



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

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, April 2, 2021



Photo Courtesy
East Brookfield Elementary School teacher Christine Lavin was selected as the American Legion Post 138's Educator of the Year.

EBES teacher named Legion's Educator of the Year

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD – Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District officials were thrilled to announce that Christine Lavin was named as American Legion Post 138's Educator of the Year.

Lavin, a fifth and sixth grade math teacher at East Brookfield Elementary School, was selected for the John Mulkern Educator of the Year award by American Legion Gaudette-Kirk Post 138.

"Chrissy goes far above and beyond her responsibilities as a fifth and sixth grade math teacher in the East Brookfield Elementary School," read a statement released by Post 138. "Her math teaching efforts have consistently kept her stu-

dents performing in the top 20 percent on state achievement tests, but it's her extra efforts to ensure that all students, their families, the school staff, and the community at large thrive in a welcoming and supportive community that we are recognizing her for this award."

Whereas most teachers spend nights and weekends away from school, Lavin's commitment to her students extends far beyond the final bell. Each year, she helps organize the sixth grade trip to Washington D.C., which students look forward to throughout their journeys at EBES. The trip includes visits to several monuments, museums, government buildings, and institutions – and

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Leicester students to perform at Central District band festival

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Four accomplished student-musicians are eager to represent Leicester as members of this year's Junior Central District Band.

The Central District of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association hosts annual festivals for band, chorus, and orchestra students. Each member must proceed through a challenging audition process, and only the most skilled young musicians are accepted into the band each year.

At the 2021 auditions, Leicester students Jillian Morrison, Gabrielle Pietri, Ryan Delage, and Lorenzo Francis were accepted from a strong field of talent.



Photos Courtesy
Leicester students Ryan Delage and Lorenzo Francis were selected to represent their town on the Junior Central District Band. Also selected were students Jillian Morrison and Gabrielle Pietri, both of Leicester.

Morrison, a freshman clarinetist, returns to the band for the third straight year. Fellow freshman Gabrielle Pietri (flute) and eighth grader Ryan Delage (mallet percussion) were both selected for the second consecutive year. Eighth grade trumpet player Lorenzo Francis was also excited to join the band.

For Leicester school officials, it means a lot to see increased student success in the band.

"Leicester Music has seen an uptick in student-musicians accepted into the annual festival," said Kristina Looney, a music teacher at Leicester Middle School.

In 2019, two students from LMS were accepted into the band festival, marking the first time the school was represent-

ed at the event since 2003. Last year, three Leicester students were accepted, and the town is now up to four musicians participating in the Junior Central District Band.

For the first time, ninth grade students were invited to audition for the junior festival this year. The pandemic presented significant challenges, but the young musicians were up to the task.

"Due to COVID-19, auditions were held virtually, putting even more responsibility on students to record a video audition," Looney said.

The students are looking forward to participating in an online clinic set for May 1. Even

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FMPC seeks public input on capital project plan

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – The town's Financial Management Planning Committee (FMPC) has reached out to residents this spring to determine their priorities for upcoming projects.

Back in 2019, the FMPC asked all Spencer department heads to fill out a form identifying various needs to be addressed over the next five years, including personnel needs, capital items, buildings, and infrastructure. After reviewing the documentation, FMPC members met with each department head to ask questions and identify priorities.

The next step in the process is determining whether residents' priorities are in alignment with those of department heads. An online survey was released last month, providing residents with the opportunity to list their priorities for future projects.

After the survey results are reviewed, the process will eventually include public forums and hearings to present findings and elicit additional feedback.

The ultimate goal for officials is to create a five-year

to ten-year financial plan for Spencer. Residents' feedback in the survey and during upcoming meetings will play a critical role in shaping the plan.

"The committee is evaluating the town's financial situation and looking at current services and staffing levels," said Spencer Selectman Tony Pepe, who serves as a member of the FMPC. "The survey was created to see how residents feel about certain financial items and staffing levels."

The long-term goal is to not only identify residents' priorities, but also how they would like to see future projects funded, officials said.

"We want to see what the town's priorities are moving forward and their willingness to fund them," Pepe added.

Among other questions, the online survey lists several town needs and asks respondents how they view their level of importance. These needs include a full-time town accountant; three full-time police officers; an increase in the Council on Aging director's hours; a full-time compost coordinator at the transfer station; a restoration of evening and Saturday hours at the

library; the hiring of a full-time Parks and Recreation director, as well as two part-time workers; and the addition of both a full-time firefighter and a part-time firefighter.

The survey also asks respondents about their preferences in payment options, including debt exclusions; the creation of a permanent building repair and maintenance account; the creation of an annual building needs debt exclusion; and an override for the purpose of funding critical items.

Finally, the survey gauges residents' preferences in funding the following projects that cannot be covered by existing operating expenses. These projects would require debt exclusions or overrides: school building maintenance needs; a Council on Aging building; a David Prouty High School athletic field renovation; a Luther Hill Park pavilion; and Highway Department garage renovations, among others.

The survey can be accessed by visiting the town Web site: www.SpencerMa.gov.

All survey responses and responders will be kept anonymous. Information will be announced soon on the public hearing schedule.

Vaccination clinic held for school staff at DPHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Students, teachers, and staff members in the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District didn't have to go far to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

On March 15, a vaccine clinic was held at David Prouty High School. Thanks to a partnership between the school district, the Rutland-based regional vaccination program, and Spencer Fire and Emergency Services, students and staff members were able to receive the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

A vaccine schedule was created for each school in the district, with specific times allocated for faculty members, staff, students, and volunteers to sign up for their vaccination appointments. With public schools statewide expected to return this month for fully in-person learning, SEBRSD officials wanted to ensure that all members of the school community had an opportunity to be vaccinated.



Photo Courtesy
A vaccine clinic was held for the school community last month at David Prouty High School.

"This vaccine clinic happened thanks to our strong school and community partnerships," said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. "We are very fortunate to

Turn To **VACCINATION** page **A6**

Growing your own salad

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Like salads? Don't buy them; grow your own.

That was the simple message from last week's installment of the ongoing regional library gardening series, formally sponsored this time by Charlton.

"The reason markets sell [certain kinds of] food is not because they taste the best, but because they travel best across the country," noted Kathleen Donovan of Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens. Typically, as many people know, vegetables in stores taste bland at best and come in limited varieties. But there are hundreds, sometimes thousands, of varieties of such common foods as tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce that can appeal to a wide range of tastes, textures, uses and even color palettes.

Donovan began with the often under-appreciated lettuce, which is actually a member of the daisy family. It "comes up like a weed" and has "glorious shapes and textures" far beyond the relatively non-nutritious iceberg type. She noted it has lots of fiber, vitamin C and beta carotenes, and some types have a "whitish, milky fluid" when fresh cut that helps sleep.

Lettuce comes in two major types – loose-leaf and head lettuce. The former grows faster (about 50 days to maturity), is "much easier to grow in the garden," and leaves can be picked and eaten throughout the season without stopping growth. Heads generally take about 80 days and can only be picked once, she said.

"Lettuce likes the cold" and is thus the first of the three to be planted (in early April; frost won't harm its seeds).

If you plant right, with tomatoes and cucumbers, peas, or other crops (especially trellised ones) shading the lettuce, when summer heat comes, the lettuce will last longer before it becomes bitter and goes to seed. Likewise, it can be protected by growing it in a container because it "only needs about five inches of soil," she said.

"Succession planting is the key to growing lettuce," Donovan said. Planting different kinds "every two or three weeks will give you a steady supply" well into fall.

Cucumbers are also pretty easy, but can be a little quirky. They're in the squash family, and most squashes can cross-pollinate. That makes seeds hard to save – they'll often be viable, in that you will get something the following year, but you won't necessarily know what it will be. Some crosses aren't edible, and some aren't viable. That's not an issue the first year; what you plant is what you'll get.

With cucumbers, there are "hundreds and hundreds of varieties." Donovan said they grow particularly well on trellises, where "you've got gravity working for you." The vines climb up the trellis and the cukes hang down through the lattice. But you want to trim the growing tips off at six to eight feet long; "Plants don't multitask well. Either they grow long, or they produce fruit for you," she said.

Like all squashes, cuke plants have both male and female flowers. Some are self-pollinating; some use insects. Gardeners can help the process along by dipping a Qtip into the male flower and transferring its powdery pollen to the female (which is identifiable by the fact it has "a little immature cucumber"

under it), she said.

Tomatoes are similarly numerous, with the plants' thousands of varieties coming in three major types – cherry, beefsteak and sauce/paste based mostly on size and water content. The classic sandwich tomatoes are beefsteaks, which come in a wide range of colors including yellow, red, orange and even a purple so dark it's nearly black. Several of them also exist in the other two types, particularly cherry, which she described this way: "Anytime you want go out and pick a snack, there's bound to be some."

Donovan claimed tomatoes "cannot be grown from seed outdoors. They require a really warm soil to germinate." (Personally, I've done it; the key is making sure it gets lots of sun. As she noted "while it's growing to the sky, it's not producing fruit. That's often because it's not getting the sun it needs.")

Because of its warmth needs, tomatoes should only be planted outside (or transferred from inside, after gradually "hardening" them by giving them a couple hours a day at first) after May 7. She noted that used to be much later – as a child, she waited until Memorial Day.

Like cucumbers, tomatoes are vines that like trellising, which can be as simple as having a few posts linked with wires, with the plants tied to the wires with twine. She noted they're "one of the biggest [garden] plants" and can grow up to eight feet.

Once audience member asked how to deal with tomato hornworms, a big, green caterpillar that eats several plants in the tomato's nightshade family. Donovan said planting mari-

golds interspersed with the tomatoes often helps, since most insects don't like marigolds, but you can also spray with Neem oil, sprinkle diatomaceous earth around them, or use a Bt-based pesticide (an organic bacteria).

Regardless of what your growing, Donovan had some standard tips on preparing the raised bed. Most crucial is the soils – a few inches of rich, composted soil (with either plant or manure compost; she noted many local farms "will gladly deliver you a truckload of cow manure." But make sure it's been aged; fresh stuff "will stink to high heaven." Chicken manure is also "awesome fertilizer," but can't be put on plants directly due to its high nitrogen content; it needs to be composted for about six months or made into "compost tea."

Good soil "should be slightly acidic," with a pH of 6.2-6.8 (neutral is 7.0). She suggested adding ashes if you need to increase pH and using peat moss to reduce it. A barrier under the soil prevents weeds from growing up into it, but won't prevent them from blowing into it. Many plants benefit from using a mulch to keep the soil moister and warmer; dry straw or leaves work well, but don't use the common colored types or green grass.

The gardening series continues with online talks on raised beds April 6 and "The Organic Approach" on April 20. It has been sponsored by several area libraries, and participants can contact any of them to join the next sessions: Southbridge, Oxford, Sturbridge, Sutton or Charlton.

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

Farmers to Families distribution event planned in Charlton

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local volunteers are teaming up with the USDA to offer a Farmers to Families Food Box Program this month.

Food box distribution events will be held on April 15 and April 29 at the 508 International site in Charlton (219 Brookfield Rd.). Each program will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with fresh food products provided free to those in need.

The events were organized in coordination with the USDA. Although both programs will take place in Charlton, residents in need from throughout the region are invited to attend. Because there will only be 400 food boxes distributed each day, pre-registration is required for both sessions. Residents are encouraged to sign up as early as possible.

"This is a great way for us to help get food out to those in need," said Michael McGrath, who volunteers at the local

Chip In Food Pantry and also serves on its board of directors.

Several other food pantry volunteers are also involved in the local Farmers to Families Food Box Program. Not only does it assist area residents in need, but also farmers offering fresh local produce.

"This program started last year to help the farmers out. Because of the pandemic, restaurants stopped getting products from farmers [during the height of COVID-19 restrictions]," McGrath said. "We wanted to get the word out about this to people in the area."

Residents may sign up ahead for both of the Farmers to Families distribution days this month. However, each family may only pick up one box per day.

To sign up for the distribution days, residents can visit the Chip In Food Pantry's Facebook page and find the easily accessible links.

Each USDA food box contains approximately 30 pounds of food, including

produce, dairy, and protein. A typical box might feature the following items: five pounds of potatoes; three pounds of onions; one pound of root vegetables, such as carrots or beets; three pounds of hand fruit, typically apples or oranges; one gallon of milk; four pounds of soft dairy, such as yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, or butter; one pound of cheese, such as cheddar, American, mozzarella, or parmesan; four pounds of cooked protein, such as roasted chicken quarters, ground turkey, or taco meat; and one pound of deli meat or chicken hot dogs.

Organizers are also seeking approximately twelve volunteers to help out with the program. If you are interested in volunteering, send an email to chipinfoodpantry@gmail.com.

A re-evaluation of the program will be held at the end of the month. If all is successful, the program could become more frequent or even permanent in the future.

Leicester resident named to Dean's List at Rensselaer

TROY, N.Y. — Ava P. Richard resident of Leicester, Massachusetts and a freshman majoring in Biochemistry and Biophysics at Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute (RPI), was named to the Dean's Honors List for obtaining a 4.0/4.0 for Fall 2020.

Wire Village School honor roll

SPENCER — Wire Village School has released its honor roll for the second term of the 2020-2021 school year.

High Honor Roll
Aaron Bagrowski, Hunter Brodeur, Connor Cormier, Iris Alexandra

DeOliveira Tebo, Sophia Lambert, McKinnon Pacheco, Amaya Singletary
Honor Roll
Abigail Anderson, Devin Anderson, Goodness-Mercy Asensoh, Logan Barre, Avery Belton, Addison Berrios, Alaina Boutotte, Patrick Chiapulis, Hunter Cusson, Luciana Edwards, Angelina Faulkner, Jacob Gaudette, Christopher Gauvin, Lena Goyette, Landon Kaiser, Lily Keefe, Cason Lebeau, Colin Lopez, Kylie Nelson, Daryl Okuku, Jocelyn Orvieto-Fasoli, Madysen Pensinger, Lillian Perchak, Olivia Roberts, Calen Sauvageau, Raegan Tatro, Tawny Tetteyflo, Anaira Torres, Jacob Watson

NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING
TOWN OF SPENCER

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the distribution system starting April 5 thru April 30, 2021
Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality.
When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water.
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Donald Raucher: donraucher@comcast.net – 413-537-3177
Please contact us as early as possible with larger items to get maximum exposure.


