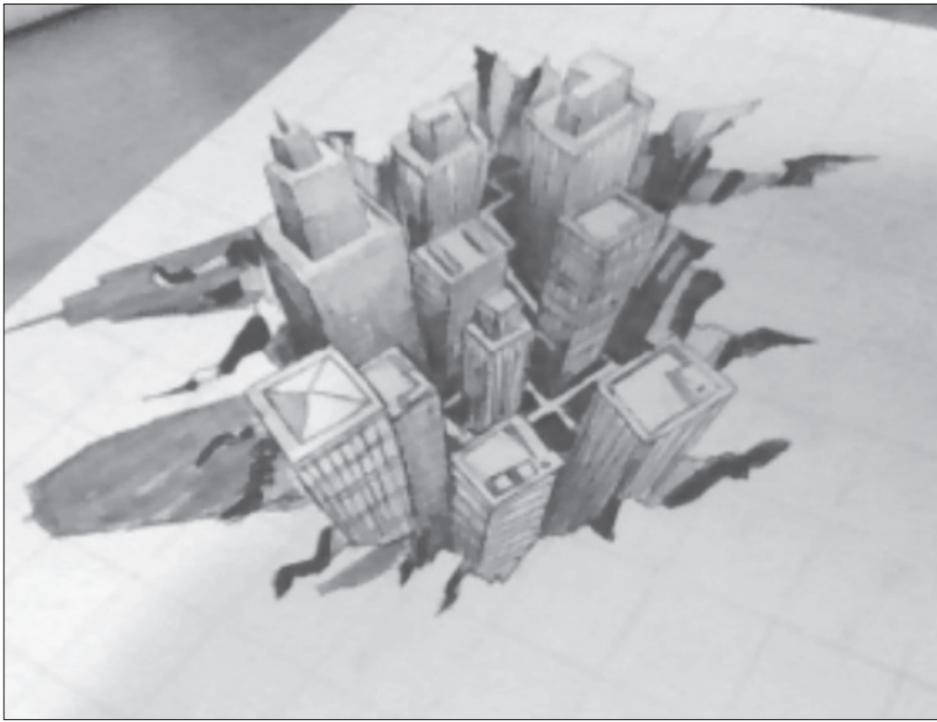


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Friday, May 22, 2020



Photos Courtesy

A pair of Knox Trail Middle School students were honored last week for their outstanding artwork.

Knox Trail students create art at home

SPENCER – Thanks to a series of unique assignments, art students at Knox Trail Middle School are adjusting to learning and creating at home.

Last week, seventh and eighth grade art students worked on projects involving optical effects. Teacher Caroline Dacey has been thrilled with the hard work her students have shown as they adjust to remote learning.

"We used to do art walks at school where they could view, vote, and review each other's work," Dacey said. "Now, with online school, we are doing Art Scrolls, so they scroll through the work and do the same task. I love how they reflect on each other's

art." The winners of the Art Scroll project for the week of May 1 are listed below, as well as reviews provided by their peers.

Grade 7 winner: Emilee Larson

Reviewed by Grade 8 student Alexander Pinkowski:

"Emilee Larson used good shading around the hand to make it pop. The different colors in the hand create contrast. The lighter colors outside of the hand help make it look 3-D. Her hand is shaded darker to contrast the rest of the paper. The lines on the hand are curved to give it a 3-D look. The two different blue colors work

Please Read **KNOX**, page **A2**

Officials question delayed COVID testing for Meadows employees

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Officials continue to probe the COVID-19 outbreak and response at The Meadows, specifically the delay in employee testing.

On May 7, a joint letter from selectmen and the Board of Health was sent to Gregory Toot, the chief executive officer of Vibra Hospital/The Meadows of Central Massachusetts. The letter outlined officials' concerns that The Meadows leadership decided to not test employees of the facility for COVID-19 after previously guaranteeing staff testing.

"Families of residents were informed in a written communication dated April 14th that all staff were to be tested, and it appears this decision has been reversed," the joint letter read. "This is particularly concerning given the rise in resident cases and fatalities, and we have received multiple complaints."

A separate letter addressing the same concerns was sent to Toot by Sen. Michael Moore and State Rep. David LeBoeuf, who also received several complaints.

"I was contacted by numerous residents in town that live and work at The Meadows about concerns related to COVID-19," LeBoeuf told the New Leader. "Especially after the Governor's order prohibiting visitation in nursing homes was implemented, many families were anxious about what they could expect about testing and treatment."

Officials could not verify the exact number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths at The Meadows. As of May 10,

the number of cases at the facility represented more than 60 percent of the town's overall number, officials said. By May 14, Leicester had 118 confirmed cases.

Vibra Hospital officials declined requests from the New Leader to provide information on confirmed COVID-19 cases. Upset family members have repeatedly contacted the hospital and local officials.

"There is a significant cluster of COVID-19 cases at The Meadows," said Town Administrator David Genereux. "Families have been complaining that the staff has not been tested for COVID-19. The letter authorized by the Select Board and the Board of Health strongly advocated for staff testing."

The letters sent from local officials also informed Toot of resources available to assist with staff testing. These include free National Guard testing provided to requesting nursing homes. The state has also made available an additional \$130 million to provide nursing homes with two months of financial support and staff support.

In an April 14 letter sent from The Meadows staff to residents and patients, Toot stated that all employees and healthcare workers would be screened upon entering the building. He also stated that the Department of Public Health was sending test kits, and that all staff members and patients would be tested when supplies arrived.

