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Friday, February 19, 2021

Francis Dagle is Leicester's new Health Agent.

New Health Agent plays crucial role in Leicester

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – As the town continues to transition into a new health system, recently hired Health Agent Francis Dagle is playing a pivotal role.

Leicester officials were forced to establish a new model for health services after the town was dropped from the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance. Run by Worcester’s Division of Public Health, the Health Alliance is a regionalized coalition comprised of six other towns.

Last year, Worcester officials announced that the city would not renew Leicester’s Health Alliance contract, which originally expired on June 30, 2020. An extension was granted to allow for a continuation of ser-

vices through the end of the year, but the extension expired on Jan. 31.

Leicester officials were disappointed by the decision from Worcester leaders, but they also see many benefits that can come from the new system. After hiring Dagle as the full-time health agent, Leicester also added a part-time public health nurse. As opposed to the Health Alliance services, which covered multiple towns, Dagle will be focused entirely on Leicester’s needs.

“I am excited to be a part of the town of Leicester, and I am looking forward to leading the Leicester Public Health Office toward achieving their goals to further protect the health of the Leicester community,” Dagle said.

Having earned a bachelor’s degree

Turn To **DAGLE** page **A15**

Area seniors frustrated with problematic vaccine rollout

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local seniors spent several months eagerly anticipating the COVID-19 vaccine, but a chaotic rollout process has left residents in low spirits.

Even as state officials continue to tout mass vaccination sites and newly opened regional venues, seniors are painting a nightmarish picture of long drives, extended wait times, scheduling problems, and website glitches.

And that’s just the beginning of the debacle, local leaders said. Although the state was able to get its frontline medical personnel and first responders vaccinated with few issues, the expansion to the far larger 75-plus senior population has revealed multiple flaws in the rollout plan.

“This has been a nightmare for the most vulnerable of our seniors,” said Spencer Senior Center Director Pamela Woodbury, who has fielded calls daily from frustrated seniors and their families. “I have a senior in town, 85 years old, who waited four hours in the snow at the Eastfield Mall location to get his first shot – and now he does not want to go back there for a second. I inquired in Southbridge to see if he could get it there, and they said, ‘No, he needs to go back to where he got the first shot.’ They tell me it’s about allotment.”

During the Feb. 9 snowstorm, the National Guard had to be sent to the Eastfield Mall mass vaccination site due to long lines, limited staffing, and dangerous conditions. Dozens of 75-plus seniors attending the Springfield site waited in line for hours during the storm, with temperatures hovering around twenty degrees.

Once the National Guard arrived, a system was arranged where seniors could be moved indoors to wait in a socially distanced line. But several seniors had already left and are reluctant to return.

Countless other seniors have struggled to even schedule their vaccinations. Several residents have encountered problems with the state’s website, and seniors without internet access have been left mostly in the dark. The scheduling process has been especially difficult for our oldest seniors, as well as those who are homebound and have no way to travel to a vaccination site.

Additionally, local directors of senior centers and councils on aging were blindsided by their expectations from state officials in the rollout process.

“Anyone who imagined that all seniors would have access or ability to navigate the Mass.gov Web site were sadly mistaken. I myself have experienced difficulty with the scheduling website at the Southbridge location,” Woodbury said. “As CoA directors, we were given no advance warning we would be registering seniors. I was even asked for evidence that I was supposed to be doing this by a fellow employee.”

Area senior center staff members continue to help navigate seniors through the confusing process. But local leaders are concerned that the negative experiences endured by residents this month will cause many seniors – and eventually other demographics – to avoid the vaccine process altogether. In Brookfield, a community devoid of a

Turn To **ISSUES** page **A14**

Spencer’s newest business owner pursues dream despite pandemic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Dr. Grant Pattee had plenty of reasons to scrap plans for starting his business – the pandemic chief among them – but he hasn’t let any obstacle deny his dream.

Even with businesses throughout the region downsizing or closing altogether, Pattee decided to take a risk and launch his physical therapy business in December. Located at 133 West Main St.,

Choice Physical Therapy offers a range of services to residents. These include post-surgical services and chronic pain therapies.

For Pattee, who has worked in physical therapy for nearly 20 years, the process of opening his own business has seen its share of anxious moments – but also excitement and hope for a bright future.

“Who opens a business during a pandemic? I asked myself that question several times, but the answer was always the same: people will eventually need therapy again,” Pattee told the New Leader. “A pandemic can really change a person’s perspective. I had time to reflect and think about life goals, family goals, and eventually my career goals. I

Turn To **PATTEE** page **A15**

Photo Courtesy
Dr. Grant Pattee recently opened a new physical therapy business in Spencer.



Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District teachers MaryEllen Amodeo and Pam Gunsalus recently received scholarships.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – A pair of Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District teachers were recently awarded

scholarships for commitment to educational excellence.

Presented by the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators (MassCUE)

Photos Courtesy

Local teachers awarded scholarships

and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS), the program offers more than 250 workshops, presentations, and activities involving educational technology. Teachers will also learn various practices they can utilize in their own classrooms.

“Lessons learned from this professional development will be shared with all staff across the district to keep all our classrooms on the forefront of effective educational practices,” said SEBRSD Director of Academic Affairs Matthew Bolduc.

Gunsalus and Amodeo were selected for these scholarships based on their commitment to using the most engaging and supportive practices to educate students, while also maximizing the impact of educational technologies, district officials said.

“These two teachers exemplify the many SEBRSD teachers who consistently go above and beyond expectations to give their students and the families they serve the best education found anywhere on the globe,” said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey.


Turn To **TEACHERS** page **A3**

YOUR
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MATTER

FEBRUARY IS
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DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Visit one of these Professionals to improve
your family's oral health.

Good dental hygiene is very important to overall good health.



When can children brush their own teeth?

Parents quickly learn that their children go through a transition marked by a desire to be more independent. They're picking out their own mismatched clothes and no longer want any help when solving puzzles or complex toys. That newfound independence signals getting older and can be a healthy thing to nourish. But what happens when a youngster suddenly believes he or she is capable of brushing his or her teeth without assistance?

Parents wrestling with their kids' can-do attitude and if it's wise to allow them to brush their teeth unassisted can familiarize themselves with certain guidelines to determine their youngsters' readiness. According to Scripps Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, most kids are at least six years old before they have developed the finesse and dexterity to handle a toothbrush in a manner that will effectively remove plaque. Dentists also may ask if the child can tie his or her own shoes, which can serve as a barometer of readiness to

wield a toothbrush without assistance. Pediatricians and pediatric dentists recommend that children visit a dentist as soon as a child's first tooth starts to appear. This also is when parents should begin to clean their children's teeth. As a child ages, the natural proclivity to want to take charge of brushing teeth takes hold. The child may not yet have the manual dexterity to brush alone, but parents can encourage the child to brush and then go over the teeth as a "double check." This helps foster independence while also ensuring teeth are fully cleaned.

Flossing may require even more dexterity than brushing, but it is essential for sloughing off plaque that accumulates between teeth and below the gum line, according to Parents magazine. Moms and dads can introduce their children to pre-threaded Y-shaped flossing tools, which are easier to handle than loose floss.

Parents will have to check on children even as they age to be sure they are



practicing good oral hygiene. Parents who are in doubt about their children's readiness can work with dentists or dental hygienists to assess skills and get other pointers.

Dental hygiene is about more than just your teeth



Individuals tend to learn about dental hygiene at an early age. On the recommendation of their children's pediatricians, parents may begin brushing their youngsters' teeth the moment the first tooth breaks through the gums. While proper dental hygiene is vital to oral health, it also can have a profound effect on the rest of the body.

According to the Mayo Clinic, poor oral health might contribute to various diseases and conditions. Periodontitis is a severe yet preventable gum infection that can lead to tooth loss if left untreated. But the threat of periodontitis doesn't end in the mouth. The American Academy of Periodontology notes there's a connection between periodontitis and several other diseases. While bacteria was long suspected to be the link between periodontitis and other diseases in the body, the AAP notes that recent research points to inflammation as the culprit that connects periodontitis with diseases such

as diabetes and heart disease.

DIABETES

The AAP notes that people with diabetes are at increased risk for periodontal disease, speculating that diabetes patients' risk is higher because people with diabetes are more vulnerable to infections than those without diabetes. While that suggests periodontal disease is a byproduct of diabetes, the AAP notes that research points to the relationship being a two-way street. Periodontal disease may make it more difficult for people with diabetes to control their blood sugar, making dental hygiene an especially vital component of routine healthcare for people with diabetes.

HEART DISEASE

The AAP notes that research indicates periodontal disease increases a person's risk for heart disease, with the inflammation caused by the former leading to the latter. People with exist-

ing heart conditions also may find that periodontal disease exacerbates those conditions. The Mayo Clinic notes that the link between heart disease and periodontal disease is not fully understood, but enough studies have been conducted for scientists to support the notion that the two are connected.

CAN PERIODONTAL DISEASE BE PREVENTED?

Periodontal disease is preventable. A daily dental hygiene regimen that includes brushing after meals, flossing at least once per day and swishing with mouthwash are some simple, healthy habits that can prevent periodontal disease. In addition, the AAP recommends that people at increased risk for periodontal disease, including the elderly and smokers, should discuss their risk with their dental professionals.

Dental hygiene can do more for individuals than produce a mouthful of pearly white teeth. In fact, people who prioritize dental hygiene may lower their risks for various diseases.

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M, to Maverick Dev Co LLC.
\$295,000, 1 Marshall St, Donaghy,
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\$100,000, 7 Brandy Ln, Crozier,
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Local group keeps aspiring writers connected during pandemic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Although writing is an innately solitary experience, the pandemic has further sequestered writers and taken away opportunities for collaboration. But one local group is working hard to keep its writers in regular contact while also adding new members to the mix.

The Quaboag Writers Collaborative (QWC) is a group of dedicated writers, some with published works, others striving for publication. Based right here in central Massachusetts, the group has been forced to exchange in-person meetings for Zoom sessions during the pandemic. But members are grateful to still have the opportunity to share ideas and learn new information, even if it's in a virtual format.

The QWC meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, with each session lasting 90 minutes. The group is eager to add new members who are serious about their writing and want to connect with other local wordsmiths.

"This is a great opportunity for any writer to learn from others. It's a unique group that provides a chance for writers to come together, compare experiences,

and help with solving issues and problems of writing," said Ed Londergan, one of the group's founders. "Plus, it's a great group of people and a lot of fun."

From struggling with writer's block, to the often exasperating process of attempting to secure a literary agent, local writers frequently encounter the same obstacles. Rather than wrestle with these issues on your own, the QWC invites writers to check out their close-knit, supportive group.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the group, leaders said, is the ability for writers to share their experiences and help fellow members overcome challenges. Several members of the group have published multiple books, while others have written or edited short stories, memoirs, and other pieces.

All group members are active in their engagement and sharing of knowledge and experiences. If you're serious about taking your writing to the next level, this is the local group for you. Members do not need to have publishing credentials; all you need is passion and a desire to collaborate.

"This is a great opportunity for any capable writer to learn and contribute. QWC is a unique group that provides

the opportunity to discuss and review work with other talented writers," said Jack McClintock, another founding member of the group. "It also offers the chance to explore the ins and outs of contemporary authorship. If writing is an art, then authorship is a business, and both require the support and guidance of talented people."

The group regularly utilizes constructive criticism to improve each member's craft. Topics of discussion include editing, storytelling, world building, characterization, and several others.

Additionally, group sessions often feature a question and answer period on general topics, as well as information on upcoming classes or workshops of interest. The group also watches many lessons from renowned authors on the processes of writing and revision.

For those interested in joining the group, prior experience with editing and publication is preferred but not required. This experience can include self-published works.

If you are interested in learning more about the group, contact Londergan at ed.londergan@gmail.com. You may also reach McClintock at johnpsmcclintock@gmail.com.



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

Spencer library to host virtual college fair

SPENCER – The Richard Sugden Public Library staff invites local students to take part in a virtual college fair next month.

The free Zoom-based program will take place on Monday, March 1, from 3-4:30 p.m. Participating colleges and universities will include Worcester State University, Becker College, Nichols College, Framingham State University, Fitchburg State University, New England Technical College, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Army.

If you are interested in the virtual event, call 508-885-7513 (ext. 2).

You must register for the event by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25.



Howe Lumber promotes longtime employees

EAST BROOKFIELD — Howe Lumber recently promoted Jason Thacker, Patrick Giguere, and Adam Robbins to new positions. Mr. Thacker assumed the role of General Manager, Mr. Giguere assumed the role of Head of Purchasing and Merchandising, and Mr. Robbins assumed the role of Operations Foreman.

"Jason, Patrick, and Adam have been key players here for a long time, and we are excited to promote them to these new positions," said Scott Norrie, President of Howe Lumber. "We like to promote from within whenever we can. Each of these employees have worn various hats throughout their years here, so when the opportunity came about to promote them, we didn't hesitate. It was an easy decision."

Mr. Thacker has been employed at Howe Lumber since 2008 in various positions, most recently as Operations Manager and Outside Sales Manager. An industry veteran, he brings a wealth of experience and relationships to the new position. Mr. Giguere has been employed at Howe Lumber since 2012 and has done multiple jobs at the lumberyard, most recently purchasing. Mr. Robbins has worked in operations since his start in 2005, and has worked his way up through different positions in the yard, from shipping to his new position as Operations Foreman.

About Howe Lumber

Howe Lumber is a full-service lumberyard, hardware store, and cabinet



Left to right: Jason Thacker, Patrick Giguere, and Adam Robbins.

Photo Courtesy

showroom located in East Brookfield. Founded in 1965, Howe Lumber is a third-generation family business serving Worcester County and beyond. They can be reached by phone or text at 508-867-3232 or online at howelumber.com.

Nominations welcome for Public Service Award

SPENCER – Nomination submissions for the Meritorious Public Service Award are due this month.

The nomination form is available on the town website: www.spencerma.gov. Please return the form to the Office of the Town Administrator, Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main St., Spencer, MA, 01562. You can also send the form via email (bsavoie@spencerma.gov).

The Meritorious Public Service Award was established in 2002 by the Board of Selectmen to honor members

of the community who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to public service. Annually, the Board chooses one individual to receive the award.

To nominate someone for this award, you must include the names of both the nominee and the nominator. Contact information is also required for the nominator.

All submissions must be received by Feb. 24.

TEACHERS

continued from page A1

Long gone are the days when the most advanced forms of technology in schools were found in keyboarding class. With robotics courses, makerspaces, coding programs, and other STEM opportunities advancing each year in local districts, teachers are constantly improving their own knowledge and awareness of innovations to help maximize students' learning experiences.

SEBRSD officials commend their staffs for making the extra effort each year to stay current with the most recent technologies. The work of Gunsalus and Amodeo went above and beyond, officials said.

"The learning community is fortunate to have such dedicated and highly skilled professionals on our faculty at the Knox Trail Middle School and Wire Village School," Haughey added. "We wish them all the best in their pursuit of honing their professional knowledge base and skills in digital citizenry and technology integration."



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Friday's Child



Tatiana
Age 12

Hi! My name is Tatiana and I want to try gymnastics!

Tatiana is a funny and lovable girl of Hispanic descent. She loves playing with dolls, coloring and riding her bike outside. One day she hopes to join a gymnastics team.

Tatiana receives extra supports in school to help address her academic, intellectual and social/emotional needs. Tatiana particularly struggles with relating to her peers and often presents as a much younger child. She is on the Autism Spectrum.

