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Absentee voting applications are available online at SpencerMA.gov and must be returned by election day

Paid for by the committee to elect Michelle Gosselin



Select board candidate called to public service at young age

Photo Courtesy

At 20 years old, East Brookfield's Braedon Hatt is one of the youngest local Select Board candidates in recent memory.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD – At a time when area communities are desperate to drum up interest in municipal service, particularly among younger residents, Braedon Hatt has discovered his call to leadership at an early age.

Hatt, 20, is running unopposed for a one-year unexpired term on the Select Board. While most selectmen join the Board at the height of their careers, or following retirement, Hatt brings a shot of youthful energy to the town's political landscape.

As an undergraduate studying English and politics on a pre-law track at Occidental College in Los Angeles, Hatt has taken his classes from home since the pandemic began. He grew up in town and went to East Brookfield Elementary School, then attended Knox Trail Middle School for a year before finishing high school at Worcester Academy.

Even though he has not been involved with municipal service, Hatt was active in student government

Please Read **HATT**, page **A12**

Spencer's Ryleigh Modig "steals" another chance on "The Voice"

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – It briefly appeared last week that Ryleigh Modig's dream journey on "The Voice" had come to an end. But thanks to the rarest of circumstances, she found herself advancing to the next stage of the competition.

On last week's episode of the NBC hit show, Modig, 18, went up against Georgia-based singer Corey Ward, 34, as part of the Knockout Round. Representing Team Kelly Clarkson, both singers were aiming to be selected by their coach to advance to the live rounds.

Modig chose to sing "Use Somebody" (a Kings of Leon song) for her Knockout Round performance, with Ward taking a big risk and selecting one of Clarkson's songs, "Already Gone." After impressive performances from both singers, Clarkson ultimately chose Ward to advance.

For a few anxious moments, local fans were left to wonder whether they had seen the last of Modig on the show. But all apprehensions were quickly erased when the three remaining coaches pressed their

buttons in an attempt to steal Modig from Team Clarkson. This ensured that she would be able to continue on the competition.

"I would love to work with you," Coach John Legend told Modig after the rare triple-steal. "I want to help you navigate through the live portion of this show. America is voting and there is a lot of pressure, but I feel like I can help you handle that."

Added Coach Nick Jonas, who unsuccessfully attempted to secure Modig on his team in a prior round of the show, "You're 18 years old. I started in this business when I was quite young, and I have navigated a lot of things that I feel could be helpful. You can't make a wrong decision here because everyone believes in you."

Although triple-steals are extremely rare on the show, all three remaining coaches see high potential in Modig. Coach Blake Shelton, who has led the most contestants to victory of any coach on "The Voice," told Modig she has the ability to win the show.

Please Read **MODIG**, page **A3**

Audette's Towing has your roadside needs covered

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Now in its third year of operation, Audette's Towing and Recovery, Inc., has established itself as a reliable resource for local drivers and first responders.

Keith Audette started his business in December of 2018. Almost three years later, the business has added three full-time employees and three trucks to handle a vast array of calls. Audette's daughter, Kate, serves as the operations manager, handling daily customer service duties and also dispatching trucks.

The business provides tow-

ing services and roadside assistance for passenger vehicles and trucks. With its recent approval as a AAA (American Automobile Association) provider, Audette's Towing and Recovery is a trusted resource for tire changes, jumpstarts, lockouts, and several other services.

"We cover all of New England with these tows. We also tow for local body shops and auto repair shops," Audette told the New Leader.

If drivers encounter automotive problems on the road or require a tow, it's a relief for them to know that a reliable

Please Read **AUDETTE**, page **A12**

Photo Courtesy

The team at Audette's Towing and Recovery, Inc., is ready to help when you need roadside assistance.

East Brookfield election will bring new faces to select board

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Select Board will have a significantly new composition after next month's election.

Select Board Chairman Theodore Boulay is not seeking re-election. Last fall, Selectwoman Kitty Gliniecki moved out of town and left a vacant seat. With strict COVID-19 restrictions in place statewide at the time, officials decided not to fill the seat

until the spring election.

At the upcoming May 11 election, 20-year-old college student Braedon Hatt is running unopposed for Gliniecki's one-year unexpired term. Robert Button, a member of the Conservation Commission, is running unopposed for a three-year term on the Select Board.

For Chairman Boulay, it was a thrill to serve his community for six years. He helped advance several proj-

ects and was a reliable source of support for residents and business owners. He was also active in service projects and efforts to assist local residents and organizations.

"I loved every minute of it," Boulay told the New Leader. "I loved serving the people, and I will definitely miss it."

Barring an unlikely victory from a write-in candidate, Hatt and Button will join Selectman Joseph Fish on the Board. Hatt said he

has always been eager to give back to his community, and the vacant seat on the Select Board inspired him to get involved.

"I saw the sign in the center of town that elections were coming up, and not knowing much about them, I did some research and saw that there was an open position for a one-year unexpired term," said Hatt, who grew up in town and attended East Brookfield Elementary School. "My

involvement with the Board comes from a place of wanting to give back to the community that helped make me into the person I am today."

Button did not respond to multiple attempts to contact him for this story.

In other election news, the Planning Board will see the return of incumbent Matthew Mullen. Robert Parsons is running unopposed for a sec-

Please Read **ELECTION**, page **A4**



See the corresponding Crossword Puzzle in this issue.

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Richard Sugden Library to reopen in limited capacity

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – After a long, challenging winter, patrons and staff members are eagerly anticipating next month's limited reopening of the Richard Sugden Public Library.

As vaccinations continue statewide and the COVID-19 crisis slowly abates, libraries and other town buildings are carefully reopening throughout the region. For the Richard Sugden Library staff, it was a thrill to announce the return of adult services on limited hours, beginning Monday, May 3, at 3 p.m.

Adult services will be open to the public on Mondays (3-6 p.m.) and Thursdays (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

"The library staff is looking forward to welcoming patrons inside our library in May. We missed seeing our community members during the past year," said Library Director Cheryl Donahue. "As one of our regulars pointed out, 'the

library is an antidote to isolation.' Our beautiful, historic space in the heart of town welcomes all."

Patrons must enter and exit the library using the glass doors at the back of the building. Patrons are expected to wear masks and adhere to social distancing regulations.

All public spaces are to be used at your own risk. At this time, children's services will be available via curbside delivery only. Dates for further reopenings will be announced in the coming months.

"We are proceeding with caution in the early months of opening, but hope to restore full hours of operation by summer's end," Donahue added. "We deeply thank our patrons for their patience and support as we navigate uncharted waters. As community partners, we continue to focus on what is most important – helping one another with compassion and kindness."

Curbside delivery services are still

available to all patrons, including those who are not able to wear masks.

As of May 3, curbside delivery hours are as follows: Mondays (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), as well as Tuesdays-Thursdays (10 a.m.-4 p.m.).

When the library is open for browsing, there will be no seating or study areas available. Computers will be made available on a first come-first serve basis; computer sessions will be capped at one hour per patron.

"At this time, computers and the fax machine are available with no staff assistance," read a statement released by the library. "WiFi is available on the new benches in front of the library and in parking lots around the library. Signs on the outside doors and in the building display the network name and password."

To learn more about the library's limited reopening, visit www.SpencerPublicLibrary.org.



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.

MODIG

continued from page A1

Ultimately, after a difficult decision – and much petitioning from the coaches – Modig chose Team Legend. She will now advance into the live rounds of the competition, where fans have the opportunity to vote for their favorite singers. Round by round, week by week, the field of competitors will be steadily thinned until one performer is crowned as the 2021 champion.

You can follow Modig's performances by checking out upcoming episodes of The Voice on NBC, airing on Mondays at 8 p.m.

Baker administration opens vaccinations to general public

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – People age 16 and older who live, work, or study in Massachusetts can now sign up to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

After months of prioritizing various groups within the state, officials opened vaccinations to the general public last week. Residents can preregister online to receive their vaccines at one of the state's mass vaccination sites, or they can sign up to schedule appointments at a regional collaborative location.

Also last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the expansion of preregistration services to include more regional collaborative sites. The state's preregistration portal also features new tools meant to streamline the booking process.

"The Amherst-Northampton and Marshfield regional collaboratives will be the first to come online, and more regional collaboratives are working with the Command Center and tech teams to ensure they meet the opera-

tional and technological requirements to be added to the preregistration system," read a statement released by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Next week, residents seeking to book appointments will have the opportunity to select their vaccination location before proceeding to select from available appointments. This will help cut down on travel times and enable residents to be vaccinated where they feel most comfortable, officials said.

To date, around 1.5 million people have preregistered for vaccinations using the state's system, with more than 800,000 having been contacted with the opportunity to book appointments.

State leaders are proud of the many improvements that have been made to the system since the chaotic launch of vaccinations this past winter. Back in January and February, long lines and frequent website issues deterred residents from signing up, but with each week the state continues to improve its efficiency and organization in the registration process.

Looking ahead, Baker's team has

pledged to keep finding ways to improve the system now that far more residents are able to register for their vaccinations.

"We will continue to make improvements to the system in the weeks ahead, which will make the process even easier as more people become eligible," Baker said.

State leaders remind residents that limited weekly vaccine allocations from federal officials may cause extended delays between registration and a person's actual scheduled vaccination. Several residents have had to wait multiple weeks after scheduling their vaccines online.

For the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, residents typically need to wait approximately two to three weeks between receiving the first and second doses of the vaccine. If you are vaccinated at a mass vaccine clinic, you will be scheduled for your second vaccine immediately after receiving the first dose.

To learn more about the registration and vaccination processes, visit www.mass.gov.



www.StonebridgePress.com

FCC West Brookfield to resume in-person services May 2

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, will reopen for in-person worship on May 2.

Guests must sign up for in-person services in advance by calling the church office at 508-867-7078. Mask use and social distancing are required of all guests while inside the sanctuary.

A limited number of people will be allowed to attend in-person services, so you must sign up in advance. Those attending must check in at the front doors of the church.

Worship services take place every

Sunday at 10 a.m. Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, please contact Rev. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham by email at firstconglwestbrookfield@gmail.com. You can also call 508-867-7078.

Church services will still be offered on Zoom and Facebook Live. Individuals who are interested in virtual services may ask for a link by calling the church office.

The church is located at 36 North Main St.

All players that live in Sturbridge and or attend Tantasqua Regional High School are all eligible to play for the Sturbridge team; also, players from surrounding towns may also be eligible to play. The team will conduct tryouts Sunday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to noon and Monday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. Both tryout dates will be held at Tantasqua Regional High School varsity baseball field.

For more information, you can contact team manager Jim Rosseel 774-230-1784, email: jimrosseel@hotmail.com or coach Rich Wetherbee 508-981-0897, email: qcards@aol.com.

ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS



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Attention North Brookfield
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FLUSHING**
May 3, 2021 through May 21, 2021

The North Brookfield Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town beginning Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 21, 2021.

The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water, caused by small particles dislodged during the flushing. This discoloration might stain your laundry, especially white materials.

Flushing is performed between the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM. We post our daily flushing schedule on the North Brookfield Water Department's Facebook page. If you would like additional information, please call the Water Department at (508) 867-0207.

PERSON of the WEEK

Sherri Bullock, Melissa Ledbetter, Diane Moffat,
and Nicki Jones,
Nurses at Leicester Public Schools

The above nurses are being recognized for all of their hard work and dedication to all of the students and staff during this unprecedented pandemic. We've seen all of the protocols that they need to follow for Covid, in addition to their regular school nurse duties. We feel they have gone above and beyond and deserve to be recognized as Persons (People) of the week.

Thank you Sherri, Melissa, Diane and Nicki for all you are doing to keep the students and staff, and the community healthy.