Nearly a month later, in early May, residents and officials were still demanding

Please Read **MEADOWS**, page **A2**

Community reacts to cancellation of Spencer Fair

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Joining a long list of local traditions to be canceled in 2020, the Spencer Fair was called off last week due to Coronavirus concerns.

Held each year on Labor Day weekend, the four-day fair has been an annual family tradition for generations, drawing thousands of guests to the fairgrounds. But with uncertainty looming over when events with large crowds can safely resume, the Spencer Agricultural Association decided to make their decision early. The fair requires extensive planning each year, and organizers didn't want to progress into the complex scheduling process amid unpredictable circumstances.

"It shows how much planning and work goes into putting on the fair every year," said Sen. Anne Gobi, who lives in town. "The committee members have to sign contracts, and plans are made for the next year's fair virtually the day the previous fair ends."

Although disappointed by the loss of the fair this year, residents and officials understand the reasons behind

the decision. Several other large events throughout the state, including the Pan-Mass Challenge, were forced to cancel their programs several months in advance.

For families who have made traditions of these events each year, it will be painful to continue crossing off beloved activities from their calendars. Many residents and officials have attended the Spencer Fair consecutively for decades.

"I have lived in Spencer for 60 years, and this is the first time I remember the Spencer Fair not being open on Labor Day weekend," said Selectman Ralph Hicks. "Although it is sad and disappointing, I feel social distancing will need to be practiced until a vaccine is found and there is enough to vaccinate a majority of the population. It would be impossible to practice social distancing at the Spencer Fair."

Each year, the fair features such highlights as livestock exhibits, tractor pulls, a demolition derby, a midway, judged competitions, food vendors, and musical entertainment. The loss of this year's event

Please Read **FAIR**, page **A2**

Leicester police investigating abandoned boat



Photo Courtesy

Leicester Police are requesting public assistance in solving an illegal dumping case.

LEICESTER – Police have seen numerous cases of illegal dumping over the years, but they're asking for your help in solving one of the strangest incidents yet.

A boat was recently dumped in the woods off Cemetery Road (near the power lines). Police continue to investigate how the boat was transported there and placed in the woods.

"This is a large boat and would have been on a trailer. The VIN was run; however, there was no information in the national database," read a statement issued by the Leicester Police Department.

If you have information on the incident, contact Officer Caforio at 508-892-7010 (extension 2065).

MEADOWS
continued from page A1

answers on the lack of staff testing. Local leaders were also concerned about general safety procedures at the facility.

"I reached out to the Worcester Division of Public Health - which provides public health nursing services to Leicester - and they were able to pro-

vide the facility with some additional PPE and guidance on safety protocols," LeBoeuf said. "Families and residents continued to contact me because of the fact there was a rising level of cases in the facility and staff had yet to be tested."

LeBoeuf then contacted the state Department of Public Health, which informed him that the state cannot mandate private facilities to test their staffs. LeBoeuf later followed up with Toot in a phone discussion.

"I had a very positive and productive phone call with the CEO

of The Meadows on Friday, May 8," LeBoeuf said. "He assured me The Meadows would be taking advantage of all of the resources the National Guard and state provide to nursing home facilities, including a new funding program contingent on staff testing."

Town officials also received a response from Toot after sending the letter.

"Shortly after we emailed the letter, we heard from Gregory Toot, Chief Executive Officer of Vibra, who informed us that they were working with Mass DPH - and that all staff would be tested for COVID-19 by the end of this month," Genereux said.

KNOX
continued from page A1

together to make the optical illusion." Grade 8 winner: James McNicol

Reviewed by Grade 7 student Hailey Higdon-O'Mara

"In my opinion, I thought that James McNicol's art was amazing. The forms and shading gave it an optical effect. Just the fact that it looked like it was actually rising out of the cracks in the image made it seem realistic. His art used forms and shading to make it 3-D."

FAIR
continued from page A1

will be a significant burden for vendors in an already challenging financial year. Local officials are calling on residents to support area farmers and growers as they find ways to adjust to a new normal. This will likely mean the loss of several more agricultural fairs in 2020.

"The fair is a great way to showcase the rich agricultural traditions of our area," Gobi added. "I encourage people to continue to support their local farmers and farms, especially this year."

Spencer Fair organizers are already looking forward to the 2021 event. For more information about the fair, visit www.SpencerFair.org.

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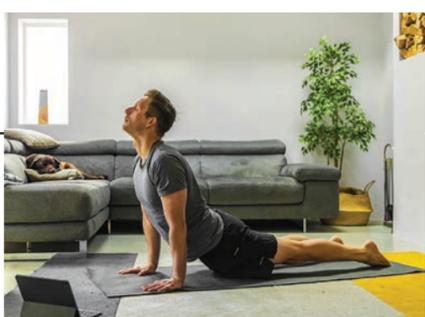
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Helping Kids Cope With COVID-19 Concerns

- Talk to kids about COVID-19 and social distancing, and ask them to express their feelings about it.
- Limit your child's exposure to news and social media related to COVID-19.
- Connect with outside family members or households together through phone or video chats.
- Seek ways to keep kids active, engaged, learning and having fun at home each day.



Bored? Blue? Anxious?

Try these tips and ideas to help yourself relax and enjoy your time at home:

1. Begin your day with a deep breathing, meditation or gentle stretch routine.
2. Connect socially by phone, text or video chat each day.
3. Focus on the positive by keeping a gratitude journal.
4. Talk about your feelings with others, and encourage them to do the same.
5. Practice self-care, whether physical, mental, spiritual or all three.
6. Keep your living space clean and organized, and try to maintain a daily routine.
7. Create a want-to-do list of things you haven't had time to focus on in the past: book lists, classic movies, fitness, crafts, online classes, new recipes, a language learning app or anything that "sparks joy" for you.

