

SPENCER NEW LEADER

Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

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Democratic candidates team up for virtual event



Photo Courtesy

Danielle Lamoureux-Kane, who serves as Brookfield's Democratic Town Committee chair, is working hard on campaign efforts this fall. Here, she is pictured with Tim Kane, a regional campaign captain.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local Democrats recently took part in a virtual event to coordinate campaign efforts ahead of the general election.

On Sept. 9, residents of several area communities joined a virtual campaign kickoff event in support of the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris ticket. The program included Alex Bausch, the Massachusetts coordinator for the Biden-Harris campaign, who discussed several ways residents can promote political engagement locally and nationally.

Also attending the event was Tim Kane, the captain of the Biden-Harris campaign team in west-central Massachusetts. He continues to rally local residents and organize new efforts to train activists in reaching voters.

“We had more than 50 local people from the

Brookfields, Spencer, and Sturbridgeshow up for our kickoff Zoom meeting training event focusing on the influence we can and will have in the swing states, making sure people actually vote,” Kane said.

The virtual event included discussions on phone banking, text banking, postcard writing, and other activities. The ultimate goal is to mobilize a group of local residents to inspire others to develop outreach networks of family members, friends, and associates. Thousands of volunteers throughout the state will not only be promoting engagement in Massachusetts, but also in swing states like Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

Volunteers will also advocate for residents to take advantage of mail-in voting and early voting. They hope a record number of votes

Please Read **DEMOCRATS**, page **A12**

New Town Clerk settles in

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – When former town clerk Laura Torti unexpectedly announced her retirement last month, selectmen knew they would face a critical decision on her successor.

With the State Primary and general election looming, selectmen were committed to choosing the most experienced candidate possible to handle the heavy workload. And they did just that with their recent appointment of Lisa Johnson.

Previously serving as the town clerk in Boylston, Johnson has quickly acclimated to her new role. She was hired for the Spencer job on Aug. 6, enabling her to work with Torti for a few weeks and learn the town prior to the Sept. 1 Primary.

“There were four applicants, and Lisa was the only one with experience working as a town clerk. That made it pretty easy for us to decide who we wanted to hire for the position,” said Select Board Chairman Ralph Hicks. “Given the fact that we have the presidential election coming up, we wanted to make sure we had the right person in place. We were very fortunate to be able to get Lisa.”

Having lost her reelection bid in Boylston by only 12 votes, Johnson was eager for a fresh start. After running a successful Sept. 1 Primary in Spencer, she is looking forward to meeting more residents and officials this fall.

“I truly love the job of town clerk. I am here to serve the people of Spencer,” Johnson said. “I am very grateful to fill this position until your next town election in 2021.”



Lisa Johnson

With over twice the population of Boylston, Spencer provides new challenges for Johnson as she continues to learn the town. Adding to the obstacles, she took over just before two major elections – and in the middle of a pandemic. The timing of the transition was no doubt inopportune, but Torti helped make it a smooth one.

“Laura Torti was very organized, which made the transition very easy,” Johnson told the New Leader. “As far as voting goes, Spencer has four precincts and my previous job only had one. I will admit I was a little nervous, but the poll workers were wonderful and know their jobs.”

Past experience also went a long way for Johnson, especially when making preparations for the Primary. Of course, no amount of experience could fully prepare anyone for the hurdles created by COVID-19. Like town clerks throughout the area, Johnson is working hard with local officials to create a voting environment that is safe and comfortable for residents.

Please Read **JOHNSON**, page **A3**

Bus transportation available for Leicester Special Town Meeting

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – With a large turnout expected at the upcoming Special Town Meeting, officials have coordinated with the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) to arrange specialized bus transportation.

Officials recently finalized the bus routes for Saturday, Sept. 26, when a highly anticipated and controversial Special Town Meeting article will decide the fate of the new school proposal. The meeting will take place at 10 a.m. at the former Millbrook Distributors site (88 Huntoon Memorial Highway), and officials want to ensure that transportation challenges don't prevent residents from voting.

“The WRTA is working with the town to ensure that the elderly, disabled, and other members of the community will have transportation to the Special Town Meeting,” said WRTA Administrator Dennis Lipka.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 26, two regular WRTA buses and one small van will combine to operate routes that include Walmart, Town Hall, the Senior Center, and the Leicester Housing Authority, among others. Additionally, residents may flag down a bus as it approaches its destination.

Officials thank everyone who came together to arrange the service for residents needing transportation.

“Our WRTA representative, Doug Belanger, initiated the discussion with the WRTA. We are delighted that they are offering us this service at no charge to the town,” said Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux.

If approved, the new school on Paxton Street would serve students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. To move forward with the proposal, the Special Town Meeting article must pass by a two-thirds majority vote. From there, residents would take a ballot vote on Nov. 3, with a simple majority vote needed to pass.

Please Read **MEETING**, page **A3**

Local entrepreneur helps to lift clients' spirits



Photo Courtesy

Melanie Silva is helping the community with her passion for entrepreneurship.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – In a time of unprecedented hardships, a local entrepreneur is using her two businesses to lift people's spirits.

East Brookfield's Melanie Silva launched her first business, Do It 4 U Studio, back in January. Located at 369 Main St. in Spencer (the former Gregson Building), the business offers an array of Zumba programs. Silva is currently running both live and livestream classes, with convenient times in the morning and early evening.

With many residents feeling low these days for a variety of reasons, Zumba is a great way to exercise the body and mind. Silva enjoys working with her customers to build toward the best version of themselves.

“Zumba allows me to interact with people, lift them up, and share positivity,” Silva said. “Zumba is also a great platform to encourage women and men to take care of themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually. For one hour, you're raising your heart rate, sweating, stretching, learning something new, having fun, and releasing endorphins.”

For the month of September, Do It 4 U Studio is offering unlimited classes for \$50. The studio will also introduce a program called Yoga with Carol in the coming days. Moreover, Silva is looking forward to launching prerecorded classes soon.

To learn more about Zumba class schedules, events, and announcements, follow Silva on Facebook at MS Zumbateer.

Although her Zumba business keeps her plenty busy already, Silva was also inspired by her background in elderly assistance to create a second business. Soon to open, Daughter for Hire will provide a range of services to senior clients, with flexible hours to meet their needs.

“I have worked with seniors since I was 14 years old,” Silva said. “They are truly my favorite people to spend time with. They have so much to offer and share, but there is so much that they could use help with, too.”

Daughter for Hire will offer a free initial consultation and estimate. Services can include helping with computer and technology challenges; meal planning and preparation; shopping; travel to health appointments; and senior advocacy, among others.

Silva is looking forward to assisting seniors in a variety of ways and helping to ease their stress during the pandemic. Many local seniors have been housebound since March, while others will be staying mostly at home this fall and winter due to COVID-19 fears. In addition to dealing with the extended isolation and loneliness, it has been difficult for seniors to find ways to obtain basic services.

“I have the opportunity to help people, touch lives, and make a difference.”

Please Read **SILVA**, page **A10**

Robbins to retire as Cornerstone Bank CEO

WORCESTER — After 34 years of dedicated service at Cornerstone Bank, K. Michael Robbins will be retiring as the Bank’s CEO on December 31, 2020; Mike will continue to serve as the Bank’s Chairman. The announcement was made by Cornerstone Bank President Todd Tallman.

“Mike has been a committed, loyal member of our family for so long, his name is practically synonymous with Cornerstone Bank,” states Tallman.

“He has always put the needs of customers first, and diligently worked to ensure that everything Cornerstone did was for the well-being of the community and its residents. In fact, Mike considered support of our community to be his greatest responsibility.”

After serving in various senior level positions at Spencer Savings Bank from 1986 through 2003 and President & CEO at Spencer Savings Bank/SpencerBANK from 2003 through 2017, Robbins assumed the roles of Chairman & CEO at Cornerstone Bank. Under Robbins’ leadership, SpencerBANK’s total assets grew from 250 million to 600 million dollars. In 2016, SpencerBANK and Southbridge Savings Bank created a merger of equals forming Cornerstone Bank with total assets today of 1.3 billion dollars. His professional affiliations include Chairman of the Board at COCC, a financial technology company serving financial institutions, as well as Finance Committee Member at Harrington Hospital. Robbins is also a Board Member of the Worcester Club and the Worcester Research Bureau and is supportive of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

“Knowing Mike, he’ll continue to be very active,” adds Tallman, who will replace Robbins as CEO. “Between golf, antique cars and traveling, he’ll be as busy as ever. I learned a great deal from Mike and we developed a very deep and lasting friendship. I wish him and his wife Cathy all the best in the years ahead—and every happiness in



Michael Robbins

the world.”

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster, and Worcester, along with a Loan Center

in Westborough. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender, and SBA Preferred Lender. For more information, visit online at cornerstonebank.com, on Facebook, or call 800-939-9103.

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WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was awarded a TRIO Student Support Services Grant of \$1,309,440. This is a five-year grant distributed in yearly increments of \$261,888.

QCC’s TRIO Student Support Services program is a federally-funded program that provides support and services to first genera-

tion and economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities. The program began at QCC in September 2010 with 120 student participants and is currently serving 150 students.

“This grant award will allow us to serve more of our most vulnerable students by providing them with a high level of support services,” said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. “Low-income, first-generation and students with disabilities can sometimes need additional assistance in completing their certificate or degree programs. This grant supports our community by increasing access and equity to college and career pathways that might otherwise be out of reach for these students.”

As a large inner city college, QCC has a diverse population that draws from all sub-communities within Worcester and its surrounding communities, with 21 percent of students identifying as Hispanic, 14 percent as Black/African American, 5 percent Asian, 4 percent other and 3 percent multi-racial/cultural. More than 74 percent of students rely on Pell grants and other financial aid to supplement their education and expenses. More than 30 percent of students work an average of 30 hours a week, and have family obligations.

At QCC, TRIO staff members meet regularly with students to review and support a career and academic plan, to help them complete a program of study at QCC and/or transfer to a four-year institution. Services are designed to be hands-on with individual and small group tutoring, intensive advising, financial aid counseling, transfer assistance, discussion of academic goals, assistance planning class schedules, assistance with early registration and guidance throughout the semester.

Students are also taught about social service and giving back to their community.

According to Joseph Adams, project director for the college’s TRIO program, the chances of TRIO students succeeding goes up 50% once they enter the program and in some cases that number may even be higher depending on their interaction with the program. The results of the program show it is working.

“QCC’s TRIO alumni have gone on to graduate from many 4-year schools, such as Cornell University, UMass, Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University, Clark University, and many more,” he said, adding, “The program also had its first graduate from UMass Medical School in May and is currently doing his residency in Pittsburg, Pa.”

“Helping students achieve their goals and realize their dreams is what we are all about at QCC. By supporting those who have historically been disadvantaged and underserved, we are also helping our entire community,” President Pedraja said.

Visit www.QCC.edu/TRIO to learn more about the QCC TRIO Support Services program.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508.854.7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu

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George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

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SPENCER ALMANAC

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\$260,000, 122 Paxton St, Jacobs, Thomas D, and Flanagan, Joan F, to Recalde, Mary L.

\$250,000, 669 Pleasant St, Bow, Kevin R, to Eskay Builders LLC.

\$205,000, 513 Main St, Mcnamara, Paul L, and Mcnamara, Mary, to Mcnamara, Susan M.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

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\$106,600, 82 Walnut St, Hawkins, Dean E, and Embrace Home Loans Inc, to Lakeview Loan Servicing.

\$90,000, 41 Brookfield Rd, Larson, Cynthia, and Samek, John J, to Hannen, Robert C.

SPENCER

\$322,000, 29 Grant St, Robidoux, Laura B, to Harthorne, Glen W, and Harthorne, Dana M.

WARREN

\$269,900, 290 Bemis Rd, Norton, Ryan, and Sparks, Lauren, to White, Richard R.

Worcester Art Museum will reopen to public Oct. 7

WORCESTER — The Worcester Art Museum, which has been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 13, announced today that it will reopen to the public on Wednesday, Oct. 7. In addition to a series of special exhibitions and presentations, the Museum also announced that several free virtual programs, including Zip Zoom Tours, Arms and Armor Presentations, a Fall Community Day, and Master Series Third Thursday Art Talk, will be held throughout the fall. Dates, details, and links to participate will be posted on worcesterart.org. In addition, the Museum is offering a variety of online studio art and art history classes for adults and youth. Class and registration information is available at portal.worcesterart.org/classes.

The Museum will be open to the public on Wednesdays from noon – 4 p.m., Thursdays – Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and third Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Museum also will be open to the public on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“We are very grateful to our members, sponsors, donors, and foundations—and our generous Worcester community—for supporting us during our closure,” said Matthias Waschek, the Museum’s Jean and Myles McDonough Director. “While visiting this fall and winter will look and feel different in order to keep everyone safe, the Museum’s phenomenal collection of art and its power to heal and comfort, will be here for all to enjoy. We have been waiting for this day for nearly six months and can’t wait to see our community here again!”

To ensure a safe, enjoyable experience, the Museum is implementing a number of safety protocols following state and local guidelines, and asks that all visitors adhere to these policies as they plan their visit.

Entry to the Museum will be timed, with all members and visitors required

to reserve or purchase tickets in advance. Tickets will be made available for specific entry times between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and between 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Tickets will be available online after Sept. 21.

The maximum group size is five visitors.

As mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all Museum staff and visitors (age five and older) are required to wear a mask or cloth face covering for the duration of their time in the Museum.

While inside the Museum, visitors must observe six feet of physical distance between themselves and others outside their party, including Museum employees.

Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout many areas of the Museum, and all public areas will have enhanced cleaning schedules.

All visitors to the Museum must enter and exit through the Salisbury Street Entrance, which is fully accessible. Please note that no more than 5 people may enter the Museum at the same time.

For full information on new safety policies, how to plan a visit, and to purchase tickets, all WAM visitors are asked to visit worcesterart.org. Timed tickets will be available for purchase after Sept. 21.

About the Worcester Art Museum The Worcester Art Museum creates transformative programs and exhibitions, drawing on its exceptional collection of art. Dating from 3,000 BCE to the present, these works provide the foundation for a focus on audience engagement, connecting visitors of all ages and abilities with inspiring art and demonstrating its enduring relevance to daily life. Creative initiatives—including pioneering collaborative programs with local schools, fresh approaches to

exhibition design and in-gallery teaching, and a long history of studio class instruction—offer opportunities for diverse audiences to experience art and learn both from and with artists.

Since its founding in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum has assembled a collection of 38,000 objects: from the ancient Near East and Asia, to European and American paintings and sculptures, and continuing with works by contemporary artists from around the world. WAM has a history of making large scale acquisitions, such as its Medieval Chapter House, the Worcester Hunt Mosaic, its 15th-century Spanish ceiling, and the Flemish Last Judgment tapestry. In 2013, the Museum acquired the John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection, comprising two thousand arms and armor objects. It continues to commission and present new works, such as 2017’s installation of the immersive Reusable Universes sculptural series and Organic Conceptenvironment by Shih Chieh Huang. For more information about the Worcester Art Museum, visit worcesterart.org.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, is open to the public Wednesday from 12 to 4 p.m.; Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and the third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Museum is open for Members only on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$8 for children 4-17, \$14 for seniors 65+ and for college students with ID. Admission is free for Museum Members and children under age four. On the first Sunday of each month, admission is free for everyone. Museum parking is free. All visitors are asked to enter the Museum through the Salisbury Street entrance. For more information, visit worcesterart.org.

erings and adhere to social distancing regulations while on the buses and van. The last run at each starting point will take place at 9:30 a.m., half an hour before the town meeting.

