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Friday, April 10, 2020

Leicester students take part in National History Day competition

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Sixth graders at Leicester Middle School are excited to compete in the National History Day program for the first time.

Due to the temporary closure of all schools statewide, about 30 students from LMS will compete in the virtual state competition of National History Day. The students were selected during a history fair held at the school on Feb. 7.

National History Day is a program that provides students from grades 6-12 with the opportunity to create research projects based on a yearly theme. This year's theme was "breaking barriers in history."

Students were given five types of presentations they could choose to create, including papers, exhibits, documentaries, websites, or performances.

"The students worked on these projects for a few days a week from September through mid-January," read a statement released by LMS project leaders. "During that time, they learned to find and evaluate different types of primary and secondary sources. The school librarian was particularly helpful in providing both books and online research tools for the Leicester students."

Once the projects were

completed, students were given the opportunity to present their finished products to judges who selected groups to move on to the state and national history fairs put on by National History Day.

"The students were excited to present their projects to about 25 judges," project leaders wrote. "We were especially thankful to Ms. Mason for gathering about 15 of her history students to work as judges. We also had help judging from a few retired Leicester teachers and a few education students from Worcester State University."

The judges selected the top two projects in each category to move on to

Turn To **HISTORY DAY** page A7



Courtesy

Leicester Middle School students took part in a history fair held earlier this year.

New COVID-19 cases confirmed in Spencer

SPENCER – Coronavirus cases continue to rise in town, with three more confirmed positive cases announced last week.

As of March 31, the town had five confirmed cases. At the request of the Board of Selectmen, a weekly reverse-911 call will be issued every Thursday to keep the public apprised of weekly COVID-19 statistics.

Residents may also call the Town Administrator's office at 508-885-7500 (Extension 155) with questions and concerns.

Five positive COVID-19 cases reported in Leicester

LEICESTER – As of April 3, the town had five residents who tested positive for the coronavirus, according to the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA).

Public health nurses are working closely with the patients and will notify others who may have been in contact with them. The CMRPHA will continue to work with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to ensure that any affected residents are properly monitored, quarantined, and isolated as each case dictates.

The CMRPHA maintains a COVID-19 information line for residents to call at 508-799-1019. The organization can also be reached at Health@worcestermma.gov.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – If you're looking for opportunities to help the community during this challenging time, the town's food pantry is the perfect place to start.

Leicester Food Pantry director Cheryl Cooney is seeking volunteers to assist with several operations. Many of the food pantry's longtime volun-

teers are over the age of 60, putting them at higher risk for COVID-19. With that in mind, the town is calling on younger volunteers who are able to give back.

"This would be an excellent opportunity for younger members of our community to step up and assist with helping alleviate food insecurity in town," read a statement released by town officials.

Cooney and her staff were especially busy in recent weeks. As residents continue to be furloughed or permanently separated from work, an increased strain has been placed on the food pantry and its volunteers.

"It's a busy time for the food pantry, especially with Easter coming up," Cooney said. "We are currently providing drive-up services in the parking lot."

As part of the drive-up process, vehicles line up and are registered before entering a queue. Drivers can then make two stops in the parking lot, one for frozen meats and shelf-stable products; the second stop is for produce and dairy.

"It's going quite well – people have been patient," Cooney said of the process. "I'm not sure what will happen if our numbers keep increasing, but we'll do our best."

Volunteers are welcome throughout the week for an array of tasks, including packing boxes with shelf-stable food; unloading trucks; assisting with the parking lot setup; and sorting produce and senior housing deliveries.

Of course, social distancing remains a priority throughout each process. Cooney and her team have gone to great lengths to ensure proper distancing.

"If too many volunteers just show up at any specific time slot to safely distance, a sign-up sheet is available for future

Turn To **VOLUNTEERS** page A7



Courtesy

RE-CREATING A MASTERPIECE

With local schools closed, staff members from Leicester Middle School have been having some fun, and pointing their students toward great works of art, by re-creating paintings on display at the Worcester Art Museum.

A Note to Readers

This week's edition of the paper might seem a bit smaller than you are accustomed to, but rest assured, this is only temporary. Due to the unique circumstances we are all living under at the present time, local sporting events and community activities have wisely been canceled as we all try to stay closer to home and practice social distancing.

As we ride out this temporary interruption of life as usual together, we urge you to continue supporting the local businesses that advertise in your newspaper. They have always been here for you through good times and bad, and now, more than ever, they need you to be there for them in any way you can.

Amid this temporary absence of local events and municipal meetings, we are also looking to celebrate the many quiet heroes in our communities who have gone above and beyond to make this situation easier for those most affected by it. Let us know if there is someone in your community who you think should be recognized by e-mailing news@stonebridgepress.news.

Above all, know that we have been your trusted source for local news for generations, and we plan to be here for you to generations to come, in print and online at www.stonebridgepress.com.

Calendar of events suspended

With many local groups and organizations wisely canceling planned events due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, we have temporarily suspended publication of our weekly calendar of events. Once the current situation settles down, we will return to being your go-to source for the area's most comprehensive listing of local events and activities.



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Treasury and SBA Begin Unprecedented Public-Private Mobilization Effort to Distribute Funds

WASHINGTON – Following President Trump’s signing of the historic Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin

today announced that the SBA and Treasury Department have initiated a robust mobilization effort of banks and other lending institutions to provide small businesses with the capital they need.

The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide much-needed relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

“This legislation provides small business job retention loans to provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed,” said Secretary Mnuchin. “Treasury and the Small Business Administration expect to have this program up and running by April 3rd so that businesses can go to a participating SBA 7(a) lender, bank, or credit union, apply for a loan, and be approved on the same day. The loans

will be forgiven as long as the funds are used to keep employees on the payroll and for certain other expenses.”

“This unprecedented public-private partnership is going to assist small businesses with accessing capital quickly. Our goal is to position lenders as the single point-of-contact for small businesses – the application, loan processing, and disbursement of funds will all be administered at the community level,” said Administrator Carranza. “Speed is the operative word; applications for the emergency capital can begin as early as this week, with lenders using their own systems and processes to make these loans. We remain committed to supporting our nation’s more than 30 million small businesses and their employees, so that they can continue to be the fuel for our nation’s economic engine.”

The new loan program will help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or SBA fees – all with a 100% guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

The Paycheck Protection Program is specifically designed to help small businesses keep their workforce employed. Visit [SBA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.sba.gov/coronavirus) for more information on the Paycheck Protection Program.

• The new loan program will be available retroactive from Feb. 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020.

LOAN TERMS & CONDITIONS

• Eligible businesses: All businesses, including non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors, with 500 or fewer employees, or no greater than the number of employees set by the SBA as the size standard for certain industries

• Maximum loan amount up to \$10 million

• Loan forgiveness if proceeds used for payroll costs and other designated business operating expenses in the 8 weeks following the date of loan origination (due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25% of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs)

• All loans under this program will have the following identical features:

- Interest rate of 1%
- Maturity of 2 years
- First payment deferred for six months
- 100% guarantee by SBA
- No collateral
- No personal guarantees
- No borrower or lender fees payable to SBA

Visit [treasury.gov/cares](https://www.treasury.gov/cares) for more information on SBA’s assistance to small businesses.



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- Call your local senior center or Tri-Valley Elder Services if you need help with services or obtaining groceries/meals.
- Call your local grocery stores to find elder shopping hours and only shop during that time period.
- Wash your hands frequently with hot soapy water.
- Stay home as much as possible.

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Evangelidis opposes mass release of inmates

REGION — “As Sheriff of Worcester County, and in unanimous agreement with my fellow sheriffs, I strongly oppose the Emergency Petition calling for the mass release of incarcerated persons from Massachusetts prisons that is currently pending before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis last week.

“Filed by the Committee for Public Counsel Services and the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, this petition calls for the immediate mass release of Massachusetts prisoners relative to the COVID-19 pandemic. If approved, this would lead to a mass release of many dangerous criminals, posing an enormous threat to the public health and safety of our community-at-large. In addition, many will be returning to unstable environments. Sheriffs always prepare our inmate populations for successful release by focusing on housing, medical and programming needs. It is this step-down reentry process, as opposed to mass-release, that protects the public, victims of crimes and the inmates themselves,” Evangelidis continued.

“The Sheriffs, along with our District Attorneys, local judicial authorities, the department of probation and defense attorneys are currently reviewing our inmate populations to determine if any individuals are appropriate for early release. Our local authorities are best positioned to determine what is in the best interest of the public health and safety of our community and the inmate. These decisions are based on the charges, criminal history, age and health of the inmate, as well as re-entry support networks available. “Any decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which would order the mass release of inmates as opposed to a case by case review, would not only jeopardize the public-at-large but in some cases, inmates themselves,” said Evangelidis.

The Massachusetts Sheriffs are committed to serving the communities they are sworn to protect. This responsibility includes the health and well-being of their justice-involved populations and the dedicated men and women on their teams of corrections professionals. Every sheriff sees it as their duty to ensure that the public safety and public health needs of all who live and work within their facilities are fully met. That responsibility only grows during global emergencies, and the sheriffs are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic head-on. The Massachusetts Sheriffs and their staff are working tirelessly to safely manage their staff and inmate populations and to curb the spread of COVID-19 to their county jails and houses of correction. They provide an exceptional level of care in their facilities, and are prepared for public health scenarios such as this. The sheriffs have implemented proactive and strategic steps to limit the transmission of COVID-19 including:

- ❖ Providing in-service training on infectious diseases and emergency preparedness for staff before, during and after this crisis.

- ❖ Deploying enhanced intake screening protocols to evaluate new arrivals for symptoms of COVID-19 and limit potential transmission.

- ❖ Providing a high level of medical care for all individuals while employing specific protocols when potential or confirmed cases of COVID-19 arise.

- ❖ Engagement with medical experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCHC) to ensure that their medical practices are maximally effective and responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ Encouraging staff and their jus-

tice-involved populations to follow the CDC-recommended practices regarding handwashing, social distancing, continuous sanitizing of facilities and general transmission prevention. Signage has increased throughout the facilities to serve as a reminder of these practices.

- ❖ Enhancing screening of staff entering the facility.

- ❖ Temporarily suspending in-person visits for families and friends while enhancing alternative means of communication. This includes a range of options such as additional phone calls, mail services or, where available, increased access to text messaging and video conferencing.

- ❖ Working with the courts, enhancing videoconferencing and teleconferencing technology to ensure that an inmate's access to the court is continued.

“At the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction, we have one 119 bed housing unit set aside in response to the COVID-19 crisis. All new non-symptomatic admissions to the Worcester County Correctional Facility are housed in the unit on an Observation Medical Watch, and monitored by medical for symptoms of COVID-19 for a period of fourteen (14) days. As a precaution, during the fourteen (14) day quarantine, new inmate movement is limited. These inmates are permitted out of the cell for a shower and phone use only. In addition, a separate housing unit has been designated for any inmate exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID 19. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been placed into POD-D for officer safety. To allow all inmates to communicate with their family members, free phone calls are available. As of today, there are no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 among the inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction,” said Sheriff Evangelidis.



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

Releasing local COVID numbers will encourage social distancing

To the Editor:

I couldn't agree more with Barbara Anthony's "As I See It" article in the Worcester Telegram entitled: "State should release coronavirus case counts at municipal level." The topic of whether or not to release the number of Covid-19 cases in Spencer is a topic I have spoken on at Board of Selectmen meetings. The town administrator and his "cabinet" want to follow the state Department of Public Health's recommendation not to release these numbers.

My feeling is, the public should know the number so they will be knowledgeable and follow social distancing. Covid-19 is highly contagious. The fact is there are still people who believe FOX News and think this is a hoax or being blown out of proportion. Thus, when they are out, they act like nothing has changed putting the people around them and even their own family members at risk should they be a carrier or encounter a carrier. Bear in mind you can be a carrier and show no symptoms. Medical professionals unanimously agree these number are going to go up before going down.

Please understand that in releasing the number, no personally identifying information about the Covid-19 stricken residents would ever be made public. This includes their name, address or even the part of town they reside in. There is a reason we are in the most stringent state of emergency in our state's history. As a result, many people are unemployed, and most businesses are closed losing money every day. The sooner everybody obeys all the rules set out by Gov. Baker, the sooner the threat will be over, and we return to normalcy.

RALPH E. HICKS, Ed.D.
SPENCER

West Brookfield Asparagus Festival canceled

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — As springtime craft fairs and festivals throughout the region continue to be erased from the schedule, communities aren't simply losing longtime traditions for a year. Many small business owners and crafters rely on sales from events as a significant source of income.

The Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival, held annually on the Town Common on the third Saturday of May, was the latest to be canceled during the rising coronavirus outbreak. Drawing thousands of guests each year, many of them seniors, the event was canceled early by organizers to ensure the safety of all guests and crafters.

Additionally, the town's Board of Health has indefinitely suspended all festivals, concerts, and gatherings of more than ten people. This will continue until further notice and may impact the summer concert series and other events.

“We hope that decisive actions like these at our local and national level will help to stem the spread of COVID-19,” read a letter from Asparagus Festival organizers to vendors.

Though crafters and guests were disappointed by the cancellation of the Asparagus Festival, they commend organizers for making an early decision. West Brookfield's Ed Londergan and a group of other local authors were planning to attend the event to showcase their books, and they are hoping

residents will attend next year's event in record-breaking numbers.

“Four authors – myself and three others – planned to have an authors' row at the Asparagus Festival, something that hadn't been done in several years,” Londergan told the New Leader. “We were very much looking forward to it and are, of course, disappointed that the festival won't take place. We understand the reason for the cancellation, but hoped that we could generate a lot of interest in our books. We will be there in 2021, though.”

Several other local traditions, including the May 12-17 run of the Brimfield Antiques Show, have also been called off. The July and September legs of the show are still on for now, but changes may need to be made if conditions worsen.

With uncertainty surrounding the return of normal business and community operations, many local crafters are dreading a potential lost year of income. Even if summer and fall events are still held, the virus might significantly impact attendance and keep seniors indoors. It may not be until 2021 that normal attendances resume, many crafters agree.

For now, Gov. Charlie Baker's closure of nonessential businesses statewide was extended through May 4. This means many crafters and small business owners will be sitting home and creating products over the next month-plus, with no timeframe for when their creations can be sold.

Residents are encouraged to check event social media pages and town homepages to see if summer events will be held.

