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Friday, April 24, 2020

Spencer parks closed due to COVID concerns



BY KEVIN FLANDERS

SPENCER – In an effort to enhance social distancing, officials decided last week to close all town parks to the public until further notice.

On April 14, Spencer's Health Agent Lisa Daoust ordered all town-owned parks and recreation areas to be immediately closed to the public until further notice. Signs will be posted at each park, and police will monitor the facilities to ensure compliance.

Town-owned parks affected by the ban include Powder Mill Park, O'Gara Park, the Rail Trail from Chestnut Street to South Spencer Road, Bemis Memorial Park, Isaac Prouty Memorial Park, Ralph Warren Memorial Park, and Luther Hill Park (including the skate park).

The ban also covers all school recreation areas, including fields and courts at David Prouty High School, Knox Trail Middle School, and Wire Village

Officials thank residents for their continued patience and understanding. Closing the parks was a difficult decision, but officials knew it needed to be made to increase social distancing efforts as the crisis continues.

"We did not take the decision on these closures in Spencer lightly," Daoust told the New Leader. "As we all have heard on the news these past couple of weeks, the state is expecting a significant surge in case numbers. Due to this, it was decided to close all public recreational areas for at least the next two weeks.'

Officials are hoping to make a decision on whether to extend the closure by early May. They will also have guidance from the state, as Governor Charlie Baker must soon decide whether to continue the closure of schools and nonessential businesses.

"At that time, we will re-evaluate the COVID-19 situation and make a determination on whether it is safe to

Please Read PARKS, page A4

COVID-19 cases by town

Baker's administration decided last week to release COVID-19 statistics for each city and town in the Commonwealth.

The decision was a reversal from the administration's previous stance of withholding town-by-town information in favor of broader tracking by county. But as conversations continue about when and how to reopen the country. Baker's team decided to release the most detailed statistics possible. This will help health officials pinpoint COVID-19 hotspots throughout the state and prepare for possible flareups in surrounding commu-firmed COVID-19 cases. nities, officials said. It will

REGION - Gov. Charlie also assist hospitals and other facilities in making necessary preparations.

> "Having the ability to look at this virus through the lens of its impact on specific cities and towns will help us to identify potential hotspots," said Marylou Sudders, the state's Secretary of Health and Human Services.

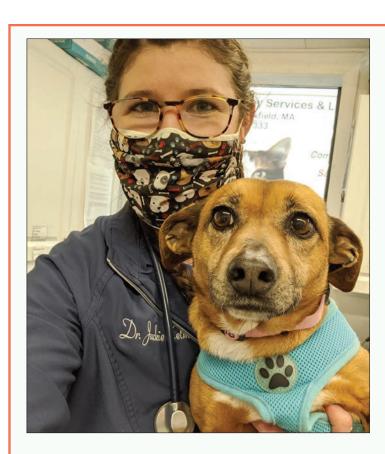
> Below is a list of COVID-19 statistics for area communities, as of April 15. The information reflects the number of confirmed positive coronavirus cases in each town.

Communities are only listed COVID-19 statistics. if they have five or more con-

Auburn: 34

Blackstone: 19 Brookfield: 5 Charlton: 15 Douglas: 18 Dudley: 19 Leicester: 14 Northbridge: 76 Oxford: 15 Southbridge: 31 Spencer: 8 Sturbridge: 17 Uxbridge: 20 Webster: 35 West Brookfield: 5 Worcester: 886

The Baker Administration will release weekly updates on

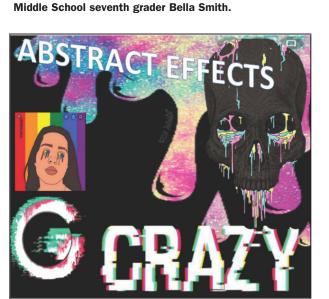


Knox Trail students sharpen art skills



Photos Courtesy

"Priscilla the Affluent Frog" was created by Knox Trail



Knox Trail Middle School eighth grader Gianna Serrano designed this CD cover.

SPENCER - Knox Trail Middle School art students have been keeping their skills sharp during the extended closure of schools.

KTMS students and staff continue to stay connected through a unique series of remote learning activities. These included students recently submitting their art to classmates for review as

part of contests. For the latest contest, the seventh grade winner was Bella Smith, who created a piece called "Priscilla the Affluent Frog." Below is a review of the piece written by classmate Lillian Roberts:

"Bella's frog is so cute and detailed; the lines are clean and the shading of the graphite gives it that depth I like. Also, the contrast between the white and the dark grey is on point. It's a pleasant picture for the eye in the fact that it is unique and quite amusing. Who wouldn't like some sassy frog queen?'

The eighth grade winner, Gianna Serrano, designed a CD cover. The piece was reviewed below by classmate Ava Sobosik:

"Gianna Serrano's CD cover was my favorite. It has great contrast, with the black background, galaxy-colored drips, rainbow pride flag, and glitchy letters. The colors are all extremely vibrant and bright, which, again, looks great with the black. It all has a nice flow to it because of all the colors, the contrast, and the

Turn To KT ART page A3

Second Chance staff humbled by random acts of kindness

- Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for Second Chance, but community support for their vet hospital staff is helping to inspire a weary From handmade masks to gifts of cookies carrying sweet thank you notes to all the messages of support on social media and email, the community has embraced Second Chance with encouragement unlike ever before. Just this week, Second Chance announced a donor has offered to match up to \$10,000 in donations to help provide emergency funding and has already received more than \$4,600

toward the goal. Support began to swirl in the early days of the crisis when volunteers, eager to help while safeguarding their own health, offered to make masks for staff as news of the mask shortage was breaking. Second Chance's Dr. Park was busy on her time off, researching the best patterns and making masks from home. Second Chance shared Dr. Park's tutorial with volunteers

BROOKFIELD who began dropping their handiwork off at the North

Brookfield hospital. Heather Trombly, owner of heathercraftylove.com, which sells custom pet accessories and regularly donates 10 percent of sales to Second Chance, also started making masks to help protect hospital staff. Trombly said making the masks for Second Chance was important to

"I'm teaching my two young children to give. I'm teaching them that kindness comes first. That helping others in their time of need is essential," according to Trombly, who added "I've loved animals since I was a little girl and my children love animals too. I just think what all of they do at Second Chance is amazing and this is my way of saying thank

you.' All the mask donations allowed Second Chance to donate their own supply of disposable masks to local hospitals to protect human healthcare staff on the frontline of the pandemic.

Please Read 2ND CHANCE, page A5

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How to wear cloth face coverings

In an effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where it can be difficult to maintain social distancing measures. That means people are advised to wear cloth face coverings while shopping for groceries or in any other settings where it might be difficult to stay at least six feet away from other people.

In recognition that the notion of wearing face coverings while in public is foreign to many people, the CDC issued instructions on how to wear such coverings to ensure they provide as much protection as possible.

How to wear cloth face coverings

The CDC notes that cloth face coverings should:

 fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face

• be secured with ties or ear loops

• include multiple layers of fabric

 allow for breathing without restriction

Additional guidelines The CDC savs face coverings should be avoided by certain people. Such coverings should not be placed on children under age two. In addition, people who have trouble breathing, those who are incapacitated and people who cannot remove coverings without assistance should not wear them.

The CDC also notes that cloth face coverings does not refer to surgical masks or N-95 respirators. The CDC urges everyone to reserve such supplies for health care workers and other medical first responders.

cover-Cloth face ings should be routinely washed. A washing machine should enough to clean these coverings.

When removing cloth face coverings, do so carefully. The CDC urges people to avoid touching



their eyes, nose and/ or mouth when removing their face coverings. Once the coverings are removed, people should wash their hands imme-

diately.

Cloth face coverings can help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. While wearing such coverings is a sim-

ple gesture, it's also one that can save lives. More information is available at www.cdc.gov.

COVID-10 when grocery shopping

Safeguard against (447 Supermarkets and other food merchants are allowed to stay open as "essential" retailers amid the mass shutdowns prompted by the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Along with banks, gas stations and takeout

restaurants, supermarkets are among the few places that people are allowed to visit to procure the necessities of everyday life.

Even with social distancing and other precautions in place, grocery stores remain high-traffic locations. As a result, many people feel concerned about how to best protect themselves when turning to in-store visits or grocery delivery services to stay stocked on food and other essentials.

 Maintain a six-foot distance. As with other locations, shoppers should keep a distance of six feet between themselves and other shoppers. Do not hesitate to move back or ask someone to move away if you feel concerned about proximity. Shopping during "off-peak" hours may help thin out crowds and make it easier to maintain social distance.

 Shop small retailers. It can be beneficial to visit independently owned retailers, like local markets, delis and specialty food stores. Crowds at such stores will likely be smaller than the crowds at large chain stores.

· Wipe down products. Data published in The New England Journal of Medicine that tested how long COVID-

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19 survived on surfaces found the virus was detected up to 72 hours on plastic, 48 hours on stainless steel, 4 hours on copper, and 24 hours on cardboard. While infection from touch may not be as likely as it is from direct inhalation of COVID-19 from an infected individual, it can be helpful to wipe down surfaces, including non-porous packaging, once items are brought home, as well as counters or tables used to unload packages. Wiping down a shopping cart handle also may be helpful.

 Wash produce. Consumer Reports suggests washing fruits and vegetables in a mild soap-and-water solution to eliminate any possible live virus and pesticides.

 Avoid direct contact. Whether items are delivered or purchased in-store, avoid personal contact with cashiers or other store employees. Pick up and pack your own groceries. Opt to pay with a credit card or another digital pay option like Apple Pay instead of handing over cash. Use your own pen to sign receipts. Scan your own frequent shopper card or have the cashier use a scan gun, rather than taking your key ring to hold. Delivery services can place the bags outside of your front door. Tips also can be exchanged electronically for delivery services through an app or online or over the phone.

Some simple shopping strategies can help people prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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Resources available for struggling businesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER - To assist struggling local business owners and their employees, officials continue to provide updates on the latest state and federal resources.

Owners throughout the area have struggled to keep businesses afloat since the statewide ban on nonessential operations went into effect last month. Businesses with fewer than 50 employees have been hit especially hard, often laying off significant portions of their staffs. Some owners fear they may not be able to reopen.

During the last three weeks, town officials have worked closely with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), which created an online assessment for small businesses. Owners can use this assessment to be walked through the eligibility requirements for relief sup-

"The CMRPC compiled a helpful resource guide of federal, state, local, and regional aid opportunities,' read a statement released by Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila.

If you have questions the regarding contact announcements, Kerrie Salwa at ksalwa@ cmrpc.org.

Meanwhile, April marked the first day independent contractors and self-employed workers could apply for forgivable loans through the Payroll Protection Program - a \$349 million segment of the \$2 trillion federal CARES Act. Independent contractors and self-employed individuals are eligible to apply for these forgivable loans.

Requirements for the loans include the following: You must have been in

operation on Feb. 15.

Your business must have been harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

You must submit required documentation along with your loan application.

Additionally, the Center for Women and Enterprise, the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network, MassDevelopment aid in the application for loans, as well as the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Details on these programs are below:

The maximum loan size is up to 2.5 times a contractor's average monthly 1099-MISC or net self-employment income for the past 12

The interest rate is fixed at 1 percent and the loan term is 2 years.

Loan payments will be deferred for six months.

No collateral or personal guarantees are required.

Neither the government nor lenders will charge small businesses any fees

for the loans.

A previous version of the application guidelines included language preventing companies from calculating compensation figures which reflected independent contractor fees. Those regulations were lifted last week.

Also, businesses with 500 or fewer employees can apply for loans up to \$10 million to cover their expenses between Feb. 15 and June 30, particularly payroll. Part of the loan is forgivable, for up to eight weeks of costs, although 75 percent of the forgiven portion must have

gone to payroll. "The SBA is planning on getting the money to businesses within a week of their application's approval, although that may or may not be realistic," read the statement released by Dell'Aquila.

Residents are reminded that any bank, credit union,

or other lender can help companies apply for the loans, even if they aren't an SBA-approved lender.

Also, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) has launched a nationwide rapid relief fund, starting with a partnership with Verizon that is anticipated to distribute approximately \$5 million in relief grants to small businesses. Massachusetts businesses are eligible to apply for \$10,000 relief grants through the Verizon Small Business Recovery Fund. This program is nationwide and will be very competitive.

Valley The Quaboag CDC is also offering loans for businesses that have suffered economic losses. Details on these loans are as

No payment is required for the first 6 months. Length of loans is determined on a case-by-case basis.

There is a 1 percent application fee, a 1 percent preparation fee, and a \$25 credit

Expected time from completed application to funding is 10 days.

For more information on these loans, contact Gary O'Grady at the QVCDC/ Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (413-967-3001 or gary@qvcdc.

For those working in the service industry, the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United) is offering cash assistance to restaurant workers who are out of a job. For details, visit www. rocunited.org/relief/.

Moreover, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Economic Disaster Loan Program offers up to \$2 million in low-interest loans to small businesses and nonprofits which have been severely impacted by COVID-19. For more information, visit the U.S. SBA Web site.

