



SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, February 5, 2021



Photo Courtesy

Vivian Giles was recently selected as Leicester Middle School's Project 351 representative.

Leicester Middle School student chosen as Project 351 Ambassador

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Like almost all other facets of education, Project 351 had to be reinvented this year due to COVID-19. But even with the changes, student ambassadors like Vivian Giles will still find plenty of ways to give back.

Giles, an eighth grader at Leicester Middle School, was chosen by staff members to represent her school and town in Project 351. Each year, the program inducts one outstanding student from all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The ambassa-

dors then travel to Boston on the Saturday before Martin Luther King, Jr., Day for an afternoon of service.

“When I found out I was chosen as a Project 351 ambassador, I was really shocked by it. I’m honored to be able to represent my town and community,” Giles said. “I think it is an amazing opportunity for me to grow while being able to help others through a variety of service work.”

With COVID-19 still rampaging through the state, Project 351 leaders decided to schedule a virtual launch day for the program on March 7. Officials look forward to

still having an inspiring, engaging program of events.

“Our delayed start will not impede the quality or impact of the ambassador’s term of inspiration, transformation, and service leadership,” read a statement released by the Project 351 team. “Ambassador devotion to service is needed now more than ever. We are grateful to our statewide community of educators for their continued belief and support, especially during this challenging year.”

Please Read GILES, page A15

Spencer officials work to address vaccination concerns

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – The COVID-19 vaccine rollout has been fraught with frustration and confusion, but town health officials are working hard to provide answers.

The Spencer Health Department recently launched an online form that helps residents stay current on the vaccine distribution process. If you are a Spencer resident or an employee who works in town, you can complete the form and receive notifications on vaccine access in the area.

Once you send in the online form, you will be notified when a vaccine clinic becomes available to you. Residents can also fill out the form on behalf of

another individual.

Officials at the municipal and state levels have been flooded with questions related to priority groups, eligibility, restrictions, and vaccine availability. Many residents have attempted to navigate state-run websites and resources, only to find themselves even more confused than they started. Others seeking the vaccine have discovered that the current supply isn’t sufficient to accommodate them, or there are no clinics within several miles of their homes.

The process has been particularly frustrating for seniors. Residents who are age 75 or older are now eligible to receive the vaccine, but questions over supply availability and logistics are keeping many

seniors stuck at home for now.

For Spencer Health Agent Lisa Daoust, strong lines of communication are critical to a successful vaccine rollout. The online form will go a long way toward keeping residents in the know.

“The form is basically another way for residents to be informed of any upcoming vaccination clinics that the town may offer once vaccines become available,” Daoust said. “In addition, I send out weekly Reverse 911 calls to residents, as well as updating the website daily with the most up-to-date information as it becomes available.”

The COVID-19 vaccine notification form has been posted on the main page of

the town’s Web site (www.spencerma.gov), as well as the Board of Health page, the Fire Department page, and the town’s Emergency Management page.

Residents can also find on the town’s website a link to Harrington Hospital, which is a statewide vaccination site. Moreover, residents will find a link to Big Y, which is expected to begin offering vaccinations to priority groups this month.

“In these trying times, I understand the frustration and confusion that the residents have. I am here to support and help anyone with any questions and concerns,” Daoust said.

If you would like to use the online form on behalf of another resident, please list your

name and the person’s name, as well as your relationship to the individual.

All notifications will be sent to residents by email. The form only requires residents to enter four pieces of information (first name, last name, email address, and phone number).

In the coming weeks and months, the state will continue authorizing new groups of residents and employees for vaccine eligibility. By April, the general public is expected to be able to get the vaccine.

Additional information on the state’s COVID-19 vaccine availability and distribution process can be found at www.mass.gov/vaccine.

Leicester dropped from Central MA Public Health Alliance

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Officials were forced to establish a new system for health services after Leicester was recently dropped from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance.

Run by Worcester’s Division of Public Health, the Health Alliance is a coalition comprised of six other municipalities (Grafton, Holden, Millbury, Shrewsbury, West Boylston, and Worcester). The

intent of the regionalized partnership is to provide cost-effective, labor-efficient public health services to member towns.

Last year, Worcester officials announced that the city would not renew Leicester’s Health Alliance contract, which originally expired on June 30. An extension was granted to allow for a continuation of services through the end of the year, but the extension expired on Jan. 31.

The unexpected decision in

Worcester left Leicester officials in a lurch, forced to pivot to a new health system at the height of the COVID-19 crisis.

“We were surprised when the Alliance informed us that they would not be renewing our regional agreement. Much of the time spent during the extension period involved discussing options with the Alliance,” said Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux. “We were concerned with attempting to develop a new model for health

services in the middle of a pandemic, but they were clear that they wanted to go in a different direction.”

Genereux asked the Health Alliance to consider billing Leicester on a month-to-month basis while negotiations continued into 2021. When talks fell through, town leaders scrambled to find alternative solutions in a different regional model.

“We examined the possibility of forging another regional partnership, but could not find

a good fit,” Genereux said.

Leicester officials ultimately decided to re-establish the town’s Health Department. A full-time health agent was recently hired, as well as a part-time public health nurse.

The annual cost of the health agent is slightly lower than the annual cost of the Health Alliance contract for 2020, Genereux said (\$62,800 vs. \$64,046).

Part-time hours for the

Please Read PUBLIC HEALTH, page A15

District officials encourage parents to consider school choice

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – As local families begin to make their education plans for next year, Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District leaders invite parents to consider school choice.

For the 2021-22 academic year, the SEBRSD school choice program has openings for students at all three levels: elementary school, middle school, and high school. Before parents make their choices for the upcoming year, district officials wanted to introduce them to several new offerings in the SEBRSD. “As a gateway community, we are excited to open our doors to those from surrounding communities that are seeking a new opportunity, and welcome new students to our district through the school choice program,” read a statement released by SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey.

Most local students attend school in their home districts, but the school choice program allows parents to enroll their kids in public schools outside of their districts.

Operating schools in both Spencer and East Brookfield, the SEBRSD is currently accepting applications for students in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1-12. The close-knit school community is always eager to welcome students from surrounding towns who can augment the learning environment.

“At SEBRSD, the positive relationships between parents, students, and teachers are the foundation of our learning environment, and we encourage ongoing communi-

cation to ensure your child’s success,” read Superintendent Haughey’s statement. “We constantly strive and are committed to creating an environment in which every student is supported to achieve the highest levels of success. Our educators are focused on the consistent individual growth of the students so that they are college, career, and life ready.”

At all grade levels, the SEBRSD offers a curriculum designed to meet the following objectives: focus on comprehensive literacy, content literacy, and information literacy; teach basic communication, cognitive, and computational skills; promote mathematical and scientific awareness; cultivate an awareness of history, geography, government, and the humanities; foster creativity; instill an appreciation for the arts; develop occupational competency; and encourage an understanding of multicultural values.

“We provide an extensive network of caring and supportive staff, as well as the resources needed to deliver outstanding educational instruction and opportunities for all of our students,” Haughey said. “We nurture, encourage, and challenge each student to reach their full potential by offering the resources and support needed in a diverse and ever-changing environment.”

At David Prouty High School, career readiness isn’t merely a vision but a mission. Whether students have college, military, or career ambitions out of high school, the DPHS

Please Read SCHOOL CHOICE, page A15



Photo Robert Banthin — Courtesy

Doanes Pond in North Brookfield has seen some die-hard ice fishermen in its day, but perhaps none more than this “frosty” soul.

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Designer sought for DPHS building project

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – School officials are in the process of hiring a designer before entering the next phase of the David Prouty High School building project.

The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to move the project forward. The DPHS building project is currently in Module 2 of the process, which includes securing an owner's project manager and designer services.

"As a School Building Committee, we are looking forward to continuing our work in partnership with the MSBA and our owner's project manager, Colliers, so we may secure an architect and move into Module 3, feasibility study," read a statement released by SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey.

The owner's project manager will lead several aspects of the project, including planning, design, construction, commissioning, and closeout phases.

The district has posted a request for services to obtain bids from architectural design specialists. Once the designer

is secured, the project will be able to move forward in the process.

During the upcoming third phase, the project team will submit a preliminary design program and a preferred schematic report. Approval by the MSBA Board of Directors is required for all projects to proceed into the fourth module (schematic design).

The district is also being consulted in the process by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, which assists school leaders throughout the state with strategic planning services. Organization representatives will continue to work with members of the DPHS project team through the upcoming steps.

"In this next phase, we will take a deep dive into the condition of the building and determine which direction we want to go – whether it's a renovation or a new school," said Stephen Hemman, a consultant with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools.

If the Prouty project is approved for the fourth phase, the team would develop a final design program to establish the scope, budget, and schedule.

Educators and staff members would contribute significant input to guide the project.

District leaders are pleased with the progress thus far, and they look forward to the next steps.

"These are exciting times for not only David Prouty High School, but our entire district," read the statement issued by Haughey. "We are so grateful for the partnership and support we share with our local communities, as well as the Commonwealth."

To help keep residents current on the project, a detailed PowerPoint presentation was posted to the Spencer website. Moving forward, DPHS staff members will be heavily involved in every phase of the process as the vision becomes clearer, officials said.

According to current projections, Spencer and East Brookfield residents could be asked to authorize borrowing for the project by November 2022. Construction could last between one and two years, beginning in 2023 if all prior timeline goals are met.

To learn more about each phase of the project, visit www.spencerma.gov.



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.

Fairfield University congratulates Fall 2020 Dean's List students

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Ruby Francis of Leicester has received Dean's List Honors for the Fall 2020 semester.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

Leicester residents named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG — Due to an editorial oversight, the following students from Leicester were inadvertently omitted from the Fitchburg State University Dean's List published in last week's edition: Miranda A. Gustin, Madison C. Hippert, Robert G. Kempt, and Jack W. Larson

University of New Hampshire's announces Dean's List for the Fall 2020 Semester

DURHAM, New Hampshire — The following students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2020 semester.

Caitlin Morrison of Rochdale earning Honors

Jacqueline Robidoux of Rochdale earning High Honors

Taylor Latter of West Brookfield earning High Honors

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

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Hofstra University congratulates Fall 2020 Dean's List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

The following students from the local area have been recognized:

Sarah McCarthy of Spencer

Sarah Moore of Leicester

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Fred DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business, the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication, the Maurice A. Deane School of Law, the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Hofstra University is a dynamic community of 11,000 students from around the world who are dedicated to civic engagement, academic excellence and becoming leaders in their communities and their careers.

Becker College announces Dean's List for Fall 2020

WORCESTER — Becker College is proud to announce the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. The Dean's List recognizes all full-time students (24 or more credit hours earned for the academic year; 12 minimum each semester (September through May) whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher with no grade below a B- and no incomplete (I) or withdrawal/failing (WF) grades.

Cameryn Whitcomb of Leicester is pursuing a Associate of Science in Veterinary Science, Veterinary Technology.

Elizabeth Goyette of Spencer is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Design, Graphic Design.

Sean Sarmiento of Spencer is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Interactive Media Design, Game Development and Programming.

Paige Jones of Leicester is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Kylie Bulger of North Brookfield is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Equine Studies.

Cheyenne Gustafson of Spencer is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary

Science, Pre-Veterinary.

Founded in 1784, Becker College is an undergraduate and graduate, career-focused private college, providing a supportive and inclusive learning community that prepares graduates for their first to last careers. Nearly 1,700 students from the United States and around the world attend Becker College, which has campuses both in Worcester and Leicester, Massachusetts. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a "Best College" for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

GLEN STEVENS
508-885-3705

PERSON of the WEEK

SCOTT & DENISE WEIKEL of Leicester

Scott and Denise are being recognized for their generosity to the Leicester Community and for their beautiful Christmas display. Thank you for all you do.

— Submitted by Margaret Darling

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

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Bryant University students named to Deans' List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. The University is pleased to recognize the students who have been named to the Deans' List for the fall 2020 semester.

"The challenges of the last year have revealed the character and grit of our community of scholars," said Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., reflecting on Bryant's successful fall semester. "I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit."

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

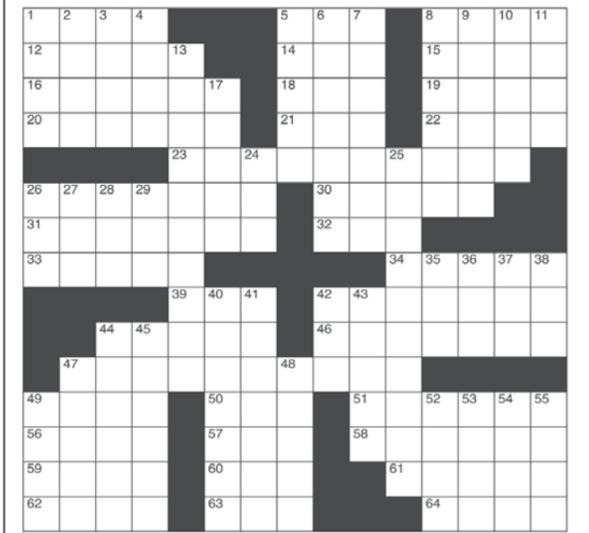
Kevin Copeland, class of 2023, from Leicester

Thomas Guinee, class of 2023, from Leicester

Timothy Moore, class of 2024, from Leicester

About Bryant University For 158 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires stu-

dents to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nuclear near reach weapon
- 5. Of she
- 8. Hyperbolic function
- 12. Rice dish
- 14. A team's best pitcher
- 15. Strong and healthy
- 16. Induces
- 18. Popular manga series
- 19. From a distance
- 20. Split
- 21. Consumed
- 22. Cushions
- 23. All over
- 26. One who provides food
- 30. St. ___ Girl, brand of beer
- 31. Walking slowly
- 32. Wood
- 33. Semitic gods
- 34. Bugle
- 39. 60-minute periods (abbr.)
- 42. Congressman
- 44. Plant of the heath family
- 46. Subdivision of an army
- 47. Having many different forms
- 49. Shellfish
- 50. Latin for hail
- 51. Between sixth and seventh
- 56. Maori war dance
- 57. Precious or semiprecious stone
- 58. Teeter totter
- 59. Deity
- 60. A major division of geological time
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Small Caribbean bird
- 63. Field force unit
- 64. Japanese beverage

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prevents oil spills
- 2. Monetary unit
- 3. The color of the sky
- 4. Dough used to make tortillas
- 5. Popular comic strip character
- 6. Distinct form of a plant
- 7. Replenishment
- 8. Has its own altar
- 9. Expedition to see animals
- 10. Group of related organisms
- 11. His and ___
- 13. Frenetically
- 17. Small integer
- 24. Unit of energy
- 25. Studies of culture
- 26. Taxi
- 27. Doctors' group
- 28. Don't know when yet
- 29. Former measure of length
- 35. Popular CBS series
- 36. Skin condition
- 37. Christian creator and ruler of the universe
- 38. They ___
- 40. Caused severe damage
- 41. Work done under harsh conditions for no pay
- 42. One point east of due south
- 43. Sea eagles
- 44. Drenched
- 45. State capital
- 47. Italian city
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Brief talk
- 52. Popular disco group: Bee ___
- 53. First Chinese dynasty
- 54. Military vehicle
- 55. Chinese Moslem

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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EAST BROOKFIELD
\$85,045, 163 W Sturbridge Rd, Danner, Lynn A, to Farrick, Steven P, and Estell-Farrick, Charlene.