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~ Marc, Jessie, Alex, Kyle, and Cormier's Staff

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We would like to thank all the people on the frontline of this war against the coronavirus...caregivers, doctors, nurses, hospital, nursing home, and doctor's offices employees, police and fire men and women, EMT's, truck drivers, trash removers, grocery and convenience store workers, take-out & delivery restaurant owners/workers, pharmacists and drug store employees, post office workers, bank employees, and all others putting the community ahead of their own safety. We thank you for your commitment to your jobs and to the community, selfless acts of kindness, your comfort for the sick and dying, and help to maintain a new normal life for the rest of us. We wish you and your families well and please know that you are greatly appreciated.

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. Thank you.

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Thomas Bartholomew of Bartholomew & Company named among nations top financial advisors

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a leading provider of financial planning and wealth management services in Worcester, Massachusetts, announced that Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® has been named to Barron's list of America's top 1,200 Financial Advisors for 2020. The list is published on barrons.com. This is the seventh consecutive year that Mr. Bartholomew has been named to this list.

According to Barron's, a leading financial publication, the ranking reflects America's best financial advisors, organized by state. List makers are determined based on data provided by approximately 4,000 of the nation's most productive advisors. In its ranking, Barron's considers assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory record, quality of practice and philanthropic work.

"I am pleased to have been named to this prestigious list—a recognition that, to us, speaks to our firm's commitment to meeting the financial planning and investment needs of each of our clients," said Mr. Bartholomew. "I am grateful for the trust our clients place in us, and we remain committed to providing the guidance and support they

Thomas Bartholomew

need to achieve their unique financial goals."

About Bartholomew & Company
Bartholomew & Company, has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. Located at 370 Main Street, Worcester, MA, with branch offices in Chatham

and Bedford, MA, Bartholomew & Company's advisors pride themselves on crafting unique strategies for each client. For more information, please visit www.bartandco.com. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

To compile its annual list,* Barron's, a leading financial publication, uses data provided by some of the nation's most productive advisors. Barron's takes a number of criteria into account for this state-by-state ranking, including assets under management; revenues generated by advisors for their firms; quality of practices, which includes examination of regulatory records; and philanthropic work. Overall, 4,000 advisors were considered, and 1,200 (30 percent of candidates) were recognized. The list includes both Registered Investment Advisers and Investment Adviser Representatives; some states may include more advisors than others, in proportion to state populations.

*This award is not indicative of the wealth manager's future performance. Your experience may vary. Investment performance is not a criterion.

QCC awarded National Science Foundation grant

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) was recently awarded a \$298,108 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant for a new Robotics Technician Certificate program. The program will be designed to offer a curriculum that supports technical communication, teaches problem-solving skills and offers a strong integration of industry-recognized certifications. Underrepresented QCC student populations that participate in QCC's existing robotics community outreach programs will directly benefit from the program. Additionally, other beneficiaries targeted include 400 pre-college and undergraduate students, who have demonstrated interest in robotics technology.

Robotics education is not a new concept at QCC. It is already a part of the College's manufacturing and mechatronics programs. According to Jacob Longacre, associate professor of Electronics Engineering Technology at QCC, the new Robotics Technician Certificate will be based on input from industries within the region, as well as local high schools and four-year institution educators. The hope is for the new certificate program to act as a conduit between K-12 robotics outreach programs.

"We want to be sensitive to industries' needs, how things are changing, and bring more of that interest and need to the program," Mr. Longacre said.

While QCC faculty and staff have already begun reaching out to industry leaders, the grant funding will now enable QCC to formally begin a comprehensive fact-finding process. This summer, QCC will establish a local business and industry leadership team for robotics, to identify and prioritize the skills desired by local employers. The goal is to have the pilot program tested and in place within three years.

One key component to the program is finding ways in which to engage and inspire students in the world of STEM, particularly those students in middle and high school. For many years QCC has been involved with the VEX Robotics programs. These programs and competitions target high school and middle school students, in an effort to increase interest in STEM from an early age.

"These programs expand students' interest in STEM and connects those students who may not have these types of technology opportunities," Mr. Longacre said. "We want our certificate program to get these students excited and interested in robotics."

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"We want to be sensitive to industries' needs, how things are changing, and bring more of that interest and need to the program," Mr. Longacre said.

While QCC faculty and staff have already begun reaching out to industry leaders, the grant funding will now enable QCC to formally begin a comprehensive fact-finding process. This summer, QCC will establish a local business and industry leadership team for robotics, to identify and prioritize the skills desired by local employers. The goal is to have the pilot program tested and in place within three years.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Canadian law enforcers

5. Actor Idris

9. Cut or bruise

11. Vegetables

13. Aircraft delivery

15. To make obsolete

16. Things similar to those already noted

17. Columbus is a famous one

19. Age group

21. Denotes nature of sound

22. Klutz

23. Uninteresting

25. Computer manufacturer

26. 2,000 lbs.

27. Genus of seabirds

29. Emerges

31. Baseball stat

33. Witnesses

34. Observed

36. Satisfy

38. Former OSS

39. Small Eurasian deer

41. Wife of Sparta's king

43. Ballplayer accessory

44. Temporary cessation of breathing

46. Where construction workers ply their trade

48. Arguments that justify a religious doctrine

52. Thick cloud of tiny water droplets

53. Widens

54. Detection

56. Period of inactivity

57. Tomato and vodka are two

58. Greek war god

59. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

1. Churned

2. Seal bottles

3. Million barrels per day (abbr.)

4. Meat from a pig (French)

5. Within

6. Walk in a slow pace

7. Cries

8. About Andes

9. Fishermen use it

10. Expresses delight

11. Shouts

12. Feudal agricultural laborer

14. Sailboat

15. Small Eurasian willows

18. S. American native people

20. Extreme disgust

24. Nonsense (slang)

26. Produce male reproductive cells

28. Computes

30. Pop singer

32. Weds secretly

34. Having two poles

35. Yankee hero Bucky

37. Building

38. Per __, each

40. Six (Spanish)

42. Makes amends

43. Scoundrels

45. Baseball's best pitchers

47. Some are scrambled

49. Emit coherent radiation

50. Singer Redding

51. Break

55. Institute legal proceedings against

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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S	E	C	U	V	S		S	I	S
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For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

SERVE!
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Stepping forward; meeting the needs of others



Courtesy

Karen and Jim Dusty of Warren, members of the local congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which meets in North Brookfield, are immersed in a journey of serving their neighbors in need from all corners of New England.

WEST BROOKFIELD — “Yes, I’ll step forward; yes, I’ll lend a hand.” “Yes” makes all the difference.

Karen and Jim Dusty of Warren, members of the local congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which meets in North Brookfield, are immersed in a journey of serving their neighbors in need from all corners of New England.

Life has interesting twists and turns. More than a year ago, the Dustys were asked to undertake a huge task: to serve a ‘full-time’ mission as the unpaid directors of the Bishops’ Storehouse of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located in Worcester and which serves all of New England. They said

“Yes,” and then set about figuring out how to reorganize their lives to accommodate the demands of the huge task of directing the Bishops’ Storehouse while also meeting the responsibilities of their multiple existing jobs by which they sustain the financial needs of daily life.

“Knowing that we are in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing, for the right reason, makes all the difference,” said Karen.

“We love the people we serve. The people we serve are in need. The reason for their need is irrelevant. All are our brothers and sisters and we treat them as family. The mission to serve all as our brothers and sisters extends beyond members of the Church; it is universal,”

said Karen.

When someone is in need, Church member or not, they meet with the Church leader (called ‘Bishop’) who has responsibility for their geographic area. (The Web site ChurchofJesusChrist.org will help locate the Church leader in any particular area.)

Working together, the Bishop and the person in need determine the best plan to meet the need, and a Bishops’ Storehouse order is prepared. The person in need takes the

order to the Storehouse and it is filled with the needed food, household, and personal

hygiene supplies. . . plus a smile and an appropriately ‘socially distanced’ HUG and expression of support.

The Dustys fully understand that when providing loving help, often the ‘loving’ part is more important than the ‘tangible’ help of food and supplies. “In many ways, the Storehouse’ most important role is not the provision of food, but rather as a place to find hope—a Spiritual Storehouse”, said Jim. These are difficult times but anytime someone is in need, perhaps the most courageous and difficult act for them to take is the step to seek help. Jim and Karen feel blessed and humbled to be involved in providing that help.

Generally, it takes about 15 volunteers to make the Storehouse function. But with the current COVID-19 virus issue, the need for Storehouse commodities and services has greatly increased. In the last few weeks, the need has increased so greatly that 35 volunteers work at each session. Karen noted that there is no difficulty in finding personnel; as soon as the need for more volunteers is communicated, Church members say, “Yes, I’ll be there.”

The Storehouse, located in Worcester, is not the only place that requires the presence of personnel. Frequently, a Bishops’ Storehouse refrigerated truck with a 26,000 pound (13 ton) capacity is packed with commodities in bulk and delivers the supplies for distribution to satellite locations in diverse corners of New England from Boston to Pittsfield and Southern Connecticut to Maine. Volunteers are awaiting at the satellite

destinations to help unload and distribute the needed supplies. Distances are smaller in New England than elsewhere in the nation but the use of satellite locations brings the help to those in need but for whom travel to Worcester would not be practicable.

In ordinary times, one fully loaded 45 foot, 18 wheeler truck arrives monthly from the regional warehouse in Indianapolis. But in the recent weeks, the need has escalated greatly due to the pandemic; indeed a five-month supply of commodities has been distributed in one

week. So, to meet the increased need, weekly trucks are arriving with

84,000 pounds (about 42 tons) to replenish the Bishops’ Storehouse, which, at 50,000

square feet, is the smallest among the 163 Storehouses in the nation.

Fulfilling the need is a multi-step process. Once a month, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are asked to fast for two meals and donate the amount they would have spent on the two meals as their ‘Fast Offering.’ Fast Offerings are then used to build the Storehouses, purchase those commodities not able to be made or produced by Church owned farms and factories, and to pay the professional truck drivers who distribute the goods to the various Storehouses across the nation. The vast majority of those who work on the farms, dehydrate and pack the food, and so forth, are volunteers who, like the Dustys have said, “Yes, I’ll step forward; yes, I’ll lend a hand.”

So, in practice, the Fast Offerings go very far. The Fast Offerings and the efforts of the volunteers reflect a commitment to serving worldwide neighbors in need and, perhaps equally important, they demonstrate a sense of love for all brothers and sisters.

The Storehouse has two sections. The primary part is for the fulfilling of the needs of those possessing order forms from the Bishop for their geographic area. The other section serves as a Home Storage Center where anyone may purchase #10 cans of such items as dried apples, potato flakes, flour, sugar, beans, and so forth, most of which have a 30 year shelf life. These items are universally grown on Church owned farms, prepared by volunteers and sold at cost to those who want to increase their

preparedness for the vicissitudes of life. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sales from the Home Storage Center averaged \$300 every two weeks. In the last two weeks, the sales have amounted to about \$16,000.

In addition to providing food and commodities to those in need and providing products to those who are seeking to purchase long term food storage items for personal preparedness, the Bishops’ Storehouse also shares its funding with local unrelated agencies such as food banks, soup kitchens and other groups through grants. There are 16 Stakes (a division within the Church containing about 10 individual congregations each) within the region served by the Bishops’ Storehouse in Worcester. Each Stake’s ecclesiastical leader (Stake President) may propose funding up to \$1000 in cash or commodities for an agency that serves those in need within that Stake’s boundaries.

Days are long and the work is hard. But there is a lightness in the step of Karen and Jim Dusty and all the volunteers working with them. The knowing smile on their faces shows that there is much joy and fulfillment in saying, “Yes, I’ll step forward; yes, I’ll lend a hand.”

Local police warn of COVID-related scams

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Police throughout the area are warning residents about scammers attempting to take advantage of the coronavirus crisis.

Last week, U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling joined police departments statewide in warning scammers. Several residents across central Massachusetts have reported scams related to federal stimulus checks, as well as others offering everything from coronavirus test kits to hand sanitizers.

“As our communities take extraordinary measures to confront the coronavirus outbreak, some may view this as an opportunity to prey on the public’s fears and anxieties,” Lelling said. “The Department of Justice is now focused on cybercrime, sale of counterfeit goods, treatment scams, and other healthcare and investment scams arising from the pandemic. My office will aggressively prosecute anyone engaged in this kind of activity.”

Officials warn that many scammers have targeted the elderly in recent weeks, hoping to take advantage of their fears during the pandemic. The FBI is now leading extensive investigations statewide.

“With the outbreak of COVID-19, scammers have found a platform that preys on people’s fears and could make them more likely to be victimized,” said Joseph Bonavolonta, a special agent with the FBI Boston division. “We want you to avoid falling prey to these scams and help us stop them by reporting it at ic3.gov.”

Massachusetts residents who believe they have been victimized by fraud or other criminal activity related to the pandemic should contact the United States Attorney’s Office at USAMA.victimassistance@usdoj.gov, or call 1-888-221-6023 and leave a message.

Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission recommends the following tips to avoid scams related to the coronavirus:

Hang up on robocalls. Don’t press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from fake coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might advise residents to press a number that will let them speak to a live operator or remove them from call lists, but this might lead to more robocalls.

Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are trying to get you to buy products that aren’t proven to treat or prevent the coronavirus. At this time, there are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the coronavirus.

Fact-check information. Scammers,

and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn’t been verified. Before you pass on any messages, contact trusted sources. Visit websites run by federal, state, and local government agencies.

Know who you’re buying from. Online sellers may falsely claim to have in-demand products like cleaning, household, and health and medical supplies.

Don’t respond to texts and emails about checks from the government.

Don’t click on links from sources you don’t know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.

Be wary of emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus, visit websites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don’t let anyone rush you into making a donation.

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STAFF DIRECTORY

MANAGING EDITOR
 BRENDAN BERUBE
 (508) 909-4106
 news@stonebridgepress.news

STAFF WRITER
 KEVIN FLANDERS
 (508) 909-4140
 kflanders@stonebridgepress.com

SPORTS EDITOR
 NICK ETHIER
 (508) 909-4133
 nick@stonebridgepress.news

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE
 JUNE SIMAKAUSKAS
 (508) 909-4062
 jsima@stonebridgepress.news

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STAFF DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
 FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 (508) 909-4101
 frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
 RYAN CORNEAU
 (603) 677-9082
 ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
 JIM DiNICOLA
 (508) 764-4325

EDITOR
 BRENDAN BERUBE
 (508) 909-4106
 news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
 JULIE CLARKE
 (508) 909-4105
 production@stonebridgepress.news

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First Congregational Church adopts unique ministry approach during outbreak

NORTH BROOKFIELD — For many years the First Congregational Church made videos of its Sunday worship services for the Public Access Channel. In recent years the Church has utilized the Internet. With the onset of the Coronavirus, the church has increased its use of the Internet to provide access to worship services for members and friends.