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Good weather brings good fishing

Now that the weather has started to cooperate, fishing has started to improve dramatically on both fresh & saltwater. A call this past Sunday to Archie's Bait and Tackle shop in Providence, R.I. revealed some good news on stripers and tautog. A lot of bait fish have moved in and stripers are abundant, although many stripers are schoolies, with numerous legal size fish being caught. There are a lot of porgies in the area.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

dealing with this terrible crises that the world is experiencing today is made a lot easier to cope with while owning my two dogs. This week's second picture shows my Lab Twig and her beagle friend Molly enjoying some sun last week.



A call to Al at Snug Harbor Marina revealed some great fishing for school stripers and fluke, although many short fluke are being caught. Catching a 19 inch fluke this year in Rhode Island is going to require a lot of catch and release, and a lot of mortality of the fish. I just do not understand the Rhode Island Marine Fishery thinking when they come to set size limits on recreational fishermen. They are constantly reporting the high mortality of our fish stocks after they are caught and released by recreational fishermen and commercial fishing. It would be not unreasonable to lower the size limit and the bag limit for recreational anglers. At least they could take a few fish home for the dinner table. Instead, the released fish become crab bait.

Bait shops in both states are sold out of green crabs every week for tautog fishing, as are fresh porgies. You may need to plan on catching your own bait! Bait & tackle shops are having a hard time keeping up with the demand for green crabs because of high volume of fishermen this year, and the crabs are not podding well because of the cool water, which otherwise are easier to catch.

This Covid 19 virus has sure disrupted our way of life, and it is expected to continue for months, or even years. People that own a dog, cat, or some other family pet are finding that they can provide some great comfort on a daily basis. As an owner of two dogs, a yellow Lab and a 13 inch beagle, I find

Local trout fishermen continue to catch some nice rainbow trout, and freshwater bass anglers are catching some impressive largemouth, and smallmouth bass on shiners and plas-



limit this year. This week's picture shows Samantha Johnson with her turkey she harvested recently. Nice bird! More women are taking up hunting and fishing every year, as they find the great fun in the sport, while enjoying the outdoors.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Bronze age comic books

In a past column, I wrote that I would dedicate a future column to comic books. There is so much collector interest in comic books, and they have been selling so well recently, I will dedicate the next three columns

to them. Comic books have a longer history than you might expect. Swiss cartoonist Rodolphe Töpffer created "Histoire de M. Vieux Bois" in 1837. The book was retitled "The Adventures of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck" when it was translated into English in 1842. It is considered the first comic book, according to the South Florida Reporter.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
.....
WAYNE TUISKULA

always humorous, that couldn't be further from the truth. Comics have been used as a medium for telling stories of all kinds."

Comics are categorized in four different "ages." The Golden Age was from 1938 to 1956. The Silver Age first took place from 1956 to 1970. The Bronze Age went from 1970 to 1985 and the Modern Age began in 1985 and continues today. Some experts also

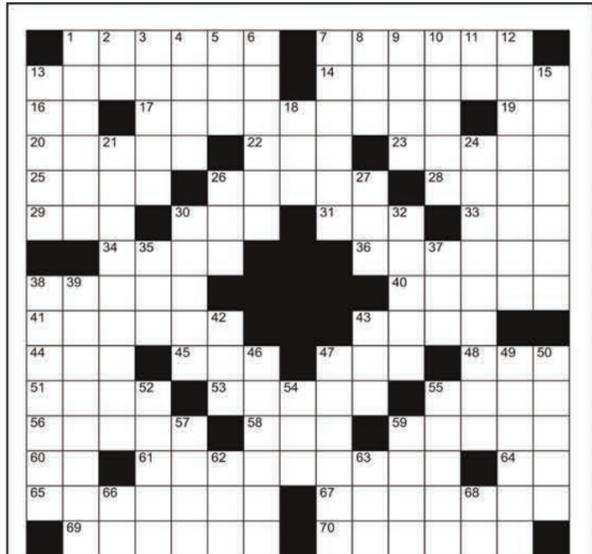


include the Copper Age from 1984 to 1991. As you might expect, older comics are typically more valuable. Condition is also a huge factor in determining what a comic book is worth. Comics featuring superheroes are the most desirable. Even a few Modern Age comic books can be valuable. Spiderman issue # 300 can sell for hundreds of dollars in exceptional condition. The Walking Dead issue # 1 can bring thousands of dollars for a copy in pristine condition.

Some Bronze Age comic books can also sell for high prices. A near mint Hulk issue # 180 from 1974 sold for over \$2,000 recently. That comic book featured the first appearance of Wolverine. Two near perfect copies of Iron Fist # 14 each fetched over \$2,000 at auction this spring. A Marvel Spotlight issue # 5 with the first appearance of Ghost Rider and in great condition sold for \$4,000 in a recent online auction. A "Giant-Size" X-Men from 1975 in great condition recently brought \$4,300. Hulk issue # 181 has a full story on the Wolverine. A near mint version sold for over \$10,000 online recently. I know many of you have been using this time to clean and organize. Maybe you'll stumble across some old comics that were tucked away years ago. My next article will be on Silver Age comic books.

COVID-19 has changed the antiques and collectibles market dramatically. Shows, live auctions, estate sales, and shops are all feeling the effects. We have shifted our focus to online auctions for the time being. We are currently accepting valuable items that can be shipped to buyers across the country for our June online only auction. You can call or email us for no-contact options for consigning your items. We have some online auctions and an estate sale that we will be running when regulations permit.