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• 10% commission on the final bid of any item that doesn't meet the consignor's reserve.

Terms of sale: Cash/check with proper ID. Most major credit cards. 15% Buyer's Premium. 10% for cash/check. Buyer's Premium for items that sell for \$10,000 or more reduced to 5%. 6.25% MA sales tax. Tax exempt buyers must present a copy of their resale/tax exempt certificate.
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Cafeteria Worker, Park Ave - 2 Positions
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*these 2 positions will primarily deliver meals to classrooms
Start Date: ASAP

Breakfast in the Classroom Worker, Park Ave - 1 Position
Schedule: M-F 7:30-10:30 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

Cafeteria Worker, Webster Middle School - 1 Position
Schedule: M-F 8:00-11:00 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP
*this position is primarily a kitchen prep position

Cafeteria Worker, Bartlett High School - 1 Position
Schedule: M-F 9:30-12:30 (15 hrs.)
Rate: \$14.25/hr.
Start Date: ASAP

Please apply to: Attn: Lori Marrazzo
Webster Public Schools, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570
For questions about positions please call or email Ellen Nylen at 508-943-0104 ext. 40016 or enylen@webster-schools.org
*At this time all positions run through the end of the school year.

Spencer resident joins Jimmy Fund Walk in sister's memory

SPENCER — Spencer resident, Paula Romano, has joined the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai in memory of her sister, Mary Shamoian.

"She was my role model in all aspects of life," Romano writes. "Mary was sweet, kind, loving and the toughest, strongest woman you could meet. She was not only my big sister, but one of my best friends, my neighbor and my coworker. She fought so hard for over 13 years with Colon Cancer."

"She endured so much pain, many surgeries, countless chemo and radiation treatments and did it for over 13 years without most of the people that knew her even realizing just how sick she was, because she faced every single day with a smile, doing for others and barely missing any work days, or events for her family and her sister's families," Romano continues. "She made me promise to tell anyone I knew who received a cancer diagnosis to get their butts into Dana-Farber. That is what I do every single time another friend is diagnosed and they are always so grateful they made the trip into Boston."

Mary's favorite holiday was Christmas. She and her husband, Steve, would always host the entire family over for Christmas Day. Their house

would be welcome to anyone who wanted to stop by. The happiness would last well into the evening surrounded by loved ones, family, friends, and neighbors.

"So it was especially cruel to see Mary lose her battle with cancer on Christmas Day, 2015," Romano writes. "That holiday will never be the happy celebration day it was for so many people each year because of Mary."

Romano and her family became motivated to join the Jimmy Fund Walk with the hope that they may be able to help others to not experience the devastating loss they endured from cancer. Steve, Mary's husband, now leads their team, In Memory of Mary, as Team Captain.

"The walk has become one of his biggest passions in life," Romano writes.

The team now consists of Steve, Mary's three children and their spouses, her six grandchildren, her three sisters and their significant others, her eight nieces and nephews and their significant others, her great-nieces and nephews, her longtime friends, her neighbors, her coworkers. Last year, the team joined together and walked the walking path in the Blackstone area.

"I miss my sister so much every single day," Romano writes. "I hate cancer

so very much. I will always use Mary as an example to my children and their children to come as the type of person they should strive to be in all aspects of their lives."

The 2021 Jimmy Fund Walk, scheduled to take place virtually on Sunday, Oct. 3, will continue to unite the community to raise funds for the Jimmy Fund to support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Whether participating for themselves, loved ones, neighbors, or co-workers, each walker shares a common purpose: to support breakthroughs that will benefit cancer patients around the world.

Participants are encouraged to walk their way virtually, whether it be in their neighborhoods, hiking trails, or their own treadmills! The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$150 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in its 30+ year history. To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. This year's event will have a lower fundraising requirement, \$100 for adults and \$25 for those under 18, with a \$5 registration fee.

Baker lays out vaccination timeline

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the vaccination timeline for all remaining residents.

On March 22, all residents age 60-plus became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. On April 5, all residents 55-plus will become eligible, as well as residents with one medical condition.

On April 19, the general public will be able to schedule a vaccine appointment (ages 16 and older). The full vaccine timeline is available at www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases.

"The Administration has received assurances from the federal government that an increased vaccine supply will be available to states soon," Gov. Charlie Baker said. "Depending on supply, it could take weeks for people to be notified that an appointment is available at a mass vaccination site."

Officials expect that more vaccination sites will come online in April.

Last week, the state received approximately 170,000 first doses of the vaccine, including 8,000 doses of the J&J vaccine. In total, the Commonwealth received 316,000 first and second doses as part of the latest state allocation.

The state is also adding more mobile vaccination clinics to support long-term

care facilities, congregate care, low-income senior housing, and homebound individuals. The goal is to ensure that no seniors are denied an opportunity to receive the vaccine simply because they do not have transportation.

Looking ahead, state officials continue to rely heavily on communications from the federal level.

"Weekly allocations are subject to change based on federal availability, demand from providers, and obligations to meet second doses," Baker said. "Providers have ten days to use their doses and must meet specific performance thresholds."

In addition to the weekly state allocation of vaccines, the federal government also distributes doses to CVS Health sites as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership.

Individuals looking to book vaccine appointments should visit www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Baker also announced a new \$24.7 million investment in the administration's Vaccine Equity Initiative. This program was created to increase trust and vaccine acceptance among residents, as well as enhanced equity across all locations and demographics.

"Recognizing equity as a critical component of the state's vaccine distribution plan, the Department of Public

Health is working closely with 20 hardest hit communities in Massachusetts as they identify their specific community needs, further building on existing support," Baker said. "These funds will also provide direct vaccine administration to populations that are not effectively reached through existing vaccine supply channels."

State officials are also working to increase collaboration with community partners, faith-based organizations, health centers, and minority-owned business leaders, among others.

Additionally, Baker is promoting the newly created COVID-19 Vaccine Ambassador Program, which has helped residents across the state access vital information about the vaccine. The program includes a multilingual public awareness campaign, as well as volunteers tasked with helping to identify community-based solutions.

The administration's Vaccine Equity Initiative focuses on 20 cities and towns with the greatest COVID-19 case burden. They include Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester.

To learn more about the state's vaccine program, visit www.mass.gov.

Spencer officer suspended following domestic assault charges

SPENCER — A Spencer police officer has been suspended after he was arrested following a domestic incident last month.

Spencer Police Officer Jason Strniste, 37, was arrested by Massachusetts State Police on March 20. He is facing one charge of domestic assault and battery against a family or household member.

On March 22, Strniste plead not guilty to the charge. He was released after posting \$300 bail.

According to the State Police report, Strniste was arguing with a 29-year-old woman over finances. The argument escalated into a physical altercation, police said.

Strniste is accused of slamming the victim to the ground, according to court documents submitted by the State Police. Multiple witnesses spoke to investigators about what they saw and heard at the residence that day. Members of the victim's family were present during the incident, police said.

Strniste reportedly told investigators that the woman prevented him from leaving the residence and then punched him.

Strniste went to the Spencer Police station following the incident. The State Police barracks was then contacted, officials said.

Spencer Police Chief David Darrin confirmed to the New Leader that Officer Strniste has been suspended. Officials did not disclose the length of the suspension, or whether it is with pay.

Neither Strniste nor his attorney could not be reached for comment in time to meet our press deadline for this week's edition.

Local Heroes



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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.

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PERSON of the WEEK

Richard Jubinville, Leicester, MA

Richard is being recognized for being generous with his time. He posts the weather for Leicester on Facebook through the People of Leicester page for years now. Everyone loves it and appreciates his dedication for always posting the weather year-round and his special thoughts about the weather. He also throws in some Leicester history in there as well. He is a lifelong Leicester resident.

Thank you Richard for all that you do for your community.

— Submitted by Mike Jubinville, Leicester, MA

If you would like to nominate a
PERSON OF THE WEEK, please email your suggestion to
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Pet of the Week

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Sex: Male
Size: Medium
Age: 10 years



Hi I'm Simon! I'm about 10 years old, but still have the energy of a younger fella. I love my naps and my walks equally! I can be quite vocal when I get excited (especially for my food!) so I'd probably not be a great fit for apartment living. I've loved every person I've met so far and love to sniff and explore and cuddle with stuffed toys. I think I'd prefer to be an only dog because I prefer to be just with my people and avoid interacting with other dogs. If I sound like the pup for you, head down to the shelter during any of their open hours so we can meet!

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New Building Inspector feeling “at home” in Leicester

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – In his first few months on the job, Building Inspector Michael Silva has enjoyed working with residents, business owners, and officials.

Having held a Massachusetts construction supervisor’s license for 14 years – in addition to owning a construction and remodeling company – Silva brings plenty of experience to his new role. He was thrilled to accept the Leicester position in November and get to work right away.

“I was looking to pursue the next step in my career to become a building inspector,” Silva told the New Leader. “When I saw the job opening in Leicester, I felt it would be a great fit. I have lived in towns about the size of Leicester for a good portion of my life and enjoy that atmosphere.”

Silva thanks all of the officials and residents who have helped him make a seamless transition to his new position. From the first day, he felt right at home in Leicester.

“All of the town employees and residents have been a pleasure to get to know and work with. I look forward to coming to work every day,” added Silva, who also serves as Leicester’s Zoning Enforcement Officer.

After graduating from Bryant University with a degree in business, Silva went on to earn his construction supervisor’s license and establish his company. This career has provided him with many years of hands-on experience in construction and remodeling, which he relies upon daily as Leicester’s Building Inspector.

“My biggest priority is to look out for the best interest of homeowners and residents,” Silva said.



Michael Silva is Leicester’s new Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Photo Courtesy

“I am focused on being helpful, respectful, fair, and informative to residents, contractors, and business owners. I plan to be flexible in scheduling inspections and work closely with homeowners and contractors to get their permit applications and required inspections done promptly to help them keep their projects on schedule.”

Leicester Arts Council announces grant awards

LEICESTER — The Leicester Arts Council has awarded eleven grants totaling \$8,327 to artists, speakers, musicians, teachers and local organizations to bring an impressive range of cultural programs to a broad audience in Leicester. These awards are supported by funding allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

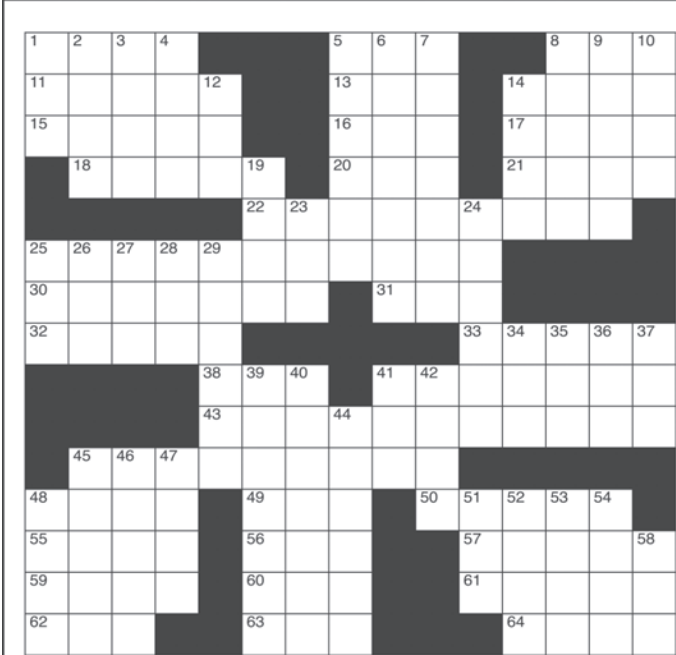
This year’s LAC grant awards include:

- \$650 to Yankee Notions and \$600 to SloGrass for folk music concerts at the annual Leicester Harvest Fair in September 2021.
- \$4,000 to the Leicester Summer Concert Series for this summer’s Concerts on the Common.
- \$200 to the Leicester Senior Center for the Women’s History lecture “Short Skirts, Oh, My” by Anne Barrett.
- \$997 to Heather Stapel and fellow teachers at the Leicester Middle School for the Grade 6 Art & Writing Project, “Reflections of a Pandemic.”
- \$650 to Scott Jameson for a Magic and Juggling Performance at the McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys.
- \$950 to the Leicester Historical Society for four

programs: “A Visit by Peter Salem” and “An Evening with George Washington” presented by Cambridge Historical Tours; “To End All Wars: Songs of the 1st World War” presented by Rick Spencer and Dawn Indemuehle; and “Peddling Your Wares: Itinerant Merchants in New England” presented by Tom Kelleher.

\$280 to Rhondae Drafts for Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise for Seniors to be held at the Leicester Senior Center.

The Leicester Arts Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. Information and forms are available online at (www.massculturalcouncil.org). Applications for the next funding cycle are due Oct. 15.



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Now and __

5. Israeli city __ Aviv

8. Indicates near

11. Minneapolis suburb

13. Large Australian flightless bird

14. Fine-grained earth

15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop

16. Peacock network

17. TV writer Dunham

18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

20. They __

21. Muslim ruler title

22. Position given in respect of

25. Explaining further

30. Measuring instrument

31. Romanian monetary unit

32. Council of __, 1545-1563

33. Savory jelly made with meat stock

38. Journalist Tarbell

41. Most suspenseful

43. Festivity

45. Animal embryos

48. Fertility god

49. Medical patients’ choice (abbr.)

50. Type of sword

55. Competition

56. Bird of the cuckoo family

57. Afflicted in mind or body

59. Engineering organization

60. Beverage receptacle

61. Spiritual leader

62. Doctor of Education

63. Where golfers begin

64. Impudence

- CLUES DOWN
1. Vietnamese offensive

2. Fast mammal

3. Oh goodness!

4. The back of one’s neck

5. One who lives in another’s property

6. Involve deeply

7. Alfalfa

8. Tropical tree resin

9. Sudden fear

10. Jewish religious month

12. Veterans battleground

14. Musical symbol

19. German river

23. Paddle

24. Lizard

25. Shock treatment

26. The common gibbon

27. Brew

28. Usually has a lid

29. Lenses in optical instruments

34. Time zone in Samoa (abbr.)

35. Wrinkled dog: Shar __

36. Denotes equal

37. TV network for children

39. Take the value away from

40. Female graduates

41. Don’t know when yet

42. “__ tú”: Spanish song

44. “Seinfeld” character

45. Bleated

46. Entwined

47. Away from wind

48. Soft creamy white cheese

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. They resist authority (slang)

58. Speak ill of



LAVIN continued from page A1

Lavin is always working hard behind the scenes to ensure an unforgettable experience. Past D.C. trips have featured visits to the Capitol Building and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

“Students learn what it means to be proud, benevolent American citizens through the lessons Christine Lavin provides them, the example she sets for them, and her tireless commitment to our local and national communities,” read the Post 138 statement.