Pastor Joe Shea said, “It has really been a team effort. In addition to recording the worship services, many people are involved in distance planning and personal care. We are ensuring that everyone is called or contacted every week. A team makes sure that our website, Facebook and YouTube pages are kept up to date. Others are producing a weekly newsletter that is distributed by email. For those without internet access, we mail copies of the newsletter and DVD’s of the service. All these activities are contributing to the care of our church and community.”

With social distancing essential to everyone’s safety, a new approach had to be adopted.

Pastor Shea stated, “Worship and presenting a scripture-based sermon is something that we all knew had to continue in some form. It’s a dynamic situation for sure and we recognize that how we do it today may change tomorrow. We are grateful for the technology that enables us to do this. But the safety of everyone is certainly a primary concern as well. So, a lot of phone calls, text messages and emails have been essential to coordinate our efforts and determine how we were going to accomplish our goals.

“My goal is to always be faithful to the Scriptures, to encourage, challenge, comfort and engage my audience with a relevant message that God can use to change and transform lives (my own included). I want to present a message that speaks deeply to both the longtime believer and the person who is skeptical and not as knowledgeable about the Bible. So, my goal is this: At the end of the service I want people to see what was presented as so relevant that they are comfortable to invite others to come, or in this case to watch!”

Anyone watching the service on Sunday will find a small band leading praise, with words posted on the screen. Then Pastor Shea shares a message from the Bible.

Pastor Shea continued: “When we record the service at the church, we have a very limited few to record, run the computer and sound, and provide music that complements the sermon. Leading worship in this manner is surreal for sure. The few people who are there sit far apart. I can look around the whole church as I would on any other Sunday. I think of all the people and where they usually sit, and I am comforted that they are attending safely from their homes. I certainly long for the day we can return and be together, but in the meantime, I see God at work.”

Easter Sunday is on April 12, and will mark the fourth Internet worship service. It is not ideal that this church and others throughout the world will be unable to worship together physically. Still the church chooses to worship together, though

apart.

One viewer said, “Our family just joins in with the praise band, singing in our living room.” Another said, “I sense our oneness in the Spirit, in spite of the separation.”

Byron Ake, who has recorded the services for more than 16 years, said, “I’m just here to do my thing like I have done for years. I’m glad what we are doing is blessing people.”

Mark W. McGrail, who has led praise for decades, describes his feelings as follows: “Our praise team is very grateful to be part of the Internet services. It’s unique to reach people outside of our church walls. The first week would have been a strange experience if we focused on the empty pews. Instead, we remembered that we sing and play for an audience of One. As we continue to lead praise, it’s a great feeling to know people are praising the Lord in their homes.”

As Pastor Shea put it, “Despite the tragedy the world and our nation face, I see God working in all of this. We understand the depth of the grief and pray for all who are hurting. In this difficult time, the number of people joining us for worship is growing. People who have been on the fringe or who have never worshipped at our church are watching and commenting on services. When we return to the church building my prayer is that they all join us. I am saddened at not meeting together, especially on Easter and throughout Holy Week. However, I am also encouraged at the number of people turning toward God in this time of need, and the community that is still



being built.”

Each week, pastor Shea records a five to seven minute midweek update on the church’s YouTube channel. Sunday worship services are posted

on Sunday mornings at 11:00. The videos can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/Firstchurchnb/videos>. For the latest information you can access the

church website, <https://firstchurchnb.org>, or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchnb/>.

Sean O’Rourke of Spencer inducted into Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society

WORCESTER — Assumption’s Department of Economics, Finance, and International Business has announced that Sean O’Rourke, of Spencer, has become a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the International Honor Society for those who study economics.

“We are pleased to welcome Sean as a new member of Assumption’s chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon,” said Colleen Fahy, Ph.D., professor of economics and the honor society’s advisor. “At Assumption, as a part of the Grenon School of Business, economics majors engage with the foundations of a liberal arts education to develop strong written and effective communication skills as well as the ability to think critically and quantitatively. Sean has demonstrated a passion for rigorous inquiry and analysis, a skill necessary to succeed in this field.”

To qualify as a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, students must be an economics major and carry at least a 3.0 grade point average in both the major and in his or her overall studies.

For more information on Assumption, visit www.assumption.edu. Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester, Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal fulfillment. Students whether on the Worcester campus or at the College’s Rome, Italy, campus become engaged participants in Assumption’s classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption.edu.

QCC awarded National Science Foundation grant

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) was recently awarded a \$298,108 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant for a new Robotics Technician Certificate program. The program will be designed to offer a curriculum that supports technical communication, teaches problem-solving skills and offers a strong integration of industry-recognized certifications. Underrepresented QCC student populations that participate in QCC’s existing robotics community outreach programs will directly benefit from the program. Additionally, other beneficiaries targeted include 400 pre-college and undergraduate students, who have demonstrated interest in robotics technology.

Robotics education is not a new concept at QCC. It is already a part of the College’s manufacturing and mechatronics

programs. According to Jacob Longacre, associate professor of Electronics Engineering Technology at QCC, the new Robotics Technician Certificate will be based on input from industries within the region, as well as local high schools and four-year institution educators. The hope is for the new certificate program to act as a conduit between K-12 robotics outreach programs.

“We want to be sensitive to industries’ needs, how things are changing, and bring more of that interest and need to the program,” Mr. Longacre said.

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finding ways in which to engage and inspire students in the world of STEM, particularly those students in middle and high school. For many years QCC has been involved with the VEX Robotics programs. These programs and competitions target high school and middle school students, in an effort to increase interest in STEM from an early age.

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“The awarding of this NSF Grant enables us to develop new career pathways for students,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. “We must teach not only for today’s industry needs, but also teach to the needs of the future. I believe this program will be a gateway to self-sufficiency for many students.”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

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Brianna
Age 17

Hi! My name is Brianna and I am learning how to ride a horse!

Brianna is a fun teenage girl of Hispanic descent. Some of Brianna’s favorite activities are listening to music and reading. She also loves animals and has recently started to learn how to ride a horse. Brianna does a great job caring for young children, and she has expressed wanting a job working with children when she gets older. She is currently in the tenth grade where she has made friends and good relationships with many of her teachers.



Brianna is legally freed for adoption and can be placed in a one or two-parent home with or without other children. Brianna has stated she enjoys living in a suburban area versus somewhere that is rural or an inner-city. Interested families should be open to maintain four visits per year with Brianna’s siblings. She also has other relatives she would like to maintain contact with once placed.

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

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



To sponsor Friday’s Child call Patricia at 508-909-4135 x321 or email patricia@stonebridgepress.news

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Second Chance founder publishes new book



Courtesy

Co-authors Sheryl Blancato and Joe Blancato, Sr.

EAST BROOKFIELD — Last Saturday should have been a night of support and celebration for Second Chance. It was also to be the book launch of “Walking Off Leash” written by Sheryl Blancato and her husband, Joe Blancato, Sr. When the event was postponed in light of the current COVID-19 situation, the Blancatos decided to release the book online.

Joe Blancato began writing the book almost eight years ago to capture the stories that Sheryl told him throughout the years.

“I don’t think Sheryl ever fully understood the magnitude of all she has done,” says Joe who notes that the Second Chance founder works round the clock in the name of animals and rarely has a moment to look back at her accomplishments.

Sheryl Blancato, a self-described “reluctant autobiographer” who is still surprised that anyone would want to read her story, only agreed to publish the book so she could donate 100 percent of the proceeds to Second Chance to help pets in need.

According to Sheryl, “Right now, the need is great. It’s imperative that we keep our vet hospitals and our adoption center open for all the pets and pet owners who truly need help.”

Sheryl hopes the book proceeds can help defray all the extra costs of keeping the doors open with mounting supply costs as a result of all the extra precautions put in place to safeguard the health of visitors and staff alike.

The book, subtitled “How Passion and

Dedication Inspired an Animal Welfare Revolution” chronicles the nonprofit’s evolution from a small, foster-based shelter to the animal welfare organization that serves as a role model across the country by focusing on the causes of animal homelessness instead of simply dealing with the aftermath. It begins with the origins of Sheryl’s love of animals in her early childhood and closes with a chapter entitled “The Journey Continues.” In between, readers watch the small shelter grow and follow Sheryl on her heartbreaking rescue mission after Hurricane Katrina.

HISTORY DAY

continued from page A1

the next stage of the National History Day program.

The top two finishers in the performance category focused on the topics of women’s rights and the American Revolution. In the group documentary category, the top projects were on Marie Curie and Ruby Bridges.

The group exhibit category saw winning projects on Frida Kahlo and the space race, while the individual exhibits saw presentations on predicting storms and Claudette Colvin.

The group Web site category featured winning presentations on Jesse Owens and the invention of the internet. The individual website category drew presentations on the Renaissance and Katherine Johnson.

Second Chance board member Heather Gablaski helped pen the book’s back cover to let readers know the book is about more than animal welfare. “It is the story of someone who didn’t take ‘no’ for an answer and found she needed to travel ‘unleashed’ if she was going to accomplish her goal.”

“Walking Off Leash” is available in paperback and eBook on Amazon. Signed copies will be available at Second Chance locations when it’s safe to permit visitors back into buildings without restrictions.

Originally, the selected students were slated to compete in a regional competition on March 7 at Quabbin Regional High School. They would have competed against other schools in central Massachusetts, with a chance to participate in the state competition in April. If they had been selected to move on from there, they would have had the opportunity to present their projects in Washington, D.C.

“Unfortunately, that changed on March 6 when the regional competition was canceled due to COVID-19,” project leaders wrote. “Instead, they will be competing in a virtual state competition throughout April. If their projects are selected to move on to the national level, they will be competing in a similar virtual competition.”

To learn more about the National History Day program, visit www.nhd.org.

QCC community donates supplies to area healthcare facilities

WORCESTER — As the Coronavirus/COVID-19 crisis deepens, Quinsigamond Community College faculty, staff, students and alumni have come together to assist area hospitals and healthcare facilities. The College’s science department recently donated 45 cases of nitrile gloves to Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

“This totals 45,000 gloves, which will go to hospitals and healthcare facilities in the most need,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

Other initiatives by the QCC community include a project spearheaded by Lee Duerden, associate professor of Manufacturing Technology. Mr. Duerden is utilizing QCC’s Fab Lab and its form lab resin printers to make respirator masks that have removable HEPA filters, capable of filtration rates to 0.01 microns. In comparison, according to the Centers for Disease Controls, N95 filtering face piecerespirators filter out at least 95% of very small (0.3 micron) particles. N95 FFRs are capable of filtering out all types of particles, including bacteria and viruses. Mr. Duerden has currently printed prototypes that are being tested and utilized by 10 area nurses.

QCC students are also taking part in the crusade to help out. QCC student Ilna Ivanova is a Liberal Arts Biology major, due to graduate this May. Ms. Ivanova has begun sewing masks after finding a Facebook group, “Worcester Stitchers for Health,” where people share patterns online. These masks also enable a filter to be inserted.

“I have made about 25 masks so far and I plan on making as many as I can. They take about 20-25 minutes to sew each, depending on the template,” she said, adding that the masks can either be dropped off at a drop box at the home of the coordinator of Worcester Stitchers for Health, or the coordinator will make arrangements to safely pick them up.

They are taken to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) where they are either autoclaved or UV irradiated, depending on the mask material (anything that contains plastic will melt in an autoclave), packaged in sterile pouches and distributed by MEMA.

“However, many people know people personally who are working in high risk healthcare settings that are asking for these masks. For example, I know that a client at an ER veterinary hospital just made masks for the entire staff to alleviate pressure on their dwindling surgical mask supply. I made masks for my brother, Boris Yanachkov (he is also a QCC student) who is currently working at IPG Photonics as an essential employee. Not to mention all of the grocery store workers, delivery drivers, and other essential workers who may not have access to a mask,” she said.

Classes and labs at QCC’s Center for Healthcare and Workforce Development, located at 25 Federal Street, Worcester have also made donations to:

- UMASS Medical School - N95 masks, gloves, gowns, surgical masks
- Harrington Hospital – Gowns, and surgical masks
- Salmon Healthcare – Gowns, gloves and surgical masks
- Knollwood Nursing Home – Gowns, gloves and surgical masks

“In these unprecedented times, we must all do our part and try and help mitigate the medical supply demand our hospitals and healthcare facilities are facing,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. “We will continue to do everything we can to assist our healthcare workers who work tirelessly on the front lines.”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Pet of the Week

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Name: Leia
Breed: Shepherd/Mix
Age: 2 Yrs / 11 mos.
Gender: Female
Size: Medium



Hello there, my name is Leia. I am a sweet goofy girl. I know sit, stay, heel, and will even spin in a circle if you ask me to. I am allergic to chicken, so I do need to be on a special diet, but I'll do just about anything for a yummy salmon or lamb based treat. I can be nervous around new people, but once I warm up all I want are belly scratches. I am looking for a home with no other pets, as I would like to be the center of attention. I would also do best with no small children, as I don't always know how to play gently. I would love an active family as I enjoy going for walks and hikes. I am currently waiting to find my forever home with my foster mom, so if you would like to meet me please call to schedule an appointment!

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Finding a silver lining

This editorial is being written immediately after our Editor returned from a walk around town. While we are all undergoing a complete change in the way we live our lives, and the reason is scary and horrifying, there is a silver lining. This coronavirus has caused a camaraderie among people that seems to break through barriers of religion, race, political beliefs, socioeconomic status or where we live in the world. We truly are all in this together.

During our walk, we saw entire families slowly strolling up and down side streets, with no real destination, simply enjoying the sun and warmer weather. It was nice to slow down enough to notice the cracks in the sidewalks, or notice the intricate woodwork on the old houses we passed. Seeing the community through a new, calmer, less stressed pair of eyes was interesting. While a cloud of uncertainty hangs above all of us, it's clear that despite the unknown, shoulders have dropped a bit, and we have been forced to slow down and just be present. These are stressful times, no doubt, but it hasn't gone unnoticed that the majority of people seem to appear more relaxed. [This, of course, does not include those on the front lines fighting this virus, to whom we say a heartfelt thank you.]