Additional information on the Special Town Meeting is posted on Leicester’s website, www.leicesterma.org.

MEETING

continued from page A1

Residents have expressed mixed reactions to the proposed \$91.4 million school, with strong views on both sides. The building would replace both the existing middle school – which would be removed – and the elementary school.

If approved, the project would be funded in part by an anticipated Massachusetts School Building Authority grant. The town would be responsible for payment of project costs beyond the amount of the MSBA grant.

Opponents of the proposal have spoken out against the debt exclusion that is anticipated to pay for the remaining project costs. Opponents are fearful that the increased tax burden could devastate residents who are already struggling with multiple challenges.

Regardless of where residents stand

JOHNSON

continued from page A1

idents.

Sanitation and social distancing measures were effective at the Primary polls, and Johnson plans to feature most of the same protocols on Nov. 3. She thanks her team for their significant assistance during a hectic time.

“The Clerk’s office staff – Brynn Johnson, Diane Ledoux, and Karen

on the proposal, Leicester and WRTA leaders want to make sure all residents have the opportunity to cast their votes. The bus routes were designed to include as many convenient locations as possible throughout town.

Three specialized routes will feature the following travel plans:

Bus #1: Pickup at the former mill on the McCarthy Avenue/Route 9 intersection, then heading west on Route 9 to Route 56 and 88 Huntoon Highway.

Bus #2: Pickup at Walmart, then heading east on Route 9. Bus will proceed through the Leicester Housing Authority, then return to Route 9 before arriving at 88 Huntoon Highway.

Van: Pickup at the Senior Center parking lot, then proceeding to the Town Hall parking lot at 3 Washburn Square, then onward to 88 Huntoon Highway.

All riders will need to wear face cov-

Gaucher – are wonderful and very knowledgeable. They made it very easy,” Johnson said of her transition.

In addition to running elections, Johnson also enjoys the many other facets of the job. These include providing access to birth and marriage records, among others.

Outside of work, Johnson can often be found boating with her

husband in Quincy and other points east. She also spends plenty of time with her two golden retrievers.

SPENCER NEW LEADER

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

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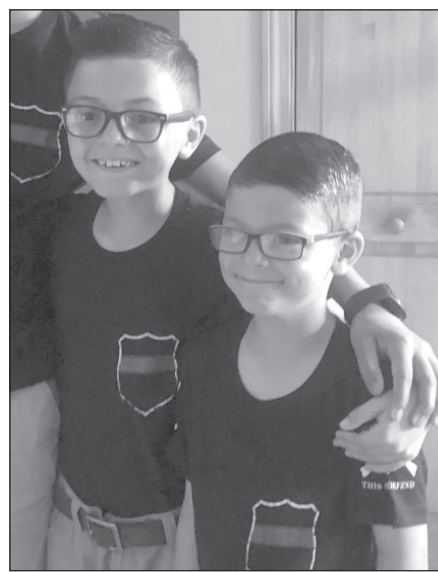
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Friday's Child



Bryson and Cayden
Age 10 and 13

Hi! Our names are Bryson and Cayden and we are ready to find a family we can call our own!

Bryson and Cayden are an outgoing sibling group! Older brother Bryson is of African American and Caucasian descent. Some of Bryson’s favorite activities include playing outside, playing video games and football, drawing, and making storybooks. Bryson is known to be a kind, caring, friendly child who enjoys socializing with his peers. He is also considered a protector as he enjoys taking care of pets and younger children.

Cayden is a kind and caring boy of African American and Caucasian descent. Like his brother, Cayden is very considerate of others. Cayden loves to draw, read, play outside, and ride his bicycle. He also likes to play

with Legos and build different types of structures with them. They boys have an older teenage brother whom they are close to and will need to maintain contact with on the South Shore of Massachusetts.

Bryson and Cayden look forward to being placed together in a loving, permanent home. Their social worker is open to exploring one or two-parent families with or without other children. They are legally freed for adoption and will need to maintain contact with members of their birth family once their placement is identified.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

Pet of the Week
Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Name: Molly
Breed: Rottweiler Mix
Age: 2 years
Gender: Female/Spayed

Hello! My name is Molly! I can be very nervous when I meet new people, and am protective of my people once I get attached. I would love an owner with Rottie experience, but this is not a necessity. I do need an experienced dog owner though and I would not be a good candidate for a first time pet parent. A home with no young children and no other pets is also one of my requirements. I like dogs outside of my home, but can get jealous when I have to share. Once I get to know you I am a giant goofball. If you think we’d be a good match, then please come in and say hello!

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PERSON of the WEEK
Rob DeWan of Spencer

Rob is a very friendly member of the Spencer community. He walks his dog Peter twice a day and when he’s walking he is also picking up trash off the street. He enjoys stopping and speaking with the people he meets on his walk with Peter. Rob is happy to stop and help anyone who needs it. He assists neighbors with yard work. Rob also works for the town as a fence viewer and is proud of having this position.

— Submitted by Nancy Barnett, Resty Weagle, and Diane DeWan

(Rob was nominated by several people. Thank you Rob for being such a great member of the Spencer community!)

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Local election officials work to ensure voter safety

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With less than two months remaining until the general election, local officials are ramping up efforts to ensure voter safety.

Preparations for the Nov. 3 election started early, with area town clerks using every available resource to bolster safety measures. Although masks have become a symbol of political discord in recent months, nearly all voters will be unified in their wearing of facial coverings at the polls. For those who don't bring a mask to their election site voluntarily, one will be provided for them (excluding medical exemptions).

Several other protective measures will be employed, depending on where

you live. All voters can expect to see extra sanitation and social distancing regulations in place.

In Leicester, Town Clerk Deborah Davis and her team have taken numerous additional precautions to keep voters safe.

"All precincts are clearly divided so voters can't cross over, and the hall will be marked," Davis said. "Signs will be everywhere about social distancing and wearing a mask. We also have masks at our sanitizing station if anyone needs one. Gloves, masks, and head shields will be offered to all workers."

In addition to voter safety measures, several steps have been taken by Leicester officials to protect poll workers throughout the day. Shields bearing the Leicester town seal were purchased for all precinct tables, as

well as dividers between the workers. Sanitizing stations will be set up for voters and employees entering and exiting the building.

Moreover, election booths with sneeze guards will be placed six feet apart. One-way traffic will be coordinated in the election hall to keep voters properly distanced.

Regardless of whether Leicester residents are voting in person or by mail, officials are committed to providing a safe and secure process.

"We hire extra people to clean booths all day long, and we will do a deep cleaning and sanitizing before and during election day," Davis said. "We also purchased a new ballot box that is outside Town Hall. It's stainless steel, and anyone voting by mail can drop their ballot in the box."

In Spencer, newly appointed Interim Town Clerk Lisa Johnson employed several successful health protocols during the Sept. 1 Primary that will be used again on Nov. 3. Primary voters were pleased with the level of safety provided during a well-attended election.

"Social distancing and wearing of a mask will be followed, plus cleaning of all pens and booths used during early in-person voting and on election day," said Johnson, who previously served as the Boylston town clerk.

To view a complete list of election safety regulations in your community, visit the town clerk's webpage. Several towns have also posted protocols on their homepages.

Bay State Savings Bank's Maria A. Heskes-Allard receives New England Women in Banking Award

WORCESTER — Bay State Savings Bank is proud to announce SVP - Senior Lender Maria A. Heskes-Allard has been awarded among 2020's New England Women in Banking by Banking New England Magazine. New England Women in Banking honors the most talented, ambitious, innovative, and philanthropic women in the New England banking industry.

Mrs. Heskes-Allard, of Princeton, holds more than 30 years of experience in Commercial Lending in

Central Massachusetts. Currently, as SVP - Senior Lender, she leads Bay State Savings Bank's retail and commercial loan departments. Mrs. Heskes-Allard joined the Bank in 2016 as Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending and was promoted to SVP - Senior Lender in 2018. Prior to joining Bay State Savings Bank, she served as Senior Vice President of Clinton Savings Bank in Clinton.

Over four years, Mrs. Heskes-Allard has helped to grow Bay State Savings

Bank's Commercial and Retail Lending Departments, resulting in a 22 percent increase in total asset size, and 29% increase in the loan portfolio. Earlier this year, she was instrumental in guiding Bay State Savings Bank through the Paycheck Protection Program, overseeing the submission of more than 350 loans totaling in more than \$29 million in funds for business owners who were affected by the economic impact of coronavirus.

Mrs. Heskes-Allard holds an Associate Degree from Becker College, a BS from Southern New Hampshire University,

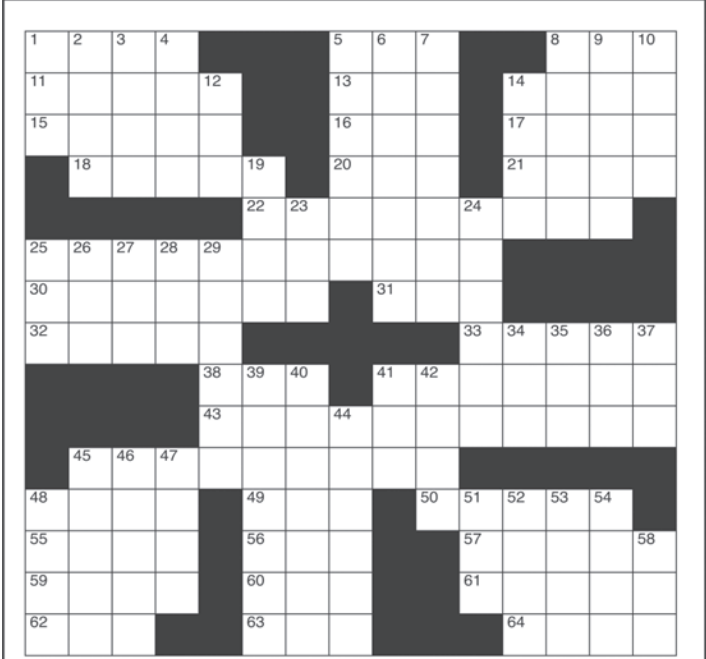
a Certificate in Real Estate Finance from Boston University, and a Finance MBA from Assumption College.

Currently, Mrs. Heskes-Allard serves as a Greater Worcester Community Foundation board member and is a member of its Scholarship Committee. She also serves on the Llewellyn Evans Scholarship Committee for Becker College.

Read more about Mrs. Heskes-Allard in her feature on New England Banking's Web site.



Maria Heskes-Allard



CLUES ACROSS

1. Greasy powder (abbr.)

5. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)

8. Amount of time

11. Greeting

13. Form of "to be"

14. Israeli diplomat

15. Outfit

16. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet

17. Deceptive movement

18. Anxious

20. Popular Letterman guest

21. Saints' signal caller

22. Intoxicate

25. Relationship

30. Ask for one's hand in marriage

31. Popular Will Ferrell film

32. Gargle

33. Warning sensation before migraine
38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

41. Erases

43. At ease

45. Small branch of an artery

48. Mother of Hermes

49. Body part

50. Cavalry sword

55. Wellness chants

56. Helps little firms

57. Afflicted

59. Peep

60. Nellie __, journalist

61. Spiritual leader

62. Doctor of Education

63. Affirmative

64. Check

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular kids' game

2. Away from wind

3. Round water pot

4. Drink quickly

5. A simple type of jet engine

6. Something for nothing

7. Painkiller

8. Siskel's pal

9. Strong spirit distilled in Turkey

10. Again

12. Imitate

14. Icelandic poems

19. Jacob __, American journalist

23. No (Scottish)

24. Newborn

25. Credit term

26. Nonprofit research group in CA

27. Male offspring

28. Important baseball stat

29. A way to compel
34. Fiddler crab

35. Jewish equivalent of "Sir"

36. Every

37. Midway between east and southeast

39. Anti-slavery treaty

40. A friendly manner

41. Military figure (abbr.)

42. Area units

44. Sudden incursions

45. Expressed pleasure

46. Covered with hoarfrost

47. Job

48. Donkey

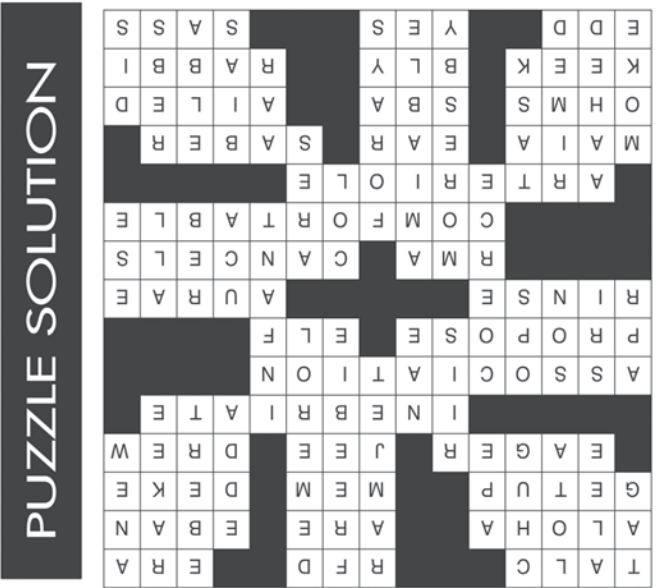
51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Light dry-gap bridge (abbr.)

58. Criticize



Brookfield Town Hall reopens to public

BROOKFIELD – Officials remind residents that Town Hall has reopened to the public.

The building will be open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hours will vary among town employees, and patrons are asked to call specific departments ahead of time to make appointments (508-867-2930).

All visitors to Town Hall must wear masks and practice social distancing. Please be advised that only ten guests will be allowed in the building at a time.

A sign-in station is set up in the Town Hall foyer for guests to check in. All patrons must sign a self-assessment sheet and time log to adhere to COVID-19 tracing guidelines.

Town business will be conducted in the banquet room using social distancing guidelines and plexiglass shielding.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Board of Selectmen's office at 508-867-2930 (ext. 10).

Virtual Vendor Fair helps pets in need

EAST BROOKFIELD — Every fall, an amazing group of vendors come out to Cruise for Critters or the Halloween Barktacular to display their wares while supporting Second Chance Animal Services' mission to help pets in need. When the nonprofit was forced to cancel these beloved fall fundraisers due to COVID-19 concerns, they decided to launch an online vendor fair which will not only benefit pets in need but will help promote their dedicated group of vendors.

"2020 has been such a challenging year for everyone. We were so disappointed that our fall events were cancelled," said Lindsay Doray, Development Director at Second Chance. "We know it's been a difficult year for our vendors too, so we created a virtual vendor fair to continue our long-standing tradition of mutual support. We are grateful to Southbridge Credit Union for their generosity in sponsoring the online vendor fair."

Doray notes that new vendors are being added daily and hopes animal lovers will take a moment to explore the vendors on the event page of the Second Chance website, do a little shopping and thank them for their support.