In addition to planning the D.C. trip, Lavin can often be found chaperoning at school dances; helping with the holiday season Saturday craft fair held at EBES each year; planning Field Day activities alongside her colleagues; and helping to arrange trivia challenges, reading events, and other programs that keep students engaged throughout the year.

Lavin also serves as one of her school’s liaisons to the media, helping to ensure that the community knows about the achievements of students and staff.

“She not only models community commitment – she builds students’ understanding of it by organizing and facilitating many community events,” read the Post 138 statement.

The Post also nominated Lavin for consideration by the selection committee for the statewide award.

“We wish you all the best in your search for statewide Educator of the Year, but we believe you will find none better than Ms. Christine Lavin,” Post 138 members wrote to state selection committee members.

SEBRSD officials join Post 138 members in congratulating Lavin on the award. This past year, Lavin and her colleagues at EBES went the extra mile to make sure all of their students were

successful in hybrid learning or fully remote learning, if they opted for that model. EBES teachers were also instrumental in helping their students get accustomed to an unprecedented way of learning, with Zooms and social distancing becoming a way of life.

“I speak for all of us within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District when I say, we couldn’t agree more with the American Legion,” said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. “Congratulations, Ms. Christine Lavin, on this well-deserved recognition. Our learning community could not be more proud of you and the skill and professionalism you demonstrate daily as a member of our faculty.”

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SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$572,500, 8 W Main St, Puliafico, Paul K, and Puliafico, Melissa L, to Montessori Academies

LEICESTER

\$625,000, 103 Moose Hill Rd, Haley LT, and Haley, David A, to Dintino, Michael H, and Dintino, Jennifer.
\$500,000, 385 Main St, Canane, Jeffrey S, to Kamdhenu LLC.
\$380,000, 158 White Birch St, Smith, Jeremy R, to Eckland, Steven M, and Gallagher, Bonnie L.
\$307,000, 22 Carleton Rd, Clark, Jeffrey, and Clark, Carolyn, to Marsh, Amanda.
\$225,000, 357 Main St, Canane, Susan T, to Kamdhenu LLC

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$170,000, 47 Barnes Rd, Woodward, Thomas J, and Woodward, Michelle L, to Trenholm, Donald R, and Trenholm, Carrie L.
\$165,000, 64 Walnut St, Tourtillotte, Susan I, and Tourtillotte, James, to Austin, John J.
\$163,500, 26 Ryan Rd #3, Robinson, Sarah L, to Sloat, Nicholas.

SPENCER

\$300,000, 57 Grove St, Lanoue-Carrizo, Lorena, and Lanoue-Carrizo, Hannah, to Norwood-Davies, Benjamin.
\$281,000, 16 Greenville St, Morley, Edward M, to Delvalle, Raymond.
\$250,000, 17 Cherry St, Carver, Harold J, and Carver, Linda, to Disho, Gjergji, and Disho, Kreuza.
\$40,000, Wire Village Rd, Lacroix, Victor A, and Lacroix, Annette M, to SJC Development Inc.

WARREN

\$230,000, 44 Nelson St, Fountain& Sons Const Co, to Ayolphi, Izabella C.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$437,500, 63 New Baintree Rd, Brown, Bill J, and Brown, Denise M, to Leger, Anthony, and Leger, Diane.
\$330,000, 40 Central St, Damon, Donald F, and Damon, Beth A, to Healy, Henry J, and Young, Kirsten L.

Lamoureux Ford earns President's Award

EAST BROOKFIELD — Lamoureux Ford was among a select group of Ford dealerships, less than 10 percent of dealers nationwide, to be recognized with the 2020 President's Award by Ford Motor Company — one of three Ford dealerships in Massachusetts to win this award! The prestigious award honors dealerships that have excelled in automotive retailing in 2020 by providing exceptional customer sales and service satisfaction.

"Earning this award is a reflection of our entire staff's commitment to delivering the best customer experience possible," said Lamoureux Ford's owners, Marc and Lionel Lamoureux. "We couldn't be more proud to receive this recognition, especially since it comes from the people we value most — our customers.

They're the reason we were able to achieve this award."

The President's Award was established in 1998. Dealers become eligible through survey responses from the customers related to their sales and service satisfaction.

Lamoureux Ford has won the President's Award for the 24th year in a row, and 27 times overall.

Police investigate stroller left on railroad tracks

SPENCER — Police were on the lookout last week for a pair of men suspected of leaving an empty baby stroller on the CSX rail line.

The incident took place overnight on March 26. The stroller was struck by a train, police said, and the CSX crew did not know at the time whether a baby was inside.

"A very distraught engineer immediately reported the incident. We are working with CSX Railroad Police to try to identify the two individuals," read a March 26 statement issued by the

Spencer Police Department.

The incident was one of several recent crimes in which items were intentionally left on the tracks, police said. It is illegal for non-railroad employees to trespass on rail lines and other railroad property.

As of our press deadline this week, police were still searching for the suspects. Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call Spencer Police Det. Christopher Inzerillo at 508-885-6333.

West Brookfield Elementary School honor roll

WEST BROOKFIELD — West Brookfield Elementary School has released its honor roll for the second trimester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Grade 5
High Honor Roll: Violet Atwood, Olivia Goodale, Austin Letourneau, Isabelle Manzano, Jonas Rossi, Connor Snay, Caroline Stevens
Honor Roll: Harper Bradley, Lincoln Brown, Sofia Goodwin, Olivia

Iwaniec, Braden Luce, Alyssa Lussier, Bryann Lussier, Addison Masterjohn, Woodman Moulton, Sierra Peck, Amiya Robertson, Izaak Santiago, Tyler Snow

Grade 6
High Honor Roll: Sierra Brote, Hunter Dodson, Nicholas Fazzuoli, Brielle Gerulaitis, Carly Goodwin, Riley Gray, Lexi Kelly, Emma Landine, Maxwell Podkowka, Connor

Yurkunas
Honor Roll: Sean Allen, Abigail Brown, Trace Carrington, Megan Clark, Breann Convery, Scott Garrand, Lillian Grover, Aubrey Lewis, Kadence Martin, Alex Majorowski, Katie Manzano, Eric Neely, Sophia Paolucci, Olivia Petersen, Persephone Piermarini, Caden Prinsen, Lillian Sturges, Jacob Tambollee, Reed Waz

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OBITUARIES

Alvin Ross Anderson, 73

Buxton, Maine - Alvin Ross Anderson, Ross 73, passed December 22, 2020. Ross was born June 29, 1947 in Buffalo, New York to the late Charles Thomas Anderson and Alice Marion (Freeman) Anderson. He is survived by his daughters Siri Blanchette and her husband Joshua of York, Maine and Bridgette Faber of Virginia Beach, Virginia, a son Eric Anderson of Palm Bay, Florida, brother Wesley Anderson and wife Marcia of New Braintree, Massachusetts, a niece Kjersten Anderson and nephews Jakob and Lukas Anderson also of New Braintree, Massachusetts also four grandchildren, Ashton, Desmond and Jada Blanchette and Alexander Faber. He was predeceased by a brother Charles Anderson.

Ross was raised in North Brookfield Massachusetts, graduated from North Brookfield High School in 1965 and received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He also held a Masters Degree in Marine Biology from the University of Maine, Orono. Ross had a life long interest in Amateur Radio and Electronics earning his first Amateur license as a teen (K1TNT, later W1TNT). He made a career in Electronics and Information Technology. Ross had a passion for music and played Banjo and Guitar. He enjoyed time outdoors around his home in Maine and Seacoast. Always willing to reach out to others, he will be missed. 73s

Paul R. MacDonald, 77

WORCESTER- Paul R. MacDonald, 77, of Worcester died Monday, March 22nd in St. Vincent Hospital.



He leaves two brothers; Philip R. MacDonald and his wife Patricia of Spencer and Bruce E. MacDonald of Lunenburg and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother Peter R. MacDonald and a sister Moira Jeanne MacDonald and both parents. Paul was born in Medford, son of Roderick and Dorothy (O'Neil)

MacDonald. He served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a machine operator at Norton Co. for several years before retiring. He enjoyed fishing and loved bbq grilling and smoking. He was a talented artist and studied art at the Norman Rockwell Art School. A private graveside service in Central Cemetery, Dunstable, MA will be held at the convenience of the family. Due to Covid 19 no other services are planned. J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing funeral arrangements. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Care for spring flowering bulbs



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Bright yellow daffodils, colorful tulips and fragrant hyacinths brighten our spring gardens. Give them the care they need to extend their spring display and keep them coming back for years. Hybrid tulips and hyacinths are short-lived stars of the spring garden. They bloom profusely the first spring, but the number of flowers decline each year. You may want to treat these like annuals, carefully removing them from the garden to avoid damaging any remaining plants. Toss these in the compost pile and start planning for their replacements. It is a great opportunity to try something new and freshen the look of your spring garden. If you are looking for a permanent replacement, consider using species tulips that are less floriferous but return each year. Add a few years to the life of hybrid tulips and daffodils and get the most from all your long-lived spring flowering bulbs with proper care. Water spring gardens thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist. Spring rains often take care of this task, but when they don't it is easy to forget to provide spring gardens with the water they need. Providing the right amount of water when needed will keep your bulbs looking their best. Bulbs often receive sufficient nutrients at the time of planting or when the other plants in the garden are fertilized. Apply fertilizer to established

bulb plantings, if needed, as the leaves begin to emerge from the soil. Use a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer to encourage slow steady growth. Follow the label directions so you apply the recommended amount for the area you are fertilizing. Remove spent flowers on tulips and hyacinths you plan to keep so the energy is directed back into the bulbs instead of setting seeds. Do the same if you want to improve the appearance of daffodils. Leave allium seed heads in place to extend their beautiful contribution to the garden. Remove these before they drop their seeds if you want to limit the number of seedlings sprouting in next year's garden. The same is true for grape hyacinths and squills. The only reason to remove their faded flowers is to slow down the spread. Leave the leaves on your bulbs until they naturally yellow and dry. The leaves produce energy needed for beautiful blooms next spring. The longer you leave the leaves intact, the more energy and better bloom for next season. Hide the declining bulb leaves by planting annuals between the bulbs. Or add perennial flowers that return each year for a more permanent solution. As the bulbs decline, the perennials will grow and mask the declining foliage. Try mixing spring flowering perennials for double the impact or combine with summer and fall bloomers to extend the floral show. Take some pictures of your spring bulb display and make notes of the areas where you want to add some color. Then order early for the best selection and to make sure you are ready for bulb planting season next fall. *Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space*



Photo Melinda Myers

Providing proper care to tulips and other spring flowering bulbs will extend your enjoyment and keep them coming back for years. *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 also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.*

VACCINATION

continued from page A1

share many quality relationships with our local and state officials in the Southern Worcester County Region of Massachusetts, which include our local Boards of Health in Spencer and East Brookfield, as well as the Spencer Fire and Emergency Services and the Rutland vaccination program. None of this would be possible without everyone coming together to make this clinic a priority." More than 225 SEBRSD faculty members, staff, students, and volunteers were vaccinated during the first session. All school nurses assisted with the clinic. "Vaccines were an important part of our district's school reopening plans, and are considered essential in providing everyone with the peace of mind they were seeking as we work toward full in-person learning, five days per week in April," Haughey added. The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine will be provided by the Rutland vaccine team and Spencer Fire and Emergency Services on Friday, April 9. The program will take place in the David Prouty High School gymnasium from 2-5 p.m. Only members of the school community who are registered for their second dose

can take part in the program. For school officials, it's a major relief to be returning full-time to the classroom with the additional protection of a vaccination. "We were so proud to be able to host this historic event," said DPHS Principal Elizabeth York. "It gave not only our faculty and staff, but also our seniors who are doing educational internships, a chance to be vaccinated. We are tremendously grateful to all of the school nurses, the Spencer and Rutland Fire Departments, and everyone else who came out to help." SEBRSD leaders plan to welcome back all Prouty students for full-time in-person learning, beginning on April 26. "Having the adults in our school community fully vaccinated by then adds a level of comfort and safety for all," York added. Spencer Fire Department members were happy to be involved in the clinic. The department thanks everyone who took the time to make the program happen. "We were fortunate enough, with the assistance of the Rutland regional vaccination site, to vaccinate our school district today," read a statement released by the SFD. "Thank you to Rutland and all the volunteers."

BAND

continued from page A1

though the 2020-21 school year has delivered unimaginable challenges, the students have worked hard to keep their skills sharp. "This year, auditions were very different due to COVID, but we still had to work very hard to get in," Morrison told the New Leader. "Being selected is an honor, and a way to look back and see how much I have improved since I last picked up the clarinet in sixth grade. I had to work hard to make up for the three years I had missed on clarinet, so this was a huge accomplishment for me. Since this is my third time getting in, it will be interesting to see how different the experience is virtual rather than in person." For Francis, 2021 provided an opportunity for redemption after a disappointing audition result last February. "My experience was filled with the trial and error of taking multiple videos to have options when submission day came around," Francis said. "A virtual audition quelled most of the regular in-person performance anxiety.

Being selected for the band was a huge thrill as soon as I saw the email subject 'Congratulations!' This past year was a year of growth for all of us, and in my case this growth made possible a completely different audition result than my attempt last year." Pietri, like many of her bandmates, has high hopes for her musical journey in school and beyond. "I chose to play the flute because I have always loved music and want to have music in my career. My audition experience was excited, nerve-wracking, and satisfying." For Delage, an eighth grader who plays the bells (also known as the glockenspiel), it was rewarding to meet the demands of a challenging audition. "I had to play a presto song (very fast), which was difficult to play. I managed to do it, though, and I was very proud of myself for that," Delage said. "I also tried out and made it last year, and the experience was way different because it was in-person and we had to do a lot more stuff like scales and sight reading. When I found out I made the band, I was very happy and proud of myself for all the hard work I put in to try to make it."