There are so many unknowns when it comes to this situation. We don't know when it will end, we don't know whether the virus will mutate when the warmer weather we've all be waiting for finally arrives, and we don't know how it will affect our economy or our livelihoods in the long run. What we do know is that, again, we are all in this together.

Strangers are stopping strangers (at a safe distance, of course) and having conversations that go beyond the weather. This outbreak has created a need for us to talk and to relate to each other for comfort, and to simply process what is happening.

While passing by a gentleman getting ready to grill his dinner on the back porch, we struck up a conversation about going stir crazy, sharing a few laughs and well wishes, and then we were on our way. People have slowed down enough to lift their heads from their phones, laptops, steering wheels and television sets to open their eyes fully to the world around them. There are more smiles and head nods exchanged. People are making more eye contact with one another, almost to say yes, I'm uncertain too, but we will be all right.

With nowhere to go aside from home and work (for some of us who also deserve thanks for continuing to put their health at risk so we have groceries and supplies to live on), priorities have shifted. People have used this time to really think about what matters in their lives. They have caught up on their reading, or re-visited old hobbies and house projects that have sat dormant for years.

Finally, this situation gives us all an excuse an excuse to just 'be.' Could it be that people can really benefit from simplifying their lives? How will things look when the world re-opens? We have a feeling that people will be friendlier and more appreciative of being able to clink beer mugs and raise a toast at their local watering holes. Perhaps people will find the value in slowing down.

We are living in a point in history that will live on in perpetuity. These few months will be read about and discussed for decades to come, long after we are gone, as we look back now and wonder about simple things like what it would have been like to live without electricity or a way to keep our food cold. We're not sure there has ever been a time when the entire society has shut down, when town squares look like ghost towns or something out of a movie set with no one in sight.

To those reporters and editors to come after us, we will tell you that these times are surreal. Despite not knowing what's going on and watching the news change every day, people are generally in good spirits and are finding ways to decrease stress and otherwise find some sort of joy.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you want to be blessed?

o the Editor:

We have the responsibility and the ability to change [choice] our temporary life here on earth into blessings and into eternal bliss in heaven or eternal hell, the choice is ours. The formula is a simple found in Psalm 34, it is an action of choice to acknowledge and to reverence God, Jesus as the creator and authority of all life and death on earth.

God promises to bless the people who accept His Son Jesus in their hearts. Those blessings require our choice, we need to acknowledge, accept and participate in Jesus. It is only in and through Jesus God promises to deliver us from fears [verse 4] save us out of our troubles [verse 6] guard and deliver us [verse 7] show us goodness [verse 8] supply our needs [verse 9] listen when we talk to Him [verse 15] and redeem us [verse 22] however we must do our part. We need, must seek Him, God, Jesus [verse 4,10] crying out to Jesus [Verse 6, 17] trust in Jesus [verse 6] fear [reverence] God, Jesus [verse 7, 9] refrain from lying, deceiving [verse 13] we must turn from evil and do good, seek peace [verse 14] humble yourself [verse 18] [that is a difficult one for me] and serve God, Jesus daily [verse 22]

What does it mean to “taste and see?” It means to check it out, do your research about God's credential! God is offering us a warm and welcoming invitation to seek Him through Jesus and see for our self if He is real. Try it! I am sure you will be blessed! However, you need to take the first step.

When we accept Jesus in faith we receive the knowledge of God, our life becomes complete as we trust God, Jesus daily [verse 8]

You say you believe in God, but you have not made a commitment to follow God's ways and or to trust in Jesus. Well! Today is as good a day as any to begin to take a chance. To follow God, Jesus means we need to change our attitude from doubt to trust, if you don't have a place of worship you need to find one and you start by recognizing God, Jesus with respect and gratitude for the sacrifice Jesus willingly suffered for us allowing himself to be subjected to humility and the cross so that you and me could be redeemed, saved and live eternally with Him, God, Jesus in heaven that Jesus has prepared for us, those who have made a confession, profession of faith in God, Jesus

I need, we need to be honest with each other; just because we confess and make a profession of faith to Jesus does not mean God will give us everything we want, God does promise to bless our needs, God knows our needs better than we do, God knows our heart better than we do, God is our creator and God promises to bless us in our needs. God knows what we need, our deepest desires, however, we have a responsibility to trust God, Jesus with true faith that God knows best and God's priority for us is to

supply us with spiritual nourishment if we let Him. Don't be surprise if God allows us to go without to help us realize that we need God, that apart from God, Jesus we can do nothing [John 15: 5] God, Jesus first desire is to help us grow spiritually and for us to desire first Him, His kingdom and other things will be given us beside. [Matthew 6: 33] and Psalm 34: 9-10.

To fear [reverence [the Lord God, Jesus is to reverence God with obedience. We need to fear, not fear to be afraid of God but to reverence God because He is the creator of everything that exist and because God the is maker, authority, ordaining the laws, moral laws, commandments, God is proposing to us if anyone loves me [God, Jesus] he or she will obey my teachings [John 14: 2-3] How do we reverence God, Jesus! We start by controlling our immoral ways and focusing on our salvation and that requires a commitment that starts with confession, repentance and professing Jesus by seeking, pursuing Jesus with our heart so that we can receive the Holy Spirit who will guide and help us to live God's will, desire [Matthew 5: 11-14]

In this world, we will experience troubles, hardship, pain, grief, sorrow, failures frustrations that can physically and emotionally wear us down. We must try to remain faithful in spite of our circumstances and God promises to be close to us, to be the source of our power, courage, perseverance to help us overcome when we focus on Jesus who is our source, our courage and wisdom. Pray daily not to frustrated with life, pray and confess you need God's help, and thank God, Jesus for His help and the help you are anticipating, because without faith we cannot please God and God cannot help us. [Hebrew 11: 6] God helps and delivers those who are humble in spirit, [verse 19]

When we humbly reverence God, Jesus God protects us against evil and redeems His servant and no one will be condemned who takes refuge, faithfully committed to God, Jesus. [verse 20] that is a promise you can depend on [John 3: 16-18] the choice is yours, however, we need a derecho — derech is a Hebrew word meaning a path, a path, a way of life to God, we need to develop godly ways, godly habits, godly consistency and practice's. We need to turn all our ways, plans into holy ways that carry on throughout our daily lives. We need to allow God's plans to flow through us so that we can reverence Him and be able to share His plans in us and through us with others. It is our responsibility, choice to give God, Jesus a derech, a path that He can work though us.

All this can be obtained when we remain obedient to God's moral and dietary law as Jesus was; Jesus was never sick and always obedient [Matthew 11: 28] [John 3: 16-18] [Philippians 2: 5] [1 Peter 2: 5] [1 John 5: 3] Amen!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Social distancing

To the Editor:

In two weeks, the number of coronavirus infections in the US went from 15,000 with 200 deaths to 270,000 infections with 7,000 deaths. As of today, Sunday, April 5, the rate of infection in the US has not yet slowed down.

I don't think we can say that things are being competently handled. The USNS Comfort is docked in New York City with only three patients because nobody seems to be in charge of triaging who goes where. Something like one third of the tests are errors – false positives or false negatives. We have not mobilized in the way you would think that a country with a first-class military, first-class bureaucracies, or first-class medical system should. It's worrisome. This isn't politics, this is incompetence.

This is a national calamity, an epidemiological disaster if you will. To Trump's credit, his acceptance of reality has helped a lot and made a difference. Trump doing a 180 on COVID-19 has brought the folks at Fox News along who have brought along the rest of the country. It is sad that we needed the ignoramus-in-Chief to give the green light to Fox News to tell the deplorables it is no longer a hoax but a real threat. There is no longer anybody in the country who argues it is some sort of a Democratic hoax to jeopardize the president's reelection.

There has not been that assumption of national leadership, at least of a constant and consistent manner and this remains a problem. All hands have to be on deck and the state-by-state approach that we have been doing has not been effective. Some states were taking it seriously while Florida has

spring breakers infecting each other and then driving back home. 9 governors have still not issued stay-at-home orders while Rhode Island is arresting Massachusetts residents who sneak into their state without quarantine to play golf. This is not going away if there is going to be re-infections surging in wave after wave from the middle of the country and the south.

Crisis tends to drive inequality, and this one is no different. Being quarantined in a third floor walkup apartment is a lot worse than a 2,500 square foot house with a yard. Who can work from home? Members of the knowledge economy, and very disproportionately those who are college educated. Who are essential workers? Doctors and nurses come to mind, among other medical professionals. Who are non-essential workers that can't work from home? Restaurants, service industry, basically anybody that does something for people that they could do themselves. The massive unemployment we are seeing is very concentrated at the bottom, driving inequality worse. My fear is that after this is all over, the service industry won't bounce back now that people with money got used to doing things for themselves, cooking, cleaning, even cutting their own hair.

There is a reason that the US is the world hotspot, where infection rates continue to grow. Not just the number of infections, but the acceleration or the second order derivative of the cases continues to climb. Even in states that are taking it seriously, the people are not. I know of several examples in this state where non-es

Turn To **LETTER** page **A9**

CARES Act offers help for investors, small businesses

As we go through the coronavirus crisis, we are all, first and foremost, concerned about the health of our loved ones and communities. But the economic implications of the virus have also weighed heavily on our minds. However, if you're an investor or a business owner, you just got some help from Washington – and it could make a big difference, at least in the short term, for your financial future.



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Specifically, the passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers, among other provisions, the following:

Expanded unemployment benefits – The CARES Act provides \$250 billion for extended unemployment insurance, expands eligibility and provides workers with an additional \$600 per week for four months, in addition to what state programs pay. The package will also cover the self-employed, independent contractors and “gig economy” workers. Obviously, if your employment has been affected, these benefits can be a lifeline. Furthermore, the benefits could help you avoid liquidating some long-term investments you've earmarked for retirement just to meet your daily cash flow needs.

Direct payments – Individuals will receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200; this amount is reduced for incomes over \$75,000 and eliminated altogether at \$99,000. Joint filers will receive up to \$2,400, which will be reduced for incomes over \$150,000 and eliminated at \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. Plus, taxpayers with children will receive an extra \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 17. If you don't need this money for an immediate need, you might consider putting it into a low-risk, liquid account as part of an emergency fund.

No penalty on early withdrawals – Typically, you'd have to pay a 10% penalty on early withdrawals from IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement accounts. Under the CARES Act, this penalty will be waived for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief and/or in plans that allow COVID-19 distributions. Withdrawals will still be taxable, but the taxes can be spread out over three years. Still, you might want to avoid taking early withdrawals, as you'll want to keep your retirement accounts intact as long as possible.

Suspension of required withdrawals – Once you turn 72, you'll be required to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions for 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

Increase of retirement plan loan limit – Retirement plan investors who qualify for COVID-19 relief can now borrow up to \$100,000 from their accounts, up from \$50,000, provided their plan allows loans. We recommend that you explore other options, such as the direct payments, to bridge the gap on current expenses and if you choose to take a plan loan work with your financial adviser to develop strategies to pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

Small-business loans – The CARES Act provides \$349 billion to help small businesses – those with fewer than 500 employees – retain workers and avoid closing up shop. A significant part of this small business relief is the Paycheck Protection Program. This initiative provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain payroll during this emergency. Significantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers use the loans for payroll and other essential business expenses (such as mortgage interest, rent and utilities) and maintain their payroll during the crisis.

We'll be in a challenging economic environment for some time, but the CARES Act should give us a positive jolt – and brighten our outlook.

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

Restrictions must be lifted from private businesses

To the Editor:
To Governor Baker and our State Legislators:

These are unprecedented times. We support all efforts to reverse the current trend and to allow businesses to begin to reopen. Allowing economic activity to resume will result in fewer deaths and less destruction than the current virus. A danger not only to Americans but to the world that ultimately depends on us.

Private entities must be able to start to make their own decisions, how to mitigate risks, just as the designated "essential" businesses are doing now (e.g., grocery stores erecting plastic shields at the checkout, wearing masks, social distancing with floor markers).

The fallout is otherwise too great economically in the short term but especially in the long term. A crashed economy does not spring back to life upon a government's decree. No stimulus checks from D.C.'s printing press offsets actual economic activity. That means livelihoods lost and yes, it means lives lost, standards of living diminished for decades after this crisis passes. After all, we don't take all cars off the road because of the huge death toll from car accidents. We add regulations, protections, and industries innovate to maximize safety.

What is at stake are the unintended consequences of policy often made with good intentions but not enough deliberation. The toll it can take is on health, mental illness, livelihood, families, quality of life and welfare with higher suicide rates, domestic violence, derailed education, shorter life spans and decrease in public health services. And as always the poor among us will suffer the most from a collapsed economy.

We are now finding that the virus "models" that our government has been depending upon to impose restrictions on its citizens are falling

very short of expectations (number of predicted hospitalizations, deaths, how fatality rates are measured).

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The fallout is otherwise too great economically in the short term but especially in the long term. A crashed economy does not spring back to life upon a government's decree. No stimulus checks from D.C.'s printing press offsets actual economic activity. That means livelihoods lost and yes, it means LIVES lost, standards of living diminished for decades after this crisis passes. After all, we don't take all cars off the road because of the huge death toll from car accidents. We add regulations, protections, and industries innovate to maximize safety.

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We are now finding that the virus "models" that our government has been depending upon to impose restrictions on its citizens are falling very short of expectations (number of predicted hospitalizations, deaths, how fatality rates are measured).

THANK YOU.
ANNE STARZYK
WEST BROOKFIELD

LETTER

continued from page A8

sential businesses have declared themselves essential. I know about sticky paper manufacturers that are operating, gun manufacturers, candle manufacturers, parts for commercial airliner in-flight entertainment, rubber soles for shoes, and I've even heard about a sporting goods manufacturer that is operating. Gov. Baker had a nine-page list of essential industries and it seems that if you felt that fiscal March or Q1 was essential then you merely declared yourself essential. Of course, now we are in fiscal April and Q2 and that is now essential.