The state is also providing unemployment assistance to workers impacted by COVID-19 by waiving the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits.

"The Baker-Polito Administration announced a \$10 million Small Business Recovery Loan Fund, which will provide emergency capital up to \$75,000 to Massachusetts-based businesses impacted by COVID-19 with fewer than 50 fulland part-time employees, including nonprofits," read the statement released by Dell'Aquila.

Small business recovery loans are immediately available to eligible businesses, with no payments due for the first six months. To apply, complete the application at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

Baker-Polito The Administration announced administrative tax relief measures for small businesses which have been impacted by the outbreak, especially in the restaurant and hospitality sectors. This tax relief includes postponing the collection of regular sales tax, meals tax, and room occupancy taxes that would have been due in March, April, and May.

Additionally, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the North Central Massachusetts Chamber on microloans and is now offering emergency loans of up to \$20,000 to small businesses. To qualify for an emergency loan, businesses must provide two years of tax returns and demonstrate a direct financial impact of coronavirus on the business.

If you have additional questions about resources and loan opportunities, contact Dell'Aquila at pdellaquila@spencerma.gov or by phone at 508-885-7500 (ext.

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress. 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.

Police seek woman suspected of stealing dropped wallet

SPENCER - Police sought assistance from the public last week in identifying a woman who did not return a dropped

As of press time, police had not identified the woman from the April 11 incident at Price Chopper. At about 9 p.m., a Spencer woman dropped her wallet in the Price Chopper parking lot. After realizing it was missing only two minutes later, she retraced her steps but could not find the wallet.

Store surveillance footage showed the suspect pick up the wallet within 60 seconds of the victim dropping it. The suspect may have left in a gray sedan, police said; she was wearing a pink iacket.

"Anyone with information about the case is asked to please contact Det. Chris Inzerillo at 508-885-6333," read a statement released by the police depart-

continued from page A1

mood. The balance between all the different colors and shades is amazing; it all looks great together, even though there's an assortment of different col-

The school will continue to find creative ways to engage its art students during the break. KTMS officials thank all student artists and reviewers for their submissions.



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Spencer/East Brookfield School District, FLEXcon provide meals, enrichment to local students

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District (SEBRSD) and FLEXcon Company, Inc., an innovator in adhesive coating and laminating, today announced that they have been working together to provide enrichment to local school children along with meals to students in need during the novel coronavirus pandemic. While the reduced/free meal program is not new, it may not be common knowledge that breakfasts, and lunches continue to be available through the school system during this crisis. Paul Haughey, Superintendent of Schools, wants to be sure families know that meal packs, which include lunch for that day and breakfast for the next morning, will be made available for as long as schools are closed.

Many families in the Spencer-East Brookfield school district qualify for free or reduced lunch. With students now being home all day, having to come up with breakfast and lunch can be a significant burden on parents, especially those who may be temporarily unemployed due to mandatory shutdowns.

"We're experiencing a paradigm shift," says Haughey. "Teaching and learning is usually our #1 priority, but we can't do that in the ways that we' are used to right now because we don't have

the kids in front of us. Instead, we're focused on doing what we can in different ways to help get families through this crisis. So, if there's a school day on the calendar, we'll be providing meals, educational 'learning opportunities' and as much communication as is need-

Alongside the meals, FLEXcon distributed creativity kits comprised of sheets of materials children can use to create art projects at home. The kits included sheets of the company's holographic, glow-in-the-dark, and glitter films along with plain white vinyl, all of which are self-adhesive. The idea was inspired by Bill Sullivan, Executive Vice President, Business Development & Technology, FLEXcon, who delivered a similar packet to his granddaughter. She was so delighted to receive it that he thought it would be great to share the materials with more children.

"FLEXcon already works closely with SEBRSD on other community projects, such as Special Olympics and sharing our on-site health center with the faculty," says Sullivan, "so expanding our partnership to include creativity kits for local children who may not otherwise be engaged in learning right now wasn't a big stretch." Although not the goal of the food program, the kits gave

parents an activity that's excellent for teaching and learning. "Children were able to design and create something that they can then hang on the fridge or show off to extended family and friends via video chat," says Haughey. "It's something that kept them amused with hands-on, project-based learning during this public health crisis.

The reaction from families has been one of great appreciation for both the meals and the kits. They're thankful that the school system has their backs during this difficult time, and thankful for the creative distraction for children who were getting antsy and bored at home without their schoolmates.

For meal pick up times and locations please check the schedule by following the SEBRSD Facebook page.

About FLEXcon

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developing products for existing and emerging markets. Headquartered in Spencer, Mass., the company has operations throughout North America and Europe with distribution worldwide. For more information, visit www. FLEXcon.com, follow FLEXcon on LinkedIn, or call 1-508-885-8200.

About Spencer/East Brookfield School District

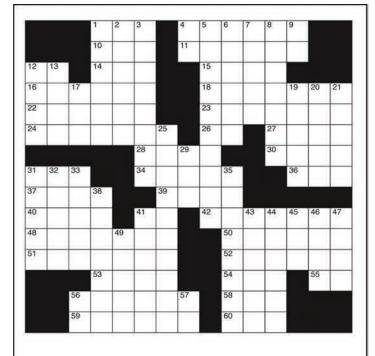
The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District was formed in 1962 as a public-school system-built upon the core values of progress, unity & knowledge. The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District serves more than 1555 students in grades prek-12 and offers many high-quality programs and services to its student body. The 1555 students of the district are housed in the East Brookfield Elementary School (PreK-4); the Wire Village School (Grades K-4); Knox Trail Middle School (Grades 5-8); and David Prouty High School (Grades 9-12). For more information, visit www.sebrsd. org. follow SEBRSD on social media @ ChooseSEBRSD on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram as well as YouTube.

Library offers programming options for patrons

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

SPENCER - Even though Richard Sugden Public Library

remains closed, there are still plenty of ways for patrons to stay involved with library programming.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Revolutions per minute
- 4. Hymns 10. Brew
- 11. Did not acknowledge
- 12. Atomic #77 14. Partly digested food
- 15. Not one
- 16. Lesotho capital 18. Copyreading
- 22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter
- 23. One's biological father
- 24. An aggregate of molecules
- 26. Equally
- 27. Khoikhoi people
- 28. Jump in figure skating
- 30. Lantern
- 31. TV network

- 34. Georges __, French philosopher 36. Sharp, shrill bark
- 37. Albanian monetary units
- 39. Launched Apollo
- 40. One who graduated
- 41. Exist
- 42. Passed by
- 48. Very unpleasant smell 50. Graduates
- Seedless raisin 52. Self-protection
- 53. Clue
- 54. Life-savers
- 55. Ingest too much 56. Misrepresented
- 58. Small Eurasian deer
- 59. Most mocking
- 60. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Flower cluster 2. A form
- 3. Inner organ regions
- 4. Local law enforcement 5. A citizen of Senegal
- 6. Positively charged electrodes 7. Connects granules
- 8. Business practice
- 9. The Mount Rushmore State 12. Leader
- 13. Hindu queen 17. Proofreading mark
- 19. European country 20. Greek mythological nymph
- 21. Grandfather
- 25. Clears

- 29. Amount of time
- 31. Mollusks 32. German municipality
- 33. Body part
- 35. City of Angels hoopsters 38. Suffocate
- 41. Pleasing to the eye 43. Poplar trees (Spanish)
- 44. Ship officer
- 45. Individual investment account (abbr.)
- 46. Prefix meaning within
- 47. Ceased to live 49. Day by day
- 56. Not color
- 57. Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)

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The library will host a virtual program on Wednesday, April 29, at 1 p.m. Teens and adults are invited to join the event and talk about their favorite books.

'It's a wonderful way to stay connected as we see and talk to each other, while remaining safe," read a statement released by library officials. "Think about your favorite books, and why they are your favorites. We'll share them on our website so that you'll have some new reading in electronic format, or in print for when we reopen.'

If you are interested in joining the program, contact the library for information. Officials will then send an email with instructions on how to sign up. You can also check out www.spencerpubliclibrary. org for more information (look for the Let's Talk Books with Denise program).

Library officials remind patrons that there will be no fines for overdue materials while the library is closed. Also, please do not put donations in the outside drop box.

Meanwhile, residents still free E-books, E-audio books, and E-movies with their library cards. The library is also offering remote help with downloading E-content onto computers and other devices. If you need help with these electronic formats, email Denise Farmosa at dfarmosa@cwmars.org.

The library is also purchasing E-books that give Spencer patrons first priority; they can be found on the library website. In the side bar of the website, click the picture of the electronic book you want. You must sign into your account to see if the book is available.

If your library card has expired, call Cheryl at 508-885-7513 (ext. 3) and leave a message, or email Denise at dfarmosa@cwmars.org.

For those who need assistance with local historical and genealogy projects, send an email to Mary Baker-Wood at mbakerwood@gmail. com. She enjoys volunteering and helping residents answer history-based questions.

"She generously donates her time and will get back to you as soon as she is able. The Local History page on the library website also provides information about researching your house/buildings in Spencer," the library statement read.

There are also links on the website enabling residents to watch past Spencer historical programs. Moreover, the Web site database page has re es for genealogy, medical information, historical collections, and more. Power Search, meanwhile, has information from newspapers, magazines, and several other resources.

Residents can also fill out their federal census forms using the library website link.

It only takes a few minutes to fill out the form.

"Both the town and federal census help our towns get much-needed money," library officials wrote. "When you go to fill out your federal census, make sure you have info for all of the people living in your

home.' Finally, residents reminded that the tax deadline has been pushed back to July 15. The Library website's "Public Resources" page has links to forms and information, as well as links regarding heating assistance, food, and bills. Moreover, there is information on this page to assist seniors with an array of items.

The library is also highlighting a program from the Alzheimer's Association this month. The organization continues to operate each day, helping families living with dementia. Its 24/7 helpline is available at 1-800-272-3900 for anyone who wishes to talk about the challenges of dementia during this time. Additionally, the organization now offers educational programs and support groups in a virtual way, by programs to the specific needs of residents.

The library remains closed until further notice. Please check the town Web site, www. spencerma.gov, for updates on reopening dates.

P.A.L. of the Week

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PARKS

continued from page A1

reopen these areas," Daoust

Selectmen discussed the closure of parks during their April 16 remote meeting. While most residents were properly social distancing on town parks and trails in recent weeks, scattered large groups of people congregating without masks contributed to the Board of Health decision.

"This is a public safety issue. Unfortunately, we

had some situations where people weren't doing the right thing and staying apart," said Selectman Gary Woodbury. "We all want to be able to use the parks, but it's hard to keep everything sanitized each day and make sure people are doing the right things. These are all tough decisions being made – we have never seen anything like this before."

Please check the town's Web site, www.spencerma. gov, for more information on when municipal centers will reopen.

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Leicester selectmen extend property tax deadline

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

LEICESTER - Selectmen voted last week to extend the due date for property taxes from May 1 to June 1.

During its April 13 meeting, the board also voted to push back the due date for exemption, abatement, and deferral applications for real property tax to June 1. Moreover, selectmen voted to waive interest and other penalties for late payment of any taxes or fees due on or after March 10, where payment is made after the due date but prior to

For more information about these updates, contact the Treasurer/ Collector's office at 508-892-7004.

In other news, selectmen remind residents that all town parks and buildings remain closed to the public until further notice. Residents are urged to continue social distancing and wearing masks in public, as 14 Leicester residents have now tested positive for coronavirus. In a reversal of policy, Governor Charlie Baker's administration will now release weekly town-by-town COVID-19 statistics for each community in the state.

Meanwhile, Leicester officials continue to work closely with the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA). Public health nurses and staff will notify residents who may have been in contact with

individuals who tested positive for the virus. Moreover, the Regional Health Alliance runs a COVID-19 information line for residents to call at 508-799-1019. You can also send an email to Health@ worcesterma.gov.

On April 3, the CDC issued a recommendation about wearing cloth face coverings in public settings. This recommendation was made after consideration of recent studies suggesting that individuals with the virus who lack symptoms can transmit the virus to others, officials said. The CDC now recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings, including places where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain like grocery stores

and pharmacies.

"It is critical to emphasize that the mask recommendation does not replace social distancing, stay at home measures, and hand washing recommendations that remain in effect," read a statement released by town officials regarding the CDC guidance.

Additional information on resources and COVID-19 updates can be found on the town Web site, www.leicesterma.

North Brookfield Savings Bank hires new Vice President / Commercial Lender



Lawrence Scalise

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the hire of Lawrence Scalise as Vice President / Commercial Lender within the Business Center.

'We are so pleased to announce Lawrence joining the Bank's Business Center Team," said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. "With his previous experience and his proven commitment to community, I am confident that he will be a great asset to NBSB, helping the Bank to continue to offer our business customers a positive and personal business lending experience."