Friday's Child



Aylin
Age 12

Hi! My name is Aylin and I like to joke around!

Aylin is a girl of Hispanic descent with a great sense of humor who loves to draw. Those who meet Aylin immediately note her big smile, and it is clear that she takes pride in her appearance. Aylin enjoys working on craft projects, playing outside, riding her bike, and watching television. Aylin likes school and forms friendships well with additional support. She currently receives extra supports in class for social and emotional needs.

Legally freed for adoption, Aylin is very much looking forward to becoming part of a

loving family. Her social worker feels that she will do best in a family with two mothers, a mother and a father, or a single mother. Aylin will do well as an only child or with siblings that are older than her. She should be the youngest in the home, if possible. A family for Aylin must support her relationship with her younger sister, as well as help her visit with her biological mother twice a year, as specified in an Open Adoption Agreement.

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Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples. 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.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



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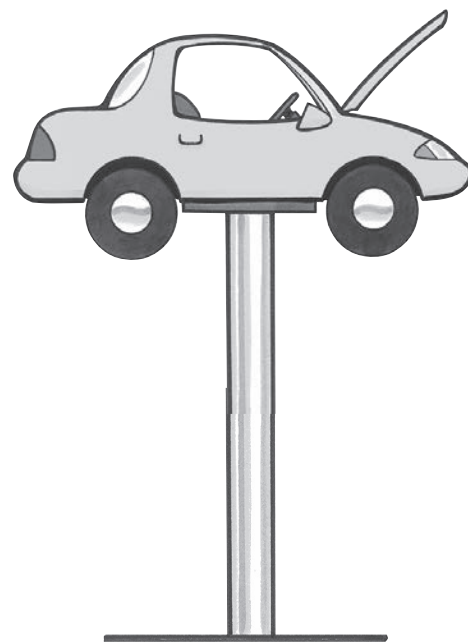
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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Springtime legends

The first day of spring just passed us by on March 20. Now that we are over the hump and into the rainy, sunny, snowy, muddy bit we thought we would share some fun myths surrounding this blooming time of year.

The first story begins with Persephone and Demeter. Persephone was the goddess of spring and holds the most well known story of the season to date. Persephone is the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and Zeus, the king of the gods. Persephone married Hades who kept her hidden against her will. Demeter set off to find her daughter and for every minute she was lost, not a crop would grow. Zeus then ordered his daughter to remain in the underworld for half of the year because she ate all of the fruit (pomegranate seeds), the other half of the year she spent with her mother. The idea is that every time Persephone goes into the underworld, winter arrives and the crops die, when she is with her mother, crops bloom.

According to Cherokee legend, the reason trees lose their leaves in the fall is because of the communication between animals and humans. Apparently, animals were able to communicate with humans and the world was utopian. Every year the birds would fly south for the winter. During one particular year, a sparrow who was injured was not able to fly south, he sent his flock ahead without him so the would not freeze, meanwhile he sought shelter. The bird flew to an old Oak tree and was told that he could not seek shelter in its branches, the same thing happened with every tree the bird visited until he was finally granted permission to stay in a pine tree. The pine tree, not popular with the others because of its hard, sharp leaves welcomed the little bird. The sparrow was forever grateful.

The sparrow survived the winter and welcomed his family home during the warmer months. Because the other trees, turned on the Sparrow during a most vulnerable time, the creator cursed their leaves to die during the winter except for the pine tree.

The Shinto Sun Goddess and Bringer of Light, Amaterasu, according to legend, is in control of the sun's movement to insure rice and other crops will grow. This goddess is well known for her ability to spin satin. Her fame caused her brother Susanoo, the god of storms, to become extremely jealous. The angry deity destroyed his sister's weaving loom and wrecked her rice fields. The rampage caused one of Amaterasu's closest friends to parish, as a result she locked herself inside a mountain resulting in the disappearance of light. Because of this, crops would not grow. Uzme, the goddess of laughter traveled to the mountain where Amaterasu was hiding. She placed a shiny necklace on a tree, then began to dance causing the other gods to laugh. When Amaterasu heard the laughter she peeked out of her cave and slowly began to walk towards the necklace. At this, Uzme had the cave blocked and light was restored to the world.

Some actual facts concerning the spring season are as follows; in 1582, if Pope Gregory XIII would not have established the Gregorian calendar, then every 128 years, the vernal equinox would have come a full calendar day earlier, which would put Easter in the middle of winter.

The famous myth about being able to balance an egg on its end on the spring equinox is not true. Attempting to balance an egg on its end is no easier on the spring equinox than on any other day.

During the springtime, birds are louder as they sing to attract mates and to warn enemies to steer clear.

The term "spring fever" refers to the psychological and physiological symptoms that go along with the arrival of spring, which include, daydreaming and restlessness. Over the years, scientists surmise the cause in the hormone shift could be due to the increase in sunlight and increased physical activity.



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Silver linings

To the Editor:
For the past year, this great country of ours has really had its share of extreme misfortune and suffering. A pandemic on a scale the likes of which hasn't been experienced in over a century, the ugliest of presidential elections that I can remember, a storming of the Capitol building that could only be imagined in movies, and probably worst of all, mass shootings in common public areas taking place practically on a weekly basis. It does stop you in your tracks and makes you wonder, has everyone gone completely insane? Will we ever have a chance to return to 'normalcy' or anything close to it?

Again, Mom always taught us when things look the bleakest, try your best to find a silver lining. I think I've found one, and it's right here in River City, a.k.a. East Brookfield.

Having reached the age where both my wife and I are now considered 'seniors,' neither one of us looked forward to trying to navigate the Web sites on the Internet in search of making appointments for our vaccines. Come to find out, we didn't have to. The town of East Brookfield's Board of Health, under Mark Morin, in conjunction with the town's Senior Center, being

manned by Priscilla Berthiaume and Cheryl Brodak, have come to the rescue. After a brief meeting with Ms. Brodak, an appointment was booked through her skills and due diligence in a matter of three days to take place at the Armory in Southbridge (via Harrington Hospital). Her effort, along with the foresight of both the Board and the Senior Center have saved many people the agony and frustration of trying to do it alone. And while we're at it, kudos to the staff at the Armory — from the parking attendants calming anxious appointees worried about being late, to the greeters at the main entrance politely explaining the procedure to follow, to the receptionists who entered your patient info, to the nurses who administered the vaccine, and to the exit staff who made sure no ill after effects were witnessed. And this procedure was repeated again in three weeks' time with the same positive, cheerful attitudes.

A huge "Thank You" to all involved in this massive undertaking. It proves what I've always believed - that when things get tough the tough get going.

ANDREW NEWTON
EAST BROOKFIELD

In response to Har-Yarok

To the Editor:
Mr. Har-Yarok, Joe Biden received more votes, in more states, and he is currently serving as our President. Whether he "won" anything or not is debatable — in my humble opinion. My "compare/contrast term paper" analogy had absolutely nothing to do with the election results, but rather dealt with misinformation and nothing else. After you have your ears checked, you may want to have your eyes checked.

Did you receive your mental health training before, during or after you earned your engineering degree? You claim that I don't have a firm grip on reality, and you have diagnosed that President Trump may be delusional and in need of an involuntary commitment. Of course, he may be a pathological liar which, I believe, is a mental health disorder as well. That seems to me to be border-line libel, but I digress.

What you can prove is, and always will be, relevant, and you know full well I never wrote anything different. I was referring to President Trump's decision not to concede — his decision, and not yours. Your facts, your beliefs and your proof are not relevant to his decision, and you know that. The only fact that is relevant is that he will not concede- end of story. I can't remember the last time I even saw a rabbit hole, and at more than 250 pounds, I really don't think I would be able to fit down one.

Please Note: Before the 2020 election, if we were able to sell California to Mexico and New York state to Canada, President Trump would have been reelected by 36,363 individual votes and 36 electoral votes. Of course, that is absurd. But, New York state and

Turn To **REID** page **A10**

Good news for all our kids, and a letter that's dangerously wrong

To the Editor:
Blame this letter on my four-year-old grandson.

First, a Biden team prepared, Congress approved, and the President signed the Covid Relief Bill. While not perfect, it contains a lot of wonderful things, especially for our kids.

It ranks as phenomenally good for America. We can take pride that our officials a produced a program that:

- helps families with family financial assistance stimulus checks, and unemployment benefits
- help ours kids get better educated including by assisting schools to safely reopen, giving child care support, and assisting for colleges and their at-risk students, and
- provides housing assistance for the close to and homeless and those facing it.

This especially helps the 2,500,000 American children (one in every thirty) who, through no fault of their own, are homeless.in perhaps the wealthiest - but most caring, country in the world.

the highest rate of childhood poverty in developed countries).

The best and most important part of the stimulus plan centers on tax relief and direct cash grants (allowances) of up to \$3,600 for every American child. Grants like this come a proven game changer for helping less well-off children grow into informed, educated, productive adults.

Child grants and similar approaches in America didn't begin with Biden. President Nixon and his team prepared a much discussed proposal in the early 1970's.

Nor are child grants that unusual. Many successful countries use it every day, both because they think innocent children deserve a fair chance and because the realize the need for the largest possible productive labor force. For example, Canada, England and France provide universal child grants.

Nor are children's grants only liked by "liberals." True conservatives who don't

Turn To **KANE** page **A10**

It isn't me who deserves an answer, it's you

To the Editor:
In the Jan. 15 edition of this newspaper, Sam Biaghetti, the Democratic candidate for the 5th Worcester District, asked publicly where Donnie Berthiaume stood on the issue of whether the loser of an election should concede. Mr. Berthiaume was asked whether elections should be respected or if there should be a concerted effort to overturn the results if they are undesirable. Mr. Berthiaume was asked whether he believed that Joe Biden was the (then) president-elect and whether Mr. Berthiaume believed that Joe Biden should take office on Jan. 20.

Mr. Biaghetti had a special relationship with Mr. Berthiaume in that they both competed for the same Massachusetts House of Representatives seat, and Mr. Berthiaume won by a substantial margin of 24.6 points. Mr. Biaghetti conceded as soon as it was clear he lost, extended his congratulations, and offered his good wishes. Mr. Berthiaume's silence as to whether other candidates who lose elections should act the same, and his silence regarding reality which was disputed at the time was very telling.

How losers should act, how winners should act, whether we should accept the results of elections or attempt to overturn them, and whether or not lies should be presented as truth has nothing to do with party. Whether we respect our elections or not boils down to a fundamental belief in democracy as a system, government by, of and for the people. The alternative where we only respect elections we win and we attempt to overturn elections we lose is "end justified the means" tyranny.

I pulled the thread Mr. Biaghetti started by expanding the question to Rep. Durant. Both Reps. Berthiaume & Durant represent most of the circulation area of this newspaper, both are Republican, both supported former President Trump during his term in office, and both represent the people of their districts.

Neither Durant nor Berthiaume are stupid. They know that President Biden won the 2020 election fair and square. This can be corroborated with the fact that former President Trump lost the popular vote by a large margin in 2016, his approval ratings were never posi-

How much risk should you take before retirement?

If you're planning to retire in just a few years, you may be getting excited about this next phase of your life. However, your ability to enjoy retirement fully will depend, at least partially, on the resources you can draw from your investment portfolio. So, while you still have time to act, ask yourself if you're comfortable with your portfolio's risk level.

Your relationship with risk can change noticeably over time.



FINANCIAL
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When you started saving for retirement, you may have been willing to take on more investment risk, which translated into a relatively high percentage of stocks and stock-based mutual funds in your investment portfolio. As you know, stocks offer the potential for greater returns than other assets — such as bonds and certificates of deposit (CDs) — but they are also typically more volatile and carry more risk. But when you were many decades away from retirement, you had sufficient time to recover from market fluctuations. (Of course, there are no guarantees — it's possible that some stocks will lose value and never regain it.)

Now, fast forward to where you are now — closing in on retirement. Even at this stage of your life — and, in fact, even during your retirement — you will need some growth-oriented investments to help stay ahead of inflation. Over time, even a low inflation rate, such as we've had the past several years, can erode your purchasing power.

So, the issue isn't this: "Should I get rid of all my risk?" You shouldn't — and, in fact, you couldn't, because all investments, even the ones considered most "conservative," contain some type of risk, even if it isn't the risk of loss of principal. For instance, some investments run the risk of not keeping up with inflation. Instead, ask yourself these questions: "How much risk should I take within my portfolio?" "How much risk do I actually need to achieve my goals in retirement?"

Of course, there are no one-size-fits-all answers. You'll need to look at your investment portfolio to see if it's positioned to provide you with the income you'll require in your retirement years. You might have initially based your financial strategy on a specific type of retirement lifestyle, but now that you're nearing retirement, perhaps you've changed your mind. Your anticipated new lifestyle might require either more or less income than you had originally projected — and if that's the case, you may need to adjust the risk level in your portfolio or make other adjustments.

For example, suppose you had initially envisioned a rather quiet retirement, sticking around your home, volunteering and spending time with your grandchildren. But in recent years — and especially since the confinement many of us have felt during the COVID-19 pandemic — you may have thought that you'd now like to travel extensively. To achieve this goal, which will likely cost more than your original one, you may have to work longer, or invest more each year until you retire, or seek a higher return on your investments — which means accepting more risk.

As you can see, managing risk is a balancing act — and you may need to make some tough choices. But as long as you're aware of how much risk you can take, and how much risk you may need to take to reach your goals, you can develop a strategy that aligns with your objectives.

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.

tive during his entire term, his approval ratings declined over his term, and even Republicans officials who endorsed Trump in 2020 in Republican controlled states certified Biden's clear win. The former president's 60-odd lawsuits were thrown out of court including the Supreme Court, of which three members were appointed by him, refused to hear.