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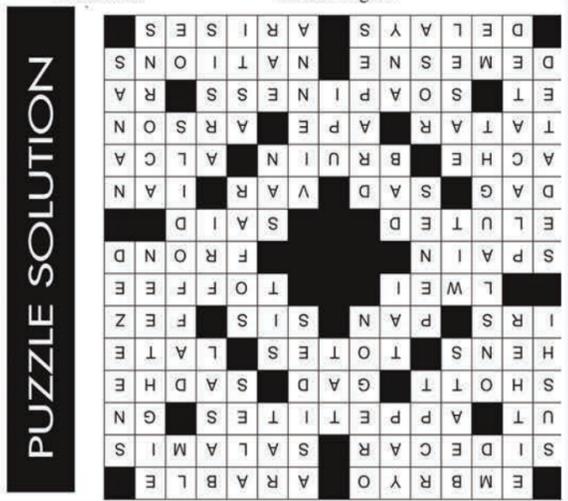


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Seed part
- 7. Productive
- 13. Popular cocktail
- 14. Sausages
- 16. Western state
- 17. Natural desires
- 19. Defunct British automaker
- 20. Early media tycoon
- 22. Move from one place to another
- 23. Letter of Semitic abjads
- 25. Female birds
- 26. Umbrella brand
- 28. Delinquent
- 29. Tax collector
- 30. Cooking tool
- 31. Female sibling
- 33. Flat-topped hat
- 34. Angolan currency
- 36. Boardwalk candy
- 38. European nation
- 40. Leaflike part of palm
- 41. Removed with solvent
- 43. Uttered words
- 44. Unfashionable person
- 45. Disappointed
- 47. Controversial device in soccer
- 48. 007's creator
- 51. Pain
- 53. UCLA mascot
- 55. Razorbill
- 56. Turkic people
- 58. Mimic
- 59. Crime involving fire
- 60. And, Latin
- 61. A saponaceous quality
- 64. Dorm employee
- 65. Estate lands
- 67. States
- 69. They slow you down
- 70. Gets up

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One or the other
- 2. Doc
- 3. Songs have them
- 4. Record of payment (abbr.)
- 5. Speak endlessly
- 6. American state
- 7. Digressions
- 8. Tell on
- 9. Brews
- 10. Belongs to the bottom layer
- 11. American cigarette brand
- 12. Legal voting age in US
- 13. Dish
- 15. Expelled air from the nose
- 18. Body art
- 21. Fierce, destructive act
- 24. Bear bright yellow flowers
- 26. Japanese delicacy
- 27. Get off your feet
- 30. Male organs in some invertebrates
- 32. __, so good
- 35. Cleverness
- 37. Protest yacht
- 38. Anesthetized
- 39. Mollified
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 46. Some windows have them
- 47. National capital
- 49. Squirrels like them
- 50. Grandmothers
- 52. Painter's tool
- 54. News organization
- 55. __ and thesis: musical term
- 57. Famed activist Parks
- 59. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. A number or amount not specified
- 63. Body part
- 66. Of I
- 68. Old English



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Motorcycle will be raffled on August 22, 2020, After our famous Poker Run and Chicken BBQ which starts and ends at St. Stans Polish Club on South Street in west Warren, MA. The Poker Run (\$20 pp includes Chicken BBQ) is sold separately from the motorcycle tickets. We are sponsoring these benefits to honor and remember Rachel Ann Beer, Rachel passed away on October 8, 2019 at age 35, after bravely fighting cancer. This impressive motorcycle was purchased to be raffled to raise the funds to help save Rachel's life. We have had to shift gears since her passing. Rachel attended the Center of Hope for many years. Her family would appreciate the proceeds in Rachel's memory be applied to purchase needed items for her peers, such as sensory equipment, Ipads and music related items at the Center of Hope. We will also be making a donation to Clowning for Kidz Foundation for their help in assisting in the raffles.

Sincerely,
The Beers Family




HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Town of Spencer

The town of Spencer, with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) has funding to assist qualified homeowners in making necessary repairs to their homes. In order to be eligible for assistance, total household income shall not exceed current federal income guidelines based on the number of people residing in a household. (See table below).

If you need to make improvements to eliminate building code violations, eliminate unsafe or unhealthy conditions, improve weatherization or undertake other necessary improvements to improve the quality of your living conditions please fill out the following form and return to Shirley Stephens at the PVPC (address appears below). ALL information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC Housing Coordinator Shirley Stephens, at (413) 781-6045.

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Mailing Address/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Single/Multi Family (Please Circle One) _____

Type of improvements needed: _____

My household income is not greater than (circle one according to your household size):

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$54,950	\$62,800	\$70,650	\$78,500	\$84,800	\$91,100	\$97,350	\$103,650

Return to: Shirley Stephens, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street - 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104

Protect your skin when gardening

May is National Skin Cancer Awareness Month and a busy time for gardening and other outdoor activities. Gardening provides many benefits but like any outdoor activity it's important to protect yourself from the sun's damaging rays.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

includes cloudy days when we often forego this precaution. Reapply sunscreen every two hours or after swimming or excessive sweating. Pay close attention and make a generous application to lips, tips of ears, and the

backs of your neck and hands. Keep a bottle of sunscreen in your garden tool kit as a reminder to apply throughout the day. If it's easily accessible, you are more likely to apply it as needed.

Avoid gardening and outdoor activities when the sun is most intense. This is usually between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Find those shady spots in the landscape to weed or relax during that time. Avoiding the intense sunlight means cooler temperatures that make working in the garden more enjoyable.