Not yet legally freed for adoption, Tatiana will benefit from joining a loving family of any constellation who can provide her with stability, structure and a dependable routine. She will do best as an only child or with older siblings. An ideal family will be comfortable navigating the mental health and educational systems, and be able

to act as a strong advocate for Tatiana. A family should also be open to helping Tatiana maintain a relationship with her four siblings and birth parents, who she currently visits with monthly.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

BAY PATH ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

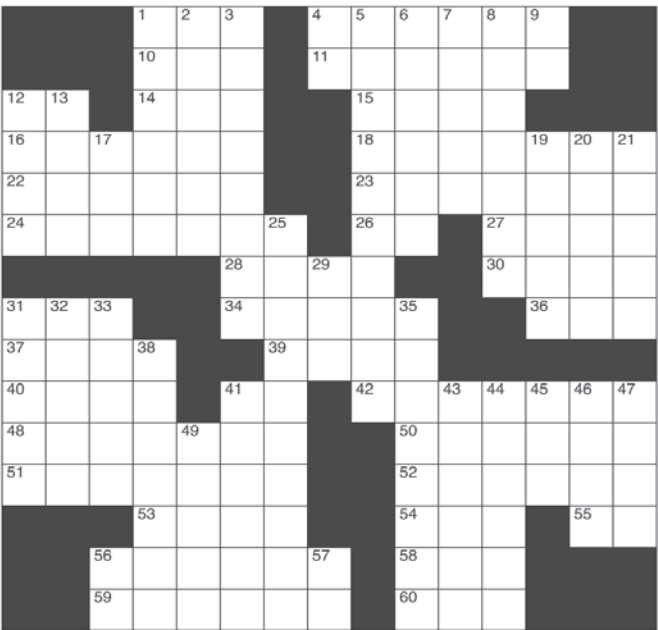
Grade 12
High Honors: Dominic Beauchesne, Dylan Bellerive, Maya Bond, Dani Borci, Kaitlyn Brindle, Matthew Brown, Emma Christian, Andrew Colson, Cheyenne Courtney, Natalie Courtney, Bailey Creeron, Jordan DeFosse, Evan Duffey, Isabella Gonyea, Alexis Gosselin, Elena Hopkins, Isaac Josti, Juliannah Kolofsky, Samantha Labella, Eliana Lasell, Alicia Lempitski, Julio Lopez-Torres, Brian Malone, Nicholas Marcotte, Chase McKenney, Zachary Messina, Ty Millette, Michael Mulally, Owen Ostromecki, Meagan Peck, Luis Perez, Madison Poole, McKenzie Robinson, Kyle Sadusky, Ryan Steiner, Kiana Tonkin, Jared Torosian, Ashley Wilson, Caitlin Young
Honors: Emma Abbascia, Adiran Aguilar, Bryanna Andino, Graciela Antunez Flores, Erika Apher, Kayla Aviles, Ivy Ballou, Jacob Benoit, Cameron Blake, Skyler Bond, Victoria Bonneau, Samantha Burdett, Kayla Canty, Abigail Card, Gabriella Caron, Lauren Chase, Leigh Clifford, Christian Consiglio, Aaron Correira, Megan Costa, Olivia Courville, Timothy Crowell, Lexia Demers, Kelli Devlin, Jessi Escoto-Cifuentes, Cameron Fishcer, Sean Flynn, Benjamin Gelineau, Sarah Gosselin, Chloe Grenier, Evan Hall, Devin Hanlan, Jayce Hutchinson, Abigail Joesten, Elin Kaufman, Jodie Kendall,

Savannah LaBranche, Matthew Livsey, Grant Maffei, Elizabeth McLam, Samuel Messier, Dimitrios, Mironidis, Nicholas Moulton, Joshua Natale, Robert Nichols III, Troy Pollone, Keith Reardon, Nicholas Reil, James Rivera, Parker Santon, Dylan Smaltz, Kyleigh Sutherland, Maynard Sweet-Giglio, Christopher Towns, Jr., Joshua Turcotte, Nikko Vitkos, Genevieve Williams, Louis Zanca
Principal's List: Kyle Bacon, Nathan Barton, Nathaniel Beauchesne, Brent Burlingame, Zackary Choiniere, Tyler DeWitt, Tyler Ethier, Cameron Forget, Gwen Frappier, Parker Gilspin, Ryan Grampetro, Hailey Hubert, Karma Lama, Angel Martinez, Madison McKeon, Kylee Olejniczak, Riley Smith, Tori Vitkos, Cullen West, Katie Wroblewski
Grade 11
High Honors: Justin Barton, Hayden Bourgeois, Alexia Brawn, Dylan Butkus, Patric Campbell, Diego Canovas, Jackson Chaffee, Chloe Dexter, Erin Donahue, Marlee Donohoe, Cody Douglas, Nathan Dreitlein, Lillian Dunkerton, Nicholas Hunter, Morgan Ivory, Logan Johnson, Tiffany King, Bethany Lasell, Anthony Martins, Amber Mercon, Aaron Mitchell, Jovanni Morales, Elizabeth Pilling, Rachael Plaud, Lukas Rafferty, Zachary Sargent, Ethan Shanbaum, Sarah Simpson, Olivia St. Germain, Isabella Tanacea, Scarlet Taveras, Mateusz Zych
Honors: Aidan Adler, Connor Barton, Thomas Becker, Thomas Benoit, Dominic Benvenuti, Jayde Berthiaume, Sadie

Bickford, Anna Bonin, Andrew Cannon, Isabella Capuano, Rafe Carlson, Stephanie Chege, Aiden Chemisky, Connor Clardy, Clayton Constantine, Nolan Courtney, Aleysha Cruz Merced, Kevin Cunningham, Jack Dalton, Marisa DeJesus, Hayden Dery, Harmony Desrosiers, Lillian Dolan, Johnathon Ferreira, Austin Fish, Tricia Gallien, Danielle Gautier, Adelina Giaquinto, Alex Gilfoy, Genesis Gonzalez, Nicholas Gosselin, Cameron Hafner, Ashley Hamel, Zachary Hinman, Kailey Jones, Ryan Kempskie, Kevin Kilcourse, Cole Komssi, Ryan Komssi, Jason Kozlowski, Chase Lamprey, Andrew Leach, William Lecuyer, Lexie MacDonald, Brandon Martocci, Tori Masiello, Madigan McManus, Olivia Morin, Samuel Murillo, Angelina Ortiz, Paige Osche, Gabrielle Packard, Aaliyah Perez, Hunter Poci, Krystal Quadarella, Xavier Rodriguez-Bradley, Alex Saad, Luzyvette Sagastibelza-Lopez, Kristina Scott, Anthony Seymour, Jordan Sheehan, Daniel Silbert, Chloe Sicari-Swinimer, Katrina Somers, Caroline Soucy, Kyra Stevens, Francheska Toribio-Polanco, Jalissa Torres, Camden Towns, Aaron Trahan, Aaliyah Tremblay Collins, Rohan Vaidya, Kyle VanCott, Tyler Verrier
Principal's List: Nathaniel Anderson, Lana Antocci, Adrian-Nicky Antwi, Catalina Burden, Harmony Caranci, Jarred Coltran, Cyanna Cote, Dylan Cotton, Hailey Cournoyer, Nathan Cuff, Chad Cutroni, Zachary Dubsy, Laura Featherstone, Nathan Gulkin, Declan Johnson, Chloe Jordan, Bryce Kaszowski, Taylor Labrecque, Zoe LaMountain Perron, Krystal Lavallee, Andrew Lavoie, Gianna Legere Olivencia, Richard Menard IV, Evan O'Malley, Caleb Renaud, Carlos Rosado, Jacqueline Ross, Joshua Sullivan, Jomar Torres, Adirana Vazquez Gonzalez
Grade 10
High Honors: Olivia Beaudette, Elizabeth Dreitlein, Ty Dupuis, Evan Gelineau, John Guerin, Emma Hesselton, Samantha Inangelo, Anna L'Esperance, Aiden LaFrance, Sydney Lamontagne, Connor McCarthy, Erika Melendez, Mackenzie Morrisey, Michael Pacheco, Damon Provneal, Abraham Routhier, Wyatt Sadusky, Jazlynn Santana, Terry Simon, Emily Westwell
Honors: Alyssa Adams, Samuel Audunsson, Quinn

Beck, John Begg, Alexander Besaw, Benjamin Besaw, Jon Boyle, Ryan Brown Herraiz, Dennis Brunelle, Matthew Casati, Daniel Chaffee, Amanda Christianson, Isabella Coleman, Makayla Collins, Ryan Couture, Troy Cyr, Ryan Davis, Cam'Ron Desrosiers, Cheryl Dolson, Breanna Donohue, Lucas Farnham, Zachary Finizza, Jayden Flanders, Tori Fontaine, Casey Gallagher, Emily Gelineau, Noah Gilspin, Adrian Gonzalez, Osiris Gonzalez, Barry Hanson, Lauren Hennessy, Kathryn Herriage, Rebeka Janusz, Grace Jones, Angelica Joubert, Dlaney Kirkorian, Nakia L'Ecuier, Madison Lamica, Robert Leblanc, Ayden Letourneau, Gianaleze Lopez, Timothy Maenpaa, Judly Maignan, Matthew Marchetti, Dylan McDonald, Rachel McMenemy, Yerilian Miranda-Colon, Dominic Moniz, Kyle Moody, Dylan Morrison Ilvonen, Merissa Murray, Stephen Ngaruiya, Cameron Nolette, Gabrielle Oikle, Tessa Olejniczak, Gabriel Osciak, Joelle Peluso, Kiyana Perez, Amelia Peterson, Trevor Phillips, Georgios Pirperis, Madison Poirier, Patrick Prudhomme, Hilary Queirolo, Ariane Ramos, Jenisey Ramos, Emma Rannikko, Evan Rivera, Rozlyn Robillard, Cameron Scobie, Ronin Simone, Sawyer Smith, Lucas Soloperto, Naomi Soriano, Evan St. Cyr, Emma St. Francis, Alexzander Tetreault, Jacob Thomas, Patrick Tierney, Yahil Vegas-Cortes, Lucas Welton, Jacob Wilga, Jonathan Young
Principal's List: Jake Aho, Fabian Alvis, Lukus Bachand, Samuel Boria, Connor Burke, Hailey Carlson, Anthony Catino, Grace Comeau, Anthony Comforti, Gage Conroy-Laboeuf, Anthony Costello, Edgardo Cruz-Merced, Ronald Desrosiers, Amanda Englund, Gabriel Espinosa, Jacob Farnham, Collin Farrell, Zachary Ford, Evan Frost, Nathan Goozey, Devon Goulet, Luke Hill, Matthew Hoyt, Michael Jalbert, Matthew Kallgren, Cole Latour, James LeProhon, Sean Malboeuf, Jaime Marrero, Jonathan Norman, Jonathan Nussey, Timothy Putnam, Sabrina Rodrigues, Knygel Rosario, Nolan Sharry, Darnion Szafarowicz, Makenna Zella
Grade 9
High Honors: Sophia Balestracci, Alex Beshiri, Luke Boliver, Rachel Carpenter, Timothy Charette, Eyan Chase, Meredith Clark, Yanieris Colon Vega, Kirsten Congdon, Dylan DeJesus, Jibril Erraihani, Jonathan Forget, Jenna Gajewski, Rachel Gormley, Simon Greening, Lucas Hafner, Tristan Hanson, Riley Heenan, Valerie Hernandez, Stanislaw Janusz, Anna Lehtola, Hannah Luuko, Sarah

Martin, Matteo Mastrototaro, Kayla Nguyen, Stephanie Njenga, Madison Nolin, Nason Omasta, Ismael Porrata, Emily Quental, Amanda Seidler, Catherine Sirard, Jacob Sirard, Jack Ugrinow, Charlotte Worster, Stone Zink
Honors: Avarie Beauchamp, Angeliz Beltre Colon, Lindsey Berthiaume, Alec Borelli, Damien Boucher, Andrew Bousquet, Emma Bransky, Ryan Bray, Samantha Buchanan, Joseph Budney, Alivia Cannon, Olivia Carrier, Riley Caruso, Madyson Chicoine, Evan Christiano, Petru Cojocaru, Rachel Conlon, Mariselle Cosme, Zachary Cournoyer, Kyleigh Czechowski, LeeAnn Dagnese, Daniel Daige, Wyatt Daoust, Emma Davidson, Jeffrey Denham, Sean Derenas, Jonathan Desmarais, Lianna Diaz, Jayden-James Dunston, James Ferreira, Cole Finizza, Kacey Flanagan, Robert Fleck IV, Madison Fournier, Ethan Gallant, Devin Gavaletz, Bradley Graves, Brandon Grenier, Renee Hallaman, Bridget Hast, Isabelle Herholz, Liam Honthumb-Wachewski, Derek Hosley, Carly Impey, Ian James, Eva Jerez, JadyN Katz, Abigail Kibaru, Jordan Kippax, Madisyn Kozlowski, Alyssa Kutzko, Tyler Labbe, Matthew Lach, Braeden LaPointe, Benjamin Latour, Emma Levasseur, Albert Luciano, Patrick Luperchio, Ryan MacCormack, Catherine Magnusson, Jadier Maldonado, Marissa Masciarelli, Shaun McLaughlin, Jenna McLeish, Vincent Messier, Leah Monti, Maggie Mullaly, Dorina Muska, Peter Nhan, Alix Norman, Noah Okolita, Gianna Pantalone, Colin Plante, Laci Pollone, Nicholas Pollone, Jared Powell, Evan Provost, Wyatt Rafferty, Wendy Ramirez, Jacob Reed, Jayden Remillard, Harrison Renaud, Margaret Russell, Samantha Russell, Caterina Schiappa, Connor Sentence, Sydney Seymour, Gerald Splaine, Adriana Stanley, Alan Suklis, Yasmin Tolomio, Landon Walker, Ryleigh Warchal, Timothy Welch, Thomas Wilk, Hailey Williamson, Gabrielle Zopatti
Principal's List: Aidan Anderson, Jacob Anderson, Kasey Babkauskas, Samuel Brill, Ethan Casagrande, Jomar Cintron Perez, Shane Conti, Richard Corriveau, Peter Courville, Lillian Cybula, Gabriel Dadah, Andrew Dip, Marissa Dumas, Makayla Graham, Samuel Hampton, James Heywood, Kristina Liberty, Logan McCann, William Menice, Macaylah Miller, Peyton Paretie, Colby Richardson, Liam Ryan, Zachary Sabotka, Cody Savary, Madison Sibert, Lacey Sullivan, Kyle Sylwanovicz, Trent Szela, Isabella Taiste, Liberty Tanksley, Christopher Verdolino, Cole Vignali, Sebastian Winer

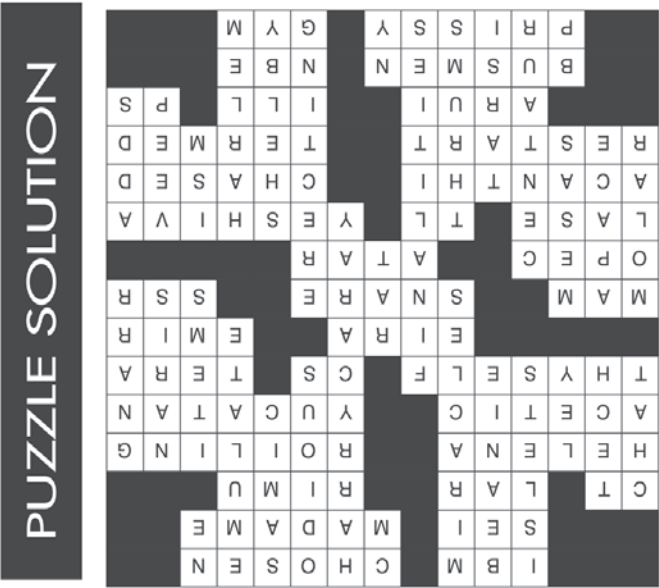


CLUES ACROSS

1. Big tech firm
4. Picked
10. Type of whale
11. A woman of refinement
12. New England state
14. Common gibbon
15. Tall coniferous tree
16. State capital
18. Making a liquid muddy
22. Vinegary
23. Peninsula
24. Thee
26. Atomic #55
27. Used in units of measurement
28. Welsh female name
30. Arab ruler title
31. One's mother
34. Trap
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Assn. of oil-producing countries
39. Holy fire
40. Emit coherent radiation
41. Atomic #81
42. Orthodox Jewish college
48. Herbs
50. Ran after
51. Begin again
52. Named
53. Barbary sheep
54. Unwell
55. Postscript
56. Drivers
58. One point east (clockwise) of due north
59. Prim
60. A facility equipped for sports or physical training

CLUES DOWN

1. Small islands
2. Skullcap
3. Unexplained events
4. One hundredth of a meter
5. Beloved baseball announcer
6. Repulsive
7. Northern European languages
8. Match or surpass
9. Northeast
12. Chew the fat
13. Innovative industry
17. Land to put down to grass
19. Products
20. Nostril
21. Surprise Icelandic politician
25. Conclusive acts
29. Inform on
31. Grinding tooth
32. Keep up
33. Tablelands
35. Raising
38. Mythical creature
41. Hums
43. Mountain in Antarctica
44. Neighborhood in Manhattan
45. Distinctive practice
46. Vice president
47. Contributes to
49. Small bones
56. Oil company
57. Empire State



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P.A.L. of the Week

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Name: Peanut
Breed: DLH
Sex: Female
Age: 8 yrs. 7 mos.