During a time of great consternation in the country, they failed at their basic duty to lead and clear the air as millions of people believed the lies and misinformation being fed to them by the former president. Whether they think we should respect elections that aren't won by their preferred candidate or we should try and overturn them is an open

Turn To **BAGG** page **A10**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“No way to prevent this,” says only nation where this regularly happens Biden the divider

To the Editor:

On March 16, eight people, including six women of Asian descent, are killed in and near Atlanta. On March 17, five were shot in a drive-by shooting in Stockton, Calif. On March 18, eight people were shot and wounded in Gresham, Ore. On March 20, two were killed and 17 wounded in Philadelphia and Dallas. On March 22, 13 people were killed and five people were wounded in Cleveland, Detroit, and Boulder, Colo. On March 23, two people were killed and six wounded in Aliceville, Ala. and Atlanta. On March 26, six people were killed and 25 wounded in Philadelphia, Virginia Beach, Memphis, and Chicago. On March 27, one was killed and 13 wounded in Chicago and Yazoo City, Miss.

After a high-profile incident such as the spa shooting in Atlanta or the supermarket shooting in Boulder, U.S. politicians follow their own ritual. Democrats say “enough is enough” and it is time to pass common sense gun safety laws and ban assault weapons. Republicans say they are sick of all the chatter about gun control and this is really a mental health issue, unless the perpetrator has a non-Western European sounding name in which case it might be an immigration issue. The end result – nothing gets done.

For the last year, we have been obsessed with the COVID-19 pandemic and mass shootings seemed to go away. Now that we are emerging from the year of quarantines and closures, we are seeing the epidemic of gun violence and the gridlock of our political system come back into the forefront.

In ‘Rod’ we trust

To the Editor:

Please excuse the lateness of my reply, but in response to the ongoing climate change debate, I would like to make a few important points about solar power. These insights may have come to me on golden clad sheets of uranium, which were revealed to me by a deep ultraviolet Salamander, so plated lest they suffer corrosion and subsequent loss of containment.

Frankly, the writers here must be pretty egocentric to believe our sun is the only one of His stars to thank for the plentiful sources of industrial energy He has made available to us on our planet. The various primordial nuclides in the earth’s crust are an even more attractive source of power than petroleum, and have nothing to do with our tiny sun.

As an example, uranium could never have been formed by a main sequence star like our Sun, but was formed in a far more impressive maelstrom. The s-process, for which we praise Him, does indeed make Hydrogen-hydrogen fusion look like a small firecracker against God’s own personal manhattan project. We are hence gifted with an abundance of “green” energy that can easily be extracted from the earth and, perhaps more importantly, be used in gorgeous Fiestaware.

How God must love us to put so much effort into providing for such endless smartphone charges. His troubled and most unreliable servants are the benefactors of His glorious Reactors, and thus we thank Him. He literally destroyed His favorite neutron stars so that we may Fiss. Hence, we are given a fuel source that is 6 orders of magnitude more dense than coal, and pro-

vides a myriad of useful elements that would otherwise be inaccessible for scientific uses. This is stark contrast to fossil fuels that, at best smell bad while Harley riding nincompoops spew Covid, and at worst, as some conspiracists maintain, usher in the extinction of Rubiaceae Arabicus, which has saved the lives of countless coworkers. I don’t want to take sides, but even our favorite industrial caffeine mongering megalgorithms can all agree that a 1000km band of lifeless equatorial real estate would be a very bad thing indeed!

The real advantage of his most Loyal Atoms is that, unlike petroleum, the atomic power available is not a “one and done” deal. The fact of the matter is that they perfectly imitate the garden of eden. The Spoils of His Noble Nuclei are even greener, meant in all senses, than the characteristic radioactive glow we all imagine from the Simpson’s.

Even years after commercial power plants are done squandering their nuclear fuel rods, His Holy Shafts requires extreme measures to manage their thermal output, lest their wrath ensue, conferring a large fraction of the cost of nuclear energy production! Such is the arrogance of man! What better way to save our friendly energy companies money and bolster our collective retirement holdings? What fools the administrators are of Massachusetts educational organizations for divesting from energy stocks in the name of conservation? If only they knew of the Glory of The Way of The Rod! All Hail the Rod!

So much energy is released as this “waste” that our State has a permanently manned installation to

Turn To **COHEN** page **A10**

To the Editor:

One of the key reasons that many of the liberals argued before the election was that Biden would unify the country. Now we see that this was just a lot of horse crap. If anything is clear, it’s that Biden and the radical socialists running him are dividing the country as far apart as it has ever been before. Instead of inclusion, they are the party of exclusion. The only time a Democrat reaches across the aisle now is to slap a Republican. Their whole agenda is about racial identity politics. Their basis for qualification of a job is entirely about what race or sex you are. We see colleges and universities having groups and classes where admission is based on race. We see them having separate but equal graduation ceremonies for each racial category. Is this unification and equal rights? We are actually going back to segregation which Joe has always supported.

History has proven that all the races are indeed equal. It has clearly established that we are all members of this human race. We all have been ordained by our creator with the exact same capacity for good and evil. Just looking at world history and the past evils, they all are quite equal. The white races had their Holocaust and slavery. The black race has their civil war in Rwanda between the Hutus and Tutsis. In fact, many African tribes have enslaved others and sold them off. Many in Africa still practice it today. Just look at Boko Haram. Jamacia and Haiti had black governments where slavery was a common practice; in fact, Kamala Harris is descended from a slave owner. The Asians had the Japanese attacking China. Then they had the killing fields

of the Khmer Rouge. There was genocide practiced by Stalin, Mao, and the Turks. The native indigenous people of the Americas were just as blood thirsty. They commonly practiced human sacrifices and slavery. In fact, the Spanish were looked upon as saviors by tribes that the Aztecs under Montezuma subjugated. That’s how 500 Spaniards using their aid was able to defeat 20,000 Aztecs. Just watch the move “Apocalypto” to get an idea of how it was. Here in this area, there were many Indian raids where women and children were slaughtered and enslaved. So, you see, no race has the moral authority to say they have the higher grace than any other. All the races have the same capacity for good and bad. It’s the people they put in charge of their society that promote either one. We see in history it’s usually one group that highlights racial division and strife to consolidate the one thing they all crave: Power. At this juncture in our history, it’s abundantly clear who is trying to consolidate the power.

The liberal news propaganda machine of CNN and the Washington Post magnify any white on black issues. Just last week, what dominated their enlightened news was a white lady yelling racial insults at a black cashier over wearing a mask. It was in their news feeds for two weeks. At the same time in Florida, a white girl on Spring Break was raped and brutally murdered by two black thugs. Wasn’t even in their news. No reporters searching in depth to see if they were affiliated with BLM on their Facebook posts.

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A11**

Remembering Paul Baldiga

To the Editor:

Our family lost a good friend last week, and so did many other people in the area who may not have learned as yet of the passing of Paul Baldiga, well known to those who played in, coached, parented, umpired, or managed the fields and affairs of the Spencer-East Brookfield Little League for many years.

I first encountered Paul when my little ballplayer was just getting started in the minor league division, and proud as could be to take the field wearing the black T-shirt and cap of “Don’s Plastering.” Back then, Little League was very big: six “major league” teams as well as the “minors” served hundreds of local kids. From the excitement of the parade to the fields on opening day, to the playoffs, to the hot dogs from the concession stand, no one wanted the season to end.

At the time, Paul was an umpire and league official, but I could see he was a storehouse of useful knowledge about America’s National Pastime. When I asked if he was available for some help with hitting, pitching, catching, and fielding, he readily agreed and flattered me by observing he thought the boy had some potential.

Thus was the beginning of a wonderful 20-year friendship which ended this past week, far too soon and at-for him-a much too young age. To our kids, he was always «Mister Baldiga,” and he became the sixth member of our family, always invited to Christmas at our house (his gifts were predictably thoughtful and meticulously wrapped betraying his education as an engineer at WPI) Thanksgiving, Easter, the kids’ birthdays, special guest at concerts,

athletic events, graduations, Fourth of July Fireworks in our back field which he absolutely loved, and throwing/kicking/hitting/catching a baseball/soccer ball/football in that same field (in his fifties and sixties he had more “kid” in him than most kids)—he was there for every special time he could make (he had relatives who also wanted him around for their occasions).

Years later, when that skinny little novice baseball player graduated from a college 500 miles away, Paul rode all the way with us to shake hands and take pictures. He and I had also flown to Louisville to see that same boy run in the Div. III National Cross Country meet in 2014.

Paul was extremely smart, and, after graduating from Agawam High School studied at WPI. In his spare time, he learned to do beautiful finish carpentry for the several properties he owned. Repairing and refinishing interesting clocks, collecting elegant antiques, and making the yards of his homes places of beauty with his knowledge of stonework, flowers, trees, and bushes were some of the other things at which he excelled.

Paul had what I assume to have been a photographic memory. Every detail of every game, each player, the locations of the playing fields, the years of the tournaments and the opponents—it was all in his head. He remembered anyone who ever played for him, and many who played against him. If I brought up the name of some kid I had had in school years ago, he could tell

me everything I could have wanted to know about him (and sometimes, her) as a baseball player and as a boy

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A12**

Voter suppression and the symbolism of guns A lot to respond to

To the Editor:

Last week, the state of Georgia enacted a new law to tighten voting regulations in a naked attempt to keep people, especially minorities, from voting. The Republican officials in Georgia say that it’s a mischaracterization and they only intend on making voting access fairer.

The first thing to mention is that this is a solution in search of a problem. There is no widespread voter fraud, so there is no problem to address. It should be mentioned that these same officials, all Republican, vociferously defended the results in Georgia for the presidential and both senate elections just a few short months ago. These same Republican officials told the country in certain terms that the 2020 election was secure, there was no widespread fraud, and that the results were valid. It should strike us all as odd that an election process in a Republican controlled state had not been a problem for years and years, then Democrats swept the major national races by slim margins, the officials in charge of the election certified the Democrats’ wins and said there was no problem, now months later they are trying to solve a problem they swore didn’t exist.

Clearly, the problem is, Democrats won elections in a state where Republicans control 60 percent of the State Senate, 58 percent of the State House, and 100 percent of the Constitutional officers are Republican. Since Republicans seem to control all

the levers of state government, the Democratic election victory in 2020 for national offices is a travesty that must not recur.

Restricting voting should look bad to everybody. This new law criminalizes handing out food and water to those standing in line to vote, which on the surface sounds pretty bad, but as we peel the onion back, it begs the question why the lines to vote in minority neighborhoods are so long that handing food and water to those in line improves the chances that they stay in line. Finally, there is a history down in Georgia. There is a history of slavery flowing right into Jim Crow and now more innovative modern forms of voter suppression for the past 150 years.

Georgia is now requiring a voter ID for absentee ballots. The reality is that voter ID laws have little effect on actual voter turnout and neither do absentee ballot laws. The vast majority of people want to vote do, and those who don’t bother to vote don’t. It is true though that voter ID and difficult absentee processes impact black Americans more than white Americans, and if voter turnout can be suppressed by only 5 percent among blacks, that may be enough to flip the election... 5 percent black voter suppression would have been enough to flip the 2020 presidential and both senatorial elections...

On Election Day, Georgia Gov. Kemp dropped his own ballot in a drop box,

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A12**

To the Editor:

Mr. McRae... I do love how the New Leader editor replaced a likely racist term he intentionally used with “[Coronavirus].” We all get to guess which racist term he used. I also like how he referenced Joseph Goebbels’ “big lie technique” in reference to a single digit number of transsexuals competing in high school sports when the “big lie technique” has been in the media of late in reference to former President Trump’s false election claims. I’m guessing Mr. McRae heard the “big lie” referenced enough that he decided to spin it for his own purpose.

It isn’t lost on me that SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 get scientific names which are used in the media and it’s forbidden to mention ad nauseam the country of origin, but the B.1.1.7 variant is referred to as the British variant, the P.1 is the Brazilian variant, and the B.1.351 is referred to as the South African variant. There doesn’t seem to be a concerted effort to blame the governments of those countries, the people in those countries, or the culture of those areas. As soon as the American Nationalists go after Britain, Brazil, and South African people, culture, and governments we’ll start needing to use the scientific names.

This week, I happen to have some agreement with Mr. McRae. The eight murders at Atlanta-area spas don’t strike me as racially motivated crimes as much as they look like crimes against sex workers.

It is true that Asian-Americans have

been subject to a variety of hate crimes and racist attacks by White nationalists for years. It is true that since the COVID-19 crisis began Asian-Americans were subject to a lot of abuse and blame, much of which starts from intentionally racist terms for the Coronavirus pushed hard by White Nationalists. It is also true that the Democrats and the left like to frame things in terms of racial relations, and a crime where 75 percent of the victims are a race represented by 4 percent of the host city sure looks like a racial hate-crime. I believe that the gunman fetishized Asian women and that helped him dehumanize them and gun them down not as people but as sex objects... However, the main story here is that we had a mass shooting and crime against sex workers.

It is interesting that Mr. McRae is very concerned about the plight of Asian-Americans who have are “wronged” by admission policies to elite universities. It is of course true that any admission policy that favors a diverse student population with a fixed student population size is a zero-sum game and for every minority that they help get in, another candidate didn’t get in. It is interesting that normally white nationalist politicians from states with nearly no Asian population have been the most concerned about this.

The simple reality is that any attempt to boost African Americans, Hispanics, or Native Americans weakens White Americans of their grip on the upper

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KANE
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see the world “us” and “them” or “red” and “blue” do too. They do not only because giving straight to the family grants eliminate the need for “terrible” bureaucrats. Their main reason focusses how effectively they grants work and how much they help our country. For such conservatives helping our country makes more sense than hating other Americans – as the Chinese and Russian would like us to.

To quote the Niskanen Center report: The Conservative Case for a Child Allowance; “The United States has the highest...child poverty rate of any country in the developed world. While many factors...affect poverty...this fact reveals the rather straight-forward reason why: our relative lack of spending on children and families. (Our) share of (Gross Development Product) spending, a tenth of a percent, is the lowest of not only developed but some developing countries.”

“At the same time the institution of American family has never looked weaker. Family formation and marriage rates have declined

BAGG
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question. Whether they believe those that stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, and wanted to hang Mike Pence were Trump supporters, Antifa, or something else is an open question. How they would rank the various threats of the last 12 months to the United States in order of seriousness is an open question.

There is still a substantial portion of the 5th & 6th Worcester Districts that do not believe the truth and continue to believe the former president's lies and will only believe the truth if it comes from leaders of their own party. Berthiaume & Durant have a responsibility to tell the truth and

substantially.... In 2019, US Birth rates fell for the fifth consecutive year.”

“In this report we argue that the U.S. should enact a universal child allowance as the appropriate...conservative policy alliance to these crises.”