— Submitted by Betsy Olivo and Tammy Rebello
LMS Secretaries, Leicester, MA

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Sturbridge Legion Baseball hosting tryouts May 16 & 17

STURBRIDGE — Any baseball players interested in playing Sturbridge Legion Baseball that were born on Jan. 1, 2002 or later are eligible to play. Signup date will be held on Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m. to noon at Champeau-Vilandre Sturbridge Legion Post, 507 Main St., Fiskdale. Players should bring a photocopy of their birth certificate when they register at signups to insure their eligibility.

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Hydrant Flushing

The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants May 10, 2021 thru May 21, 2021 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate.

Please plan water use accordingly.

Annual Conservation Restrictions Imposed on Outdoor Water use in Spencer

A mandatory water use restriction for Spencer Public Water Supply Users, which includes mandatory water use restrictions effective May 1, 2021 until September 30, 2021 was announced on April 13, 2021 by the Spencer Water Department.

The conservation restriction prohibits the following non-essential outdoor activities from occurring between hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM: irrigation of lawns via automatic sprinkler systems (all types of above and below ground sprinkler systems); washing of vehicles except in a commercial car wash; and washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

The restriction does allow for lawns, gardens and plants to be watered by a hand-held hose or bucket any time. The restriction also allows for irrigating newly established lawns and plantings in the months of May and September; and in public parks or recreational fields with automatic sprinklers before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

The DEP requires conservation conditions related to the Town's permitted water withdrawals under the Massachusetts Water Management Act. According to William Cundiff, Spencer U&F Superintendent, "The conservation restrictions imposed merely represent good water conservation practice. They are easy to comply with and generally should be practiced by everyone all the time whether or not an enforceable water conservation restriction has been imposed."

Anyone violating the bylaw will be issued a warning for the first offense; a \$100 fine for the second offense and a \$250 fine for each subsequent offense.

A complete copy of the Town of Spencer's 2021 Water Use Restriction Notice can be found at the Spencer website: spencerma.gov.

The above Town of Spencer web site also provides useful links to water conservation tips to help save money and preserve the environment.

If any questions, contact the Spencer Utilities and Facilities Office at (508) 885-7525.

SPENCER ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

BROOKFIELD
\$365,000, 205 Rice Corner Rd, Tremblay, Ronald J, to Lundberg, Kevin S, and Lundberg, Elizabeth M.

LEICESTER
\$432,076, 12 Virginia Dr #75, Prospect Hill Estates LLC, to Durocher, Victor J, and Durocher, Susan C.
\$178,500, 7 West St, US Bank NA Tr, to Josiahs Ultimate Hm LLC.
\$87,500, 75 Huntoon Memorial Hwy #5-3, Casey, Susan M, to Marshall, Cynthia.

SPENCER
\$580,000, Dale Cir #33, Capstone RT, and Najem, Charbel, to Cedarwoods Estate LLC.
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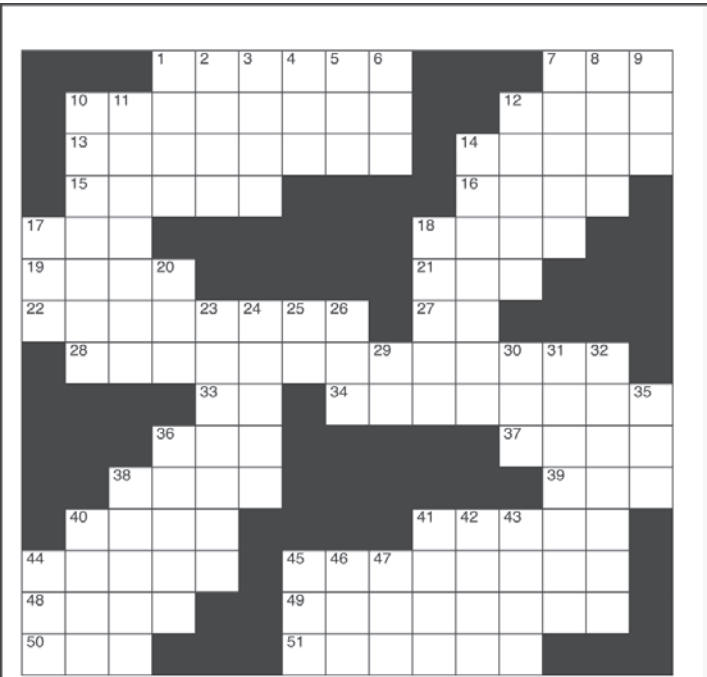
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\$580,000, Donna Dr, Capstone RT, and Najem, Charbel, to Cedarwoods Estate LLC.
\$250,000, 11 Hebert Rd, Kobel, Daniel F, to Aponte, Jannessa.
\$180,000, 11 High St, Ekelberry William D Est, and Ekelberry, Phyllis F, to Holbrook, Bruce A.

WARREN
\$194,500, 24 Mechanic St, Motta, Antone J, to Martinez, Keyshla M.
\$25,000, Ware Rd #3, Starsiak, Michael A, to Dyer, Christopher L.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$295,000, 10 Winter St, Marsh, Sunshine L, and Marsh, Robert J, to Blood, Douglas, and Blood, Elaine.
\$265,000, 26 Ridgewood Cir, Hayes, Alexander, and Hayes, Sara, to Melanson, Matthew F.

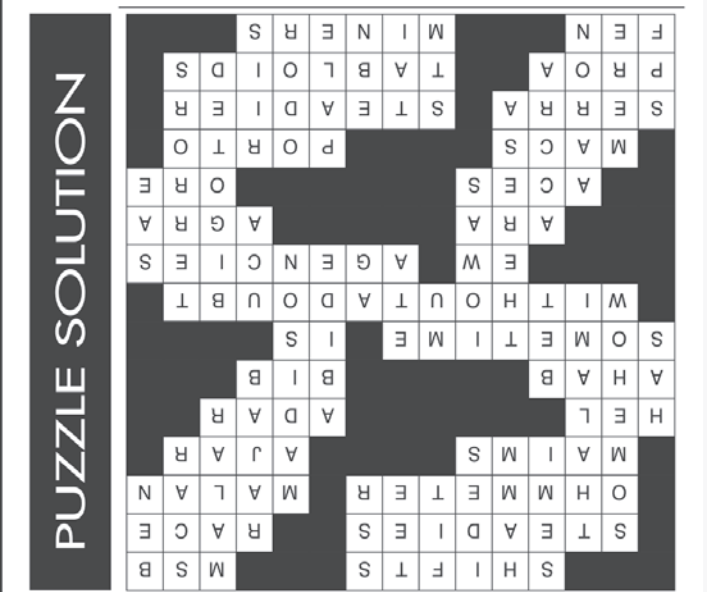


CLUES ACROSS

1. Switches
7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
10. Sweeties
12. Competition
13. Measures electrical resistance
14. Psychotherapy researcher
15. Causes injury to
16. Open
17. Polish peninsula
18. Hebrew calendar month
19. Whale ship captain
21. Children’s accessory
22. Unknown point
27. Exists
28. Extremely confident
33. Expression of disgust
34. The government has many
36. Small constellation
37. Northern Indian city
38. The best pitchers
39. Naturally occurring solid
40. Apple computers
41. Portuguese city
44. Ancient Greek war dance
45. More reliable
48. Sailboat
49. Newspapers
50. Frequently flooded area
51. They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

1. Partial
2. “Mad Men” leading man
3. The __ of March
4. Healthy
5. Where golfers begin
6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
7. Of the cheek
8. Injury reminder
9. Statesman Franklin
10. For an unknown reason
11. Brain parts
12. Islamic calendar month
14. Avenue where ad men work
17. Possesses
18. Accept
20. Stake
23. Former British PM May
24. US battleships circa 1939
25. Greek alphabet letter
26. When you hope to get there
29. Top lawyer
30. Fiddler crabs
31. Intolerant
32. Persons that cause extreme fear
35. Car mechanics group
36. Capital of Ghana
38. Famed ballplayer Hank
40. Emphasizes insignificance
41. Light-colored
42. Distinctive smell
43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
44. Sunscreen rating
45. Short-term memory
46. Japanese delicacy
47. One point north of due east



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ELECTION
continued from page A1

ond seat on the Planning Board, and a write-in candidate will likely occupy the third vacant seat.

“Right now, there aren’t enough people running for these town offices, and I wanted to get involved and help the town,” said Parsons, who also serves as Spencer’s Fire Chief. “All of these smaller communities are in the same boat, where you see the same people on multiple committees to allow the town to operate – or you see committees that can’t even have a quorum on some nights. We need to keep engaging young people and getting them involved.”

For the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee, East Brookfield representative Heather Messier will return for another term. Also returning is Finance Committee incumbent Leo Fayard.

Karen Berard is running unopposed for re-election to the Board of Assessors. Meanwhile, a three-year term on the Board of Health will be filled by a write-in candidate.

Dress up the landscape with spring flowering shrubs



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Add a burst of color to the start of the garden season with spring flowering shrubs. Small or large, these beauties add color, support pollinators, and help attract birds to the landscape.

Make room in mixed borders and gardens for these spring bloomers. Use varieties with slightly different bloom times to create continuous color throughout the spring. Complement these with spring flowering perennials and bulbs. Once the shrubs finish flowering, they add some nice greenery to the border.

Plant a few compact varieties in containers for added color on patios and decks. Add seasonal color with annuals, pansies or other cool weather tolerant flowers for spring and fall. Replace these with petunias, lantana, or other suitable heat tolerant flowers for summer.

Forsythia and lilacs are traditional spring favorites. Forsythia's bright yellow flowers signal spring for many. The showy flowers have a slight fragrance,

and the plants are basically pest free. Select varieties whose flower buds will survive cold winter temperatures, so there will be blossoms from the tip of the stem to ground level.

Lilacs fragrant flowers may generate wonderful childhood memories. Select the preferred white, pink, or purple color and varieties that will fit the growing location when mature. These will brighten any spot later in the spring.

Look for other easy-care, spring-blooming shrubs to include in the landscape. The spring blooms of viburnum are sure to provide plenty of enjoyment not to mention its attractive foliage, fall color, and fruit that attracts birds. Use them to create an attractive screen, hedge, or mixed border. Several viburnum varieties, like Korean Spice and doublefile, make great specimens or impressive small groupings in the landscape.

Brighten those shady spots with azaleas. These spring bloomers thrive with afternoon or dappled shade. Grow them in moist, rich, acidic soil in a sheltered location for best results. Make sure there is a good view to enjoy the blossoms and hummingbirds they attract.

Light up the spring garden with Garden Glow dogwood. The bright chartreuse foliage turns a burgundy red in fall. The white flowers give way to blue fruit and the red stems are a welcome sight in winter.

Other dogwoods, like red twig and

Photo Courtesy — Pasquesi.com
This Show Off® forsythia signals early spring for many with its showy, bright yellow flowers and slight fragrance.

gray dogwoods, are native shrubs with flowers that support pollinators and fruit that feeds the birds.

Fothergilla's fragrant white spring flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds. This beauty ends its season with a colorful mix of yellow, orange, and scarlet fall color often on the same leaf.

Add an evergreen backdrop of boxwood, arborvitae, and junipers to showcase these spring beauties. The spring blossoms, fall color, and winter interest will shine when positioned in front of greenery.

Take a walk through the landscape now to identify places that would benefit from some spring color. Select the right plants that are suited to the growing conditions and complement the garden design. Then plant and enjoy these colorful additions for years to come.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and 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. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

Andrea Plouffe makes Goodwin Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Andrea Plouffe has earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean's List for Fall 2020.

Andrea, a student from Spencer is one of 1,128 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate great academic performance.

Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the

equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University congratulates Andrea on making the Dean's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

Goodwin University in East Hartford, Connecticut, is an innovative learning

community that empowers hard-working students to become sought-after employees. We tailor our programs to address the needs of employers, and we shape them to fit the lives of students. Classes are conveniently offered year-round - days, evenings, weekends, and online. Degrees may be flexibly layered across certificate, associate, bachelor's, and master's programs in a variety of

in-demand fields. Better still, we surround our students with the personal support and the professional guidance they need - not just to earn degrees, but to change lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. For more information, please visit www.goodwin.edu.