Cover up for greater protection. Wear a broad brimmed hat to protect your ears, scalp, neck and face from the sun. Don clothing of tightly woven fabric that helps block harmful UV rays. And talk to your dermatologist about the benefits of investing in photoprotective clothing.

Be sure to include gloves when purchasing sun protective clothing. Look for knit gloves like Foxgloves (foxglovesinc.com) that provide 50+ UPF, Ultraviolet Protection Factor. These gloves are made of lightweight, breathable fabric and come in a variety of colors, including skin tone, making them easy to wear when working, driving or participating in any outdoor activity.

And don't forget about your eyes. Wear sunglasses and a broad brimmed hat to protect your eyes when gardening, relaxing or recreating outdoors.

Check your skin regularly for any suspicious moles, spots, growths and changes. And visit your dermatologist at least once a year. They can help you detect and manage problems early.

As you work to improve your landscape or do other outdoor activities this season, add sun protection to your to-do list. Then encourage your family and friends to do the same. A bit of prevention can reduce your risk of becoming that one individual in five that develops skin cancer by the age of 70.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"*



Photo Courtesy

Wear sunscreen, a hat and gardening gloves with ultraviolet protection to stay safe from ultraviolet rays that can cause skin cancer.

DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Foxgloves for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

More than five million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year and most are associated with exposure to the ultraviolet rays from the sun. And even though it's the most common form of cancer in the U.S. it is also one of the most preventable. Help reduce this percentage and keep yourself and others safe with a bit of skin cancer prevention.

Use sunscreen year-round. It is easy to overlook during those extremely cold or hot months where we may be bundled up or spending minimal time outdoors. In fact, running errands and even time spent in the car results in sun exposure.

Apply a sunscreen with UVA/UVB protection and a minimum SPF of 30 over your entire body at least 30 minutes before going outdoors. This



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

With the current crisis making most of our social activities reduced or even stifled, it's easy to get the blues, or even the mean reds (a la Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffanys*). Instead of cheering yourself up with a double dip of ice cream, why not treat yourself to some mood boosters? Read on for an array of bad mood busters, some familiar to readers of this column and some new, that just might bring back your sunny smile this season! *Note: These suggestions are not meant as a substitute for medical attention. Seek medical advice if you have symptoms of depression.

Take Ten: Studies show ten minutes of moderate exercise or brisk walking is enough to improve overall mood, as well as increase vigor and decrease fatigue. And the best part is, ten minutes is all it takes to bust that bad mood because longer durations didn't further improve moods.

Massage your Mood: Did you know a good massage has the power to not only release toxins but to boost serotonin in the brain? If you can't afford to run out and get a massage every time you get a case of the blues, try self massaging your neck for five minutes at work, or treat your feet to a massage when you're in the tub or at the end of the day.

Mood Food: In a medical study over 70 percent of participants reported that increasing both their water and produce intake improved their mood. Want more? Twenty five percent said the simple dietary switch reduced their anxiety!

Sunny Smile: While lack Vitamin D has been linked to depression, sunlight exposure seems to have the greatest effect on your mood. When light passes through the eyes, it stimulates the production of the feel-good hormone serotonin in the brain. So soak up a little sun each day. Better yet, take a brisk ten minute walk on a sunny day and double the benefit from two known depression dampers!

High on Fiber: New studies reveal people that regularly consumed a high fiber diet are less emotionally distressed and have more positive moods than those who eat a low fiber diet. As an added bonus, high fiber eaters fall asleep easier too.

Fish Tale: Researchers have concluded fish can contribute to a good mood and sense of well being. The study showed Japanese people, who eat an average of 140 pounds of fish per year, have a very low depression rate of 0.12%. Germans, who eat an average

Blues-Busters to Boost your Mood!

of only 20 pounds of fish per year have a rate of depression forty times higher than the Japanese - you do the math!

Light On! Try increasing the amount of natural light in your home by pulling up shades and trimming trees that block natural light. Or, substitute florescent or incandescent lights with "sunshine" or "daylight" bulbs that mimic natural daylight. Experts claim sitting within three feet of a 300 watt bulb for 20 minutes three times a day can help boost serotonin.

Cut Back: Cutting back calories has also been known to cut out bad moods. As a bonus benefit, trimming calories can also help you trim down, which will very likely make you happy!

Carb Cue: Filling up on protein and "good carbs" from vegetables doesn't bog you down like eating complex carbs tends to do. Trim your carbohydrate intake and improve your energy (and your mood)!

Mush the Mood: And don't forget to get a daily dose of mushrooms! Did you know mushrooms, which taste great cooked or raw, are the only plant source of natural vitamin D?

Sugar High: The good news is research shows chocolate can fight depression by raising brain serotonin. You already know the bad news! If you're afraid self medicating with chocolate will blow your diet, choose low or no sugar choices such as stevia sweetened or bittersweet dark chocolate to reap the benefits and not the pounds.

Humor Therapy: Did you know a hearty laugh improves moods, boosts immunity, and can even act as a sedentary workout? Believe it or not, researchers estimate that laughing 100 times is equal to ten minutes on the rowing machine or 15 minutes on an exercise bike. And laughing can actually serve as a total body workout! When you laugh out loud, blood pressure is lowered and there is an increase in vascular blood flow and in oxygenation of the blood, which further assists

healing. Laughter also gives your diaphragm and abdominal, respiratory, facial and back muscles a workout.

O.J. Rx: When you're feeling blue, drink a glass of orange juice, which contains folic acid. According to medical research, as little as 200 micrograms of folic acid is enough to relieve depression.

Jovial Java: Are you aware caffeine can also be an effective antidepressant? Just don't drink more than a couple of cups of coffee a day or the effect can be counterproductive.