Now onto my grandson. He just turned four, and finds dinosaurs fascinating. Were it not for him, I would have skimmed the “Climate change is a good thing” March 12 letter and forgotten it. But given his dinosaur interests, the letter stuck with me — particularly for the wrong and misleading facts it presents.

Dinosaurs roamed the world about 100 million years ago. Much before then, fossil fuels like oil began to form from crushed plants etc. Importantly little or no animal or human activity affected the Earth's climate for the next 99,999,800 years or so. Also, very little =fossil fuel was extracted from the Earth.

Then 99,999,800 years or so after fossil fuels began to form, the Industrial Revolution began in 1850. Since then, massive amounts of fossil fuels have been taken from Planet Earth. Most of them have been burned or turned into

end this once and for all.

If Berthiaume & Durant believed the president's lies, why won't they come out, say it loud and proud? Why would they want any of you to think they might be closet RINO's? Why would they want to fail the litmus test of unconditional support for Donald Trump?

The obvious reason is that Durant & Berthiaume know Biden won the election fair and square. They also know that a substantial portion of their constituents believe the former president and use acceptance of his lies as a loyalty test. They feel there is political risk to unambiguously telling the truth and taking the wind out of the sails of the resistance, and they feel there is political risk to publicly endorsing

products by processes that pollute the atmosphere and raise the earth's temperature.

By intent or otherwise, the “Climate change is good letter” ignores the fact that until 1850, humans did not affect the earth's climate. However, since then in ever increasing speeds and amounts we humans, have affected its' climate and steadily increased its temperatures.

The use of fossil fuels has helped to accomplish much (and provided great wealth to a relative few).

Now, almost all scientists say we have so much damaged the planet's environment and climate that we humans have at best 25 years or so to halt the destruction.

Here by intent or otherwise, the “Climate change” letter wrongly ignores the danger to us all, particularly our children (including my “dinosaur” grandson who will be 29 in 2046).

I wonder why, with contempt for those even trying, the letter makes fun of the potential solutions and actual progress made in solving our Climate Change challenges?

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

what they know is a lie... So they chose silence...leading be damned!

I have no need to meet with them; I am convinced I know what is going on. If I was personally curious I could shoot their offices an email. I write to highlight the fact that they are purposely not taking a position and that should be offensive to everyone, regardless of your party affiliation and regardless of the outcome you desired in 2020. I had assumed that Republicans, their ardent supporters, would demand they go on record...But I guess I was wrong.

It isn't me who deserves an answer, it's you.

FRED BAGG
SPENCER

REID
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California increased their vote totals by 3,024,344 from '16 to '20. Some may call that vote harvesting. The vote differences in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and Wisconsin totaled 76,446 in the aggregate, which represents only 2.47 percent of possible harvested votes with many more in hand. They also represent 43 electoral votes, which would have given President

COHEN
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quickly pile up with the types of military style weapons we allow to be sold here. Just six days before the Boulder supermarket shooting the perpetrator purchased a semiautomatic AR-15 pistol, a weapon made for combat. The “pistol” version is essentially the same weapon as a standard AR-15 rifle but with a shorter barrel, shorter stock, same people killing bullets, and similar capacity and ease of firing multiple shots. One of the advantages of the “pistol” is that it can be hidden under a jacket.

I know a lot of Republicans bristle at any mention of “gun violence,” “gun murders,” or “gun deaths”.... Fine. Let's talk about all murders. The United States, with our 2ndAmendment and cultural prioritization of gun culture over life, has a pretty bad homicide rate (by any method). Our homicide rate of 4.96/100,000 is 381 percent higher than Canada's 1.76/100,000. The UK is lower at 1.2/100,000. Australia is 0.89 and New Zealand 0.70. While looking at the list, I couldn't find one decent/peer country that was worse than

Trump his reelection. Is it possible that California and New York state could have supplied their “free and fair” ballots to other states to ensure Trump's defeat? Yes, I believe, with the illegal changes in state election laws, it certainly is possible...No evidence – no proof – just spit-balling.

Happy Easter and Passover to all.

Jim Reid
Spencer

us; the only countries worse than us our former president would have referred to as “[expletive] countries.”

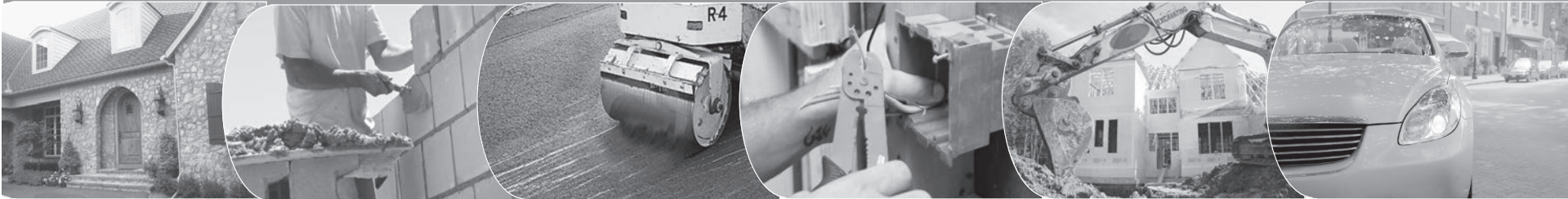
Among countries with lower homicide rates than the USA we see a variety of places such as sub-Saharan countries, some central American countries, all of Europe, and almost all of Asia. Some of the countries with the toughest gun restrictions had some of the lowest homicide rates (by any method) including Singapore at 0.16/100,000 and Japan at 0.26/100,000.

There are poorer countries than us with lower homicide rates, richer countries than us with lower homicide rates than us, countries with vastly different cultures that have lower homicide rates, but also the countries that are culturally most similar to us (Canada, UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand) all have far lower homicide rates...

To a casual observer, it almost implicates our gun laws and policy... Just sayin'...

ESTHER COHEN
WEST BROOKFIELD

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HAR-YAROK

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caste and the ability to inherit their caste. Another interesting factoid is that Asian-Americans have performed quite well in a meritocracy. Many conservatives have dishonestly adopted the plight of the Asians who are “harmed” through any attempt to elevate our underprivileged not because they care about the Asians, but because they are willing to relent on 1 small minority in order to maintain dominant status for white people.

Mr. Herholz had one of his phrases replaced with “[COVID]” leaving us all to guess which racist term he used. I apologize if I seem repetitive, but you guys don’t seem to get it, so I keep trying to explain things differently. In an effort not to be repetitive I won’t re-litigate how the Nancy Pelosi hair dresser COVID local regulation fiasco is the responsibility of the licensed business owner, not the customer who spends most of her time in other jurisdictions.

Regarding AM Radio, Mr. Herholz is correct, AM radio is a bastion of the right-wing. Right-wingers represent 47 percent of America so it isn’t a surprise to me that they tend to congregate in certain areas of media. I for one don’t listen to AM radio, I’m more of a podcast guy. Fox News is the largest news network by viewership, so I don’t think it is fair to say that conservatives don’t have their own media outlets.

I have to hand it to Mr. Reid for noticing I don’t consider myself to be perfect, and recognize when I’m wrong. I consider myself to be a smart guy and while I’m usually right, I am wrong sometimes, and this is not a new revelation. Even the most omniscient of us can be wrong at times – like when I believed the clown car of Obama opposition couldn’t get any more ridiculous, and then came Donald Trump.

I encourage everyone to read for comprehension, absorb the context, and understand what is being written/said. I checked my March 19 letter, and

my quotes “I honestly can’t believe,” “Who knows. I sure don’t. Mr. Robillard doesn’t have a clue either.” were not be admitting ignorance but slamming Mr. Robillard for his ridiculous statements on climate change. The fact that Mr. Reid quoted me and replaced “Robillard” with “...” indicates to me that Mr. Reid understood the context and changed a quote to tell a different story. Mr. Reid is even aware that he took my words out of context and accused me of the same.

I always try and provide proper context, and I invite Mr. Reid and anybody else to call me out if I take things out of context. The fact that he took my words out of context to accuse me of the same without giving an example of me doing it indicates to me that Mr. Reid can’t think of an instance. He merely doesn’t like my content but doesn’t know how to attack it, so he reaches for straws.

I am entertained by President Biden and I still watch the news, but a man who overcame a stutter, occasionally gaffes, and fell up the stairs of Air Force One has nowhere near the entertainment value of a reality narcissistic sociopath reality TV star turned president.

Yes, I am betting on another mini-surge of COVID. That doesn’t mean that is what I want to happen, it is what I think will happen. I don’t gamble and make bets on my desired outcome, I gamble and make bets on what I think is going to happen. I use provocative words to shine a light on it so hopefully it will get through people’s well-wishing thick ignorant skulls that this pandemic isn’t over. I am not causing the surge, my best hope at affecting it is to warn those unaware so they will change their behavior or even prove me wrong out of spite. The reality is cases have been rising for 3 weeks in a row, rising 20 percent last week alone. Another interesting realty is the rate at which it is increasing, the acceleration, or the 2nd derivative for those who took Calculus, is also increasing. Two weeks ago, cases increased 5 percent, last week it increased 13 percent, this week 20 percent. Hospitalizations are up 17 percent in Massachusetts in the last week, and

deaths are up 16 percent in the last week.

While people seem to be forgetting COVID was ever a thing – cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and growth rate are currently similar to the period right before Thanksgiving...As we head into Easter weekend.

Mr. Reid – you seem to love the possibility that I may be wrong. On the topic of COVID-19, I really hope I’m wrong too. I encourage you to do your part in proving me wrong by treating the pandemic as serious as it is.

Mr. Robillard – The word “rape” is pretty accurate to describe what we are doing to the planet, its natural habitats, and the other species on this planet. We are currently in the Holocene extinction, or the sixth mass extinction event in the planet’s history caused largely by the planet’s exploitation by humans. There are both indirect effects of human activities such as destroying and fragmenting habitats and direct effects such as overfishing, hunting, chemical pollution, invasive species, and human-caused climate change. There is a normal background rate of species going extinct, but the extinctions of the last 100 years would normally have taken 10,000-100,000 years. Currently, 32 percent of all known species across all ecosystems are decreasing in abundance and range. The earth has lost 60 percent of the vertebrate animal population since 1970.

Yes, a word that describes a horrific sexual act on a person is a great word to describe a human caused mass extinction event which is causing species to go extinct at 100-1,000 times faster than the natural background rate, and continuing to accelerate.

Yes, animals, plants, and complex organisms take time to evolve. If we release polar bears into a tropical island who do you think they will fare? Each generation only has random mutations, and it takes many hundreds or thousands of generations to see real change. Bears have quite long generations. Plants can only spread their seeds a small distance from their current location creating a functionally short range per generation but also they can only

tolerate indiscernible changes from generation to generation. Large plants and animals have generation lengths of years or decades.

A virus is a single particle microscopic, not even an entire cell, it latches onto a cell. COVID-19 has an apparent generation length of 35 minutes and a single virion can multiply to 100,000 inside your body in 10 hours, representing 17 generations. In the 15 months since President Trump was alerted and ignored the crisis there has been time for 18,000 generations of the COVID-19 virus. Translated to human generations, that would be nearly 500,000 years. Modern humans have only been around 80,000 years representing 3,500 generations.

Comparing evolution of large plants and animals to COVID-19 variants is beyond stupid. How will a palm tree do planted in Massachusetts? What about bringing a fish out of water to see if it evolves into an animal? Give me a break. Mr. Robillard – I believe you are smarter than your own words.

The errant comment about a lab in Wuhan, China as the source of COVID-19 was noticed and as I’ve explained many times there is no evidence of that, there is evidence of natural origin, and the exact source isn’t relevant to how it should be handled without our own borders. I would love for you to explain to all of us why it is so important that we believe the baseless claim that the virus originated from a lab in Wuhan... How would it change how we manage the pandemic? Is it important that we blame China? For what?

Mr. Robillard complains about Democrats printing money but he should really take a look in recent fiscal policy history. Donald Trump increased the sovereign debt of the United States in 1 term more than any other president had done in 1 term with a massive tax cut combined with unprecedented military spending, and wasn’t offset by any spending cuts. It seems that the Republicans did figure out the political benefits of doing things without paying for them.

Mr. Robillard’s comments about socialism leave me confused as to whether or understands what the word means or not, or if he is or isn’t aware of President Biden’s actual policies or not. Since it isn’t clear to me where the disconnect is, I’ll leave that alone for now.

Since last week 375,250 more American got COVID-19. These are people who spent the first 13 months of this pandemic avoiding the virus but are now sick. Since last week 7,104 more people have died from COVID-19 – these are people who would be alive otherwise. The average age of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths have come down substantially as older people have gotten vaccinated. It might be better than the January peak, but it’s still bad, and should be acceptable to anybody. In the U.S., the total COVID-19 deaths is now over 550,000, and cases over 30.2 million.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

WEISSNER

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imprison his most righteous Rods where they must slowly die, with their daughter product’s glorious beauty being left un-sung!

The Good Lord longs for some energy enlightened patriot, such as Brothers Robillard or ney, Omar, to volunteer their ordinary swimming pools, fountains and bathtubs for storage! Would they not be greatly rewarded for their quartering of His great Transuranic hero’s? Their sweat, and lack of shielding, would gift them a year-round source of relaxing hot water, that is self illuminating! Not to mention making their nighttime bathroom breaks much greener and less messy!

These Patriots could readily entertain guests in a pool that is self sterilizing. Cheaper than chlorine, a free source of anti septic would go a long way in light of the COVID fiasco. Not to mention these Hero’s commendable part in carrying out God’s will. I, for one, love the glow of Cherenkov radiation in the evening, and it pairs very well with a White Sauvignon, Veal, suffering from leukemia and self loathing. I also never miss the toilet when I get up at night thanks to His guiding light’s presence in my toilet bowl.

Let’s we forget zirconium-clad Rod assemblies make a very attractive addition to any household’s backyard, resisting corrosion, and providing a valuable source of Tritium for all of the

self-luminescent hipster keychains anyone could ever sell on Etsy! It’s really just the Gift that keeps on Fissing.