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Turkey season is upon us



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The opening of Wild Turkey season this past Monday, April 26, had many hunters out hoping to bag a turkey on the first day. The birds were extremely vocal in some areas and less vocal in others. This year, many sportsmen are concerned about the few sightings they encountered in the last couple of weeks, while scouting there hunting area for opening day. I do agree that fewer sightings in fields and local woodlots were reported than in past years, but that does not mean that they are not there. I was reading an article by Andrew McKean on turkey hunting that was interesting! South Carolina New York and other states started noticing a downward turn in their Wild Turkey populations, which has biologist concerned. They still have not figured it out!

The introduction of Wild Turkeys into Massachusetts and other states was a huge success back 30 or 40 years ago. Their populations grew so fast in the last 10 years or so, they have become a nuisance in many areas of the Massachusetts. They sure are a bit wacky at times as they stroll through small towns chasing people down the street, often holding up traffic. Hunting Wild Turkeys looks easy until you try to outsmart one in the wild during hunting season. There keen eye site can spot the slightest movement sending them hightailing it out

of the area. Hunting them is a lot of fun, but you need to have a lot of patience if you want to bag a big tom bird.

Setting up early in the morning before daybreak can increase your chances of harvesting a turkey, but while you are waiting observing other wildlife can provide some exciting moments. Suddenly, a loud gobble a couple hundred feet from your setup of turkey decoys, breaks the crisp morning air. After a few more gobbles, the flapping of wings from a turkey as he leaves the roost has your heart pumping loudly. After making a few hen calls with your turkey call, you often hear a few loud gobbles from the bird. I have a preference to hunt from a ground blind, which allows me to stay comfortable, warm and dry away from ticks and other ground feeding bugs.

Poking the barrel of my Browning shotgun out the window of my blind, I quickly spotted a couple of hens heading my way. Suddenly, a huge Tom turkey appears in full strut. My mouth becomes dry as the bird heads closer to my blind and setup of turkey decoys 20 or 30 yards away. It seems like a half hour has gone by, but it is only 10 to 12 minutes. Because I am using three-and-a-half-inch turkey loads, I am comfortable taking a shot of 30 to 40 yards from my blind. Carefully taking aim, I slowly squeeze the trigger until the discharged shotgun sets me back in my chair. The roar of the discharged shell echoes through the valley, and the smell of burned gunpowder fills the air. The big bird lays almost motionless in the grass filled field. Time to pick up my prize and head for home!

That is the story of a previous hunt a few years earli-



er. You can harvest two tom birds on the same day, and still have another permit to harvest a turkey in the fall. Some states like Ohio are reporting a substantial drop in their turkey populations, and they do not know why. They have already started to revise their permits for turkey hunters. Hopefully, they do not have a bird flu problem. Keeping our wildlife healthy falls in the hands of our wildlife biologist. At least for now, deer and turkey populations in Massachusetts are thriving, and will hopefully stay that way.

Using the proper shotgun shells for turkey hunting will help insure a fatal blow to the head. Some shells cost close to \$10 each. After harvesting a wild turkey, you should cut the tail off. Saving the tail and drying it out on a piece of cardboard should be done as soon as you return home. Shaking

some Twenty Mule Team borax on the meaty part of the tail, will help preserve the tail for your next hunt. Fan the tail out with a few pins to hold it in place. After the tail is dry, you can remove the tail from the cardboard and attach a small piece of wood and a 20-inch piece of quarter-inch metal pipe to stake the tail in your decoys on your next hunt. It works great.

No complaints this year on trout stockings, at least for now. Most everyone agrees that the size and stocking numbers of trout are receiving high marks from the states fishing public. A 12-pound brown trout was caught last week, and there are reports of many trout in the three-to-four-pound class being caught. The West River in Uxbridge has been giving up some impressive trout, and Harrington's Pool is still being stocked with trout,

even though the entrance road is still blocked. Access to the pool can be made from the dam area, but efforts to the pool by Quaker Street are still being planned. Veterans and the disabled public will need to wait a bit longer for the new easy access.

The ocean waters are still a bit cool and a week of warm weather are needed to jump start the tautog bite. Tautog fishing in the Westport River had still not materialized as of last Saturday. The surface water temperature was still at 47 degrees. A water temperature of at least 50 degrees should start the bite. Hopefully, this week! Party boats are also making a long run to the haddock grounds to catch fish, but when they get there, the action is hot.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

This season, with everything fresh and new, inspiration ranks high for revamping the home. Since nothing transforms a space quicker or cheaper than paint, it's a natural choice for a mini makeover. Whether you're painting an entire room or a piece of furniture, the following ideas and techniques can help ensure paint perfection!

Paint is one the easiest, cost effective ways to alter and enhance the spaces you live in. The golden rule to painting walls is that dark colors absorb light, making

Do-It-Yourself Painting Pointers

a room appear smaller, and whites and pastels reflect the light, creating a spacious feel. To expand a small room, paint the walls a color from the cool end of the color wheel. In fact, paint company Sherwin-Williams recommends choosing blue, green or violet hues to make walls appear to recede.

Paint can also be used to visually correct architectural flaws. To widen a long narrow room, use a slightly darker color on the shorter walls and a lighter color on the longer walls. To make a low ceiling appear higher, be sure the ceiling is a lighter color than the walls. A long hallway can be shortened by painting the wall at the end a dark color to bring it closer. And rectangular rooms can instantly appear more symmetric by

painting the two short end walls a darker shade.

The proper paint finish can be used to camouflage imperfect walls. For example, Paints that have no sheen, also known as "flat" or "matte" finishes absorb the light. These porous finishes are ideal for hiding flaws in ceilings and walls and are especially appreciated when working with old, plaster surfaces. The downfall is they cannot withstand cleaning and scrubbing so they are not practical for kitchens, bathrooms, children's rooms or other high traffic areas.

Eggshell finish has a slight sheen, similar to that of an eggshell, so it is still somewhat effective at hiding flaws. Its velvety look makes it a popular choice

and eggshell finish is a bit more reflective than flat paint so it doesn't show every scuff and can tolerate light cleaning. Satin finish paint is more durable than matte or eggshell finishes. It has a light sheen, and resists moisture, which makes it a popular option for kitchens and bathrooms.

Semi-gloss finishes reflect light and offer a bright, glossy finish which can really add to a room's appeal. Surfaces are easily cleaned, however the shiny finish shows surface imperfections, making it impractical for many applications. Newer trims and moldings are ideal candidates for semi-gloss paint.

A glossy finish provides a high gloss shine, is very durable and easy to clean.

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A20**

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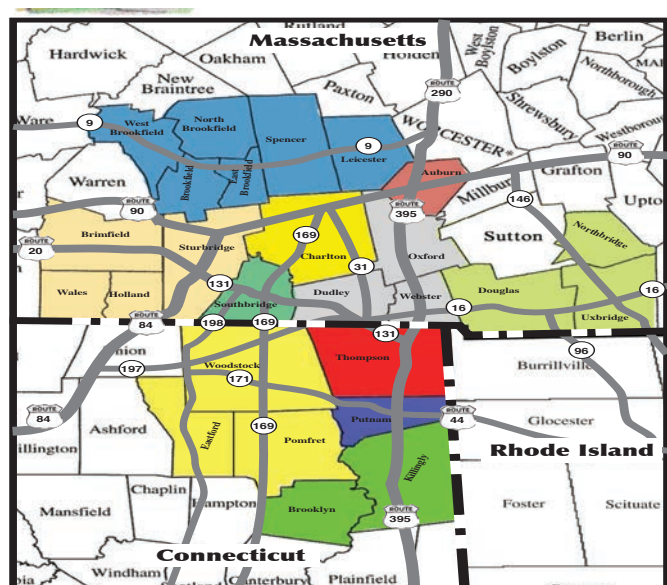
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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Fighting pandemic fatigue

While more and more people are getting vaccinated, and hospitalizations and deaths are down, the numbers of COVID cases, especially in some rural areas, are climbing. This pandemic is not over, as much as we all want it to be. Life seems to be slowly getting back to normal, however many restrictions, including travel bans and masking are still in place leaving some of us a bit deflated a year later. The number of individuals choosing to vaccinate is hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, yet COVID fatigue is still affecting many.

One thing to remember is that we're all in this together, and will all make it through together. Many of us have learned quite a bit about ourselves having been faced with this once in a lifetime scenario. We now know just how extroverted or introverted we all are. Perhaps changes have come by way of new or different opportunities.

Silver linings are still a part of the chatter about town. This is a good sign; however, for those who are gripped by pandemic fatigue, we have a few tips to share. We've all felt it at one point or another over the past year, you are not alone.

Last year, everyone was isolated as businesses and schools closed. We all stayed home for months as the virus took hold of the world. During that difficult time, we all found ways to cope, together. The summer months brought some reprieve, with outdoor events being dubbed 'OK' as long as safety protocols were adhered to. During the winter months we saw another surge that made us all feel as though it would never end.

It's important to talk about and acknowledge just how tough things have been for each and every one of us. The unexpected changes the pandemic delivered were a doozy. Over the past year, we have all worried about loved ones and the burden that comes along with potential changes in finances. Isolation is never easy either. Despite these challenges we are all here, in this together and accolades should be given to everyone who did what they could to help stop the spread, encourage friends and family and for keeping yourselves upbeat as much as possible.

Remember to check in with yourself and take note if you feel impatient, angry, depressed or irritable. Those feelings are normal and make sense given the circumstances, but experts say it's important to be aware.

Breathing exercises are always suggested as they are the fastest and easiest way to reduce stress. Relax your shoulders and slow your breathing. The physiological response centers on the nervous system.

Limit your screen time. We say this often. Some call it 'doom-scrolling.' Think of the good old days before social media when it was your choice about what you read. Seeing too much negativity can increase that feeling of dread and uncertainty. If you need some good news, simply Google "good news"; we promise, it's out there. If you're trying to unwind, listen to music or watch shows that remind you of simpler times. Some of our favorites include The Beach Boys, Led Zeppelin and The Doors. For a good reset, nothing beats watching re-runs of Three's Company, one the best sitcoms to come out of the 1970's.

In the words of Bernard Beckett, "Human spirit is the ability to face the uncertainty of the future with curiosity and optimism. It is the belief that problems can be solved, differences resolved. It is a type of confidence. And it is fragile."



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write-in Danielle Lamoureux-Kane for school committee

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Danielle Lamoureux-Kane for regional school committee. She is running a write-in/sticker campaign in order to represent families who have felt ignored by the traditional channels of educational decisions, and who are longing for someone to focus on their concerns adequately.

Danielle has a strong background that would add value to the Tantasqua School Committee in many ways: she has a background in higher education for a dozen years, with a specialty in communications; she chairs the Brookfield Democratic Town

Committee, and she is a former member of the Brookfield Local Access Committee. Having lived in Brookfield for 20 years, Danielle is well aware of the issues facing Brookfield children and their families.

Danielle is committed to informing citizens about all crucial school news and decisions, and to supporting deeper diversity, equity and inclusion practices.

Please grab your pen or pencil and write in Danielle Lamoureux-Kane for school committee!

Respectfully,

SHERRY ZITTER
BROOKFIELD

Doug Borowski has my vote

To the Editor:

As a current member of the North Brookfield Board of Health, I am endorsing candidate Doug Borowski to fill the open seat on this board.

Doug has an innate desire to help people, as evidenced by his willingness to volunteer for the North Brookfield Senior Center, make calls to residents for vaccine appointments on behalf of the BOH, and through his job in child services for the Dept. of Revenue. He is genuine and considerate, and I believe these are traits that will make him a good public servant and illustrate his commitment to the people of North Brookfield.