Hello! My name is Peanut and I am a senior cat hunting for a home where people understand my quirks. I need to be in a heated, closed workshop or barn because when I am in the home, I get temperamental quickly and I will swat to let you know I'm displeased. I'm a great mouser, so I earn my keep! I also seem to like chickens, but I am terrified of all other animals. My friends here at the shelter highly recommend that you keep me closed up into the building where you want me to catch the mice. If I sound like the cat you need, head down to the shelter during any of our open hours so we can meet.

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PERSON of the WEEK

Joan Bedard, East Brookfield, MA

We are recognizing Joan on her recent 96th birthday and being the town's oldest resident.

Joan has been the best teacher for our kids, and a perfect example of all that is great about East Brookfield!

Happy Birthday Joan...we wish you happiness and good health, and thank you for all that you've done over the years for the Community.

— Submitted by Anne Bedard Towle and Jim Metcalf

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

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WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES DEAN'S LIST

WORCESTER – Worcester State University congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2020.

Auburn

Alexa K Adams, Casey M Baron, Alysha C Benoit, Samantha L Brabbs, Brigid F Campbell, Ariana R Casasanta, Alex A Cataldo, Elizabeth J Cedrone, Ioannis Chatzopoulos, Olivia L Copson, Colleen M Cutting, Deanna A Dalli, Quynh D Doan, Maxwell B Engel, Ashley MFazio, Jessica D Ferris, Abigail M Frost, Alexandra E Giaquinto, Rachel A Griffin, Maggie R Grogan, Lindsay E Guittarr, Megan K Gurlitz, Nicholas John, Sang Q Lam, Elizabeth R Lauzonis, Tyler J Lavalley, Vina P Le, Nora D LeBlanc, Madison R Marois, Julianna C Martinelli, Aleen M Merzoian, Monika Mularski, Delaney K Nadeau, Samuel M Njuguna, Jeison R Ortega, April T Pepin, Amanda N Roux, Meghan E Sjogren, Brianna L Stomski, Caitlyn E Sullivan, Kiana Torres, Allison J Woeller, Andre Zink

Blackstone

Amanda S Alves, Shayna M Boyan, Kayla M Briggs, Rachel J Doiron, Kelly E Dwyer, Faith L Gudaitis, Andre M Jarret, Emily N Labrie, Joshua T Mirra, Tori E Soggi, Rebecca F Swenson

Brimfield

Kayla C Archambault, Heather E Larson, Kassandra Sanchez, Alison P Senecal, Anita J Swift

Brookfield

Natasha D Austin, Jade E Menard, Cayleigh L Peterson, Mia E Wilbur

Charlton

Susan Burtchell, Kylie E Chupka, Caitlyn E Dalbec, Marci R Giorgio, Megan R Greenough, Zachary M Hill, Abigail E Howard, Kayleigh M Irish, Lyndsay R Jansson, Angela M Kaperonis, Barbara N Kuria, Sabrina M Lomax, Matthew A Lovely, Jonah J Messier, Emily L Novack, Leyonia J Ramirez, Johanna E Riddle, Kathryn E Ryan, Eliana H Singer, Abigail M Snopkowski, Elizabeth R Stone, Lyba Tariq, Molly Zastrow

Charlton City

Julia L Fitzpatrick, Kayla J Fitzpatrick

Douglas

Sydney C Connor, Sara A Finnegan, Meghan L Foley, Nicole E Forget, Jenna R Glode, Maureen L Grady, Margaret E Gurney, Alexandra M Hebert, Hanna R Kearney, Ryan J Klenk, Melissa E Landry, Grace M Lapan, Santina M MacGregor, Isabel M Mazzarella, Samantha I Meech, Sydney E Rodriguez, Hailey K Skowronski, Jordan A Staples, Erin S Theroux, Alec R Turner, Rebekka L White, Angela M Woodford

Dudley

Amanda J Babbitt, Lauren V Beckman, Riley P Biron, Bellalorraine M Carey-Hicks, Vanessa Corriveau, Emily M Costa, Aneta Czyz, Geoffrey F Franke, Emily F French, Megan F Gatsogiannis, Juliet L Helock, Stephen E Humphrey, Lauren E Jachimczyk, Shelby W Jyringi, Arton Krasniqi, Amanda Lane, Allison R Marrier, Erin Masciangioli, Aisha L Mufti, Kailyn J Murphy, Eric W Norman, Camryn M Ozolins, Laura A Reno, Jenise Richard, Marrissa Scopa, Justyn W Sudyka, Sarah E Tonkin, Keara L Vangel

East Brookfield

Emma J Bain, Ciara A Haddad, Aidan L Joyce, James E Joyce, Julia E Joyce, Toni-Anne McLean-Rowe, Erin G Parker

East Douglas

Hailey R Baldwin, Rachel E Dixon

Fiskdale

Toumckham Noinala, Paige Szczypien

Grafton

Kylie A Cahill, Mikayla A Corda, Gabrielle R Decosta, Amber R Dumas, Samuel R Errara, Charles W Fasold, Isabelle L GianDomenico, Ryan M Lewis, Matthew F Lukasevich, Brad S Palmer, Emily L Parish, Dana M Rivard, Margaret T Sheehan, Bailey R Shepard, Erin J Slason, Brendan S Smith, Rainiery Tavarez

Holland

Kailey L McCleary

Leicester

Riane E Anderson, Nicholas A Beando, Giselle Boateng, Ryan P Carney, Hawraa H Chreim, Haylee D DiLiddo, Meaghan M Dupuis, Dimitrios Gaitanidis, Patrick D Gallant, Merrick T Jarmulowicz, Efstathia Kapoukranidis, Konstantina Kapoukranidis, Kayley L Laflamme, Josie R Lavin, Mackenzie A Lavin, Judy Le, Amelia M McCarthy, Trevor V Mott, Ally E O'Neill, Meagan M Perro, Evgenia Psarras, Mac T Rice, Madison F Seroter, Matthew S Splaine, Annette K Tran, Elyse A Whittemore

Millford

Alison H Balducci, Dominick R Benjamin, Erin R Bethel, Michael P Branch, Caitlin E Cafarella, Jaclyn I Delmonico, Siobhan E Mulledy, Joseph L Pryor, Isaiah S Ramirez, Lorena D Santos, Jacob C Tomaso, Kathryn A Watson, Iara Yang

Millbury

Jonathan F Beaudoin, Scout R Beaudoin, Mason J Broyles, Juan M Brunelle, Jaresa J Burgos, Sarah A Crossman, Edward J Daher, Zoey L Dean, Juliana E Dick, Anna C Gaimari, Matthew V Genzale, Andre F Lopes, Tyler O MacKoul, Melanie E Riedle, Courtney J Schultz, Gianna K Vincequere, Brittany E Watson

Millville

Ryan M DelGizzi, Jenna A Eddy, Jada I Lebron-Mussulli, Delaney C Rose

North Brookfield

Brodin P Coughlin, Janet M Fortune, Breana L Joubert, Kari M Mickunas, Madison J Parker, Megan M Quigley, Patrick P Waugh, Tory E Zalauskas

North Grafton

Brian A Barthelmes Jr., Kevin F Barthelmes, Catherine Y Cameron, Maximillian J Cleveland, Mia C Couto, Anton Elkomos, Katelin Murphy, Ian T Scarlett, Andrea Sivakova, Colleen M Ward, Patrick B Young

North Oxford

Zachary E Alicandro, Mina L Carrabba, Brooke E Dionne, Heather M Hibbard, Christian D Keeler, Rachel E Stelmach, Susan L Vigeant

Northbridge

James W Blair, Andrew J Cleary, Grace O Demers, Joshua A Fung-A-Fat, McKena L Hendriks, Megan M Mattox, Michael D Mattox, Ashley F Minior, Sean C Otoole, Aubrey J Plante, Cameron J Richards

Oxford

Julia M Carrier, Amanda D Gevry, Kayli R Lopriore, Amber M Melanson, Alexis N Melton, Fatima Nadeem, Arianna E Navedo, Julia K Pepka, Christian T Shadis, Donel Tamokwe, Julianne E Welsh

Palmer

Shannon E Davis, Ashelyn M Granger, Sydney G LeVasseur

South Grafton

Olivia R Bonati, Daniel M Keller, Tyler R LaComfora, Jorge Laguna, Jessica L Rancourt

Southbridge

Kathryn E Bohm, Lannaya D Brandt, Luis R Maldonado, Lemis A Melendez, Kaighley S Obuchowski, Michael T Payne, Chantelle L Ricard, Dalizbeth Rivera-Szczypien, Joseph P Stella, Marissa L Stuart, Natyarie P Villanueva

Spencer

Cameron T Anderson, Christina R Berard, Colby S Brennan, Shelby F Brooks, Myrah E Decelle, Michael J Dow, Rachel M Duda, Eric R Fyrberg, Madison R Gallagher-Gould, Kristin M Hadley, Jaymee L Hayes, Alexandria J Hensel-Werderitch, John A Kingston, Jessica L Lascom, Abigail L Meyer, Kayla A Morrison, Jennifer M Morrissey, Cassidy R Murphy, Elias F Nelson, Johnny C Nguyen, Kimarilis Ojeda, Nicole A Ouellette, Michael C Perro, Alexander J Robidoux, Samantha R Sousa, Ariana R Strout, Rachael L Thibeault, Seth M Wesinger

Sturbridge

Kenneth D Farrell, Brandon M Gatta, Aaron M Kingman, Tyler B Mills, David J Novack, Cayce R Pappas, Mackenzie A Pratt, Taylor R Whittredge

Sutton

Ayla M Allard, Lily G Brooks, Haley R Brown, Riley J Brown, Danielle M Cofsky, Evan T Culross, Jillian M Dombroski,

Andrew M Gerr, Andrew M Girouard, Cameron Hopkins, Sydney K Howe, Ashley Lavoie, Miranda B Lemoine, Emily M Milaszewski, Matheus M Montenegro, Erin C Murphy, Brenna K Perry, Holland A Redding, Gianluca Romeo, Kevin M Russo, Alexis M Violette

Upton

Aleah M Castonguay, Christopher A Galvao, Brynn E Mitchell, Erin O Murphy, Hayden J Ramsey, Mercedes R Tredeau

Uxbridge

Calvin M Aia, Amanda F Brodeur, Joel N Buabeng, Corey R Burke, Mikala M Davis, Angelo B DeMalia, David S Echavarria, Dimitri I Jaros, Ellie C Lapan, Jade S Letendre, Bruce Marchand, Miranda A Mendes, Madison L Poirier, Russell S Wise, Jillian R Zinkus

Wales

Liam J Grueter

Webster

Cody P Adams, McKayla A Baldwin, William R Bartlett, Julianne D Bazinet, Emma T Bonneau, Kathleen M Cafarelli, Michael E Camacho, Kevin R Collamati, Amanda L Collins, Jake W Ford, Caitlin D Frabotta, Ryan P Hanney, Katelyn J Holden, Emily E Jones, Sophia A Kontoes, Hanna K Kunkel, Evan R Maniatis, Edna N Mbugua, Hannah L Picchioni, Samantha L Proulx, Jacqueline L Sperling, Savannah J Walckner, Breanna E Ward, Brittany C Ward, Sarah M Wong-Kam

West Brookfield

Malorie N Kenneway, Angela M Landino, Faith O Leddy, Alexia C Paquette, Giana R Tobin

Whitinsville

Forrest G Amtmann, Elizabeth R Bisailon, Brian R Bliss, Adam J Briand, Tyler J Brodeur, Alexandra K Clauss, Myah C Dawson, Adam T Dullea, Cassidy E Gies, Andrew C Kinney, Olesya J Kyrychok, Marisa L Lortie, Dylan D Murray, Alexandra Orn, Melody G Powers, Melissa A Prudhomme, Michael A Santurri, Emma M Senosk, Noah N Shaikhly, Emily A Shorey




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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Lost time is never found again

Lately, we’ve been hearing an awful lot of chirping about how people are too busy. Too busy to catch up with extended family; too busy to grab a workout; too busy to read a book; too busy to do the things we forgot we enjoyed doing. The largest contributor to the lack of free time boils down to time spent at work. Many people in today’s world have two or three jobs to make ends meet. Sometimes, however, we need to make some cuts in our lives to give ourselves something more valuable than money, time. Time is a treasure.

For one, you can’t make more time. Ways to earn money will always be at your fingertips however there is never a way to create more time. There is not a spell book that has the answer to creating more hours in a day or a way to give you more years on Earth. Time is finite, something we all can stand to remember.

Take a moment to think about the fact that you can do more with time off than with a day’s pay. While we all can earn a different amount of money during a shift at work, a day off is the same to all of us. During a day off, you can choose to do what you want with it. Catch up on chores, hike a mountain, catch a movie, enjoy a nice lunch or pick up your dusty guitar and remember how to play the C chord.

Memories hold more stock in our lives, than money. When we think back on our past experiences that brought us fond memories, how many of those were because of money and how many were because of another person? Travel of course costs money, or the purchase of a fancy boat, however it is the simple moments that are always the ones that count.

At the end of a person’s life, you will never hear them say they wished they had more money, however you will hear them say they wished they had more time. A good question to ask yourself if you had a short time to live, ‘would you like \$5 million dollars or ten more years to live?’ The answer is obvious.

A survey of roughly 5,000 people was conducted to back up the fact that most people prefer time over money. Most people opted to take a position with less hours and less money over long hours with a high salary. Young people, who have more time ahead of them, did choose to make more money, however this proves the point that if you have less time, you value it more.

Money changes in value every day; time does not. Think about the price tag you would place on a three-hour beach day with good friends. In the time of a pandemic these moments become even more important.

Time brings us awareness and clarity and gives us a chance to figure out the person we want to be or already are. These things cannot be bought. Sure we need money to live, however time is what puts life, into our lives. Often we need to get creative about how we can give ourselves more time. We must always remember to protect and prioritize our time.

Will we ever hear from Berthiaume & Durant?