Lawrence Scalise, of Springfield, joins the Business Center at NBSB team located at the Business Center,

40 East Main St. in Ware. In his role as Vice President/Commercial Lender his responsibilities are actively participating in NBSB's ongoing business development program by connecting with prospective and existing clients, to nurture ongoing relationships for lending and/or deposit services, and to evaluate prospective loan requests. In addition, he will review customer's financial, credit and collateral information to determine viability of the loan request and the appropriate loan

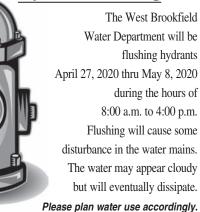
Scalise most recently served as Small Business Banker/ Relationship Manager for Key Bank, where he performed such duties as analysis of companies, and all types of commercial loans and lending relationships, as well as managing his book of business while offering excellent service.

Scalise has a Bachelor of Science in Management and Finance from UMass Dartmouth. He currently serves as the Commercial Lender for his Business Network International (BNI) group. He also serves on the membership committee of his BNI group and is the coach for local youth baseball and youth hockey

"I am happy to join North Brookfield Savings Bank and work with their impressive team of banking professionals," said Vice President/Commercial Lender, Lawrence Scalise. "I look forward to combining my skills in account management and new business development to contribute to the ongoing growth of North Brookfield Savings Bank's Business Center and to be able to bring their community feel and personal approach to all of our business

Lawrence Scalise, Vice President/ Commercial Lender, NMLS ID# #1624912 can be reached directly by calling 508-637-7503 or by emailing LScalise@BankNBSB.com. For more information, contact the North Brookfield Savings Bank Business Center at 508-637-7500 or visit NorthBr ookfieldSavingsBank.com.

ATTENTION WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS **Hydrant Flushing**





JENN WYSOCKI, & PATRICK TATRO

Kimberly Derosiers of East Brookfield and Jenn Wysocki of Spencer are true COVID19 warriors who have made and donated over 2000 masks and ear savers in the last few weeks.

Patrick Tatro of Spencer, of the Spencer Big Y is being commended for great crowd control procedures promoting social distancing, and for operating a clean, safe grocery store.

Thank you for all you're doing for our community to help

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

Person of the Week is sponsored by:



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2ND CHANCE

continued from page A1

Second Chance began restricting access to hospital buildings and staff started retrieving pets from parking lots and sidewalks for appointments while pet owners attended exams virtually. Soon, surprises started popping up. The North Brookfield hospital staff were treated to cookies from the owner of a dog named Missy, along with a note of support. At the Springfield hospital, the phones have been ringing off the hook and staff have been touched by how grateful pet owners have been to have somewhere to turn for help for their pets.

In Worcester, Second Chance staff discovered homemade masks and a Dunkin's gift card tucked inside a patient's carrier along with a sweet note thanking them for staying open to care for pets during the crisis.

"From the earliest days of the COVID-19 outbreak, we began preparing contingencies to continue to be here for the pets that need help right now," said CEO Sheryl Blancato, who is heartened by the show of support. "I am touched by all the messages we've received on social media and email. So many people are trying to find ways to help others as their own lives have been upended by the pandemic. They inspire us and help renew our weary staff.'

Blancato is hopeful the emergency matching gift fundraiser will help the nonprofit cover all the added costs that come with operating during the crisis. Those interested in donating can donate online through the special fundraiser on the Second Chance Faceook page or the secondchanceanimals.org homepage. Checks mailed to Second Chance, 111 Young Rd., East Brookfield, MA 01515 with MATCH on the memo line will also be matched through April 30.



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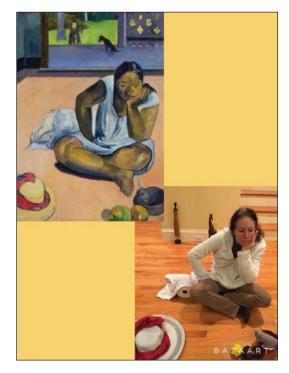


Bringing art to life

LEICESTER - Staff members at Leicester Middle School have been exploring their creative side while school is out.

Several staff members recreated artwork from the Worcester Art Museum collection, adding their own personal touch to each piece and juxtaposing them to the originals. The photos were posted to the school's social media pages to allow students and their families to enjoy them during the break.

Photos Courtesy





























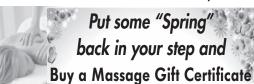


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North Brookfield Savings Bank bires John Thomasian as Vice President / Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer



John Thomasian

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the hire of John Thomasian as Vice President / Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. He joins the Bank's senior management team.

'We are so pleased to welcome John to North Brookfield Savings Bank and to have him as a part of our team," said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. "With his strong financial background and local community roots we know his insight and contribution will benefit our customers, communities, and the

In his role as Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Thomasian will be responsible forproviding financial management and direction to the bank's operation and for all aspects of the Bank's finances, including oversight of the budget, the investment portfolio, and the internal and external financial reporting. Furthermore, he will manage the Accounting department in addition to working with senior management to uphold the Bank's mission.

Thomasian, of New Braintree, most

recently served as Vice President of Revenue for Webster First Credit Union where he also served as Assistant Vice President of Finance & Collections, and as a Finance Analyst. Prior to that he held positions at Worcester Police Department Credit Union and Sovereign Bank. In total he brings more than 13 years of accounting and banking experience to North Brookfield Savings Bank.

Thomasian earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration through Nichols College, with a Major in Finance and a Minor in Accounting. He has also completed EasCorp's Advanced Asset Liability Management & Investment Academy.

Thomasian is an active participant in the community, volunteering as a Coach for Quabbin Youth Basketball. as well as participating in the annual side by side charity for disabled veterans by Operations Playhouse co-sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. He has also previously served as a committee member of the National Association of

Federal Credit Unions Political Action Committee.

'I am excited to join my hometown bank. I grew up in North Brookfield and opened my first savings account with North Brookfield Savings Bank. The saying 'there is no place like home' has never rang truer for me than it does now." said Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer John Thomasian. "I look forward to being able to help guide the bank's financial operations into the future so we can continue to support our communities as well as work collaboratively alongside our staff to provide our customers with the best products and services.

John Thomasian, Vice President/ Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer, can be reached directly by calling 508-637-7420 or by emailing JThomasian@ BankNBSB.com. For more information, contact North Brookfield Savings Bank at 866-711-6272 or visitNorthBrookfield-SavingsBank.com for up to date rates

Area residents, businesses fight Coronavirus by giving back

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER Residents and business owners are giving back in ways large and small to help combat the coro-

navirus crisis. Cheryl Cooney, the director of the Leicester Food Pantry, is seeking additional volunteers to assist with operations. Many of the food pantry's senior volunteers are at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19, and officials are calling on younger adults to step up if they are able and help alleviate food insecurity in town. For

those interested in volunteering or scheduling an appointment to pick up items from the food pantry, contact Cooney at 774-268-0438.

Residents are also asked to consider becoming an MRC volunteer to help your community respond to public health emergencies. To learn more about this opportunity, visit www. MAResponds.org. Several volunteers are needed in our area. Moreover, you can volunteer for the new Community Tracing Collaborative by visiting www.pih.org/ma-re-

Blood donation is also critical during the cri-

sis, as the majority of residents have been in their homes for weeks. As a result, there is an urgent need for blood to help patients with chronic conditions and serious injuries. Many local blood drives have been canceled due to COVID-19, worsening the short-

Residents who are healthy and eligible to give blood or platelets are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible. You can schedule your appointment by using the Red Cross blood donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-733-2767. Meanwhile, the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce is asking businesses to donate critical medical supplies for our healthcare providers in the fight against COVID-19. The number of cases in the Bay State is projected to slightly expand by early May, and hospitals need to ensure they have enough personal protective equipment for staff. Local businesses can register to donate at www.surveymonkey. com/r/TVP69NJ. A list of supplies is provided on the site.

Residents are also asked to consider donating to the state's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The One8 Foundation is teaming up with philanthropists. business leaders, Eastern The Boston Bank, Foundation, and the Foundation for Business Equity to launch the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund to support those across the state most impacted by the health crisis. The fund will work in concert with regional nonprofit leaders and community foundations throughout the

No matter how you choose to give back, local officials want you to know that every effort helps make a difference. Even a simple act of kindness like calling neighbors to check on their wellbeing can go a long way, officials said.

"During this difficult time, we must remember that we are in this together," said Town Administrator David Genereux. "Make a difference. Give blood. Donate food if you can. Check on your neighbor. Be of good cheer. Not everyone can do anything, but all of us can do something."

Coronavirus updates continue to be posted to the town's Web site, www. leicesterma.org.

Gries and Pellerin selected to National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society

Branford, Robert Conn.) and Pellerin (Gorham, Maine) of the Becker College football team were recognized by the National Football Foundation (NFF) as they were selected to the Hampshire Honor Society for their academic and athletic accomplishments throughout their career.

The NFF Hampshire Honor Society is comprised of college football players from all divisions of play who each maintained a cumulative 3.2 GPA or better throughout their college careers. An impressive 1,451 players from 365 schools qualified for membership in the Society's 14th year.

"We are pleased to honor another impressive group of athletes as part of this year's Hampshire Honor Society," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "For more than a decade, the Hampshire Honor Society has served as a powerful vehicle for schools to recognize their college football players who have distinguished themselves both academically and athletically, and we congratulate the schools and each of these

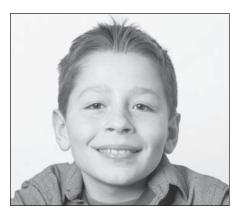
LEICESTER — **Ryan Gries** (North young men for their commitment to excellence in all aspects of their lives."

In order to be eligible for this honor, the recipients must have completed their final year of playing eligibility in 2019, must have attained a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of a 3.2 throughout the entire course of undergraduate study, met all NCAA-mandated progress toward degree requirements, and must have been a starter or significant contributor throughout the 2019

The NFF Hampshire Honor Society capitalizes on the NFF's National Scholar-Athlete program by greatly expanding the number of scholarathletes the NFF can recognize each year. The program further strengthens the organization's leadership role in encouraging academic performance by the student-athletes at the 775 colleges and universities with football programs nationwide. The initiative has now honored 12,146 student-athletes since its inception.

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Daniel Age 10

Hi! My name is Daniel and I love to be active!

Daniel is a sweet and friendly ten-year-old boy of Caucasian descent. Daniel can be shy at first, however, he opens up as he gets more comfortable. Daniel enjoys being active and thrives in sports. One of his favorite sports to play is basketball. Daniel enjoys wrestling and karate. Daniel is also in a drawing club! During quiet time, Daniel enjoys building things using Legos. He likes dogs

but loves cats. Daniel is in the third grade. He is an inquisitive child who loves school and learning. He does well with the additional support he

Daniel is legally freed for adoption. Daniel will benefit from a home that has at least one male father figure. He reports that he would like a 2 parent household, ideally with some children older than he is. He responds well when he has a male to connect with. Daniel will thrive in a home that can keep him active and maintaining a full schedule of extra-curricular activities.

Who Can Adopt?

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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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The lost class of 2020

When schools across the country moved to remote learning, we weren't sure how long it would last, but many of us suspected that eventually it would last for the remainder of the year.

Many students use school as a respite and several thrive on having a consistent schedule. Younger students are facing many losses, but our hearts truly break for the seniors, particularly athletes who are missing out on their final sports season.

In our own experience, it was track season that would have had the most impact. As a senior, records needed to be broken, goals needed to be reached and rivals needed to be beat. To have that season abruptly "taken" would have been devastating. Thinking back, time spent on a Saturday at a sunny track meet with talented athletes, encouraging coaches and parents with coolers loaded with food are some of, if not the best, memories from high school.

Then there are softball and baseball players. Baseball, in all its various incarnations, is called the 'American pastime' for a very good reason. The adrenaline rush that comes after managing to hit an expertly thrown pitch and sprinting to first base is unforgettable. Making a catch in the outfield, or making the play for that all important out that could decide the game, is gold. Fortunately, many athletes are going on to play ball or run track in college. For those that are not, know that we sympathize with you, and hope that you can continue doing what you love in some sort of league that will hopefully be available to you. No, it won't be the same, but this is when they say you need to "adjust your sails" and remember that what is happening is in order to keep you and your families safe.

Again, we know that all of our students, parents, faculty, healthcare workers, business owners and all community members are going through a loss, all to varying degrees but all just as important. For students, whether it's the last school theatre production or JROTC competition, we feel for you. Have faith that your administration will make up for all of this, as best they can, given the circumstances.

Certainly, our students understand the gravity of the situation. Lives are being lost, families are losing loved ones and people are heart broken. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, but that doesn't mean that the devastation those students are feeling shouldn't matter. We acknowledge your pain. Reading a recent Facebook post by a friend's daughter brought the situation home to us. In an emotional letter to her fellow members of the Class of 2020, she wrote that if she had one wish, it would be to go back to the last day of classes before the governor's office made the decision to close schools, with the knowledge this time that those eight precious hours would be the end of her senior year, and give all of her classmates — many of whom she might never have an opportunity to see together in one place again one last hug or high-five before saying

Her words speak for all students across our region, and across the country, who have been denied the opportunity to experience one of the most memorable times in a young person's life, and we invite our readers to join us in recognizing the pain, comforting the sorrow, and above all, saluting the achievements and incredible fortitude of the Class of 2020.



VIEWPOINT

Opinion and commentary from Spencer, Leicester and the Brookfields

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you want the assurance of Heaven?