COVID-19 has shown us how important it is to appreciate and adhere to the findings of scientists and medical experts. While it is only one aspect of a local board of health's duties, it is our responsibility to do our best to keep residents healthy and safe, and I know that Doug will listen, research, and follow guidelines and expert advice in order to help the people of North Brookfield stay protected.

The past year has been a trying one. Doug recognizes this, and will be able to help. Navigating constantly-changing regulations, asking residents and businesses to change their routines and modes of operation, managing serious health risks, and coordinating health care operations at scale are complicated issues - but Doug will bring great communication skills and relationship-building to assist with everything our board does.

Doug is also a forward-thinking individual. He has shown that he is interested and invested in understanding the wide variety of responsibilities within the Board's purview - from recycling center contracts to animal inspections to tattoo licensing - and would work to maintain and improve the facilities, programming, and community engagement of the Board.

Please vote for Doug Borowski for North Brookfield Board of Health on May 3.

ETHAN MELAD
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Borowski for Board of Health

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Doug Borowski for the North Brookfield Board of Health on May 3.

The past year has certainly presented challenges for all the local Boards of Health. When COVID-19 became an issue, we were fortunate to have volunteers step up with offers to help. Doug Borowski was one of those people. When I first met Doug, he was volunteering at the North Brookfield Senior Center and his first words were, "If you need help with anything, just let me know." Since then, Doug has worked the phones, along with our other volunteers, getting vaccine appointments for our residents.

Doug understands that although COVID-19 remains a huge challenge, the Board of Health has other responsibilities, and had asked for a walk through of the operations of the Recycling Center, our Inspection services, and our state reporting obligations. As part of the Child Support enforcement arm of the Department of Revenue, Doug understands state

bureaucracy.

Doug Borowski understands the importance of forging relationships and partnerships to benefit our town residents. Those relationships are what have allowed us such great access to vaccines and venues, whether through Harrington Hospital, Hannaford Pharmacy, the North Brookfield Public Schools or the Congregational Church. I feel that Doug understands, and can continue, those relationships that have had a great impact for our residents.

John Alphin, whose term is up on May 3, worked on the Board of Health for 30 years. I have been on for five, and will not be seeking another term in 2022. The town needs to have a candidate who can grow into the role and be competent in managing the responsibilities and work of the Board of Health, and I believe that Doug Borowski can do that. So, I ask for your vote on May 3 for Doug Borowski for the North Brookfield Board of Health.

TREVOR BRUSO
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Why vote in the town's election?

To the Editor:

Spencer's town election is Tuesday, May 11, and I'm willing to wager that most residents, that are registered voters, haven't given much thought to whom they will cast their vote and support for. This year Spencer has a challenge for the selectman's seat and the town clerk. In my mind, I'd say that these positions (as all positions) are very important to the everyday business and record keeping. Your consideration starts with who is, has been or will be voted into office. Who do you believe will look out for the town's (your) best interest, not just his or her own agenda. There are plenty of issues that you, in all probability, really care about; this is where you have a say when you vote in your town election. By not taking the time to cast your ballot could make it more difficult for the candidates you support to win.

How many of you are aware of the time, energy and policy-making decisions that your select board is involved/responsible for, which affect you on a daily basis? Or have you ever thought about the hours the town clerk puts in with record keeping or elections (local, state and federal level) and much, much more? You have an opportunity to influence the policy-making decisions that you're passionate about. Most local elections are decided by a small margin, that's why your vote

counts!

Your vote has more power at the local level than it does at the federal level. You could be the deciding factor when it comes to important issues that affect you, your friends, family and neighbors.

So many of us fail to use our democratic rights, so much so that we may as well not have them. Think about the town you want to live in. Imagine what kind of laws you want passed and what kind of policies you want to never see the light of day. Chances are you have a real shot at making all that happen, that's if you stay plugged into what's going on in your town.

Voting—like freedom of speech—is a Constitutional right in America that allows you to make your voice heard. As you may know, in many countries, voting is not a right, and citizens have little or no choice in who is elected to lead their community. So, why not engage in this distinctly American activity if you are allowed and encouraged to? Your vote might just the difference and change our town for the better.

The polls open May 11 at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m., giving you sufficient time to cast your ballot. You have a say, exercise your constitutional right and get out there and vote!

NANCY E. HERHOLZ
SPENCER

Look at your financial situation holistically

What's the biggest financial mistake you can make? Choosing the wrong investments? Waiting too long to save for retirement? Underestimating the costs of retirement? All these are reasonable answers, but the biggest mistake you might make is not looking at your financial picture holistically – that is, not bringing into the picture all the elements of yourself.

Let's consider some of them:

Your views on helping your family – Your decisions about helping your family are clearly going to be a major part of your financial strategy – and this is true at virtually all stages of your life. When your children are young, you'll need to decide if you're going to put away money for their college education, and, if so, how much, and in what investment vehicles. When they're young adults, you may also need to decide how much financial support you're willing to provide for things such as the down payment on a new home. And when you're drawing up your estate plans, you'll need to consider how to distribute assets to your children, grandchildren or other family members.

Your personal beliefs – As someone with civic, ethical and moral concerns, you want to positively affect the world around you. And that's why you may feel compelled to make charitable gifts throughout your life and then make philanthropy part of your legacy. To accomplish these objectives, you'll want to include gifting techniques in your financial strategy today and your estate plans for tomorrow. Of course, for the estate planning component, you'll need to work with your tax and legal advisors.

Your purpose in life when you retire – When you retire, you may be stepping off a career path, but you're also entering a world of possibilities. How will you define, and live out, your new sense of purpose at this stage of your life? Do you seek to broaden your horizons by traveling around the world? Do you want to give back more to the community by volunteering? Can you spend more time pursuing the hobbies you enjoy? Each of these choices will carry different financial implications for how much you'll need to accumulate for retirement and how much you will need to take out each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k).

Your health – Your physical and mental health can play big roles in your financial plans and outlook. On the most basic level, the healthier you are, and the better you take care of yourself, the lower your health care bills will likely be during retirement, which will affect the amount you need to put away for health care. And you also may need to prepare for the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous – in fact, a private room in a nursing home can easily cost \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth.

It can be challenging to weave all these elements into a single, unified vision, so you may want to get some help from a financial professional. But, in any case, be prepared to look at your situation holistically – because, when putting together a lifetime's financial strategy, every part of your life matters.

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.



The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.

Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

Thank you to our writers this month and to LAMOUREUX FORD for sponsoring this special section each month! I'd like to invite teachers and students, including home schoolers, tweens and teens, adults and grandparents to share your thoughts, funny anecdotes, poems, short stories, and essays.

For those of you who prefer suggested topics, here are a few for May:

1. Memorial Day is Monday. If you could spend a day with someone who's passed on, who would it be and why?
2. What are your favorite plants to grow in your garden?
3. How do you celebrate Memorial Day?
4. Topic of your choice.

THE NEXT WRITE STUFF WILL BE PUBLISHED ON MAY 28

Deadline by email is Friday, May 21. Please email your submission to jsima@stonebridgepress.news.

If sending your submission by mail, please send by May 19 to
The Write Stuff, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Thank you.

**“Spring,
through fogged glasses.”**
BY BETHANY LAFOND,
WEST BROOKFIELD

April 2021
You deserve a pat on the back. An entire year navigating this turbulent, uncertain time, and you have a lot to show for it—we all do. Markedly, this past winter-time has challenged us New Englanders like none other. Wading through snowy grounds, trying to evade kisses from the cold, furthermore, managing a global pandemic. Now, the birds wake us up with their charming melodies and the sun sticks around and accompanies us for dinner time. Just as the ground is making way for seeds to sprout, encouraging the blooming of nature's artistry, we are starting to see some shifts in our way of life as well—favorable ones.

As conditioned as we are to our newfound circumstances, it's easy to let that grey cloud hang over your head obscuring the things we appreciate in life. Contending with mask acne, fogged glasses, online classes and toilet paper wars, it feels as though that stubborn cloud is going to linger eternally. Nonetheless, the sun still shines behind the clouds. There is light and hope ahead as we continue to work together and recognize each other. In the meantime, be sure to acknowledge the small things in life, as they so easily slip through the cracks; enjoy the activities that bring you joy, and most importantly—take care.

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**The Legend
Of The Ladyslipper
(an Ojibwe Tale)**
BY RICHARD TRAUSCHKE

There's an Indian tale that the elders tell;
of a brave little girl of the Ojibwe tribe,
setting out for a village far over the dell,
to bring back herbs for the sick inside.

All day she traveled, as if in a race;
obtained the herbs, and started for home.
A sudden snowstorm slowed her pace,
and she lost her moccasins in the deepening snow.

She trudged on, barefoot her mission to complete;
her feet bleeding, but she carried on thru the cold;
leaving blood-prints in the snow from her unshod feet,
she arrived with herbs, to treat the sick it is told.

The medicine did heal the tribe in the lodge;
when the snow melted, pink flowers were showing;
and in the places where her feet had trod,
lady slippers, like pink moccasins were growing!

Spring Poem
BY XAVIER MCCARTHY,
CHERRY VALLEY, AGE 3

It's cloudy or not cloudy
It's rainy and stormy
It's thunder
I want a hot spring
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In The Spring
BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

As Spring draws near
so does the celebration of our love.
An anniversary that defies years,
for our love is endless.
A spark ignited our relationship,
and over time, it grew beyond you and I into “us.”
We treasure our time together more so as we age.
You can't put a value on love,
for it is priceless.
And it all started in the Spring.

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The Gift
BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

On this, your special day,
I bring you the gift of my heart,
filled with love for you.
I hold in my hands the gift of our friendship,
which we willingly share with one another.
You are so important to me and my life.
You make it full...
Full of gratitude, of respect and fond memories.
And so, my gift to you will forever live on into eternity.

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Fountain of Gold
BY JAKOB LANNE, BROOKFIELD, MA

Within the park on Maple Street
There flows a fountain of gold
Its gushing falls delight the eye
Quite the sight to behold

The fountain masked our trade, our meeting
The mist surrounding us enfold

He laced his words with silver thread
Yet lies were all he told

I should have fled, refused the game
But the die were cast, my fate behold

He spliced the deck and I played my hand
Losing by a tenfold
The clock struck one and the deal was done
It was my soul that I had sold

He came and won my life that night
A treasure to forever hold

So now here lies my mortal form
Buried under the fountain of gold
Wisdom of the Farm Cat:
On the Topic of The Horses
By Jakob Lanne,
Brookfield, Ma

As the sole feline King of my farm, it is my duty to discuss the largest and potentially scariest animals on the farm – the Horses. Of all of my subjects, I am least fond of the Horses. For some reason they refuse to accept that I, Mickey, am their true King. Even though I have tried to tell them many times, they still refuse to accept that fact. I have found that it is useless trying to speak to them. They either ignore me, or they stamp their giant feet, practically crushing my glorious body. Though it pains me to admit it, this does cause me to be slightly scared of them.

The Horses are also massively confusing. Why do they choose to sleep standing up, instead of lying down? Don't they know that the only purpose of sleep is to give your weary legs a break? Perhaps they are like me, and only sleep on the finest of fabrics, but the humans have not provided them with an adequate bed.

For some reason, the humans seem to think that it would be enjoyable to try to ride on top of these creatures. I fear that either something is wrong with the human's legs, or something is wrong with their brains. Do the foolish humans not understand how dangerous the Horses can be? I hope that my human servants soon see the light and understand how foolish this idea truly is. It would be horrible if one of them were to get hurt. Think of it! I would be forced to live with one less servant! It would be an outrage!

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

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**Wisdom of the Farm Cat:
On the Topic of The Catwalks**
BY JAKOB LANNE, BROOKFIELD, MA

As I work to educate the human populace in the ways of Cat, it is important that I discuss the network of walkways, also known as fences, which the humans have installed for me. Many years ago, the humans came to the realization that as their King, it would be almost unlawful for my paws to touch the ground. So, they installed a network of elevated catwalks around my kingdom.