Second Chance remains dedicated to pets, despite more than 100 event cancellations and a drop in donations they are facing this year. The nonprofit, known for their frugality, continues to help pets in need throughout Massachusetts and beyond.

The virtual vendor fair can be found at www.secondchanceanimals.org/virtual-vendor-fair/. Vendors interested in supporting Second Chance can email development@secondchanceanimals.org for more information on joining the virtual vendor fair.

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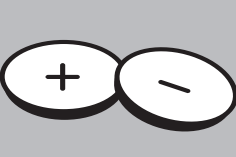
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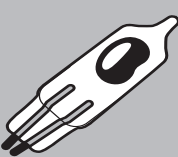
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North Brookfield voters to decide on wastewater facility upgrades

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Voters will decide at the general election whether to proceed with a major upgrade to the wastewater treatment facility.

A debt exclusion ballot vote, scheduled for the Nov. 3 election, must be successful for the project to proceed. Town Meeting voters approved \$13.1 million for the project on Aug. 18, and the preliminary design for the upgrade was approved by the MassDEP and USDA.

The wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) was last upgraded more than 25 years ago. Both the state EPA and the MassDEP have mandated higher levels of treatment, and failure to comply will result in significant daily fines being imposed on the town.

If the project is approved, it would

result in improved water treatment, including nutrient removal. Wastewater from North Brookfield ultimately ends up in the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound.

Project construction work could last for nearly three years, officials said. The state is mandating that all upgrades be finished by April 1, 2024.

If approved, the project would have a financial impact on all homeowners. However, the tax rate would not increase because of the project.

“We will start debt service payments for the project in late 2024 or 2025,” read a statement posted to the town Web site. “The town has a large amount of debt being paid off in 2025 and 2028, which will help to reduce the financial impact. The debt service that is expiring between now and 2028 will total more than the overall anticipated project costs after the application of grant funding.”

Town officials have expressed frustrations about North Brookfield being placed in a difficult situation due to new state regulations. If the vote passes, all homeowners will see property tax increases to fund the upgrades. If the project is rejected, hefty fines will be levied on the town.

“Sewer users can’t afford to pay for this themselves. There is a lot of engineering and studies involved,” said Selectman John Tripp, who believes the state should offer greater assistance to communities taking on projects to meet state regulations. “The tax base is going to go up for everyone because of this, even people who don’t use the system.”

Both the USDA and the MassDEP have committed grants and low-interest loans to the town. About 30 percent of

the project cost is estimated to be funded through grants. Zero-percent loans will also provide assistance.

Some residents have suggested that the project could be phased over many years to reduce costs. Officials decided against this route after determining that it would cost the town and users more in the long-term due to reduced government funding and inflation.

Additionally, the sewer rate would not increase significantly if the project is funded as a debt exclusion, officials said. The sewer rate would only be impacted based on the operating costs of the new facility.

If the project is not approved and ends up being funded solely by the sewer users, an anticipated 30-40 percent increase from the current rate is expected due to construction costs.

Catherine Brouillard of Leicester awarded Assumption University Scholarship for Commitment to Service

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced that Catherine Brouillard, of Leicester, has been awarded a prestigious Light the Way Scholarship, awarded to a select number of first-year students who demonstrate leadership, a commitment to service, and a desire to make a meaningful difference in their communities and the world.

Brouillard, Class of 2024, was recognized for organizing a school supply collection to help fellow students in need. Four years ago, Catherine and a group of friends created Crayons2Calculators of Leicester, in which they collaborated with local businesses to collect school supplies that were then distributed through a partnership with a local food

pantry. Crayons2Calculators has provided each of the Leicester schools with ample school supplies and provided cash donations to purchase teacher-requested books for classrooms.

“A unique aspect of an Assumption University education is our commitment to providing a high-caliber, Catholic liberal arts education that forms students who use their knowledge and talents to better the world in which we live,” said University President Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D. “Infused in many classes and co-curricular activities at Assumption are community service opportunities through which students are formed as thoughtful citizens. Students chosen as Light the Way Scholars have demonstrated

a desire to serve those in the greatest of need and enact positive change in the world, a quality that will allow them to flourish at Assumption and beyond.”

This year, Assumption awarded 31 Light the Way Scholarships worth up to \$27,000 each, renewable for all four years. As part of the scholarship requirements, Light the Way scholars must continue to demonstrate a commitment to fulfilling the University’s mission to “Light the Way” for others. Scholars must also take the Perspectives on Global Humanitarian Relief course, which challenges students to think deeply about global migration and the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), one of the largest global relief aid organiza-

tions in the world. Assumption is one of just a few institutions of higher learning nationwide designated as a CRS Global Campus, a partnership that is used to generate awareness of global poverty among students on campus through fundraisers and campaigns throughout the academic year.

Learn more about the Light the Way Scholarship by visiting: <https://www.assumption.edu/admissions-financial-aid/undergraduate-admissions-and-financial-aid/scholarships-and-grants/light-way-scholarship>

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England’s premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and

education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.



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Merrick Library continues curbside services

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD — Merrick Public Library officials never expected to be without normal programming for this long, but they are making the most of a challenging situation and continuing to serve patrons.

For the foreseeable future, the library will keep providing no-contact curbside pickup and lending services, as well as free curbside photocopying, faxing, and notary services.

Curbside pickup appointments are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3-7 p.m. You can also schedule an appointment for Wednesdays and Fridays (noon to 4 p.m.).

To request materials, please call, email, or use your CW Mars account or app. When your materials are available, a library official will call or email you to schedule your pickup appointment.

During pickup times, the library's main door is unlocked. A table is set up in the foyer, and your materials can be found in a brown paper

bag with your name on it. Only one person/family is allowed in the foyer at a time to check out materials, and patrons should wear a mask and keep a social distance of at least six feet.

"Please visit our blog at merrickpubliclibrary.blogspot.com for updates and pictures of newly added materials, so you can virtually browse our new items," read a statement released by library director Brenda Metterville.

Library officials also remind residents that the interloan delivery system is operational again in central and western Massachusetts, but not the entire state yet. The library currently receives deliveries from other libraries four days a week. To order materials through your CW Mars account, go online at bark.cwmars.org and log in with your card number and PIN.

Patrons can also supply library officials with a list of requested materials, and the staff will place holds for you.

Free curbside photocopying, faxing, and notary services are provided by appointment

only. You may also email library officials various documents to be printed, and the staff will call you to schedule pickup arrangements.

Returned materials, meanwhile, should be placed in the book drop. Once materials are brought into the building, they will be quarantined for three days prior to cleaning operations.

Looking ahead, library officials hope they are nearing the end of a long, challenging process for patrons and staff members alike. They thank all residents for their patience and cooperation for the last several months.

"The trustees and staff will consider opening for in-library browsing, by scheduled appointment only, at the end of October," read the statement released by Metterville. "Curbside pickup will continue throughout the fall and winter seasons."

For more information about library services, call 508-867-6339. To learn more about curbside offerings, send an email to brookfieldcovid19@gmail.com.

Bay Path alum named Unit Manager at Odd Fellows Home

WORCESTER — Lauren Pellett, LPN of Norwich, Conn. was promoted to Unit Manager at the Odd Fellows Home of Worcester.

The position gives Pellett, a former 911 Dispatcher and a novice LPN, plenty of responsibilities. She oversees all nursing staff at the unit, including paraprofessionals. Pellett has the distinction of the first in the class of 2020 to be hired as an LPN while still completing her academics. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the region, the state of emergency added a few more responsibilities to Pellett.

"I am responsible for the 40-bed unit and to ensure that we are adapting to all guidelines to meet CDC standards," she said. That means taking all COVID precautions to protect both the patients and staff that works there.

It was because of Pellett's work at the Odd Fellows Home as an undergraduate and her dedication in managing remote learning while being gainfully employed that she was selected and approached to be honored with the promotion.

As a 2020 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Pellett had the following accolades:

Certified, Mental Health First Aid (National Council for Behavioral



Lauren Pellett

Health Mental Health First Aid) Certified, Dementia Care Attendee, Stop The Bleed Course (American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma) Member, UNICEF Club Mentor, Class of 2021 Nominee, Feed Inc., Kindness Award Nominee, Kate Spade Hero Recipient, Yasso Game on Hero Award Distinction, First

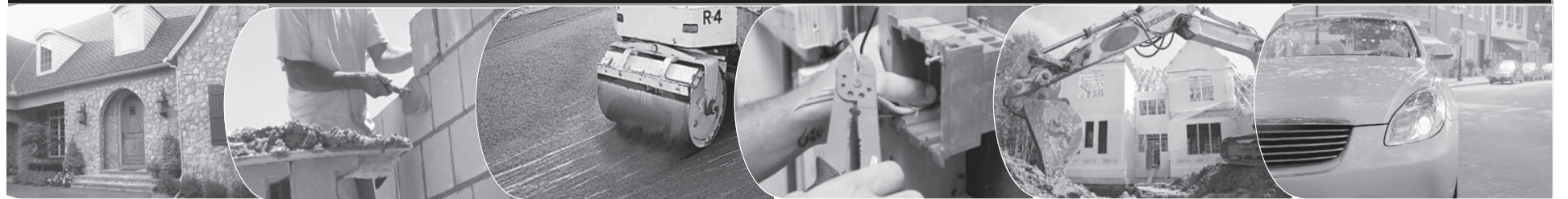
hired as LPN undergrad, underboard with Hero's Pay under Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker Order #24 Nominee, Clinical Excellence Award

"During remote learning, I missed being in school and having more interaction with the patients. To help, I assisted my mom in making fabric masks. I learned a lot through kind interactions," she said. "I enjoyed helping and building relationships with our patients."

She added that she had always wanted to be a nurse and her favorite thing about being a nurse is being able to help her patients, family and friends. "I take care of all living things."

"I love taking care of the elderly, I want to make the rest of their lives happy and peaceful," she said.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A taste of autumn

While there are plenty of topics to discuss this week on the local and national level, we decided to keep things light, and to do our best to foster a sense of unity among our readers.

One quick note to share this week is a story of two neighbors, with opposing political signs on their yards, having a thoughtful conversation. Yes, this actually happened. The two neighbors sat side by side in their vehicles and after about 20 minutes of a calm, respectful conversation, learned that they had more in common than they didn't. Sometimes that's all it takes, is an open mind and a mature outlook. This is a story we can appreciate.

Hanging heavily on our hearts, though, is the absence of the yearly fall fairs that take place all around New England. While we understand the circumstances that led to several cancellations, it still doesn't make us miss it any less. With that said, we decided a fun idea would be to have a Fair night at home.

Who says you can't blast Tim McGraw or Garth Brooks in the back yard and have a complete meal of fair food for a night? There are simple games you can set up at home as well, including water balloon pop, pick a duck (all you need is a few rubber ducks and a bucket or pool of water), water coin drop, and the bean bag toss to name a few. Get creative with your prizes depending on who is in attendance.

There are homemade recipes for all of your fair favorites as well. Soft pretzels, fried dough, apple crisp, steak and cheese, corn dogs, nachos with melted cheese whiz, French fries with malted vinegar or ketchup and a bloomin' onion with ranch for the win.

A family fair night is one way to keep the tradition alive. If you want to go a step further, there are plenty of farm stands and pumpkin patches still in operation to get that downhome feel. In addition, a drive to a local farm for kids of all ages to see cows and horses is an easy field trip.

We decided to include recipes for our top three fair food picks.

Fried Dough:
2 cups unbleached flour
1/2 cup nonfat dry milk powder
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
4-1/2 teaspoons shortening
2/3 to 3/4 cup water
Oil for deep-fat frying
Butter, honey and lemon juice, optional

Directions
Combine flour, dry milk powder, baking powder and salt; cut in shortening until crumbly. Add water gradually, mixing to form a firm ball. Divide dough; shape into 12 balls. Let stand, covered, for 10 minutes. Roll each ball into a 6-in. circle. With a sharp knife, cut a 1/2-in.-diameter hole in center of each. In a large cast-iron skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Fry dough circles, one at a time, until puffed and golden, about 1 minute on each side. Drain on paper towels; if desired, serve warm with butter, honey and fresh lemon juice.

Caramel apples:
Ingredients
Heavy Cream
Light Corn Syrup
Brown Sugar
Butter:
Salt and Vanilla Extract
Directions
First, rinse and dry the apples.
Pull out the apple's stem and insert a caramel apple stick.
For the caramel, cook the first five ingredients on the stove until the candy reaches 235°F (113°C). Reaching 235°F (113°C) should take about 15 – 20 minutes.
Remove caramel from heat, then stir in the vanilla. Allow caramel to cool for a few minutes, then dip your apples. Let the excess caramel drip off, then place on a nonstick surface such as a silicone baking mat lined baking sheet.
Once set, you can wrap the caramel apples in cellophane.

Bloomin' onion:
Combine mayonnaise, sour cream, horseradish, ketchup, paprika, garlic

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VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More dispatches from the Alternative Reality front

To the Editor:
Dec. 8, 1941:
PRESIDENT: Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Senate, and of the House of Representatives: Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date that will live in infamy, I was suddenly and deliberately attacked by combined forces of the fake news conservative media, entrenched Deep State bureaucrats, members of the intelligence community and the FBI who were appointed by my predecessor and who never liked me, America Firsters, and anti-lynching rabble-rousers. They have, for the sole purpose of making me look bad and stealing the next election, perpetrated a hoax on the American people, by claiming that the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. Fake news! Part of the biggest hoax in history! All to create panic and bring down my poll numbers. So a few exuberant Japanese flyboys in their souped up Zeros buzzed a few American ships in some remote Pacific Island. It was nothing, nothing. In the excitement, a few American ships may have sprung leaks, and a sailor or two might have tripped and fell. But all this

hubbub is Fake News, a conservative hoax, led by the enemies of the state at the Chicago Tribune, Hearst's newspapers, and NBC Radio.
The enemies of America in the intelligence community would have you believe that this so-called attack caused severe damage to American naval and military forces, and that very many American lives have been lost. They claim that American ships were torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu. But these people in the FBI and naval intelligence are a bunch of Never-Roosevelter alarmists who want nothing more than to bring me down. They're a bunch of Herbert Hoover holdovers who hate America and want to ruin our economy, and with it my chances of re-election. They want to shut down our booming tourism and travel industry, putting hard working American travel agents out of work. This morning I spoke with Prime Minister Tojo, who I have a very good relationship with, and he has assured me that there is nothing to be concerned about, that nothing happened. I have no reason to doubt him. We have a very good personal

Turn To **BANKS** page **A11**

All life matters

To the Editor:
"What is it" with black life matters! All life matters. All colors matters, and that includes the unborn infants.
Do you want to be blessed? Live by

God's moral and dietary law. It is that simple.
ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Vitamin D will help us curb the spread of COVID-19

To the Editor:
Back in March, I advised the readers to improve their vitamin D status in order to increase their resistance to COVID-19 disease. I would like to report that a paper published at the end of August in the Journal of Steroid Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (M.E. Castillo, et al.) described results from a randomized trial evaluating the efficacy of vitamin D in the treatment of COVID-19 infections. Of 50 patients receiving high doses of vitamin D, only one had to be admitted to ICU. In contrast, of 26 patients that did not receive vitamin D, 13 were admitted to ICU (2 of them dying). These dramatic results were despite the fact that there were more elderly patients in the group receiving vitamin D.