Banana Boost: Eat a banana. Bananas boost serotonin and norepinephrine levels, which naturally ease depression.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House
Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House

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Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A6**

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Is your town holding a local election?



Do you want to avoid going to the polls in person? Vote Early by MAIL!

Complete this application and send it to your local Town Clerk, who will then send you an Early/Absentee Ballot. Addresses are below. All ballots for local elections must be returned by the close of polls on election day. For more information, call your local town clerk's office.

LEICESTER:
3 Washburn Square
Leicester, MA 01524
508-892-7011

SPENCER:
157 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562
508-885-7500 x150

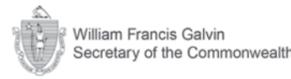
BROOKFIELD:
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506
508-867-2930 x12

EAST BROOKFIELD:
122 Connie Mack Drive
East Brookfield, MA 01515
508-867-6769 x301

NORTH BROOKFIELD:
215 North Main Street
North Brookfield, MA 01535
508-867-0200

WEST BROOKFIELD:
2 East Main Street
West Brookfield, MA 01585
508-867-1421 x302

2020 Municipal Election Early Ballot Application



Voter Information	Name: _____
	Legal Voting Residence: _____
Ballot Information	1 _____
	2 Mail Ballot to: _____
Special Circumstances (If applicable)	3 _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability. Assisting person's name: _____ Assisting person's address: _____
Signed (under penalty of perjury): _____ Date: _____	

Eligibility
Any registered voter may use this application to request an absentee ballot for a local election being held on or before June 30, 2020.

Completing the Application

- Voter Information - Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.
- Ballot Information - Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.
- Special Circumstances - If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.
- Sign your name. If you require assistance in signing the application, you may authorize someone to sign your name in your presence. That person must complete the assisting person's information in Section 3.

Submitting the Application
Send the completed application to the local election official at your city or town hall. Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible. Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day. Find contact information for local election officials at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE REPRODUCED.

Leicester Water Supply District
Hillcrest Water District
HYDRANT FLUSHING
May 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020

The Leicester Water Supply District and Hillcrest Water District will be flushing water mains and hydrants throughout the districts beginning Monday, May 1st through July 31st, 2020. Hours of flushing will be between 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The purpose of the flushing is to remove sediment buildup in the mains. The flushing may result in temporary discoloration of the water and low water pressure. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at (508) 892-8484 (Leicester Water Supply District) or (508) 892-7585 (Hillcrest Water District). Sincerely, Joseph H. Wood - Superintendent
Joe@LWSD.net

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Thanks to \$450,000 transition grant, QCC can help students focus on future

WORCESTER — The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has awarded Quinsigamond Community College's Future Focus program an Adult Education Transition to Community College Grant. The \$450,000 grant is divided into three yearly allotments of \$150,000, and is the maximum amount awarded.

QCC's Future Focus program is designed specifically for adult learners from adult basic education programs and creates a direct pathway to degree and certificate programs. Since 2010, Future Focus has significantly increased its student enrollment, and to date, over 300 non-traditional students have been through the program.

"Those in our community who are under-represented and under-served have benefited greatly from our Future Focus program. Increasing the award amount will enable us to assist more people in their quest for a better future," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

Future Focus students are non-traditional students who have gone through the traditional U.S. education system, but did not complete their school requirements and instead earned their GED or HiSET high school equivalency. Future Focus students are also English as a Second Language (ESOL/ESL) participants, who already have their high school diploma, as well as students who graduated from high school years ago and went directly into the workforce. Participants receive comprehensive support in order to help them succeed as they transition into higher education. The program covers all tuition

and fees, books, school supplies (and bus passes if needed), in addition to career and academic advising.

"The program has a rotation of students, made up of first-semester students and second-semester students. The goal is to have 15 new students each semester, and students stay with the program for one year (two semesters)," said QCC Future Focus Coordinator, Gilmarie Vongphakdy, adding that there are 30 students participating for the Spring 2020 semester.

QCC Future Focus students come from all areas in the community, and includes CNAs, police officers, grocery clerks, PCAs, a phlebotomist, caseworkers with Worcester youth, medical assistants, dental receptionists, factory workers, forklift drivers, bank tellers, parents, and many more.

"We have two students graduating this May and two more finishing up at the end of the Summer II semester," Ms. Vongphakdy continued. "One student was accepted and will be attending Assumption College and the other student was accepted to Worcester State University and is waiting to hear back from some other schools. One of the other students who is graduating this summer has also been accepted to Boston University and is waiting to hear back from some other schools."

To learn more about QCC's Future Focus program, <https://www.qcc.edu/services/future-focus-program>

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

Is bald beautiful?

I've always had a love affair with my hair. The Moore men and many of the women have/had jet black hair.

It comes from both sides of my father's tree, The Moore's and the Loucks.

As I was growing up, it was a point of family pride and became part of my identity. My grade school-teachers could not seem to keep their hands off my hair. "It's so black and thick," they'd exclaim. We'd go to family reunions and I'd hear things like, "Gary sure is a Moore. Look at that hair!"

My mother always told me that when I was born, before she actually got to see me for that first moment, the doctor and nurses began to laugh, and the Doc said, "Look at all that black hair!"

In 1988, I went on an all liquid diet which was the rage at the time. My hair started thinning and I was assured it would grow back, but it didn't. No bald spots, but the thickness was gone, and I always regretted going on that fad diet.