After installing the walkways for my daily rounds, the humans found a second use for them – containing my many subjects. The humans were also extremely smart when they built the walkways. They built them high in the air, allowing my subjects to gaze up upon my greatness.

The walkways the humans installed are very well designed. The wood rails are thin, so the snow falls off of them. Every five or so cat lengths, the humans installed small towers for me to deliver my sermons from. Every day I gather my subjects together around the base of a tower, and preach to them of the glory of the Supreme-Cat.

Although it pains me to admit, these catwalks are also excellent places to escape from Big Dog. One of Big Dog's favorite pastimes is tormenting me as I make my daily rounds of my kingdom. Whenever I see her blundering toward me, I run to the nearest fence for safety. From there I am protected from her playful attacks, but I can still easily reach down and whack her on the nose.

It is one of my greatest hopes that one day the humans will create more catwalks for me. Right now, in order to see parts of my kingdom, I am forced to walk along the ground like a commoner. Outrageous! Would they force one of their human leaders to walk in the mud? I think not!

Perhaps one day the humans will complete the walkways, but for now, all I can do is hope... and nap.

Wisdom of the Farm Cat:
On the Topic of the Mickey Olympics
By Jakob Lanne,
Brookfield, Ma

I am proud to announce what I like to call the Mickey Olympics; a series of extreme, high-risk challenges that I have designed to test the physical endurance of any cat.

Each event has been specifically modeled after an activity I do in my everyday life. You must complete each challenge in order to move on to the next. You are allowed three tries to complete each event, but if you fail all three, then you are eliminated. The cat-testants will have to use every muscle in their body if they want to win the Grand Prize! Now, on to the first challenge...

Roof Jump
In the first challenge, the cat-testants will have to jump almost 5 feet straight up from a window sill onto the roof. Once they reach the top, they will have to stand on the precarious incline and wait for my humans to let them in through the window. Bonus points for using a screen to get their attention (see below).

Tree Climb
This challenge has been designed to test the strength of the cat-testants' claws. In order to move on, they must climb a tree to the top and come back down within 3 minutes. There is also a chance that Big Dog will be sitting at the base of the tree, waiting for you to come down. If she is there, you must avoid getting caught. Bonus points are awarded if you can rouse my humans and make them come outside to 'rescue' you from the tree.

Window Screen Hanging
In this challenge you must hang on one of my humans' window screens for at least 5 minutes. Bonus points are awarded if you can resist the Can-Fish my humans will use to try and lure you off.

High Jumps
Similar to the Roof Jump, this challenge forces the cat-testant to perform a series of high jumps from the floor to various objects. These include tables, dressers, counters, and the laundry baskets. Bonus points will be awarded for every object you knock over in the process of the leap.

Car Surfing
The cat-testant must stand atop of one of my humans' cars when it drives away. The goal is to stay on top of the moving car for as long as possible without getting flung off. This is one of the most extreme Mickey Olympics challenges I have created. No bonus points can be earned.

Car Dodging
Even crazier than Car Surfing, this challenge is not for the faint of heart. The cat-testants must stand in the middle of the road and wait for a human in their car to come driving towards them. The cat-testant who waits the longest to jump aside wins. Points will be deducted if the human swerves the car to avoid you.

Extreme Napping
The most intense of all the challenges, Extreme Napping tests the most important quality a cat should have. If the cat-testant wishes to pass this challenge, they must successfully take a 3 hour, undisturbed nap, in the riskiest place they can. In order for the nap to count, it must be consecutive, and it must be at least 3 hours long. If multiple cat-testants complete the nap, then I will choose the winner based on the most dangerous napping location.

Now, winning the Mickey Olympics is quite impressive. That's why I have created a prize that reflects this amazing accomplishment; Me! As a reward for completing my challenges, you win one full day with me! I am now accepting applications for the Mickey Olympics. Submission fee is three mice, one squirrel, and a small bird.

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MCRAE

continued from page A9

titude.

In my opinion, such is the case extant in the little town of North Brookfield where the culture wars could be about to get hotter. Not being a resident of the bucolic burg, and knowing only what I read and hear from some of its residents, it is nonetheless clear to me a crusade just as insidious, as deceitful and as dangerous as any other of the -isms of the past hundred years—Critical Race Theory—has come to town, just as it has appeared out of the ether in nearly every city or town in the country, especially in the commie-controlled blue states like our own.

It is not the purpose of this letter to try to explain CRT, but if you don't know what it is, you'd better find out. Summed up, it is the highly propagandized and duplicitous "theory" that all of the misery and unhappiness in life is a consequence of white males—rapacious, cruel, corrupt, lying, and thieving beasts—who have connived and conspired to keep down minorities since time began. It teaches children as young as kindergarten age to be ashamed of themselves for their very existence simply because of their skin color, and, essentially, that white is bad, black or brown is good. Period.

If you don't believe me, research it for yourself. But, be warned, this pernicious doctrine, if allowed to have access to your children, will before long make them strangers to you even within your own household. They will come to hate you, and everything associated with you and your lifestyle and traditions. If you were to learn that your kids or grandkids were being given small dosages of arsenic or strychnine each morning at the school, I assume you would rush to that place, grab your student and leave, never to return. CRT is just as poisonous for the soul, for the intellect, for the spirit. You need to resist it just as assiduously as you would any other kind of toxin. If you love your own flesh and blood, wake up and get informed...and then do something.

What can you do, then, other than educate yourself on the subject? First,

you can get off the couch and go over and vote on May 3 in your town election (I believe I have the correct date.) There is a race for School Committee, as I understand it, and there are two candidates opposing the incumbent office holders. I have no idea who they are or what their positions on the issues may be, but, if they have any brains and guts there is always the hope they might be willing to stand up and say no, thank you, to the proponents of this vile, racist pack of lies curriculum called Critical Race Theory. Apparently, the present Committee is on board with what is proposed to be force fed to the children, regardless of what the parents and taxpayers may wish to see happen. So, exercise your right to be heard, and vote the incumbents out and hope for the best.

This is, after all, the same committee which took it upon itself to unilaterally drop the school mascot name of "Indians" despite a petition in a tiny town garnering 700 or more signatures urging the schools to keep the name

If you let this go forward without any resistance on your part, then shame on you. Surrender your man card, your dad's card, if that's all you care about your own offspring.

But, if you fight back like a man, and still lose the battle, don't give up. Yank those kids out of the places where they're being indoctrinated just as surely as German children were under Nazism and Russian kids were under communism, and find another option. Teach them yourselves, if it comes to that. Get an extra job to pay tuition in an alternative school you can trust, if that's what it takes. It's up to you, dad, or grandpa. Stand up, show the kind of courage your fathers and grandfathers displayed when they, for example, stepped out of landing craft to face almost certain death at Omaha Beach or at Peleliu or ten-thousand other places in our history to oppose the very kind of tyranny being proposed for your precious family members. As a veteran of home schooling our own kids, I can tell you it was a deeply satisfying

of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing." It's up to you, brothers and sisters; at the very least, make the effort to get yourself over to the polls and vote...for your children and for the truth. Who knows? Maybe at the very first meeting of the new School Committee the racists and haters pushing Critical Race Theory will be dealt a stunning defeat, and, a newly-installed committee, infused with a backbone, will decide to reclaim the honorable moniker "Indians" and, in the interests of fairness, vote to leave it up to the town to decide the matter via the democratic process. Don't be one of those pitiable specimens of humanity who cower in fear of expressing themselves out of some nagging dread of possible unpleasant consequences. This is a fight that can still be won, if you will join the effort. The children of the town are worth it.