Ok, so businesses are flouting this. What about the people? I have heard stories of young people who live with several roommates in big cities. They all have boyfriends/girlfriends they don't live with and they are still seeing each other. So some of them are essential workers, others are fraudulent essential workers, they are seeing a small group of friends, and each person has 5-10 people they see regularly and then each of them has 5-10... We are not socially distancing. It is just spreading slower than when bars and restaurants were open. I see neighborhood kids playing together, building forts, building bike ramps – big hoards of kids who then all go back to their families. I know being isolated with your kids is terrible, but playing with other neighborhood kids isn't social distancing. I know of adults who are still meeting with friends to play cards.

People are crowding the state parks, the hiking trails, the beaches, and the playgrounds. That isn't social distancing.

How was this handled in China? You were given a once a week appointment to buy food and supplies and if found outside otherwise you would be taken home and your door welded shut because you've abused your door privileges. In France, Italy, and Spain you needed to fill out a form stating your business to be outside. In the United States, our individualistic freedom is fueling the virus spreading out of control. Controlling exponential growth of a pandemic and individualistic freedom is incompatible.

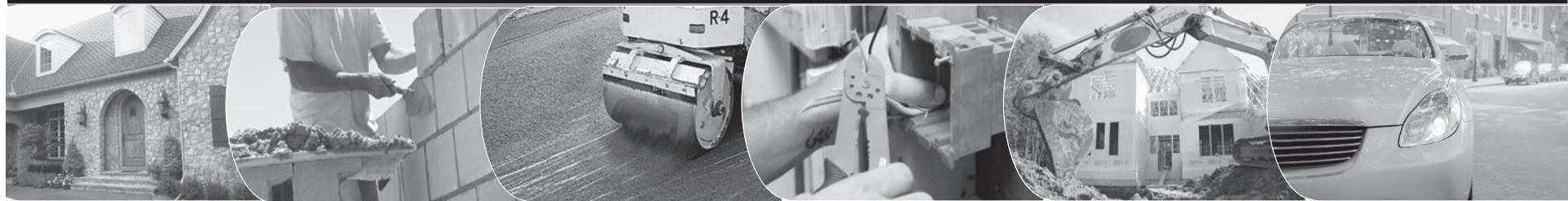
The scary part about this is when and how it will end. It won't really end until there is a vaccine and that is 12-18 months away. The other way it can mostly end is that most of us get it, get very sick, and many die. Eighty percent recover without hospitalization, 15 percent only need oxygen, which can be administered by the National Guard at the DCU Center. We don't have enough ventilators for the 5 percent to get it all at once. Those that recover will be immune, eventually creating herd immunity with a low level infection rate.

Our choices are uncontrolled outbreak leaving 5 percent dead, "flatten the curve" so that over the next 12 months the medical system does not become overwhelmed, leaving 1 percent dead, or a Draconian quarantine where we board up the doors and windows of those not in compliance to whip it fast leaving only a few thousand dead. It seems like we want to "flatten the curve" but we aren't serious about it so we're getting something in-between that and an uncontrolled outbreak.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

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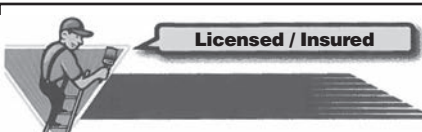
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Time to Plan the Garden!

Visions of a lush backyard garden can brighten these dark days, so why not use this time at home to plan a spectacular summer garden?

As all home growers know, it takes careful planning and many hours of labor to produce a beautiful garden. While nearly every successful gardener has their own special tricks to ensure a productive crop, the novice planter may need a helping hand to nudge green sprouts from uncooperative soil. If that's the case, the following tips culled from various "green thumb" sources may just be all you need to make this upcoming season the most successful gardening year yet.



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

a meat thermometer to test temperature. Soil should reach 180 degrees, but don't allow temperature to go above 200 degrees because high temperatures could produce plant toxins. After heating, allow soil to cool before using. Note: heated soil may give off an odor.

Never buy peat pots again! Instead recycle those cardboard paper towel and toilet paper rolls, Here's how: Cut them into pieces with scissors (a toilet paper roll should yield two; paper towel rolls, four). Line them up in a tray, touching each other to ensure that they remain upright and to slow the evaporation of moisture. Fill with potting soil and plant as usual. And when the time comes to replant the seedlings, plant the whole pot, as the cardboard will disintegrate!

Starting Seedlings

You don't have to pay big bucks for packaged sterilized potting mix, as you can sterilize your backyard soil at home! (For best results the soil should be moist and crumbly, neither soggy nor too dry.) To do: Put two pounds of soil in a plastic turkey roasting bag. Do not seal the bag shut, as it could burst open. Place the bag in the microwave on high for two to three minutes. Allow the soil to cool to room temperature before using it.

Or, sterilize soil in the oven by filling metal pans, clay pots or other oven safe vessels with no more than four inches of soil. Cover with aluminum foil and bake at 180 to 200 degrees for a half hour. Use

The addition of peat moss is necessary to keep window boxes and other container gardens properly watered. But, if you are not wetting down the peat moss before adding it to the soil, you may be doing your garden more harm than good. Peat moss must be moistened before it is used in potting mixes. When dry, the substance actually repels water! Here's how to pretreat it: If you want to wet a full bag of peat moss, poke several holes in the bottom of the bag and open the top. Then pour water slowly into the top of the bag until it seeps out of the bottom holes. Push on the bag and knead it to ensure the peat is getting saturated. To test, scoop out a

handful of peat moss and squeeze it. If you can squeeze water out, it is ready to use. If not, keep wetting until you can.

Test Number 2: Here's an easy test to gauge if your garden soil is ready to plant. Simply scoop up a handful of dirt and squeeze it into a ball. If the ball crumbles when you release your fingers, the soil is all set for digging. If the ball sticks together, the soil is still to wet to work.

Storing, and sowing, seeds are not longer a hassle with this tip: Simply put seeds in a clean, empty spice, seasoning or Parmesan cheese shaker. If using tiny seeds, add little cornstarch to keep them from clumping together. When it's time to plant, just shake them evenly over the soil.

Here's an easy way to gauge spacing seeds in large flats: Cut a piece of one-inch chicken mesh wire the size of the flat. Simply lay it on the soil and plant a seed inside each hole for instant one-inch spacing. For two or tree inch spacing, simply skip the correct number of holes.

Leftover garden seeds will likely sprout next year if you keep them in the refrigerator in a tightly closed jar with a packet of silica gel. The gel packets can be recycled from vitamin bottles or even shoe boxes.

\$\$\$ Saving Hot Tip: If you're germinating seeds, don't spend your hard earned money on a plant heat mat. A heating pad can do the job at a fraction of the cost. Just be sure to cover it in plastic to prevent any water spill

Flower bulbs are now plentiful at large garden centers. But, bulbs sold at such places are a bargain only if you know how to avoid poor quality bulbs. Here are some tips:

- * Bulbs should feel solid and heavy. If they are light, they may be dried out.
- * Avoid bulbs with discolored, dark or moldy spots.
- * Make sure there are no holes or other signs of insect damage on bulbs.
- * Pick over bulbs that have sprouted; it is better if they grow roots first.

Our forefathers took great pains to plant crops at the precise time of year to promote a bountiful crop. Here are some "old farmer's tales" that tell when it is time to plant garden vegetables:

Lilac's Bloom: When the lilacs have their first leaves it is time to plant cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, and onions. When the lilac flowers are in full bloom, it's safe to plant tender crops such as tomatoes and corn.

Native American's Rule: 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 squirrel's ear (about an inch or so long).

Moon Signs: Many natural gardeners plant successfully by the phases of the moon. Here's how: Between the new moon and the first quarter: sow or transplant leafy plants and those that bear seeds on the outside of the fruit, such as strawberries. Between the first quarter and the full moon: plant crops whose seeds develop inside the fruit, such as tomatoes, peas, beans and squash. From the full moon to the last quarter: plant root vegetables. Never plant from the last quarter to the new moon.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Antiquing during this health crisis

Many antique events and auctions have been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The usual online selling and buying options are still available though, and some new opportunities have even become available.

The biggest local antique news is that the May Brimfield Antique Show has been canceled. Westernmassnews.com quoted the Head of the Brimfield Select Board who said "I think when you get 20,000 people coming from around the world, it'd be disastrous ... I think everybody is sad for it. I don't necessarily apologize for the decision because I think it's the right one." Although this is disappointing to antique dealers and collectors, in my opinion July 2020 will be one of the best shows. Many other shows have also been canceled. Live auctions and estate sales have been put on hold. Antiques and the Arts Weekly has a long "running list" of many of the canceled events available on their website at antiquesandthearts.com.

Like many other local businesses, antique dealers, auctioneers and estate sale companies have been going online to fill the void. For example, some estate sale companies are running online only sales. Others are selling by appointment only to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Channel 7 News in Watertown, N.Y. reported that auctioneer Don Peck Auctions has turned to



Facebook Live to run his auctions which had been held live in person prior to the pandemic. Peck said that prices have increased as he has found a group of new bidders. Most buyers are from within 50 to 75 miles of his Gouverneur, N.Y. location, but he has reached others from as far away as Florida and Las Vegas.

The pandemic has brought out the best in many. Many public figures have done exceptional things to help those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Former Ohio Buckeyes and Detroit Lions line-backer Chris Spielman is one example. The Detroit Free Press reported that he had previously donated \$100 each to 8 people who were in need for the past two weeks. He is now selling some of his personal memorabilia on eBay to help those in need during this pandemic. His Ohio State Big Ten championship ring is one of his prized possessions that he is auctioning for the greater good. "This hurts to give this up, but where is

it going to serve a better purpose?" Spielman said. The ring sold for \$12,000, and Spielman said he will be offering more of his memorabilia.

Our company is practicing physical distancing, along with the rest of the state. If you are handling an estate or just have some items in your home that you think may be valuable and would like some guidance, we can virtually view and evaluate them. You can contact us by email or phone to schedule an appointment using Facetime, Zoom or Skype.

We are also planning an online auction in Warren, R.I. and an estate sale in Auburn when the situation allows. Our Rutland estate farm auction will go online again as soon as possible. Please see www.centralmassauctions.com for details on these and other events. I hope all of you continue to stay safe and in good health and we can all be attending antique events together soon.

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.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Unsure when they'll be able to return to school, students and staff in the Quaboag Regional School District are adjusting to a new way of learning.

Students throughout the district have been contacted by their teachers via email for updates on remote learning schedules. Over the course of the last two weeks, students picked up Chromebooks to borrow on a temporary basis in order to complete their assignments remotely.

If you have questions on how to operate your Chromebook, contact the following individuals:

West Brookfield Elementary School: Nick Frank (nfrank@quaboagrsd.org)

Warren Elementary School: Tim McKusick (tmckusick@quaboagrsd.org)

QRMHS: Peter Hadley (phadley@quaboagrsd.org)

QRSD Superintendent Brett Kustigian sent out a letter reminding parents that all office staff members in the district will be working from home until further notice.

"Email messages will be checked remotely, but

please know that staff will not be answering the phone if you call," Kustigian's statement read. "The best way to contact staff is via email. As a general rule, all staff email is the member's first initial, followed by the last name @quaboagrsd.org. A complete staff directory is posted on our Web site."

Meanwhile, free breakfast and free lunch are available from 8-10 a.m. for all students. Both meals can be picked up at any school during that timeframe. If you have questions, send an email to Melissa Mansfield at mmansfield@quaboagrsd.org.

The district posted several regulations and guidelines on using Chromebooks:

If a student's Chromebook is broken or fails to work properly, he/she should contact the Quaboag Regional School District IT Department

If a student's Chromebook is accidentally damaged, stolen or malfunctions, the student should notify the school within 24 hours of the incident.

If the Chromebook is stolen, a police report will be required listing the Chromebook as stolen.

No food or drink is allowed next to your Chromebook while it is in use.

Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the Chromebook. Only the AC adapter provided by the school is to be used for charging your Chromebook.

Chromebooks should only be charged when you receive the low battery warning. Once a Chromebook is fully charged, it will last around 8 hours.

Students should never carry their Chromebooks by the screen.

The Chromebook must be closed with the screen facing the keyboard, with nothing stored between them.

Chromebooks should be shut down before storing them in order to conserve battery life.

Chromebooks should never be left in an unlocked car or any unsupervised area.

Chromebooks should always be in the protective case when carried.

Screens can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. They are particularly sensitive to damage from putting pressure and weight on the screen.

Clean the screen with a soft, dry cloth or an anti-static cloth. Never use a liquid of any kind on the screen.

LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday April 21, 2020 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, on the following item(s) starting at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Major Site Plan Review/Special Permit – Applicant: Arista Development LLC; Owners: The Estate of William D. Ekleberry, Richard Cormier, and S-BNK Spencer LLC, Location: 4 lots bounded by High Street, Main Street, and Pleasant Street; Spencer Assessor's Map U13-98, 99, 100, & 101. The applicant is requesting a Major Site Plan Review under

Section 7.4 and Special Permit under section 3.3.2 of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw Zoning to develop a 12,850 sf CVS with Drive Thru. The property is located within the Town Center and Village Residential zoning districts.

Interested Parties may review these applications at the Office of Development & Inspectional Services in Memorial Town Hall located at 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562, during regular business hours from 7:30-4:30 Monday-Wednesday and Thursday 7:30-12:00.

The Planning Board is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Should you require auxiliary aids, ser-

vices, written materials in other formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, please call 508-885-7500 ext. 180 in advance of the scheduled meeting.

April 3, 2020
April 10, 2020

Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

Raphelle Masterson has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Com-

mission to place all logs within the Jurisdiction located at 183 Paxton Road, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at which time all persons having an interest may be present and participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 7:00 p.m., public hearings begin at 7:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
April 10, 2020

Stocking for spring

Fishing at some local ponds has been just fantastic, while some streams and brooks are very slow according to a few local anglers. This writer made a call to M.F.W. Central District this past Friday, April 3, and was told that the spring stocking is pretty much complete. The stocking trucks were running nonstop to ensure that the spring stocking of trout would be completed. As of this date, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is holding on to the trout allocated for the fall stocking. The Covid-19 virus sure has negatively made a big change in our daily living, and will affect our lives for months and years to come.

This week's picture shows Amy with her large brown trout from Ashland Reservoir. This past week, that also had the upper jaw missing as the second picture shows. The heavy rain of the last two weeks, and the cold temperatures have kept trout fishing a bit slow, but the warmer weather of this week has brought the water temperatures up, which has had anglers catching some impressive trout.

Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife, along with some other states, have been feeding the trout at the hatcheries a new diet over the last few years, which has the trout growing very fast, and the end result is a more impressive trout being



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

taste can be altered with numerous brands of seasoning on the market today, but I and many other anglers miss the natural sweet taste of the trout. I guess we cannot have it both ways. Numerous anglers have switched to smoking trout, rather than pan fried. Tautog fishing season in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is now open, but the water temperature was still a bit cold last week, hovering in the middle 40 degrees. The temperature needs to hit the low 50's for the fishing to improve. A few anglers fishing for tautog last week reported a few small tautog being caught, so it should not be long before the big fish move in. When the dandelions are out, it is time to fish for tautog.

A couple of years ago, both Massachusetts & Rhode Island stopped commercial fishing for tautog in the spring, and gave them a good season in the fall. It was long overdue. Tautog were returning to spawn in the spring, and were being depleted before they had

stocked. The down side to the new diet that trout are being raised on have lost there sweet natural taste at the dinner table.

I am not the only one that has noticed the difference in the taste of trout over the last few years. Any fish or meat altered with numerous

a chance to spawn. It was a no brainer.

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries & NOAA has placed another nail in the coffin of the recreational fluke fishing season this year. Raising the Fluke size limit to 19 inches and allowing the commercial anglers to keep 14-inch fish is outrageous. A lot of fish are going to be wasted due to mortality after being released by recreational anglers. Taking home a few fluke fillets for the family this year is going to be tough. Massachusetts has held there legal size limit to 17 inches again this year. It was not that long ago that Rhode island raised the size limit for fluke to 21 inches for recreational anglers.

That was the year I sold my 21 foot boat. I love bottom fishing and we found ourselves coming home with one or two fish if we were lucky. Commercial anglers were fishing on the side of us keeping 14 inch fish!

Seabass are also being saved for the commercial guys, with the season starting June 24 this year for recreational anglers and a bag limit of three fish daily. Striper fishermen are not happy with the slot size on Striped bass. The big problem with the striped bass decline is in Maryland & Delaware, not in Massachusetts & Rhode Island. Massachusetts Marine Fisheries has also dealt a hard blow to the sport fishing boats up and down the coast.

My neighbor erected a blue bird box



in his yard a few years ago, and is being used annually by a pair of them. They sure are nice to see in the back yard as they frequent my bird feeder daily along, with a pair of cardinals. It will not be long before the humming birds return.

Until next week, stay safe! God Bless America.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Finding joy in quarantine

I awoke at 5:30 a.m., started a fire in our darkened kitchen fireplace and am sitting in the quiet of the morning, counting my blessings.

My family is healthy and quarantined together. We are only missing my oldest, who is sheltered in Los Angeles. My daughter, son-in-law and my two grandsons are sleeping soundly on the floor above me. My youngest son is sleeping in the basement with our grand dog Walter. Our dear friends and my daughter's in-laws, Stu and Lynn, are here and I'm going to make my grandmothers recipe for biscuits and gravy for breakfast. I cannot describe the joy am feeling at this moment.

I think people often interchange the words joy and happiness as though they are the same. They are not. Happiness is a feeling you get from outside events and/or circumstances, while joy radiates from within. Your happiness is dependent on things or other people while your joy is only dependent upon you. Want to be joyful? Easier said than done? Start by counting your blessings.

Joy is from the heart.

I find my joy in my love of family and friends. I am joyful in making breakfast for my family. I get happiness from seeing them feel enjoyment from my efforts. I feel joy in writing. I'd do it even if no one ever read it. I get happiness knowing people do.

So, what is my goal in quarantine? Love my family. Reach out to friends. Write to positively influence others. Finish my book, "Carbon Hill." Spend more time in prayer and contemplation. My plate is as full as my heart.

What about you?

How many times have you wanted to do something, but you complain you have no time? How often have you thought you'd just like to have a little time to yourself, or just a moment of peace and quiet? Sheltering in place can make those wishes come true.

You know me as a weekly columnist, but I'm also an author. In fact, I think of myself as an author that also writes a column, and not the other way around. I need to get busy and finish my fifth book.

I'm told that Shakespeare wrote King Lear while in quarantine for the plague. When I first heard that, I laughed and thought, as an author, hearing that is a lot of pressure. But then again, No pressure. I'm just a storyteller. I need to dig in and finishing telling the story of the Tallman brothers



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
.....
GARY W.
MOORE

and "Carbon Hill."

Make positive decisions during quarantine and put them into action!

Why waste time? What is that project you've always wanted to complete? Get moving! Write a book, build the model, complete the puzzle, write some letters, renew contact with those you've lost contact with. Explore the possibilities, then act!

And I do understand that some of you are afraid. I think we all harbor some level of fear and that's normal. Work to turn your fear into healthy caution and follow all the guideline for remaining safe.

And for some of you who have a loved one who is sick, or you are not well, I'm praying for you now and I encourage others to do the same. Want me to pray for you or a friend or loved one by name? Send me an email or snail mail and I will do so. I won't post it here, but my phone number is on my Web page. It's easy to find. If you want me to pray with you, give me a call. And for those of you who don't believe in the power of prayer, please accept my positive thoughts for you as I pray for you.

To pray is a decision I make personally. You don't have to do the same. I had a young student who said, "I don't believe in God or prayer ... so will you pray for me?" I prayed for her until her crisis passed. (Let the contradiction of her question sink in ...)

This too shall pass.

I don't know what's in store for us over the next few weeks and months. I'm not a health care worker or government official. All I'm certain of is that this isn't the end of the world. This too, shall pass. The world will survive. I also understand that the death toll is high and growing. Just remember, if you shelter in place, the odds of you getting sick are minuscule. And if you are sick and remain in place, you won't pass it to others. I think this will fit into the category of "Do good. Be good."

Turn your fear and boredom into positive productivity during quarantine. Decide to make the most of this time and find both happiness and joy in doing something you have always wanted to do.

Stay healthy. Don't be afraid.

I'm praying for you.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMOORE721 and at www.garywmoore.com.



We're All In This Together.

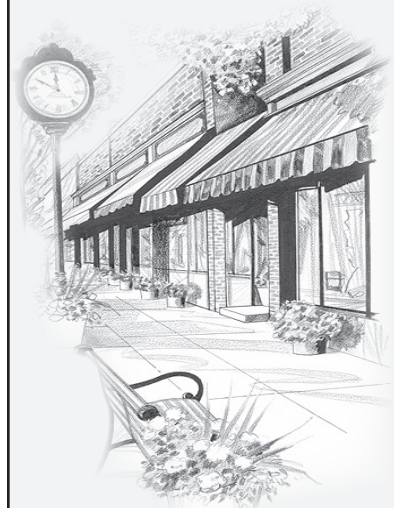
As a retailer selling essential goods, Ocean State Job Lot stores are open.

As a company, we always look for ways to turn challenges into opportunities. During this time of crisis, we are using our global supply chain to source critical supplies, like masks, gloves, sanitizers and more. These supplies are immediately donated to hospitals and other medical facilities.

We have contributed \$250,000 toward acquiring these vital items, and we are asking for your help by donating at the register. We will use 100% of your donation to purchase supplies, and we'll use our buying power to get the most for your money.

During these difficult times, we are also ramping up our food donation efforts. We could not do this without the incredible support of our customers all throughout the year. We are grateful, now more than ever, for your continued partnership with us.

Thanks for your support, and stay safe.



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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Chisholm, 83

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Dorothy Chisholm, 83, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2020.

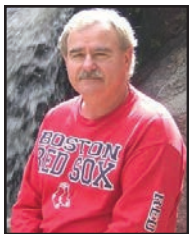
Dorothy was born in Spencer, MA the daughter of William and Beatrice Robator. She leaves her daughter Candy Spencer and her husband Jeffrey of West Brookfield; son Timothy Chisholm and his wife Tammi of Gilbertville; a sister Elinor Gordon and her husband Jack (John); a brother James Robator and his wife Madeline; several grandchildren and great grandchildren. She

is predeceased by her son William Chisholm who passed in 2017 and is survived by his wife Karen.

She worked at the North Brookfield Saving Bank for many years until she retired. Dorothy was a member of St. Josephs Church in North Brookfield.

A celebration of Dorothy's life will be held at a later date. Burial will be in St. Josephs Cemetery in North Brookfield. Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield is in charge of arrangements.

Robert William Brewer, 70



B A R R E / HENNICKER, NH- Robert William Brewer, 70, passed away on April 1, 2020 following a recent illness. Rob was born on November 22, 1949 and grew up in Barre, MA. He spent his summers

with his aunt and uncles on the family farm, known locally as The Daunt Farm. Those memories were some of his most cherished, and instilled in him his love of cows, baseball, farming and a simple way of life. Rob was an incredibly hard worker and his love for the lumber industry started at just 14 years old while working after school nailing pallets for Dave McNiven in Barre. One day Dave asked Rob if he wanted to go logging with him and the rest is history. Rob graduated from Barre High School in June 1967, continuing his employment at The Allen Foundry until he was drafted into the United States Army in June 1969. Rob completed basic training in Fort Dix, NJ. He married his "best girl", Barbara (Rich) of Winchester, NH in December and left for Fort Sill, OK days later. Barbara soon followed, driven by Rob's brother Steve in Rob's 1964 Chevy Biscayne with no windshield wipers (in January!) and a portable record player on her lap the whole way. Rob left a pregnant Barb for the Republic of South Vietnam in June 1970 and was stationed in Da Nang, one of the most important port cities. Working primarily in shipping and transportation Rob quickly rose to the class of Sergeant, E-5 in an unprecedented amount of time. The Red Cross notified Rob that his son was born that December of 1970, four days after his birth. Upon discharge from the Army Rob was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal,

Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Bronze Star Medal for exemplary meritorious service. Upon his return home in May 1971, Rob worked at the Wood Flour Mill in Winchester, NH before finding his way to Cersosimo Lumber in Brattleboro, VT. He continued to work in the lumber and logging industry, including owning his own lumber business, right up to his death. Rob was a well-respected man in the lumber business and was known for his unorthodox management style and vast knowledge of everyone and everywhere lumber related. Rob devoted his life to working and it is what brought him peace. The only thing more important to Rob than work was family and he leaves his wife of 50 years Barbara, his son Jim and his partner Judy and her son James, his daughter Meghan, and his three granddaughters, Jade, Rhiannon and Ella, who were the absolute light and joy of his life. Rob also leaves his beloved brothers, Brad, Phil, John and Steve as well as their respective families which includes many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his Mother Agnes (Daunt), Father Herbert, and sister Elizabeth Minkler. We would also like to note that Rob recently celebrated 43 years of continuous sobriety with the help of the Alcoholics Anonymous Program and his faith in God. Following the 12 A.A. Traditions, Rob mentored and sponsored hundreds of fellow alcoholics and addicts seeking recovery. His story and example allowed many to maintain their own life of sobriety. A private Christian burial will take place in St. Josephs Cemetery in Barre and a celebration of life will be forthcoming. The family requests no flowers and that any donations be made in Rob's name to the charity of your choice. Arrangement are in the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 96 S. Barre Rd. Barre, MA

Jeffrey P. Raskett, 57

North Brookfield - Jeffrey P. Raskett, 57, of North Brookfield, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at home.

He leaves his wife, Denise E. (Lemire) Raskett and his dog and loving companion Aya. He was born in Worcester son of the late Gerald and Carolyn (Carlson) Raskett of Rutland.

Jeffrey worked as a Truck Driver

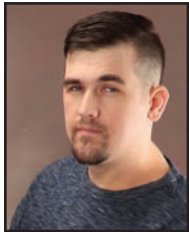
before retiring in 2016.

He was a member of Member of the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club.

There are no services scheduled. Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Jessie James Robideau, 30



Jessie James Robideau, age 30, of Spencer MA passed away on March 31, 2020 after a short, but courageous battle with cancer. Jessie was born in Leominster, MA on February 26, 1990, son of Christine

Robideau and David Yates, grandson of Myrtle and James Robideau who helped raise him.

Jessie was survived by his loving wife, Ashlyn Robideau, two sons, Maddox 4 and Finnley 2. A Brother and Sister, several aunts and uncles, cousins and nieces and nephews.

Jessie married Ashlyn Marie

Arsenault, formerly of Leominster, MA on August 16, 2014.

Jessie cherished the time he spent with the love of his life, Ashlyn and sweet babies Maddox and Finnley, going away on weekends just to swim in hotels, he loved going camping which is where he met his beloved wife. He enjoyed playing video games with his many best friends, talking about sports with co-workers he loved (Go West Ham!) and most of all he loved spending time with his kids, whether it be snuggling in bed, playing outside, wrestling or just sitting and reading and helping them with puzzles.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Norman F. Sampson, 85



BROOKFIELD/ NORTH BROOKFIELD- Norman F. Sampson, 85, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 29, 2020, at home surrounded by his loving family after a period of declining health.

Norman was born in North Brookfield, the son of Henry and Mildred (Terrio) Sampson and spent his childhood in New Braintree, MA before joining the Marine Corps at the age of 18.

He leaves behind his devoted wife of 62 years, Shirley M. (Kowal) Sampson; 3 children Lori Davis and husband Rick, Kim VanGerven and husband Virgil, and Thomas Sampson and his significant other Susie Shea; 8 grandchildren Timothy Canada, Jennifer Fitzgibbons, Richard Davis III, Ashley Catino, Chelsea Topolewski, Lydia Huback, Emily Sampson and Joshua Sampson; 6 great grandchildren Caden, Abigail, Bentley, Felix, Alexander, and London. He was also proud to learn that his seventh great grandchild will be born in August.

While raising their family in North Brookfield, Norman's careers spanned from brick mason to

truck driver and always a Marine. He was active in the Marine Corps League, their annual Toys for Tots Campaign, as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He will always be remembered as a man whose greatest loves were his wife and family. He devoted his life to their happiness and he has left each family member with many special memories.

The family would like to thank the staff at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center and Overlook Hospice Services. Special thanks to Laura's Guardian Angels Amanda, Stephanie and Nicole for the exceptional, loving care they gave Norman so he could remain at home.

Funeral services will be private. Burial with full Military Honors will be in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield. A celebration of Norman's life will be held at a later date. Semper Fi. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Gift Processing Administrator 18251 Quantico Gateway Dr. Triangle, VA 22172. Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield is directing arrangements.