MAGAchusetts

To the Editor:
This morning, I decided to take a look at Diana Ploss's Facebook to see if any of our local celebrities. Diana Ploss likes to call Massachusetts "MAGAchusetts," and makes references to MAGAfornia, MAGAbama, MAGAginia, MAGAlorida, etc. More appropriately, though, these are our local "Maggot"chusetts who travel around as a clump making fools of themselves on street corners around the area. I found a video from West Brookfield this past weekend, and some new events planned for Spencer and East Brookfield next week. The opener of the WB video was "We love our patriots, we love our founding fathers, and we love our constitution, HEE HAW!" was uttered by a Trump supporter in West Brookfield on Sept. 12 while standing next to a life size Donald Trump cutout. Somehow I really don't think James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson would have been proud of that.

On Trump's leadership

To the Editor:
Mr. Trump, on Feb. 2, told Bob Woodward "You just breathe the air and that's how it's passed, And so that's a very tricky one. That's a very delicate one. It's also more deadly than even your strenuous flus."
At the same time, Mr. Trump was telling the nation that the Coronavirus was no worse than a seasonal flu, and it would soon disappear and it was under control. On Feb. 28, he called the virus a democrat hoax. Now he says he had to lie to stop panic. He says that lying about the virus shows leadership because he didn't want people to panic. How is that leadership? Telling people to wear masks would have been leadership.
Did Mr. Trump then work to ensure the nation had enough protective

masks for everyone, knowing it was an airborne virus? Did he invoke the Defense Production Act to make sure that nurses and doctors were protected at the very least were protected?
Not until he was under pressure from the press and Democrats did he invoke the act on March 18, but he said he would not actually use it until he had to.
Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden the next day, March 19, Tweeted that Trump was not acting fast enough: "Yesterday, President Trump said he was invoking the Defense Production Act, then turned around and said he wasn't planning to use it. The President should exercise these powers now. We need more ventilators, protective equipment, and critical

Turn To **TRUE** page **A11**

Open enrollment choices can have big financial impact



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It's that time of year again, where, if you work for a medium-to-large employer, you've got some decisions to make because it's open enrollment time. Of course, depending on your situation, you may have been working remotely for a while, but, even so, you will likely have the opportunity to review your benefits package and make changes. And you'll want to make the right moves, because your choices can have a big financial impact on your life.

So, take a close look at these key areas of your benefits program:

Health insurance – Think about your health care needs over the coming year – will you or someone in your family be coping with a chronic illness or facing a surgery? Will you need to at least consider testing and possible treatment for COVID-19? In any case, make sure you're choosing the right plan for your needs. And pay close attention to any changes in your health insurance, such as whether the plan's provider networks have changed – you may want to make sure your own doctor is still in-network. Also, check to see if you can reduce your health care premiums by taking part in a wellness program or health-risk assessment.

Life insurance – Your employer may offer a group life insurance policy for free, or for a small amount. It's probably worth your while to take this coverage, but it may not be enough for your needs. If you only had this group policy, but your family situation has recently changed through marriage or the addition of a new child, you may well need to add some private insurance.

Disability insurance – In addition to offering group life insurance, your employer may provide short-term disability insurance as an employee benefit. Like group insurance, this disability coverage may not cost you anything, but it may not be adequate – typically, short-term disability only replaces part of your income for three to six months. And while you may never need to miss work for an extended period of time, you never can tell – after all, more than one in four 20-year-olds will become disabled before they retire, according to the U.S. Social Security Administration. You may want to consider purchasing your own long-term disability policy on top of the coverage offered by your employer.

Retirement plan – You can probably make changes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan at any time, but why not look at it now, when you're reviewing all your benefits? If you can afford to increase your contributions, you probably should, because a 401(k), with its tax advantages and ease of contribution through paycheck deductions, is a great way to save for retirement. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's match. You'll also want to review your 401(k)'s investment mix. Is it still providing you with significant growth potential within the context of your individual risk tolerance? Over time, you may need to make some adjustments, either because an investment is underperforming or because you're getting close to retirement and you need to reduce your risk exposure. In any case, it's a good idea to check up on your 401(k)'s investments at least once a year.

Your employee benefits are an important part of your overall financial picture – so do what you can to get the most from them.

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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The bigot in the mirror

To the Editor:
For a moment, let's forget about police executions of unarmed citizens. American tennis player James Blake of Westport, Conn., was in casual clothes, on the sidewalk, leaning against his New York City hotel wall, waiting for his ride to the US Open when he was tackled and handcuffed by plain clothes police. Oh, did I mention? He's black. US Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina has been stopped seven times

What is the answer?

To the Editor:
My wife and I follow the news cycle pretty closely. We often receive a new revelation detailing why there is no good reason that Trump should ever be president, then see polls that indicate that he still has substantial support, which we find baffling.
This usually leads to a discussion about whether it is lack of intelligence, patriotism, morality, racism, greed or more along the lines of Charles Manson cult following. One can only hope that even Fox devotees do hear about events from other media sources. Setting aside that there will likely be a Comey style revelation released by the most corrupt justice department in American history, sometime between now and November 3rd, the fact that there actu-

Good, old fashioned school days

To the Editor:
I feel sorry for this generation of American school kids, especially those of the elementary grades who won't be having the experience this year of the first day of school. The first day of school for those of an earlier time usually came shortly after Labor Day, and was a very big deal for all of us: kids, parents, and teachers. The era to which I refer probably ended about 50 years ago, when American public schools were still the envy of the entire world, and which featured fact-based, mastery of the fundamentals of what was considered the necessary building blocks of an authentically educated student: the ability to read at grade level or above; to be familiar with correct grammar; to string together

On police harassment

To the Editor:
My brother-in-law plays golf every week with three retired law enforcement officers. He forwarded this email message that one of them sent him:
The Chula Vista, California Police Department ran an e-mail forum (a question and answer exchange) with the topic being, "Community Policing."
One of the civilian email participants posed the following question, "I would like to know how it is possible for police officers to continually harass people and get away with it?"
From the "other side" (the law enforcement side) replied:
"First of all, let me tell you this... it's not easy. In Chula Vista, we average one cop for every 600 people. Only about 60 percent of those cops are on

Not one point

To the Editor:
The big news of this week was the revelation in Bob Woodward's book about what President Trump knew at the beginning of this pandemic. The President seemed to understand how dangerous it was, and the fact that it was airborne, and he admitted to down-playing it.
This is not something we have seen before. Whenever an unflattering or attack book comes out about the President, they immediately dismiss the sources as disgruntled and fired staffers who were never that close to the president and must have some sort of grudge. Bob Woodward recorded the President's interview on tape, and the source of this scandal is the President himself. His only excuse since the leaker was his own voice is that his

Disorder

To the Editor:
As one of the few authors in the New Leader who proudly proclaim that Black Lives Matter, I feel a certain sense of responsibility to write in and analyze any situation that involves a high profile black person shooting a white person because to many, that invalidates the entire BLM movement. We are often accused of ignoring real crimes and for this reason it is important that I get ahead of this and write in about the recent shootings of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies before the entire movement and race I represent is accused of not caring.
On the evening of Sept. 12, less than 24 hours as of this writing, two Sheriff's Deputies in Compton, Calif. were shot at close range while sitting in a car. A pedestrian walking by their cruiser turned, and fired into the car, hitting

driving in D.C. Oops, I meant to say "driving while black." Seventy percent of the traffic stops in Boston are of black drivers. They are less than 25 percent of the population, making it five times as likely to be stopped while black.
If you Trump guys think this is fine, then look in a mirror. You'll see a white supremacist every time.

ALLAN JOHANNESSEN
LEICESTER

ally is still a pandemic going on, that claims the same number of lives as 9-11 did, every three days, and the administration is doing its level best to cripple the US Post office, previously able to deliver billions of Christmas cards and gifts, while delivering meds, bills and letters in a timely fashion, raising the specter of doubt that the could handle less than a million mail in ballots.
There was a recent shooting of two police officers in their squad car in LA. Obviously, the details are sketchy, but the shooter(s) should face justice like any other killer. Only a clueless president would decide that the perpetrators were Democrats, from some fringe group like ANTIFA and that

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A10**

at least a few sentences of coherent writing and composed in a practiced cursive hand; to perform the basic functions of arithmetic; to know the location of key geographical features; to be acquainted with the commonly accepted themes of history; to be intrigued with some of the miracles of science; and, certainly, to show respect to the teacher, and to at least make an effort to restrain one's self-centered drive to interrupt, to bully, and to, generally, be an obnoxious pain in the dupa. From the very outset, American kids learned about the "Golden Rule." Most of us already knew about it from our Sunday School, CCD, or Hebrew School classes. But it was as much a part of our

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

general duty (or what you might refer to as "patrol") where we do most of our harassing. The rest are in non-harassing departments that do not allow them contact with the day to day innocents. At any given moment, only one-fifth of the 60 percent patrollers are on duty and available for harassing people while the rest are off duty. So roughly, one cop is responsible for harassing about 5,000 residents. When you toss in the commercial business, and tourist locations that attract people from other areas, sometimes you have a situation where a single cop is responsible for harassing 10,000 or more people a day.
Now, your average ten-hour shift runs 36,000 seconds long. This gives a

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motivation to downplay was to prevent a panic... Since when did President Trump care if there was a panic?
What is most shocking is that this is not likely to move the needle one iota. In March, before the pandemic hit, Biden led Trump in national polls by seven points. The most recent polls show Biden leading Trump by seven points nationally now. It is as if nothing happened since March. Between the COVID-19 disaster, the economic calamity which followed, and the police killings and racial justice protests and even riots...yet the polls are exactly where they were before? We have seen the most eventful 6 months in modern history, yet no change? 190,000 dead Americans and counting, while the rest of the developed world controlled

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one deputy in the face and the other in the head. The shooter than ran away. The suspect has not been identified, and surveillance footage shows the suspect to be a young black man. Both deputies are alive, but in critical condition.
Before we delve into some of the still developing details, let me start with what has been described and what was shown on the surveillance footage is cold blooded murder. It was a domestic terrorist attack. It was likely a lone wolf. Since the shooting did not seem tied to any particular incident it is unlikely that the shooter's identity will ever be known. This type of street killing and vigilantism is barbaric and unacceptable.
One thing that I found striking is that within hours of the incident, the LA

Turn To **WASHINGTON** page **A12**

School Committee

To the Editor:
As we barrel towards the "start of school," we need to re-baseline ourselves as to our expectations from our local leaders. Gov. Baker negotiated with the Massachusetts Teachers Association to reduce two weeks off of the school year - start two weeks late and not make it up in the summer so they could prepare for having to transition to remote learning. The same day Gov. Baker announced this agreement he also stated that 318 out of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns meet the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health criteria for in-person learning and said he saw no reason 90 percent of Massachusetts students couldn't return to school.
Within days, the teachers protest-

A new school in Leicester

To the Editor:
The Sept. 26 vote on the new school in Leicester is the biggest vote Leicester has had since the early 1990's, when the 'new' high school was built. If ever there were a time for the new Pre-K - 8 school, it is now. We have the opportunity to build a 21st century school for our most valuable asset: our future, our kids. They more than deserve it.

True patriotism

To the Editor:
Thank you, Omar Har-Yarok! And Terance Washington, David Rosenberg, Citizen Kane and a few other clear-headed opinion writers in the Spencer New Leader.
Your articulate, intelligent responses to the hate filled, illogical rants, and sometimes racist, sexist screeds of various other "conservative" editorial regulars, are appreciated. Your depth of knowledge on a wide range of current, relevant subject matter and history, along with your clarity of interpretation of events, context, and trajectory of influence and impact of such, on our current socio-economic and political circumstances, are a reassuring presence gracing the pages of our local paper.

Chinese election interference

To the Editor:
One of the tenets of communism is the elimination of religion and God. It interferes with the affairs of the state by giving people hope and allowing the state to make decisions with no moral dilemma. China is one such godless communist state. They have ultimate control over the lives of the people. In the 1960's they instituted the one child policy on couples. In 2015, this was changed to allow two children per couple. In a communist state, the only value an individual has is the positive gain you bring into the collective. If you cannot work and need to be cared for you are a negative to the system. These groups are considered undesirables. The normal process to remove these is thru purges. The elderly and those with underlying health conditions fall into this category. However, with the availability of digital social media it would be unpopular even in China to openly eliminate this group. So how does the godless communist state solve this problem? They use genetic engineering to produce a virus so it seems God was the cause of death. The Chinese engineered such a virus in their bio labs in Wuhan. It was engineered to specifically attack the elderly and ill. This virus was released upon the world at the end on 2019. Whether or not this was deliberate or an accident is up for debate. In a Godless society a means to the end is easily justified. What we know is after the failed impeachment bid. It was imperative something be done to affect the US election. This seems to be too perfectly timed to be a coincidence.
The virus was transmitted to the US on the same vehicles used to destroy the World Trade Centers, airliners. Infected individuals were sent to the US to spread it throughout our country. Again, there is debate whether this was deliberate or intentional. After all, a major obstacle to the rise of China

The TikTok saga goes on

To the Editor:
It seems that the TikTok saga goes on! Back in June, a bunch of teenagers staged a prank on Donald Trump by making 1 million people sign up for the rally that only had 6,000 people show up at in Tulsa. Since then, TikTok (social media app) has become a national security threat in Trump's eyes.
Initially, Trump said he was going to ban TikTok outright because he accused the Chinese government of harvesting data from the platform (which by the way, the NSA does to the entire world because most internet platforms are based in the US). Then Microsoft (U.S. company) entered negotiations to buy the U.S. TikTok operation and separate it from its Chinese parent company. Then Trump said it didn't matter

ed about not being able to teach from the grave, not sacrificing themselves, and generally being afraid of doing their jobs started. The MTA started making noise about HVAC systems in schools and threatening strikes after their agreement to shorten the school year. They have not stated what their minimum standard for HVAC is, how many air exchanges per hour, the filtration requirements, etc... They have just said that they want new HVAC systems because they knew that couldn't be done in a few weeks. By not bringing up these "concerns" sooner, the MTA negotiated their shorter school year in bad faith. While I am disappointed with the MTA, I am more dis-

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There are many reasons the school needs to be built now. The window of opportunity, \$41 million from the state, is now. We were one of 17 schools in 2017 given the opportunity for a new school because the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) saw that our schools were and are inadequate. There were 87 schools that applied to

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Sanity exists! Rationality "trumps" bombast! Keep writing, your thoughtful, intellectually valid points of view and facts echo the sensible minds of many local liberals, progressives, middle class, reasonably educated, reasonably informed, fair minded, white, black, brown, non-racist, unbigoted, gender various, young, old, older, oldest, patriotic Americans, who see through the foolish mirages and twisted logic opinionating of others, that are taking up far too much free ink on our editorial pages. Ad Nauseam.
Sign me as a retired, white, suburban, middle class, feminist, liberal, progressive, independently spiritual,

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has been Donald Trump. It was only when countless people started getting sick that we realized the magnitude of the problem. The Chinese used their propaganda machine to spread disinformation thru CNN and MSNBC. They insisted the name be changed from the China Virus to Covid-19 under the auspices of racism. To Trump and his advisers, it was evident we were now at war on the China Virus. He immediately eliminated travel from China. For this, Biden called him a racist. The virulence of the virus was unknown, after all the Chinese needed to make it look like they knew nothing about it. This is where the leadership of Trump shined thru. The first thing a leader does is calm and reassure his people. His efforts were undermined. The fake news started promoting complete lockdowns and projections of two million dead with the fault by Trump. Under normal times like this, political groups would pull together to fight this scourge. In this election year, the radical Dems, along with Bernie supporters, saw the chaos as an opportunity to advance their radical agenda. They unleashed their Antifa and BLM mobs into the cities to sow civil discord in the hopes to swing the election in the fall. It is perfectly clear that the China virus is interfering in our election, unlike the fake Democratic Russian hoax perpetuated for 3 years.