To the Editor:

As David did yesteryear, he is a classic example of what we today must consider, making a sincere commitment, devotion to God.

You know who David is! David is the boy who slayed the giant Goliath [1Samuel 17: 40-51] and eventually became the king of Israel [2 Samuel 5: 1-4]

In spite of David's devotion to God, he became lukewarm, stagnant in his faith, and allowed himself to be tempted to sin with Bathsheba [2 Samuel 11: 2] and later God's sent His prophet Nathan to confront David [2 Samuel 1-7] and David was touched and cried out in repentance to God in Psalm 51 that David wrote to God that God would restore to him the joy of God's salvation.

This Psalm is also for us today to be truly sorry for our sin against God, Jesus and expressing our self in repentance before God. God can and will forgive you, me of any sin. We need to make that choice! God can and will forgive us of any sin when we come to God, Jesus with sincere repentance heart. However, you need to understand God does not always remove the natural consequences of our sin. For example, if we murder someone, we can be forgiven but we will have to pay the price by remaining in prison.

As for David, he was forgiven, however, David's life and family was never the same, as a result of what he had done his consequence was calamity, calamity [the sword] never left his house [2 Samuel 12: 1-13]

Whenever we sin, sin often affects others, especially our family. We must give serious consideration for our conduct so that others as well as our self suffer unnecessary suffering, we must seriously consider whatever we are planning to do is not against God's will and it will not harmfully affect members of your family.

Because we have inherited a sinful nature from Adam and Eve's disobedience. [Genesis 3] we have a natural sinful nature inclination to please our flesh and when we do we must go before God, Jesus and confess and repent and ask God to cleanse us

from within [verse 7-10] and ask God, Jesus to help us create a pure heart and spirit in us,

Whatever our sin and consequences God wants us to cry out to Him, to be close to Him and to confess our sin in the name of Jesus. Any sin that remains unconfused makes intimacy with God impossible. We need to confess and repent! There may be consequences we will need to live with, however, God, Jesus will give you back the joy of your relationship with Him [God] and that is essential, it is eternal. [verse 12]

When God forgives and restores us to have a relationship with Him, it is our responsibility to receive God's love and mercy and to reach out to God, Jesus in gratitude by reaching out to others who also need God's forgiveness and reconciliation. The more we receive God's forgiveness the more we will desire to honor and praise God, Jesus and tell others about God, Jesus. Amen! [verse 17] God desires from us humility that leads to a contrite heart. We can never please God by our self, our actions or works, no matter how good you believe you are, without a contrite heart and faith in Jesus we cannot please God. [Hebrew 11: 6]

We need to be heart felt sorry for our sin. We need to ask our self are we sincerely sorry with a desire to stop feeding, catering to our flesh and humble our self with a sincere confession and repentance? All this is found in Psalm 51! And we need to be honest with our self; God cannot be deceived, mocked. [Galatians 6: 7]

We need to remain focus on Jesus, obeying God's commands, moral law. We can never obtain heaven by our own merit, we need Jesus, we need to remain focus on Jesus daily, Jesus is the only way to God, heaven. Jesus is our assurance of heaven [John 14: 6] and Psalm 51 will help us achieve that goal.

Do you want to be blessed, live by God's moral and dietary law and you will be blessed now and forever. Amen!

> ROLAND BLAIS BROOKFIELD

How many bodies will it take?

To the Editor:

When Ms. Anne Starzyk wrote her original open letter plea to our leaders to re-open the economy published on April 10, the United States had 308,800 cases and 2,602 deaths. By the time we read her letter on April 17 and I responded, the US had 530,200 COVID cases and 20,614 deaths. When I wrote my letter published on April 17, I predicted we would have 700,000 cases and 35,000 deaths by the time the public read my letter.

I was almost right. On April 17, we had 699,700 COVID cases with 37,000 deaths. The circulation area of this paper was also shocked that Ms. Starzyk published a second letter downplaying the plague we are in the middle of and calling for our economy to be re-opened. As I stated before, this is a false dichotomy – we can't have a functioning economy as bodies pile up, bereavement leave chews up a measurable portion of our GDP, and our consumer driven economy clams up as people become scared to go out when we get hit with wave after wave of infection.

Since my crystal ball is pretty good, I will make another prediction – by the time this letter is read on April 24, we will have 914,000 cases and 54,000 deaths. That's a lot of death, especially given that is "well controlled" with the strictest limits on public movement in the history of this country.

Ms. Starzyk – How many bodies will it take? Is 54,000 dead bodies in this country alone enough for you to see this for what it is? Do we need to wait until May 1 when we'll have 70,000 dead bodies? Ms. Staryzk is dead wrong that we should let individual businesses and institutions manage the plague on their own.

On to the 1,200 word masterpiece of last week – Mr. McRae's "Coronavirus is not the real danger to America." There is so much to unpack here...

John McRae claims to not read my letters nor those of my ideological allies. The public should be reminded that this is not the first time he has made this claim only to jump back into the fray. Mr. McRae wants his media to be "conservative safe spaces," attempts to shut down real debate about real issues with personal attacks, and then when all else fails, tries to lead by example in ignoring loud voices that may be hard to argue against on merit alone. I think we're

safe from a direct response proving he has read any of the authors he loathes, but I don't believe for a second he isn't reading them.

For a man so enamored with the free market (capitalism), which itself is a system built on the concept of individuals acting selfishly in their own interests, and his hatred of central planning (communism) he sure has different ideas during a crisis. He complains of "hoarders" grabbing every roll of TP, bottle of hand sanitizer, etc. without concern for what other people need. This is actually capitalism at work. Demand for these items spiked but industrial capacity dictated by supply and demand can't ramp up that fast, so we had shortages. Supermarket and restaurant supply chains are different so the two parallel "efficient markets" are now looking at very different realities, the restaurant supply chain has crops rotting in the fields and the supermarket supply chain is breaking down. Not hoarding, but actual demand is higher for some products than our industrial capacity to produce. There are two short term solutions to this problem – shortages or rationing. I imagine McRae hates both, so he will fall back on blaming liberals, I'm sure.

What could our society do to prevent this product shortage calamity? Central planning. We could have robust strategic national reserves that were prepared for a pandemic and had been stocked with non-expired products after Obama left office. Perhaps the pandemic response team President Trump fired in 2018 suggested that. We could also ration products. We could have activated the defense production act back in January when Trump was blaming China for the pandemic which found its way here. Imagine if we prepared for it instead of calling it a hoax and fake news... To be in love with Trump but angry about shortages and restrictions in April is truly cognitive dissonance.

Mr. McRae decries Michigan's stayathome orders and her attempts to enforce them. Clearly, "the people" can't be trusted to manage the plague. I reference the beginning of my letter this week and my letter last week. I ask Mr. McRae – how many bodies will it take? How pro-life are you, really?

Concerning hydrochloroquine... Donald Trump is not a doctor, not a sci-

Turn To HAR-YAROK page A11

Earth Day - Time to "Go Green" with your investments?

Over the past several weeks, many of us have been working from home in response to the "social distancing" necessitated by the coronavirus. Nonetheless, we still have opportunities to get outside and enjoy Mother Nature. And now, with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day being celebrated on April 22, it's important to appreciate the need to protect our environment. Of



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK course, you can do so in many ways – including the way you invest. Some investors are supporting the environment through "sustainable" investing, which is often called ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) investing. In general, it refers to investments in businesses whose products and services are considered favorable to the physical environ-

ment (such as companies that produce renewable energy or that act to reduce their own carbon footprints) or the social environment (such as firms that follow ethical business practices or pursue important societal goals, such as inclusion and pay equity). ESG investing may also screen out investments in companies that produce products some people find objectionable.

ESG investing has become popular in recent years, and not just with individuals; major institutional investors now pursue sustainability because they think it's profitable - and plenty of facts bear that out. A growing body of academic research has found a positive relationship between corporate financial performance - that is, a company's profitability – and ESG criteria. So, although you might initially be attracted to sustainable investments because they align with your personal values, or because you want to hold companies to higher standards of corporate citizenship, it turns out that you can do well by doing good. Keep in mind, though, that sustainability, like any other criteria, can't guarantee success or prevent losses. In any case, be aware that sustainable investing approaches can vary significantly, so you need to determine how a particular sustainable investment, or class of investments, can align with your values and fit into your overall portfolio. Specifically, how will a sustainable investment meet your needs for diversification? For example, if you desire total control over how your money is invested, you might want to invest in a basket of individual stocks from the companies you wish to support. But if you want to achieve greater diversification. plus receive the benefits of professional management, you might want to invest in sustainable mutual funds. Be aware, though, that even though they may not market themselves as "sustainable," many more mutual funds do incorporate sustainability criteria into their investment processes. You also might consider exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which own a variety of investments, similar to regular mutual funds, but trade like stocks. ETFs often track particular indexes, so an ETF with a sustainable focus might track an index including companies that have been screened for social responsibility. Make sure you understand the fundamentals of any sustainable investment you're considering, as well as whether it can help you work toward your longterm goals. But by "going green" with some of your investments, you can help keep the spirit of Earth Day alive every day of the year.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America 2020 — irrational fear stalks the land

"We have nothing to fear but fear itself." Thus famously intoned newly elected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his Inaugural Address of 1933 (the first of four he would give over the next 12 years) in reference to the catastrophic Great Depression raging out of control and wreaking havoc all around the country. But, do you know the rest of the quote? Here it is: "---nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.'

Isn't that mindless fear so succinctly described by FDR precisely what we are witnessing in our country right now--and for the past five or six weeks--day after dreary day? When in our history have we ever seen anything like this? An economy bursting with energy; a job for anybody who wanted one; historically low unemployment rates for youth, minorities, and women; stock market on fire; 401-K's skyrocketing; working class wages increasing significantly; purchasing power burgeoning; production coming back home to America; a massive infusion of confidence and optimism for both employees and employers, and then... nothing. Overnight. All gone. Utter collapse, and for no valid reason.

Tens of millions out of work; unfathomable--and unpayable--trillion dollar bailouts; empty roads; almost everything closed; rents and mortgages unable to be paid; pay cuts, pink slips, furloughs, and all the rest of the indicia of a destroyed economy and a broken, hysterical people.

And for what? A disease owing its existence in this country to the Chinese Communist Party, but one not demonstrably--or statistically--worse than previous flu-type epidemics that periodically sweep the world (with the acknowledged exception, in this country, of a few hot spots like NYC, New Orleans, and Detroit)? A disease from which nearly all those infected survive with a mortality rate of less than two percent of folks unfortunate enough to contract it?

For this, we willingly stay home, hiding out while the world's leading largescale economy is utterly destroyed, and, even worse, greatly risk bringing upon ourselves something infinitely more sinister: a new "great" depression far more menacing to the health and happiness of the populace than anything this ephemeral bug can do to us?

cringing, hand-wringing (and sanitizing!), whining picture of

America and Americans foisted on us by a Trump-hating and sensation-seeking main stream press would appall our fathers and grandfathers of the "Greatest Generation," those millions who had very real reasons to be fearful as they voluntarily sailed away to confront the totalitarian thugs of Germany and Japan, and lost hundreds of thousands of their lives in the process. Are we now the land of Shakespeare's '...mewling, puking infants in nurse's arms" as he puts it in "As You Like It"? Forbid it, Almighty God!

As this is typed, it occurs to me that it is 19 April, Patriot's Day. Today, 245 years ago, Captain John Parker and the boys overcame their fears and stood up to face down the vastly superior force of professional soldiery of the British King at Lexington Green. The "embattled farmers" had everything to lose: their farms, their families, their very lives, but nonetheless they stood fast, and once the smoke had cleared, the greatest nation in the history of the world had been birthed as the Redcoat Army marched away into the mists of time. The original New England "Patriots" put their fears behind them and did what had to be done.

Our history is replete with instances of Americans overcoming their fears

and taking on enormous challenges fraught with peril---a glorious history no matter what the revisionists, the America-haters will try to tell you. Now is no time to change the character of America from that of a heroic and courageous people to one of a pitiable nation of wimps, of lap dogs sitting idly by as their freedoms and dreams are stripped away from them by power-mad governors and those who enforce their fascistic decrees.

With reasonable and judicious precautions, America, in most places, is ready to get back to work, back to "making America great again." And we are blessed to have as the field general a President who is clearly a warrior, a natural-born leader who does not flinch in the face of unrelenting, remorseless attacks by his enemies: the Deep State, the globalists, the corrupt and politicized press, and the pathetic frauds of the Democrat Party.

Lead on, Mr. President! You are not one to be "paralyzed by unjustified terror." Those who love America and our liberties are behind you one hundred percent.

> JOHN MCRAE EAST BROOKFIELD

Calls to re-open economy are beyond irresponsible

To the Editor:

The ordinary laws no longer govern. Every day, new rules are being written to deal with the crisis. Freedoms are curtailed. Enforcement is heavy-handed. Usual civil-liberty protections such as rights of appeal, are suspended. A state of emergency has been declared. Welcome to the internet in the COVID

Google, Facebook, Twitter, and Amazon have long declared that they are not to be the arbiters of truth. Most of our information gets filtered through one of these companies, and

in their purist look at being neutral platforms, they allowed domestic fake news and foreign propaganda to propagate, ultimately giving us Donald Trump. In light of the public health emergency, they are accepting the responsibility they have as our society's gatekeepers.