LEICESTER
\$461,000, 2 Pond Ct, Smith, Tonia L, and Backstrom, David, to Olson, Michael J, and Olson, Jessica L.
\$270,000, 479 Stafford St, Breau, Derek R, and Melanson, Haley, to Catalina, Anthony, and Adams, Rachel.
\$165,440, 2 Old Stafford Tpke, Callahan, Mark J, and Select Portfolio Svcs Inc, to Federal Hm Loan Mtg Corp.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
\$275,000, 55 Smith Hanson Rd, Wood, Barbara L, to Wright, Amanda, and Debs, Corey.
\$205,000, 78 W Brookfield Rd, Straight, Nicholas G, and Straight, Sarah, to Litchfield, Nicole M, and Litchfield, Christopher R.
\$175,000, 20 Lakeview Rd, Timothy Eldon Mccauley T, and Mccauley-Gwyn, Melinda, to Rothera, Adrianna.
\$44,900, 16 Mill Rd, Devincenzo, Nicholas P, to Skowryra, Susan.

SPENCER
\$800,000, 19 Sherwood Dr, Chalifoux, Alison M, to Wood, Sean, and Wood, Cheryl.
\$572,000, 71 Hastings Rd, Wood, Sean P, and Wood, Cheryl A, to Barrell, Penny M, and Barrell, Richard F.
\$236,000, 40 Maple St, Gilman, Stacy, and Gilman, Dawn, to Abdelmasih, Adel.
\$89,900, 26 Lake Ave, Central Land Dev Corp, to Fifeid, Peter.
\$25,000, Oakham Rd, Dowgielewicz, Francis S, and Dowgielewicz, Ruth M, to Cycz, Scott F, and Cycz, Joyce M.

WARREN
\$284,500, 370 Ware Rd, Lindholm, Robert W, and Lindholm, Sharon, to Jiang, Haoquan.
\$239,900, 656 Main St, Mongeon, Barry T, to Dagnese, David J.
\$220,000, 209 Maple St, Norton, Linda L, and Zrate, Mark W, to Korny, Raymond, and Downes, Maria.
\$214,900, 59 Dean St, CBA LLC, to Piazza, Kenneth C.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$435,000, 405 Wickaboag Valley Rd, Perez, Robin, and Sanchez, Awilda, to Zhao, Lian Z.
\$338,000, 12 Birch St, Westbrook Prop Mgmt LLC, to Fairbanks, Conor.

Spencer officials set dates for town meeting, elections

SPENCER — Officials recently released the calendar of major municipal events for 2021.

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on May 6, while the Town Election is set for May 11. Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's office.

At least 44 signatures are required for town office candidates, with 50 signatures necessary for School Committee seats. Candidates are advised to submit nomination papers as early as possible; that way, if some of your signatures are not certifiable, you will have time to collect more and still meet the submittal deadline.

March 23 is the last day to submit nomination papers to the Registrars of Voters for certification.

April 6 is the last day to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk (or the Superintendent of Schools for School Committee candidates).

April 16 is the last day for residents to register to vote and be eligible to vote at both the Town Meeting and election.

The Town Meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Five days later, the election is set for 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To learn more, visit www.spencerma.gov.

Alec Simonovitch of Spencer graduates from Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the Class of 2021 who have completed their graduate studies to earn a Bryant University degree, one which has more value now than at any time in Bryant's history.

Alec Simonovitch of Spencer earned a Master of Professional Accountancy degree in Accounting.

Simonovitch joins a powerful network of more than 50,000 accomplished alumni who are inspired to excel and make a difference as leaders in organizations and communities around the world.

About Bryant University For 158 years, Bryant University has been at the

forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

Nathan Gershman earns Dean's List honors at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. — Nathan Gershman, of East Brookfield has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

About RWU With campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I., Roger Williams University is a forward-thinking private university committed to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning. At RWU, small classes, direct access to faculty and guaranteed opportunity for real-world projects ensure that its nearly 4,000 undergraduates - along with hundreds of law students, graduate students and adult learners - graduate with the ability to think critically along with the practical skills that today's employers demand. Roger Williams is leading the way in American higher education, confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families - increasing costs, rising debt and job readiness.

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The fishing is great...for some



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

This past week's bitter cold weather sure had local lakes and ponds making ice for fishermen to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, the fish were not cooperating for some, with very few anglers catching fish, but they were just happy to be enjoying fishing with friends and family. Many anglers had a good fire going to keep them warm, as the temperature, driven by wind, had the wind chill factor at minus 10 degrees on Friday and Saturday. There was the smell of good food in the air as I stopped to visit some of the fishing parties at local ponds. A fishing party at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club, for Cub Scout Pack 2 from the Uxbridge VFW had a good number in attendance, but the fishing success was very slow. The group still had a great time slipping and sliding on the ice, and were treated to some great food by Steve Bedard and his crew.

As of this past Saturday local lakes and ponds that had safe ice included: Wallum Lake, Manchaug Pond, Whitin Reservoir, Meadow Pond, Bad Luck in Douglas, and Webster Lake in Webster, to mention a few. This past Sunday, fishing picked up for numerous anglers I spoke to, with largemouth bass, perch and pickerel keeping anglers busy tending the ice fishing gear! As this column was being written, the weather forecast for Tuesday was predicting a foot of snow. It is sure going to hamper fishing for some ice fishing anglers, especially the elderly and handicapped. It sure makes me think about moving to Florida, or some other warmer place, at least for a few months.

This writer received a fishing report from my brother Ken and his son Mark this past Sunday. The pair fished Webster Lake this past Sunday and had an extremely slow day of fishing. Ice tilts baited with shiners were mostly quiet, with only a couple of yellow perch being caught. Jig fishing was not much better with only a couple of yellow perch caught. They were the only fishermen on the lake at the state boat ramp. Normally, they catch a few trout and pickerel, but not this past Sunday. They still had a good time fish-



This large yellow perch was caught by John Schreiber this past week in local waters.

ing. Any time a father and son can spend time together fishing, it is a good day!

This writer received a notice from Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife's Marion Larson, Chief information & Education Officer last week, in reference to the proposed hunting and fishing license increase for 2022. It sure is a bad time to think about increasing the licenses in the wake of a pandemic. For those that have a computer, they should take advantage of the three Zoom platforms being held on Feb. 4 and 9, at 6:30 p.m. & the Feb. 6 meeting being held at 10 a.m.! Instructions for joining the online sessions, or by phone can be found on mass.gov/mass-wildlife-funding. Massachusetts Fish & wildlife will also release a list of their proposed increases in the spring, and will hold formal publichearings at that time? This writer would urge all hunting and fishing license holders in the state, to take the time to make their voices heard at the times mentioned. The public may also provide public input using an online form on mass.gov/mass-wildlife-funding or by mail to Mass. Wildlife, License Fee, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough MA 01581.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Photos Courtesy

Cub Scout Pack 2 fishing at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club Last Saturday.



This week's picture shows, left to right, Kevin Gray, Jared Negro, and Kyle Smith, enjoying some ice fishing in local waters. Fishing was very good, with numerous species of fish being caught.

Wintry weather causes multiple accidents

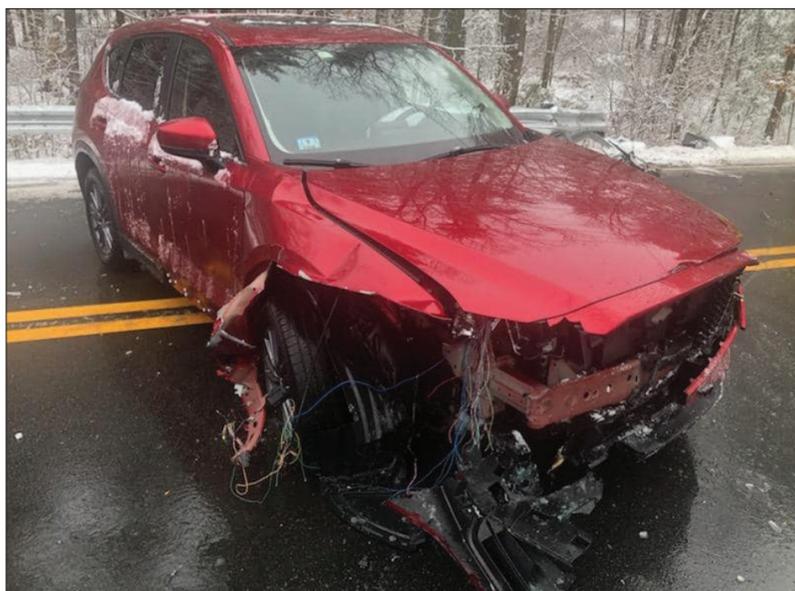


Photo Courtesy

A driver lost control last week during slippery conditions on Route 31 in Spencer.

REGION - Last week's storm didn't bring much snow, but it was enough to make roads slippery during the evening commute.

The Jan. 26 snow event was responsible for several spinouts and a handful of more serious wrecks across the area. In Spencer, a vehicle was destroyed

after the driver lost control on icy Route 31 and struck a guardrail. An ambulance responded, but the driver declined transport, police said.

No other vehicles were involved in the wreck. As of press time, police had not announced any charges.

Spencer resident named to Saint Anselm Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that Magdalen S. Paul a Psychology major in the class of 2022 from Spencer, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester at Saint Anselm College in Manchester.

A total of 547 students representing 24 states and 3 countries were named.

Kindergarten information for Brookfield Elementary School

BROOKFIELD - Children who are five years old on or before Aug. 31 should sign up for kindergarten.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to call or e-mail the Brookfield Elementary School office to obtain a registration packet as soon as possible. Along with the completed packet, the school requires two forms of identifica-

tion to show proof of residency, a birth certificate and health/immunization records. Kindergarten screening information will be forthcoming.

For more information, or questions, please call or email Jennifer Grybowski, Administrative Assistant, at (508) 867-8774 or grybowski@tantasqua.org.

Friday's Child



Deniol
Age 14

Hi! My name is Deniol and I love basketball and soccer!

Deniol is a sweet and social boy of Hispanic descent. Those who know him best describe him as polite, eager to please and very kind. Deniol makes friends easily and gets along well with other children and with adults. Deniol's favorite activity is playing sports, especially basketball and soccer, as well as playing video games. He hopes to be a police officer when he grows up and likes to watch television shows that feature police officers.

At school, Deniol's teachers report that he puts a lot of effort into his work and wants to do well in class. Deniol receives extra support in school, and participates in social-skills and life-skills groups. He gets along well with his classmates and teachers.

Legally freed for adoption, Deniol is looking for a loving family that can provide him with support, structure and consistency. An ideal family will also be able to advocate for his needs, and help him utilize appropriate community services. Although his social worker believes that he will do well in a family of any constellation, with or without children, she believes that he will do particularly well in a family where he can have siblings. A family who enjoys being active would also be a good match for Deniol.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

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Occasionally we may run out of space which is what happened last week for the January Write Stuff. Here are more January writings. Thank you for your patience and participation!

The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open to all genres.
Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!
(Limit 500 words)

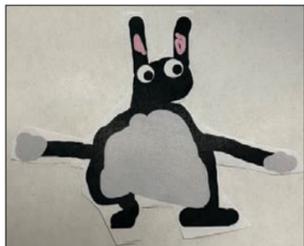
Thank you to Lamoureux Ford for sponsoring these pages, and to this month's authors!

Here are some suggested topics for February, but please feel free to write about anything you'd like.

1. February is Creative Romance Month. Write an old fashioned love letter or poem to someone special.
2. February is National History Month. Whom would you like to have dinner with from American History and why?
3. When do you think life will return to normal and how has it changed for you since last February?
4. Topic of your choice.

The Next Write Stuff will be published on Feb. 26th.

Please email or mail your submission to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Feb. 18th or The Write Stuff, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.



Big Chungus Island

BY: DREW

CENTER FOR APPLIED BEHAVIORAL INSTRUCTION

We start our story on a big chungus island where the bug chungus live we start in the house of chungoos chungoos is a special man he works for the meme cop or mc for shirt in this area something bad happens on this day a person by the name of Jon found out the big chungu by making them come out with carrots and he saw one they ran but it was too late Jon know about the big chungu and made a meme about them and now you know the back story of chungoos chungoos find himself in a distant world and now he has to live here so he started to try to find his friends and he found one that goes by the name of cj he see cj and goes to see what he's doing cj had built himself a village with others so chungoos said hi to cj and went to make himself a house he found trees near by that he used his chungus powers to knock down so chungoos built himself a house and went to sleep on the ground he woke up to a alarm saying that approaching chungoos went outside and he saw a trex so chungoos used his powers to kill the trex and saved the day that is the end of our story

New Year, New Technology

BY WALKER A.

CENTER FOR APPLIED BEHAVIORAL INSTRUCTION

Some hopes I have about the new year are about some cool inventions I have read about. I like reading articles about new technology people are working on and I hope some of them make more progress. For example, Nano bots are really cool inventions just because of the amount of uses they have. One thing nano bots are used for is to treat some diseases a lot easier. Nano bots are useful for exploring hard to reach areas like the deep sea. These are the types of inventions I hope to see in the new year.

Captain Sully

BY: ALEX K.

CENTER FOR APPLIED BEHAVIORAL INSTRUCTION

On January 15th, 2009, Sully, Captain Chesley Burnett Sullenberger III, took off from LaGuardia Airport in Queens, New York with 150 passengers. It was on US Airways Flight 1549. It was going to Charlotte, North Carolina. Promptly after taking off, he was over the Hudson River. Then he saw a flock of Canadian geese heading right toward the Airbus A320's two engines. The engines went out; Captain Sully realized he did not have enough height to turn around and get back to LaGuardia Airport safely. So, he did the best thing he could do to try and land in the Hudson River. It was winter the water would be freezing, so the flight attendants instructed the passengers to work fast and how to not get hypothermia. Everyone braced for impact. They hit the water. Water came rushing in, cold as cold could be. The passengers got on the wing of the aircraft. As people began to board the rafts, ferries arrived to aid the disaster. No one was hurt in the accident. It is tough to land a plane on the water. Hence, it was fortu-

nate that Captain Sully could land the aircraft without a single death in the Hudson River, which is why it is remembered in United States History on January 15th. Now, the aircraft sits in the Carolinas Aviation Museum in North Carolina. The Incident was the subject of "Sully" a Clint Eastwood Drama in 2016 with Tom Hanks as Captain Sully. A fun fact is that it only took three and a half minutes after hitting the birds for the plane landed in the water, and it stayed afloat because the fuel tanks were not full of fuel, so there were air pockets in them.

NFC Championship

BY: LUCAS F.

CENTER FOR APPLIED BEHAVIORAL INSTRUCTION

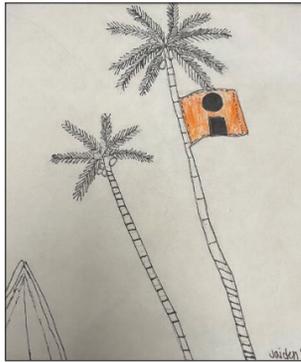
How will Aaron Rogers play against the Buccaneers. The NFC Championship will be this Sunday January the 24th @305PM., between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Green Bay Packers. The Buccaneers defense has improved since Sunday's game against the Saints. My prediction for the game is 38 Tampa Bay to 29 Green Bay. Brady's offense is far better than Green Bay. As long as the defense go hard on Green Bay.

AFC Championship

The AFC Championship is also on Sunday the 24th @640pm between Buffalo Bills and Kansas City Chiefs. Both teams have great offense. Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes is currently being watched for a concussion, due to this last Sunday's game. It was against the Browns so it's possible that the backup QB Chad Henne, may be playing in the AFC Championship game. My prediction is 28 Buffalo Bills & 37 Kansas City if Patrick Mahomes ends up playing.