To the Editor:

Everybody deserves, and should demand, that their elected leaders go on record with a statement outlining the pertinent facts and their take on the events of Jan. 6, 2021. Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and the unsure should all demand a statement. All of us should demand a statement out of our elected officials whether they be Democrat, Republican, or Independent.

None of us should accept the cowardice of silence.

On Jan. 6, 2021, the U.S. Capitol was breached for the first time since the War of 1812 by a violent mob convinced that the 2020 presidential election was in the process of being stolen. On Jan. 15, in this publication, Donnie Berthiaume was asked for his position on the events of Jan. 6, as well the general concept of conceding defeat to an

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The world doesn’t need another village idiot

To the Editor:

Every so often, I open, to scan, the opinion/letters/sound off pages of the New Leader. The players and the show seem to remain the same.

The leftist drones continue to drink the DNC FoolAyde, whilst the folk on the correct side of issues do their best to take away the FoolAyde then de-cult the drones.

Lest any of the drones now have knotted knickers along with a

myth-conception: I did not vote for DJT. Nor am I a neo-Nazi, Q-Anon, Breitbart, altRight etc. nutter.

I am a Bible believing, God fearing American who loves the USA as a republic, seeing no need for US to be just another idiot in a global village filled with the brain dead.

R. MICHAEL SMALL
NORTH BROOKFIELD

North Brookfield’s Board of Health is an example to follow

To the Editor:

As I hear day after day of the difficulties area residents have been experiencing desperately trying to schedule their vaccine appointments, I want to thank the North Brookfield Board of Health for stepping in to help the residents of our town. Trevor Bruso, Ethan Melad, and John Alphin spent hours setting up a website and contacting townspeople so that residents could sign up for information and, after screening, access COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

After consulting with State Representatives and Senior Center Director Sharon Donovan, they also set up a hotline for people who preferred to call in. The Board remains in constant contact with updates on

available sites and have asked people to respond when they finally have been vaccinated.

It is comforting to know that our North Brookfield Board of Health has our health and welfare in mind as they go about their duties; that our town is not part of a “health alliance” with allegiance to several towns, but that, to our Board of Health, protecting our residents is the top priority.

So, thank you, Trevor, Ethan, and John, from two grateful seniors. You have provided an example for other towns to follow. Keep up the good work.

Stay safe.

MARILYNN AND STEVE BORST
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Might be time to Bagg it

To The Editor:

Let me first apologize for my faux pas in last week’s submission, “Sorry, my mistake.” When listing a few of the states upon which BLAMTIFA have bestowed their love, I incorrectly used the two-letter abbreviation, MI, in the version I submitted. It should have read Minneapolis, MN. The letters, MI, refer to Michigan, where Empress of Covid County, Gretchen Whitmer, scourge of nursing homes, rules. So, if you were hoping to visit Minneapolis, Michigan after the restrictions of the Chi-Com virus have been lifted, I am sorry to disappoint you – it doesn’t exist.

Now, on with the show!

Bagg Boy, of the Unscrupulous Seven, has been hounding two locally elected officials, Representatives Berthiaume and Durant, to answer “Gotcha” questions regarding their views of the controversial results of the 2020 election. To quote Mona Lisa Vito, in “My Cousin Vinny,” “Nobody can answer it... it’s a [southern product from a northbound bull] question!”

Anyone with an IQ above Koko the Gorilla will understand that, either way the question is answered, Baggem will be there to quickly provide an obfuscation. If they were to assert that the election was stolen, Bagg will surely come back with, “Local Politicians are in lock step with Trump and peddling lies, fear, and threats!!!” On the other hand, if they answer that they don’t agree with the President and believe there was insufficient evidence of fraud, Bagg’s claim would be, “Local RINO’s side with Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer!”

If they answer, they can’t win. It’s called a “Catch-22.” Bagg has recruited others of the Suspicious Seven to create the appearance there is a groundswell of curiosity concerning the opinions of Berthiaume and Durant. Whoever writes all those letters would give Sybil (with her multiple personalities), a run for her money, if she were still alive. Obviously, the effort of the campaign here is to discredit the Representatives in the minds of the Republican reader.

As I have said in previous letters, I try not to make it a habit of providing an unsolicited response, especially to people who have yet to provide any evidence that they are, in fact, living, breathing, tax-paying, voting, homo sapiens. Someone is writing these letters, but the names you see are about as authentic as the following “Magnificent Seven”: Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch, Bert and Ernie, Elmo, Grover, and Snuffleupagus. This obsessive insistence on receiving an answer might be a trait learned as a boy. Perhaps Bagg, or whoever this individual truly is, was never told by their parents to stop repeating themselves. Trust me, Bagsgie, you were “heard” the first time. Asking 15 more times isn’t going to move anyone into providing you with an answer. Mr. Berthiaume and Mr. Durant have better things to do, such as, make sure there are, at least, the slightest bit of checks and balances in this bluest of blue states. I’ll even presume that, like me, most of the other readers understand and agree with their lack of response to your petulant nagging. I believe it was you that included this in one of your weekly harangues: “Silence is the speech of cowards.” Oh, wait, that was Yo-yorok filching a line from Abraham Lincoln. It doesn’t matter, because the letters submitted by Har(dy-HarHar) Yarok and (paper or plastic) Bagg come from the same angry leftist mindset. I will see your unattributed quote and raise you with this: “Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.” Proverbs 17:28

As a final thought, I say to you, Baggrosenbergyarok, a nom de plume does not deserve a response. Perhaps writing in under your true identity will help lift the veil?

I should expect, I suppose, a possible flurry of angry letters denouncing my disrespectful liberties with the names of Yarok, Bagg, and the rest of them. Much like the claims of Sasquatch liv-

Turn To **HERHOLZ** page **A10**

Estate planning for blended families

If you’re in a blended family, you’re already aware of the emotional and financial issues involved in your daily life. But what about the future? When it’s time to do your estate planning – and it’s never too soon for that – you’ll need to be aware of the entanglements and complexities that can get in the way of your vision for leaving the legacy you desire.

You can take comfort in knowing that you’re far from alone. More than half of married or cohabiting couples with at least one living parent, or parent-in-law, and at least one adult child, have a “step-kin” relationship, according to a study from researchers at the University of Massachusetts and other schools. That’s a lot of estate-planning issues.

Nonetheless, the task does not have to be overwhelming – as long as you put sufficient time and thought into it. Here are some ideas that may help:

Seek fairness – but be flexible. Even in a nonblended family, it’s not always easy to be as equitable as you’d like in your estate plans – too often, someone feels they have been treated unfairly. In a blended family, these problems can be exacerbated: Will biological children feel cheated? Will stepchildren? Keep this in mind: Fair is not always equal – and equal is not always fair. When deciding how to divide your assets, you’ll need to make some judgment calls after carefully evaluating the needs of all your family members. There’s no guarantee that everyone will be satisfied, but you’ll have done your best.

Communicate your wishes clearly. When it comes to estate planning, the best surprise is no surprise – and that’s especially true in a blended family. Even if you’re the one creating your estate plans, try to involve other family members – and make your wishes and goals clear. You don’t have to be specific down to the last dollar, but you should provide a pretty good overall outline.

Consider establishing a revocable living trust. Everyone’s situation is different, but many blended families find that, when making estate plans, a simple will is not enough. Consequently, you may want to establish a revocable living trust, which gives you much more control than a will when it comes to carrying out your wishes. Plus, because you have transferred your assets to the trust, you are no longer technically the owner of these assets, so there’s no reason for a court to get involved, which means your estate can likely avoid the time-consuming, expensive and very public process of probate.

Choose the right trustee. If you do set up a living trust, you’ll also need to name a trustee – someone who manages the assets in the trust. Married couples often serve as co-trustees, but this can result in tensions and disagreements. As an alternative, you can hire a professional trustee – someone with the time, experience and neutrality to make appropriate decisions and who can bring new ideas to the process.

Above all else, make sure you have the right estate-planning team in place. You’ll certainly need to work with an attorney, and you may also want to bring in your tax advisor and financial professional. Estate planning can be complex – especially with a blended family – and you’ll want to make the right moves, right from the start.

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. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

who live in U.S. Territories that had no say whatsoever.

Of course, the constitution which was written before the emergence of political parties requires a two thirds majority for conviction, so it was an acquittal.

We all deserve to know how Sen. Gobi, Rep. Durant, Rep. Berthiaume, and Rep. LaBoeuf would have voted had they been jurors in the public impeachment trial.

To help jog their memories I will cite some recent quotes from notable politicians:

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Washington): “As the attack unfolded, Mr. Trump sided with the rioters in a contentious call with Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, saying ‘Well Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are.’”

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump's second impeachment trial

To the Editor:

The thing that consumed so much of the last week is the impeachment trial, the unprecedented second impeachment trial for one president who ironically only served one term. The result of this impeachment trial was known for some time, so the trial itself was more of a formality, the thing we need to get out of the way so we can get back to the COVID relief bill and other business of the country.

As they discussed the constitutionality of the trial, my favorite phrase was “the imaginary January exception.” If a president can’t stand trial for impeachment after he is out of office, and it takes some five weeks to schedule a trial, that effectively grants a January exception, offering immunity to presidents in their final month in office. The final month, when there should be a peaceful transfer of power, is arguably the most dangerous time of any presidency. If we had a “January exception,” that would signal to all future presidents to pull out all the stops, up to and including insurrection/treason/autocoup to remain in power after an electoral loss because if successful they remain president and if unsuccessful they are no worse off than had they accepted the results of

the election they lost.

As the House impeachment managers got into the details of their case, I was struck by how moved I was, how freshly angered, how much I learned, and how much the trial grabbed the attention of the nation. There were so many moments where the reality of what our country has and is facing was closely brought to life. Any occasion to lay out the threats and especially the internal threats to our security is a good thing. I was gripped and I expect anybody who was actually paying attention was gripped.

I have long said that this Senate impeachment trial had to happen, and it needed to happen, if only to send a signal that you cannot incite an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and not face any consequences. I remember watching the events of January 6 live and feeling angry, hurt, and sad about what was happening to my country. Watching it again, I began to tear up as I was taken back to that day. There was footage I hadn’t seen before. The way the impeachment managers put it together, with the old footage for context, the dated tweets, the timed video clips from Jan 6, and then up to the video of a Capitol police officer

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A13**

Cancel culture and misinformation

To the Editor:

Months ago, I asked a young lady why she was against Trump. She stated that he was racist. Oh really, I said; what did he say or do to give you that impression. She couldn’t state anything except to say that what it says on CNN and MSNBC. She was trained to think this way. That’s the purpose of the brainwashing of the left, keep on repeating misinformation and eliminate any discussion or other viewpoints.

It’s interesting that on Twitter, Facebook, and the liberal news any white person can be labeled as a ‘White Nationalist’ or ‘Nazi’ with no threat of removal from the platform. Talk about the election fraud or say anything against BLM and you will be automatically shut down. The good thing about the impeachment was it exposed the media’s complete lie about Trump and Charlottesville. We go to hear the complete unedited clip of the president Trumps speech after the incident. He stated “There was some good people on both sides” and then said “there were bad actors also on both sides.” He condemned both the white nationalist and Antifa. You have been told a lie for three years that he never condemned the neo-Nazis. But that doesn’t make a

difference to the progressive liberals. They just wanted to brain wash the weak minded., and they did a good job on many of them.

My daughter took a fall class at Worcester State called “Elections.” I figured that would be a good thing so she could learn about the process. Due to the Covid, she had to take her courses online. She used my computer in my office. I happened to walk by and heard the instructor railing against Donald Trump. He was a long-haired older man, not unlike the hippies from the ‘60’s. He was calling Trump a dictator because of his use of Executive Orders and the other liberal talking points. I could see that there were about 20 students in the class. In the 15 minutes of spouting hatred of our president, not one of the students spoke or asked questions during his diatribe. I asked my daughter why. She stated because she did not want to get a failing grade. This teacher was clearly a progressive liberal indoctrinating the students. There was no exchange of ideas or examination of different viewpoints. Any dissent from his viewpoint was seen as “incorrect” and cause for you to fail the course. Where’s the critical thinking and exchange of ideas needed for intel-

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A13**

Who speaks for the girls?

To the Editor:

Unable to get past the revelations coming out of Connecticut and other places concerning not-notch female athletes losing their place in the athletic sun of life to other competitors who just happen to be incontestably biological males with all the attendant physical and psychological athletic advantages that status confers, I often wonder what sort of conversations occurred between parents and their inconsolable and bitterly disappointed high school daughters on the ride home from district and state meets where their dreams of glory had just been demolished on a very uneven playing field.

When I was a kid, my father worked all the time, and was not able to come and see me play in countless baseball and basketball games, so I have no memories of post-game rides home as a young athlete.

But, unfortunately for my own brood, I more than made up for it with them. Being a teacher with the luxury of free time, I was an observer at hundreds of their games, meets and practices involving baseball, field hockey, cross country, Pop Warner football, softball, track, soccer, fencing, and judo. To the charge of being a pushy, over-involved father, and to my undying and great chagrin, I plead guilty and throw myself on the mercy of the court of public opinion. What’s done is done, there can be no going back.

On our drives back to East Brookfield, if things had gone well, the comments were usually along the lines of: “Hey, nice job today. Want to go to Howard’s for ice cream?”

But, if there was no joy in Mudville after that ill-fated game or failed personal effort, the comments might have been something like: “You looked at third strikes twice today. Twice! Never took the bat off your shoulder. Maybe the pitcher should have stuck a blaze orange post-it note with ‘Hit me’ printed on it. I mean, is this why I spent half my paycheck at the batting cages all winter, so you could watch the ball right into the catcher’s mitt? C’mom, buddy, sleep in your bed, not at the plate!”

Or, to one of the girls: “That race was lost in the first two minutes. Why did you let her get so far out in front so early? You’re very good at this, but you have to battle from the gun. Don’t let ‘em run away from you. Once they’re over the hill and gone, you won’t be reeling them back in. Too late. Occupandi temporis--seize the moment!”

Or, to another “...pretty good today, honey, but that girl with the long blond ponytail-she went around you all afternoon like you had cement shoes on. Quickness, it’s all about quickness. O.K., you were tired. Too bad. Don’t forget what Vince Lombardi said, ‘Fatigue is the enemy of us all.’ “

And, there was probably much more, but they all turned out O.K., despite the old man. All well-educated, hard working, out of state and on their own-but in daily contact with their best friend, their mom. Maybe heavy involvement in sports--at my urging-had some positive effects after all.

Here is what I imagine may have transpired-along with a little wishful thinking-in that Subaru Outback with the “Biden-Harris,” “Coexist,” and “Respect Science” bumper stickers that was making its way from the state track meet back to home in some well-heeled suburban town in Connecticut, and ferrying the broken-hearted and disillusioned high school senior girl who had entertained entirely reasonable hopes to have been crowned State Champion in the girls 100 meter event that day.

Picture this sad scene: Mom, the prototypical white, liberal, suburban soccer mom, is at the wheel. Dad, coolly situated in the back seat with the New York Times, and relaxed in his Fred Perry gear, doesn’t have much to

say. Slouched in the front passenger seat, clad in a track warm up suit, and sobbing uncontrollably with a tear-stained face...is the female phenom, the girl who has dominated school track events for several years in Connecticut. Despite her convulsive weeping and racked breathing, she looks every inch the stellar athlete she has worked so hard to become.