Facebook has been blocking images and videos that have been independently fact checked as false and forcing users to acknowledge it is fake before continuing. Amazon has been removing books containing all sorts of conspiracy theories from its digi-

tal shelves. Google has taken down thousands of videos from YouTube to protect people from misinformation. Twitter has been blocking Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, for his Tweets that are simply false and endangering public health. Hopefully, Twitter will take the bold step to apply their terms of service to all users and muzzle Donald Trump for good.

I can't believe some of the stuff I have been reading in this publication and others about re-opening the economy. The nature of this crisis is that it is not about you or what you want. It

isn't about your customers, either. It is about endangering our entire community, endangering all of us that have to go to Price Chopper. This is about lives, this is about dead bodies. The "oh, woe is me" line comes from not only bars, restaurants, hair dressers, bikini waxers, and nail salons - I have read op-eds from Chiropractors who are clearly more concerned with their business than public health.

A successful response to a pandemic, aplague if you will, will look like an overreaction. Erring on the side of "oh, but Turn To KASPI page A11

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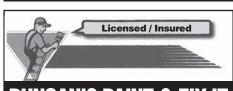


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The Write Stuf

All Ages Welcome! Open topics. Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

Thank you to our writers this month and to LAMOUREUX FORD for sponsoring this special section each month. I'd like to invite adults and students to join us for May and/or June. We then take the summer off. Please see some suggested topics for May below or feel free to write about anything that's on your mind. We reserve the right to not publish inappropriate content. Happy Reading - Happy Writing!

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR MAY: 1. What do you think our "New Normal" will be like once COVID is over?

Write a thank you letter to people on the front lines of this disease.

3. May is National Asparagus Month...what is your favorite recipe for asparagus?

4. May is National Bike Month. Write a short story about an adventure on a bicycle.

Topic of your choice. THE NEXT WRITE STUFF will be published on May 29.

Deadline is Friday, May 22. Please email your submissions in a word doc or docx (preferably) to jsima@stonebridgepress.news. If mailing, please allow an extra week and call 508-909-4062 for mailing address as our office is temporarily closed. Thank you.

What To Do BY EMILY JANES, NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

"What to do, what to do" I sat at my window staring out at the world. We were in the middle of a crisis. The Coronavirus 19. The world has seemed to be set on pause. We are told not to leave the house. Which Is hard for people like me with mental illnesses. I need a set schedule and when my schedule changes, I get anxious. I have been occupying my time as best I can. I have been reading, writing, coloring, cooking, cleaning and even playing with LEGOS. I am stuck at home for months. I miss my old schedule, Mondays and Wednesdays I go to Trade winds, Tuesday and Thursdays volunteer at the library, Friday I go to therapy and Sunday I meet with a staff from Open sky. I am so glad my therapist didn't close down during these rough times. It's nice that she is there for me and being brave through this scary times. I pray to God that people stay safe, happy and healthy.

They Call It Corona BY JUNE SIMAKAUSKAS, SPENCER, MA

They call it Corona I thought that was a beer A virus so easy to catch Keeps us indoors with so much fear.

I'm missing my grandkids And watching the Sox too goodness Thank FaceTime

Technology will help us get

The schools are all empty Ballparks too and the malls Restaurants are serving take-out

Asking everyone hungry to

Working from home is a

challenge But we need to heed doc-

tors' advice

I'm grateful that I'm able to For now it will have to suf-

Now more than ever it's important to pray

For wellness and saneness, for family and friends

Dear God please listen to

our prayers at this time So that this invisible enemy will soon come to an end.

3/28/20

How Tricycles Work By Oliver Underwood, Leicester, Age 7

Tricycles have pedals, the top of the pedals are connected to a circle hinge. The hinge is connected to a pole, the body of the pedal. The pole is connected to the front wheel. That's how a tricycle works.

The Viral Storm BY RICHARD TRAUSCHKE

Storm clouds have gathered, but be not afraid; silver linings exist and hopefully not far away;

Pestilence is among us, the seeds have been laid, the virus won't end tomor-

row, but we'll be ok.

We struggle each day to

stay safe at home; knowing full well the rea-

sons why.

This country is heavy with worry it's known,

we must stay vigilant till the virus passes by.

Poor Prickly Porcupine BY RICHARD TRAUSCHKE

He came into this world full of soft spikes;

and didn't venture out, was soft and small.

After 8 months, he sported quills, and Yikes!

He couldn't be cuddled by his mother at all.

He tried to get close to his kissin' kin;

more times than I can say; he just never gets any cuddlin',

'cuz his quills get in the way.

MUM'S ROSE BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

I have in my hand, Mum's birthday rose, ready to present to her. It is full and beautifully red. I give her one every year. For 44 years it is left at the cemetery. It is more for my benefit than hers. It's been so long yet it seems so fresh. When a child loses her mother,

NO PLACE TO HIDE BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

This is the story of Mum's

there is lifelong grief.

Our world has been turned upside down. Our homes are now our shelters. And our lives are in disarray. A virus is among us, sickening some, deadly to others. There is no place to hide from this invisible killer. There is fear. There is anxiety. There is panic. Where do you go when there's

Alone/Together BY SUE ANGELA HEALY, NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

no place to hide?

COVID19 doesn't infect a person of a certain age Both young and old – living

in fear and age It came from China to the

United States

But isn't drawn to someone

of a particular race

It doesn't matter your religion Catholic or Baptist

In today's world there's no closeness – no hugs – no kiss Your culture - beliefsdon't matter at all

This invasion can conquer you whether your short or tall

The disease doesn't care if you live in a big city or small

quiet town For in each and every com-

munity it can be found Crossing the country in

each and every state Each day more affected at a very high rate

Coronavirus doesn't care

what language you speak Clinging mostly to those with low immune systems –

the weak You can be either a male or even a female

Making you breathless fever – coughing – very frail Any day – any time it can

come walking through your Whether you are filthy rich

or the poorest of the poor What if I'm a good person

-never really bad Be and feel blessed and

totally glad There is no limit on how

many will or will not get sick And one day you're the picture of health - the next day you got picked

Being a Democrat or Republican – no it doesn't matter at all

You will feel like you got hit with a brick when you receive its call

This virus doesn't care if you are a lawyer or garbage man

Face masks - gloves - ventilators now in great demand It comes on quickly - for no

apparent reason Coming in early spring or

any other season And even though our Lord has called family members friends and strangers home

Apart but united as one if only on our cellular phone

This year 2020 Covid19 will go down in history as a pandemic we shall always remember But shall cherish the fact

doors were closed – but hearts open

Hope wasn't cancelled and we got thru it alone/together

Our Hearts Are Still Open BY SUE ANGELA HEALY,

There is so much fear anxiety – uncertainty in the world today

NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

This is the year 2020 – this is the U.S.A.

A 90 degree day at the beach and nowhere to park

Warning signs – don't go in the water because of the

Two individuals as always going for a hike Both now missing - only

found were their bikes In Tennessee a tornado at

night stretching 50 miles The next day – sunny, calm – relief for awhile

A volcano in Hawaii taking days to erupt

Time to leave this state now very abrupt Still homeless people in

each and every state How long for food and shel-

ter must these individuals wait?

People killed when others decide to text, drink and drive An outrageous amount of our youth committing sui-

cide Another hit and run accident – a young child lying in

the street Bystanders rushing towards her - also her doll

laying at her feet Ticks and mosquitoes -

infected by just one little bite But for the future and life, many have to fight

Two robberies in progress at different grocery stores

An innocent man shot – and then one more

A little boy kidnapped playing just outside of his home Family – friends devastated – feeling all alone

A neighbor in a home invasion – an elderly couple tied with a rope

Schools seeing so many students overdose – it's difficult to cope

It's the middle of April yet piled high with 12 inches of

The humiliation of false truths – nobody knows

Gangs hanging around malls – one just needlessly stabbed with a knife

Now in the emergency ward - fighting for his life

A mother of four suffering from years of abuse Perverts praying on th4e

innocent – this is no excuse Firefighters running into a burning barn

Hoping to the criminals inside there is no harm No snow - no sun - we now

have a drought Cancelling car washes watering lawns – we must now do without

In the silence of night a helicopter goes up in flames

An hour later the crash of an Amtrak train Going into the 8th grade -

trying to be cool Now all of a sudden - bully-

ing at school Hurricane warnings with

125 an hour winds Cancer - MS - Parkinson's Disease we must cope from

within And now comes a coronavirus out of nowhere

Spreading country to country throughout the air

Families rushing to the grocery store – all shelves empty Nothing left for you or me Nations in a panic – toilet

paper - Lysol - hand sanitizer they hoard Retailers charging an outrageous amount of money -

cannot afford Yesterday, today, tomorrow all living in fear

What will happen in the future does anyone care?

Who will get treatment first - the rich and famous? Then what will happen to

the rest of us? Will the homeless population die on the side of the road?

How can this CORVID-19 kill us - isn't it simply a flu or a cold? Minute by minute everything

seems to change Now all of us, our lives, we must rearrange

Breaking news - stillness and silence – shock,

disbelief – the horror on the news, reporters talk

We are now in a state of emergency a pandemic - please imme-

diately shelter in place. There is one thing you don't know about the United States We are resilient - we are

coping And even though the world is closing down -our hearts are still open.

Coronavirus BY SUE ANGELA HEALY, NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

It all began in China in December of 2019

Is this for real – what does this mean? A coronavirus has hit

worldwide And it was spreading fast Oh we're so far away it will

never last But soon small and large nations were being sickened one by one

There is no cure – nowhere

to run

Soon it eventually showed up on the west coast of the **USA**

Thinking this will pass soon -we'll be okay

Hit like a lightning bolt were the elderly in a nursing home

Now most in isolation now most alone

Little by little this epidemic crawled into each and every

Numbers rising daily – at a slow yet very high rate Our friends in Italy are

secluded - now all in lock down

Not a person in the streets or nowhere to be found

Whispering thru the air like wildfires – worse than the flu

Most frightened and unsure what are we to do

Sone countries have hundreds - thousands sick with too many deaths

Hopefully a once in a lifetime threat we would soon like to forget

Doctors, nurses, working into the nite For your loved one – they'll

put up a fight In March, Massachusetts in the state of emergency

People not able to think, concentrate much running around The first thing families did

All schools shut down

was rush to the grocery store Picking up Lysol, handwipes, toilet paper – oh maybe

just one more Restaurants closed - only delivery or take-out meals

No this isn't a dream – this is for real Casinos recently opened

are empty instead What is going on in everyone's head?

Malls across America shut down food store openings for the elderly before dawn When will this nightmare

end – can someone tell me how long? This is our most holy sea-

to fast But now we were recently told there will be no Sunday Mass

Individuals driving to pharmacies – standing in very long lines

Taking a deep breath expressing to the women in front of me – we'll be just fine But do I really believe

Is this really happening in the year 2020 to you, to us, Stop for a moment – listen

everything I watch on TV

to what our Lord is trying to He wants us to end hatred - violence - unite as one and

If this is done, He will eventually answer our prayer And this COVID-19 will

somehow, someway, quickly disappear So Dear God I am begging

you on my knees Please help this helpless world and let everyone see

I know from you this is a wake-up call And I hope you will be there as we begin to eventually fall Secure us during these

dark days – nites to stay calm, positive and see us thru And on behalf of myself and

the world in advance, my heart thanks you.

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GARDEN

Growing flowers and vegetables in containers will allow you to expand planting space, grow plants right outside your door and elevate them for easier access and maintenance. Unlike growing in the ground, the smaller volume of soil in containers is exposed to heat and wind, so requires frequent, often daily, water-

Don't let this watering schedule discourage you from growing in pots. Enlist one or more of these strategies to eliminate the daily burden of watering while still maintaining beautiful and productive gardens.

Grow plants in large plastic, glazed or other less breathable material to extend the time between watering. The larger the pot and less breathable the container material, the longer the soil stays moist. Small pots made of breathable materials, like unglazed terra cotta, dry out more

No matter the size and type container used, monitor and adjust your watering schedule based on weather, number of plants in the pot and size of the plants. The more plants used and the larger the plants grow the more water needed; so, frequency will increase over time.

Use self-watering pots to extend the time between watering. Fill the reservoir in these containers as needed. The water moves from the reservoir to the soil where it is needed. This extends the time between watering. As your new plantings grow, you will need to fill the reservoir more frequently.

Use a quality potting mix that holds moisture and is well draining to avoid waterlogged soils that can lead to root rot. Most potting mixes contain peat moss, compost or bark to hold moisture. Vermiculite, perlite or rice hulls are used to provide drainage.

Add a long-lasting sustainable, water saving product, like wool

April

reve-

pellets (wildvalleyfarms. com), to your potting mix. This organic product is made from belly wool and tags that cannot be used for clothing. The pellets promote healthier growth, increase soil aeration and reduce watering frequency by as much as 25 percent.