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EAST BROOKFIELD

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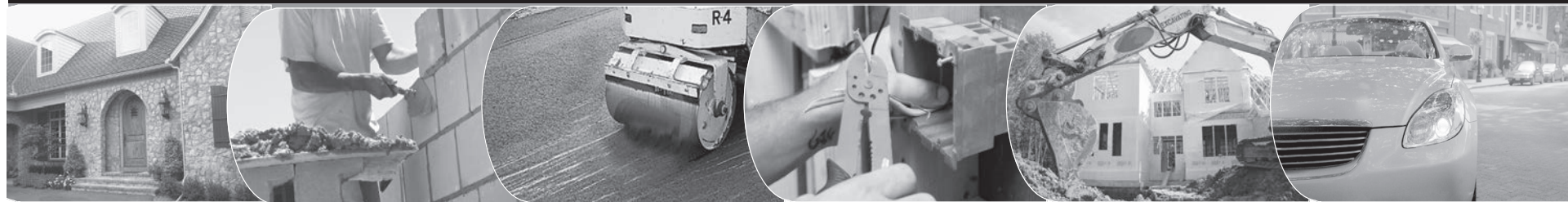
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POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14
5:10 a.m.: 911 call (Mechanic Street), open line; 5:19 a.m.: medical/general (Lyford Road), lift assist; 6:43 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 7:24 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:15 a.m.: mv reposessed (Adams Street), into taken; 10:18 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Oxford PD bolo; 10:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:11 a.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unemployment scam; 12:30 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:31 p.m.: residential alarm (Pope Street), services rendered; 1:39 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 1:42 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), gas drive-off; 1:53 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 1:56 p.m.: building checked, secure; 3:19 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 3:43 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), kids/bikes in traffic; 3:48 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:02 p.m.: mv theft (West Main Street), lost/stolen plates; 4:30 p.m.: threat to kill (Bay Path Road), male making threats; 4:32 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 4:48 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 5:16 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:16 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/8 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:26 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 5:49 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Oakland Drive), no contact; 6:29 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), into taken; 6:35 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:11-9:27 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:52 p.m.: suspicious persons (South Spencer Road), investigated; 10:17 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:30 p.m.: medical/general (McDonald Street); (Total daily mv stops – 5).
THURSDAY, APRIL 15
12:18 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 3:52 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:12 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:44 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 9:16 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:34 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), apt. lockout; 11:41 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:53 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 12:04 p.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 12:20 p.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 12:53 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:30 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 1:50 p.m.: mv complaint (Mechanic Street), c/o del. truck; 2:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Temple Street), welfare check; 2:24 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 3:18 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:42 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 5:39 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 6:35 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street) rep. of assault; 9:09 p.m.: disturbance (North Spencer Road), rep. previous incident; 9:46-10:04 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops -1).
FRIDAY, APRIL 16
1:10 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), road conditions; 1:11 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 1:22 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), roads covered/slick; 1:36 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:24 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:41 a.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), assisted; 8:13 a.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), trees across road; 10:50 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 10:53 a.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Road), assisted; 10:53 a.m.: suspicious mv (Thompson Pond Road), poss. being followed; 11:15 a.m.: disabled mv (G.H. Wilson Road), assisted; 11:34 a.m.: accident (Bacon Hill Road), report taken; 12:03 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:44 p.m.: animal complaint (High Street), dead skunk on porch; 2:33 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lake Street), accidental; 3:13 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: house/mailbox keys; 3:23 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), non-emergency; 4:38 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 4:55 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), purse stolen; 5:14 p.m.: residential alarm (North Brookfield Road), services rendered; 6:11 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Holmes Street), unattended fire; 6:32 p.m.: disabled mv (Mechanic Street), info taken; 7:05 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:31 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), mv parked incorrectly; 10:41-11:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 0).
SATURDAY, APRIL 17
12:59-1:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:11 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), barking dog; 6:19 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:14 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 9:17 a.m.: DPW call (Old Meadow Road), no power at water dept.; 9:53 a.m.: officer wanted (Clark Roads), re: collection notice; 10:15 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Warren PD bolo; 11:06 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Blueberry Hill), no contact; 2:08 p.m.: fire alarm (Lakeview Drive), referred; 2:11 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 2:21 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 2:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), cyclist grazed by mv; 2:39 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 2:57 p.m.: fire alarm (Temple Street), referred; 2:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), unwanted party at business; 5:39 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:58 p.m.: residential alarm (Condon Drive), services rendered; 6:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dogs; 6:55 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Road), no contact; 7:33 p.m.: parking violation (Elm Street), ticket issued; (Total daily mv stops – 3).
SUNDAY, APRIL 18
12:24-12:36 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:49-12:58 a.m.: parking violations (Lincoln, Grant streets), tickets issued; 10:31 a.m.: 911 call (Lake Whittemore Drive), accidental; 12:10 p.m.: fraud (East Charlton Road), unemployment scam; sometime between 1:55-2:46 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 3:28 p.m.: lost/found (Lincoln Street), lost wallet; 3:37 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), wallet stolen; 4:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), welfare check/children; 4:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), ailing raccoon; 4:29 p.m.: juvenile matter (Elm Street), kids/bike ran into caller; 5:11 p.m.: 911 call (Chickering Road), misdial; 6:30 p.m.: disturbance (South Spencer Road), Josh Duquette, 31, 8 Dorchester Street, Worcester, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, arrest; 6:49 p.m.: juvenile matter (Clark Street), kids/bikes in traffic; 10:31 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), family issue; 10:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 3).
MONDAY, APRIL 19
5:48 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 5:53 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist Leicester PD w/accident; 9:13 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:17 a.m.: elderly matter (McCormick Road), welfare check; 10:08 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:42 a.m.: suspicious persons (Holmes Street), info taken; 10:54 a.m.: fraud (Wall Street), poss. scam; 11:07 a.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Street), welfare check; 12:40 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:59 p.m.: fraud (Howe Village), scam call/grandson in jail; 3:41 p.m.: 911 call (Pearl Street), non-emergency; 4:21 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), misdial; 4:32 p.m.: DPW call (Cherry Street), wire down; 5:39 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Howe Road), poss. illegal burn; 6:53 p.m.: medical/general (Taylor Drive); 7:22 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Charlton Road), accidental; 8:11 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Spencer Road), accidental; 9:59-10:01 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:22 p.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road), Joseph D. Cyr, 23, 140 Hilliard Street, Manchester, CT, unlicensed operation, lights violation, op w/suspended license, arrest; (Total daily mv stops – 1).
TUESDAY, APRIL 20
3:45 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 6:39 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:59 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 7:23 a.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 7:45 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:20 a.m.: 911 call (Lincoln Street), accidental; 9:25 a.m.: 911 call (Bay Path Road), accidental; 9:5a.m.; DPW call (Paxton Road), loose stone spilled; 10:46 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 11:09 a.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), re: unruly child; 11:12 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 11:31 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:32 a.m.: residential alarm (Wilson Avenue), services rendered; 12:13 p.m.: suspicious persons (Brooks Pond Road), investigated; 12:22 p.m.: medical/general (Cranberry Meadow Road); 12:25 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 1:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Grove Street), abandoned lizard; 1:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Kingsbury Road), MSPCA out w/cows; 1:52 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), m/f verbal dispute; 2:19 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 2:48 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:16 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Temple Street), welfare check; 3:46 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), misdial; 4:21 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 4:45 p.m.: citizen complaint (Thornberry Circle), annoying calls; 6:31 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:49 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:06 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 7:10 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), kids/bikes in traffic; 9:15 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 10:37 p.m.: residential alarm (Sherwood Drive), services rendered; 10:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 11:34 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 11:56 p.m.: building checked secure; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, APRIL 15
12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:16 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:36 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), message delivered; 8:18 a.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 3:40 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 3:53 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), gone on arrival; 6:11 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 6:48 p.m.: summons service (Oakwood Lane), served; 7:47 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), assisted; 7:59 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), transported.
FRIDAY, APRIL 16
6:37 a.m.: debris in road (Rawson Street), no service; 1:47 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted; 3:51 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 5:43 p.m.: accident (Hyland Avenue), mv towed; 6:45 p.m.: investigation (Spencer, location of incident redacted from police log), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, larceny under \$1200 by false pretense, investigated; 7:43 p.m.: larceny (Pleasant Street), report taken.
SATURDAY, APRIL 17
2:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:45 a.m.: accident (South Main Street), assisted; 11:49 a.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), assisted; 12:52 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (Waite Street), verbal warning; 6:07 p.m.: investigation (Worcester, location of incident redacted from police log), services rendered; 6:14 p.m.: investigation (Worcester, location of incident redacted from police log), services rendered; 6:24 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), verbal warning; 6:33 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), no action required; 9:27 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), no action required; 11:18 p.m.: suspicious mv (Parker Street), no action required.
SUNDAY, APRIL 18
8:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:41 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), no action required; 11:05 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street), no action required; 2:06 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival; 2:21 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), spoken to; 3:18 p.m.: assault (Auburn Street), report taken; 4:19 p.m.: larceny (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:07 p.m.: parking complaint (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 5:58 p.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), verbal warning; 6:09 p.m.: investigation (Auburn Street), no action required; 6:43 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 6:46 p.m.: accident (Marshall Street), mv towed; 8:23 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), report taken; 9:05 p.m.: harassment (Pleasant Street), report taken.
MONDAY, APRIL 19
1:54 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, failure to stop for police, negligent operation, summons served; 7:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:57 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:02 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 10:11 a.m.: disabled mv (McNeil Highway), spoken to; 10:28 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:23 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 3:41 p.m.: investigation (Auburn Street), services rendered; 3:48 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 4:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:33 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 4:46 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 5:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 6:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 6:27 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Chesnar Drive), advised civil action; 11:15 p.m.: family problem (Siani Road), peace restored.
TUESDAY, APRIL 20
2:01 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:39 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 1:24 p.m.: disabled mv (Mill Street), investigated; 3:31 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 4:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Andrew C. Hackett, 29, 11B Gibbs Apartments, #19, Worcester, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, arrest; 5:56 p.m.: trespassing (Rawson Street), services rendered; 6:32 p.m.: fraud (Peter Salem Road), Jorge Acevedo-Tejeda, 26, 110 ½ Second Street, Trenton, NJ, larceny over \$1200 by single scheme, attempting to commit a crime, conspiracy, arrest; 11:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:39 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 1:24 p.m.: disabled mv (Mill Street), investigated; 3:31 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 4:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Andrew C. Hackett, 29, 11B Gibbs Apartments, #19, Worcester, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, arrest; 5:56 p.m.: trespassing (Rawson Street), services rendered; 6:32 p.m.: fraud (Peter Salem Road), Jorge Acevedo-Tejeda, 26, 110 ½ Second Street, Trenton, NJ, larceny over \$1200 by single scheme, attempting to commit a crime (larceny over an elderly/disabled person), conspiracy, arrest.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21
1:51 a.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), spoken to; 5:00 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:11 a.m.: larceny (South Main Street), report taken; 11:18 a.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:59 p.m.: accident (Main Street), mv towed; 6:59 p.m.: restraining order service (River Street), unable to serve; 8:18 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Homestead Lane), services rendered; 8:36 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered.

on just serving this one-year term and am uncertain for what my future holds, I would like to leave an infrastructure behind that enables young people to continue to get involved.”
The campaign process has been enjoyable and educational for Hatt, who has met several residents, officials, and business leaders in recent months. The pandemic has made this year’s campaign season a challenging one, but local leaders are still finding ways to connect with residents and learn about the issues they are facing.
For Hatt, it has also been a thrill to receive the support of neighbors, educators, and other community members who helped inspire his run.
“While I am running unopposed, campaigning has been a great way to get in communication with other residents of the town,” Hatt said. “While the pandemic has made everyone a bit solitary, gathering signatures has been a way of reconnecting with some neighbors and former teachers. I feel fortunate that everyone who I have talked to about my decision to run has been incredibly supportive.”

AUDETTE

continued from page **A1**

business is there as a security blanket.
“The most rewarding part of this business is helping people in their time of need; helping someone get on with their day after changing a tire or a jumpstart,” Audette said. “We, at Audette’s, treat people as if our family member were calling or on the side of the road. We are very efficient in getting to the scene or their house, and we take the vehicle where they want it to be repaired. No sales pressure from our staff.”
Additionally, the business provides towing services to the Spencer Police Department, as well as the Massachusetts State Police. These services include responses to automobile accidents and impound tows.

“We also specialize in the transportation of classic and antique automobiles and trucks,” Audette said. “We always ensure that these vehicles are secured using special slings and straps so there is never any metal-on-metal contact.”
With the largest truck in its fleet, the business can easily transport construction equipment like dewatering boxes, frac tanks, pumps and filtration devices, excavators, tractors, and other equipment.
The business also buys unwanted cars and trucks from local residents. No title is required for the vehicle; cash payments can be made on the spot.
For towing services and roadside assistance, the business is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you are in need of towing or roadside services, please call 774-745-8888 for assistance.

HATT

continued from page **A1**

throughout high school and college. He currently serves as his college’s student body vice president.
To successfully make the leap to the Select Board, Hatt knows he has a steep learning curve ahead. But he is eager to put in the time and work necessary to succeed, and local leaders commend him for stepping up and getting involved.
“I saw the sign in the center of town that elections were coming up, and not knowing much about them, I did some research and saw that there was an open position for a one-year unexpired term,” Hatt told the New Leader. “My involvement with the Board comes from a place of wanting to give back to the community that helped make me into the person I am today.”
Hatt credits his teachers at EBES and other schools for helping to spark his interest in service and community.
“I think about my elementary school teachers like Mrs. Carpentier and Mrs. Lavin, who really inspired me from a young

age to want to make the most of my education. I reflect now and see their dedication to this community through their teaching, and I admire them for that,” Hatt said. “I see myself making a similar impact to get other young people to make the most of their time and resources in this community.”
Hatt is looking forward to meeting more residents and continuing to learn about town operations, projects, and challenges. He is also committed to helping usher in the next wave of local leaders. A quick review of any given committee or board throughout the region won’t reveal a large number of members under 35, but Hatt is hoping to help change that trend.
“To be honest, I have a lot to learn about the issues facing our town, but I’m ready to step up. I do not know of many other people around my age who are involved with politics at this level, but my goal is to change that,” Hatt said. “I would love to get involved with the high school and find students who are interested in improving issues that affect them directly. While I am currently planning

OBITUARIES

Bethany A. Roberts, 80

BOOKFIELD- Bethany A. (Ray) Roberts, 80, of Brookfield died on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at St. Mary Health Care Center.



She leaves her loving husband, Donald Roberts; her children, Leslie Roberts and her husband, Thomas Perry of Windham, CT, and Douglas Roberts and his wife Paige of Stanardsville, VA; her two granddaughters, Sara Perry and Cecilia Perry as well as many family and friends. She was born in Flint, Michigan, daughter of the late Frank and Dorothy (Clark) Ray. Bethany was a teacher at Warren

Elementary School for 23 years, before retiring in 2002.

Bethany was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was a working member of the Brookfield Council For Aging, as well as a member of the Brookfield Garden Club, tending to the garden in the mall. She assisted with the annual Christmas luminaries that lined the streets in Brookfield.

At the request of the family, services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry. Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Alan E. Stanhope, 89

PAXTON - Alan E. Stanhope, 89, died peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on Saturday, April 17, 2021. He was born in Worcester, the son of the late George E. and Hazel (Richardson) Stanhope and had lived in Paxton for 53 years.



Alan wore many hats in his life; mechanical engineer, marksman, handyman, family man, and friend. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, trail biking, canoeing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. As a Boy Scout leader he shared his love of hiking and his skills as an outdoorsman by taking his troop to climb Mount Washington on more than one occasion.

He graduated from Holden High School and went on to earn an Associate's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Junior College. With a love of firearms and a mind for engineering, Alan began his career at Harrington and Richardson Firearms where he was a toolmaker for 6 years. He later worked for George Meyer Co. for 22 years and most recently at Morgan Construction Co. in Worcester until he retired in 1990. He married his beloved first wife, Nancy (Lawrence) Stanhope in 1952 and shared 61 years of marriage before her passing in 2013. Alan found love once again and married his beloved wife, Jane Pease in 2018.