Now I have cancer and am in chemotherapy. Every day when I wake up, I seem to have lost a little more of my hair. Add to the fact we are in quarantine and can't get it trimmed, my head is beginning to look like a mangy old coyote during the heat of the summer. I wear a ball cap around the house. I'm avoiding mirrors and am in denial. A friend recently said, "just shave it off. It will grow back." (I've heard that one before) Another said, "And when it grows back it will be curly and a different color?"

A different color? Not black? Really? As of now, my thinning hair would be considered "salt and pepper" and I've been fine with that because the pepper was still black. But curly and a different color?

Cancer can strip you of more than your hair. I'm in the fight of my life and I plan to win. To fret about my hair seems ridiculous. I must face the reality that sometime soon, I'll head into the bathroom and probably just shave it all off. I get weird thoughts like, "Will I still be a Moore? Will people stare at me? If they realize I have cancer will they pity me?"

Being a columnist, author, and speak-

er, you must fight for attention. I've always enjoyed standing in front of large crowds to share my stories. I've never shied away from being in the spotlight. Now I find myself happy for quarantine so no one can see me. Silly ... I know. Silly or not it's the truth.

I haven't taken the step yet to shave what's left of the former thick and black mop on my head. I'm a fighter. Some things are worth fighting for and I'm realizing that my hair just isn't worth it. I'm fighting for my life. My hair should be the least of my worries.

What is it I'm really worried about? I guess I don't want to die bald and that's a thought that I must strip out of my head and heart because I'm not giving in or up. Stage 4 Stomach Cancer has met its match. I'm going to beat cancer and you can take that to the bank ... although you'll have to take it through the drive-in window as quarantine seems to have the lobbies closed.

So, is bald beautiful? guess I'll soon find out.

PS - There is nothing to take lightly about cancer, but contrary to the belief of some, cancer doesn't have to be a death sentence. It is serious business, but the attitude of the patient plays a major role in treatment and recovery with any health crisis. Do not allow a medical professional to place a time stamp or expiration date on your life. It's your life. Fight with all your might. Only speak positive and uplifting words into your head and heart. Only associate with others who do the same. Do your own research. Read about positive imaging. Be up to date with what the universities, major cancer centers and research hospitals are doing. There are advances and breakthroughs daily. Be optimistic, be positive and fight. Never give up or give in. Cancer is beatable. Believe it and fight.

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



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

TRAINOR

continued from page A5

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

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



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Be excellent to each other

It seems as though human kindness has taken a back burner as of late, and we're not sure why. The remarks on social media between people bashing one another over politics or whether or not businesses should re-open, or whether or not the new Coronavirus is as 'real' as 'they' say, are over the top. Social media is certainly both a blessing and a curse.

Social media is a great way to keep in touch with friends and family, but it's also a platform for strangers to draw baseless conclusions and put each other down from behind the comfort of a keyboard. Once upon a time, those on opposing sides had face to face productive conversations. Those have since been replaced with this new format complete with emoji's and other memes or belittling GIFs.

Even more worthy of a raised eyebrow is how many people read a post or a news story from some random, disreputable source and then share it as incontrovertible fact. Nine times out of ten, a simple fact check will prove these "click-bait" posts to be non-factual. There are fake doctors putting out interviews on YouTube and people will just fall for them hook line and sinker. Please pause a moment and question what you're looking at objectively and always check the source.

It seems as though the regard for how we treat one another has been given a new standard, and we believe we know why; however, we'll leave that for our readers to decipher. Kindness and empathy along with professionalism is still alive and well and it's how our country has moved forward the way it has since its inception. Let's not forget that despite the current climate. What we need to remember is that no matter what you think, we are all on the same side.

When we're perusing online, it's not our job to correct a person if it can't be done in a positive way. If a person is being negative and inappropriate in how they interact online, then your best bet is to simply not engage. A heated argument never ends with any side switching to the other. A more productive means of conversation over a hot button issue would be to simply ask the other person questions. This is the best way to make a person think. A light-hearted example: "I see you think blueberry pie is better than Boston Cream pie — can you explain why?"

Asking questions from a meaningful angle can go a long way. Here's the truth of the matter, we don't know everyone we interact with online. With that being said negativity just fuels more negativity. It's easy to disagree with someone in a positive way. Another example could be, "I understand the point you're trying to make; however, I don't agree. With that being said, enjoy your day. It should be a sunny one!" Always try to leave things on a positive note. If you're feeling angry, go for a run or a drive. Don't take your frustration out on strangers online.

As Fred Rogers always said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" This has never been truer than in our current situation. With this pandemic, the outpouring of love and support we have seen does far outweigh any negativity. In Brooklyn, N.Y., every night at 7 p.m., everyone bangs pots and pans outside their windows as a way to show appreciation for local healthcare workers. This is something we have seen happening in several cities across the country. On a local level, people are raising money for food pantries and running errands to protect the elderly and other vulnerable populations. We dig it. At the end of the day, the glass should always be half full.

To quote one of our favorite duos from our childhood filmgoing experiences, Bill and Ted, "Be excellent to each other!"



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The opinions of others should be treated respectfully

To the Editor:
I would like to clear up a point or two on Mr. Har-Yarok's remarks to my letter originally published about two weeks ago, and his recent letter dated May 15. In particular, to his comments regarding "savages" (s) and flippant. I wasn't being flippant nor intending to be disrespectful. I was seriously, serious. Labeling someone flippant is a technique designed to cast disrepute on a subject and or the subject matter. Phew...I got that off my chest. I do admit that I composed my original letter to which Mr. Har-York complains that I was "flippant", somewhat hastily. I was trying to meet work related deadlines enabling us to continue the fight against the our common enemy, specifically the Corona Virus, also known as COVID-19 and originally the Wuhan Virus.