Mulch the soil surface in newly planted container gardens. This common garden practice is often overlooked when growing in containers. Cover the soil surface shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic material. This helps conserve moisture until plants grow and shade the soil.

Automate watering with one of the many commercial or DIY container irrigation systems. These are designed to provide water to each individual pot with the turn of the faucet. Attach the irrigation system to the faucet, attach a timer and watering becomes a breeze. Regularly check the system to make sure the lines that deliver water to the pot are intact and the watering frequency is adjusted throughout the growing



Grow plants in large plastic, glazed or other less breathable material to extend the time between watering.

season as needed.

Enlist one or more of these strategies to make container gardening a manageable growing system. Once you eliminate the inconvenience of daily watering you may just find yourself planting more container gardens each season.

Melinda Myers has written than more 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds &

entist,

a n d

Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www. MelindaMyers.com.

KASPI

continued from page A9

down" can be disastrous and is a risk we cannot take. SARS-CoV2, the virus which causes COVID-19 is highly contagious and people can spread it for days before even knowing it. In the early days of COVID-19 we saw the cases increase 20 percent per day, doubling every four days. Currently, Massachusetts has 38,000 cases. Uncontrolled, we would see nearly 100,000 in this state alone by the time you read this on Extrapolating this uncontrolled exponential growth out, every person in Massachusetts would have it by May 17, and the entire planet would have it by June 25.

Of course, we didn't listen to people like Anne Starzyk, and we did try to

How bad is COVID-19 you may ask... Right now, the U.S. has 760,000 cases and 165,000 deaths, so 5.3 percent of all diagnoses have ended in death. COVID death is a long one, with most deaths occurring two or three weeks out. If we look at the cases from 2.5 weeks ago we find that 8-9 percent end up dead. That s the number without our hos being overrun... That is a lot of dead people, don't you think?

COVID has a 20 percent hospitalization rate for the population generally. Even if we tell everyone over 60 "Oh well, you lived a long life, but my restaurant/nail salon/chiropractic office must stay open", people 20-50 still have a 1 percent hospitalization rate. We simply don't have that type of hospital capacity. MA has 1 hospital bed for every 434 residents, but before the COVID crisis only 1 unoccupied hospital bed for every 1,500 people. Uncontrolled COVID-19 requires 1 bed for every 3 people at peak. If we had done nothing ever, Massachusetts hospitals would be overrun on April 17. This is what happened

in Italy where they experienced a 12% fatality rate to COVID-19. "But they're all old and decrepit" you may say. Let's assume healthy people 20-50 fare 10x better than the older folks. We would still be looking at a 2-3 percent death rate if the hospitals became overrun. Is 200,000 dead Bay Staters worth keeping the nail salons open? Is 30,000 young healthy but now dead Bay Staters worth keeping the bars open these weeks?

The reality is, though, that the grim math would never come true because humans are rational beings. Choosing between public health and the economy is a false dichotomy. As the bodies pile up, people won't go out to eat out of fear. They won't be getting their back re-adjusted out of fear. The economy would crash anyway if people don't feel safe. Eventually, in one or two years, we would have "herd immunity" and the virus would burn out like the 1918 Spanish flu and probably only leave 2-5 percent dead, not the 10 percent the model shows. Government's first and foremost purpose is to keep its citizens safe and right now a total shutdown of the economy is the only way to do just that. The stricter we shut it down the sooner it will be over - China is open

again after having stamped it out The types of articles and op-eds published recently about keeping the economy open are beyond irresponsible. Fanning racism such as the way some of the retired teachers I used to respect in a time like this is beyond irresponsible. Promoting "miracle drugs" that the medical community has rejected is beyond irresponsible. Support for armed protests in state capitals calling for lifting of restrictions is beyond irresponsible. When the idiots are the both armed and up in arms, it makes me wonder if the end really is near.

TANYA KASPI SPENCER

HAR-YAROK

continued from page A8

complete-sentence kind of guy. He is looking for a miracle drug to make this plague "just go away" with the intellectual depth of a child. He did not "muse" or "merely suggest" it, he insisted. Trump cut off Dr. Fauci on TV denying him the chance to answer a reporter about hydrochloroquine. A double-blind research study of the drug found it to be so dangerous that they shut it down after six days. Trump continues to insist that hydrochloroquine is a "game changer". People have died trying to take other forms of chlorquine because they believed Trump and not the medical community.

The study on hydrochloroquine found that 25 percent of patients taking it developed potentially deadly heart conditions that they did not have previously. The study did not show any clear benefits for patients compared to the control group but did show a huge amount of new heart problems. The study was not peer-reviewed but it was double-blinded and randomized such that neither patients nor doctors knew which patient was getting the treatment. Trump seems convinced that "the Hydroxy" is a miracle but medical scientists are unconvinced that its benefits outweigh the risks.

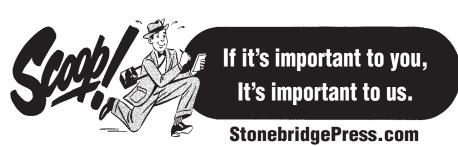
The end of McRae's letter was an interesting descent with his musing about "Leicester woman." I'll summarize... He first references an attack in London from years ago involving a Muslim assailant as an opportunity to call the guy a savage from a savage land. Then he tells us a woman sprayed a clerk in Walmart with Lysol.

Where it gets really interesting is when he then imagines non-existent reverse racism and seems to get enraged by the potential for reverse racism. He tells us she's a member of a protected class (I had to Google the incident to find out)...Then complains about those who mention that we have a history of slavery, of imperialistic expansion, of conquering vast swaths of current U.S. territory through war and stealing land from other nations and then discriminating against the inhabitants we subsumed. I thought this was about assault with Lysol?

McRae calls nearly any public official a liberal – liberal prosecutors, liberal police chiefs, liberal judges, etc. and thinks they will make sure this woman is never caught because she's black. How does McRae, me, and everybody else know this woman is black? Because the police released a picture looking for her...

The history of the United States is mixed at best. I apologize to Mr. McRae for not whitewashing it to their satis-

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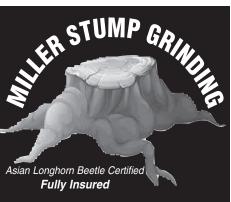
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OBITUARIES

Doryann Garnett, 60

Doryann Garnett, 60, of Brimfield died suddenly Saturday April 11 at her home. She was born in Palmer to the



late Richard+Marlene (Gurski) Garnett, She leaves behind her husband Paul Skomro of 30 yrs, her daughter Jennifer Tenczar and spouse Jonathan Checka of Charlton, her 2 brothers John Garnett and Richard

Garnett both of Palmer, her grandson Dylan Checka, and her beloved dogs Gumber and Frankie.

Doryann had a huge and warm

heart. She loved nothing more than her family. She enjoyed a good cup of coffee and sitting around the kitchen table sharing a good story. One of her favorite pastimes was tagsaling, she always loved a bargain. She enjoyed taking care of "her" lake and planting and replanting her shrubs.

Funeral services will be private and held at a later date with family. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you can post a condolence or light a candle.

Donald E. "Rebel" Greenwood, Sr, 82



Donald E. "Rebel" Greenwood, Sr, 82, of North Main St., died Wednesday, April 15,2020 after a noble fight in the Overlook Masonic Home in Charlton.

He leaves a son Donald Greenwood Jr. of East Brookfield; Rhonda daughters Greenwood of North Brookfield, Lisa Greenwood of East Brookfield, Sheryle Morrow Gaudette of

North Oxford, and Sheila Sugarman and her husband Donald Sugarman of Auburn, MA.; 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. He is predeceased

by the love of his life Sally Greenwood, his son Robert Morrow and his grandson Geno Waugh.

He served his country in the US Navy. Rebel owned and operated his own trucking company for 28 years and later worked for the Local 243 Construction Laborers Union until he retired. He was a lifetime member of the Spencer Fish and Game Club.

Rebel loved playing cards and was and avid outdoorsman. He was well know in the community and will be greatly missed.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Overlook Masonic Home and Hospice in Charlton, MA for the care he received.

A Celebration of his Life will be held at a later date to be announced. Funeral services are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St.North Brookfield.

Edna Gregory, 95



OXFORD-Edna Gregory, 95, passed away, Friday April 10 in The Meadows of Leicester.

Edna was predeceased by her husband Clarence G. Gregory. Edna leaves her daughter Diane

Preston and her loving family, extend-

ed family, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorial services will be held at the discretion of the family at a future date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Greenville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 396, Rochdale, MA., 01542.

MORÍN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Jeremy L. Oathout, 38

WEST WARREN- Jeremy L Oathout, 38, passed away early Thursday morning on April 16th 2020, after a long battle



fought so hard to overcome. He succumbed to the demons that have been chasing him relentlessly. He is survived

with addiction that he

by his only daughter, Bianca Virginia Skye Oathout; his

devoted mother, Terri St. Martin and his step-father Lenny St. Martin; his father, Michael Oathout; his beloved older brother, Michael Oathoat II; his beloved younger sister, Brittney Metterville and her husband Ryan, as well as his beloved nieces and nephews, Tara, Michael, Gabriel and Julia; a great niece, Paisley and many aunts, uncles and cousins whom loved him dearly. Jeremy also left behind his two very best childhood friends, Andy Allen and Joshua Gregory.

His daughter Bianca was the brightest light in his life, whom he loved

dearly and was so very proud of her. Anyone that knew Jeremy would tell you that he had a heart of gold and was the funniest, kind and loyal man to his family and friends. He would do just about anything to make you smile. He was also known for his love of video games, something that he never outgrew even up until his very last night. Jeremy shared that joy with many closest to him. He worked for many years as a board hanger at Spencer Sheet Rock where he built strong relationships with those he worked closely with, especially the owner Dave.

"Some people touch our lives only briefly, while others leave a lasting impression and will never be forgotten"

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A private service and celebration of life for family will be held at a later

Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge is directing the arrangements.

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

F. Joan (Collins) Mills, 88

SPENCER/JEFFERSON- F. Joan (Collins) Mills, 88, of 98 Maple St., died Thursday, April 16 at her home following a long illness.



She leaves her son, David F. Mills, Jr. of Jefferson, her daughter, Leslie J. Daniels and her husband Robert P. Daniels, Jr. of Spencer, a sister, Alyce Caruso of Holden, 4 grandchildren, Jennifer

Brooke DePerrio of Jefferson, David F. Mills, III of Hanover, PA., Paul P. Mills of Cockeysville, MD., and Marissa Daniels of Spencer, 2 great grandchildren Kaydence Johnson and Kenleigh Mills, nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her daughter Pamela Wood in 2002 and her grandson Robert P. "Bobby" Daniels, III in August, 2019. She is also predeceased by a brother Kenneth Collins and a sister Marjorie

Born in Holden, she was the daughter of Harry R. and Edith M. (Spring) Collins and lived most of her life in Jefferson before moving to Spencer in 2014. She was a graduate of Holden High School. Joan was a claims administrator for State Mutual in Worcester for 30 years, retiring in 1995.

Due to health restrictions, private funeral services and burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Holden will be held at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of choice. The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Mary Anne Conroy, 67

SPENCER - Mary Anne (Rousseau) Conroy, 67, passed away on Sunday April 5, 2020 at the Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester.

Mary is survived by her daughter Claire Conroy, her granddaughter Montana West Barker, as well as many relatives and friends.

Mary was born in Portsmouth, NH on March 2, 1953, daughter of Joseph Xavier Lucien Rousseau and Jane Frances (Adams) Rousseau; she

worked as a cook for many years prior to her retirement.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www. shaw-majercik.com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Mary.

Pearl Ruth (Jarvis) Walcott

NORTH BROOKFIELD - Pearl Ruth (Jarvis) Walcott passed away peacefully at home on April 16, 2020 with her



daughter Diane and son-in-law Brian L. Perkins at her side. She was 84 years, 7 months old. She was born in Millville, MA the second of two children to Edward & Ruth Jarvis who predeceased her. She was

also predeceased by her brother Ed, Jr. who lived in Florida, and her loving husband and soul mate December 19,

Pearl was a stitcher by trade, working at a bridal shop in Woonsocket, RI, then at Penthouse Sales in Franklin. MA managing the sewing department. She later found joy working in the Linens Department at Landmark Medical & Milford Hospital prior to her retirement in 2000. Her quick wit made her a pleasure to be around, always lighting up a room upon her arrival.

Pearl is survived by her son, Robert Walcott and his wife Teri of Millville, MA, her daughter Diane and her husband Brian L. Perkins of North Brookfield, MA with whom she lived. She is also survived by her grandchildren Amelia Walcott (MA); Brian Perkins, Jr. (MA); Bethany Minnick (FL); Bridgette Ebbeling (MÅ); Stephen Goyette of (CA); Ryan Dulac (MA); and Alyssa Jalbert (MA); along with many great grandchildren.

Private burial will be in the future and is being handled by Buma Funeral Home, Uxbridge.

Pauline M. Casavant, 87

SPENCER - Pauline M. (Fecteau) Casavant, 87, of Spencer, died Friday, April 17th, 2020 at the Jewish Healthcare Center in Worcester.