Super bowl 55 LV

Super bowl is in Tampa Bay Florida on February 7th. The Buccaneer's offense might struggle a bit. My score prediction is 28 to 27 with Kansas City winning the game.



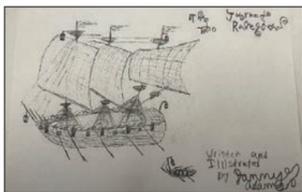
Survival

BY: JAIDEN KIRK SEWARD

CENTER FOR APPLIED BEHAVIORAL INSTRUCTION

I was flying over the Indian Ocean heading Mauritius on a private plane when the plane started to shake. The pilot told me to buckle my seat belt I went to my seat and buckled my seat belt. I waited 30 minutes. When it stopped shaking I went to sleep. I woke up and I was in pain I looked at my leg and it was broken. I looked all around me and I was on a island by myself. I went to the plane wreck and I looked through my luggage. I found a knife a lighter and clothes. I used the knife to cut down a small tree. Once the tree was cut down I cut the wood down into smaller pieces. With the pieces of wood I made a splint for my leg and I made a spear to catch food. I used my knife to cut down some weeds so I can make a bed once I cut down the leaves I carried them to a spot for my bed and I placed them down on the ground. I needed to make a fire so I grabbed a pile of wood and placed them on the ground. I set up the pieces of wood to make a fire pit. Once I finished I used woodcarvings

to start the fire once the fire was started I grabbed my spear and went hunting. While I was out hunting I caught a snake I brought the snake back to the fire and started to cook it after it was cooked I sat down and ate it. Once I was done eating I went to bed and slept. The next morning I got up and I started to pick up sticks. I used the sticks to make a tent once the tent was built I went to the wreck and grabbed my clothes and a sewing kit. I placed the clothes down and I used my knife to cut the clothes to the right size then I made a distress flag. When it was done I climbed a tall tree and tied it to the tree. I got down and headed back to my campsite and waited and waited until I saw a helicopter fly over me I started waving my arms and then they landed to rescue me. They flew me back to the United States so I could get to the hospital and I lived.



The Great Journey to Ravestead

BY: DANNY ADAMS

CENTER FOR APPLIED BEHAVIORAL INSTRUCTION

One day in the city of Jarlsville a great journey was about to begin. The journey was the journey to Ravestead. They would have to travel almost a hundred miles to Ravestead which is in the Haltec Lands.

A man named Halren was about to begin the trip. He boarded a 5-floor galleon called the Free of the Seas. After 121 people boarded the ship, it took off into the bright sunrise.

One stormy night on the ship they hit a storm everybody held onto what ever they could find like railings, ropes, doorknobs, and some people had nowhere to hide from the storm. So, they fell off the ship into the icy sea. Barrels rolled off the ship like a wagon crashing into a huge tree and I heard screaming. One person yelled "run, get below deck!!!" By that point everybody lowered the sails and ran below deck. All Harlen said was "I've seen worse things on the coast of Jarlsville, whatever." People from the coast of Jarlsville learned that they can only fend for themselves, they can't help other people but people in Ravestead disagree. They think that everyone should help each other which is why the city has stayed clean without crime for so long.

Later, one morning they all woke up and looked out of the narrow window and saw a towering city where everyone is friendly compared to Jarlsville. They all ran up out of below deck and walked to the dock.

A man reading a newspaper says "oh, people from Jarlsville, I'll make sure to keep a good eye on those people from stealing from people's houses. Just one house has at least fifty people living in it."

Wisdom of the Farm Cat:

On the Topic of Winter

BY JAKOB LANNE, BROOKFIELD, MA

As King and sole cat of my farm, I have chosen to discuss a topic that I am currently quite familiar with: Winter. For a couple of months every year the world is covered in a cold white powder (I believe the humans call it snow) while the temperature drops to unpleasant levels. Due to this (and several other things) I find that winter is my least favorite time of year.

One of the main reasons I dislike winter is because the 'snow' makes it incredibly diffi-

cult for me to make my rounds, especially if I want to avoid getting my paws wet. I find that this is greatly upsetting to my outside disciples, mainly the sheep, who are used to seeing my majestic fur every day. Secondly, the sudden and severe change in weather and temperature is in no way approved by me, the King (A SEVERE breach of protocol). Because of my limited ability to go outside, my usually slim form grows much larger. I normally pride myself in my ability to stay slim, but during the winter I fear that I look no better than a common housecat. Luckily though, I am able to slim down quite quickly once it warms up, bringing me back to my usual svelte form.

The cold also forces me to take more naps in what little sun there is, a task I partake in begrudgingly (Ok, maybe I enjoy it a little bit). My normal napping schedule of 3 or 4 naps per day is forced to increase to about 6 or 7 naps per day. The amount of naps would increase more, but I find that I simply run out of time in the day!

One good thing about winter is the fire that the humans maintain in one of their central rooms. This fire (contained in some sort of metal box) produces quite a bit of heat, something the humans and I both enjoy. To help me enjoy the fire more, the humans recently installed a large padded chair for me, located opposite the fire and perfect for long naps. Though, for some reason, the humans seem to think that THEY have a right to use the chair while I am sleeping on it. How odd! Sometimes I am feeling generous and I let them have the chair, but most of the time I just glare at them and they leave me alone.

For 70+ more stories, visit me at <https://talesofafarm.home.blog/>

Wisdom of the Farm Cat: On the Topic of Summoning My Humans

BY JAKOB LANNE, BROOKFIELD, MA

My humans are quite foolish. For some reason they do not seem to understand their basic responsibilities as servants to me, the feline King of the Farm. Whenever I need them to do something (which happens about 15 times per day) I am forced to perform all sorts of stunts to get their attention. As master, I should only have to wish for something and the humans should do it. I should not have to beckon to them; they should already be tending to me!

Over the many years of living with the humans, I have found that different stunts bring different results. For example, if I want the humans to let me inside, I must sit on a certain window sill and whack at the glass or rip away the weather stripping at the back door. However, if I want the humans to let me out, I have different options. I could scratch at the molding around the door or jump on their laps and claw their legs (painful, but effective).

I have trained my humans to perform many services. Although letting me in and out are the most common, others include giving me food, scratching my back, and rescuing me from Big Dog. In addition to beckoning for these basic services, I have many other ways to summon my humans. These include clawing the furniture, jumping on their 'computers', whacking stuff off tables (great for middle of the night!), and traversing the window-sill flower pot obstacle course.

For some reason, several years ago, my humans sent me away to live with some of their

relations. My stay only lasted for one moon cycle, but it forced me to train these new humans. After many days of experimentation, I found the most effective way to summon them was to hang on their screens. All I needed to do was simply jump on the sill, hook into the screen, and hang. The humans would come running instantly to let me in. 10/10! Best servants I have ever had!

You would think that the humans would have learned by now just to wait near me until I need something. But NO! Sometimes I have to summon them for minutes on end until they finally help me. Even though I have been able to slightly train my humans, I fear they will never be the perfect servants that I deserve.



A Tribute - Sue Angela Healy

BY JUNE SIMAKAUSKAS, SPENCER, MA

Heard some really sad news today Sue Angela Healy had passed away I'd like to try and make her proud By remembering her in a special way.

Sue Angela always supported the Write Stuff Each month she would mail them in

A beautiful note with poems from the heart And earnest feelings from her soul within.

Sue Angela loved the sun, walking, and going to Maine She grew up in Worcester of which she would write and later settled in North Brookfield with her husband Jack from whom, taken too early on a cold December night

If you enjoyed reading Sue Angela's poems Take a moment now to say a prayer For a beautiful lady with a talent to write About special people for whom she cared.

Sue Angela if you're smiling down from above Please know that your talents were valued They came from your heart, a true gift from God With whom you are now reunited.

Sue Angela Healy passed away on December 17, 2020. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.



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Joy! It's an inside job



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

A long-time friend, Brenda Badger Bonser posted a meme this week. For those unaware, a "meme" is a picture that someone has added a message to make a point. Brenda posted a picture of a joyful child. It read, "Don't wait for things to get easier, simpler, better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now. Otherwise, you'll run out of time."

It doesn't surprise me that Brenda felt it important to post this. Brenda was always a person with a kind word upon her lips and a smile for everyone. Brenda radiated joy and still does.

Thank you, Brenda, for your beautiful posting. We all needed

to hear this. We know it to be true. We all recognize our lives aren't infinite, yet we often live as though we have forever to do the things we want to do.

Brenda's meme conveys a short and concise message accompanied by a matching picture. In a way, it's like a much shorter version of my weekly column. My mission with this column is to provide enough information to influence mindsets from negative to positive, hopefully turning readers from pessimists to optimists. I want to help others understand that we have far more control over our lives than they believe.

Most people travel through life looking for others to blame and others to resolve their issues. Too often, they are looking for the government to solve their problems. The government has never been good at solving the problems of citizens. Optimistic people tend to be more self-reliant. Instead

of looking for solutions from the government, optimists just want the government to get out of the way. I don't look for my doctor to solve all my medical problems. I want help and support from my doctor, but I have taken control of my healthcare. No one will be a better advocate for my health than me.

Optimists look for a better outcome and believe it will happen. Not through wishful thinking, but because they believe something better is coming. That belief motivates them to act to make it so. Optimists believe by working in concert with others, positive things can happen ... but if they sit and wait for someone to take them by the hand and make things better, they will always be disappointed. The commonly heard phrase, "If it is to be, it's up to me" is true.

Joy is something grander than happiness. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, and when we find joy it's infused with comfort

and wrapped in peace. It's an attitude of the heart and spirit, but we won't find it unless we seek it and understand it is within us, waiting to be felt and expressed.

So, back to Brenda's meme ... happiness comes from external events and forces. My family makes me happy. Joy is different. It's an inside job. It comes from our decision to live our lives with joy. And you know what? I've never once met a joyful pessimist. I've never even met a happy pessimist.

Choose to be joyful and happy. Choose to believe the best in others and believe the best is yet to come. It's a beautiful thing to see when others realize we expect them to be good, their inner self tries not to disappoint us.

Here's my challenge. Find your joy today. Find it in this moment ... at home or at work ... in a quiet time or a busy situation. Find joy with your

spouse, your kids or with a person you are meeting for the very first time ... or find it in a quiet moment, alone. You will only find it within you.

Optimism makes our lives and the world a better place. Last week I spoke of the pandemic of pessimism and how pessimism can spread like a virus. It's also true of optimism.

So how and where do you look for happiness and joy? For happiness, look around you and seek it in every circumstance. For joy, look within your heart and mind.

I have found joy this morning in writing to you.

Will you join me?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Strategies to Drive Safely in the Snow

Hot on the heels of a classic Nor'easter, it's time once again to review our annual winter driving tips to keep safe while navigating icy, snowy roadways. When the wintry weather finds you slipping away this season, keep in mind these common sense strategies to up your odds of a safe trip.

Accelerate slowly to reduce wheel spin. If starting from a standstill on slick snow or ice, start in second gear so the vehicle is less likely to spin the tires. The transmissions on some vehicles have a winter mode that automatically starts in a higher gear.

On snowy or slippery roads, decelerate slowly too. It helps to increase your following distance to five to six seconds.

Reduce your speed and drive smoothly. In slippery conditions, tires lose their grip more easily, affecting all aspects of your driving: braking, turning, and accelerating. The key is to drive as smoothly as possible, avoiding sudden actions or rapid movements of any kind. Drive as if you have a bowl of water in your lap and don't want to spill any.

Don't lock your wheels when braking. Locked wheels can make the vehicle slide or skid. If you have a vehicle without an antilock braking system (ABS), you may need to gently apply the brakes repeatedly to avoid having them lock up the wheels.

Know your brakes: Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal

Perform one action at a time when accelerating, braking, and turning. Asking a vehicle to do two things at once—such as braking and turning, or accelerating and turning—can reduce your control. When taking a turn, for instance, slowly apply the brakes while the vehicle is going straight. When it's at the right speed to take the turn, let up on the brakes and smoothly turn the steering wheel. After you're through the turn, slowly depress the accelerator to regain your speed.

Tackling the Hills: Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly

Clear Clogs: Make sure the exhaust pipe is not clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment of the



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

vehicle while the engine is running.

Did you know tires are your most important weapon against slipping and sliding? Take into account these top tire tips:

Cold temperatures decrease the air pressure in tires, which adds to the rolling resistance caused by snow and slush. So be sure to check tire pressure regularly, especially after there has been a sharp drop in temperature.

When buying allweather or snow tires have them installed on all four wheels. This provides even traction all the way around and gives you top notch steering and stopping.

Can't replace all four? If you can only afford two snow tires, some tire experts suggest you get them mounted in the rear. Here's why: If your front tires skid, you can still maintain some control over the car by steering those wheels. But if your rear tires lose contact with the road, it's much harder to control where the car goes. For that reason, the tires with the greatest amount of traction are supposed to go on the back

Make sure you have enough tread on your tires. The drive tires must provide traction to push your vehicle over wet pavement and through snow. The steer-

ing tires must have traction to steer the vehicle. Experts say you should have at least one eighth inch of tread to plow through snow effectively.

Note: The driving advice above was culled from various sources including AAA; State Farm Insurance Agency; Consumer Reports; and Michelin Tires.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

We can bridge the divide between us

It has been one of the most tumultuous times in recent history in regard to politics, and the divide taking place across the country is very real. This Editor has noticed plenty of disagreements take place between individuals with opposing viewpoints. Being privy to all sorts of news stories and situations where politics are discussed puts us right in the heart of it.

This may not be the case in every situation; however, we have noticed that residents in small towns do not let politics divide them. Sure, you have members of various select boards going head to head about an issue, you have citizens up in arms over certain topics, but people out about the town have remained quite hospitable to each other.

During one event we recently covered, we witnessed two long-term residents from the same town who could not be further apart in viewpoints have a refreshingly peaceful and genuine discussion. Imagine a long haired 'hippie' woman holding protest signs and a die-hard Republican, former Marine and hunter dressed in steel toe boots, joking around with each other and having a genuine laugh, then wishing each other well with sincerity, you wouldn't have believed it. But it happened.

Since that moment, we have noticed more and more situations like this unfold. Hands are being shaken and smiles are being exchanged despite the so called political 'divide' that has ripped through the country. We think citizens in small towns, no matter who or what they are about can genuinely appreciate each other's differences. A person may not agree with hunting or wouldn't head out into the woods themselves, however they could see a neighbor who shot an eight-point buck and offer a friendly congratulations. We have seen conservatives with a snow-bank of over a foot covering their driveways be plowed out by someone with a 'Bernie' sticker on their plow truck. We have seen posts on social media that have nothing to do with politics invoke laughter from both sides.

In a small town everyone knows everyone, and if they don't they are only separated by one person. In such small towns, that allows for communities to rally around each other and to make sure at the end of the day, that we all had a good one. It's cold up here, the winters are long and brutal. That camaraderie of wanting to protect our small town niche has benefits that have always stood the test of time. You may be a Republican, Independent or a Democrat but you all root for the New England Patriots. Perhaps now maybe Tampa, but having that home town pride is something that connects us all.