A. Lorraine (Cobb) Barlow, 94



LEICESTER- A. Lorraine (Cobb) Barlow, 94, died peacefully on Sunday, April 5th, in her home. She was the wife of Robert T. Barlow who died in 2018.

She leaves her son Edward C. Barlow and his wife Sheila of Leicester, her daughter Linda D. McKeen of Oakham, 4 grandchildren; Michael and Timothy McKeen of Oakham, Andrea Dagostino of Leicester and Jason Barlow of Templeton, 8 great grandchildren; Britney, Shaye, Johnathon, Laryssa, Nik, Tony, Hunter and Sawyer.

Lorraine was a cafeteria worker for the Leicester School System for many years before retiring in 1981. She pre-

viously was a longtime sales clerk at Filenes Dept. Store in Worcester.

Born in Worcester, she was the daughter of Dennis and Blanche (David) Cobb and later graduated from the former Commerce High School in Worcester.

She was a longtime member and communicant of St. Aloysius-St. Jude Church in Leicester. She volunteered for meals on wheels and the FISH Program in Leicester.

At her request, no funeral services are planned. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Overlook Hospice, 88 Masonic Home Rd., Charlton, MA 01507.

The Morin Funeral Home, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Ernest E. LaCroix, 95



SOUTHBRIDGE- Ernest E. LaCroix, 95, of Roger St., passed away on Sunday, April 5th, in Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after an illness.

His wife and love of his life, Janice A. (Lachapelle) LaCroix, passed away in 2009. His son, Ernest E. LaCroix, Jr., passed away in 2009. He leaves his step daughters, Sharon Rust of Southbridge, Linda Legere and her husband Ron of Sturbridge and Laurie Meehan and her husband Dennis of Southbridge; his step son, Michael Pontbriand and his wife Cindy of Lecanto, FL; his seven grandchildren, LoriAnne Bernier and her husband Mark of N. Grosvenordale, CT., Jaime Cagle and her husband Michael of Tucson, AZ, Joshua Roy and his wife Rona of Sturbridge, Stephanie Kaferlein and her husband Matthew of Spencer, Dennis Meehan III and his wife Sarah of Southbridge, Christopher Meehan of Sturbridge and Michael Pontbriand, Jr. of Lecanto, FL; 7 great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by several brothers and sisters. He was born in Southbridge the son of William and Rozilda (Benoit) LaCroix. Ernest was a US Army

Veteran of World War II, serving in the 82nd Airborne Division in the European Theatre. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Ernest was a Postal Carrier for the US Postal Service in Southbridge for 30 years, retiring in 1986. He was a member of the Leonide J. Lemire post 6055 of the VFW in Southbridge. He was also a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Ernest enjoyed going out to eat, loved Coney Island, and trying different restaurants with his daughters. He loved traveling and enjoying the beach, especially Maine and Florida with his wife. The greatest joy in his life was his wife, their children and grandchildren.

Due to current health restrictions his graveside service in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge will be private. There are no calling hours.

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

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

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Jeanne A. Ford



SOUTHBIRDGE- Jeanne A. (Hebert) Ford, 87, went on to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus, on Saturday, April 4th, in the Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after a long illness.

Her husband, Russell N. Ford, passed away in 2011. She leaves her three sons, Glenn Ford and his wife Michelle of Eastford, CT, David Ford and his wife Deborah of Thompson, CT, and Scott Ford and his wife Heather of Southbridge; her six daughters, Deborah Morrison and her husband David of Southbridge, Paula Addington and her husband Eugene of Hereford, AZ, Sandra Benoit of Conway, SC, Susan Robidas of Thompson, CT, Jayne Lefebvre and her husband Richard of Huntingdon, Que., Canada, and Lynn Miller and her husband Bernard of Wake Forest, NC; her sister, Irene Isabelle Vasquez of Rochdale, MA; 23 grandchildren; 36 great grandchildren; 4 great great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; along with many many friends. She was born in Southbridge the daughter of Hormidas

and Emelia (Mongeau) Hebert. After retiring Jeanne and Russell lived in Maine for 16 years before moving back to Southbridge several years ago.

Jeanne worked at the American Optical Co. in Southbridge for almost thirty years, retiring many years ago. Jeanne above all loved her Lord Jesus Christ and her family. She was a devoted member of the Greenville Baptist Church in Rochdale. When she lived in Maine she was a member of the Red Hat Society and Living Waters Assembly of God. She enjoyed sewing and reading. She was also very fond of the Hallmark Channel movies, especially the Christmas movies, for Christmas was her favorite time of year.

Due to the current health restrictions her graveside service in the Worcester Memorial Park, Paxton, will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01710 or to The Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516.

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

www.morrillfuneralhome.com

Additional Obituaries, see page A-17



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Gary S. Couture

3/15/57 ~ 4/12/17

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POLICE REPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
7:24 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), assisted; 11:36 a.m.: ambulance (Towtaid Street), transported; 2:13 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 3:30 p.m.: fire/spill/leak (Paxton Street), no action required; 3:54 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), dispersed group; 4:14 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street, Spencer), transported to hospital; 4:57 p.m.: stolen mv (Auburn Street), report taken; 9:07 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.
FRIDAY, MARCH 27
11:50 a.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, op w/license revoked as habitual traffic offender, use of mv w/out authority, citation issued; 1:43 p.m.: assault & battery w/dangerous weapon (Soojians Drive), report taken; 1:47 p.m.: residential b&e (Oakwood Lane), report taken; 2:12 p.m.: mutual aid (Pleasant Street, Paxton), transported to hospital; 2:34 p.m.: property found (Flagg Drive), services rendered; 3:20 p.m.: fire/brush/grass (Paxton Street), no service; 3:25 p.m.: fire/chimney (Paxton Street), no action required; 3:44 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), services rendered; 3:47 p.m.: investigation (Auburn Street), services rendered; 5:20 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 6:02 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 6:03 p.m.: family problem (Siani Road), report taken; 9:37 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 9:47 p.m.: welfare check (Pine Ridge Drive), report taken; 10:01 p.m.: ambulance (Sabina Circle), transported.
SATURDAY, MARCH 28
9:54 a.m.: disabled mv (Earle Street), assisted; 11:37 a.m.: suspicious mv (McNeil Highway), no action required; 2:11 p.m.: trespassing (Salminen Drive), no action required; 3:04 p.m.: fire/brush/grass (Paxton Street), no action required; 3:43 p.m.: malicious mischief (South Main Street), gone on arrival; 4:03 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 5:05 p.m.: erratic operation (Stafford Street), no action required; 7:45 p.m.: ambulance (Staford Street), transported; 7:50 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:36 p.m.: suspicious person (Parker Street), unable to locate; 9:14 p.m.: investigation (Boyd Street), services rendered; 9:35 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 9:45 p.m.: malicious mischief (Mannville Street), investigated.
SUNDAY, MARCH 29
3:40 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:14 a.m.: ambulance (Howard Terrace), transported; 4:48 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:27 a.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), unable to serve; 1:28 p.m.: investigation (Wilson Avenue, Spencer), unfounded; 5:16 p.m.: assist citizen (Mannville Street), report taken; 10:41 p.m.: welfare check (Parker Street), services rendered.
MONDAY, MARCH 30
12:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 6:31 a.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), transported; 7:08 a.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 8:25 a.m.: fire/CO detector (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 10:49 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), referred; 12:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 2:10 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 3:28 p.m.: investigation (Auburn Sreet), services rendered; 3:50

p.m.: investigation (Auburn Street), services rendered; 7:51 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported.
TUESDAY, MARCH 31
2:28 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 3:38 p.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), transported; 9:14 p.m.: suspicious activity (Pleasant Street), investigated;10:04 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
9:53 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:39 p.m.: erratic operatio (Soojians Drive), citation issued; 4:01 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), report taken; 8:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 10:13 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 11:53 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25
12:20 a.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 12:39-1:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:22 a.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), assisted; 9:41 a.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 10:16 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 11:38 a.m.: medical/general (Main street); 12:23 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:28 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 1:28 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), assisted; 2:27 p.m.: disturbance (Bay Path Road), family issue; 2:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Wm. Casey Road), tenant issue; 2:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Dale Street), unauthorized oil delivery; 4:44 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), loose dog; 6:12 p.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 6:30 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 6:34 p.m.: disturbance (Wall Street), neighbor dispute; 6:55 p.m.: abandone 911 call (G.H. Wilon Road), open line; 7:08 p.m.: gas odor (Meadow Road), services rendered; 7:38 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), misdial; 7:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), welfare check; 8:08 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bacon Hill Road), no contact; 9:23 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue).
THURSDAY, MARCH 26
12:21-1:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:36 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), mv vs deer; 5:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), noise complaint; 8:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: COVID-19; 8:46 a.m.: suspicious persons (Prospect Street), info taken; 9:04 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: prisoner release; 9:25 a.m.: 911 call (Meadow Road), open line; 9:58 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 10:18 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:22 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), missing dog; 10:59 a.m.: suspicious persons (Delude Avenue), info taken; 11:14 a.m.: officer wanted (Town House Court), welfare check; 11:29 a.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 11:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), dead squirrel in road; 11:40 a.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), welfare check; 11:42 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 11:43 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/5 (West Main Street), assisted; 11:53 a.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), spoken to; 1:37 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), attempted suicide by mv; 1:48 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), family issue; 1:53

p.m.: abandoned 911 call (East Charlton Road), no emergency; 2:04 p.m.: 209A service (Pleasant Street); 3:36 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 3:45 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:05 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 4:16 p.m.: disturbance (Grove Street), domestic dispute; 4:35 p.m.: parking complaint (Irving Street), services rendered; 5:20 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 5:45 p.m.: fire alarm (Pleasant Stret), services rendered; 5:52 p.m.: disturbance (Grove Street), neighbor dispute; 7:36 p.m.: missing person/ juvenile (School Street), info taken; 7:56 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Briarcliff Lane), no contact; 8:13 p.m.: 911 call (Bay Path Road), non-emergency; 8:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req building check; 10:32-10:33 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:44 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), spoken to.
FRIDAY, MARCH 27
12:13-12:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Bacon Hill Road), sm. brush fire; 1:44-1:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:20 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), investigated; 2:22-2:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:47 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 6:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. transport; 7:50 a.m.: residential alarm (Temle Street), accidental; 8:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dog killed chickens; 8:28 a.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), mvs parking on grass; 1:07 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 1:44 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 2:25 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnu Street), unwanted party; 2:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:44 p.m.: disturbance (Bay Path Road), family issue; 3:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), mental health issue; 6:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), cat in tree; 6:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), assisted; 7:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), spoken to; 7:58 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:21 p.m.: buildng checked, secure; 8:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 8:39 a.m.: officer wanted (Franklin Street), services rendered; 8:46 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Street); 10:15 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 10:27-10:28 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:48 p.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), family issue; 11:34 p.m.: suspicious persons (Dale Street), info taken.
SATURDAY, MARCH 28
12:04-12:19 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), investigated; 12:32 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:35 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), info taken; 12:52-2:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), loose puppy; 8:53 a.m.: officer wante (Grove Street), internet scam; 1:14 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Williams Drive), no emergency; 1:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), raccoon in yard; 1:37 p.m.: officer wanted (East Charlton Road), info taken; 1:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), property dispute; 2:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), retrieval/belongins; 2:47 p.m.: officer waned (Grove Street), m/f dispute; 3:15 p.m.: disturbance (Sullivan Street), m/f dispute; 3:54 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), license plate found; 7:12 p.m: fire alarm (Kitteridge Road), services rendered; 7:34 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Terrace); 7:49-10:50 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
12:18 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 1:23 a.m.: mutual aid (South Spencer Road), domestic dispute; 2:07-2:41 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:11 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 4:55 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 7:40 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 9:00 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), debris fell from bridge; 11:08 a.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Road), lift assit; 1:12 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), rabid raccoon; 2:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), info taken; 2:39 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), trailer plate lost; 4:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), rep. harassment; 6:12 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 7:18 p.m. officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 8:45-8:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:39 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue).
MONDAY, MARCH 30
2:39-3:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:15 a.m.:commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 9:23 a.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 10:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), neighbor complaint; 11:21 a.m.: lost/found (Northwest Road), mv plate found; 11:49 a.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), youths disturbing neirhborhood; 12:01 p.m.: illegal dumping (Greenville Street), mattress/side of road; 1:52 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), road rage incident; 1:53 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 3:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), unwanted party; 3:45 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:38 p.m.: elderly matrre (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 4:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), family issue; 5:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tenant issue; 6:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose chickens; 8:10 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue), lift assist; 9:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), info taken; 9:46 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.
TUESDAY, MARCH 31
1:50-2:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:52 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harington CT down; 6:03 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 8:24 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), lost DL; 8:26 a.m.: DPW call (Sunset Lane), neighbor dumped ash in storm drain; 9:57 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), malfunction; 10:19 a.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 10:37 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 10:47 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), DL lost; 10:55 a.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), welfare check; 10:58 a.m.: animal complaint (Holmes Street), barking dog; 11:06 a.m.: fraud (Meadow Road), unauthorized c/c use; 3:02 p.m.: disabled mv (Water Street), assisted; 4:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Paxton Road), speeding; 4:48 p.m.: mutual aid (Smithville Road), DCF req. check; 5:08 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 5:49 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), lockout; 6:20 p.m.: RV complaint (Clark Terrace), 4-wheelers up/down street; 6:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Adams Street), welfare check; 6:33 p.m.: RV complaint (Debbi Drive), dirt bikes in road; 7:25 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 9:18 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), neighbor complaint.
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School district acclimates to impact of coronavirus

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER**
SPENCER – After Gov. Charlie Baker extended the statewide closure of schools to May 4, students and teachers continue to find ways to sustain learning.
For Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey and his staff, creating remote learning opportunities has been a major focus in recent weeks. Utilizing a combination of Web sites, email resources, Google Classroom, Quizlet Live, and other online platforms, teachers throughout the district are keeping the assignments coming while school

is out.
“The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District remains committed to supporting our students and their families during this school closure,” read a March 30 statement released jointly by Haughey and Peter Bogren, the president of the Spencer-East Brookfield Teachers’ Association. “Since our schools closed on Monday, March 16, we have been supporting our students’ learning needs by providing district-based resources on our website.”
In addition to these resources, district leaders will continue to provide supplemental learning activities promoted by the Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education’s remote learning recommendations.
For students across the district, who abruptly saw nearly two months’ worth of tests, projects, essays, and homework suspended indefinitely, life without school has been a challenging adjustment. The absence of sports and other extracurricular activities has affected students at all levels. Even the simple routine of seeing friends every day has been taken away.
“I think that students probably miss the social piece of school,” said David Prouty High School math teacher Keith Servant. “I reached out to all of my students via Google Classroom and email, and asked them to respond with

a return email to let me know how they are doing.”
Teachers at all of the district’s schools are working to ensure that families are connected to academic opportunities during the break.
“Our administrators and teachers continue to work remotely and are available to support their students and their families,” read the joint statement issued to parents. “You will receive, if you haven’t already, a school message/call from your child’s school informing you about the best way to communicate with your child’s principal and teachers during this time.”
All four schools in the district continue to develop online learning activities tailored to each grade level. Individual schools are making activities available across all subject content areas, including art, music, and physical education.
“Our goal is to provide our students and their families with some engaging activities and opportunities that will help provide some sense of normalcy during this challenging time,” the joint statement read. “For students and families that are able, we highly encourage you to work on the activities and opportunities that are made available to you.”