Pauline was born May 2nd, 1932 in Spencer, Mass. to Raymond and Ida (Audette) Fecteau. She was raised in Spencer and graduated from David Prouty High School and later Salter Secretarial

School. At both institutions she was very popular and known for her kind and helpful nature.

Pauline worked for several years at the Treasurer's Office for the town of Spencer and spent the remaining years of her career working for the Spencer/ East Brookfield School District.

She delighted in community. Pauline volunteered much of her time to various activities and committees at her parish, Mary Queen of the Rosary. Additionally, she was a member of a number of charities and community-based organizations. Throughout her life she made many lifelong friends, whom she held dear.

Pauline was an avid nature and animal lover. She had an active garden which supported her many culinary talents. She loved to be surrounded by animals of all kinds whom she was deeply devoted to. Pauline could always be found walking and hiking throughout her beloved Spencer with her dogs.

She was always available to help anybody in need whether it was a ride, running errands, company, or care. The center of her life was her home, which was always open to anybody who needed it. She was a master entertainer and hosted many holidays and get-togethers. Pauline loved her family more than anything and took great joy in being a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and an aunt. She took immense pleasure in being involved in all the activities of her grandchildren, her great-grandson, and all her nieces and nephews.

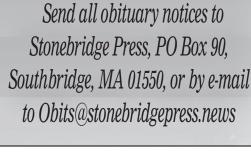
Pauline was a person of deep faith, which sustained her throughout her

She is preceded in death by her husband, Wallace "Wally" J. Casavant along with her daughter Michelle P. Casavant, a brother, Robert Fecteau, a

sister, Vivian Bartlett, and their parents. She leaves a son, Mark J. Casavant and his wife Tara of Worcester, a daughter, Marie A. Telemaque and her husband Pierre of Worcester, four grandchildren, Jean Pierre & Jocelyne Telemaque, Kayla & Kara Casavant; a great-grandson, Jackson Mccracken; a brother-in-law, Robert Bartlett of Worcester; a sister-in-law, Carolyn Fecteau of Spencer; and her many devoted nephews and nieces whom she loved very much.

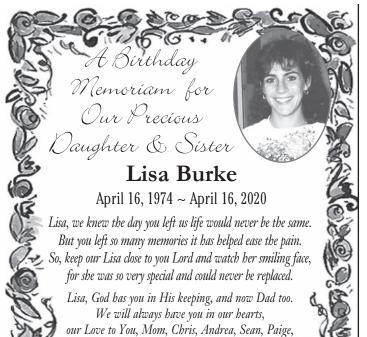
Ultimately, Pauline was well-loved for her kindness, generosity, and enduring faith. She truly was the matriarch of our family and will be missed dearly. Her family would like to thank the many family members, neighbors, and friends that helped her stay in her home that she loved so much until the end of her life.

Services will be held at Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish in Spencer at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Rice Funeral Home, 300 Park Ave, Worcester. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 60 Maple Street, Spencer, MA 01562.









Family and Friends





the deadline is Friday noon for the following week. (Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3")

or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

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THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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TRUE

What crazy weather! Last week's snowstorm was no big surprise for New Englanders. Thankfully, it did not stick around long, and melted quickly the next day. It did give turkey hunters the opportunity to check out their favorite turkey hunting spot by following tracks in the snow, before it melted. Wild turkey hunting opens in Massachusetts this coming Monday, April 27, in zones 1-13. This year, turkey hunters can harvest two bearded turkeys in the spring and one of either sex in the fall. A hunter can harvest two birds on the same day this year during the spring

Hunting wild turkey can provide some great days in the field during the Corona virus outbreak. No problem doing social distancing while engaging in this sport. Although local hunters were not reporting on a lot of turkey's being spotted in local woodlots prior to the season, there are a lot of birds, as tracks in the snow last Saturday revealed.

The Wild Turkey youth hunt is scheduled for this Saturday, April 25, and can provide some great time with your son or daughter

As mentioned in a previous column, hunting from a ground blind allows a hunter to conceal himself from the sharp eye of the wild turkey, and makes hunting a lot eas-

Talking turkey



ier as you wait for the turkey to approach your set of decoys. Calling in a wild turkey for a good shot is extremely exciting. If you do not get that rush of excitement as the bird slowly advances into your set up strutting and gobbling, you probably should find another sport.

Turkey hunters often do very well hunting in pairs. One hunter is set up a short distance from the setup of decoys, and another hunter is back at least fifty to one hundred feet, doing most of the calling. Turkevs can often calculate the distance of were the call of the hen turkey is coming from, and often stop short of the decoys. Hung - up are the word's that turkey hunters often use to describe the situation. much calling can often keep a bird from coming into shooting distance. If the bird's spot your set of decoys, they will often go around and come into view from another direction. They often come in silent, surprising the hunter.

Turkey decoys are a bit expensive, but will last for many years to come. Each year that I harvest a tom turkey, I save the beard and wings of the bird. The wings are given to some local fly tiers, and the tail is spread out to dry on a piece of cardboard. Apply small amount of Twenty Mule Team Borax to the fleshy part of the tail, and store in a cool part of your garage or shed. The tail is attached to a stake and used during the next years hunt, which I use in back of an old turkey decoy. It sure works for me. This week's picture shows my brother Ken with a wild turkey he harvested a few



years ago

Tautog fishing is picking up fast in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island waters. Green crabs are the number one bait using a number three circle hook for these hard fighting fish. They make excellent table fare when poached in a pot of boiling water and two tablespoons of white vinegar. It is unlikely that you will find this delicious eating fish in local markets, but you can find it at fish markets along the coast. This week's picture shows the late Steve Mercure with a monster tautog taken a few years ago while fishing with this writer on the Westport River. Steve is missed by his family and friends. He was my fishing partner for many years, and we had a lot of great times fishing together.

Massachusetts has had the recreational bluefish limit cut to three fish daily from the regular 10 fish per angler daily limit. There has been a dramatic decrease in bluefish populations over the last 10 years. I have not received any notification on reduced bluefish limits from Rhode Island Marine Fisheries but would suspect that they too will have their limits cut.

A bright spot from this pandemic is the adoption of many dogs and cats from animal shelters. Some shelters have had every dog and cat adopted. Hopefully, they are all in good homes, and that they will keep their newly adopted family member long after the country gets back to some form of normality.

Trout fishing should improve when the waters start to warm. Hopefully, it will be soon. Water temperatures are still cold.

Until next week, stay safe and healthy. God Bless!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Police Logs

Spencer Police Logs

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

12:42-1:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:29 a.m.: animal complaint (Chesnut Street), dog crying all night; 2:57 a.m.: supicious mv (Chestnut Street), investigated; 3:04 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:38 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 2:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Wilson Avenue), fencing vandalized; 3:18 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), speeding; 4:08 p.m.: mv lockout (Church Street), assisted; 7:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), info taken; 7:23 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 7:39 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 7:50-7:54 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:58-9:50 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), animal bite.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

1:18-1:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:01 a.m.: 209A service (West Main Street); 10:45 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Temple Street), odor of smoke: 11:24 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 11:59 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 12:05 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:59 p.m.: residential alarm (Nottingham Circle), services rendered; 1:09 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), info taken; 3:41 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), info taken; 4:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to: 6:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), missing cat; 8:34 p.m.: DPW call (Wire Village Road), power out; 9:02-9:49 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:12 p.m.: animal complaint (Church Street), fox in area; 10:15 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), info taken.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

12:26 a.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), noise complaint; 12:31 a.m.: abandond 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 12:44-1:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 7:28 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 10:03 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:04 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), services renered; 10:13 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:17 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), barking dog; 10:25 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), neighbor issue; 2:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), info taken; 4:48 p.m.: larceny (Sunset Lane), dirt bike stolen; 4:52 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose chickens; 6:51 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 7:12 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), UMass CT down; 9:12-9:53 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

12:18 a.m.: accident (Charlton Road), Caleb Jeremiah Demers, 18 Snow Street, Southbridge, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, possession alcohol/open container in mv, arrest; 5:22 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street): 6:04 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:24 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), theft of tools; 10:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), info taken; 10:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), welfare check; 11:02 a.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 11:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), re: return of items; 11:11 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (Main Street), info taken: 11:47 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 12:26 p.m.: elderly matter (Howe Village), welfare check; 12:54 p.m.: parking complaint (East Chartlton Road), services rendered; 1:19 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 2:03 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), large gathering; 2:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), traffic issue; 2:53 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), missing dog; 3:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), services rendered; 4:22 p.m.: suspicious mv (Fourth Avenue), info taken; 7:31 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), door open/vacant bldg.; 7:46 p.m.: DPW call (North Street), low-hanging limb; 8:14-9:00 p.m.: buildngs checked, secure; 9:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (McCormick Road), investigated; 9:11-9:41 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

12:45 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), cellphone found; 1:12-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:49 a.m.: 911 call (Lake Street), child w/phone; 10:17 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 10:48 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 1:25 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), mouse in mv; 1:35 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:54 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 3:01 p.m.: abandoned 911 all (West Main Street), accidental; 3:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), robbery reported; 3:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), neighbor issue; 4:57 p.m.: officers wanted (Main Street), mvs blocking entrance; 5:02 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 5:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), Harrington CT down: 5:50 p.m.: commercial alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 8:19 p.m.: suspicious persons (Dale Street), investigated; 8:34-10:00 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

12:51-1:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:43 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), info taken; 9:35 a.m.: lost/found (East Charlton Road), wallet found; 9:36 a.m.: larceny (Main Street), missing wallet; 9:39 a.m.: DPW call (McCormick Road), branch in road; 10:07 a.m.: disturbance (Brown Street), neighbor issue; 10:21 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:21 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:49 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), phone line down; 11:00 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), info taken; 11:08 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 11:21 a.m.: mv complaint

(Main Street), erratic operation; 11:43 a.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), "erratic" raccoon; 12:22 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:36 p.m.: hazardous material (Bixby Road), services rendered; 12:38 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 2:05 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), services rendered; 2:41 p.m.: fire alarm (Charlton Road), services rendered; 3:03 p.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), tree across road; 3:08 p.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), wires/branches sparking; 3:17 p.m.: DPW call (East Charlton Road), tree down; 3:17 p.m.: DPW call (Overlook Drive), debris in road; 3:23 p.m.: DPW call (Bixby Road), tree down on wires; 3:26 p.m.: fire alrm (Lyford Road), services rendered; 3:46 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:58 p.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), tree down; between 4:00-4:45 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 4:45 p.m.: fire alarm (Buteau Road), services rendered; 7:30 pm.: abandoned 911 call (Prospect Street), non-emergency; 8:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tree down in lot; 8:46 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), concerning email; 10:32-11:44 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

12:00-12:26 a.m. buildings checked, secure; 12:28 a.m.: DPW call (Old East Charlton Road), tree down; 12:34-12:36 a.m.: buildngs checked, secure; 12:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tree blocking entrance; 12:40-12:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:14 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 10:12 a.m. DPW call (North Spencer Road), tree on wires; 10:25 a.m.: DPW call (Lake Avenue), branch on wires; 10:30 a.m.: DPW call (Bacon Hill Road), washout; 10:57 a.m.: DPW call (Cranberry Meadow Road), tree into road; 11:15 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), info taken; 2:17 p.m.: citizen complaint (Maple Street), info taken; 2:47 p.m.:

Turn To **POLICE LOGS** page **A19**







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WOODSTOCK - 9 Fawn Ridge! **WEBSTER** – 9 Lake Parkway! Extremely Conveniently Located Renovated 4 Rm Townhouse! New just off Exit 1 of 395! Loads of Granite Kit w/SS Appliances! Kit & Liv Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Applianced Rm w/Hrdwds! 2 Comfortable Bdrms Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Wall to Wall w/New Wall to Wall! New Full Bath! over Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! Freshly Painted Throughout! Lower Flr Bdrm w/Commode Level w/Laundry & Storage, Able Closet! Recent Furnace! to Finish Additional Living Space! 2
Recent Roof! \$169,900.00



DUDLEY - 132 Southbridge Rd! 5 Rm Bungalow! 2.21Acres! Enjoy Nature and Kayak right from your Backyard! Eat-in Kit w/Pantry!
Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrdwds & Bay Window! Din Rm or Fam Rm w/ Hrdwds & Ceiling Fan! Full Tile Bath w/Tub/Shower Combo! Master Bdrm w/Wall to Wall Carpet! Second Bdrm w/Wall to Wall & Ceiling Fan! Walk-up Attic w/Potential for Additional Living Space! 3 Season Porch w/Natural Woodwork! Recent Roof! Recent Oil Steam Heat! New Septic & being Well Installed! Plenty of Parking! \$179,900.00













WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! \$1,199,900.00



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DUDLEY - 25 MARSHALL TER.

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WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq, Ft. Possible potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer, City Gas! Nice level lot. \$70,000

Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts **Douglas State Forest** \$132,900 Webster - Potential 6 Buildable Lots! Water/Sewer Access \$129,400.

Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre, artesian well Septic Design, Etc. \$130,000 Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly

WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



SORRY, SOLD! Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal

built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, W/.letted tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. Radiused catwalk on upper level! A walk up attic. Walk out lower level! The third garage is accessed from the lower level. Generator hookup. One beautiful prop-

WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



2 BUILDABLE LOTS

Potential from 10,000+ sq. ft. Lot. Need to be divided. Town Water/Sewer. Zoned Lake Res. Total \$49,000 \$24,500. Each =

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD

2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEM-PORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+- SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRS, Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open FIr Plan, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone-faced Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Nook w/Built Ins, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Rm, Mudroom & Coat Closet, 2 Main Level BRs & Full Bath. 2nd FIr Private Master BR Suite w/Private Bath & Walk-in Closet! Central Air! Cavernous 1,500 SF+ Unfinished LL plumbed for a Bath, Oversized 2-3 Car Att'd Garage! Corner Lot, 12,599 SF (.29 Acre), of Land plus BOAT DOCK. \$684,000.



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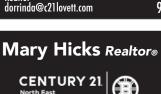
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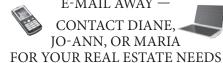
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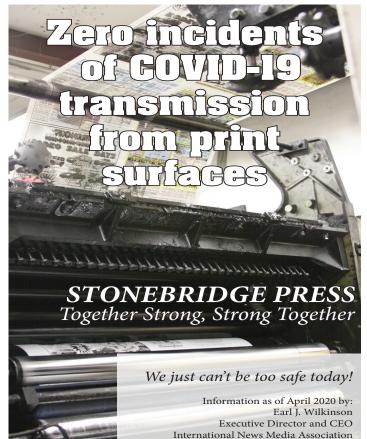
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and grounds mainte-

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News, really close to home

Online auctions remain strong during the pandemic

Although auction houses are not able to run live auctions due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the demand to buy and sell at auctions remains high. Many auction houses have turned to online only auctions to meet this demand. Some items have brought strong prices recently and others will soon be sold that are also expected to sell very well.

A hockey stick dating between 1850 and 1870 is currently being auctioned online, according to Bleacher Report. The "Morse stick" was found by Anthony Bean when he purchased his grandmother's

Northfield, Vt. house in 1980. The stick was later gifted to Gary and Germaine The first recorded hockey game took place in 1875. "Hawkey" is reported to have been played in New England as early as 1845. Another hockey stick from the 1850's known as the "Rutherford stick" sold for \$2.2 million in 2018. The Morse Stick has a starting bid of \$100,000 and may set a record. It

has a \$3.5 million auction estimate. Many people have been watching shows on live streaming platforms during the pandemic. One of the most popular is "Tiger King" on Netflix. TMZ reported that a pink sequined



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES

& ESTATES WAYNE TUISKULA

shirt worn by the main Tiger King character, Joe Exotic, was recently auctioned online with a \$650 starting bid. The owner told TMZ that the Greater Wynnewood (G.W. Zoo) Exotic Animal Park had previously sold clothes worn by staff members. He purchased the shirt from the zoo for \$100. The owner had also seen some of Joe Exotic's hats being offered online for \$800. The auction for the shirt ended on April 17. It received 43 bids and sold for \$10,400.

ABC News reports that a "very special" Porsche 911 Speedster that was recently delivered to a California dealership will soon be auctioned. "Typically, we would not auction

a car that has historic relevance to us -- it would go [to] a special customer or in our museum," according to Klaus Zellmer, president and CEO of Porsche Cars North America. The Speedster is the "last 991 generation 911 that rolled off the Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen production line in December." The two-seater convertible is one of only 1,948 produced. Porsche will donate all proceeds to the United Way Worldwide's COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund. The car has an estimated value of \$312,000.



Movie stars, sports figures, and other celebrities are also helping raise funds for those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Opportunities to meet celebrities, buy memorabilia, and for other fan experiences can be found at allinchallenge.com. You can also buy raffle tickets for some of the events for only \$10. As of Sunday, April 19, \$11,646,495 had already been raised.

We have been contacted by several individuals who want to auction their collections online to help them with their financial needs during the pandemic. We can auction larger collections of coins, gold jewelry, diamonds, Sterling silver, 1960's baseball cards, comic books or other valuable items

that are easy to ship. If you have items you'd like to auction, please reach out to us for no-contact options for receiving your items. When the current restrictions are lifted, we will be rescheduling many events. Keep checking www. centralmassauctions.com for details as things progress. In the meantime, I hope everyone is staying healthy and

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

In Appreciation of Trees!

Spring has officially sprung and trees, both big and small, are coming alive with long anticipated buds of color. But the promise of lush, green foliage is just one benefit of planting trees. Hot on the cusp of Earth Day and Arbor Day, this column will celebrate the many virtues of trees - from showy shrubs to towering timbers!

Hedge against fuel costs: The Center for Urban Forest Research proclaimed planting a tree can have a significant impact on lowering energy use. It claims: «If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in five years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly

Plant and pocket savings: Want trees to trim more of your fuel fees? According to expert landscapers, just three trees, properly placed around a house, can save between \$100 and \$250 annually in cooling and heating costs! That's because shading that blocks summertime sun on the east, south and west sides of a house, but not cool breezes, is an effective way to keep your house cooler For quickest results, opt for fast growing varieties.

Proper placement: If you use an air conditioner, plant trees or shrubs specifically to shade air conditioning units. but be sure not to block the airflow. It's common sense that an air conditioning unit operating in the shade uses less electricity than one in the sun.

POLICE LOGS

continued from page 14

animal complaint (Deer Run Road), dog bite; 2:50 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:15 p.m.: distubance (Pleasant Street), neighbor issues; 3:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Bay Path Road), dog found; 3:24 p.m.: DPW call (Ledge Avenue), services rendered; 3:35 p.m.: residential alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 4:05 p.m.: medical/geneal (Clark Roa); 4:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), BOH closing parks; 4:15 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operation; 4:20 p.m.:911 call (Woodside Road), misdial; between 4:48-6:00 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 8:16 p.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), loose dog; 8:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dead cat; 8:41 p.m. building checked, secure; 8:43 p.m.: officer wanted (South Street), family issue; 9:21-9:25 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:29-9:32 p.m.: parking violations (Grove Street), tickets issued; 9:38-9:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:43 p.m.: suspicious my (Main Street), investigated: 9:52 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 9:55 p.m.: eldelry matter (Lincoln Street),

Chill out: Need more convincing? Consider this fact: Daytime air temperatures can be three to nine degrees cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods. fact, the U.S. Dept of Agriculture estimates the net cooling effect of

a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day!

Tree Timing: Did you know trees can be used to time crop planting? The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today: Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long).

Hike house value: "In one eye opening study from the Arbor National Mortgage & American Forests, 83% of realtors believe that mature trees have a "strong or moderate impact" on the salability of homes listed for under \$150,000; on homes over \$250,000, this perception increases to 98%!

Recovery Rates: According to Money Magazine, landscaping can bring a recovery value of 100% to 200% at selling time. As a comparison a kitchen remodeling brings a 75% - 125% recovery rate, bathroom remodeling a 20% - 120% recovery rate, and addition of a swimming pool a 20% - 50% recovery

info taken.

###

Leicester Police

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

1:21 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), spoken to; 1:35 a.m.: lockout (Main Street), services rendered; 8:57 a.m.: investigation (Peter Salem Road), services rendered; 11:56 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services renered; 3:57 p.m.: restraining order service (Mechanic Street), unable to serve; 4:12 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), assisted; 5:55 p.m.: restraining order service (Mechanic Street), served; 8:21 p.m.: ambulance (Grove Street), transported.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

10:56 a.m.: ambulance (White Birch Street), transported; 11:27 a.m.: restraining order service (Maple Lane), unable to serve; 1:43 p.m.: suspicious activity TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

Tree Rx: Did you know just looking at trees can reap health benefits? According to medical studies, recovery rates hospitalized among patients are often quicker when their rooms view a landscaped area compared to patients

with non-landscaped views.

Breathe easier: Trees absorb harmful pollutants and small particles from the air which could irritate sensitive lungs. Plus, trees give off oxygen. A mature leafy tree can produce as much oxygen in one season as ten people inhale in a

Tree planting tip: It can be difficult to successfully take cuttings from trees or shrubs to root and plant. Here is an option that ups your chances the cutting will take: Take a small potato, make a small hole, and place your shrub cutting inside. Immediately plant, potato and all, either in the ground or in a

Planting pointers: Waiting until the fall to plant encourages good root development. Nurseries often slash prices on perennials and shrubs at the end of the summer, so planting then will reward you with healthy plants on the cheap!

Forest Facts:

*One mighty oak tree may have up to 400 species of plants and animals

(Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 2:02 p.m.: mutual aid (Hudson Street, Worcester), transported to hospital; 2:44 p.m.: ambulance (Hillcrest Road), report taken; 4:32 p.m.: suspicious activity (Stafford Street), investigated; 5:54 p.m.: assist citizen (Maple Street), spoken to; 5:55 p.m.: suspicious activity (Soojians Drive), investigated; 7:23 p.m.: restraining order service (Maple Lane), unable to serve; 8:41 p.m.: erratic operation (Stafford Street), unable to locate.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

12:36 a.m.: noise complaint (Washburn Street), unfounded; 2:18 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 6:43 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:31 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 1:41 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 1:44 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Burncoat Lane), report taken; 4:44 p.m.: fire/brush/ grass (Rural Drive), investigated; 5:43 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported;

Turn To POLICE LOGS page A20

living on it.

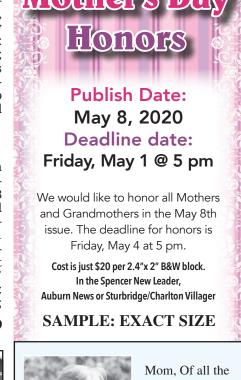
* Trees provide us with thousands of products that go way beyond wood and paper: Items derived from trees include: toothpaste, chewing gum, suntan lotion, paint, film, crayons, perfumes, soap, paper, shatterproof glass, cork, dyes, drugs, syrup, and more.

*It takes approximately 17 to 24 trees to make one ton of paper.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick

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

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





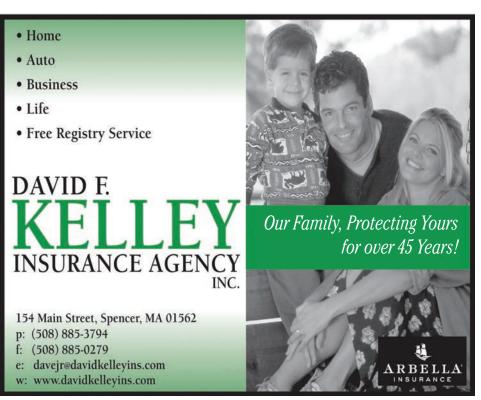
moms in all the world, nothing brings me more happiness than to know you're ours.

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Southbridge, MA 01550.



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On All



POLICE LOGS

continued from page A19

10:10 p.m.: gunshots heard (Pine Ridge Drive), unable to locate.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

2:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), spoken to; 12:50 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:11 p.m.: mutual aid (no location specified in police log), transported to hospital; 7:32 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:02 p.m.: arrest warant service (Stafford Street), served.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

12:26 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 12:45 p.m.: fire/brush/grass (Main Street), services rendered; 2:27 p.m.: debris in road (Hemlock Street), services rendered; 3:20 p.m.: debris in road (Reservoir Street), referred; 3:22 p.m.: debris in road (Charlton Street), referred; 3:31 p.m.: welfare check (Grove Street), spoken to; 4:49 p.m.: parking complaint (Collier Avenue), services rendered; 6:37 p.m.: water/sewer problem (Woodland Road), services rendered; 6:45 p.m.: fire/CO detector (Main Street), services rendered; 9:30 p.m.: family problem (Mill Street), spoken to; 10:45 p.m.: suspicious activity (Stafford Street), services rendered.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

8:19 a.m.: debris in road (Marshall Street), removed; 8:21 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 9:32 a.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), services rendered; 10:04 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 11:44 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 1:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 all (Willow Hill Road), unable to locate; 2:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Winslow Avenue), investigated; 7:20 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:09 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

7:15 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:08 p.m.: fire/brush/grass (Pleasant Street), investigated; 2:19 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:45 p.m.: family prblem (Monterey Drive), peace restored; 7:27 p.m.: welfare check (Man Street), gone on arrival; 7:34 p.m.: suspicous activity (Stafford Street), investigated; 8:50 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street, Spencer), transported to hospital.







We, as Massachusetts oldest family owned Ford dealer, want everyone to know that we, like Ford, are built to help. Shop us online for your new car needs. Our showroom is closed but our internet specialists can still help you get the car you need now. We are offering at home test drives! Our service department will remain open for your essential repairs to keep you on the road to get your groceries and medications and to help our first responders effectively protect us all. Additionally, we are offering free pickup and delivery of service customer's vehicles. Most service work is discounted 10%!

We've been here since 1923 and know that together. We are ALL build Ford tough!



19 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA. (508) 943-8012 Mon-Thurs 8:00am-8:00pm - Fri 8:00am-5:30pm - Sat 8:00am-4:00pm

Visit us on-line at placemotor.com