To this end, the Democrats and their news outlets are trying to say that the 190,000 US deaths caused by the virus were unnecessary and Trumps fault. What does unnecessary deaths even mean? Eighty percent of these unfortunate people were elderly that couldn't care for themselves. They are taken care of by nurse's aides who change their diapers and feed them. Work no one else wants to do. Unfortunately, that's also how they got exposed to it. So how

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if it was owned by a U.S. firm, it was still a security threat. Then he claimed that Microsoft was an unsuitable buyer because they do business in China, then the FTC said that wasn't a qualified disqualifier, then Trump put a Sep. 15 deadline on his administration approving a sale before outright banning it.

For those that fear socialism or state-run capitalism because when the government picks winners and losers we all fail... Trump seems to be what you've feared all along. Although instead of pursuing policy to enrich himself it really seems it is more about his ego and retaliation.

While it looked like Microsoft

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KIMBALL

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there needs to be retribution. Am I the only one who thinks this piece of crap is trying to start either a race or faction war, so he can declare martial law and cancel the election, that he had already tried to postpone?

How many of my fellow citizens are on board with our taxpayer funded Justice Department taking on the defense of Trump’s alleged rape. Couldn’t a simple DNA test put it to rest quicker and cheaper? Of course, I believe several more such cases are on hold until Trump leaves office, unless a re-election times out the statute of limitations. It is clear that Trump has at least 5 kids, by three wives, all of whom he cheated on. I think the Stormy Daniels case is a foregone conclusion of fact. Do any of his supporters even care, or do they share his morality?

Last week, I briefly expressed my outrage over Trump’s comments on our war dead and injured. You can listen to his recorded statement that John McCain was no hero for being shot down, captured and a POW for over five years. You can also confirm that he has done nothing about Russia offering the

education as academics, lunch, recess, gym, etc. We all had been weaned on the lovely little ditty written in the early 1900’s by Messrs. Edwards and Cobb called simply “School Days.” The

MCRAE

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chorus went:

“School days, school days
Dear old Golden Rule days
‘Reading and ‘riting
and ‘rithmetic
Taught to the tune of
the hick’ry stick...”

Well, old man, you might say, that’s nice, but it is from ancient history and is hopelessly irrelevant to today. It’s just...not cool anymore. But, wait a minute, the coolest cat of all, Mr. Charles Edward Anderson Berry, a.k.a., Mr. Chuck Berry, thought enough of the concept to include it in his curriculum description mentioned in his titanic success of 1957 and also entitled “School Days.” It, too, goes to the Golden Rule right away:

“Up in the mornin’ and out to school
The teacher is teachin’ the Golden Rule

American history and practical math
You study’ em hard hopin’ to pass
Workin’ your fingers right down to the bone

And the guy behind you won’t leave you alone

So, there’s that. For 30 years, I asked my eighth-graders what was meant by The Golden Rule. Early in my career, most could answer the question, but every year fewer and fewer had any idea at all of what I was talking about. One wag, an inveterate little wise guy, responded, > “The one with the most gold rules?” An original thinker, at least. I would explain to the class that the Golden Rule was simply the wisdom of the ages condensed into one short but glorious

HAR-YAROK

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remember any pertinent historical fact being pointed out that led to me being wrong. In fairness you were right about a lot, in fact most things you mentioned. I encourage you and any other writer to flip back through previous weeks’ letters and tell me the specific topics of disagreement where I was wrong and you were right vis-à-vis the Civil War. I don’t remember it, but if I was wrong, I need to correct my memory.

As for God, you may or may not be aware but your religious tradition is not the only one. In some traditions, it is a sign of high respect not to allow God’s name to be destroyed and when printing it on paper which will only be destroyed we have an easy way to avoid that. Of course, police officers are individuals when they are not on the clock, off-duty, in plain clothes, and when they retire. When they are on the clock, they are agents of the government, whichever level they work for. They are representatives of our government and are fulfilling government policy. Their job is not to be individuals; their job is to perform a function on behalf of the state. Of course, police officers are people but when on the clock and being paid by our tax dollars they are an organ of the state. Whenever anybody else is on the clock and on payroll with any private employer, they represent their employer. When any employee enforces company policy, they are extensions of the company. Police Officers get to be individuals when they are not working.

The United States has the best universities in the world, and at least for now is a leader in higher education, hands down. The problem, though, is that it isn’t Americans being educated in our institutions to the elite level. U.S. doctoral institutions have become internationalized. Now 56 percent of all graduate enrollments in STEM fields are international students. U.S. citizens, on a per capita basis, are 16th in the world for people holding doctorates. Before you say, “what about Bachelor’s degrees” since they are the most basic degree conferred by uni-

Taliban bounties on our soldiers, or that he thinks talking to Taliban makes sense. At one point, he talked about inviting them to Camp David. While he demoralizes our troops, anyone who considers our status with Iran or North Korea is improved, is as clueless as he is.

There was a point in history, when I might have given some benefit of doubt, that the inept response to the pandemic, was in some part, naivete, or believe that the POTUS was privy to knowledge, experts and capabilities, which we average citizens would not have.. With the revelations we now know he revealed to Bob Woodward in February, we know pretty much have the whole thing laid out with virtual clarity.

1) We now know that he knew exactly what we were dealing with, how it was transmitted, and chose the worst of all options.

2) Fearing that any response or acknowledgement of its seriousness would have a negative impact on the economy, his only win, did exactly nothing but lie.

3) Not only did he not want citizens to panic, he also took no action, to plan, prepare, check inventories, or give citizens a heads up to adjust their interac-

truism which, if followed, would allow people in homes, neighborhoods, towns, cities, countries, and, yes, schools, to thrive and live in peace with each other. There would be no need for your “conflict resolution sessions” for “peer mediation” wasting of valuable time, no endless visits to the school psychologist to try to discover why you are such a disruptive, hateful little twit. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is only the very key to happy and successful human relations, and you wretched individuals will remain profoundly ill-educated until you grasp the wisdom of that maxim. Now, everything has changed. If I were a parent these days with no other options but the public schools, I would dread the first day of school every year. Indoctrination rather than education is the order of the day, and I believe it begins in the earliest grades and only gets worse as one progresses through to graduation. Everything has been politicized, while true academic excellence in subjects that matter has been downgraded to irrelevancy. No one is allowed to clearly dominate the field in competition for scholastic recognition, as someone else’s feelings might be hurt, and classroom behavior, disrespectful language, and genuinely rotten attitudes are countenanced as if there is no way to control the class. My advice to parents who are now awakening to the certain knowledge that their children stand in grave danger of having their brains washed completely clean by teachers and administrators who are convinced they and their values alone are what your precious children should embrace is to make it your highest priority to protect your kids and their minds. If you can’t find a safe and affordable private or parochial/Christian school in which to enroll them, home school them if at all possible. The greatest thing we ever did for our three kids was to

versities the United States ranks 19th. Interestingly though deep blue areas of the United States score far better – the Democratic hellscape of the likes of Massachusetts and New York would score at the top of international rankings if we were independent.

The reality is, and remains, that the United States has very advanced world-class regions such as Massachusetts, New York, and California which lead the world in many areas including education and research. We have world-class institutions that educate people in the local area and the world. We are connected by road to a backwater third world wannabe region which unsuccessfully tried to break off and go it alone but for now is along for the ride.

As for declaring that India, Brazil, and Indonesia are large economies by virtue of them being among the top 10 by PPP or top 20 by nominal GDP I think you are missing the key metric – “per capita.” “Per capita” means dividing by the total population – the number of people who have to share it. India, Brazil, and Indonesia are large countries and all of them have a higher nominal GDP than, say, Norway. India’s economy (US \$2,935 billion) is seven times the size of Norway’s (US \$417 billion). Unfortunately, India’s population is 249x the size of Norway’s... So India’s GDP per capita is US\$2,171 while Norway’s is US \$77,975... That is why India is considered a poor country despite being so big...

Mr. Banks – I very much appreciated reading about Humpty Dumpty. We all can use a laugh. I encourage you to write in more and go on-record with your convictions.

Mr. Robillard – Wow. I thought you were playing a part, but you are clearly genuine in your convictions. While it should be no surprise that the people who come in contact with the cops most often are the most unsavory of our society, nobody deserves to be shot in the back. Nobody deserves to be choked for selling cigarettes, nobody deserves to be shot and killed for running away. Jacob Blake is no saint, but he did not deserve to be shot, and honestly, the more these things happen, the more I think that our cops need to be disarmed and patrol without guns like other developed nations.

tions with others..

Bob Woodward has just released the tapes of his 18 interviews with Trump, as he had complained that Woodruffs last book about him, included nothing from him. On Feb. 7, Trump informed him that his National Security adviser had told him that this pandemic would be on par with the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic. He told Woodward it was airborne and five times as lethal as the worst flu. When asked why he was not telling the citizens, he claimed he was downplaying it to avoid panic. I am hard pressed to think of a more stupid less ethical or rational answer. Apparently, shutting down the economy does not rise to warning the population of a rational reason. In addition, the denial included taking no action like planning, preparing inventory or general health advice. When it was necessary to acknowledge how poorly we had prepared, he complained that Obama had left him no tests (for a disease that did not exist until 2 and a half years after he left office), that the shelves of PPE and emergency equipment were bare, despite Obama’s pandemic team, following his pandemic handbook and plan, writing orders for those things while he was still in office, and Paul Ryan’s house failing to fund

teach them at home, despite the huge blow our household income suffered. If you can’t do any of the above, get heavily involved in your kid’s day-to-day education. Become an irritant to these “woke” teachers who will neglect the fundamentals, and exhaust themselves teaching your children the right, the better, the “correct” views of sex, history, America, free enterprise, and, especially, race. If you find they are teaching “Critical Race Theory” to them at any age, rebel! Fight back, and insist that the teacher present both sides of an argument or don’t teach it at all. It is all basically a pack of lies, the so-called “facts” of a one-sided, highly politicized propagandistic agenda. Don’t tolerate it, or you will surely lose your kids who will be trained to see you as a racist who hates P.O.C.’s (People of Color.) For example, and speaking only hypothetically here, let’s say, for the sake of discussion, your high schooler comes home with a Black Lives Matter-themed book which he/she has been told must be read or the course grade will be “F.” You look at it and quickly see it is nothing but racist claptrap that says America is a horrible country full of white bigots and killer cops who are entirely responsible for the low estate of many blacks in the nation. Not a word about the hundreds of thousands of white men and boys who sacrificed their lives in the grand crusade to end slavery (unlike any other society in the history of the world), nothing about the tsunami of black-on-black crime which rages on unchecked in cities run and policed entirely by elected black governments, etc. Entirely one-sided agitation-propaganda. So, if you were to find that in your school, what do you do, mom and dad to protest this force-feeding of garbage into your kid’s psyche? If you love her/him... fight back against this educational tyranny (read it or fail!) Get in the school’s

Your tirade into welfare queen babydaddies and baby mommas was incredibly racist; however, I’m aware you don’t understand. Are you aware that the RNC finding a series of tokens that nobody has heard of to speak out of a country of hundreds of millions says nothing, and if anything says they went token shopping? Are you able to keep it in at family gatherings? While you implore people to vote for Trump are you not able to answer the question, “Are you better off now than four years ago?” Is the economy better? Is public health better? Is racial strife/relations better? Is crime better? Is vigilante justice better? Are you safer now? I know we all have biases, but I think you’re smart enough to know that things were better 4 years ago and I ask – what changed?

Anyone who has read this far must be wondering how the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States is doing. For one, it seems that Trump did know how dangerous it was back in January (credit where credit is due – I thought he was a moron who didn’t understand). He is on tape with Bob Woodward explaining the danger and then explaining his strategy of downplaying and ignoring it. Those tapes should represent the blood of nearly 200,000 Americans, but we all know facts change no opinions. Current projects are predicting 410,000 total deaths by Dec. 31.

Don’t get desensitized and numb to the fact that 5,088 Americans died of COVID-19 last week. Don’t look the other way knowing that 239,594 Americans fell ill with COVID-19 last week. Don’t forget that our friendly neighbors to the North have a per capi-

SILVA

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Silva said. “If I keep my ears open, I also have the ability to adapt to the changing needs of the people I serve.”

If you are interested in learning more about Daughter for Hire, call 774-200-6840 or send an email to daughter4hire920@gmail.com.

Looking back on her path to entrepreneurship, Silva credits the combination of her two main passions – taking part

the purchases. Two years ago, Trump fired the pandemic team and apparently, throughout the manual, as he despises any good thing dating to Obama.

This evening, he is in an auditorium in Las Vegas, holding one of his famous narcissist ego feeding rallies, where the lemmings arrive hours early, wear no masks and sit side by side, cheering his divisive, often made up diatribes, while subjecting themselves and anyone they may encounter going forward, to whatever malady they may encounter here.

All this brings me back to my original query. Clearly, this man playing secret squirrel with thousands of lives, should at least irritate people enough not to want more of the same. Whenever I engage with his MAGA people, sometimes I get a misinformation response, which I can usually disprove in minutes. In the end, the cult usually works their way to we don’t care as he is the best ever, chosen by GOD, or some other such claptrap. I think you should all wear MAGA hats and put up signs, so no one tries to hold a rational conversation with you.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

face, demand alternative reading material, or, better yet, demand equal time for an opposing point-of-view. Insist the students be able to view “Uncle Tom” by Larry Elder, or read “Please Stop Helping Us” by Jason Riley, or “Blackout” by Candace Owens”--all black conservatives who take a diametrically opposite view of America and the black experience than that promulgated by Black Lives Matter. You might mention that any organization that has to put a color before the phrase “Lives Matter” is an inherently racist one.

It’s up to you, parents. School committees long ago abdicated their prerogative to influence matters such as curriculum or discipline; superintendents and principals will protect their Teachers Union employees from any criticism--as long as they are leftists--so, short of getting a group together and suing a school district or individual teachers for discrimination and for subjecting your kid to unfair treatment regarding future applications for higher education or employment, you’ve got to fight that battle yourself. Saddle up, get informed, and prepare for battle. Your kids are worth it. Understand this, the teachers--not all--you will encounter today are not those of your parents’ generation. Guess which profession is most heavily represented in the ranks of the ANTIFA street scum of bombers, burners, and murderers? Teachers. How did you know? Which union recently voted to defund the police? Do I have to tell you? I think if Brother Chuck were around today and he were to hear about my entirely conjectural scenario of a radical teacher saying, in effect, “Here, kid, read this manifesto which reflects what I believe...or fail the class,” he likely would say, “Hey, man, that don’t sound like no Golden Rule to me!”