GOOD NEWS

God is our only refuge

To the Editor:
Before I share with you my convictions, I want to support Mr. Mark Robillard with kudos for his article "Time to purge"

The present catastrophes we have been witnessing with various storms and the pandemic Covid 19 virus, plague in this country, nation and nations "and" the potential uprising of a democratic socialist government are warnings to us from God that we need, must take seriously "and" humble our self "and" repent "and" seek God's face "and" turn from our wicked sinful disobedient ways. [2 Chronicle 7: 14]

We cannot expect and we will not receive God's help, blessings unless we have a change of heart. This warning is also coming from the book of James 1: 21, "again" we are being warned by God, Jesus that we need, must rebuke

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The world is a better place for music

To the Editor:
Thank you so much for the story about Erin Arsenault and her wonderful Girl Scout project of establishing a musical instrument lending library for students in Leicester. Congratulations to her.

This will make a huge difference in

Untethered to reality

To the Editor:
Mr. Robillard, you opened with: "the Democratic Socialist Progressive Party has seized power". Biden is not the left wing of the party nor did he "seize power"; the election was free and fair. Trump said before this election, and the one 4 years before, that he would claim fraud if he lost, so his ravings were no surprise, but the extent of his attempts to overturn the election were extraordinary.

Then you continue with "the impetus for the purges: A staged fake insurrection." That's as far as I'm going to read. The rest of your article must be flaming

Rep. Durant? Rep. Berthiaume?

To the Editor:
Donnie Berthiaume and Peter Durant have still not made their positions clear. Regardless of how we personally feel, everyone in the 5th and 6th Worcester Districts deserve a response. Ignoring the issue should be unacceptable to everyone. It's now been 3 weeks in a row and 3 weeks too many. Perhaps a 4th week in a row will elicit a response?

Question 1: Who won the 2020 Presidential election?

Question 2: Was the 2020 election a free and fair election?

Question 3: Do you approve of former President Trump's behavior, misinformation, refusal to concede the election he lost, and incitement of insurrection from Nov. 8 through Jan. 20. Regardless of whether you support or condemn the former president, please use his name in your statement. Be specific. Nothing squishy.

Question 4: Of what political loyalty are those that stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6? Choices are Trump supporters, Right-wing domestic terrorists, Antifa, foreign agents, BLM, Patriots. Hint, there is more than one correct answer

The road not taken

To the Editor:
Robert Frost easily stands as the New England poet of the 20th century. One of most famous poems, "The Road Not Taken," tells the story of a person who, along a wooded road, comes to a fork. The traveler cannot go in both directions. He or she has to choose one road or the other. Frost describes both roads and then ends with the following lines:
"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference. "The results of the November 2020 election have complete clarity - Republicans added a number of seats in the House of Representative, the Democrats added two in the Senate, and President Trump lost his re-election by a significant margin. Among all the losing candidates very, very few Republicans or Democrats contested the results. And apart from Trump even those in close contests accepted the results of recounts.

But not the now ex-President Trump and his enablers and blinded supporters. Even after all numerous re-counts, lost court cases, obviously illegal efforts to have even state level Republican officials falsely change the actual results etc.

In a way, given Trump's scrambled

and repent all the bad choices, sins we have made and some of us are still making "and" many of us who are being subjected to the present day immoralities are remaining quiet, not defending God's moral law of adultery, fornication, murder, and murder by abortion. We who know what to do to defend God's moral laws and don't wish to get involve are just as guilty and also need to repent. How do we begin to make amends, we all need to humble our self and confess and firmly stand defending God's moral laws. Why you ask? Because God is love, God is our creator and God alone is able to save us from all these present catastrophes [storms], the Covid virus [plague] "and" the threat of this country becoming a potential democratic governmental controlled socialist country. I have tried to warn you in

the lives of every student she touches. I hope this inspires others to support her project or start their own. The world is a better place for music.

LILA M. FARRAR
BROOKFIELD

[bunk], too.

You don't believe the truth of the election. You don't believe what we saw with our own eyes when MAGA broke into the capital and took a dump.

Six people died related to this "fake" event. Did anyone die in your fantasy event? One hundred forty Capitol Police were injured in the assault. Do blue lives matter to you?

You don't accept reality so I don't know why you expect that anyone would listen to anything you say.

ALLAN JOHANNESSEN
LEICESTER

and a lot of wrong answers.

Question 5: Which events were a more serious threat to the United States? George Floyd's tragic death and the BLM protests/riots of Summer 2020 or Former President Trump's refusal to accept the outcome of the 2020 election and resulting storming of the Capitol?

Please use Former President Trump's name in your responses and please be specific. You owe it not only to your critics but to your supporters to make your position clear. If you think Trump won the 2020 election, it was stolen from him, rallying support to not certify the electoral support, and the storming of the Capitol was no big deal especially in the wake of the BLM situation...own it! Don't let your constituents think you're a RINO!

Ms. Gobi and Mr. LaBoeuf, if you haven't already, I encourage you to send letters into this newspaper for publishing and set an example for how a leader should address thorny issues.

FRED BAGG
SPENCER

brain, his self-centeredness, ignorance, and his willingness to and interest in weakening American democracy should not surprise. His last effort involved inciting right wing organizations and supporters to illegally invade our citadel of democracy, the Capitol building. The purpose of this incitement - to prevent Vice-President Pence and elected members of the House and Senate from certifying the election of Joe Biden. After a bloody riot in which 5 Congress legally certified the election of Biden as President and Kamala Harris as Vice President.

Circling back to Frost and "The Road Not Taken" this terrible incident should have caused those who have supported Trump to pause and think about what "Road" - the one of continued support for the worst ever President or the 250 year old of our American Constitution-they should take.

Judging from three letters in last week's New Leader some Trump supporters will continue to support a very bad man rather than the Constitution. Mark these letters down as against our American interests and by seeking to divide us, assisting the Russian and Chinese government to bring our country down.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

previous viewpoints, I hope those who voted for Mr. Biden and associates are happy.

Fortunately, God is sovereign "and" our only refuge to freedom "and" we still have a choice, we need and must turn to God, Jesus in humble repentance and ask God to remove His judgment against us. Let me caution you; when you go before God, Jesus go before Him with a sincere heart, God cannot be mocked, God knows our heart, He knows our sincerity.

As I have shared with you in previous viewpoints, corona is Latin for crown; God has removed His crown, protection from Americas immoral lawlessness and until we the people confess and humbly repent we will continue to experience God's rebuke through hardship.

The responsibility and choice for our

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If you've been investing for many years and you've owned bonds, you've seen some pretty big changes on your financial statements. In 2000, the average yield on a 10-year U.S. Treasury security was about 6 percent; in 2010, it had dropped to slightly over 3 percent, and for most of 2020, it was less than 1 percent. That's an enormous difference, and it may lead you to this question: With yields so low on bonds, why should you even consider them?

Of course, while the 10-year Treasury note is an important benchmark, it doesn't represent the returns on any bonds you could purchase. Typically, longer-term bonds, such as those that mature in 20 or 30 years, pay higher rates to account for inflation and to reward you for locking up your money for many years. But the same downward trend can be seen in these longer-term bonds, too - in 2020, the average 30-year Treasury bond yield was only slightly above 1.5 percent.

Among other things, these numbers mean that investors of 10 or 20 years ago could have gotten some reasonably good income from investment-grade bonds. But today, the picture is different. (Higher-yield bonds, sometimes known as "junk" bonds, can offer more income but carry a higher risk of default.)

Nonetheless, while rates are low now, you may be able to employ a strategy that can help you in any interest-rate environment. You can build a bond "ladder" of individual bonds that mature on different dates. When market interest rates are low, you'll still have your longer-term bonds earning higher yields (and long-term yields, while fluctuating, are expected to rise in the future). When interest rates rise, your maturing bonds can be reinvested at these new, higher levels. Be sure you evaluate whether a bond ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

Furthermore, bonds can provide you with other benefits. For one thing, they can help diversify your portfolio, especially if it's heavily weighted toward stocks. Also, stock and bond prices often (although not always) move in opposite directions, so if the stock market goes through a down period, the value of your bonds may rise. And bonds are usually less volatile than stocks, so they can have a "calming" effect on your portfolio. Plus, if you hold your bonds until maturity, you will get your entire principal back (providing the bond issuer doesn't default, which is generally unlikely if you own investment-grade bonds), so bond ownership gives you a chance to preserve capital while still investing.

But if the primary reason you have owned bonds is because of the income they offer, you may have to look elsewhere during periods of ultra-low interest rates. For example, you could invest in dividend-paying stocks. Some stocks have long track records of increasing dividends, year after year, giving you a potential source of rising income. (Keep in mind, though, that dividends can be increased, decreased or eliminated at any time.) Be aware, though, that stocks are subject to greater risks and market movements than bonds.

Ultimately, while bonds may not provide the income they did a few years ago, they can have a place in a long-term investment strategy. Consider how they might fit into yours.

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.

freedom is ours, we must live by God's moral laws and God, Jesus will bless us and restore our country and freedom. Amen! God, Jesus have mercy on us!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who is fighting for our students?

To the Editor:
I want to know “who is fighting for our students?” Hybrid or remote learning is good for some students, but not for the less motivated kids.

We want our kids back in school five days a week, working with our professional teachers.

I am sick and tired of politicians and teachers’ unions controlling our student’s future. By the time we are done, it will be a year-and-a-half of no in-class learning. We are hurting our kids. Reports indicate that Mental Health Issues have risen by 31 percent in 12-17 age students. These increases are attributed to the isolation of remote learning, lack of personal contact and inability to building relationships.

Many medical experts have stated many times that schools are safe places for our children. They also tell us that Children are not the primary target of the virus.

Policies, such as the rigid school bus seating, are unnecessary and should be changed. Students can ride the bus

safely. In many schools which are in hybrid sessions, upper classmen are driving their cars and how many families drop off and pick up their kids. If I were still parenting and wanted my children at school full time, I would find transportation.

In order to thrive, children need proper learning, safe socializing with friends, sports and other school activities.

We, as parents, grandparents and concerned citizens must stand up and be counted that we want our students back in school full time utilizing safe procedures. Students can’t miss any more in-person education with our wonderful, caring staff. In vocational schools, how do you teach vocational skills on computers? Part of the reason that our kids choose vocational education is the hands-on learning.

Recently, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education came up with a new policy that all school districts

Turn To **WILBY** page **A11**

Sit back and watch

To the Editor:

We have seen a flurry of executive orders out of President Biden mostly because President Trump actually achieved very little through legislation and instead relied himself on executive orders for things such as the Keystone pipeline, border policy, and climate policy. The highlights the problem with executive orders as opposed to legislation - what Trump signed in, Biden is signing out. Much of the executive orders are standard Democratic policy such as promoting racial equity and much of it was simply repealing the worst actions of the Trump administration.

Some have complained that President Biden is over-relying on executive orders and while at first glance that might look to have some merit, what President Biden is both making good on his “day 1” campaign promises, and he is also cancelling out actions and orders from Trump. In a perfect world with a functioning government, Congress would be making laws, and this dysfunction goes back a long time. A perfect example is DACA – President Obama used execu-

utive action in the first place because there were many years of the 44th president trying to work with Republicans in congress on comprehensive immigration reform that ended in failure. By 2014 Obama said, “enough is enough” and he resorted to executive action on that topic...only for Trump to attempt to repeal DACA by executive action...only for Biden to reimpose.

If the House and Senate were to actually start legislating, then Chief Executives, whether President Obama, Trump, Biden, or Biden’s successor wouldn’t have to rely on executive action to actually do something for the American people.

Democrats seem prepared to push a \$1.9 trillion (Trillion with a “T”) COVID relief package through budget reconciliation so that they can do it with a simple majority in the Senate and thus without any Republican Senators. This relief package is a major campaign promise and important for the Biden administration to put the American economy

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A14**

The shamans of climate change

To the Editor:

It was just a short while ago that some parts of the human population were still in the stone age. Indeed, the Indigenous population in the US still worshiped trees and had witch doctors or shamans that foretold the tribe what to do. The elders of the tribe used them to control the rest of the tribe. Go against their science and beliefs and you were cast out or executed. It seems that some parts of our tribe still want to listen to these shamans instead of use their brains and think. The shamans of old used bones, shells, and colored stones. They shook this up and threw them on the ground. They then read these or interpreted them to give the results they needed to control the rest of the tribe. Their science was not to be refuted.

The new shamans are the academics who think their interpretations are also undisputable. Instead of chicken bones and shells they have a new bag of tricks. It’s called computer modeling. Its workings are complicated, and the operations cannot be understood by the regular tribe members. Only a shaman that has studied the science can comprehend it. I’m here to tell you the reality behind this new bag of tricks. Computer modeling is basically a computer game. A software designer designs the software to get the results that their bosses want. The bosses in these cases are scientist who are getting research grants from guess who, the government and political lobbyist. This is in no way an objective scientific process. The design of the program is set with selected input and constraints. The analysis of data and results are based on strings of “If this, then do this” designed to specifically get the results that they want There is no “thinking” by a computer. This is exactly what the “Climate Change” science is being promoted by the Progressive Democrats is being based on. Does their modeling take in account these things: The rotational change of the speed of the earth, the change in the orbit of our planet around the sun, the effects of solar flares? sunspots, or the sudden shifts in the earth’s plates. Of course not. All these factors affect the earth’s climate. But guess what. These cannot be controlled or factored into their modeling programs. As an engineer that has worked in research and development at many companies, I can guarantee you that the actual test results hardly ever coincide with the models. Almost always unforeseen factors come in to play during the actual testing. The computer modelers and designers however are like religious zealots who believe in their computer outputs more than actual historical data and actual results. These charlatans are used to feed the fake Progressive Democrat Climate Change initiative. There programs are used like the old shamans used chicken bones and shells. Except now they use

carbon exhaust from fossil fuels, the farts from cows, and the temp measurements over extremely short times as the mix. If it doesn’t come out to the results they like, they just change the program slightly until it does.

Remember their hysterical science in the 1980’s about the ozone layer and how we were destroying it with aerosols. Without it we would all get cancer as the ozone layer blocked the UV rays. Guess what, never happened. Remember they warned us that in 1980’s was going to run out of fossil fuels, and we would not be able to fuel our world. That why the government originally upped our mileage requirements. We must conserve the oil deposits and save the world for our children. Turns out the scientists were wrong there too. We

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A14**

Love of fiction

To the Editor:

I am a big fan of fiction, and enjoy it in books and movies. I have always thought Harry Potter’s and Han Solo’s worlds were captivating and entertaining. That said, seeing it encroach into the real world does not hold nearly as much appeal.

Do you believe that there are still people who don’t know the outcome of the Nov. 3 election. In this area, you can spot them by still having signs or banners in their yard, or wearing the red MAGA dunce caps. In congress, some of them cite a rumor that the election was stolen, or that there was substantial fraud. I tend to agree that there was at least much effort to “find votes”, restrict drop boxes to one in 1200 square miles, make sure lines were oppressively long at polling places that have most

substantial minority populations (in normal times, often necessary to lose a day’s pay from work, but now probably not working), gerrymandered voting districts whose intent is clear. The bottom line being, Biden would have won much bigger in a fair fight.

Like the spoiled egomaniac, who did not think he could lose to Biden, I have pointed out that he also had to run on his less than stellar record, peccadillos like adultery, lying, cheating and being a total national embarrassment. His mob boss style is really getting old. His ability to summon the house minority leader for an audience, says volumes, as does the complete reversal by the majority of the GOP on consideration of impeachment evidence.

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A14**

The Fintech fiasco

To the Editor:

While Donald J. Trump remains in (digital) exile, it seems that a new digital boogey-man has emerged from the depths of a subreddit. This enemy to capitalism, freedom, and possibly apple pie itself is small retail investors manipulating the market and beating Wall Street hedge funds at what they call “capitalism.” We saw zombie stocks such as GameStop, while still losing money, increase more than 100 times from a year ago and 10 times in a week.