Alan was well known for his skills as a marksman and a hunter and had competed in the Worcester Pistol League for many years. Later he enjoyed competing in Cowboy matches and was known by the name Roadrunner. He

was a member of the Barre Sportsman's Club, Nimrod League of Holden and the Paxton Men's Club among others. He volunteered his time and his many skills for several organizations, including Meals on Wheels, the Rail Trai and the Wachusett Food Pantry. He helped to build the gates for Morgan Park on Indian Lake. He was quick to lend a helping hand to those he knew who had a project or a job that needed to be done. Above all he cherished the time he spent with his family and was proud to be a great grandfather.

Alan will be lovingly missed and remembered by his beloved wife, Jane Pease of Oakham; his son, Adam Stanhope and his husband, Dale Gonyea of Sturbridge; his daughter, Bethanne Persons and her husband, Michael of Holden; his daughter-in-law, Jane Stanhope Ring and her husband Gary of Leicester; his sisters, Doris Field of Sutton and Rhoda Yucavitch of Northfield; his step daughters, Laura Pease and Leona Pease; his grandchildren, Janna Merk, Daniel Stanhope, Emily Damon, Timothy Palmerino; his great grandchildren, Julia, Hailey, Ava, Mikaela, Drew, Jake and Mac; and several nieces and nephews. Alan was also predeceased by his son, Andrew Stanhope; and his sister, Phyllis Laws.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service honoring and celebrating Alan's life at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 2, 2021 at the First Congregational Church, 1180 Main Street, Holden, MA. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Arrangements are under the care of Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main St., Holden. To share a memory or offer a condolence visit www.milesfuneralhome.com

disagrees, you immediately cut off from government funding. So, if you want grant money, you better join the idiot side. That's how you build a consensus in an Idiocracy. Only let the idiots be heard.

Then there is how to handle the Covid. Doesn't matter if you inoculate the most vulnerable? It is still there. Infecting thousands who will get no effects, but it's still there. The head doctor in our Idiocracy is recommending masks use for another two years and limiting gatherings even while we are getting inoculated. These are what you see. I was driving to work the other day. I see a lady walking her dog wearing a mask. Farther along, I see a young man in a car by himself wearing a mask. I wonder, does he wear a condom when he sleeps by himself at night?

So, what does it take for an Idiocracy to come into being? A [lot] of idiots like these to vote for an idiot like Biden.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

soil. As the soil regenerates itself, fewer inputs are required, and crop yields may increase becoming more resilient to weather and pests. This is very important in a world battling climate change, population increase and other humanitarian and ecological issues.

When addressing the problem of improper land management, I found there to be an array of reasons to switch from conventional to regenerative farming. My audience would be commercial farmers who have been conventionally farming for generations. My message to these farmers would be that

if they changed their practices, they could save the planet by sequestering carbon, create a farm resilient from drought, erosion and eutrophication, eliminate the need for fertilizers and pesticides and save money in fuel costs, while also making more money with diversified crops. But what's stopping them? As commercial farms become more specialized, growing monocul-

Clyde Dumas, 67

HOLLAND,MA- Clyde Dumas,67, passed away peacefully April 23, 2021 in St.Vincent Hospital in Worcester.



His love of family, fishing, trivia knowledge, and loyalty to all the New England sports teams was balanced by a life of hard work and service. Born and raised in East Brookfield he was a proud Prouty Panther baseball and soccer player graduating from David Prouty High School in 1971. After serving honorably in the US Air Force's Military Police corps he graduated with a business degree from Fischer Junior College. He used his gifts of physical strength and personal tenacity working for the Boston-Albany railroad company and subsequently for many years as a Local 243 Union laborer. When not working as a foreman for the union at many construction sites throughout central Massachusetts Clyde enjoyed winning sport fishing pins from his favorite fishing spots and watching his beloved Red Sox and Patriots.

Clyde's love for his family and friends and his devotion to his many nephews and nieces will be forever remembered by all who love him and will miss his infectious smile and laughter. He is now fishing, playing Pitch with, and probably giving a hard time to his father Dennis (Denny) and his brother Edward (Eddy) Dumas who predeceased him. He is survived by his mother and stepfather Kitty (Holmes) Ostrout and husband Reynold; his sisters Penny Peluso and husband John of Ohio, Sharon Bolduc and husband Matthew of Whitinsville and Fay Worthington of Spencer; his brother Dana Dumas from Spencer; David Larkham of West Brookfield who was like a brother to him; many nieces & nephews, great nieces & nephews and many step brothers and sisters. Friends and family were invited to attend calling hours on Wednesday, April 28,2021 from 5-7PM in Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. in Spencer. A graveside service for Clyde was held on Thursday, April 29,2021 at 11AM in Evergreen Cemetery in East Brookfield.

Lucille Huston, 74

GILBERTVILLE- Lucille Huston, 74, passed away unexpectedly on April 12, 2021 at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield.



She was born in Taunton on September 19, 1946 a daughter of Ralph Wilson Huston and Ruth Wentworth Huston. For many years Lucille was employed as a lab technician and phlebotomist in the medical industry. In later years she co-owned and operated the Country Kitchen in Burlington, then an office manager for a Medical office in Methuen before retiring.

Lucille enjoyed traveling, reading, the beach, and helping people in need.

She leaves behind her 3 Brothers, Roger (Jackie) Huston of Franklin, MA; David (Jane) Huston of Hampstead, NH; and Cliff Huston of Spencer, MA; a son, Sean R. (Fern) Dever of Galloway, NJ; Step Daughters, Diana (Charlie) Brown of Egg Harbor Township, NJ; Denise Leone of Egg Harbor Township, NJ. Grandsons, Sean C. Dever of Pittsfield, MA and Jakob (Maria) Ackerman of Galloway, NJ; Great Grandchildren Ally Brown, James Leone, and Elias Ackerman; Along with many close nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral services will be held privately, and she will be laid to rest beside her parents at Newton Cemetery. The Callahan, Fay & Caswell Life Celebration Home, 61 Myrtle St., Worcester is assisting the family with arrangements.

Denise Morrow, 60

SPENCER-Denise (Latour) Morrow, 60, peacefully went to her eternal resting place on Friday April 17, 2021.

Denise was born in Worcester MA on July 8,1960 to proud parents Margaret Joyce (Fowler) Latour and Eugene "Pinky" Latour.

Denise grew up in Spencer MA graduated from David Prouty High School and then obtained a Bachelor of Arts in business from Anna Marie college. Denise spent her entire professional career in the retail industry last serving as an Employee Service Representative for Big Y supermarkets.

Denise is survived by her son Mathew Morrow her daughter- in- law Franceska("Frankie") and the light of

her life, grandson Mathew. In addition, she is survived by her sister Jane Noonan (husband Jim) and brother Wayne Latour (wife Kathy) as well as several nieces and nephews . Her husband Robert predeceased her in 2006 and Brother Gary (wife Donna) predeceased her in 2016.

Burial will be private in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. In addition, a private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Donations in Denise's memory may be made to any Animal Rescue League would be sincerely appreciated. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.

ROBILLARD

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Let's look how they can improve our military. Vet out all the white Trump supporters. We don't need dedicated men that want to defend our country. We need racially sensitive and gender confused soldiers only. Then go start a fight with the Soviets and get us into a war. When those dying in the Army are predominantly colored, then the Democrats will cry out "The military institution is racist" as the reason. You see, in an Idiocracy, they use race to change it, and when there's a problem, they blame it on institutional racism.

How to tackle Climate Change? In an Idiocracy, you blame all bad weather on climate change. Any good weather is ignored. Build solar farms and turbines to fill the fields and land. Doesn't matter what effect these have on the environment, as long as you find an idiot scientist to back you up. Any scientist that

REID

continued from page A9

if you promise to respect mine – respect, not agree,

Mr. Har-Yarok, thank you for finally agreeing with my statements regarding opinions. Your approval is something I will cherish always. However, I don't understand your reference to the "issue at hand." Are you calling me a liar or a spreader of falsehoods? I would certainly be offended if that is what you believe, but I will certainly respect your opinion, as false as I believe it to be. I find much of your writings to be humorous, and look forward to a good laugh each week. Please feel free to slam my

JIM REID
SPENCER

letters in the future. I can only assume it gives you great joy.

One final thought: I cannot remember the date or the circumstances, but Jack Kemp (R-New York) was once accused of being a racist based on one of his many votes. When a reporter questioned him about it, he replied (and I paraphrase); "I have showered with more blacks than he has ever invited to his home for dinner or a backyard picnics." For clarification, Rep. Kemp was an NFL quarterback prior to being elected to Congress. We have to stop using this vile word, as well as references to systemic racism, before all meaning is lost.

SASSEVILLE

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industrial and technological advancements of the agriculture industry. This is called regenerative farming and its being introduced and adopted by farms across the world. This practice has a focus on topsoil regeneration, utilizing biodiversity, improving water cycles, enhancing ecosystem services, supporting bio-sequestration, increasing resilience to climate change and strengthening the health and vitality of farm

soil. As the soil regenerates itself, fewer inputs are required, and crop yields may increase becoming more resilient to weather and pests. This is very important in a world battling climate change, population increase and other humanitarian and ecological issues.

When addressing the problem of improper land management, I found there to be an array of reasons to switch from conventional to regenerative farming. My audience would be commercial farmers who have been conventionally farming for generations. My message to these farmers would be that

tures or single specie crops, they have a larger supply, lower price and therefore are the best price per crop yield. Smaller organic farms cannot compete with the commercial farms, given the supply to demand ratio. We can assume that the size of commercial farms and their specialization is to maximize profits, but at what cost?

The tilling of fields, application of fertilizers and pesticides and production of monoculture crops is not how nature intended food to be grown. With that being said, these advancements were crucial in helping farmers develop farmland that was extremely rocky, like New England, increase production during times of famine and high population growth and utilize the full capabilities of monocultures beyond food such as corn being used as fuel, subsidizing gasoline with ethanol. These technologies aren't evil, just outdated. Now we understand the biochemistry of soils, its role in climate change and the how it was always meant to regenerate itself, not by mechanical or chemical means. Industrialization of the agriculture industry was completely necessary to keep up with growing populations but as a positive feedback loop, it adds significant amounts of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere that contribute to worsening farming conditions.

With the use of biological processes, microorganisms and time, soils can eventually regenerate themselves. But

what does this mean? The difference between dirt and soil is that soil has organic matter, nutrients and microorganisms that allow for the optimal growing conditions for plants. These characteristics allow for soil to retain water, nutrients and carbon. Keeping the soil intact by not tilling it has enormous implications. In a documentary on soil regeneration called "Kiss the Ground," it shows NASA satellite imagery of CO2 emissions throughout the year, highlighting the rise and fall of those CO2 emission concentrations with the growing cycle of farms around the world. With photosynthesis alone, we could reverse the effects of climate change by bio-sequestering carbon, regenerate degraded land, produce healthier foods without pesticides and fertilizers and help farms become more resilient in every way.

With US legislation already underway called H.R. 4133 Study on Improving Lands Act, proposed by Representative Joe Neguse, this bill would require the Department of Agriculture to (1) direct a study of the soil health of federal land that determines the impacts of grazing, wildfires, recreation and invasive species and (2) create a database for information collected during the study. This is the first step towards better understanding how crucial land management is to our health and survival on Earth.