Finally, consider that the real joy may come as His Rods lay bathed in Holy water... The most ancient, and Holy Deinococcus Radiodurans, a beautiful organism that gracefully accepts God’s most righteous challenge, thrives in the presence of his most glorious Rods and their warming, glowing warming thermal neutronic glow. We should welcome our new Extremophile Overlords, as they will be the only ones to survive the impending CO2 Rapture. A time when Rod reaps his glorious revenge while rewarding the energy investors and higher invertebrates for their loyalty.

Really, atomic energy is such a gift, that we should change the slogan on the US Dollar to say “In Rod We Trust.” It’s just a shame that we do not manage it in a responsible way. We stand by and

let the multitude of storage canisters in our own state slowly lose their valuable radiothermal output, to the open air like crying peasants, whilst neglecting to do so much good. Not even to mention the waste of Gods favorite party favor! Why do you think they call it “Helium?” Coincidence? Or His Rods most Noble Gas? You decide!

We should not try to curtail the true Glory of Rod! I, for one, would much rather deal with some minor radiation poisoning, that eclipses any Covid complaints, but instead comes compete with free lighting! Accept Rod’s word or starve to death in a great famine. Your ultimate judgment may come down to some fool who wants to develop casinos on Greenland and have flamingos in Antarctica! Just ask yourself: what has Carbon done for me lately? Amen.


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MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

ROSENBERG
continued from page A9

voting via drop box while television cameras recorded him. The law GA just restricted these drop boxes so that they are only allowed inside the voting places, the places with lines and stagnant COVID filled air! If the goal was to increase voting access, the ballot drop boxes would be outside and plentiful around Georgia.

There are efforts in Republican-run states to tighten voter laws in light of an election cycle won by Democrats. There is now H.R. 1, passed by the House, to nationalize voting laws and fight back against these states. The recently passed law in Georgia highlights why H.R. 1 is necessary.

MCRAE
continued from page A9

or a girl.

A raconteur, he reveled in recalling the memories of when he was active in sports and coaching/mentoring young people. But, there was more than that. He had hitchhiked with a buddy across the country and trekked in the Rockies and High Sierras as a college kid, and had plenty of stories of those, his salad days. He had held a number of jobs, and there were always memories to share of crazy things and people he had experienced before eventually making his career with the electric utility.

I think he was most proud of the countless hours over many years of service-unpaid, naturally—he had devoted to the success of the Little League operations. If anyone reading this was helped along the way by Paul back in those days, or has a memory to share, we have become friends with the only remaining member of his immediate

Now that the country seems to be coming out of the once-in-a-century pandemic we are coming out of our mass shooting hiatus. A few weeks ago, eight people were killed in the Atlanta area’s massage parlor shootings, and now this week 10 people were killed in Boulder, Colo. by an assault rifle he had purchased 6 days prior.

The Democrats’ policy prescriptions of an assault weapons ban, closing loopholes, background check, etc. all would have some modest effect on gun violence but it doesn’t address the fact that these shooters often pass background checks and have undiagnosed mental health issues. The simple and obvious problem is we have too many guns in America and it is too quick and easy to get a gun, even for those with clean backgrounds. We have upwards of 350

family, his sister. She has given me permission to make her address available in the event you would like to send along your condolences or a note of appreciation for something he may have done for your kid or your family, or simply something you remember about him. You can reach her at: Jane Brown, 2722 Davenport Rd., Duluth, GA 30096.

A final thought: although he was a pretty good player and was a decent contact hitter from either side of the plate, my kid simply lacked long ball power despite working hard at it in batting cages even during the winter. One April afternoon, Coach Baldiga held practice at the Connie Mack Field in East Brookfield. Finally, after years of waiting, it happened. A home run! Well, O.K., it was off the batting practice pitcher, but it still sailed way over the short porch right field fence. Despite my excitement, I nonchalantly walked out to the area where I had seen the ball land, picked it up and took it to my truck. With a ballpoint pen, I print-

ed: “First Home Run, April 14, 2007, Connie Mack Field, pitched by Paul Baldiga.” On the way home, I handed it to the new heavy hitter, and told him to hang onto it.

That Christmas, I was handed a little gift-wrapped box and inside was the ball, dirty and scuffed, but with a few additional words: “To Dad, from (his name.)” It may have been the only ball he would ever autograph for anyone. Now, with the untimely loss of our mutual friend, that grungy old ball means ever so much more to both the guy who hit it and the guy who went out and picked it up.

We couldn’t have done it without you, Paul. Thanks for all the good times and the memories. I’m sure there’s baseball in heaven, and I know you’ve already asked if they’re looking for umpires or coaches. Rest in peace, my friend, you touched many lives for the better while you were here.

al substance of an issue, but instead where it stands in the backdrop of the great culture war. For a lot of people their gun isn’t about the utility the object brings to them but about not being looked down upon by the city elites. The gun has become a symbol of rural identity and self-respect. The gun is not just a symbol of rural pride but has become a symbol of masculinity. As in any culture war, everything is about identity and not about the actual issue, and this makes it very hard to solve real problems.


President Biden held his first news conference this past week and before the conservative cadre in this opinion section attacks his stutter, I would like to say he passed the test with flying colors. He showed vigor, energy, and control. President Biden is going bolder than I thought he would have with a \$3 trillion infrastructure bill coming down the pike (remember when Trump wanted an infrastructure bill that never came to fruition...). Biden is also balancing pragmatism by saying politics is the art of the possible. The president was able to be bold, pragmatic, and be boring which is both clever and a breath of fresh air about how a president should act after 4 years of chaos.

Conservatives knocked President Biden for holding his press conference with a big briefing book with notes in the front of him which was really odd after four years of Trump using press conferences to pick fights with the press, attack his political opponents, and attack private citizens. It’s interesting that their best attack on a president who is answering the questions posed substantively with enough detail that the viewer is actually bored is to ask why he needed notes.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

Stocking the waters



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS

• • • • •

RALPH
TRUE

Stocking trucks from Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife are busy stocking trout in many ponds and streams through-

out the state. Wallum Lake in Douglas was included in the latest stocking of trout, but Rhode Island will not be stocking trout at the pristine lake until a later date, because of Covid pandemic. The state of Rhode Island’s normal opening day of the second Saturday in April

lake with trout, and the other does not!

Wallum Lake has had very low angler turnout over the past 10 years or so. Back in the day, I would agree with their thinking, as hundreds of anglers gathered to the site for opening day of trout fishing. In my 80-plus

years of fishing, I never have seen Wallum Lake not open on the second Saturday of April and feel, as many anglers do, that Rhode Island is a bit foolish in their change of opening day of trout fishing at Wallum, and all of Rhode Island trout stocked

Turn To **TRUE** page **A16**



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POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
12:29-12:49 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Mechanic, Pope streets), tickets issued; 7:23 a.m.: juvenile matter (Lloyd Dyer Drive), unruly grandchild; 7:41 a.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), mv w/flat tire; 10:24 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), heard noise/window damaged; 10:31 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:23 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 11:57 a.m.: animal complaint (Grove Street), dead possum in road; 12:27 p.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 1:24 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 1:29 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), req. officer speak w/customer; 2:08 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:04 p.m.: suspicious persons (Valley Street), being followed; 3:05 p.m.: burglary (Lake Street), Justin Debs, 22, 15 Lake Avenue, Leicester, breaking/entering for misdemeanor, trespassing, arrest; Christina M. Harrington, 31, 53 Bacon Street, Warren, breaking/entering for misdemeanor, trespassing, arrest; 3:23 p.m.: restraining order service (Wilson Avenue); 4:30 p.m.: fraud (Wilson Avenue), SS scam; 4:34 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 6:04 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), verbal dispute; 6:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 7:07 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 8:13 p.m.: disturbance (Lyford Road), disruption/public meeting; 8:23 p.m.: medical/general (Brown Street); 9:35 p.m.: medical/general (McDonald Street); (Total daily mv stops – 10).

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
12:18-12:32 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Church, Brown streets), tickets issued; 3:23 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:10 a.m.: restraining order service (Prospect Street); 10:48 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:27 a.m.: accident (Wm. Casey Road), report taken; 11:55 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 1:17 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 2:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), aggressive pit bulls; 2:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Marble Road), welfare check; 3:31 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:11 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Greenville Street), referred; 5:20 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 6:39 p.m.: mv lockout (Lyford Road), assisted; 7:53 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 7:54 p.m.: medical/general (East Avenue); 8:05 p.m.: suspicions mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 10:13 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); (Total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, MARCH 19
6:36 a.m.: DPW call (Browning Pond Road), icy spots; 8:05 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), injured eagle; 8:17 a.m.: abandoned mv (West Main Street), investigated; 10:55 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:36 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), accidental; 11:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Church Street), loose dog; 12:10 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:11 p.m.: suspicious persons (Smithville Road), investigated; 1:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), spoken to; 2:09 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 2:13 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:35 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 4:22 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Rutland PD bolo; 4:50 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 7:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (Bixby Road), investigated; 7:58 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 9:27 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Chestnut Street), neighbors igniting fireworks; 9:31 p.m.: accident (North Brookfield Road), road rage; 10:05 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 10:22 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

SATURDAY, MARCH 20
2:08 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 4:34 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Paxton PD bolo; 5:35 a.m.: 911 call (Northwest Road), accidental; 7:05 a.m.: medical/general (Brown Street); 8:36 a.m.: medical/general (Franklin Street), lift assist; 10:54 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), dog in road; 11:53 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 12:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), spoken to; 1:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), neighbor issues; 1:55 p.m.: illegal dumping (Kingsbury

Road), trash in woods; 1:59 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), items taken from yard; 2:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Wire Village Road), gunshots heard; 3:29 p.m.: disabled mv (Water Street), assisted; 4:10 p.m.: abandoned mv (East Charlton Road), investigated; 4:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), spoken to; 4:50 p.m.: suspicious persons (Old Farm Road), investigated; 5:29 p.m.: elderly matter (Crestview Drive), welfare check; 7:02 p.m.: disabled mv (East Charlton Road), Amazon truck stuck/mud; 7:20 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:28 p.m.: residential alarm (Northwest Road), services rendered; 8:11 p.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 8:29 p.m.: citizen complaint (Brooks Pond Road), re: neighborhood kids; 8:31 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:01 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 10:15 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), found debit card; 11:48 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:50 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Wilson Street), accidental; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

SUNDAY, MARCH 21
12:30-1:14 a.m.: parking violations/8 (Cherry, Mechanic, Church, Pearl, High, Main, Pope, Pleasant streets), tickets issued; 1:18 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), lost key; 7:41 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 8:13 a.m.: fire alarm (Adams Street), services rendered; 10:19 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (East Charlton Road), brush fire; 10:29 a.m.: medical/general (Lake Whittemore Drive); 12:03 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 12:49 p.m.: residential alarm (Lakeshore Drive), services rendered; 12:50 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Treadwell Drive), grass fire; 1:02 p.m.: RV complaint (Bay Path Road), dirt bike/no helmet; 1:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Adams Street), no contact; 2:13 p.m.: lost/found (Valley Street), pkg. delivered/wrong address; 2:18 p.m.: officer wanted (McDonald Street), sm. cooking fire; 4:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 4:40 p.m.: mv stop (Smithville Road), Thaliya Sarmiento, 20, 35 Grove Street, Spencer, unlicensed operation, mv operator identity theft, unregistered mv, warrants/5, carrying a dangerous weapon, arrest; Melannie Alegria, 20, 55 North Brookfield Road, Spencer, disorderly conduct, interfering w/police officer, arrest; 5:03 p.m.: medical/general (Brown Street); 9:02 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:46 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Hardwick PD bolo; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

MONDAY, MARCH 22
1:06-1:36 a.m.: parking violations/5 (South, High, Grove, Elm streets), tickets issued; 7:00 a.m.: officer wanted (Browning Pond Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 7:32 a.m.: vandalism (Main Street), soccer field vandalized; 9:23 a.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), aggressive dog; 9:41 a.m.: 911 call (Oak Bluff Lane), accidental; 10:33 a.m.: suspicious mv (Maple Street), investigated; 11:00 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:18 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:54 a.m.: mv complaint (Clark Street), car/kids on property; 12:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 12:53 p.m.: mv lockout (Valley Street), child locked in car; 2:27 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:11 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:31 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 4:33 p.m.: lost/found (Howe Village), found cell phone; 4:34 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lloyd Dyer Drive), child welfare concerns; 5:24 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:57 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 6:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Lyford Road), loose dog; 6:53 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Clark Street), open line; 6:59 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 7:05 p.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 7:38 p.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), rabid fox; 8:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 9:15 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; (Total daily mv stops – 6).