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

ta rate one 12th ours, so if we managed it like them,... 4,664 of those people would be alive and 220,000 of those sick people would be healthy. This is not OK. It can’t be OK. Don’t let anybody tell you this is OK. It is pathetic.

Our total is still #1 with 6,492,744 cases and 193,734 deaths. We are, however, on 22 percent of the total now. Brazil is starting to get things into what Americans call “in control” with only 1,000 deaths a day and a stable 40,000 new cases a day but India is really taking off. India is now in second place with 100,000 new cases each day and 1,500 deaths a day and climbing. It really looks like India is going to take our crown because they now have more daily cases and deaths than us and it is continuing to accelerate.

Countries elsewhere in the developed world are starting to see true second waves (because their first waves actually ended). Australia had a severe second wave in August (their winter), and they’ve since put it down. Spain is seeing infection rates similar to last spring, and has been arresting people on beaches caught violating quarantine orders. Israel opened its schools a few months ago, and is now seeing daily deaths eclipse the spring peak and infection rates per capita nearly reaching American levels. It looks like Israel is going to impose a new lockdown this week.

It doesn’t matter who wins the election in November, or who occupies the Oval Office come February (they may differ) – this is going to be the darkest of winters. The die is cast.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

in Zumba programs and working with seniors.

“I started taking Zumba classes at the Spencer Senior Center, and I was encouraged to become an instructor,” Silva recalled. “I taught at the Senior Center for a year and a half until COVID hit. It was a huge growth experience, and it was an opportunity to work with the seniors that can compare to nothing. They are an amazing group of people – they are the reason I opened the studio.”

BANKS

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relationship, going back to my years when I owned the rights to the Miss Geisha Pageant. (Those were some times!) He'll speak to those rambunctious pilots and that will be that. We have this completely under control. This panic will magically disappear by tomorrow. So, if you've planned a cruise to Malaya, or Hong Kong, or Guam, or the Philippine Islands, or Wake Island, or Midway Island, don't cancel it. It's all a hoax. There's nothing to see here, folks, except the biggest conspiracy in history.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack on me by Deep State holdovers, the intelligence community, and the mainstream conservative media, that they all be labeled as terrorist organizations, and an investigation be opened immediately.

We must make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger me or my re-election chances.

God Bless Me, and oh yeah, America too.

PRESIDENT'S SON, as he helps President walk off rostrum: "Dad, you were awake for at least part of the briefing, you know it's bad, real bad. Why didn't you level with them?"

What would you have me do? Get the car companies to start making tanks and jeeps? Get Boeing to start making bombers? Can you imagine the panic? What would that do to the markets? There go my poll numbers. No, we've got to downplay this. I didn't want anybody to panic. I didn't want to make them think we weren't in control.

"But Dad, don't you think the American people would want to know what they're up against, so they could pull together and fight."

What would they do, enlist? Buy war bonds? Have scrap

metal drives? Serve cake and soda at USO dances?

"Well, yeah, Dad, maybe."

Get real. Enlisting is for suckers. What's in it for them? \$12.50 a week and all the SOS you can eat? Who would do that? And don't tell me they'd do it for payback for the sailors killed at Pearl Harbor. Who cares about a bunch of suckers and losers that got themselves killed? No, don't even think about going out there and telling the truth to the American public. They can't handle the truth.

"Geez, Dad, I keep underestimating you. How do you do it?"

Keep 'em guessing, my boy. And remember, we have nothing to fear but, uh, dipping poll numbers, or, uh, incurring the displeasure of our friend in the Kremlin, or, uh, getting our hair wet with photographers nearby, or uh

ROGER BANKS
SPENCER

TRUE

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supplies. We need action, not words."

I don't like being lied to; lying isn't leadership. Doing nothing during a pandemic isn't leadership. Mr. Trump doesn't seem to know what leadership is. And yet, the Trump wagon is being rolled out by the good people in my community. They still want to believe he is a leader. If the virus killing 190,000 people was the only lie that Trump has promoted it would be bad enough. But it isn't the only lie we will suffer for. There is his lie about climate change. He thinks climate change is a China hoax. He will not allow climate scientists to even mention climate change, as he promotes support for coal, oil and gas. Last summer the arctic had recorded

unprecedented temperatures of 80 degrees across much of the far north resulting from extreme temperatures across Europe that broke all records. Paris recorded a temperature of 109F, 70,000 died in the heat wave and 40 billion tons of Greenland's ice sheet melted, in this one summer.

But Mr. Trump knows climate change is not a hoax, just as he knew the virus was not a hoax. I believe we all need to come together in times like this. To help each other. We will need to support each other now and in the future. We don't need to promote divisions with hatred and lies.

I believe we all want to create a better country and safer world. But Mr. Trump is not the leader to look to.

NANCY TRUE
SPENCER

REID

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cop one second to harass a person, and then only three-fourths of a second to eat a donut AND then find a new person to harass. This is not an easy task. To be honest, most cops are not up to this challenge day in and day out. It is just too tiring. What we do is utilize some tools to help us narrow down those people which we can realistically harass.

The tools available to us are as follows:

PHONE: People will call us up and point out things that cause us to focus on a person for special harassment. "My neighbor is beating his wife" is a code phrase used often. This means we'll come out and gives somebody some special harassment.

Another popular one: "There's a guy breaking into a house." The harassment team is then put

into action.

CARS: We have special cops assigned to harass people who drive. They like to harass the drivers of fast cars, cars with no insurance or no driver's licenses and the like. It's lots of fun when you pick them out of traffic for nothing more obvious than running a red light. Sometimes you get to really heap the harassment on when you find they have drugs in the car, they are drunk, or have an outstanding warrant on file.

RUNNERS: Some people take off running just at the sight of a police officer. Nothing is quite as satisfying as running after them like a beagle on the scent of a bunny. When you catch them you can harass them for hours.

STATUTES: When we don't have PHONES or CARS and have nothing better to do, there are actually books that give us ideas for reasons to harass folks. They are called "Statutes";

Criminal Codes, Motor Vehicle Codes, etc...They all spell out all sorts of things for which you can really mess with people. After you read the statute, you can just drive around for a while until you find someone violating one of these listed offenses and harass them. Just last week I saw a guy trying to steal a car. Well, there's this book we have that says that's not allowed. That meant I got permission to harass this guy. It's a really cool system that we've set up, and it works pretty well. We seem to have a never-ending supply of folks to harass. And we get away with it. Why? Because for the good citizens who pay the tab, we try to keep the streets safe for them, and they pay us to "harass" some people.

I'm Jim Reid, and I approve of this message.

JIM REID
SPENCER

ROSENBERG

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this virus and the polls didn't even move one point? The best economy since records had been kept to the worst economy since the Great Depression and the polls don't even move 1 point? Horrific killings caught on camera, leading to more than 20 million people protesting in the streets, and not one point? How can we kid ourselves that democracy is functioning if the last six months doesn't seem to have a statistically significant impact?

Now that the tapes have come out with the President admitting he understood the seriousness of COVID-19 but preferred to talk it down indicates more than incompetence, it indicates a self-serving cynicism. He bumbled in February and March while he knew how dangerous it was yet still thought he could talk it down and pretend it wasn't happening. His only excuse is that if the American people know the truth they would have panicked. This indicates a disregard and condescension toward the American people. We have just seen a continued display

of an immoral character and further evidence that he is not only responsible for much of the COVID-19 carnage but that he is uniquely unqualified for office. How will he handle the next crisis we don't know about yet?

Despite how mind blowing the revelation that he understood COVID-19 before it hit our shores but decided to pretend it wasn't real... I still predict, not one point will change in the polls.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

LAUDER

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the MSBA that year. If MSBA sees that Leicester is not interested in the project, our chances of getting accepted again are slim.


Last week, there was an opinion article in this paper that gave some false information and speculation. I won't go through all of the misinformation, but let me hit a couple: taxes won't go up \$1,000 for the average homeowner (average house is \$259,000) in town. Yes, taxes will go up as a debt exclusion (not a 2 1/2 override). However, the total cost of \$91 million becomes \$49 million for Leicester, as MSBA gives \$42 million. If we vote the new school down and we then need to bring the Primary School and Middle School up to code, it will cost approximately 32 million, with zero help from the state. Another false suggestion- revisiting the Memorial School- is not, and will never be an option. MSBA chooses the school to replace. And another - the new school plan is not the biggest and best, its cost is below the average per square foot of most of the schools built in Central Mass in recent years.

Leicester is an aging community, and our enrollment in schools has slowly been declining. We need some businesses and new families to move into town to stay vibrant and progressive. A new school will bring these.

TOM LAUDER
LEICESTER



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Celebrating 42 years

EDITORIAL

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powder and cayenne pepper. Chill this while you prepare the onions.

First, cut the onions. Cut a small flat spot on the none root end of the onion. Then remove any dried or damaged peels. Place the onion flat side down on a cutting board (root side up). Using a sharp knife starting about 1/2 inch from the root make a clean slice downward. Next turn the onion one quarter turn and make another clean slice downward. Follow that with two more quarter turns and two more clean slices downward. You should have four clean slices down on the onion equally spaced apart. Now cut three to four equal spaced cuts downward in each of those four sections. Then turn the onion root side down and gently fan out those

ROBILLARD

continued from page A9

would these have been prevented? Do we have robots and sterile areas to care for them? Of course not. With this Chinese Virus engineered to take them out, there is nothing we could do except the path Trump is taking, the fast tracking of vaccines and cures. We see this being roadblocked by the radical Dems and their news organization CNN. Why are these groups not blaming China? Could it be you don't bite the hand that feeds you?

China and the radical Democrats have one other very important thing in common. They are removing God. The new religion of the radical Democrats is social injustice and climate change.

KASPI

continued from page A9

appointed in Gov. Baker for just rolling over and not reacting to this. Gov. Baker has taken a hands-off approach letting us descend into local control chaos where local school boards don't have the will or tools to fight.

You may have heard that "70 percent of school districts have at least some hybrid learning" you should know that is barely accurate. "Hybrid Learning" in Spencer means grades K-3 are in-school four days out of every 10 and grades 4-12 are 100 percent remote. We need a new metric - "in-person adjusted school percentage." In Spencer, on a given weekday, only 12 percent of enrolled students will be in-school. Granted, better than the zero percent in the largest school districts in this state, but still not great.

Many districts are "phasing the students in" which is a ploy to throw away the window we have of low numbers of cases. Respiratory illnesses increase greatly in the colder months so rather

sections.

First in a large bowl big enough to hold the onion whisk together the milk and eggs. Then in another large bowl combine the flour, paprika, cumin, oregano, thyme, salt, cayenne pepper, black pepper and garlic powder. Then put one of the cut onions in the flour mixture. Using your hands coat the onion with the flour mixture spreading and separating the onion to make sure that it all gets breaded. Next dunk the onion into the egg mixture. Then back into the flour mixture using your hands to coat the onion.

Use a heavy pan like a dutch oven and heat the oil to 375 degrees. Using a skimmer ladle or tongs slowly place the onion root side up in the hot oil. Fry for about six minutes or until a deep golden brown. Next remove the onion to paper towels to drain.

To achieve these goals, just like the Chinese, the means justify then ends. If Biden and his band of radicals gets in power no one knows what atrocities will be committed under their new religion. Without God, euthanasia becomes easy. Late term abortions become easy. Who knows what a radical climate change activist would do to protect Mother Earth? Release a new plague?

Let us all pray that never happens. Push back against the wave of communist/socialist forces trying to subvert America. Vote for American values and God by voting for the Trump/Pence ticket on Nov. 3. God Bless America!

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

than bring the kids back now, they negotiated a delay to the school year and then left months to phase in. The teachers know that COVID cases will increase as it gets cold so the whole "phasing in" will be moot. The districts that are starting 100 percent remote have set November for re-assessing. Short of a miracle, things will be worse in November, not better. We could have brought our students back to school under circus tents on-time and had a good two months before having to move inside...but no such luck. Instead we are doing Zoom Academy and re-assessing the situation when everyone knows it will be worse.

We need to be asking ourselves and our school board, what are the criteria for re-opening? Is it based on data such as local new cases, r-naught, positivity rate, national cases, etc.? Is the decision based on parent surveys and if so, how frequently will they be sent out? Is the decision based on the arbitrary feelings of school board members which may or may not be informed by the data? Is the decision left up to the teacher's union? We the people deserve to know how and

WASHINGTON

continued from page A9

Sheriff's Department released all video footage. The footage clearly showed the cops as innocent victims. What was striking is that it seems when the cops are victims, the footage gets released instantly to help bring those responsible to justice... But when the cops are guilty or it isn't quite clear the video footage is suppressed, it takes protests to get released, it takes riots before it gets released, it takes court orders, the footage gets misplaced, sometimes we never see it, sometimes it is leaked, etc. Video footage protects the innocent and condemns the guilty - we need to demand that body cams be required policing accessories and that all footage is public record.

Even though shooting people in a car for just doing their job is unequivocally unacceptable, it would do us good to analyze some of the background...

On Aug. 31 Dijon Kizzee, a 29-year-old black man, was shot and killed by LA County Sheriff's Deputies in the back while running away. Mr. Kizzee was stopped in broad daylight while riding a bicycle for an unspecified "code violation." The Sheriff's Department statement was that Mr. Kizzee abandoned the bike and fled on foot when he saw the cruiser make a U-turn toward him. He evaded them for several blocks and when they found him there was a scuffle, he fled, and he got shot in the back. I'm sure Dijon Kizzee was not going to win citizen of the year, and perhaps there was a great reason to shoot him in the back...but I want to know, where is that footage?

On June 18, the LASD shot and killed Andrés Guardado. Guardado was an 18-year old Latino man shot in the back while running away from deputies in an alley way. The owner of the property said there were several cameras at the scene including surveillance footage which was taken and destroyed by the police. A whistleblower within the LASD has testified that Guardado was murdered as part of an initiation into a gang within

DEMOCRATS

continued from page A1

are cast on or before Nov. 3.

"My passion and stake in this election is for my own two children," added Kane, a former newspaper editor who now runs his own music therapy business in Brookfield. "Today, they see a President who lies, cheats, misdirects blame, accepts no responsibility, and does everything in his power to

TAYLOR

continued from page A9

would buy it and Trump would begrudgingly accept, plot twist! ByteDance, owners of TikTok, no longer want to sell. They're playing hardball.

In 2016, Russia interfered in our election to tip it to Donald Trump. Now that foreign interference is in American elections is how the game is played, Russia is back at it in 2020 and now China wants Biden to win. Chances are that this last minute decision not to sell is actually the Chinese government interfering with our election. They are goading Trump into banning TikTok which has 100 million U.S. users.

In many ways, this is genius. Trump's ego and knee-jerk policies might impact

POWELL

continued from page A9

supporter of: LBGTQ, BLM, Women's reproductive rights, environmental protections, affordable and accessible early childhood care and education, quality and uniformly funded public education, reasonable gun control legislation, fair voting procedures for all, the civil rights of peaceful protesters and all Americans, our honorable, courageous military personnel, our honorable, ethical public servants, (including law abiding law enforcement members, and law abiding elected appointed public officials), an ardent believer in freedom of speech, (even from those espousing conservative but intellectually invalid viewpoints), and, last but not least, a very proud supporter of "liberty, freedom, and justice for all," American patriot.