The standard method of grading assignments will be suspended during this time. Instead, teachers will concentrate on providing feedback to students, Haughey said. If the remainder of the school year is canceled by state officials, SEBRSD leaders hope to eventually move toward a “credit/no credit” grading system.
“As we continue to navigate this ever-changing situation, we want you to know that we remain committed to supporting all students and families,” the joint statement read. “There are sure to be many questions in the coming days and weeks, and we will be here to answer them. We will remain connected and keep our school community safe, healthy, and strong.”

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Athletes, coaches hold out hope for spring sports season

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – The clock is running short to get high school spring sports underway, but local athletes and coaches are

holding out hope for a season.

Gov. Charlie Baker's temporary statewide closure of public schools currently runs through May 4. If schools are allowed to resume in the first week of May, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) would likely be able to arrange a shortened schedule for all spring sports.

"If we can get back to school in early May, there would probably be a week-long tryout period and then a shortened season," said Leicester Interim Athletic Director David Stanick. "We want the kids to have a chance to play, especially our seniors. You feel so badly for the seniors – it would be terrible for them to lose their last year."

With fields, gyms, and arenas closed throughout the state, spring sports athletes are working out from home and anxiously awaiting news from the state level. Under normal conditions, spring contests would be well underway by now, but baseball diamonds and

lacrosse fields will remain shuttered throughout April.

School officials across the region thank athletes, coaches, parents, and administrators for their patience and understanding during this challenging time. With sports shut down nationwide – from youth sports to the professionals – athletes can't wait for the opportunity to get back on the field.

"This situation has been unprecedented for officials, administration, staff, and students," said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee Chairman Jason Monette. "I feel awful for our seniors who look forward to this time of year. Senior year of sports, activities, and graduation are what make this last year so special."

The MIAA has mulled several potential reduced postseason formats, including having sectional championships only and canceling the statewide tournaments. Because MIAA regulations dictate that all spring sports contests

must be completed by June 27, the window is closing fast to get games in.

MIAA officials also have to take into consideration the possibility of inclement weather further reducing an already shortened schedule. With the flexibility of a normal schedule, a rainout can easily be made up – but a condensed schedule would make postponements even more challenging.

Meanwhile, local school leaders and coaches are doing their best to stay in communication with athletes. Administrators thank their student-athletes for the many sacrifices they have already made to promote social distancing.

"Times of hardship tend to show what people are made of," Monette added. "This time of hardship has certainly shown what this district is made of. I couldn't be more proud of our administration, staff, and students for doing what is needed to keep us all safe."



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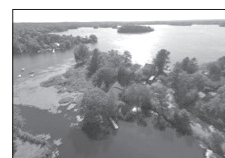
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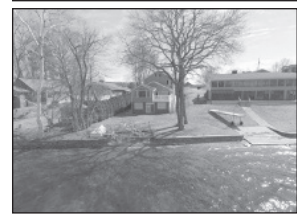
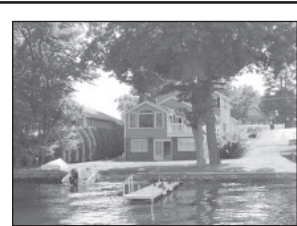
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NEW LISTING



WEBSTER – 60 East Main St! Established Local Bakery & Delicatessen Specializing in Polish Foods being Sold with Building! Turn Key Business! Equipment to be Included with Sale! High Traffic Count! Ample Parking! Easy Access to Bar for Deliveries! Building also consists of a One and Two Bedroom Apartment! The Owner presently uses two rooms for his office and storage which could easily be added to the One bedroom Apartment! Building was Totally Renovated in 2010! **\$599,900.00**



ON DEPOSIT



WEBSTER – 14 Summit Street! Conveniently Located 8 Room, 4 Bedroom Cape! Featuring Newly Remodeled Stainless Steel Appliance Granite Eat-In Kitchen w/ Custom Cabinetry & Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring! Formal Dining w/Hardwoods! Spacious Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 2 1st Floor Bedrooms w/Hardwoods! Newly Remodeled Full Tile Bath! 2nd Floor w/2 Bedrooms w/Hardwoods, Plenty of Closet & Storage Space! Updated Second Full Bath! Recently Oil Heat, Cast Iron Baseboard! Detached Garage! Corner Lot! **\$279,900.00**



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Featured New Listing!



DUDLEY - 25 MARSHALL TER.

Custom Hip Roof Ranch! 1,480+/- Sqft. One Level Living! Spacious Open Floor Plan. Combination Kitchen/Dining w/Breakfast Bar, Cooktop Range & Built-in Oven, 3 Large Bedrooms w/Large Double Door BR Closets, Walk-in Linen Closet, 1st Floor Laundry Room, Hardwood Floors, Ceramic Tile Bath w/Separate Bath Tub & Shower. Forced Hot Water Heat by Oil w/High End Cast Iron Baseboard! Recently Shingled Roof, 8' X 10' Screened Porch – Overlooks Attractive, Level Landscaping – Provides an Abundance of Privacy. **\$274,900.**



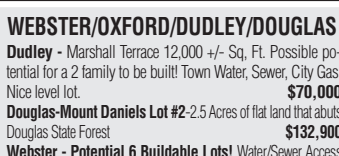
NEW TO MARKET – MOUNT DANIELS ESTATES! 4 Bedroom Hip Roof Colonial 2+ Private Acres! Beautiful Hardwood Floors + Lg Cabinet Packed Kitchen! 1st Flr 1/2 Bath & Laundry. Grand Living Room. Stone Fireplace! French Chops! Welcome you to a 3 Season 14x18 Sun Room, 16 x 18 Deck, Cape Cod Shower! 4 Bedrooms – Master w/Hardwood Floors, "Spa Like" Bathroom! 3 baths total. New High Efficiency Boiler & Hot Water Tank! Central Air **\$409,000**



WEBSTER - 8 MAPLE ST

SORRY, SOLD!

2 Family - **1st Floor** 6 Rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, open Kitchen, Fully Appliance, New Carpeting, Hardwood Floors. **2nd Floor** - Open Kitchen with Gorgeous Kitchen Cabinets - 6 Rooms, 3 Bed, 1 Full Bath Hardwood Floors, New carpeting. Each Apartment has 1,200+ sq ft plus. Oil Heat. Off street parking. Town Water & Sewer, 3rd Story Unfinished. **\$237,500.**



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 possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**



WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD
Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s appliances! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, W/Jetted 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 property! **\$499,900.**



WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD
LAND FOR SALE
2 BUILDABLE LOTS
Potential from 10,000+ sq. ft. Lot. Need to be divided. Town Water/Sewer. Zoned Lake Res. **\$24,500. Each = Total \$49,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggghaubunagungamaugg



WEBSTER - 28 BLACK POINT RD

2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEMPORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+/- SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRS, Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open Flr 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 Flr 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. **\$699,900.**



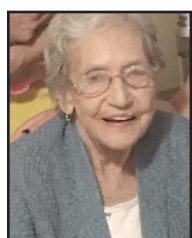
SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL! EXTREMELY UNIQUE 3.32 ACRE WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT PROPERTY! Charming, year-round, 2 BR, 2 bath Ranch, located at the Southern most end of Webster Lake's South Pond beyond Cedar Island! Extremely private w/direct Lake access. The home offers a full finished LL w/walkout access, a screened-in 18x20 patio, 18x26 det'd garage & 8x8 storage shed. Park like grounds! **New Price \$375,000**

OBITUARIES

Versie Mildred "Millie" Edelmann, 82



BRIMFIELD: Versie Mildred "Millie" (Ray) Edelmann, 82 of Old East Brimfield Road died March 21, 2020 at St. Vincent Hospital.

Versie was predeceased by her first husband Richard A. Hebert in 1992 and by

Karl W. Edelmann in 1999.

She leaves her 3 sons David Leaming of Spencer, Lionel and Rose Leaming of Holbrook and Harold Patrick and Pamela Leaming of Brimfield; her 2 daughters; Nequetta and David Proulx of Southbridge and Georgia Leaming of Brimfield. 17 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by two sons Russell A. Ray and James W. Leaming and a granddaughter Christine D. Leaming.

Versie was born in Yeager, KY. The daughter of William and Eliza Jane

(Newsome) Ray.

She was longtime member of the Friendship Baptist Church where she joyfully served on the hostess committee as well as the choir. She worked at the American Optical and the former Liberty House Nursing Home for several years. Her favorite job and the one that had her heart was working many years as a nanny as well as the running the gate at Yogi Berra's Jellystone Park.

She enjoyed sewing and cooking her wonderful southern recipes as well as her special companion her chihuahua Daisy.

Due to the current health crisis her funeral services were private. Burial was in Brimfield Cemetery attended by her children and grandchildren.

An online guestbook and a video tribute are available at available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

Belanger-Bullard Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge directed arrangements.

Suzanne M. Parslow

WEST WARREN- Suzanne M. Parslow passed away Thursday, April 2, 2020 at her home. She leaves her children Rosann Goodine, Donald Goodine, Robert Goodine, Tina Goodine, Ira Estabrook and Scott Goodine, fifteen grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren. She was the daughter of the late Donald

L. Cleveland and Mary L. Cleveland.

There are no calling hours, services are private. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Theresa Y. Cassavant, 77



SPENCER- Theresa Y. (Gaudette) Cassavant, 77, of Spencer, died Monday, April 6 at UMASS Memorial Medical Center in Worcester after an illness.

She leaves her husband of 52 years, John F. Cassavant, her daughters Dianna J. Caffarena and her husband Pablo of Spencer and Debra A. Anderson and her husband Scott of Tolland, CT., three grandchildren; Nicolas Caffarena of Spencer, Mackenzie and Elisabeth Anderson of Tolland, many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her brother Donald Gaudette.

Theresa was a hairdresser for 55 years owning Theresa's Beauty Salon in Spencer before retiring in 2010.

Born in Spencer, she was the daughter of Donat and Yvonne (Raymond)

Gaudette and later graduated from David Prouty High School and also hair-dressing school in Worcester.

The love of her life were her children, grandchildren & family. She was a member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish and a longtime member and past President of the Gaudette-Kirk American Legion Post 138 Women's Auxillary.

Due to health concerns and restrictions on gatherings, funeral services are private with burial in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. A memorial Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church and a celebration of her life will be held at a time to be announced. J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer, MA 01562. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

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ON DEPOSIT	DUDLEY - NEW CONSTRUCTION NEEDED FOR HOUSING	WOODSTOCK CONN. - 21+ ACRES
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Extend your garden season

No matter where you garden, there never seems to be enough time to grow all the fresh vegetables desired. Planting earlier or just providing plants with some added warmth on chilly days and nights can reduce the time from planting to harvest. Southern gardeners will enjoy the additional time for harvesting heat-sensitive plants before the stifling heat moves in and plants begin to decline.

Prepare the soil as soon as it can be worked. Cover the prepared soil with clear plastic, row covers or high tunnels for several weeks when planting earlier than normal. This warms the soil for planting and helps germinate many of the weed seeds. Lightly cultivate to remove the young weed seedlings without bringing more weed seeds to the surface. You'll be pulling fewer weeds throughout the growing season.

Once the garden is planted, enlist some of these season-extending helpers (gardeners.com). Homemade and commercial cloches, cold frames and row covers can help you plant earlier and harvest later in the season.

Row covers made of spun fabrics let air, light, and water through while keeping the plants warm. Anchor the



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Garden covers take this method one step further. These structures fit over plantings in the garden, raised beds or elevated planters. Look for those with durable greenhouse fabric covers that let water in and keep excess heat out. These types of structures protect plants from cold and wind, speeding up your harvest by as much as 25 percent.

Raise the roof on these structures with high tunnels and plant protection tents. These are perfect for growing tall plants like tomatoes. As temperatures rise, the tops can be ventilated or in some cases replaced with a mesh that keeps out insects and critters, while providing plants enough room to reach full size.

Or maybe you just can't wait for that first red ripe tomato and only want to jump start a row of greens. Garden cloches have long been used for this purpose. They capture the sun's

warmth to protect plants from frosty weather. Gardener's Supply Company's Early Season Row Cloche Set allows you to expand your protection to the desired size. These clear PVC plant protectors have water wells to capture rainwater and gently disperse it to the plants below and vents for managing the temperature.

Further boost your tomato harvest with red plastic mulch, red tomato teepees and tomato boosters. University researchers found using red plastic mulch increased the individual fruit size and weight and overall tomato harvest by as much as 20 percent. They found the red plastic mulch reflected certain growth-enhancing wavelengths of light back onto the plants.

With a bit of extra effort and investment you'll be harvesting fresh vegetables long before your friends and neighbors. Then be sure to keep these season-extending devices handy to use again in fall. Protecting plants from those first few fall frosts can keep you eating garden-fresh tomatoes, peppers and greens well into winter.

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



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Cloches can help you plant earlier and harvest later, extending the growing season.

is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Gardeners Supply* for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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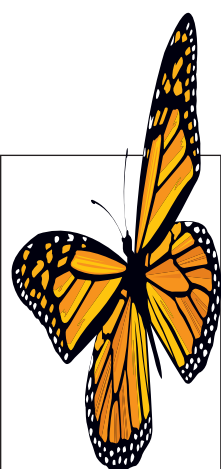
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