What is going on is that a bunch of people who read/contribute to the “wallstreetbets” decided to unnatu-

rally run up the value of GameStop (NYSE:GME) seemingly because they realized that Melvin Capital among other hedge funds had enormous short-selling positions. These short-sellers had entered into a contract to buy a number of shares of the stock at some later date, essentially betting it would go down. Short-selling has the potential for unlimited losses though because if the stock instead skyrockets, the short-seller still has to buy the shares at the higher price, and this contract to buy shares at a time of high demand actually pushes the stock even higher. This is what is

Turn To **TAYLOR** page **A11**

A trip to Washington, District of Corruption continued

To the Editor:

There he was atop the traffic barrier, a smiling, laughing, exuberant and handsome young man who I estimated to be no older than 21, if that. He was waving a Trump flag in one hand as he faced the oncoming parade of fellow patriots, but wait. God have mercy, this kid, wearing shorts, had, for legs, two prosthetic limbs descending from above the knee, and a prosthetic device to the shoulder for an arm. Clad in an army shirt of some kind with a unit patch on the arm, he had an American flag on a short staff clamped into the “hand” of his ersatz arm, which he also displayed to the oncoming crowd.

He seemed overjoyed to be there, and for some reason my mind immediately thought of the Dubliners song telling the story of Roddy McCorley going to die on the “Bridge of Toome Today.”

«Up the narrow streets he steps
Smiling, proud and young
There was never a tear in his blue eye,

Both sad and bright are they.»
I thought, “Why are you here, young man? How can you be so insanely heroic considering all you have suffered and given for that flag so firmly clenched in your metal mitt?” But, soon he was gone, picked up and carefully

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A13**

Trump’s crimes are not moot

To the Editor:

We are now entering the final stretch before Trump’s second impeachment trial begins, and it seems as though all five of his defense attorneys have quit. While it is amazing to me that any lawyer would want to sully their reputation with defending Trump I always knew he’d find some. Apparently the rift comes from a disagreement over his defense strategy...

All the attorneys he has found so far (except for Rudy Giuliani) have wanted to claim his words were not incitement, the mob acted as individuals, and that impeachment is unconstitutional and

legally moot as he is not president any longer. It seems, however, that Trump is still clinging to “election fraud” and he wants that to be his defense strategy. It appears as if Trump is unaware that the question at hand is not about the election but about weaponizing a mob to attempt a coup d’état and attack another branch of government. In a twist, Trump’s defense team quit before he could fire them. While he still has Rudy, Rudy’s attendance at the Jan. 6 rally makes him a witness making one wonder if Trump is going to have to

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A12**

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TAYLOR
continued from page A9

known as a “short-squeeze.”

In a properly functioning market, people could bet on whether a stock would go up or down and it would go up or down based on the realities of its business. What we witnessed with GameStop and others (Nokia, AMC Theaters, and Blackberry) was not that their businesses improved, but people bought the stock with the goal of manipulating the market in order to cause massive losses from Wall Street hedge funds and hopefully use financial markets to create a transfer of wealth to them. This is coordinated market manipulation but what might surprise people is that it isn't illegal – Wall Street firms do it all the time. Normally though, they manipulate the market to bilk the little guy and enrich the 1 percent.

It is kind of funny to see dead companies bleeding money worth more now than they were in their prime. It is kind of fun watching rich people cry and getting beat at their own damn game. We are hearing Wall Street complain about market manipulation, which was just retail investors taking advantage of a situation they created by being sloppy and greedy with their out market manipulation. It is truly outstanding mental gymnastics.

We then saw an institutional backlash we've never seen before.

Robinhood, a commission-free discount brokerage catering to young retail investors with an average age of 31 halted buying GME, BB, NOK, and AMC. At one point, Robinhood was auto-selling GME for customers (thanks...). Discord (group chat/videoconferencing service) banned the Wallstreetbets server citing “hate speech”. People called on the government to intervene and it exposed an amazing double-standard. Market manipulation by Wall Street firms is all well and good but if a cadre of scrappy volunteers targets a Wall Street firm or create a scheme of their own, it must be stopped!

Market manipulation, betting on companies' demise, creating bubbles in hopes of profiting while bankrupting others, and leveraging returns by trading options add nothing of value to the economy and only introduce volatility while smart people try to game each other, playing with real peoples' jobs and savings. If we don't want this type of thing we ought to pass robust Elizabeth Warren style regulation. If we want to give the 1% carte blanche to screw with financial markets, we shouldn't be surprised when a bunch of millennials using a smartphone app as a broker band together to hit back!

Something is very fishy with Robinhood... Why did they halt all trading on the stocks in question? Well, Robinhood's chief investor is heavily invested in Melvin Capital which the short-squeeze threatened to bankrupt

and caused a multi-billion dollar loss. Robinhood claims they didn't have enough credit with clearinghouses to settle the transactions during a float period, but I call BS. If Robinhood ran into funding problems, why did they only shut down the stocks that were threatening the billionaire investors and owners of Robinhood? Why didn't they shut down the entire brokerage to wait for their orders to settle?

Finally, it seems we might have a truly bi-partisan issue. AOC and Ted Cruz seem in agreement that Wall Street firms used unacceptable muscle in shutting down legal activity from small investors. It will be interesting to see if America, through inaction, basically says, “market manipulation by the top 1% to bilk retail investors is OK but if the scheme goes the other way it is not OK.” I suppose true freedom could mean Robinhood, Charles Schwab, Fidelity, and Morgan Stanley have the freedom to intervene to protect their investors and hedge funds... I mean, there's nothing stopping me from starting my own hedge fund and joining the oligarchy...except of course \$1 billion I don't have.

Now the question is, can we get the Ted Cruz fans to band together with the AOC fans and solicit Elizabeth Warren to write some long-overdue regulation for our financial markets?

RICHARD TAYLOR
SPENCER

WILBY
continued from page A9

must provide combined in-person and remote synchronous instruction each day and at least 40 hours in a 10-day period for remote learning schools and 35 hours for hybrid learning schools. National and state teachers' unions are blocking the kids going back to school full time. I always thought that teachers wanted to teach, as they love watching their students grow. I have talked with a couple of teachers, and they tell me that they want to be back in the classroom.

Do I have your support to ask the Administrators to tell Beacon Hill, the Commissioner of Education, National, State and Local Teachers Unions or associations that we want our students back in school full time - safely with all reliable safety procedures in place.

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HAR-YAROK
continued from page A9

represent himself Pro se...
In his first impeachment trial about 1 year ago, Republicans argued that the purpose of the impeachment was to overturn the 2016 election and not about his crimes to use the power of the presidency extort a foreign power into generating dirt on his chief opponent. To that date, there had never been a more serious offense by a sitting president – abusing his power like a mob boss to torpedo the candidacy of his chief opponent. The Republicans then said that impeachment was inappropriate, Trump “learned his lesson,” and we should let the people speak. This logic makes one wonder what offense would be impeachable. The people spoke on Nov. 3, 2020 and by a sizeable margin chose Joe Biden.

Now they are arguing that impeachment is unconstitutional and moot because Trump is no longer president. There was also an emoluments case which was recently dismissed as moot because he is no longer president. Both of these claims are ridiculous. First, we have precedent for impeaching federal officials after they’ve left office. Second, he was president when impeached, the trial is the judgement on the situation. Third, there must be accountability for inciting an insurrection by a president to prevent his successor from taking office. If we don’t impeach we are sending the message to future presidents to try anything – either it works and you stay president or it doesn’t work and you’re no worse off.

In no other crime do we drop prosecution because the issue became moot. The question is whether it was relevant at the time of the offense. We charge people with statutory rape or child abuse even if the victim turns 18 before the trial begins. We charge people with shoplifting even if they returned the goods before the trial. We charge people with murder even when the case is cold and they’ve lived a virtuous life since. We can’t send the message, even with the emoluments case, that all a president needs to do to shield himself from crimes is run the clock out until its moot.

Mr. McRae – I am impressed by the all-night bus ride 36-hour adventure so you could join the mob of “real” Americans on a cold January day outside. I can’t wait to hear the rest of this story... Was it Antifa dressing up as Trump supporters? Was Nancy Pelosi handing out maps of the Capitol building herself? Maybe it was China... North Vietnam? I can’t wait!

Mr. Herholz – I am always impressed by the number of silly names you can

come up with. I think we got Har-‘Snore’ok, ‘Faux’-Yarok, Har-‘I-Make-Things-Up-To-Fit-My-Narriative’-Yarok, K-Rock, Low-Rock, Yo-Rock, No-Rock, Har-Bore-ak, and I probably missed a few. I encourage you and everybody else to check my facts. If I’m wrong about something, point it out and explain why. If you dislike my commentary but can’t prove it wrong, then please, make up more silly names. I’m sure the readers of this publication realize that a person called a lot of names must be wrong.

Why is it that you continue to bring up Hillary Clinton and her “ricochet” off the infamous “glass ceiling?” I understand you didn’t choose her for president in 2016, but it is 2021 and it seems you are still upset that a woman even tried to run for president. Why do you make fun of Maxine Waters’ appearance? I agree she’s ugly, but how exactly is that relevant? Her labels of you guys are quite accurate. Joe Biden is more than “the occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.” Joe Biden won the Nov. 2020 election and was inaugurated on Jan 20. Joe Biden is the President of the United States, full stop.

To touch on the Keystone XL pipeline, the purpose of the pipeline was to bring Canadian oil to Gulf of Mexico ports and on to international markets. Oil is a global commodity, prices rise and fall everywhere based on global events, so the impact to global supply is negligible. The impact to the global price of oil is negligible. Some 80% of those jobs were temporary construction jobs.

The danger to the United States is that this pipeline was to go under the Missouri River and over the largest acquirer in North America providing fresh water to millions upon millions of Americans. The potential risk is just not worth the potential benefit. Add to that, oil prices in the center of the country are currently lower than normal because there is an oil glut since it is so difficult to get Alberta oil to international markets. Alberta oil is some of the worst environmentally in the world, so leaving it there is to our benefit. From an energy security standpoint, should the middle east cut us off, Canadian oil will still be there. From a long-term stability standpoint, letting middle east oil wells run dry first seems like it would give us the upper hand.

The reason for \$2/gal gas was because of the massive collapse of demand due to the pandemic. As we recover, so will prices. Gas prices have been rising since before the election. We have been in a recession for the last year of Trump’s presidency, U.S. GDP shrank in 2020 by the most we’ve seen since we de-mobilized from WWII. Is that Obama’s fault? Biden’s? The U.S. econ-

omy is still in terrible shape from the mismanaged pandemic and that will likely dog Biden for years.

Mr. Robillard – I wish I had an imagination as wild as yours. Yes, it is time to purge. Just like Germany de-Nazified after WWII it is time to de-Trump the United States. Denazification was an allied initiative to ride German and Austrian society, culture, press, economy, judiciary, and politics of Nazi ideology. De-Stalinization was a series of political reforms in the Soviet Union after Joseph Stalin’s death in 1953 and we absolutely need a similar package of reforms to change and remove the key institutions that helped Trump rise to power and the creation of the cult of personality around him.

The group that tried to overthrow our government on Jan. 6 had weapons. Some had guns, many had pepper spray, some had tear gas to use on cops, there were Molotov cocktails which didn’t get thrown for some reason, and pipe bombs planted which never went off. Some showed up with helmets and body armor – I wonder why... They beat people with flag poles, crutches, fire extinguishers, and crowd control devices. When the mob is big enough, the mob itself is the weapon. There were people with handcuffs and there was a gallows out front and they were chanting about hanging specific government officials... Is that a specific enough threat?

Why no National Guard? Are you serious? Because D.C. is a territory, its National Guard report to the President, not the Mayor. The Pentagon restricted the commander of the D.C. Guard two days before the Capitol riot, prohibiting the DC Guard from deploying with weapons, helmets, body armor, or riot control agents without specific and explicit approval from the Acting Secretary of Defense (Trump fired Sec. Mark Esper weeks prior). Normally, the Commander of the D.C. Guard can deploy if there is an imminent threat to life or property, but his wings were clipped on Jan. 4...

Trump finished his remarks at 1:11 p.m., and the crowd started walking towards the Capitol. Mayor Bowser requested Guard troops at 1:34 p.m., and again on a conference call with the Pentagon at 2:22pm. The building is breached at 2:10 p.m., and shots were fired to literally protect House members from the mob at 2:44pm, killing an insurrectionist from California. Acting Secretary of Defense finally authorized activation of the DC Guard at 3:04 p.m. The D.C. Guard didn’t get there until 5:40pm. At 6:01 p.m., Trump tweeted to his supporters that “These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped

away from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long. Go home with love & in peace. Remember this day forever!”

Of course the Army needs to be purged of Trumpist holdouts. Not purged of people who preferred Donald Trump on Nov. 3, purged of people who don’t recognize Joe Biden as the legitimate president of the United States. We need soldiers who have a demonstrated loyalty to the Constitution of the United States, not Donald Trump (now a private citizen).

It is fine and healthy to have an opposition party, the key is loyal opposition. Loyal to the United States even if they disagree with specific actions and policies of the current government. Trumpers are not loyal to the United States. I give them a pass as long as they dropped Trump after all 50 states had certified their votes. Anyone who still supports Trump is a traitor.

As for Big Tech silencing seditious, you are free to start your own web server that caters to enemies of the United States. Economic freedom allows private companies to give a voice to whomever they’d like and silence whomever they’d like. Free speech is about prosecution. Trump is free to start his own website – why hasn’t he?

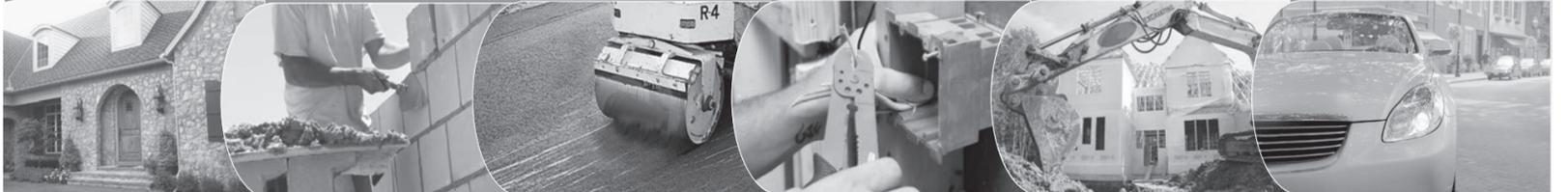
I guess only “dopes” like me are concerned about unnecessary deaths. True, all deaths are necessary since we all need to die sometime. Perhaps I should say “untimely deaths”, or we should count how many cumulative years of life were shaved off life expectancy. When a 70-year-old man dies, that shaves 14.4 years off his expected life, is that nothing? What about when a 40-year-old dies – no big deal because she was going to die in 42 years anyway? Should we stop prosecuting murders because the victim was going to die anyway? There’s really no point in improving anyone’s life because in 100 years we’ll all be dead anyway?

I, for one, am much more fearful of my fellow Americans, the Trump holdouts, the COVID deniers, the anti-vaxxers, and the QAnon followers than I am any fictitious “mass waves of undocumented illegals.”

Ah, COVID... Remember when Trump predicted the 15 cases would go to zero? Remember when he said the total death toll would be 60,000? The cases are finally turning around after our Christmas and New Year’s surges, but we still average 150,000 new confirmed cases a day for a total >26 million. Deaths are a lagging indicator so they’ve continued to rise for a total of 440,221 confirmed dead from this scourge...