TUESDAY, MARCH 23
3:18 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:14 a.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 7:17 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:44 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 9:27 a.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), misdial; 10:24 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 10:35 a.m.: larceny (Pond Street), bike stolen; 10:37 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:43 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:10 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 12:09 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbor issues; 1:01 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found;

1:48 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), noise complaint; 1:59 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Valley Street), brush fire; 2:15 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), hit/run; 2:42 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:10 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 3:10 p.m.: officer wanted (North Brookfield Road), welfare check; 3:20 p.m.: identity theft (Mechanic Street), unemployment taken; 3:32 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), money found; 3:45 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), issue w/grandson; 3:52 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 5:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), loose dog; 5:22 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), disruptive female customer; 5:49 p.m.: threats (Maple Street), rep. being threatened; 6:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dogs/½-hour; 7:32 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), noise complaint; 7:49 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), no water; 7:53 p.m.: disturbance (Brooks Pond Road), re: local kids; 8:28-8:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:48 p.m.: fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 8:51 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:37 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 9:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), investigated; 10:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), unsafe use/charcoal grill; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

#

Leicester Police

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
2:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:53 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written (warning; 8:03 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:14 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:22 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:32 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:39 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:45 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:56 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:56 a.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), services rendered; 9:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:23 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 10:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:18 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:44 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 12:50 p.m.: investigation (Towtaid Street), services rendered; 12:52 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 2:55 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 3:45 p.m.: investigation (out of town, no destination noted in police log), services rendered; 4:07 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), no action required; 5:42 a.m.: fraud (Stone Ridge Drive), report taken; 6:26 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), no action required.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19
9:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:06 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:40 a.m.: investigation (Towtaid Street), services rendered; 12:48 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 12:50 p.m.: investigation (Towtaid Street), services rendered; 1:21 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), no action required; 4:03 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 4:50 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 5:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:10 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:36 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, mv towed; 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Cassi Baumgarten, 36, 13 Southbridge Street, Auburn, op w/suspended license, arrest.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20
12:34 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:41 a.m.: assist other PD (North Oxford Street, Oxford), services rendered; 12:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:02 a.m.: water/sewer problem (Pleasant Street), referred; 7:08 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, no inspection sticker, use of electronic device while operating mv/1st offense, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 11:39 a.m.: fire/unauthorized burn

(Rawson Street), services rendered; 12:45 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), no action required; 2:21 p.m.: family problem (Main Street), peace restored; 5:22 p.m.: disturbance (Clark Street), report taken; 6:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:20 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:20 p.m.: residential alarm (Baldwin Street), false alarm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21
12:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:22 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:09 a.m.: mutual aid (Mill Street, Worcester), no action required; 10:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:35 a.m.: mv stop (Whittemore Street), verbal warning; 12:06 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken; 2:17 p.m.: structure fire (Main Street), services rendered; 3:34 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 3:42 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 3:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, mv towed; 4:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, mv towed; 5:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 6:50 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), unable to locate; 9:32 p.m.: harassment (South Main Street), report taken; 9:51 p.m.: welfare check (Ingram Road), no action required; 10:30 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, MARCH 22
5:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:24 a.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street), no action required; 8:35 a.m.: residential alarm (Glen Ellen Lane), false alarm; 9:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:45 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:14 p.m.: mv stop (Pine Avenue), verbal warning; 1:14 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 2:29 p.m.: malicious mischief (Craig Street), spoken to; 3:23 p.m.: erratic operator (Henshaw Street), unable to locate; 4:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:18 p.m.: welfare check (Pine Street), spoken to; 6:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:41 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 9:27 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 9:34 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23
12:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:57 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 6:10 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 7:37 a.m.: assist citizen (Locust Street), report taken; 8:17 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:13 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 10:03 a.m.: welfare check (Baldwin Street), spoken to; 10:28 a.m.: investigation (Craig Street), report taken; 11:39 a.m.: investigation (Bethel Avenue), services rendered; 2:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:18 p.m.: assist citizen (Dale Street), spoken to; 5:11 p.m.: mv stop (Dale Street), no action required; 5:11 mv stop (Dale Street), verbal warning; 5:21 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 5:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 7:15 p.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 9:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24
12:36 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 1:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:12 a.m.: suspicious person (South Main Street), assisted; 5:17 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:56 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 6:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:30 a.m.: investigation (Craig Street), services rendered; 10:48 a.m.: neighbor dispute (Siani Road), report taken; 1:19 p.m.: family problem (Collier Avenue), assisted; 3:34 p.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), transported; 4:52 p.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Street, Spencer), transported; 5:11 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, mv towed; 5:25 p.m.: ambulance (Exeter Street, Worcester), transported.

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WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplce Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 A/C, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**



WEBSTER – 31 Park Street! 3 Family! 6/6/6 Rooms! 3/3/3 Bedrooms! 1/1/1 Bathrooms! Each Unit is nearly 1,300' Featuring Spacious Kitchens, Living Rooms & 3 Good Size Bedrooms! Remodeled 10 Yrs Ago! Updated Electric! Electric Heat! **\$284,900.00**



WEBSTER – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/Is, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



WEBSTER – 69 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/frwd Flrs & Slider to the Deck overlooking the Private Backyard! Frplcd Liv Rm w/frwd Flr! Ideal for Entertaining! Down the Hrdwd Hall find a Full Bath w/Tile & 3 Bdrms w/ Walk to Wall Carpeting! Master Bdrm w/2 Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/ Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrdwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fam Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! Sheel! Won't Last!! **\$349,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond + Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**



CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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Featured New Listing!

WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD



LOCATION! SCENIC Upper Gore Rd! Amazing "BIRD'S EYE VIEW" of Beautiful Webster Lake! Spacious Hip Roof Raised Ranch, 2279 SF+, 4 BRs, 1-Full Bath, 2- Half Baths, 0.73 Acre Lot! 18x36+ INGROUND POOL, STORAGE SHED, LG 24x36+ DETACHED 3 CAR GARAGE! 12x26+ 1 CAR GARAGE UNDER! **\$275,000.**

WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Zoned General Business 5 Terrific Opportunity for one large business or divide it up into smaller businesses. 4,784 sf building on 0.8 acre just off I-395 exit 1, with high traffic & visibility. Excellent location! assisted sale **\$695,000.**

THOMPSON - BECOLA ROAD



ON DEPOSIT

5+ Acre Waterfront Land on "Little Pond" Schoolhouse Pond. Private Setting. Open Field. 250+ feet Waterfrontage. Dead end road!
\$179,900

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate Sale! Scenic View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Boarding Stone Walls! Split Level! 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Hollywood Bath! Master Bedroom & Master Bath. Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level w/1/2 Bath, Garage. "Salt Water" Inground Pool. **\$319,000.**

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WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS
 Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **ON DEPOSIT \$89,900**
 Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**
 Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500**
 Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **SORRY, SOLD \$132,900**

WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE



Featured New Listing!

To Be Built or Build to Suit - 2000+ Sq Ft Custom Cape! 3 large bedrooms, Master suite, Central air, 2 Fireplaces! 2 car garage. All town services. **\$425,000.**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful CAPE! Enormous amount of updates. New Asphalt Shingles, & 8 New Skylights! 4 Bedrooms! 3 - 1/2 Baths! 24 x 26 Great Rm w/ Gas Fireplace! Master Suite w/"Spa Like" Bath & Soaking Tub! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? INGROUND POOL? OK! has that TOO!! All Painted!! SS Appliances. New Tankless Hot Water Boiler. **\$467,000**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



ON DEPOSIT

Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment with 2 bedrooms. 2 - 2nd floor apartments have 3 bedrooms each. 30' x 44' beautiful Fieldstone Foundation, with walkout basement to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula. 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining , formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing Is Everything!**
\$1,075,000.

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront COLONIAL! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House!
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"You ain't nuthin but a hot dog?" Those are fighting words in ChiTown!

For the love of the dog ...

My parents were both small town kids. My mom from Sand Springs, Oklahoma and dad from Sesser, Illinois. Their move to the far south suburbs of Chicago in 1953 to find work must have been a culture shock of great magnitude.

So, I was born and raised within the gravitational pull of the Windy City on beautiful Lake Michigan. To my brother, sisters, and I, our many trips into what was at the time, the second largest city in America, seeing the Chicago skyline as it appeared and grew on the horizon was like driving to the magical city of Oz. Breathtaking.

I've written of my love of Chicago pizza and the Chicago Cubs. Somehow, I've skipped over my passion for the best hot dogs in the universe ... Vienna Beef, served Chicago Style.

I can hear the collective gasps of my friends and neighbors on the East coast. "Vienna what?" They'll ask, then claim, "Nathan's is the best dog around." And rest assured, I love Nathan's. But there is just something special ... familiar ... a Chicago Style Vienna Beef dog is my comfort food.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

What is "Chicago Style" and where did it begin?

The Vienna Beef website offers this historical beginning ...

"The Chicago Style hot dog got its start from street cart hot dog vendors during the hard times of the Great Depression. Money was scarce, but business was booming for these entrepreneurs who offered a delicious hot meal on a bun for only a nickel. The famous Chicago Style Hot Dog was born!"

The style itself is extremely specific and no deviation is allowed. Make a small addition, omission, or change of any kind and you have committed sacrilege. It's Chicago way or the highway. I'll try to describe it for you without drooling all over my keyboard.

This delicacy begins with a Vienna all beef hot dog mounted upon a poppy seed bun. Then add bright yellow mustard (yes, the color and shade do matter). Chopped onions, Vienna brand bright green relish (same color as the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day), two Italian pickled sport peppers (hot Serrano), two wedges (not chopped) of tomato, a long slice or wedge (no fancy wavy or crinkle cut) of kosher/deli dill pickle,

topped off by celery salt sprinkled the length of the bun. The most important admonishment is no ketchup! You can have ketchup with your fries, but you are required to keep it at least twelve inches from the sacred dog. There's no room for deviation here.

I see dogs as I travel claiming to be Chicago, but the slightest modification disqualifies it's claim. I was in St. Louis and a dog stand advertised Chicago Style but made two critical errors. Chopped tomato and jalapeño slices instead of sport peppers. The dog was destroyed ... dead to me. I mean really ... is it the Mona Lisa with a different smile? Is it the Magnificent Mile without Big John standing at the end? Some things in life require a purity about them ... a tradition ... knowing my dad was the first in our family to taste one and I was next. I introduced the exact same dog to my Iowa wife (she's still struggling with the idea of eating a hot dog at all). I introduced them to my kids and now to Caleb and Noah. I find satisfaction in the fact every dog, regardless of generation had the same aroma, look, texture and taste. I find joy and comfort in the consistent continuation of this Chicago tradition. It's food, it's a delicacy, it's tradition

and it's artful beauty on a bun.

There are some things in life so perfect they should never change. To do so could roll our very planet off its access and destroy life on earth as we know it. If you've tasted the delicacy that is Chicago Style, no explanation is needed. If not, no explanation is possible. For those in this group, you have the recipe. Give it a try. Your taste buds will be forever changed. The integrity of the construction of a Chicago Style Hot Dog is one of the few food items with this power.

As for me, I'll take two dogs, "Chicago Style!"

(I awoke this morning after a dream of being outside of Wrigley waiting to get in with Caleb and Noah. We were all eating Chicago Style Hot Dogs. I got out of bed and what popped out of my head? A Chicago Style column!)

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 @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

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LEGALS

**Town of Spencer, MA
Tree Hearing**
https://tinyurl.com/PaxtonRdTrees
A public hearing will be held at the Spencer Utilities & Facilities Office, 3 Old Meadow Road, Spencer, MA. Broadcast Live (Remote Meeting Only) Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to consider the proposed removal of the following trees:
Paxton Rd. 4 trees various sizes,
Ray Holmes
Tree Warden
March 26, 2021
April 2, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO21P0782GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Alana Eve Huard
of Rutland, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/09/2021 by**

Mark O. Huard of Rutland, MA
Suzanne L. Huard of Rutland, MA will be held **04/28/2021 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Virtually-See Enclosure**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's

best interests.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: March 9, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
April 2, 2021

**Town of Spencer
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Sec. 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws that a public hearing will be held remotely on April 12 at 6:05 p.m. on the application of Miguel A. Perez for a transfer of an all-alcoholic beverages license for Tulence, Inc. d/b/a Mexicali Grille, 117 Main Street, Spencer, MA. Described premises: 8,400 square feet with two floors. Options to participate:
Dial in from your phone: 1 866 899 4679 Enter Access Code: 479-429-349 Or, join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone: https://www.gotomeet.me/TownofSpencerMA/boardofselectmen
Ralph E. Hicks,
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
April 2, 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:
The Town of Spencer has filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission for Muzzy Dam outlet structure repairs at Maple Street, Spencer, MA. Harry and Maureen Hatch have filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove tree debris and replace railing posts at 7 Sycamore Avenue, Spencer, MA. Matthew Beers has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission because of the placement of drainage pipes in the resource area at 6 Condon Drive, 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, April 14, 2021 at which time all persons having an interest may call in to participate in the Conservation Commission meeting that opens at 7:00 p.m.
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
April 2, 2021

TRUE
continued from page A12

waters, because of Covid. Fishing is the safest sport when it comes to social distancing, and anglers fishing from boats are even safer. At a time when Rhode Island and Massachusetts are relaxing some of their restrictions on bars, restaurants and fitness centers, restrictions on fishermen enjoying a day on the water with friends and family seem a bit harsh. It is totally unnecessary. Remember that the daily creel limit for trout at Wallum is five fish.

The pandemic has taken a toll on a lot of activities for outdoorsmen and women this year, and people are becoming sick and tired of wearing masks. As the Secretary of the 200 sportsmen's club stated in his latest report to the club "I cannot tell if they are sticking their tongue out at me!"

Wild turkey hunting will open in Mass. on April 26 in zones 1-13, and from the looks of things, the birds are not in short supply. This past weekend, I was driving in Bellingham and had to stop for more than 20 turkeys to cross. They marched by in single file taking their sweet time. A couple of irate, impatient drivers started to blow their horn, but I held my ground. I was afraid that one of them would try to pass and wipe out a

few, but they waited till they all crossed. The Massachusetts youth turkey hunt will be held April 24. If you know a youngster that would like to hunt a wild turkey, make his or her day and take them out. The experience of watching a youngster 12-17 years of age harvest their first turkey, will be a rewarding experience for both of you. They are our future hunters. Be sure to read all regulations prior to hunting. More on turkey hunting next week.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun club had more than 60 shooters at the 3-D archery shoot last weekend. Although the weatherman predicted rain for the event, the morning remained dry and allowed the archers to enjoy a great day on the archery course. A full breakfast was enjoyed by most in attendance. Numerous youngsters were also in



Photos Courtesy
This week's picture shows Rene Boucher with a five-pound rainbow trout taken at the Auburn Sportsmen's club recently. Nice fish.



A spotted salamander that was picked up by a reader in a road and released into nearby cover.

Local sportsmen are anxiously awaiting the results of their input into the license and permit increases that were proposed recently for 2022 by MFW. Many were hoping for some bargaining

Turn To **TRUE** page **A18**

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TRUE

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room on the increases, and also make crossbows legal to anyone that wants to hunt with one, as well as making Sunday hunting on private property for bow hunters legal. Many neighboring states already have a crossbow regulation that allows any legally licensed hunter to use one, and Sunday hunting on private property for bow hunters needs to become law. Fishing license sales have soared by 10 percent in most states in 2021.

This past week, I received the book “A Dog Called Perth” in the mail from an anonymous reader or acquaintance. I am not a big book reader, but I had to read it because it was about a beagle that was purchased by a well to do couple, that should never have purchased it. As most of my readers know, I inherited a 13-inch beagle from my wife when she passed a couple of years ago. She is great company for my 10-year-old Lab, as well as myself. Next week, I will have finished the book, and will discuss the book and its author. Stay tuned.

This week's picture shows Rene Boucher with a five-pound rainbow trout taken from the Auburn Sportsmen's Club pond recently. Nice fish. Did you know that trout purchased from private hatcheries by Rod & Gun Clubs is now \$9 a pound.

The Whitinsville Fish & Game club will hold their annual spring derby on April 17 for club members.

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