Once on the road, she regains some her normally sangfroid nature, and begins to speak: “Mom, it wasn’t even close, I was totally humiliated. I came here thinking I was going to go home with the State Champion’s trophy, and that that would probably get me the scholarship I wanted for college next year. I should’ve just stayed home. Not only was today a waste, the past ten years since we learned when I was eight that I was fast, I now see as a huge waste of my time and yours. All that time, I had a dream of becoming the best in my event of all the girls in the state who are good runners. I ran in the heat and the cold, in the rain and the snow. I lifted weights; I ate only the healthiest foods; I

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A10**

To the Editor:

I watched as much of the impeachment trial as I reasonably could, given I was working last week. I have to say, I was impressed by the case presented by the House led by Jaimie Raskin. The level of effort they put into collecting all the videos and tweets with dates and times pausing between things to provide context was done very well. In one sense it was a waste of time because the acquittal by a minority of senators was assured before Trump even committed the crime. On the other hand, though, a masterful prosecution by the House was necessary for the historical record.

With the impeachment trial concluded, we can now close the book on Donald Trump and hopefully he will never be heard from again.

Dana George Reed! It’s been a while, you’ve been missed! I invite you to describe the evidence you believe suggests we “likely have an illegitimate President, Vice President...” Do you believe that there are any allegations, even if true, that would reverse the outcome of the 2020 election? Seeing as how you’re convinced that some of Biden’s 81 million votes are illegit-

imate, how many of Trump’s 75 million votes do you think are illegitimate? What would convince you that President Biden and Vice President Harris are the legitimate winners of the offices they hold?

Donald Trump was not the effective authoritarian many of us feared, but not for lack of trying. He was incompetent, and his grandiose narcissistic personality disorder, his unremarkable intelligence, and his desire to surround himself with “yes men” rendered him quite ineffective at achieving his obvious goals. He was banned from Twitter and Facebook in his final weeks in office in a weird “shock ‘n awe” where Big Tech took the reins of the country for a few weeks before he could do more damage.


The Supreme Court of the United States has rejected every claim that came their way regarding overturning the results of the 2020 election. Mike Lindell of “My Pillow” is free to express whatever he believes whether it is true or not. Mr. Lindell is even protected by the 1st amendment if he is deliberately spreading lies. Target, Best Buy, and

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HERHOLZ
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ing in the mountains of the Northwest, there is simply no evidence that they exist. My limited requests of Yarok for validation of his existence have been met with no response. John McRae's history of calling out the entire crew of fictitious characters, inviting any one or all of them to a cordial cup of morning mud at Cumberland Farms, is well documented in the Letters to the Editor archives of the New Leader. To date, not one of the seven (and growing) have chosen to accept his gracious offers.

No matter what you may think of how well the two Representative have done for their districts, I think it is wise of them not to acquiesce and provide Freddie Baggs with the ammunition he so desperately wants. Having been the victim of my answer to a question, asked by a lib, taken out of context, I quickly learned how to spot a "snare." I've also argued with liberals before, and I learned this: according to them, because of their superior intellect, college degrees, addiction to CNN, MSNBC, NPR, et al., you can never get them to concede any point in a debate. It is useless to argue with such closed minded individuals.

MATHEW HERHOLZ
SPENCER

MCRAE
continued from page A9

missed out on sleepovers at my friends' houses because I wanted to get all my proper sleep; I read everything I could about great female track stars. I hoped that when I got old and died, my obituary would have read: 'She was the fastest girl in Connecticut in 2020.' I wanted something that could've never been taken away from me. And now, today, I come here and get blown away by a 'girl' who has been only an average sprinter in the boys division for the past few years, but now wants to be seen as one of us—a girl. I wish I had studied an instrument instead; they couldn't take that away from me. You think it's fair, Mom?"

Mom, obviously groping for some-

BAGG
continued from page A8

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-Louisiana): "I voted to convict President Trump because he's guilty."

"He brought together a crowd but a portion of that was transformed into a mob, and when they went into the Capitol it was clear that he wished lawmakers be intimidated. Even after he knew violence was taking place, he continued to basically sanction the mob being there. And not until later did he actually ask them to leave. All of that points to a motive and a method and that is wrong — he should be held accountable."

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska): "President Trump — the nation's elected leader, the Commander in Chief of our armed forces — swore an oath to defend America and all that we hold sacred. He failed to uphold that oath."

Minority Leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky): "Former President Trump's actions preceding the riot were a disgrace, a disgraceful dereliction of duty."

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky): "President Trump is still liable for everything he did while he was in office... He didn't get away with anything, yet... yet." Suggesting the former president will see justice through ordinary crim-

thing to say, responds, "Oh, sweetie, Dad and I know it's tough for you right now. Why don't we find a Starbucks and I'll get you a nice latte, that'll make you feel better."

"No, Mom, let's just go home. I need to put this behind me, but I would like to know one thing: Why didn't you and Dad and the rest of the parents fight for us!? Couldn't you see what a charade this whole thing was? Why did you even let us run? You knew it was going to be a total joke. You left me out there to suffer all by myself. I was beat before the gun went off, and felt like I had a pack full of bricks on my back as I ran. We should've just walked off the track just as the starter's gun was about to be fired."

Mom interjects to say, "Oh, honey, look at these fools up here at this intersection with their Trump signs and

inal courts.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine): "His actions interfered with the peaceful transition of power, the hallmark of our constitution and our American democracy were an abuse of power... Instead of preventing a dangerous situation, President Trump created one. And rather than defend the constitutional transfer of power, he incited an insurrection with the purpose of preventing that transfer of power from occurring. His actions — they interfere with the peaceful transition of power, the hallmark of our constitution and our American democracy — were an abuse of power and constitute grounds for conviction."

Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pennsylvania): "His betrayal of the Constitution and his oath of office required conviction"

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Nebraska): "An impeachment trial is a public declaration of what a president's oath of office means and what behavior that oath demands of presidents in the future. But here's the sad reality: If we were talking about a Democratic president, most Republicans and most Democrats would simply swap sides. Tribalism is a hell of a drug, but our oath to the Constitution means we're constrained to the facts."

Sen. Richard Burr (R-North Carolina): "By what he did and by what he did not do, President Trump violated his oath of office to preserve, protect, and defend

the Constitution of the United States."

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah): "President Trump incited the insurrection against Congress by using the power of his office to summon his supporters to Washington on January 6th and urging them to march on the Capitol during the counting of electoral votes. He did this despite the obvious and well-known threats of violence that day. President Trump also violated his oath of office by failing to protect the Capitol, the Vice President, and others in the Capitol. Each and every one of these conclusions compels me to support conviction".

Republican senators who defended Trump adopted much of the same vague language they adopted the last time he was impeached, calling it "rushed," "without due process," "table banging," "partisan," "evidence is heresy."

Five years ago, Donald Trump made what may be the most accurate public statement he's ever made, "I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and I could shoot somebody and I would lose any voters, OK. It's like incredible." Senate Republicans largely proved him right.

Can we now call the 43 Republicans that voted not guilty as Stockholm Senators?

FRED BAGG
SPENCER

flags. Racist [expletive]. Shoot them the bird, won't you?"

The fleet-footed 18-year-old studies the faces of the flag wavers as she passes by, and says, "You know what, Mom? They look like normal, regular, happy people. Why would I want to insult them? I think if they had been there at the race today, they would've stood up for me and the rest of the girls. They look like they have good sense, and are the type of people who know the line 'The Emperor has no Clothes!'"

"Mom, the names on your bumper sticker wouldn't have supported me today; they would be entirely on the other side and would tell me to shut up and quit my whining. I hate to tell you, Mom, but if Mr. Trump had dropped in on the meet today, and had learned we were having to run against males for the State Championship, he would've

said, 'Are you crazy? Let the girls run!'"

"And, now, Mom, seeing as I'm a registered voter and of age, I think I want you to turn this car around and take me back to that intersection. I want to stand with those people. I think my eyes have been opened. I want to be a part of their joy and enthusiasm. This will help me get my mind off my disappointment. I know someone there will be happy to drive me home when it's over."

And speaking of something being over, I am done with being a millennial airhead, and maybe this day will turn out to be something far better for me than it has been so far. Thanks for the ride, Mom."

JOHN MCRAE
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HAR-YAROK

continued from page A9

Amazon are however under no obligation to carry the products of any particular company. A company built around the face of a seditionist, a person unwilling to accept the results of the 2020 election, an enemy of the United States, and a person who continues to incite unrest is just bad business. In the spirit of economic freedom and capitalism, “My Pillow” seems to be cancelled.

Down-ballot Republicans did better than Donald Trump because the former president is somewhat uniquely unfit for office and disliked in ways other politicians aren’t. I can’t believe that fraudulent ballots wouldn’t steal down-ballot races, too. The fact that down-ballot Republicans did better than Trump is evidence the vote was legitimate.

Mr. Robillard... I like the defense of sedition of insurrection. You launched into classic whataboutism, but took a decidedly juvenile approach, “I know what you are, but what am I?”

Mr. Robillard’s letter meandered from FISA warrants investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election resulting in dozens of guilty pleas and convictions including Trump’s campaign manager, his advisors, his personal attorney, and even Trump’s first appointee for National Security Advisor among others. Mueller also indicted 26 Russian citizens and 3 Russian companies... Yes, the FISA warrant was pulled during Obama’s term, but the discovery, prosecutions, and convictions all occurred during the first two years of Trump’s term. Robillard’s answer: “House and Senate Republicans were RINO’s back then... Insufficiently loyal to Dear Leader, Donald Trump.”

According to Robillard, after the 2018 mid-terms when the Democrats won back the House the Republican parted was “infused” with “free thinking Patriots”. Give me a break, the honest conservatives were driven out of town for failing a loyalty litmus test. The Trump loyalty test and pledge is not “free thinking,” it is “blind following.”

I for one would love to see the evidence of the organization and mobilization of “BLM and Antifa terrorist forces.” Who is in charge, exactly? Who was their commander? Who told them

to stand down, but to do it gradually and inconsistently as to not make it obvious somebody was in charge? If you are going to blame the DOJ for inaction in 2020, aren’t you blaming Bill Barr, Trump’s handpicked man to make the Mueller report go away? Aren’t you blaming Trump by extension?

Joe Biden released 22 years of tax returns, 1998-2019. Donald Trump released none.

Our local politicians aren’t “saying it like it is.” They are saying nothing. They know what happened, they can’t spin it, so they’re waiting for it to go away before they anger their constituents.

Mr. McRae – this week’s letter was a little more meandering and unfocused than most. We start with a list of unfulfilled goals of the Trump administration... The economy did set records – first president to end his term with fewer jobs than it started with since Herbert Hoover on the eve of the Great Depression. Regaining control of our borders? The fact is 80 new miles of barriers were built where there were none before by the president circumventing congress by declaring an emergency, Mexico didn’t pay for it, and it appears we had slightly more illegal immigration than during Obama’s term however it should be noted that illegal immigration has been falling for 40 years. McRae did use the word “fake” several times as though the more times he typed it, the more accurate it would be. He might have convinced me if he said “fake” more times...

Mr. McRae told us to expect gas lines and rationing within six months and home heating oil to double by next winter along with a certain tax increase and steep inflation... Like Obama’s term? Clinton’s term? I encourage everybody to mark their calendar for 6 months and 10 months from now so you can assess these wild predictions in the future.

I continue to be amazed at the level at which Mr. McRae is so passionately concerned about things that don’t affect his day-to-day life such as the role of men and women in society, and making sure a person faithfully present themselves in our cultural gender norms in accordance to their birth certificate... Good to know that our local conservative activist finds our Assistant Secretary of Health to be unattractive...

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to abate from our mid-Jan peak, but that doesn’t mean it is necessarily going away. The CEO’s of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are now warning we may never reach “herd immunity.” It seems more and more every day that the cat is out of the proverbial bag and the purpose of the vaccines (at this point) is more like the flu vaccine – reducing hospitalizations and deaths by mitigating the number of people infected and disease severity while the virus remains endemic in our population at a low level.

Why is herd immunity likely out of reach? We are seeing stubbornly high levels of “vaccine hesitancy,” too much to eradicate the virus. We are seeing several mutations and variants cropping up in different populations around the world that make the virus more contagious, evade the vaccines, and re-infect people who have already had it. We can mathematically determine from the observed R0 of COVID-19 and the measured efficacy of vaccines, we would need to vaccinate 96 percent of our population to achieve herd immunity. Even worse, we would need to vaccinate everybody faster than new mutations and variants can emerge. Even if 96 percent of our population wanted the vaccine it will take us a year to do that, and new variants of the virus crop up every two months.

Even though herd immunity is hopeless, the vaccine will prevent the virus from killing us at such high rates. The vaccine will prevent hospitals from literally overflowing with patients. The vaccine will allow COVID-19 to fade into the background and by winter 2022-2023 be similar to the flu – a virus everyone should get a vaccine for, but many won’t, and even then it will still kill three times as many people as the flu used to. The “end game” may very well be resetting 20 years of progress on average life expectancy and the widespread failure of high-risk non-essential businesses such as massage parlors, bars, personal trainers, etc.

Humanity contained, stomped out, and eradicated MERS before it ever reached the shores of the USA. Humanity contained, squashed, and eradicated SARS when it was an Asian problem. Humanity wasn’t able to contain COVID-19 and that is in no small part because it wasn’t eradicated

before it came to the United States. We had warning, we had other countries show us how to control it, we had more capability to control a virus than most other nations, and we just didn’t care. Controlling a pandemic or a modern plague is simply incompatible with the culture of the United States.

For all of those who cried “but the economy!” back when closing restaurants for the whole month of April 2020 seemed absurd... How much better would those businesses be now if we had eradicated the virus by May? How much better off would our currency be if we had eradicated the virus instead printing money out of nothing to the tune of literally trillions of dollars? When you consider that the biological disaster won’t be “over” and “new normal” until mid-2022, the sociological scars won’t be gone until 2024, what will this crisis of cost us? Remember when Trump didn’t want to listen to his advisers because he was worried about the stock market in Feb 2020? The Dow Jones from Feb 2020 seems pretty trite now, doesn’t it?

In the U.S., 661,797 new cases were confirmed last week for a total of 27.7 million cases. That is 661,797 people who used to be healthy but became ill enough to get tested. The deaths have come down somewhat from the holiday-season peak and in the past week 21,895 people died of COVID-19... People who used to be alive that are now dead and have families grieving. The United States has seen 485,332 deaths so far and counting. Funny how all these deaths now seem normal, isn’t it?

OMAR HAR-YAROK
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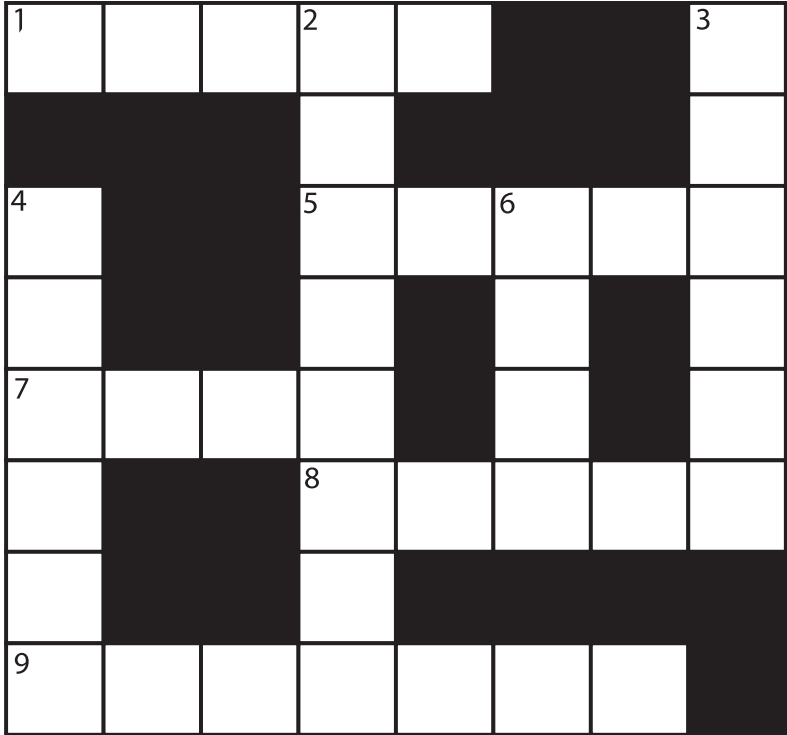
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Related to the moon
- 5. Muddy color
- 7. Slight hollow in surface
- 8. Most suitable
- 9. Hailing from China

DOWN

- 2. Desire to achieve
- 3. Happening each year
- 4. Astrological system
- 6. Instrument

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1637: FERDINAND III BECOMES HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR.
- 1898: THE USS MAINE EXPLODES IN HAVANA HARBOR, STARTING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.
- 1965: THE MAPLE LEAF FLAG OFFICIALLY BECOMES THE NEW NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA.