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

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LEGALS

FY2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District FY2022 School Budget. The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee, in compliance with Massachusetts General Law on the proposed FY2022 School Budget on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at Wire Village School, 60 Paxton Road, Spencer, MA. Immediately following the hearing, there will be an open discussion of the budget. Copies of the budget are available for examination at the Office of the Superintendent, 306 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and on the District's website: www.sebrsd.org. Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee January 25, 2021
February 5, 2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond W. Clinton and Nancy L. Lewis to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for NE Moves Mortgage, LLC, "Lender" and its successors and assigns dated August 27, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 41710, Page 167, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated February 6, 2013 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 50467, Page 299 and as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated June 26, 2017 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 58403, Page 68 Assignment dated January 7, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 59913, Page 115 and as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated April 4, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 60246, Page 240 and as assigned by Corrective Assignment of Mortgage dated May 29, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 60492, Page 44 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 11:00 AM, on February 12, 2021**, on the premises known as **40 Ash Street, Spencer, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit: The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, on the west side of Ash Street in said Spencer, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northeast corner thereof on the west side of Ash Street;

Thence southerly by said street about 82 feet to the center of a brook; Thence westerly by the center of said brook about 90.0 feet; Thence northerly by a fence about 96.0 feet, the last two courses being by land conveyed to Charles Perron; Thence easterly by land now or formerly of George Walker about 86.0 feet to the place of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors by deed dated August 22, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith in Book 41710 Page 165. Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.

Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale.

Dated: January 15, 2021
Present holder of said mortgage
NewRez LLC f/k/a New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
by its Attorneys
Guaetta and Benson, LLC
Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire
P.O. Box 519
Chelmsford, MA 01824

of statues and monuments all set upon high pedestals. Perched on these objects were low-life looking men in scruffy clothes, but all wearing some sort of Trump gear or holding a flag. They were hollering out to the crowd, in particular to the men milling around, that they needed to go up the hill to get involved, to fight for Trump, for "your country," etc. This was transparently attempting to foment or instigate violence right out in the open.

I focused on one guy in particular. Here's what I observed: Unlike most of the others I had pegged as Antifa, this one-and others like him doing the exhorting to battle--was no Ivy League educated, skinny wimp thinking of himself as a Che Guevarra-style revolutionary street fighter. This one was a for-real menace and looked exactly like what I've read are the true foot soldiers of the Antifa combat warriors. This obvious thug was a white guy sporting a half-shaved head with long, matted cornrow braids down to his butt; tattoos starting around his ears and disappearing into his dirty shirt; tattooed hands, and looking every inch the ex-convict he doubtless was, and hired by Soros money to break skulls. Every fourth or fifth word was an F-bomb or worse, and he taunted the men coming by as not having the you-know-what to go up and join the fray. He had an American flag attached to a pole resting on his shoulder, but it, too, like him, was dirty and ill-kempt. I took his picture from up close, so sure was I that what we were witnessing was a classic false flag operation (in his case, literally). He wasn't happy with me. Foolishly, I thought the F.B.I. might be interested in him, but I had forgotten, momentarily, the G-men are now entirely on the side of the Swamp and would have no interest in sappers of the enemy of the real American people.

Readers, these people were agent provocateurs trying to lure foolish young men into getting themselves involved in a complete set-up created to discredit the remarkably peaceful Trump movement. These were communist rabble bold enough to put themselves out there knowing the Deep State was their protector, they would never be investigated or prosecuted. A blind Pakistani piano tuner could see it, or, if

January 22, 2021
January 29, 2021
February 5, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of Spencer

FY19 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Public Performance Hearing

The Town of Spencer will conduct a public performance hearing regarding their FY19 Community Development Block Grant Program. This is a requirement of the grant program. The hearing will be held on **Monday, February 22, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA. Current Spencer CDBG activities include the infrastructure improvement project for Cherry, Wall, Lloyd Dyer Streets.

Any person or organization having questions or comments concerning the programs will have an opportunity to be heard.

To listen live go to: SCATV.org
Dial in from your phone: 1 877 568 4106

Enter Access Code: 458-634-197
Or join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/458-634-197>

Important: please mute your phone/device until the Chairman calls upon you to speak

February 5, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01608

(508) 831-2200

Docket No. WO21P0198EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Patricia M Corson

Date of Death: 08/31/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael C Meloche of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner Requests that:

Michael C Meloche of Spencer MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsuper-vised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/23/2021.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-

line by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

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

Date: January 22, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

February 5, 2021

FY2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District FY2022 School Budget. The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee, in compliance with Massachusetts General Law on the proposed FY2022 School Budget on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at Wire Village School, 60 Paxton Road, Spencer, MA. Immediately following the hearing, there will be an open discussion of the budget. Copies of the budget are available for examination at the Office of the Superintendent, 306 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and on the District's website: www.sebrsd.org. Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee January 25, 2021
February 5, 2021

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. in the Town Hall Offices, 6 Central Street, Brookfield MA regarding a Notice of Intent submitted by:

Harry Spencer for the removal of 8 white Pine trees and 1 Hemlock tree within the 100' Buffer Zone due to endangering structures and overgrowth. The property is located at 42 Pine Lane Brookfield

Assessors Map# 005D

Parcel# 045/005

Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend this hearing.

February 5, 2021

MCRAE

continued from page A9

placed on the street by his three or four buddies--all laughing and happy-looking young men like him and all wearing the same kind of army shirt with a similar unit patch--and disappearing into the madding crowd. It was clear what shared life experience had brought them together for this day. As I watched him walk away, without the aid of crutches, but with an ungainly, head-bobbing stride, I wondered, where do we find such men?

I couldn't help but, upon reflection, compare this new-found hero of mine, with another horribly injured war veteran, the Marine, Ron Kovic, who returned from Vietnam in a wheelchair and understandably consumed with bitterness and rage, and whose book, "Born on the Fourth of July" was made into the movie starring Tom Cruise. Kovic has been an anti-war leftist for the remainder of his life, but I wonder if even he could see that perhaps my triple-amputee hero was out there for a good reason: to support President Trump, the single-most anti-war president of my life. Trump railed for four years against useless, unending, and wasteful foreign wars which only do to brave and patriotic young men what I had just witnessed on Constitution Avenue. I wonder if even Mr. Kovic might grudgingly agree.

Here's the point of this saga. When we finally reached the end of the boulevard where it confronts Capitol Hill with the great edifice sitting a few hundred yards up a grassy slope, everything, especially the celebratory mood of the crowd, began to change. Suddenly, there appeared moving through the immense multitude young men and women wearing helmets, bearing MOLLE packs on their backs filled with equipment, some with gas masks dangling from their belts, and none of them friendly or communicative. Who are these people? we asked. These were clearly not Trump fans, these were infiltrators.

Before long, we had our answer: Antifa had arrived. The crowd's mood was no longer festive, but rather, tense and somber. These wretches were everywhere. At the foot of the grassy hill, there is a low wall and a number

not literally, he could smell it. Evil can be sensed as easily as a hound dog can sniff a rabbit.

Too old, too cold and stiff to get over the wall and go up the hill to see what was going on, I opted to hang around and get as close a look at the Antifa rats as I could. Sun Tzu said, "Know your enemy." Traditional Americans, here are your enemies: These clowns--Antifa--; the Marxist leadership of BLM; the Democrat Party; Hollywood; the fake news; the Marxist professoriat; the indoctrination mavens of the teachers union; the oligopoly of the social media censors; the PC-mad corporations; and the cheap, common, and vulgar "popular culture." But, of them all, on that ruinous day, Antifa was the guilty party behind it all.

The media is working overtime to convince you what occurred was a right-wing riot, an insurrection. Don't believe it. I saw better riots in the 1960's during Panty Raids at my university which occurred each time the first snowfall of the winter arrived. The real insurrection in this country occurred in the wee hours of November 4th when a supposedly "free and fair" election was hijacked by criminals, and a clear and massive majority of the voting populace had their preference denied and their country stolen.

Five people died in this faux insurrection, four from natural causes, one, an unarmed woman and veteran of four tours of duty in Afghanistan (or Iraq, I'm not sure) from cold-blooded murder by an assailant from the government whose identity will be protected until hell freezes over. All the deceased, it should be acknowledged, were Trump supporters to the very end. Will we ever know the identity of the Deep State agent who assassinated this unarmed, unthreatening woman in cold blood? Probably not; nothing to see here folks, just move along...move along.

Much has been made of some guy whose feet were up on the desk of this hectoring fishwife, this common scold who never got past junior high emotionally, Pelosi. He's facing fifteen years (!) in prison for his lack of respect for the American Madame Ceausescu. Well, I guess that's O.K., Jean Valjean got 19 years for a loaf of bread. But, I remember the iconic photo in 1968 of the radi-

cal darling of the S.D.S. (Students for a Democratic Society) Mark Rudd with his feet on the desk of the president of Columbia University while coolly smoking one of the prexy's cigars stolen from his humidor. Rudd, who, like the Antifa communists of a half-century later, was dedicated to the destruction of the Republic, and was seen by the left as a hero--he was speaking truth to power, you understand..

Finally, we have the grotesque comment from the turncoat Republican daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, Liz Cheney, R-WY: "This (referring to the U.S. Capitol Bldg) is the most sacred place in America!" You don't say, Liz. Some would tell you the most sacred place around this town--if not the entire country--is about five miles away and it's called Arlington National Cemetery. You can probably see it from your office window. You ought to get over there some day and look around, there are enough patriots resting there who surrendered their lives serving in wars you and your father helped to promote and keep going endlessly. But, this place you venerate is thought of by millions of us as a haven for traitors, gangsters, grifters, liars, cheats, commies and overpaid, time-wasting frauds who ought to be home working real jobs and living real lives.

I apologize for the length and tediousness of this tome, but I don't expect to be an eyewitness to many more historically significant events in what's left of my life. At such a time as this when the mainstream media can't be trusted to tell the truth about anything, and are busily constructing a false narrative about a right wing "riot", I think eye-witness testimony ought to count for something.

Thank you to the Editor and the readers for letting me vent.

As for President Trump: vade ad Deum! ("Go with God")

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

OBITUARIES

Catherine M. "Katie" (McLane) Kiritsy, 87

SPENCER: Catherine M. "Katie" (McLane) Kiritsy, 87, of Spencer, died Thursday, Jan. 28 at her home.



Her husband of 55 years, George P. Kiritsy, Jr., died in 2010. She leaves her son Emmett R. Kiritsy and his wife Janel of Proctorville, OH, daughters Mary C. Kiritsy and her husband Christopher Merrett of Macomb, IL, Maureen A. Kiritsy and her husband Craig Parker of Arcata, CA, and Tara L. Kiritsy of Cambridge, a brother Francis McLane and his wife Margaret of Springfield, grandchildren; Caitriona and Quinlan Parker, Grace and Alastair Merrett, Abigail and Nikolas Kiritsy, and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her brother Robert McLane.

Born in St. Albans, VT, she was the daughter of Emmett and Mary Ann (Clark) McLane and later graduated from St. Mary's High School in St. Albans and Becker Junior College in Worcester with an associates degree. Prior to having a family, she worked as a medical secretary. Alongside her

husband, she also worked for many years at the family owned Spencer Pharmacy. She was a member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, an international womens' friendship network, and frequented the Leicester Senior Center.

Her hobbies included cooking, baking, and sewing. She was always making candy for her friends' special occasions. Katie was an avid reader. She and George enjoyed international travel; visiting Ireland, Greece and many other European and Caribbean destinations. They loved entertaining their large group of friends, and everyone looked forward to their Fourth of July, Halloween, and Christmas parties.

Her funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church St., Spencer. Burial will follow in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. A calling hour will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer prior to the Mass. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Spencer Rescue Squad, 6 Bixby Rd., Spencer, MA 01562.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Frank Joseph Baker, 95

SPENCER- Frank Joseph Baker, 95, of Cooney Rd., died Thursday, Jan. 28 at Webster Manor in Webster.



He was the husband of Mary G. (Toomey) Baker who died in 2015. He leaves his six children: Mary Baker-Wood of Spencer, Blaise B. Baker of North Brookfield, Nancy E. Billings and her husband William of North Brookfield, Kathryn F. Partridge and her husband Lester of North Brookfield, Garrett Baker and his wife Brenda of North Brookfield, Peter Baker and his wife Melissa Meleen of Barre. His grandchildren: Adam Wood, Catherine Wood, Jamie Billings, Jeremy Partridge, Amanda Hunt, Joseph Baker and Dylan Baker; and nine great grandchildren.

He is predeceased by a brother Raymond Beauregard, a sister Victoria Thornton and his son-in-law Ralph M. Wood in 2017.

Born in Spencer MA, he was the son of Frank J. Baker and Leah (Gagnon) Baker both of Spencer.

He graduated from David Prouty High School and immediately upon graduation joined the U.S. Army serving in World War II. He completed basic training at Camp Grant, IL and then was stationed in Cheltenham England. After D-Day, he was stationed in Paris, France and Wiesbaden, Germany. He loved telling stories about his time in

the Army.

After returning from service, he became Purchasing Agent for the former Kleven Shoe Co. in Spencer and later, North Brookfield. After Kleven's moved its operations out of the area, he worked for many years as manager of Honey Farms in Spencer and after retirement, at Klem's in Spencer.

During the late 1940's and 1950's he played guitar in the Western band, "Red River Rangers", which performed at local venues and on local WARE radio. The family has copies of recordings made by the band and memories of being sung to sleep listening to "Wabash Cannonball" played on his Gibson guitar. He and his wife, Mary, were also avid square dancers.

He was a member of church and community organizations including the Knights of Columbus and the Spencer Arts Council.

At his request, private graveside services are planned with burial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Spencer with Military Honors. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Spencer Rescue Squad Inc., 6 Bixby Road, Spencer. The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Madelyn Marie Morin, 88

SPENCER- Madelyn Marie (Ledoux) Morin, 88, formerly of Spring St., died Tuesday, Jan. 26 in UMASS Memorial Hospital, Worcester after a period of declining health. Her husband of 62 years, J. Donald Morin died in 2008. She leaves her son David Morin, Sr. and his wife Beth of Jackson, NJ, her daughter Donna



Flannery and her husband Tom of Spencer, her daughter in law Pam Morin of Aiken, S.C., sisters Marguerite Sweet and her husband Harry of Spencer, Constance White and her husband Bill of Arizona, and her brother Roy Ledoux of Spencer, her grandchildren David Morin, Jr., Michael, Bryan & Matthew Morin, Tommy & Ryan Flannery and Kayleen Sauvageau, 17 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son Mark L. Morin, grandson Jeffery Morin, great granddaughter Lucy Flannery, sisters Pauline Gryzb, Joanne Emerson, Helen Frelick and her sister in law Colleen Ledoux.

Born in Worcester, she was the daughter of Leon and Adrienne (Roy) Ledoux and later graduated from David Prouty High School in Spencer and the Salter Secretarial School in Worcester.

She was a longtime CCD teacher at the former St. Mary's Parish in Spencer and served several terms on the Spencer-E. Brookfield School

Committee. She was a volunteer with Catholic Charities and a proud member of the Richard Sugden Library writers group which she loved. While living in Centerville on Cape Cod, she volunteered at the Osterville Library, Hyannis Food Pantry and Our Lady of Victory Church.

Madelyn was a published poet with the International Society of Poets. She enjoyed reading, writing poetry, her flower gardens and spending time with her family.

