch agreement was signed with Worcester. The agreement freed up funds to hire additional officers with the savings realized by removing the cost of dispatch from the police budget. However, the removal of town dispatch personnel caused the building to be closed to the public, officials said.



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Memorial Day Remembrances

In the Spencer New Leader

Deadline Friday, May 21st @ Noon, Publish Date May 28th
Send us a deceased Veteran or loved one's photo, with a special message to be published on a special Memorial Day page in the May 20th edition of the Spencer New Leader.

John Smith

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We will return all photos. Please write your name and address on the back of the photo.

Let's remember those who sacrificed so much for our freedom and all of our departed loved ones.

God Bless America.



StonebridgePress.com

News, really close to home

TRUE
continued from page A14

as well as monthly meetings are also being held at the club, thanks to all nurses, doctors and hospital personnel that put their lives on the line caring for the sick. Thank you!

Numerous clubs are now planning their annual field days, and the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club is planning an old fashion clambake July 17. Tickets

are now on sale and are going fast. The club is open every weekend, or you can call to reserve your tickets.

More information on a new access road to Harrington's pool was received last week from a reliable source. The new road will be built with an access from the Uxbridge side. All plans are scrapped for any access off of Quaker Street! Please contact your state senators and state representatives to ensure that they are on board for building the new access road to this popular fishing and swimming hole. It is long overdue!

Katelyn Stacey was the winner in the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club fishing derby with an 18-inch rainbow trout. The six-year-old young lady was excited as this week's picture shows. Nice fish! More than 30 youngsters attended the event.

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