RYAN SASSEVILLE
SPENCER

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ON DEPOSIT

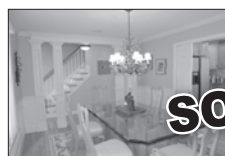
WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds with 297' Waterfront! Over \$4 Million Spent! Nothing was Spared! 18 Spacious Rooms! 5 Water View Bedrooms, 4 with their Own Bathrooms! 5.5 Bathrooms Total! Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator from the Ground Floor up 3 to the Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bathroom with Steam Shower just off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Master Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet/Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage! Full House Generator! Slate Roof! All Decks & Railings Brazilian Ipe Hardwood! Copper Gutters & Downspouts! It's Time to Reward Yourself! **\$2,249,900.00**

WEBSTER - 35 Everett Ave! 2 FAMILY - GREAT INVESTMENT! 4/4 Rms, 2/2 Bdrms, 1/1 Baths! Family Home Lovingly Cared For! Quiet Residential Area! Set on a 11,000' Level Lot! Great Yard! Updates include Roof, Boiler, Electrical, Gutters, Porch, Sewer Lines, Insulation in Attic, Basement and Exterior Walls by Mass Save! Replacement Windows & Doors! Hrdwts! Garage or Workshop! **\$224,900.00**

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



NEW LISTING



SOLD



SOLD



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

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

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



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FEATURED LISTING!

WEBSTER • 17 BRODEUR AVE

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

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is continuing into year 2021!

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WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD



ON DEPOSIT

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

WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD



ON DEPOSIT

Location! Scenic Upper Gore! "BIRDS EYE VIEW" of Webster Lake! Spacious Tr-Level. 2,279 sq. ft. 4 BRS, 1 full Bath, 2 half baths. Inground pool. 2 Car Garage
\$275,000.

WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Terrific opportunity for one Large business or Several businesses. 4784 sq bldg. Zoned B5. Off 1395 exit 1. High Traffic & Visibility. Excellent Location!
assisted sale **\$695,000.**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

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

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

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

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



ON DEPOSIT

large 3 Family - a rare find! 1st Floor spacious 2 bedroom apartment. 2 - 2nd floor, 3 bedroom apartments Walkout basement to off street parking.
\$289,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Featured New Listing!



OPEN HOUSE • 5/2 • NOON - 3

Webster - 401 Treasure Island Condo

WEBSTER LAKE! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 end unit. Year round enjoyment! Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms Appliance Kitchen. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets, Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Central Air! Central Vac! Very efficient natural gas heat & hot Water! 2 Boat Slips D10 & D11 in the Private Marina. Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach!
\$439,000.

TOWN ORDERED AUCTION OXFORD
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

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23 Bernie Rd., ~ \$329,900



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2 bedroom each unit
2 car garage
Off-street parking
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ReMax Advantage 1
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01604



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military, police, healthcare workers to be
rewarded for their service.

SATURDAY MAY 1 • NOON- 1PM
21 SCHOFIELD AVE, DUDLEY



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LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday May 18, 2021 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall and the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard.

Special Permit – Applicant/ Owner: Jesse Kady & George Victor; **Location:** 4 Eagleton Street; **Spencer Assessor's Map R38-19.** The applicant is requesting a Special Permit under 5.3.10 (Rear lot subdivision) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to create a rear lot subdivision. The property is located within the Suburban Residential zoning district.

Special Permit Hearing - Applicant: Got Sun Go Solar Inc; **Owner:** Richard Monette, **Location:** 133 Wilson Street; **Spencer Assessor's Map U17-40.** The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Section 4.8.9 (Solar Photovoltaic Generating Installations) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install a ground mounted (17.42 KW DC/ 15.2 KW AC) solar panel system. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.

April 30, 2021
May 7, 2021

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Evan Turner (ASD Cronin MA Solar LLC), for the property located at 0 Off Cronin Road, West Brookfield (access through 134 Long Hill Road, Brookfield). The applicant wishes to construct a non-residential solar field at the above address in the Rural Residential District. This requires a special permit as per section, -3.28 Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Facilities (Non-Residential): (a) (et al). The public is invited to attend.

Renee Adams White
Clerk

April 23, 2021
April 30, 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. WO21P1338EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:**

Ruth Letita McNeaney
Date of Death: 02/07/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Peter J McNeaney** of North Brookfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Peter J McNeaney** of North Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/18/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an

inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. **WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: April 21, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 30, 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. WO21P0597EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:**

Shirley R. Burks
Date of Death: 02/11/2013

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Mark S. Foss** of Worcester MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/18/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. **WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**
Date: April 15, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 30, 2021

Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

Lugia Albino has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to install an above ground pool located at 19 Gold Nugget Road, Spencer, MA. Meaghan Lovejoy has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a deck at the rear of the house at 31 Old Farm Road, Spencer, MA.

James & Nancy Woods have filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to extend the rear yard to 53 feet from the edge of the BVW at 70 Hastings Road, Spencer, MA.

Lana Tulathimutte has file an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to cut 3 trees at 76 Wilson Street, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at which time all persons having an interest may call in to participate in the Conservation Commission meetings open at 7:00 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin
April 30, 2021

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 Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee
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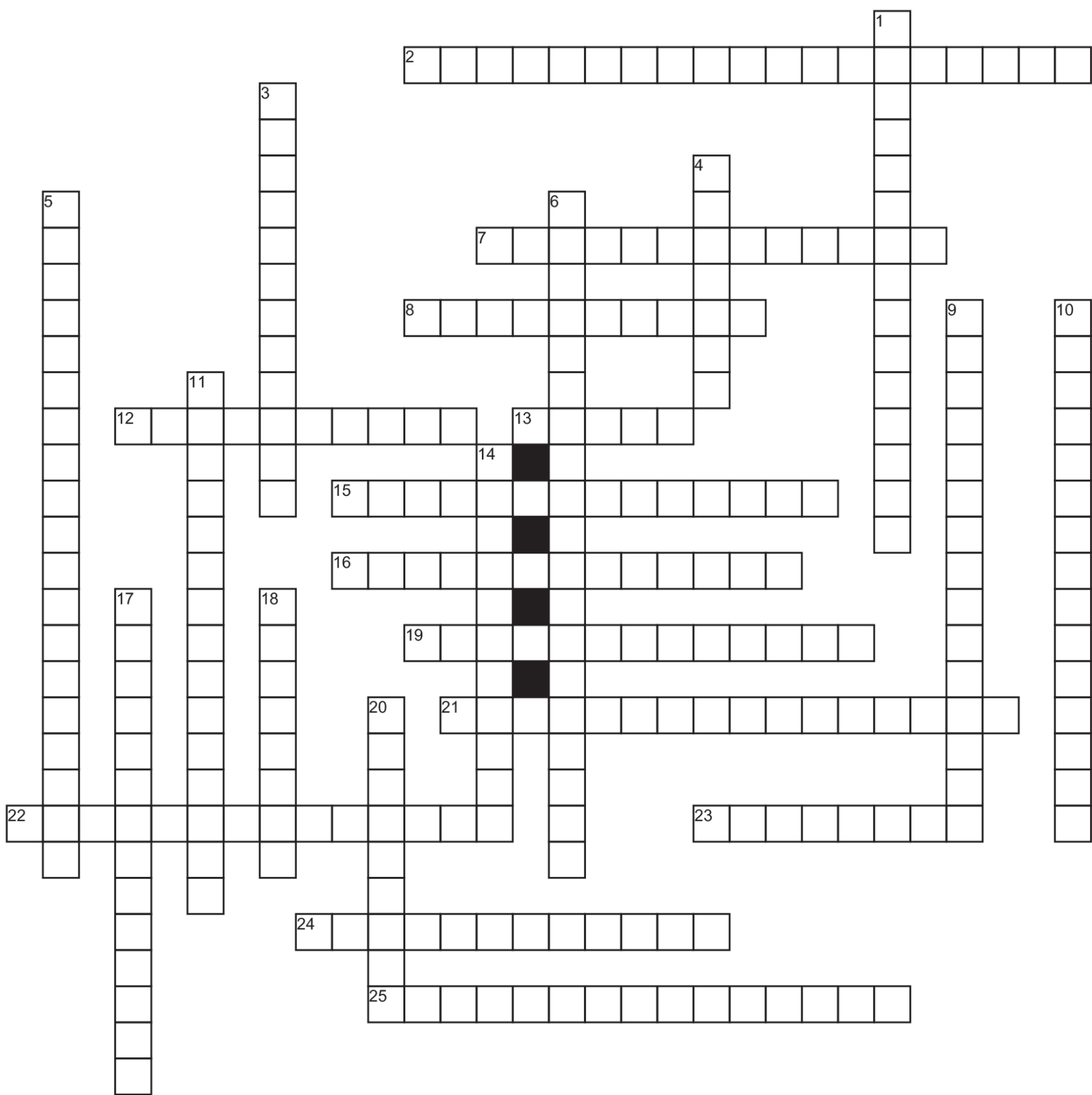
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3rd Annual ABC's of the Seasons

Spring Edition 2021

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page



ACROSS

- 2. Treat your yard before they take over
- 7. Best sales experience
- 8. Balance Transfer
- 12. USDOT# 2407387
- 13. We can save you time and money!
- 15. Help wanted, real estate, legals
- 16. Save you money on your energy bill
- 19. Great gifts for Mothers Day
- 21. Quality content
- 22. Weber Grills
- 23. Beautifying America one vehicle at a time
- 24. I'll beat any of my competitors prices
- 25. Arborcoat

DOWN

- 1. ...flowers that will last a lifetime
- 3. Come work for us!
- 4. Salon & Spa
- 5. New patients welcome
- 6. Use promo code palmer123
- 9. Always going the extra mile for our customers
- 10. Fresh local eggs
- 11. Grove & Main
- 14. Family owned and operated since 1967
- 17. AAA Roadside Assistance
- 18. Patient first, goal oriented
- 20. 15 Years...experience

3rd Annual ABC'S OF THE SEASONS, SPRING EDITION
Hint... answers don't always include the entire business name.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Circle which paper you found this in: *Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News*

Daytime Phone: _____

Email address (optional) _____

Comments: _____

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page. Enter to win a \$25 gift card to an ABC business 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 Wednesday, May 19th. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the May 28 issue. One entry per person. Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!

TRAINOR

continued from page A6

The brilliant shine is typically used for small accent areas, as the finish is very reflective and too distracting for most area applications.

Not sure how much paint to buy? Most major paint companies and home centers offer easy to use paint calculators on their websites for precise measuring. Or, to estimate the amount of paint you need in order to cover the walls of a room, multiply the perimeter of the room by the ceiling height to get square feet. Subtract 20 square feet for each door and 15 square feet for each average-sized

window in the room. The figure you end up with is a pretty close estimate of the actual wall area. Keep in mind, you can expect one gallon of paint to cover approximately 350 square feet.

Want to know the most efficient order of painting a room? Experts advise painting ceiling, walls, trim, cabinets, and doors.

Quick Tips
For a quick patch job on walls, simply use items on hand: Mix equal parts of starch and salt, with just enough water to make a thick paste. Apply and smooth over cracks or small holes.

When mixing up commercial plaster, you'll reduce lumps if you add the pow-

dered plaster to the water instead of adding water to the plaster.

Sanding is a tedious chore. To reduce sanding on plastered walls, simply go over freshly applied joint compound with a wet paint brush for a smooth finish.

Ensure a smooth surface: Before painting over an old bureau or other piece of furniture, you can easily clean the finish by wiping it down with a lintfree cloth dampened with straight turpentine. This method picks up any stray dust and helps smooth out the surface to prepare it for painting.

When painting new plaster, or other porous surface, paint on a solution of water mixed with PVA glue first. This seals the surface and stops the paint from soaking into the plaster, giving a better finish and making the paint go further!

When painting with a brush, always keep a wet edge as you paint, and work away from that wet edge. If you paint over a dry edge, you will get overlap marks.

Aerosol paint is a popular choice for repainting furniture and small accessories, but it can be frustrating when the paint does not dispel evenly. Here's a trick to ensure a finer and more even coat of paint: Simply place the can in warm water several minutes prior to spraying. The higher temperature helps the paint to flow out more easily, and

smoothly.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

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

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