Helping the poor both here and on Cape Cod was a passion for her and her family keeps it going. "A good Mom makes your day...a great Mom makes your whole life"...SHE was the best!

The family would like to thank her caregivers at St. Mary's Health Care in Worcester (especially Jane Ellen) which was a place she enjoyed as her second home.

A Memorial Mass with Covid 19 precautions, masks and social distancing, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 6 at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church St., Spencer. Burial will follow in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Health Care Activities Fund, 39 Queen St., Worcester, MA. 01610.

J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing the arrangements for the family.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

ing the "Don't Tread on Me" flag, might give him some regret.

If the sedition and attempted coup, that Trump engineered that day, or the phone call to the Georgia Attorney General, requesting that he "find" 11,800 votes, are not illegal and impeachable offenses, I submit- nothing is. Just take it off the books. The guilty party and all of the people in Congress have sworn to support and defend the constitution. Swearing on a Bible, only means something to people of honor. It has been clear for quite a while what we have.

Sometimes I just can't resist responding to alternate facts...Mr. Herholz-Democrats do not hold a super majority- that would be two thirds of either house, and 60 senate votes would be a filibuster proof one. Mr. Robillard-Biden has released 22 years of his taxes- FYI- he paid \$300,000 in 2019, meaning he is probably taking a pay cut, and that year alone, he paid over 40 times what the 45th POTUS has paid in 10 years (for taxes, not sex).

One person, one vote- no electoral fiasco ever again. Term limits now. We have turned our constitution into a work of fiction. Whatever your thoughts on the Bible- pray for our country.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Imagine if a new ice age started now! What could we do? Take a minute and think. Look at the known history of the planet. So, let's all agree on what the new Progressive "Climate Change" policies are all about. They are chicken bones and shells thrown down by the shamans paid for by the new Progressive tribal leaders. These new leaders of the tribe are using them to keep you in line. Follow them or be cast out. There can be no dissent because their science is unflappable unless you look at it closely and use your brains. This however is expressively not allowed by the new Progressive Democratic leaders and their controlled media as it deemed subversive. If you object, you will need re-education.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

Madelyn C. Swanson, 78

BROOKFIELD- Madelyn C. "Maddie" (Rice) Swanson, 78, of Brookfield, died on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center.



She leaves five children, Lucinda Jansen, Arthur D. Swanson and his wife Carol, Marlene A. Giguere and her husband Kevin, Craig M. Swanson and Ashlee M. Bowes; seven grandchildren, Alycia, Delaney, Krista, Monica, Lesley, Rachel, and Colton, a great-grandson, Tucker, and a great-granddaughter, Cathy-Jo Madelyn Grubbs. She also leaves behind her very special friend, Barbara Wilson, and many other friends. She was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Arthur H. Swanson in 2019, as well as her brother, Walter Rice. She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Walter H. and Margaret M. (Norris) Rice.

Maddie worked at the former L. Farber Leather Company in Worcester for over 20 years. She also worked as a bookkeeper at the former Rice & Gadaire Lumber Co. in Brookfield, and most recently, as a Loan Officer at the Worcester and Webster First Credit Unions.

Dana Downie, 48

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Dana Downie, 48, passed away on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 in Baystate Mary Lane Hospital in Ware.



He was the son of Robert Downie of North Brookfield and the late Diane Downie. He was born in Springfield, MA, on August 10, 1972. Dana was raised in North Brookfield and graduated from North Brookfield High School Class of 1990.

He is survived by his father Robert Downie and a sister Heather Downie both of North Brookfield; his maternal grandmother Ann Dean of Oakham; aunt Joyce Harter of Rutland and Nancy Kenyon of Chicopee. He was

ROSENBERG

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pack on board. The memory of how Republicans tried to burn down the U.S. economy to spite President Obama starting in 2009 is still recent and this is a shot across the bow to tell Republicans, "We're doing this with or without you". President Obama has been criticized as being too concerned with deficits and earning at least some Republican votes in 2009 and settling for a package that was smaller than what America needed with the 2010 mid-terms to show for America's anger at a slow recovery.

Unity and kumbya will only take us so far. We are starting to see President Biden toughen up and lay down his expectations. There hasn't been a concern about the deficit for the past four years... We have yet to see if Republicans maintain their deficit-concern pattern of only being concerned when a Democrat is in the White House.

As much as we thought Trump was gone, the House minority leader Kevin McCarthy recently flew down to Mar-a-Lago to make nice. We are seeing Democrats and Republicans arguing about security concerning some recently elected QAnon supporters. We thought that after Trump left it looked like the

She was very well known in Brookfield. Maddie served on the Cultural Council for several years, and could always be seen working on or participating in their annual events. She was one of the original Committee Members for the Apple Country Fair, and made award winning apple pies. As Maddie's Country Art, she enjoyed painting on wooden projects that her husband Art would craft, and attended local Fairs.

Family and her faith were both cherished parts of her life. She loved her family of children, grandchildren, a great-grandson, and even a great-great granddaughter. She was a long-time member of St. Mary's Church in Brookfield.

Calling hours for Maddie will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 from 9 to 11AM in the Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield. A Graveside Service will be held the same day at 1PM in St. John Cemetery, 260 Cambridge St., in Worcester. Masks must be worn and social distancing guidelines must be followed while in the funeral home and the cemetery.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

predeceased by his mother Diane, an uncle David and 2 aunts Cheryl Downie and Paula Dixon.

Dana was a beloved son and brother. He loved animals, mostly his dog Rusty who he is now reunited with and he loved hard rock music. Van Halen was his favorite.

A memorial service form Dana will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations

may be made in his name to the North Brookfield Congregational Church, Memorial Fund, 144 Main St. North Brookfield. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

GOP was going to shake Trump off, but it looks like the "normal" wing of the GOP has collapsed. QAnon supporters in the House have better job security than Liz Cheney. Veteran Senators like Rob Portman are retiring rather than be part of this circus. Madison Cawthorn, a 25-year-old freshman member of the House from NC put his entire staff on communications and nobody on legislation. These Trumpy Republicans seem to be running for office not to pass legislation or to govern, but to get onto Fox News and Newsmax.

Intraparty warfare is afflicting both major parties right now. On the Democratic side there is a tug-of-war between governing centrists who want to get things done and progressive idealists. On the Republican side we have people fighting between trying to be an opposition party and those who are trying to use office as a media soapbox. Some members of congress feel unsafe around others. Normal Republicans are receiving death threats for getting in the way of the "Trump Train."

It's hard to predict where this goes next and all we can do is sit back and watch.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

KIMBALL

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I was not yet born, when the attack on Peal Harbor occurred, but the gut wrenching angst and agida I felt when the attack of Sept. 11, 2001 happened, was replicated on Jan. 6, 2021. As a member of a family loaded with veterans, those slugs wielding American, Confederate and Trump flags, are fortunate I was not sitting behind the 50 caliber that my son operated in Tikrit, Iraq., as they desecrated and invaded our capital during the electoral vote count.

Make no mistake. This was a crowd of Trump's most radical supporters, summoned and then commissioned from a stage that was surrounded by American flags, to march down and stop the steal. Even our fellow letter writer, brother McRae, who organized many Trump "stand outs" in the belief that the only state McGovern carried, might give out electoral votes to Trump., answered the call. I look forward to the rest of his story elsewhere in this issue. If he is the patriot he claims to be, the gallows built for Pence, destruction and death, that included beating a capitol policeman to death with the butt of an American flag, and the trampling of the woman carry-

ROBILLARD

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must trust the brilliant academics and their science, after all we are stupid regular people and cannot question their brilliance.

The one science that cannot be disputed. Climate does change. We know this from the history and fossil record. We know there was ice ages in the past. That what formed our lakes and gravel pits. We know that where there are deserts of Saudi Arabia there were once lush swamps. That's why there are oceans of oil below the., We know that where there is tundra in Canada now, was once a temperate swamp. That how the tar sands of Alberta were formed. So, climate change will occur no matter what we do. It is a continuous process happening since the creation of earth.

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

12:09-12:19 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Elm, Church streets), tickets issued; 12:24 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:52 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 8:35 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), TTY; 9:13 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 9:34 a.m.: accident (Gauthier Road), report taken; 11:14 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (Bixby Road); 12:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: parking issue; 2:35 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: ATV; 3:53 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), debris in road; 4:19 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Avenue); 5:55 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:02 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/8 (West Main Street), assisted; 7:53 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:30 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:44 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 11:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Oxford PD bolo; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

5:20 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 9:56 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:40 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 11:01 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:25 a.m.: lost/ found (McCormick Road), snowboard found; 11:28 a.m.: fraud (Rustic Lane), SS scam call; 12:48 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 12:53 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadowbrook Road), re: insurance claim; 1:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Cranberry Meadow Road), re: insurance claim; 2:36 p.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), suspicious bucket; 3:35 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:05 p.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 4:22 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Sullivan Street), services rendered; 5:33 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unauth. use of account; 8:05 p.m.: fraud (Chickering Road), identity theft; 8:06 p.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 8:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 9:08 p.m.: suspicious mv (Valley Street), investigated; 9:15 p.m.: juvenile matter (Clark Road), family issue; 10:19 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 10:52 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 11:06 p.m.: medical/general (Sunberg Road); (Total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

12:41 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:46-12:55 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Mechanic, Church streets), tickets issued; 12:58 a.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), party punching wall; 1:20 a.m.: parking violation (High Street), ticket issued; 2:48 a.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 6:08 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), detained loose dog; 6:42 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), TTY; 8:10 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), threats; 11:12 a.m.: mv lockout (Church Street), assisted; 11:18 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assist-

ed; 11:25 a.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; 11:50 a.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), unruly female; 1:12 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), looking for son; 1:21 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:00 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), speeding; 2:25 p.m.: fraud (Old Farm Road), SS scam call; 2:54 p.m.: restraining order service (Bixby Road); 3:23 p.m.: medical/general (Woodland Lane); 4:01 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/5 (West Main Street), assisted; 6:30 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), assault reported; 6:51 p.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), issue w/bridge; 8:21 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 9:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Dufault Road), welfare check; 11:23 p.m.: 911 call (Holmes Street), open line; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

12:27 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:36-12:42 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic, Chestnut streets), tickets issued; 12:53 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:04 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), gunshots heard; 2:34 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 10:35 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), info request; 11:27 a.m.: officer wanted (South Street), spoken to; 12:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 12:31 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 12:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: license status; 2:37 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 4:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), dead raccoon in road; 6:12 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 6:56 p.m.: commercial alarm (North Spencer Road), services rendered; 8:05 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 9:09 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

2:54 a.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), noise complaint; 8:11 a.m.: fire alarm (Mercury Drive), referred; 9:57 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), speeding; 11:50 a.m.: 911 call (Lakeshore Drive), open line; 11:52 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:14 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 3:40 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 6:25 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 7:05 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 7:58 p.m.: medical/overdose (West Main Street); 10:11 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Webster PD bolo; 11:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

1:24 a.m.: mutual aid (North Spencer Road), Rutland PD bolo; 8:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 8:16 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), cc lost; 8:48 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 10:45 a.m.: medical/general (Cranberry Meadow Road); 11:03 a.m.: medical/overdose (Bixby Road); 11:45 a.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 12:29 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 2:34 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Spencer Road), no contact; 2:37 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street),

investigated; 2:41 p.m.: juvenile matter (High Street), welfare check; 3:36 p.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 3:45 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:33 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:35 p.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:40 p.m.: suspicious mv (Valley Street), Patrick V. McCabe, 35, 60 Main Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 10:13 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), neighbor conflict; 11:20 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), family issue; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

12:35-12:40 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic, Elm streets), tickets issued; 1:47 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no emergency; 2:04 a.m.: accident/hit & run (Greenville Street), report taken; 2:39 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 8:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dead cat on sidewalk; 10:43 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 12:08 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:18 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 12:46 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 3:28 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:22 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), noise complaint; 4:38 p.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), rep. accident; 5:07 p.m.: missing person/adult (Greenville Street), walking trails at Audubon; 5:55 p.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), mv in hdp spot; 6:08 p.m.: mv complaint (North Brookfield Road), mv rolled into road; 6:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 7:46 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 9:00 p.m.: medical/general (Crown Street); 9:45 p.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), damaged utility box; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

11:29 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 12:17 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 12:32 p.m.: investigation (Whittemore Street), services rendered; 3:52 p.m.: residential alarm (Felix Street), false alarm; 8:14 p.m.: suspicious activity (Pleasant Street), report taken; 9:24 p.m.: assist other PD (Baldwin Street), unable to locate.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

8:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:08 a.m.: summons service (Salminen Drive), served; 9:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, no inspection sticker, uninsured mv, failure to notify RMV of name/address change, mv towed; 9:55 a.m.: investigation (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 11:27 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), no action required; 12:50 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwin Street), mv towed; 4:10 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 5:48 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:17 p.m.: mv stop

(River Street), spoken to; 6:46 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), unfounded; 6:54 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:40 p.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/out license, failure to identify self/true name, criminal application issued.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

12:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:29 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:38 a.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 9:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:28 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), no action required; 2:21 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 3:03 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), no action required; 4:01 p.m.: assist citizen (Waite Street); 11:29 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), transported to hospital.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

6:41 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), unable to locate; 10:16 p.m.: investigation (Mulberry Street), services rendered; 11:29 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), assiste.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

8:54 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:31 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 12:34 p.m.: restraining order service (Henshaw Street), served; 12:54 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), no action required; 1:38 p.m.: assist citizen (Sabina Circle), services rendered; 2:50 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), report taken; 3:42 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 3:44 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 4:03 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 4:45 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway), advised civil action; 6:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Paxton Street), services rendered; 6:22 p.m.: property found (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 6:42 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 9:13 p.m.: gunshots heard (Pleasant Street), unable to locate.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

12:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:43 a.m.: parking complaint (Reservoir Street), citation issued; 2:17 a.m.: assist other PD (Rawson Street), services rendered; 1:40 p.m.: assist citizen (Paxton Street); 7:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 8:02 p.m.: family problem (Boyd Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

10:39 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 11:46 a.m.: residential alarm (Chapel Street), false alarm; 2:03 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 3:06 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), peace restored.

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GILES

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The Leicester Middle School staff has been impressed by the commitment and leadership Giles brings to all corners of the school community. They look forward to seeing her excel in Project 351 and meet other dedicated students from across the state.

“In the classroom, Vivian is extremely hardworking, as is evidenced by her consistent effort and enthusiasm. She initiates class discussions and is an exceptional listener who acknowledges others’ points of view,” said Kimberly Ferdella, an English teacher at LMS. “Additionally, she exhibits courage, as she often is one of the first to volunteer to share her work with the class, even when it means we will all be giving her constructive feedback.”

Added Kristina Looney, an LMS music teacher, “Throughout her middle school years, Vivian has shown dedication and quiet leadership. She is the kind of student that pushes the students around her, whether she realizes it or not. She is a true asset to Leicester Middle School.”

In addition to academic success, Giles is involved in her school’s Peer Leadership group and the National Junior Honor Society. She also plays softball on both her school team and a travel team.

PUBLIC HEALTH

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health nurse are projected to cost an additional \$9,100 annually, but Genereux said the town has available funding in the municipal budget to cover the anticipated costs.

Still, many town officials are worried that Leicester will wind up paying more for reduced services compared to those offered by the Health Alliance partnership. Among several other services, the Alliance pledges to help communities address statutory responsibilities, enforce codes, and assure compliance with public health regulations.