CHINESE NEW YEAR IS NOT AN ACCURATE WAY TO DESCRIBE THIS HOLIDAY SINCE OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO CELEBRATE IT. IT IS BETTER KNOWN AS WHAT?

ANSWER: THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

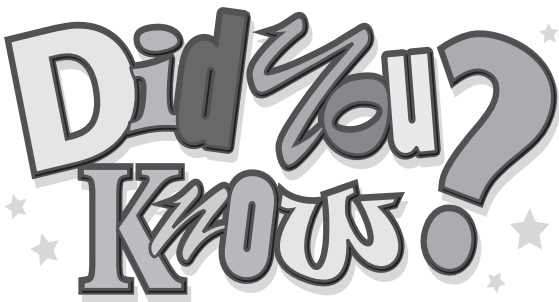


ANNUAL

occurring once every year



- ENGLISH: Celebrate
- SPANISH: Celebrar
- ITALIAN: Festeggiare
- FRENCH: Fêter
- GERMAN: Feiern



IN THE CHINESE ZODIAC, THE OX IS HARDWORKING AND DILIGENT. IT IS BELIEVED THIS WILL BE A YEAR OF REBUILDING AND DETERMINATION.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: DRAGON MASK

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to bath safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = L)

A. 5 16 11 7 11 24 5

Clue: Place to bathe

B. 17 7 2 22 18 14

Clue: Cascade of water

C. 17 25 12 4 4 18 14 23

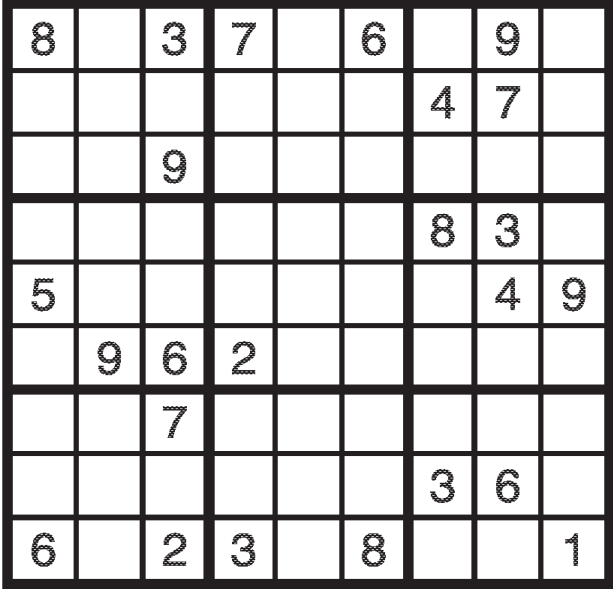
Clue: Without traction

D. 3 16 25 25

Clue: Rapidly move downward

Answers: A. bathtub B. shower C. slippery D. fall

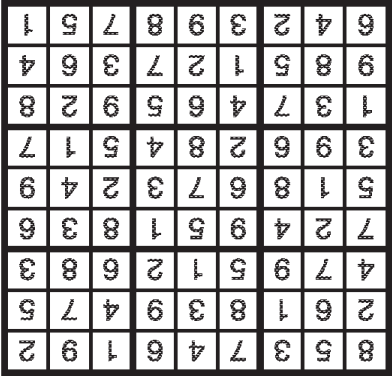
SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



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Leicester Public Schools
Notice of Public Hearing

Date of Public Hearing: Monday, March 1, 2021
Snow Date for Public Hearing: Tuesday, March 9, 2021
In accordance with Chapter 71 Section 38N of the General Laws, the Leicester School Committee will hold a public hearing on its proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.via Google Meet: Meeting ID: meet.google.com/jay-detf-tnh.
Phone Number: (US) 1-513-666-3059
PIN: 776 859 342#. Immediately following the hearing, there will be an open session meeting.
You may find the Superintendent's budget presentation on the district website: www.lpsma.net.
February 12, 2021
February 19, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING

The West Brookfield Water Department is having a public hearing on March 4, 2021 on the updating of the West Brookfield Water Department Rules & Regulations, and rate increase, to obtain a copy of proposed updates, please call (508) 867-1421 Ext. 8 or Ext. 306 office to be mailed a copy of planned updates and rate increase or Town Clerks office to review updates during regular office hours. Proposed updates will take effect immediately. The West Brookfield Water Department hearing is in the Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, in the Great Hall , West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585 on March 4, 2021 at 6:00p.m. Any Person wishing to be heard and have discussion on the proposed updates should appear at the time and place designated.
Respectfully Submitted
The West Brookfield Water Department Board of Water Commissioners
Robert E. Benson - Chairman
February 12, 2021
February 19, 2021

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By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Teresa Johnson and Phyllis Schoof to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., "Lender"; and its successors and assigns dated April 24, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 41306, Page 356, as assigned by Assignment

of Mortgage dated October 26, 2011 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 48090, Page 120 and as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated November 20, 2015 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 54663, Page 74, and assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated July 6, 2017 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 57379, Page 185, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 11:00 AM, on March 5, 2021**, on the premises known as **115 Charlton Road, Spencer, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit: A certain tract of land on the easterly side of the Charlton Road, Route 31; in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts being shown as a parcel of land entitled "Norman S. Kenward (sic), et ux, September 12, 1972, Reney Bros. Inc. Registered Engineers and Surveyors, Worcester, Massachusetts" which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 370, Plan 84 and which property is more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southwesterly corner thereof, which point is in the easterly line of said Charlton Road, Route 31, and which point is the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Eaton; Thence N. 05° 44' 05" E., 376.6 feet +1- along said Charlton Road, Route 31, to a point at land now or formerly of Hamelin; Thence S. 84° 16' 00" E., 155.2 feet along said Hamelin land to a point at land now or formerly of Myron H. Sibley; Thence S. 11° 09' 00" W., along said Sibley land to a point at land now or formerly of Eaton; Thence N. 84° 16' 00" W., along said Eaton land to the point of beginning. Granting the right of way to take water for ordinary household purposes from a spring on Myron Sibley's land lying easterly of the granted premises; and subject to the restriction that the grantees premises and the adjoining land of Myron H. Sibley. Being the same premises conveyed as described in a deed epm (sic) Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter to Alfred E. Deschamps dated September 30, 1991 recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 13682, Page 239. See also

deed from Irene R. Kenward to Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter dated July 31, 1980 and recorded in said Deeds in Book 13616, Page 27 regarding water rights. Conveyed with an easement to maintain an existing barn on land of Myron W. Sibley as recited in a deed from Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter by deed of Myron W. Sibley dated September 26, 1991 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 13682, Page 237. Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record. Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts. In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder. Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale. Dated: February 5, 2021 Present holder of said mortgage MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by its Attorneys Guaetta and Benson, LLC Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire P.O. Box 519

Chelmsford, MA 01824
February 12, 2021
February 19, 2021
February 26, 2021

Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:15PM at the Police Station Conference Room, 55 School St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received regarding amending the Zoning Bylaw. The following changes are proposed: Section II. Definitions by adding Adult Entertainment and Drive-through operations definitions, add Section IV.E.5.e. Drive-through operations, (Section IV.E.6.c. would change to b.), change Section IV. D through G. to E. through H. and add new Section IV.D. Business General 2 District, add Business General 2 District to Table 3- Dimensional Requirements and change Zoning Map to include Business General 2 District. Any person interested in or wishing to be heard should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed bylaw and map amendments is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA.
William King, Chair
February 19, 2021

Notice of Public Hearing
Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Special Permit – Applicant: Concord Brewer, Inc (DBA RapsCALLION); Owner: Thomas Lowkes (LTJ, LLC), Location: 8 Meadow Road, Spencer Assessor's Map U12-48-1. The applicant is requesting Special Permit under 7.2 and of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw Zoning to operate a microbrewery. The property is located within commercial zoning district.
February 19, 2021
February 26, 2021

Public Hearing

The Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing beginning at 6:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 9 2021, at the Brookfield Town Hall located at 6 Central Street. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an Administrative Appeal from Daniel Plourde regarding a Cease and Desist Order for outdoor winter recreational activities, including but not limited to, snow-cross activities at his property at 5 Quaboag Street, Brookfield in the town's Business (BB) and Flood Plain zoning district. Timothy Simon – ZBA Chairman
February 19, 2021

ROSENBERG

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screaming in agony as he was crushed by a door was incredibly well done. The nation needed to see this. Donald Trump's name can never be written about or said without anyone thinking about the horror he unleashed on Jan. 6. While much has been said about the word "fight," we are not robots reading a dictionary. What we're fighting for matters – some politicians "fight" for good healthcare, better education, and equitable economic opportunity. Donald Trump was urging people to "fight" to overturn the election which was being certified from his named enemies in a building down the street in the minutes to follow his speech. There is also greater context – Trump's tweets going back months and years, his anti-lockdown "Liberate!" Tweets which served as dress rehearsals for sending his supporters to occupy state capitols. The entire months-long "stop the steal" campaign is all part of the broader context. The full context of his speech on Jan.

6 can't be boiled down to a few dictionary words and that is why dozens of the arrested insurrectionists cited Trump's name and said he sent them. The prosecution laid out very compellingly and very persuasively that it was months and even years that led up to the "Stop the Steal" rally and then sent people off in a clearly violent direction. The impeachment managers used nearly all of their allotted 16 hours to methodically spell out, make the case and argue the case. The Trump defense team didn't even bother to go toe-to-toe and argue an effective case, they rested their case after 2.5 hours and yielded back 13.5 hours. I expected them to spend as much time as they could trying to defend the former president, argue their case, and rebut the Democrats in a serious way. Not that it would eventually matter, but Trump was not well-served with really a flimsy defense which boiled down to a "whataboutism" defense, focus on 1 word, and ignoring the entire context. Flimsy as his defense was, you go to trial with the evidence you got, and honestly, they probably didn't have 16 hours' worth of material. Perhaps the defense attorneys didn't take the case

seriously because their client didn't take the case seriously. We heard the phrase "witch hunt", "constitutional cancel culture," and other buzzwords that sound like they came out of Donald Trump's mouth. It was almost like Trump's other officials – they were never really talking to the journalists in the room or the American people, they were talking to Donald Trump alone who was watching TV on the sidelines and preparing to rip into them if they did not say words and phrases he wanted to hear. The Republican Party's approval rating has dropped to 38 percent, which is now 12 percent points lower than where Democrats are. People are leaving and deregistering from the GOP. Most damning was on Saturday morning a witness came forward, Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Washington) offered herself as a witness when she revealed that she was party to a phone call between Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-California) and Former President Trump while the Jan 6 attack was ongoing. McCarthy reached the president mid-riot and asked him to publicly and forcefully call off the riot. Trump repeated the falsehood that it

was Antifa that breached the Capitol. McCarthy corrected the president to tell him it was Trump supporters. The former president said, "Well, Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are." I ask our local conservatives – does that paint a picture of intent? Of course, 57 Senators voted to convict, including seven Republicans, with 43 voting to acquit. While still an acquittal due to the two thirds requirement for conviction, this represents the impeachment with the most conviction votes from a presidents' own party in U.S. History. The second impeachment trial ended as I would have expected and it is time for the country to move on. It is yet to be seen whether state Attorneys General will charge Trump with state crimes, but I expect the Biden Justice Department to leave the former president alone, not because it is the right thing, but because the best thing is for him to be in the dustbin of history.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

ROBILLARD

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growth in our colleges? The answer is that there is none. It's just liberal indoctrination now. Recently met a lady who worked at Worcester State in the financial office. She stated she had to leave due to the pressure exerted on her. You see, she was white, and due to this, considered to have "White Privilege." Because of this, was expected to accept adverse working conditions with no hope of advancement. The shame was hers for being white. Others of more "Diverse Ethnicity" were put ahead of her. She relayed to me how they were seeking instructors from foreign countries over teachers already here in the states. They needed to be more diverse even if it meant that the students couldn't understand the teacher's foreign language. That was the student's problem. I just got a brochure from Fitchburg State on what the college has to offer. It was entirely about diversity and how they are pushing it in every class and event. No effort was put forth to show how if you worked hard and succeeded

at the school you would better yourself. Nope, just showed how everybody except those who are white were welcome to come there cause the campus was so open to diversity. If you were white you could go and be learn how you can be rehabilitated. Remember these are state schools and being funded by your tax money. Maybe they'll create classes on how to peacefully protest. Rule number one, you have to be a Progressive Democratic Liberal. If Republicans should do it, they are unpatriotic, insurrectionist, and seditionist. Rule 2, Democratic liberals define free speech as whatever the party approved. Any speech by Republicans is misinformation and incitement to insurrection. Must be condemned by you or you will be likewise condemned as a traitor. It's clear that the aim of the progressive left. Shut down alternative viewpoints. Crush those with viewpoints they deem counterproductive to their cause by calling in "misinformation" so as to indoctrinate the young and weak minded of our nation. In a free society it is your duty to fight back. Just like Trump and all the liberal Progressives were shown telling people to do if you watched the defense of the

fake impeachment. You know the liberals around you. As the country goes down the toilet because of puppet Biden and the Progressive liberals pulling his strings, don't hesitate to give them a piece of your mind. The good thing about online classes is you can see what your kids are being taught and see the leftist indoctrination. I encourage parents to record the online instruction your children receive. If you see indoctrination being practiced, tell you children the truth. Bring it up to the school board and insist your children be taught your heritage and beliefs. I had originally started writing in to this paper in the summer when I saw the character assassination of Trump and the leftist rioting in our streets. I figured after the election I would stop. But with this cancel culture and the shut-down of free speech I changed my mind. It is encouraging to see a truly free press and an open forum being offered by such a patriotic paper such as the Spencer New Leader. This is how media should function. I take it to be my solemn duty to offer local residents access to different ideas and help them find the real truth. I don't care if you like or dislike my views. My only objective

is to give you an alternate viewpoint so you can make your own decision. I have many people say to me "Keep up what you're doing, I feel the same as you but I cannot put in easily down in words." It's nice if you agree with my views but it doesn't bother me in the least if you dislike my views, that your choice. That's what freedom is all about. After all the truth will set us free. Think about this. One man and one woman equal two people. True or false. The answer is unknown. You see, the woman could be pregnant with one child, two children, or more? See the truth needs more information and investigation. The facts need to in open for us to make a informed decision. Same for voting in the last election. It needs to be investigated in the open by a independent source for both sides to see the real truth. Just because the media or a few politicians say it was done without fraud does not make it true. Don't let them cancel out the truth.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

OBITUARIES

Valentina Bukatko, 96

WEST BROOKFIELD - Valentina (Lagodich) Bukatko, 96, of West Brookfield, passed away on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at Life Care Center of Wilbraham.