Because patriotism does not only belong to those shrill, conservative quills, dipped and drowned in poisonous ink, or, to abrasive noisemakers flaunting our flag flagrantly, up and down Main Street, in blatant, rather than respectful display, as they spew their venom forth on newsprint, or verbally, out their truck windows, polluting our environment, literally and figuratively, like the black cloud of exhaust loudly and obnoxiously emitted from their rear end. There are many other much more valid and thoughtful points

why decisions are being made.

If it is up to the teacher's union and is not informed by data, then we really ought to look at a union deserving of being busted.

Remote learning is not as good as in-person education for a variety of reasons. It totally abdicates the childcare role of schools, and requires intensive parental involvement making it more akin to teacher assisted homeschooling. Remote learning is driving inequality as some kids pod up with other kids and are assisted by involved and highly

the LASD. There were massive protests in Los Angeles however it didn't make national news because George Floyd's killing produced more protests because his killing was recorded by witnesses and livestreamed to Facebook before the footage could be destroyed. Where is the footage of Andrés Guardado's death?

In 2019, a lawsuit was filed by eight LASD deputies described a violent gang called The "Banditos" which is a fraternal club for LA deputies. Critics allege that the group violently harasses, intimidates, and retaliates against civilians and other officers. Similar cliques, fraternal groups, or clubs have been in the LASD in one form or another since the 1970's. They have hierarchical structures, intensive recruitment, hazing of younger officers, and resistance to outsiders.

Just as I logged into my email today, I saw a story about a black man who was arrested and beaten in Georgia because he was a passenger in a car which was pulled over and questioned why he needed to give ID to the cop since he wasn't driving. His girlfriend livestreamed a video where 2 deputies were on top of the guy punching him while the girlfriend screams he can't breathe and a kid yells "Daddy!" The man was arrested for "suspicion of obstructing officers and battery." This is part of the reality black people in America face, and it is unacceptable.

All the while, we have seen the recent killings/shootings of Breanna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Jacob Blake, and so many others yet nothing is being done. Nothing happens in a vacuum. We saw indefensible police action in Minneapolis segue into protests which turned into riots as it took days and weeks to charge those responsible with crimes.

Worse still, the President of the United States is fanning the flames. We have descended into chaos with vigilante justice from right-wing militias during Trump's presidency. We are now starting to find vigilante justice against the institution of policing. This type of chaos and disorder is bad for the entire country. We are in a state of disorder

hide the absolute fraud that he is. I can't continue to sit around and do nothing. We need a president like Joe Biden who my children can and will look up to as a true leader and role model. He will restore hope for this country again. All our current President has done is create chaos and divide us."

There are more than 100 volunteer campaign captains across the Commonwealth, committed to spread-

the quality of life for millions, and it will be obvious who done it. TikTok is very popular with young people and young people are very likely to say that they don't think politics affects their lives. Once TikTok stops working and they are told Donald Trump signed an executive order banning it, young people who would otherwise be non-voters may come out in droves for Biden.

Unfortunately we are in a new era where the whole world is going to start manipulating the American populace. It seems the most cost-effective way to promote a nation's foreign policy interests is to tweak the ego of our President...sad!

RICHARD TAYLOR
SPENCER

of view, than the caustic, divisive rhetoric some conservative minds are spouting, in our current political battle of deciding what is best for our country. That noise and putrid black smoke will clear eventually. Reason, empathy, tolerance, compassion, and progressive governance will prevail. That is what I believe in. Those noble patriotic ideals and achievable goals for our country are what most reasonable American citizens believe in and will work towards.

Patriotism does not "blow black smoke" in the faces of those who choose to speak out against wrongs, or who stand out with a sign to show their own political preferences. Patriotism does not include vile and vicious verbal attacks on the character of persons running for office that have absolutely no basis in fact. Patriotism means truthfulness in debate and discussion of issues, it means standing up for our Constitution, for the integrity and independence of each of our three separate branches of government, for our Bill of Rights, and for liberty, freedom, and justice for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or political views. Patriotism is devotion to making our country live up to the visions of our founding fathers and mothers, with fairness and opportunity for all within our borders, and a beacon of light, hope, and good example to the world outside.

LINETTE POWELL
SPENCER

educated parents while other kids are left to fend for themselves and Fortnite looks a lot more fun.

To the Spencer-East Brookfield school committee: how many phases are there between our 12 percent start and 100 percent of the kids in school 100 percent of time? What are the criteria for moving from phase to phase? How often will it be re-assessed?

TANYA KASPI
SPENCER

and everybody in public life has a part to play. Things are worse than they were four years ago.

Outside the hospital where the two deputies shot this weekend were being treated, there was a small protest, and some very insensitive things were said, such as "I hope they die." While wholly inappropriate to wish people dead, it isn't hard to see why there would be extreme anger. Several arrests were made in front of that hospital, including Josie Huang, a journalist who was wearing press credentials on a lanyard around her neck. Huang's phone continued to record as she was being arrested, and she can be heard repeatedly identifying herself as a reporter and shouting "KPCC," a National Public Radio station. She also yelled, "You're hurting me!" and cried out in pain. Huang is an award-journalist and initially the LASD refused to provide details about what happened but later accused her of "obstructing justice" and "interfering with a lawful arrest". Huang claims she was documenting the arrest and her video from the scene backs that up. The LASD claimed she didn't have press credentials while other witnesses recorded her arrest and her lanyard was clearly visible. Huang was released from jail at 4am with a black eye, bruises, and scrapes.

The way this reporter was treated is absolutely and unequivocally unacceptable in the United States of America. Shame on anybody who would vote for or support a president who has labeled journalists enemies of the state.

We are in a dangerous tit-for-tat where illegal and unacceptable things are done in retaliation between major groups to settle the score from the last illegal and unacceptable act.

Nothing happens in a vacuum. Don't let Donald Trump forget under whose watch this carnage is under. Don't let him paint his Democratic challenger as the cause for the mess he's created and exacerbated.

TERRANCE WASHINGTON
SPENCER

ing the Biden-Harris voice in local neighborhoods. Volunteers also operate a weekly internal phone bank calling system that uses scripts and personal stories channeled to families. Moreover, the campaign uses text and postcard initiatives to reach even more voters.

Residents living in the Brookfields, Spencer, Southbridge, and Sturbridge can contact Kane for more information on how to get involved at any level. Send an email to tim@kanedrums.com, or send a text to 774-757-7636.

LETTERS

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We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

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We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!





POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
12:09-12:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:38 a.m.: disturbance (Church Street), rep. yelling/screaming; 1:04 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:10 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 1:20-1:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:48 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 2:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:55 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:38 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:40 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 7:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Thompson Pond Road), fawn in pond; 10:27 a.m.: accident (Paxton Road), report taken; 10:27 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), welfare check; 10:29 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 10:54 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), unsafe operation; 11:01 a.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 11:03 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), identify theft; 11:20 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), question re: baby bird; 11:29 a.m.: parking complaint (Chestnut Street), info taken; 11:52 a.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 11:55 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 12:27 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Temple Street), spill in roadway; 1:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), missing cat; 3:54 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 4:20 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 4:27 p.m.: disorderly conduct (Main Street), investigated; 4:36 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:42 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 5:25 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:26 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 10:50 p.m.: 911 call (High Street), no emergency; (Total daily mv stops – 9).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
12:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:41 a.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), neighbor fighting; 12:55 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:55 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), street-light out; 1:01-1:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:29 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 1:55-2:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:11 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), kittens living under shed; 10:17 a.m.: fraud (Cottage Street), claims was scammed; 12:10 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Point Eastalee Drive), barking dog; 12:56 p.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 1:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Temple Street), dog attack; 2:31 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Greenville Street), no contact; 2:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Grant Street), found loose pug; 3:22 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:30 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 4:42 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 5:37 p.m.: b&e/residence (Smithville Road), house broken into; 7:07 p.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), teens making threats; 7:10 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), loose dog; 7:30 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 7:43 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. harassment; 8:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), clothes stolen; 8:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), trailer parked in road; 8:30 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), info taken; 8:38 p.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 8:56 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), referred; 9:45 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:54 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:40-11:46 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 29).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
12:01-1:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:15 a.m.: juvenile matter (Temple Street), teens being destructive; 1:16 a.m.: medical/overdose (Sunset Lane); 1:46 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 4:23 a.m.: medical/general (Whittemore Court); 6:27 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 9:05 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:01 a.m.: suspicious mv (Lloyd Dyer Drive), info taken; 10:05 a.m.: DPW call (Lake Street), glass in roadway; 10:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), cement truck blocking roadway; 11:22 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 12:55 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), issues w/ ex-tenant; 3:37 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unemployment scam; 5:01 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:35 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:49 p.m.: lost/ found (West Main Street), lost wallet; 6:02 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), sick skunk; 6:46 p.m.: fire alarm (Spring Street), CO detector; 7:15 p.m.: medical/general (Sullivan Street); 7:18 p.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), cows in the road; 8:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Sullivan Street), spoken to; 8:09 p.m.: 911 call (Wire Village Road), open line; 8:13 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Ethier Drive), info taken; 8:53 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Hastings Road), gunshots heard; 9:12 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), accidental; 9:20 p.m.: suspicious persons (R. Jones Road), investigated; 9:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), spoken to; 9:50 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:54 p.m.: parking violations

LEICESTER POLICE INVESTIGATE ROLLOVERS



Photo Courtesy

Fire crews respond to a rollover accident in Leicester.

LEICESTER – Police responded to a pair of rollover crashes within hours of each other last Wednesday. The first of the Sept. 9 wrecks occurred on Main Street (Route 9) during the morning commute. The road was shut down for hours as emergency crews responded. Significant damage was done to the curbing, signage, and lawn of Great

Adventure Preschool.

A short time later, the second rollover took place in the area of 451 Marshall Street.

No life-threatening injuries were reported in either incident.

As of press time, police had not announced any charges against the drivers involved.

p.m.: vandalism (Valley Street), investigated; 10:28 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 11:33 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 11:45 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
12:00 a.m.: parking violation (Prospect Street), ticket issued; 12:11 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 12:18-12:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:40 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 12:41 a.m.: officer wanted (Wilson Street), info taken; 12:57 a.m.: parking violation (Bell Street), ticket issued; 1:14-1:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:16 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 3:01 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 7:45 a.m.: open door/window (Valley Street), secured; 9:03 a.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), low-hanging wires; 9:26 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Sampson Street), no contact; 9:35 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), missing cat; 10:28 a.m.: suspicious persons (Valley Street), investigated; 12:05 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:31 p.m.: disturbance (Park Street), public pot smoking; 1:32 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 1:56 p.m.: parking complaint (Summit Street), services rendered; 2:49 p.m.: forced entry (Church Street), door kicked in; 3:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), spoken to; 3:51 p.m.: bylaw violation (Sunset Lane), citation issued; 4:04 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street) spoken to re: harassment; 4:50 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:27 p.m.: medical/overdose (West Main Street); 5:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Bond Street), loose dog; 6:47 p.m.: RV complaint (Lake Whittemore Drive), dirt bikes in area; 7:21 p.m.: accident (Howe Road), mv vs deer; 9:47 p.m.: medical/general (Vine Street); 10:17 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village); 10:32 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 10:33-11:08 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops -22).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
12:14-12:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:35 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 12:55-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:51 a.m.: lost/ found (Main Street), debit card found; 10:22 a.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), accidental; 11:52 a.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), accidental; 12:22 p.m.: bylaw violation (Thompson Pond Road), truck rem. water from pond; 12:41 p.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), re: stay away order; 12:52 p.m.: parking complaint (Summit Street), services rendered; 1:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 1:46 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), SS scam call; 1:46 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 2:39 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 2:53 p.m.: restraining order service X 2 (West Main Street); 3:17 p.m.: restraining order service (Lakeshore Drive); 3:31 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Browning Pond Road), info taken; 4:41 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 7:05 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 7:12 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:09 p.m.: residential alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 8:28 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Road); 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street), Erin M. Shannon, 21, 649 Podunk Road, East Brookfield, warrant, arrest.

###

Lecister Police

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
1:29 a.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street, Oxford), referred; 7:51 a.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 8:49 a.m.: assist other agency (Stafford Street), services rendered; 9:51 a.m.: investigation (Chapel Street), services rendered; 12:41 p.m.: investigation (Chapel Street), services rendered; 3:51 p.m.: welfare check (Whittemore Street), report taken; 5:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 5:48 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 11:55 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Susan J. Moquin, 41, 218 Queen Street, Worcester, warrant, arrest.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
1:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:48 a.m.: fraud (Green Street), report taken; 11:23 a.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), served; 1:04 p.m.: suspicious mv (Crestwood Road), no action required; 1:12 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 2:38 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 6:44 pm.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), referred; 7:49 p.m.: accident (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 7:58 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, accosting/annoying another person, report taken; 9:40 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive), spoken to.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
12:42 a.m.: noise complaint (Deer Pond Road), services rendered; 2:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), services rendered; 10:00 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 11:14 a.m.: domestic disturbance (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 1:09 p.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 6:34 p.m.: welfare check (Mayflower Circle), spoken to; 7:03 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 8:29 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mulberry Street), spoken to; 8:56 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
12:51 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 2:39 a.m.: abandoned 911 (Olney Street), services rendered; 4:24 a.m.: suspicious person (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 10:45 a.m.: assist citizen (Pitcairne Avenue), spoken to; 11:43 a.m.: mutual aid (Pleasant Street, Paxton), services rendered; 1:37 p.m.: property found (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 4:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:03 p.m.: investigation (Rawson Street), services rendered.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
1:10 a.m.: noise complaint (Church Street), no action required; 3:26 p.m.: mv stop (Parker Street), no action required; 3:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Redfield Road), spoken to; 5:05 p.m.: suspicious activity (Marshall Street), unable to locate; 5:11 p.m.: gunshots heard (Lake Avenue), investigated. 6:02 p.m.: assist citizen (Brookside Drive), report taken.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
12:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Robert Joseph Frazier, Junior, 41, 125 Charlton Street, Rochdale, OUI liquor, negligent operation, failure to stop/ yield, arrest; 1:35 a.m.: noise complaint (Church Street), report taken; 5:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 7:27 p.m.: suspicious activity (Whittemore Street), spoken to; 9:25 a.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 11:00 a.m.: vandalism (Chapel Street), spoken to; 12:39 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), spoken to; 4:48 p.m.: arrest warrant service (McCarthy Avenue), unable to serve; 5:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:26 p.m.: larceny (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:34 p.m.: parking complaint (Town Beach Road), services rendered; 6:35 p.m.: investigation (Sandy Circle), services rendered; 6:45 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 7:13 p.m.: investigation (Sandy Circle), services rendered; 7:54 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street, Paxton), services rendered; 9:32 p.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 9:47 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), spoken to; 10:43 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), transported to hospital.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
1:27 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 2:35 a.m.: mv stop (South Street), verbal warning; 9:06 a.m.: accident (Sandy Circle), report taken; 3:26 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 3:33 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 3:55 p.m.: investigation (Town Beach Road), services rendered; 4:09 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 4:21 p.m.: welfare check (Ingram Road), services rendered; 5:14 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 6:18 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 8:04 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 8:14 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:13 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning.