“I am concerned about what this is going to cost us now that we’re not

During the Project 351 service leadership academy, students will enjoy weekly opportunities for virtual enrichment, networking, and community building. It won’t be the same as the typical day of service in Boston, but officials are committed to still providing a quality event.

“The health and safety of our community and those with whom we are privileged to serve is our foremost priority,” read the Project 351 statement.

Despite the virtual conditions this year, Project 351 ambassadors will still learn several leadership lessons they can use in their own communities. Giles and her fellow Class of 2021 members will then be able to expand their volunteerism efforts later in the year once more venues reopen.

“Besides possessing all of the academic and critical thinking skills expected of a soon to be honor student, Viv is conscientious of her own participation and the participation of her peers,” said LMS science teacher David Socha. “She is also very self-aware, has identified her own perceived strengths and weaknesses, and actively works to improve on both.”

Looking ahead, Giles is interested in learning more about several forms of writing, including speeches, films, and short stories.

To learn more about the Project 351 schedule this year, visit www.Project351.org.

part of the Alliance,” said Selectman Harry Brooks. “It’s very unfortunate that Worcester did not extend this contract during the pandemic.”

Selectman Brooks said Leicester’s partnership with the Health Alliance has worked well for six years, with several services and resources offered. Despite the town no longer receiving those services moving forward, Genereux said there will be benefits to having a health agent dedicated specifically to the needs of Leicester residents.

“We believe that offering full-time health services will offer enhanced benefits to our residents,” Genereux said. “The pandemic has resulted in a new focus being placed on public health, and cities and towns throughout

SCHOOL CHOICE

continued from page A1

staff is committed to preparing them for immediate success.

DPHS currently offers the following course levels: non-weighted, applied learning, standard college prep, honors, and advanced placement. Additionally, Prouty’s seniors can take advantage of the school’s Dual Enrollment Program and the 12th Year Program, which collaborate with Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) to offer an opportunity to complete high school graduation requirements through concurrent enrollment in college-level courses at QCC. Moreover, the DPHS Work-Study Internship allows students to receive course credits for gainful employment that offers work experience related to their career choices.

The district also offers a Life Skills program for students with intellectual disabilities. The program provides opportunities for students to develop academic, daily living, occupational, and interpersonal skills.

Athletically, Prouty offers the following sports: football, basketball,

the state are adding health professionals to their rosters.”

Added Genereux, “We are grateful for the services the Alliance provided for the past six years, but we are confident that this new direction is in the best interest of the Town.”

Leicester’s health agent is participating in briefings and programs led by the CDC and the Mass. Department of Public Health. Key expectations for the position include rapid responses to all health-related complaints, as well as strong communications with residents and officials, Genereux said.

Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance representatives could not be reached for comment by press time.

baseball, softball, soccer, field hockey, golf, tennis, cross country, track and field, indoor track, and cheer. Extracurricular activities include the Marching Panther Band, Drama Club, and several other clubs and groups that engage students outside of the classroom.

“We also create personalized programs to support students with learning difficulties, and for students who are new to the English language,” Haughey added.

New this year, DPHS unveiled several vocational opportunities for interested students. In addition to the district’s standard curricular offerings, such as electives as Environmental Science; Marketing; Early Education and Care; and Law and Public Safety were introduced as vocational options. These programs are designed to prepare students to enter the workforce directly out of high school.

For more information about school choice opportunities, contact the District Registrar, Susana Sadusky, at 508-885-8515 (extension 1). You can also send an email to saduskys@sebrsd.org.

To learn more about the district, visit www.sebrsd.org.



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

WEBSTER LAKE – 124-2 Gore Road! 1.68 Acres! Private Retreat Lot with 320' of Road Frontage and 200' of Waterfront! Located in North Pond! Beautiful Panoramic Views! Sucker Brook Cove! Lot has been split from a larger parcel! Survey, Home Rendering and Conservation Items Addressed - Order of Conditions Pending! This is the Opportunity to Build a Unique Home with Spectacular Views! Direct Lake/Boat Access! Water and Sewer in the Road! Walk to Restaurants! Surrounded by Wildlife, including Swans and Eagles! **\$175,000.00**



SOLD



SOLD



SOLD



SOLD

WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrn, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

WEBSTER – 55 Hillside Ave! 7 Rm, 4 Bedroom Cape! Great Highway Access! Walk to Memorial Beach! View July 4th Fireworks from Your Backyard! Liv Rm w/Hrds, Ceiling Fan & Pellet Stove! Eat-in Kit! Fam Rm! Full Bath! 1st Fr Master w/Hrds & Ceiling Fan! Oil Heat! Vinyl Sided! Younger Roof! Replacement Windows! Town Services! Fenced Yard! 1 Car Garage! **\$239,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 20 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Western Exposure w/Panoramic Lake Views! Beautiful Sunsets! 7 Rms, 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths! Recently Renovated from Top to Bottom! Move-in Ready! Professionally Landscaped! Exterior Stonework Front & Back! Open Floor Plan! 1st Level w/Huge Family Rm w/Lake View & Access out to Stone Patio, 1/2 Bath & Laundry, Travertine Tile Throughout! 2nd Level w/Custom Granite Kitchen w/Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island w/Seating & Large Pantry! Spacious Living Rm w/Sliders to 14X34 Composite Deck! Dining Area w/Water Views, Hardwood Floors Throughout, Bath w/Tiled Shower, Guest Bedroom or use as Office! Lake Facing Master Bedroom w/Walk-in Closet & Private Deck! Bathroom w/Double Sinks, Tiled Shower & Separate Tub! Comfortable 3rd Bedroom w/Lots of Storage! Level Lot w/Room for Entertaining and Enjoying All The Lake has to Offer! **\$749,000.00**

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



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Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment. Each apartment has 2 bedrooms, 30 x 44 beautiful fieldstone Foundation, with walkout to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character! **\$281,000.**

THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



ON DEPOSIT

5+ Acre Waterfront Land - on "Little Pond". Also known as Schoolhouse Pond. Private, pastoral setting. Open Field surrounded by tree line. 250+ feet waterfrontage. At the end of a Dead end road! **\$179,900**

THOMPSON - 25 TERRACE DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Off Thompson Hill! At the end of a Dead end road well maintained & loved! Kitchen with double wall ovens, gas cook-top, granite countertops. Formal dining room, Fireplaced Living room! master, on the first floor, 4 bedrooms total! 2nd full bath - second level. 2 car garage! assisted sale **\$325,000.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$319,000.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

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

WEBSTER - 29 WEST AVE.



SORRY, SOLD!

Cozy 2 Story House with 3 BIG Bonuses! #1. Land almost 1 ACRE! #2. Zoning is MR-12 - Possible Multi Family Use - Investment Opportunity! #3. Large Over-sized 2+ Car Garage, Work Bench, Power & 2nd Floor! Great Space for the Hobbyist, DIY or Contractor! 1ST Floor - Living rm, Bedroom, Large Kitchen/Dining Area with Galley Pantry & Full Bath! 2nd Flr, 2 Bedrooms! All New Carpets - Recent Paint! Multi Level Back Deck with Jacuzzi! **\$255,000.**

WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful 2,422 Sq Ft Colonial! 4 Bedroom! 3 Bath! Fireplace, 2 Car garage! So much more! assisted sale **\$415,000**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplaced Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



SORRY, SOLD!

NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**



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10 Vecchia St - \$143,500

Webster: Condo - 1st floor. Totally renovated. Walls, electrical, plumbing, kitchen bath, 2 Bedrooms, Garage

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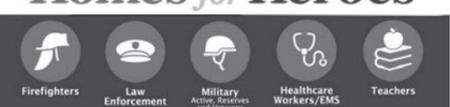
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Town of Douglas

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Send cover letter with resume and Town of Douglas employment application to Matthew Wojcik, Town Administrator, Town of Douglas, Municipal Center, 29 Depot St., Douglas, MA 01516. Position will remain open until filled.

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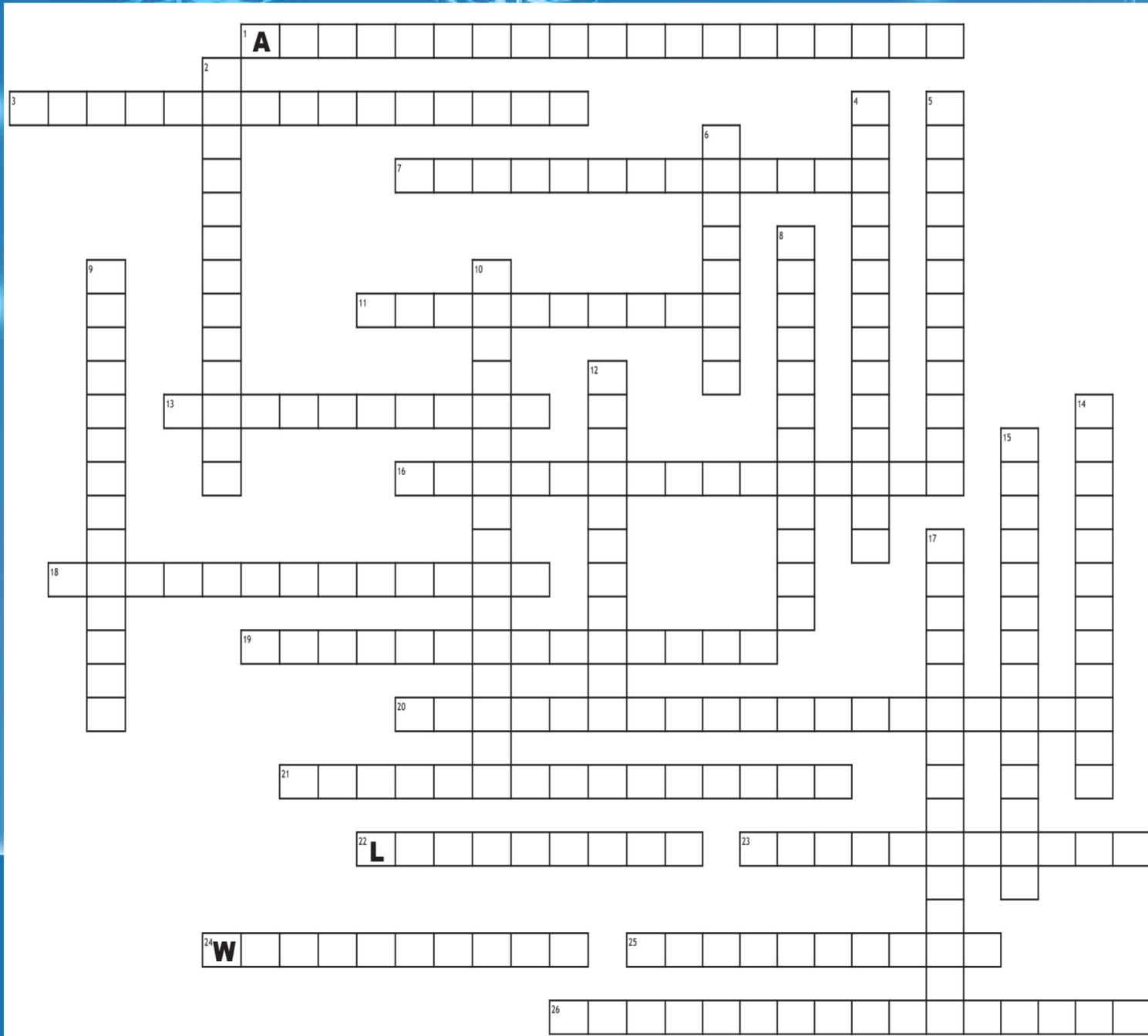
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3rd Annual ABC's of the Seasons WINTER EDITION



Across

- 1. Family owned & operated since 1997
- 3. Find our BOGO Coupon on our Website
- 7. Crystals & Gemstones
- 11. Auto, Boat & RV Loans
- 13. MDPU# 31690
- 16. Winter clothing to cover you from head to foot
- 18. 45 years in business
- 19. Since 1978. All Makes & Models.
- 20. We treat chronic bad breath
- 21. Color matching specialists
- 22. 15 years Real Estate Experience
- 23. Foggy, cracked, or broken glass
- 24. ASE Certified Technicians
- 25. Reserve now for Valentine's Weekend
- 26. Use promo code palmer123

Down

- 2. Family owned and operated since 1977
- 4. In print and online
- 5. 508.353.2279
- 6. Reporting for Duty!
- 8. Warm up to a new career
- 9. Need to get it done? Call me!
- 10. We will be happy to assist you anytime
- 12. Family owned and operated since 1967
- 14. Give your sweetheart a gift certificate for Valentine's Day
- 15. 24 hr Roadside Assistance
- 17. Family owned for over 70 years

ABC'S OF THE SEASONS, WINTER EDITION

Hint... answers don't always include entire business name.

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Address: _____

Circle which paper you found this in:

Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News

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Comments: _____

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on page 2 of this section. Enter to win a \$25 gift card to one of these local businesses by mailing in your completed crossword to **ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550**
 OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Thursday, February 18.
 Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the February 26th issue of the Express. One entry per person.
 Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!

Grow quick, easy and nutritious microgreens

Add fresh flavor to your meals year-round with microgreens. These easy-to-grow greens need minimal space and no special equipment for a flavorful and nutritious harvest in little more than a week.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

sandwiches with radish and mustard microgreens. Try red cabbage, chard, beets and amaranth for some added color. Sunflower's somewhat nutty flavor makes it perfect for snacking. Let some of your pea microgreens grow a bit taller to use in stir fries.

Use microgreens on salads, soups, pizzas, omelets, in stir fries or as a snack. These tiny seedlings are packed with more nutrition than their mature counterparts.

Fill a shallow container with a two-inch layer of moist potting or seed starting mix. Sprinkle seeds over the soil surface and lightly

cover with potting or seed starting mix. Water gently to ensure good seed-to-soil contact.

Continue to water often enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Reduce your workload and keep the planting mix consistently moist by covering freshly planted containers with plastic. Once the greens break through the soil, remove the cover and move the container to a sunny location or under artificial lights.

Increase the fun and success with a microgreen growing kit like the Organic Herb and Microgreens Grow Kit from Gardener's Supply (www.gardeners.com). This set up is the perfect size for your countertop or other small space. The full spectrum light is adjustable so you can raise or lower it as needed whether growing short microgreens or taller herbs.

Or skip the growing mix and mess with a Jute Microgreens Starter Kit. Set the jute mat in the shallow tray, add seeds, and water. Then compost the jute mat after harvesting your greens.

Follow the planting directions on the seed packet. You typically need two to three tablespoons of seeds for an 11-by-21-inch tray. Buy enough seeds to make additional plantings every week or two to ensure a constant supply. Microgreens like most vegetables taste best and are most nutritious when eaten fresh. And these tasty bundles do not last long in storage.

The microgreens are ready to harvest once the plant forms the first set of true leaves. These are the leaves that resemble those of the mature plant. This takes anywhere from 7 to 14 days, depending on the room temperature and type of microgreens you are growing.

Use scissors to clip the greens off at ground level. If you prefer to use the whole seedling, roots and all, you will need to wash off any of the seed starting mix clinging to the roots.

Once you harvest all the greens, it is time to replant. Save money and be kind to the environment by composting the used planting mix and reusing containers. Convert



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Small grow light kits make growing herbs and microgreens indoors easy and convenient for harvesting and cooking.

shallow fast-food containers into planting trays. Disinfect these or other planting trays before using them for subsequent plantings. Just soak the containers in a 10% bleach and water solution for ten minutes. Then rinse in clear water before planting.

Gardening doesn't get much easier than this. You will enjoy the fresh flavor all winter long as you wait for the outdoor growing season to begin.

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

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