She leaves two daughters, Danuta Bukatko and her husband Don Sugai of Harvard, MA and Patricia Richard and her husband Robert of West Brookfield, MA. She was the beloved grandmother to Nicholas Sugai, Alexander Richard, and Katherine Richard. She was predeceased by her husband, Bernard Bukatko in 1990, and also by three brothers, Gregory, Paul, and Nikolai and a sister, Lydia. Valentina was born on April 30, 1924 in Mogilno, Belarus, daughter of the late Tichon Lagodich and the late Zenowia (Krawczuk) Lagodich. She attended school to become a seamstress; however, her education

was disrupted by the events of World War II. In 1949, she, her husband, and oldest daughter immigrated to the United States. She became a proud naturalized US citizen who appreciated the opportunities and freedom that this country offered. Valentina lived simply and independently in her own home up until just a month ago. She enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, sewing, knitting, and crocheting. She was a talented seamstress who designed and made her family's clothing, including winter coats and wedding dresses. Her greatest joy came from her role as a loving Baba to her grandchildren. Services for Valentina will be held privately. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield in the Spring. Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting the family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Lenten Recipes Clone Restaurant Favorites

As we gear up for meatless meals, whether due to Lent, which begins this week, or simply a desire to cut down on meat, preparing creative new dishes can pose a challenge. So why not take the cue from some popular restaurant dishes? This week's column will feature a few delicious restaurant "clones" sure to have your family praising your culinary talents. The following are easy recipes that require nominal effort. Best of all these dishes boast the same tastes as the eateries that inspired these yummy copycats.

Outback Steakhouse Coconut Shrimp

Crisp coconut shrimp dipped in a sweet and savory sauce is a favorite dish at the Outback. Thanks to this easy clone recipe, you can bring the taste to your dining room table.

Ingredients: 1 (16 ounce) bag large frozen cooked shrimp; 1/2 cup flour; 1/2 cup cornstarch; 1/2 Tablespoon salt; 1/2 Tablespoon white pepper; 1 cup cold water; 2 Tablespoons vegetable oil; 2 cups vegetable oil (for frying); 3 cups sweetened shredded coconut Marmalade Dipping Sauce
Ingredients: 1 cup orange marmalade; 1/8 cup Dijon mustard; 1/3 cup honey; 1 teaspoon hot sauce
Directions: Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Rinse off thawed shrimp and pat dry, set aside. In a medium mixing bowl combine flour, cornstarch, salt, and white pepper. Then add in water and 2 Tablespoons vegetable oil. Whisk together until well blended. Set aside. Heat 2-3 inches oil in a large pot until oil reaches 325 degrees F. Place coconut on a small cookie sheet or pan. Dip each shrimp in the batter and then roll in the shredded coconut. Fry shrimp in hot oil just until they start to turn golden brown. Place fried shrimp on a large cookie sheet and bake in preheated oven 5 minutes to finish cooking. While shrimp is baking, make the Marmalade Dipping Sauce by combining the orange marmalade, Dijon mustard, honey, and hot sauce in a bowl. Serve shrimp with the marmalade dipping sauce.
Source: Six Sisters Stuff

TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Olive Garden Alfredo Fettucine Clone
This is one of my favorite recipes and has appeared previously in this column. But be forewarned, it is rich. So rich in fact, that the first time I prepared it over a decade ago, my husband accused me of trying to "do him in!" But he ate it anyway, and with great gusto, I might add! The original recipe does not call for shrimp, but it tastes great and makes for a perfect Lenten supper.

Ingredients: 8 ounces cream cheese, cut in bits ; 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese , grated; ½ cup butter; ½ cup milk; 8 ounces fettuccine; cooked and drained; 1/2 pound of fresh medium shrimp, peeled and cooked (optional).
Directions: In large saucepan combine cream cheese, Parmesan, butter and milk, stirring constantly on low to medium heat until smooth. Remove from heat and add shrimp if desired. Toss pasta lightly with sauce, coating well. Leftovers freeze well.
Source: Gloria Pitzer's Secret Recipes

Applebee's Faux Baked French Onion Soup
This hearty yet elegant soup presents well, and it's easy enough for an everyday dinner.

Ingredients: 3 tablespoons vegetable oil; 6 medium white onions, sliced; 8 cups beef broth (Swanson is best); 1 cup water; 2 ½ teaspoons salt; ½ teaspoon garlic powder; 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper; 5 plain hamburger buns; 10 slices provolone cheese; 10 teaspoons shredded Parmesan cheese.
Directions: Add 3 tablespoons oil to a large soup pot or saucepan over medium/high heat. Add the sliced onions and sauté for 20 minutes until the onions begin to soften and start to become translucent. Do not brown. Add the beef broth, water, salt, garlic powder and black pepper to the pan and bring mixture to a boil. When soup begins to boil, reduce heat and simmer for 45 minutes.
To make the croutons cut off the top half of each top of the hamburger bun so that the bread is the same thickness as the bottom half of each bun. Throw the tops away. Now you should have 10 round pieces of bread, 5 bottom buns, and 5 top buns with the tops cut off. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place the bread in oven directly on the rack and bake for

A step back a few decades with my friend Rob ...

Our dear friends, Rob and Tracey Shirk from Waterloo, Iowa were passing through our area on Thursday and came to visit. The following day at breakfast, Rob walked in carrying what appeared to be a big magazine. As he sat at the table, I realized it was a road atlas of the USA ... something I have not seen nor used in at least fifteen or more years.

I asked, "Where did you pick up that antique?" He looked confused. I continued, "Where'd you find that old relic?" "It's a map," he responded while turning to a map of Indiana. "I know it's a map," I said with a laugh, "But why do you have it?" "Because I'm traveling and I don't know how to get to Marion, Indiana from here." He looked down at the map and began tracing a route with his finger.

At this point, I thought he was still kidding. "Use the GPS on your phone ... step out of the 1980's and into the 21st century!" I held up my phone.

Rob looked at my phone, grunted, then looked back at his atlas saying, "That's a phone. I need a map."

I must confess that I'm lost without my GPS, but not too many years ago, my phone was only a phone. We travelled from coast-to-coast years ago with our little family in our motor home and enjoyed every minute and every mile. Much of the fun was sitting at our dining room table with Arlene and our three children, gathered around a big road atlas, deciding where we'd go, what we'd see, and how we'd get there.

I think our first trip was our most memorable and that was our trip to Yellowstone. We took off before cell phones with an Atlas opened on the dash and we were rolling ... our first stop was the Mitchell "Corn Palace" in Mitchell South Dakota. I remember our oldest, Toby looking at the building and saying, "We drove all this way to look at a building made of corn?" However, the next stop promised to be better as we headed off to "Wall Drug!" It's amazing how a little ingenuity and the promise of "Free Ice Water" transformed a small-town drug store into an internationally known tourist stop.

The badlands followed and then a stop at Mount Rushmore. I'll confess, I

15 to 20 minutes or until each piece is golden brown and crispy. Set these giant croutons aside until you need them.

When the soup is done, spoon about 1 cup into an oven-safe bowl. Float a crouton on top of the soup, then place a slice of provolone cheese on top of the crouton. Sprinkle ½ teaspoon of shredded Parmesan cheese over the provolone.

Place the bowl into your oven set to high broil. Broil the soup for 5 to 6 minutes or until the cheese is melted and starting to brown (you may need to broil longer if you are making more than one bowl at a time). Sprinkle an additional ½ teaspoon of shredded Parmesan cheese over the top of the soup and serve.
Makes 10 servings

Flashback: The Soup Nazi's Crab Bisque Copycat

Who can forget the famous Soup Nazi Seinfeld episode? With this flashback copycat recipe, you can once again enjoy the famous crab soup taste, without the long trip to the city - or the strict rules!

Ingredients: 4 pounds snow crab clusters (legs); 4 quarts water (16 cups); 1 small onion, chopped; 1 ½ stalks celery, chopped; 2 cloves garlic, quartered; 2 potatoes, peeled and chopped; 1/4 cup fresh chopped Italian parsley; 2 teaspoons mustard seed; 1 tablespoon chopped pimento; ½ teaspoon coarse ground pepper; 2 bay leaves; 1/3 cup tomato sauce; 2 tablespoons half and half; 1/4 cup unsalted butter; 1/4 teaspoon thyme; 1/8 teaspoon basil; 1/8 teaspoon marjoram
Directions: Remove all the crab meat from the shells and set it aside. Put half of the shells into a large pot with 4 quarts of water over high heat. Add onion 1 stalk of chopped celery, and



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

was awestruck at the first siting of this incredible monument. I hope to see it again someday. Then we were off to Devils Tower and the magnificence of Yellowstone. We made it all the way there and home, without the use of a phone

or GPS.

We headed East the following year to the history of the Williamsburg area and Washington DC. The following year, we headed south to Texas and the Alamo. All incredible memories with the help of Rand McNally and their big and beautiful road atlas.

I must admit, some of the happiest times of my life were planned around that Rand McNally Road Atlas. It was like an instruction manual for our travel dreams, providing the guidance and recipe for family fun and togetherness. The excitement and anticipation ... all the laughs and love along the way warms me still and always brings a smile to my face. All great family memories. Weeks after returning from one vacation, we were sitting around the table with our map plotting our next adventure.

After ridiculing Rob and his relic of a guidance system, I need to make an admission. I ordered a new 2021 road atlas online. So maybe I owe Rob an apology?

Nah ... he deserves a little laughing at his expense. Maybe in reality, he has inspired another road trip, as he brought to my mind some of the most precious family times we've experienced. There is still so much to see and do and Arlene and I deserve to get out on the road.

Our children are all grown and on their own, but we have two wonderful grandsons, Caleb, and Noah. Maybe they need to see the Mitchell Corn Palace?

As Willie Nelson so eloquently sang, maybe it's time to get "On the Road Again."

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

garlic, then bring mixture to a boil. Continue to boil for 1 hour, stirring occasionally (The white part of the shells will start to become transparent), then strain stock. Discard the shells, onion, celery and garlic, keeping only the stock.

Measure 3 quarts (12 cups) of the stock into a large sauce pan or cooking pot. If you don't have enough stock, add enough water to make 3 quarts.


Add potatoes, bring mixture to a boil, then add ½ of the crab and the remaining ingredients to the pot and bring it back to boiling. Reduce heat and simmer for 4 hours, uncovered until it reduces by about half and starts to thicken. Add the remaining crab and simmer for another hour until the soup is very thick. Makes 4-6 servings.

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

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

of Spencer, and several other leaders. "The Governor has his work cut out for him," Senator Lesser said. "Massachusetts vaccination rates remain far below our neighboring states, so there is much more work to do, especially regarding racial and geographic disparities in vaccine access."

In Spencer, Woodbury continues to help register seniors. Family members and neighbors of seniors have also helped get information to them in recent weeks. Looking ahead, local officials hope the combination of newly opened vaccine sites and better management from the state will lead to an improved overall process


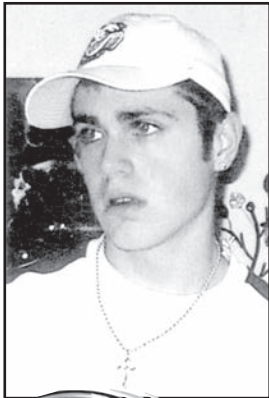


In Loving Remembrance
John Soboleski III
February 18, 1988 – February 18, 2021
Happy 33rd Birthday in Heaven

It's the memories we never knew we were making
It's the time we had that we never knew was fading
It was the simple exchanges
Of smiles and laughter that warmed our hearts.

You are now gone and the only thing that will help ease this heartache is the memories we made together.
We will hold these in our hearts forever.

*Happy Birthday Son, Brother, Grandson, Nephew, Cousin
We love you and miss so much
Your Loving Family and Friends*



“Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper”
www.StonebridgePress.com

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
12:05 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), registration check; 12:28 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:38 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 12:47 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 1:00 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 4:29 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 6:13 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), concerned about pty; 7:04 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), horses in roadway; 7:56 a.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), sidewalk uncleared; 8:30 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 9:49 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 9:52 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 10:04 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 10:25 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Brimfield PD bolo; 11:07 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:22 a.m.: residential alarm (Roys Drive), services rendered; 11:42 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 12:04 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 12:24 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), debit card found; 12:40 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:46 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 1:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), witness to hit/run; 2:07 p.m.: medical/general (Wilson Street); 2:30 p.m.: disturbance (High Street), noise complaint; 3:33 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), disruptive patron; 4:23 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 4:33 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 4:44 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/8 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:52 p.m.: 911 call (Bay Path Road), no emergency; 5:43 p.m.: disturbance (Charlton Road), neighbor issues; 7:14 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 9:00 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), verbal confrontation; 10:15 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:23 p.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), inquiry, no emergency; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
12:22 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 12:51 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), snow on roadways; 12:54-1:00 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Cherry, Mechanic, Church street), tickets issued; 6:03 a.m.: residential alarm (Greenville Street), services rendered; 6:12 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lyford Road), accidental; 9:23 a.m.: residential alarm (Jolicoeur Avenue), services rendered;

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
12:37 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:37 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 5:28 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Linden Street), no contact; 6:20 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 10:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:39 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:45 a.m.: animal complaint (Bell Street), dog left in cold; 11:52 a.m.: suspicious mv (Meadow Road), investigated; 12:16 p.m.: disturbance (Howe Road), unruly daughter; 12:26 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street), 1:44 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), WRTA bus; 2:51 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), concern re: neighbor's dog; 2:57 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken

to; 3:08 p.m.: mv complaint (Wilson Street), trespassing; 3:32 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 3:45 p.m.: animal complaint (High Street), loose dog; 4:02 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:04 p.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), domestic dispute; 5:18 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. info; 7:07 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), misdial; 9:46 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 10:43 p.m.: 911 call (Prospect Street), accidental; 11:46 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), noise complaint; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
2:43 a.m.: residential alarm (Charlton Road), services rendered; 10:43 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), unwanted patron; 11:21 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 11:41 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 5:03 p.m.: mv complaint (South Spencer Road), Anthony D. Ramsey, 29, 15 Colony Road, Phillipston, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 6:25 p.m.: suspicious persons (Ash Street), investigated; 6:27 p.m.: DPW call (May Street), no water; 6:37 p.m.: residential alarm (Oscars Drive), services rendered; 8:53 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 11:00 p.m.: medical/general (Gold Nugget Road); 11:05 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:06 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); (Total daily mv stops – 5).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
9:28 a.m.: DPW call (Lake Street), re: water meter; 10:04 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), inquiry re: quarantining; 10:31 a.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 1:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), spoken to; 1:25 p.m.: medical/general (Longview Drive); 1:26 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 2:21 p.m.: RV complaint (Thompson Pond Road), noise complaint; 2:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), info taken; sometime between 2:52-4:00 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 5:04 p.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/run; 6:06 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), stray cat; 7:09 p.m.: medical/general (North Brookfield Road); 7:19 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 8:45 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:05 p.m.: building checked, secure; sometime between 9:35-9:56 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 11:00 p.m.: medical/general (Gold Nugget Road); 11:05 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:06 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); (Total daily mv stops – 5).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1
12:16 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:28-12:45 a.m.: parking violations/4 (Mechanic, Church, Prospect, Cherry streets), tickets issued; 4:17 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), DOT/road conditions; 6:57 a.m.: medical/general (Treadwell Terrace); 8:03 p.m.: animal complaint (G.H. Wilson Road), bobcat in area; 8:20 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Charron Street), poss. illegal entry; 11:53 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), poss. abandoned mv; 12:29 p.m.: DPW call (Browning Pond Road), tree in road; 12:31 p.m.: DPW call (Bacon Hill Road), tree down; 12:43 p.m.: accident (Thompson Pond Road), report taken; 12:55 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 1:06

p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Road), neighbor's dog; 1:30 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: father; 1:36 p.m.: disabled mv (Thompson Pond Road), assisted; 4:57 p.m.: disabled mv (Browning Pond Road), off road; 5:27 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 8:29 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2
3:54 a.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), mv in lot hindering plow; 5:19 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 7:39 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:17 a.m.: DPW call (Thompson Pond Road), icy conditions; 8:28 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:42 a.m.: disabled mv (Howe Road), DCR plow stuck; 9:25 a.m.: DPW call (Lakeshore Drive), road conditions; 9:36 a.m.: DPW call (Bixby Road), slippery hill; 10:27 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), no heat; 10:34 a.m.: DPW call (Bond Street), elderly father/no phone service; 10:46 a.m.: fraud (Old East Charlton Road), PCH scam; 10:59 a.m.: bylaw violation (Main Street), depositing snow on sidewalk; 12:41 p.m.: building checked, secure; 12:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 1:07 p.m.: mv lockout (Meadow Road), assisted; 3:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Adams Street), misdial; 3:13 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 3:55 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 4:13 p.m.: medical/general (Adams Street); 4:34 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 4:57 p.m.: plane crash (Donnelly Cross Road), report taken; 5:33 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 5:56 p.m.: citizen complaint (South Spencer Road), c/o road conditions; 6:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: issues w/storage company; 7:06 p.m.: accident (Lincoln Street), report taken; 7:11 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), hdcp spot not plowed; 8:28 p.m.: accident (Chickering Road), report taken; 8:42 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 9:20 p.m.: accident (Kitteridge Road), report taken; 11:50 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), need water shut off; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
12:16 a.m.: property found (Peter Salem Road), no action required; 12:23 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 4:05 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 6:40 a.m.: accident (River Street), mv towed; 8:37 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), served; 9:02 a.m.: summons service (Stafford Street), no action required; 9:12 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 9:30 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Auburn Street), no action required; 9:42 a.m.: investigation (out of town, no destination noted on police log), services rendered; 11:07 a.m.: assist citizen (Wesley Drive); 6:28 p.m.: disabled mv (Washburn Square), spoken to; 6:31 p.m.: suspicious activity (Paxton Street), spoken to.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
7:45 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 10:44 a.m.: assist other PD (Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield), message delivered; 11:12 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford

Street); 1:26 p.m.: welfare check (Cricklewood Drive), assisted; 3:33 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), advised civil action; 7:40 p.m.: assist other PD (Spencer Police, Spencer), message delivered; 9:24 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 9:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street, Spencer), no action required; 10:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), services rendered; 10:08 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), services rendered.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
11:56 a.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street), no action required; 1:05 p.m.: assist other agency (South Main Street), services rendered; 1:30 p.m.: disabled mv (McNeil Highway), gone on arrival; 2:48 p.m.: erratic operator (Worcester, no address noted on police log), no action required; 8:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), unable to locate; 10:41 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
12:46 a.m.: gunshots heard (Henshaw Street), unfounded; 1:44 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), unfounded; 2:24 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:37 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 10:11 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:39 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Maighan's Way), unfounded; 1:06 p.m.: erratic operator (Marshall Street), Oriana May Smith, 25, 42 Winifred Avenue, Worcester, op w/ suspended license, failure to stop for police, negligent operation, receiving stolen property valued at less than \$1200; unregistered mv, leaving scene of a property damage accident, number plate violation to conceal ID, arrest; 7:38 p.m.: larceny (Huntoon Memorial Highway), investigated; 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8
2:47 a.m.: suspicious mv (Washburn Street), unable to locate; 1:12 p.m.: fraud (Town Beach Road), report taken; 2:29 p.m.: fraud (Auburn Street), report taken; 3:06 p.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), gone on arrival; 9:11 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), report taken.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
3:42 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:01 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), no action required; 11:49 a.m.: summons service (Rawson Street), served; 11:52 a.m.: summons service (Rawson Street), served; 3:46 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 4:27 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
12:39 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, summons served; 4:27 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:05 p.m.: threats (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 6:08 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 7:06 p.m.: anima complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 8:38 p.m.: fraud (Whittemore Street), report taken.

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DAGLE

continued from page A1

from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Dagle is currently working toward receiving a master's degree in public administration. His professional career began in food management within the private sector.

"I truly enjoyed the customer service aspect of my work, which naturally drove my interest and led me to public service," Dagle added. "Prior to Leicester, I worked for the town of Lexington Health Department for five years, as assistant to the health director."

Dagle was encouraged by the interview process with Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant TA Kristen Forsberg. He was impressed with the leadership team and its visions for transforming health services in town.

"Leicester is a tight-knit community, which drew me to apply for the position. During the interview process, I also felt a strong team connection," Dagle told the New Leader. "When I was offered the position, there was no hesitation, as I knew I wanted to be part of this strong and determined team."

Dagle's new position

allows him to collaborate with other town leaders to develop initiatives and bring new services to town that will benefit residents. He is looking forward to meeting more officials, residents, and business owners.

"In my position, I also appreciate and value the opportunity to educate the public daily in various public health topics," Dagle said. "I strongly feel educating the public results in a healthier and safer environment for all residents, now and in the future."

As part of his daily responsibilities, Dagle sends outreach materials on multiple health topics, including COVID-19 measures, mosquito and tick control, sun safety, flu season protocols, mental health awareness, substance abuse awareness, healthy housing, food safety at local establishments, and safe children's activities.

As the town continues to emerge from the pandemic, Dagle and his team will not only be focused on physical health, but also the mental component.

"The pandemic taught us the importance of socialization, and the negative effects of isolation," Dagle said. "Mental health and sub-

stance abuse are areas of great importance that we need to shed light on and better understand. Our office will be looking for grant opportunities to study this area more in depth."

Additionally, Dagle hopes to work with school leaders, first responders, and senior service leaders to better understand and respond to the issues affecting residents.

Dagle also intends to help modernize the permitting process at the local level.

"Currently, we only accept paper applications and payment through cash or check only. Adopting a permitting software would allow the process to be more efficient and an easier process for applicants," Dagle said. "Online permitting creates instant submissions and allows departments to communicate quicker, significantly speeding up the process for all involved. This will be of great benefit to the town, but it takes time to find the most cost-effective and best fit software for Leicester."

Leicester's new health team has also participated in briefings and programs led by the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

PATTEE

continued from page A1

feel fortunate to have this opportunity and am truly humbled by the support I received from family, friends, and colleagues along the way."

Pattee's opportunity in Spencer arrived at the perfect intersection of family interests and career goals. He knows the Route 9 corridor well, and he can't wait to meet more residents and business owners.

"I have always loved the small-town rural feel. I grew up in Auburn and my wife grew up in Oxford. When my own family began to grow, we wanted to take root in that same type of community," Pattee said. "The Spencer-East Brookfield area was a perfect fit. The people in town have been friendly and welcoming, and the local school systems have been wonderful for our kids."

Pattee began his career as a rehabilitation aide before applying to graduate school. He went on to pursue a doctorate degree in physical therapy, graduating from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell in 2007.

Over the last decade-plus, Pattee has worked predominantly in the outpatient orthopedic setting. He brings to Spencer a wealth of experience gained from working with multiple experts.

"Over the years, I was fortunate enough to work with so many great therapists that really helped shape my

therapy skills and treatment philosophies," Pattee said. "I eventually managed a small and successful clinic in Charlton before a brief stay in home care."

In his new business, Pattee enjoys working with residents dealing with all kinds of challenges. These include patients recovering from surgeries or injuries, as well as those facing chronic back pain, neck pain, or joint pain. Whether you're a senior recovering from a fall at home, or a high school athlete sidelined with a nagging injury, you'll want to check out Pattee's offerings.

"I look forward to continuing this partnership with the Spencer community as a local and trusted therapy provider for many years to come," Pattee said. "Quality care will now be that much closer to home."

Since arriving in Spencer, Pattee and his family have kept plenty busy. Pattee serves as a coach for the Spencer Soccer Club, and his wife is a member of the Parents Interested in Education committee.

"Spencer just seemed to make sense for my family and my practice. I could not be happier with our location on Route 9, set in the heart of the community between two great local businesses, Klem's and Timberyard Brewing," Pattee said.

To learn more about the business, call 774-449-8058. You can also visit www.ChoicePhysicalTherapy.net.

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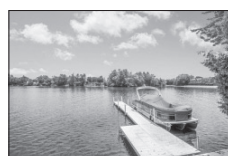


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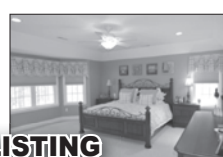
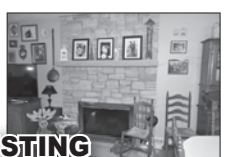
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WEBSTER LAKE – 124-2 Gore Road! 1.68 Acres! Private Retreat Lot with 320' of Road Frontage and 200' of Waterfront! Located in North Pond! Beautiful Panoramic Views! Sucker Brook Cove! Lot has been split from a larger parcel! Survey, Home Rendering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



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

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



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WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!
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LAND

WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

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WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE



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DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



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WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



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WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



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Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



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Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



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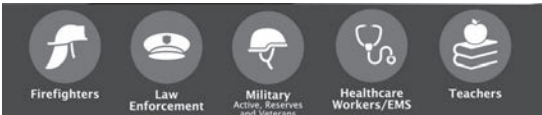
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An ice fishing update



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This week's picture shows Adam with his nice largemouth bass he caught this past weekend. Another picture will follow along with this week's column.

Local ponds and lakes all have a substantial amount of ice on them, as of this past weekend, and if the weather forecast is correct, safe ice should last a couple of weeks, if not longer. That is not to say that fishermen and the general public should assume that every body of water has safe ice. Constantly checking ice thickness needs to be practiced. Snow covered ice is the most dangerous. Numerous near fatalities from people falling through the ice have been reported this year, with snowmobilers being at the top of the list in Maine & New Hampshire.

Numerous deer have fallen through unsafe ice in the past two weeks, and more are sure to lose their life in the coming weeks. I have spotted many ponds with deer tracks in the snow, as they navigate ice covered bodies of water. Local residents should not walk their dogs alongside lakes ponds and rivers, unless they are on a leash. They can get into trouble real fast, as we have already observed dogs falling through thin ice on local news channels. It is also time to license your dogs in most area



Another largemouth bass caught last weekend.

towns! They do require certification of a dog's rabies shots. Hopefully, a few veterinarian's will be holding rabies clinics next month in local towns.

This past weekend had a lot of ice fishermen enjoying the great outdoors, and there were many families out enjoying it also. This week's two pictures show a couple of anglers with their impressive largemouth bass. Many reports of bass, pickerel, perch, calico bass, and trout are being reported daily. Wallum Lake in Douglas has been giving up some nice trout, if you have the patience to wait for the bite, that can start fast and end fast, or not start at all. Anglers are reminded that Wallum Lake is an interstate body of water, & that it is governed by Rhode Island regulations. The lake closes to all fishing on Feb. 28, and will reopen on April 10!

Fishing for smelt in the state of Maine can be a lot of fun, and can provide some great eating, if you can catch them before March 31, in Aroostook County. The smelt are called the «French Fry» of the lake, and have local anglers fishing for them every year. They have elaborate bob houses to fish in, and often fish for the smelt at night. Placing a light near the hole draws the smelt to the hole, and they can be caught with a light jig rod similar to the jig sticks we use here. Be sure to check all regulations and dates for smelt fishing. Using nets is illegal. Back in the day, local anglers fished for smelt on Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury. This writer spent many nights catching smelt near the boat ramp. Unfortunately, pollution and acid rain pretty much cleaned them out.

Numerous attempts to reintroduce smelt into Lake Quinsigamond and

Wallum Lake were unsuccessful. Mass. Fish & Wildlife was netting thousands of smelt from the Quabbin Reservoir and stocking them in those two lakes, but they failed to spawn in some of the tributaries around both lakes. That was before the MDC poisoned the smelt at the Quabbin. Soon the state was placing egg screens at the tributaries of both lakes, but they also failed to work. In a last-ditch effort to get smelt back into Wallum Lake, Shoal Spawning alewives were placed in the lake to provide a forage fish for the trout. That was thirty or more years ago.

The Alewives reproduced for many years, and some still do keep a small population in the lake. Trout do no grow fast on insects, and need a good forage fish to get big fast. Attempts to get MFW to procure some of the brown trout fry from New York's Lake Ontario failed many years ago, would have now been reaping rewards. Anyone that has fished Lake Ontario for brown trout, know how fast they grow, and how big they get. With the loss of the federal brood trout program maybe the state can revisit the possibilities of receiving some brown trout from New York and stocking them at Wallum Lake!

At one time back in the day, the state was supposed to work with Rhode Island to make Wallum a trophy brown trout pond. Unfortunately, both states could not work together, and the communications were stopped. Catching four to 10-pound brown trout were common when the two states were actively supporting the program. The lake was also limed by a company called "Living Lakes" bringing in numerous tankers loaded with lime which was loaded onto a large boat & digitally spread over the entire lake. It solved the problem of acidity at the lake for many years, right up to this day.

The Whitinsville Fish & Game club will sponsor a fishing derby at the club pond on Feb. 20, for club members and their family. The pond will receive another stocking of trout prior to the derby. A full breakfast will be served starting at 8 a.m. The club is also plan-

ning a Wild Game supper in March. It is a carry-out only meal. Call the club or check their web site for all particulars & tickets.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club is planning a Clam Bake this Summer. It was one of the best attended events, the club held annually. There will be a limited number of tickets, so get them early. Lobster, clams, corn, chowder, and much more.

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Shoppers' guide to Presidents' Day sales



On the third Monday in February, Americans stop to remember the contributions of the many great leaders who have served as President of the United States. Certain Presidents' Day traditions have developed over the years, including an opportunity for shoppers to find great deals on a host of items.

Originally established in 1885 to recognize President George Washington, the day we now know as Presidents' Day was then known as Washington's Birthday and was traditionally celebrated on February 22. The holiday became known as Presidents' Day after it was moved to the third Monday in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which enabled the nation's workers to enjoy more three-day weekends. In addition, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act served as a way to combine the celebration of Washington's birthday and Abraham Lincoln's birthday, which is February 12.

In addition to serving as a chance to celebrate and reflect on the contributions of our nation's past presidents, Presidents' Day has emerged as a day to rest and shop. Stores across the country advertise special prices to tie into the day and capitalize on the three-day weekend. For many retailers, Presidents' Day is the first major sales

opportunity of the new year. The following are some ways shoppers can capitalize on Presidents' Day sales.

- Stock up on winter apparel. Now is the time to enjoy deep discounts on winter apparel. Purchase clothing, coats and boots that your family can wear next year. Parents can estimate sizes for growing children. Discounts on winter apparel as winter winds down may be as high as 70 percent, meaning savvy shoppers can save substantial amounts of money.
- Score big on big-ticket items. Appliances may go on sale at steep discounts on Presidents' Day. Shoppers who need new appliances for their kitchens may find Presidents' Day sales have what they need at the prices they want to pay. Save even more on big-ticket items by using cash-back or points balances on credits cards to lower out-of-pocket costs even further.
- Shop around for electronics. Computers, laptops and many different electronic devices go on sale on Presidents' Day. Compare and contrast items you have had your eyes on for some time, determining regular prices for each item. Knowing the regular prices and sale prices will help you determine if the Presidents' Day sale price is a good deal.
- Don't overlook deals on automobiles. Certain holidays, such as Presidents' Day, provide opportunities for consumers to find great deals on new vehicles. That's because sales tend to be slow in February. Scout out the deals being offered on the car or truck you want. Sales personnel may be more open to negotiations if it will close the sale.

Presidents' Day is, first a foremost, a chance to reflect and honor past presidents. But it also is a day for shoppers to find great deals on a host of items.



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