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OXFORD – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frpld Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frpld Din Rm w/ Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frpld Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studded Yard! **\$339,000.00**

WEBSTER – 10 Wyman St! Webster Lake Neighborhood Access at Lakeside Beach & State Boat Ramp Near-by! 10,000' Lot! 1 Level Living! 11 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths! Room for the Extended Family! 2 Complete Living Quarters! A/C! LP Gas Heat! Town Services! 2 Driveways! Fenced Back Yard! 2 Sheds! **\$189,900.00**

DOUGLAS – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bthrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 2x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Walum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

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

HOLDEN – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frpld Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT - 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frpld 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



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Dudley: 3 bedroom, Living/Dining room, Country Kitchen, In-ground Pool **11A Paglione Dr - \$253,500**



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WEBSTER - 39 OLD DOUGLAS RD



First time offered! Lovingly cared for ranch situated on 1 acre! Recent improvements: windows, siding, gutters & new composite rear deck. Cabinet packed kitchen to the cedar closets. 3 full baths! Master Bath with laundry! Lower Level - Potential for an in-law or extra personal space for the Kiddos!!!! don't miss out on this one!!! **\$338,000.**

OXFORD - 4 LEICESTER ST



LAND LAND Great Opportunity for Developer! Total 8.47 +/- acres. Commuter access to several state highways. Scenic nature views. **\$89,900.**

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD



NEW LISTING

Quintessential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. **\$425,000.**

WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD



3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 46'X80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC - HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?! **\$600,000.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Webster - 85 Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**

Webster - Copper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res.! **ON DEPOSIT! \$49,000.**

Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+/- Sq Ft! Lot Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**

Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. **ON DEPOSIT! \$50,000.**

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE



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THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND



Thompson - New 5+ Acre waterfront land listing on Little Pond! Private, pastoral setting, open field surrounded by tree line. Plan of land and septic design in hand! **\$179,900**

LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st Flr bedroom suite w/5thwdr and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors, oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$859,000.**

Brookfields Rotary seeks help providing table shields to local schools



NORTH BROOKFIELD — Brookfields Rotarian Mark Minnucci is spearheading an effort to provide protective plexiglass shields to the North Brookfield Schools, where Mark is the Director of Student Services. Using a design found on Google and modified in his own workshop, he reached out to local businesses and his Rotary club. Brookfields Rotary and

Photo Courtesy

Mark and Grace Brinn, a Speech and Language Pathologist assistant in North Brookfield, demonstrate how the new shields will be used. \ Our deepest appreciation goes to our project partners and to Mark for his initiative. This collaborative community effort represents "service above self" in the purest Rotary tradition.

its community partners now have collaborated to create dozens of table shields for the upcoming school year. School will resume in the district using a hybrid model this week.

Working with its non-profit partner, Angels Answer Inc, Rotary is coordinating this effort as part of our on-going commitment to school PPE, which began in July with our distribution of thousands of protective facemasks. The club already has donated \$200 to cover the cost of 15 shields, and our community partner, Country Auto Body in North Brookfield, generously pitched in with 16 additional shields. These grass roots contributions will save the school district hundreds of dollars and provide the

students and staff with added protection while they deliver vital services.

How can you help? Brookfields Rotary is seeking donations to make more table shields and expand the program to the other two school districts in our service area. Leaders in those districts have expressed interest in receiving shields. Your donation in any amount will help. The materials cost per shield ranges from \$15 - \$25 depending on the quality and size of the plexiglass. Financial donations as well as materials donations will help. Send your contributions to Brookfields Rotary, PO Box 733, Warren, MA 01083. To arrange for a materials donation, call Mark Minnucci at 978-846-3552.



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OBITUARIES

Ralph E. Maestro, 60

AGAWAM- Ralph E. Maestro, 60, of Agawam, died on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.



He leaves his sisters, Sheila Rygiel and her husband Edward of West Brookfield, and Ann Noga and her husband Alan of Southbridge, 5 nieces, 1 nephew, 8 great-nieces and 2 great-nephews. He was predeceased by his infant brother, Billy in 1957, and his brother, Dennis in 2017. He was also predeceased by his step-father, Alan Stone in 2010, and a nephew, Damian Maestro in 2012. He was born in Worcester, son of the late Ruth E. (Cummings) Stone who died in

2012, and Ralph E. Maestro who died in 1959.

Ralph worked as machine operator at William E. Wright Co. for several years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Diabetes Foundation, New England Chapter, American Diabetes Association, 260 Cochituate Road, Suite 200, Framingham, MA 01701 or at <https://donations.diabetes.org>

A Graveside Service in St. John Cemetery in Worcester is being planned for a later date.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Thelma Quigley, 99

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Thelma (Vorce)Quigley, 99, of North Brookfield, died on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center.



She leaves her daughter, Judith Ducasse and her husband David of Old Orchard Beach, Maine/Naples, FL. and her son, Brad T. Quigley and his wife Cheryl of West Brookfield; her sister, Sybil Sandman of North Brookfield as well as 5 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Thelma was predeceased by her husband Robert Quigley and her brother Donald Vorce. She was born in North Brookfield, daughter of the late Roy and Minnie (Doane) Vorce.

Thelma was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved all sports but especially driving her car and going for “spins”. A favorite destination was Quabbin Reservoir, to watch eagles and enjoy nature.

She was an active member of the North Brookfield Senior Center for many years.

A Private Graveside Service will be held in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Thelma's name may be made to: North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest Street, North Brookfield, MA, 01535.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

William A. Yorzyk, 87



William A. Yorzyk, 87, of East Brookfield, died Sept. 2 at home. He was surrounded by Carrol, wife of 59 years, and children Jenn and Jeff and their families, overlooking his beloved lake. He retired in 1996 from pioneering careers in swimming and anesthesiology, and began a new life with Carrol, reveling in

their local lake ecosystem. A memorial service in the spring will welcome friends. Many heartening stories about Bill can be found online, including on the Wilbraham Funeral Home site. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are accepted at QQLA.org or Springfield College, designation men's and women's swimming, at www.givecampus.com/campaigns/14738/donations/new.

WilbrahamFuneralHome.com

It could happen here



Photo Courtesy

This week's second picture shows a happy angler with his first King salmon of the year. Photo courtesy of Fat Nancy's Tackle shop in Pulaski, N.Y.

The California wildfires continue to burn, costing the lives of residents and wildlife in California and surrounding states. The dangerous smoke conditions are affecting air quality, and will continue to impact the planet. Loss of homes and property in the area is catastrophic, and we need to step back and take a moment to reflect on the people that have been impacted by these terrible events that seem to have no end in sight, and are being blamed on global warming. Battling the pandemic and wildfires at the same time is unimaginable.

Then my thoughts go to the loss of wildlife, and all of the horses, cattle, birds and all other living creatures that are being killed or injured due to the wildfires. I rarely hear of the states controlled burning program, that can reduce the spread of wildfires. Even in this state, we could see wildfires start to pop up in the coming weeks and months if we do not get a substantial rain fall soon. Anyone using the outdoors in the coming weeks need to be exceptionally careful with camp fires, smoking, etc.!

Nine Blackstone Valley residents recently returned from a bear hunt in Maine. Everyone harvested a bear except one hunter. That is darn good for a group of nine hunters. The only one that did not harvest a bear, never even saw one during the six-day hunt. Wait till next year!

Upstate New York Salmon River started to see King Salmon being caught at the mouth of the river last week. Action should start to blow wide open this week. They to need water badly. Once the flow of water increases, and we have a few cool days to lower the water temperature, fishing on the river should be great, and will last for several weeks.

The states fall trout stocking should start as soon as the water temperature cools down. Low water in some ponds need an inch or two of rain to make them suitable for trout stocking this year. Some Rod & Gun Clubs will also hold off on their fall trout stocking because of low water.

Reports of slow action on the Canal by some anglers last week could change any day now. A lone angler fishing the canal at night using eels reported catching some decent stripers last week at the canal. There are a good number of serious striper anglers that do their homework, whether it is on the canal, fishing at Block Island and other hot spots in both Mass. & Rhode Island.

Very few reports of local anglers harvesting geese last week, but that to will change quickly when farmers start to harvest their corn crops. The humid weather of last week also kept goose hunters away.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

A new season of opportunity and happiness

Today, I'm in my home working on the final column that I'll pen from this location. Next week, I'll write my first column from our new home.

We are in a season of change and transition.

I've written some part of my books or columns, from every space in this home. As I walk from room the room, the memories of children, now adults, are overwhelming. I remember our first night here and how we all ended up in one bedroom as the noises of the new home settling were a bit unsettling to our senses, but our first experiences hearing a pack of coyotes howling in our front pasture sent everyone scrambling in terror into our bedroom.

Pictures taken at our front door of our children's first day of school ... a house full of their friends scrambling in after classes to snack and unwind.

I remember every Thursday night, how our home would fill with over sixty high school students, craving

mac and cheese, and chili dip. Arlene was Director for our local high schools "Campus Life / Youth for Christ" program. I remember the laughter of these wonderful students still echoing through the entire place. This home has touched many lives through these last twenty-six years.

A friend that I met on several of my book tours, as I was on his radio show, on KSFO in San Francisco, Rabbi Daniel Lapin, once said, "I believe the lives of people leave an imprint on this earth. I feel and sense them as I travel to new locations. Important events remain. You must open your heart and mind to feel them."

I know he is right. I feel the imprint of our lives together permanently imprinted onto this home and forty acres. I hope the new owners will be open to feeling the joy left behind.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

A new beginning! We'll move on Tuesday and Wednesday. As you read this, the transition from old to new will be in motion or already in place. Decisions will be made about where furniture will fit and how our new routine will flow in this unfamiliar space.

The late-great Zig Ziglar famously said, "The greatest successes in life often happen when we change locations." I agree. Old habits are broken, and we look at life through fresh eyes. A new perspective reveals new experiences and opportunities. Arlene and I are enthused about our new life prospects.

We've loved our lives here and we'll leave with a touch of sadness but enter this new season of our lives with optimism.

As the old hymn proclaims, "it is

well with my soul."

What is the moral to this story?

Embrace change with enthusiasm. We can't fight the aging process and the inevitable transition in our needs. Life is always shifting and evolving. Nothing stays the same. Embrace the change and be creative. Be optimistic. Believe the best is yet to come. Seek out and find the good, then enjoy the new opportunities brought on by the change. To do otherwise only brings on sadness and depression.

I choose optimism and happiness in this new season of my life.

Won't you join me?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

LEGALS

Notice of Special Public Hearing East Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

This Zoning Board hearing will take place at the East Brookfield Town Hall, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA on Thursday September 24, 2020. Hearing will commence at 7:00PM or soon thereafter as can be heard. Interested parties can attend in person adhering to all CDC guidelines for COVID 19 including masks, 6-foot distancing and limited occupancy. Dial in audio only option is available at: 669.224.3412 access code: 185.817.781.

Applicant: Josh Buzzell; owner. Property location: 117 Evergreen Street, East Brookfield. The applicant is requesting a special permit to demolish an existing structure and construct a new single-family dwelling on an existing non-conforming lot as outlined in Section 4 non-conforming uses, paragraph 2 of the East Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. September 11, 2020

September 18, 2020

ATTENTION SPENCER RESIDENTS A PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE SEWER COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD TO DISCUSS SEWER RATE FEES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
BROADCAST LIVE FROM MCCOURT SOCIAL HALL
BY SPENCER CABLE ACCESS
REMOTE MEETING ONLY
September 11, 2020
September 18, 2020

A.C. 92A

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
20E0053PP
Worcester, ss.
Probate Court**

To Patricia Darrach of Spencer in the County of Worcester, Harold A. May of Brewster in the County of Barnstable, Oren May Jr. of Lake Panasoffkee, David Eaton, Eric Eaton both of Kissimmee in the State of Florida, Christina

Dorsey of Mount Airy in State of Maryland, Nicholas Chiodioni of Temecule in the State of California, William Chiodioni, of Suffolk in the State of Virginia and to all persons interested. A petition has been presented to said Court by Mark S. Foss, Trustee of Brookfield Woods Realty Trust of Worcester in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Brookfield in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows:

Petitioner owns as co-tenant an undivided share of the following described land (referred to in this petition as the "land") in Brookfield (name of city or town in which the land is located) which petitioner wishes to own separately: That certain parcel being know as 24 Maple Street, Assessor's Map 6C, Lot48, containing approximately 8.73 acres, more or less. See deed at Book 61578, Page 101 for a more complete description setting forth that he desires that – all – the aforementioned described part – of said land

may be sold in private sale for not less than \$125,000.00 dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which th Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the twenty-second day of October 2020, the return date of this citation. Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-fourth day of August 2020. Stephanie K. Fattman Register of Probate September 11, 2020 September 18, 2020 September 25, 2020

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Get the most out of restaurant leftovers



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Local restaurants have taken an especially hard financial hit during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. A recent appeal for economic relief from the National Restaurant Association on behalf of struggling restaurants estimated that the industry could suffer hundreds of billions of dollars in losses due to the outbreak.

In recognition of the vital roles restaurants play in fostering strong communities, many local governments have urged residents to order takeout or delivery if they can afford to do so. Millions of consumers have heeded that call, helping restaurants stay afloat in a time marked by economic uncertainty while appreciating a night or two off from preparing meals at home.

It's easy for home cooks to practice portion control when making meals at home. But restaurants tend to offer hearty portions, leaving consumers with leftovers at a time when more and

more refrigerators are full of containers with previous nights' meals. So what to do with restaurant leftovers? A little creativity might be in order.

- Reimagine restaurant leftovers. The Mayo Clinic advises against keeping restaurant leftovers for more than four days, noting that the risk of food poisoning increases after that. If you don't want to eat the same meal twice in four days, try to turn leftovers into something new. Add fresh vegetables to leftover rice to create a rice bowl that makes a great midday meal. Then use leftover meat and potatoes to create a stew or soup for dinner. Add some sauteed seafood to leftover pasta to give the meal a whole new taste. Reimagining restaurant leftovers into wholly new dishes is a great way to get even more out of meals that might be too big to polish off in one sitting.
- "Trade" leftovers. When ordering meals for the whole family, make a game of trading restaurant leftovers for the next day's lunch. If Dad orders

chicken parmigiana he can trade it for Mom's beef bolognese. Families can have even more fun by offering side dishes for desserts or sweeten offers with homemade treats or promises to do the dishes. This is a fun way to ensure no one has to eat the same meal on consecutive days.

- Turn leftovers into appetizers or snacks. If leftovers aren't abundant enough to provide for two full meals, or if you simply want to make something new out of what you didn't eat last night, turn leftovers into appetizers or snacks to enjoy while watching a movie. Open a bag of tortilla chips and turn last night's entrée into a tasty dip, or place leftovers out shortly before your home-cooked meal is ready to be served. Extra flavor at the dinner table is always welcome, and this approach gives everyone a chance to try each dish.

Restaurant portions can be large, and in this time of takeout that can make it hard to determine what to do with leftovers. Thankfully, there are many creative ways to approach restaurant leftovers so no one has to eat the same meal two days in a row.



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