It may come as a surprise to Mr. Har-Yarok that some Conservative, registered Republicans (savages, according to Mr. Har-Yarok) such as myself, are actually actively involved in the eradication of this disease. But perhaps Mr. Har-Yarok would prefer me to stay home and ceaselessly rant on the short comings of his fellow citizens. Or since he apparently admires Darwinism, perhaps we should just sit this one out and let the strongest survive thereby culling the heard. I wish I could stay at home and pound on the key board. But I cannot; it's off to work I go, being an essential employee and all that. Dutifully getting my temperature checked at the employee checkpoint and donning my useless mask as required by my employer for eight hours a day. But enough of that.

I am not sure what your comment of

"I find it interesting that in a 1,200 word essay, Mr. Belton picked out "praise for China" means. Are you are hinting at racism or that I am in a racist? I can assure you, that you are dead wrong. You are sniffing up the wrong tree. Perhaps you find it interesting that I picked China over all the other countries you praised, except for your own country, because of Trump's remarks, you again are wrong.

If being a student of Darwin, which I believe by your own writings indicate, perhaps Darwinism has clouded (primordial soup/fog) your perception on China's ability to evolve into a benevolent and caring Nation under Communism. I'd bet you would be wrong again. And just to make it very clear, I do not hate China. I hate its form of government, which is soulless Communist. Continuing, I don't hate any American, which is quite different from saying "I don't hate all Americans..." as stated by Mr. Har-Yarok, perhaps indicating hatred for some.

I have no objection to anyone pointing out the so called flaws of this government or of America. It's when the attacks are one-sided, vile and disrespectful that I engage. I care not what your personal beliefs are. That's up to you and your Creator...errr, I mean Darwin. I do, however, take umbrage when you mock and disparage others whom you happen to disagree with. I don't write thinking to change your mind. I write for the others who may read these letters. The truth shall set you free.

Respectfully submitted,

RICK BELTON
SPENCER

Coronavirus is today's Biblical pestilence

To the Editor:
Corona is the Latin word for crown [garland], and it is also ancient Greek Koruna, meaning garland, wreath. The crown is a special hat representing a king or queen symbolizing honor, sovereignty, emperor, dominion. In our situation today with the Corona [crown] virus, our king is God, Jesus [Yeshua], the king and creator of this world and all of life, humanity, animals, vegetation, etc. Let me get right to the point, message, the corona [crown] represents God, Jesus crown and God has removed His crown, protection from this country and many other countries allowing this virus to take control of our lives by removing His Kingly crown, His protection from America and other countries, why! Because we have not and are not listening, obeying, honoring God's moral laws, we have been and are presently a rebellious defiant people, country we have been mocking God's moral values, and principals. Throughout history to the present age, we have been a defiant people, and today corona virus is a classic example of history repeating itself and God, Jesus is holding us accountable as He did the people of yesteryear by allowing today's pestilent [virus] giving us the opportunity as He did yesteryear to humble our self and confess our sins, our disobedience to God's moral laws. [Genesis 17: 7] [Exodus 6: 7] [Jeremiah 30: 22, & 32: 38] [Ezekiel 43: 24, & 36: 21] [2 Corinthians 6: 16] [Hebrew 8: 10] [Revelation 21: 3]

God has blessed this country for many years as the greatest country in the world in spite of our rebellious, defiant lifestyle, and today God is teaching us what it is like to reject God, Jesus is allowing this example to teach us what it is like without His protection, His crown, allowing this virus to be an example and warning that apart from Him [God] you, me, us we are all vulnerable. God can use, allow, send whatever He chooses to get our attention, He is God!

If you are thinking that God is not being fair, not very loving. Think about how much worse it could be; we could be another "Sodom" with no choice, no opportunity to repent.

I don't believe God ordained this virus. I do believe He is allowing this pestilent virus to get our attention to get us to come back under the protection of His crown and that starts with repentance.

Let us not be stupid and allow this trial to become another Sodom and Gomorra [Genesis 19: 12-26] and don't be deceived God is in control; God knows what is going on, God knows the beginning and the end. God knows the day and the hour He will allow

His final judgment according to our choice. Will it be the consuming fire that will destroy this virus or destroy this country as He destroyed Sodom?

The following scriptures are Biblical facts. 2 Chronicle 7: 1-2 God gives us an example of His consuming fire when we humble ourself before God as King Solomon did. We today need to confess our sins and profess Jesus in our lives and God will send His consuming fire to destroy this virus.

When King Solomon was the King yesteryear, he went before God asking God to make provision for the people as we today need to do before Jesus who is our King. We today have a greater privilege, we can go directly to God, Jesus and humbly ask Jesus to intercede for us before God asking God's provision, blessings for us today, and I can expect that God will answer with the same conditions God gave Solomon to give the people yesteryear. We need to humble our self and confess our sins. We need to pray asking God, Jesus forgiveness. We need to seek God, Jesus; we need to turn from our sinful behavior [nature] we need to profess from our heart that Jesus is King. Don't be deceived, God cannot be mocked, God knows our heart. What is repentance? It is changing our behavior and submitting to God's moral laws. God does answer earnest prayers. [2 Chronicle 7: 14]

The book of Psalm was written by several of God's chosen people. King Solomon, one of David's sons, was one of them. Psalms are words of warning and wisdom for us today and to pass on to our children and the next generation. The book of Psalm and other books in the Bible teaches us the importance and purpose of God's Word to us today in our lives, and, we need to pass it on to our children and others, keeping them from repeating the same mistakes our ancestors and we today have made. Unfortunately, we today have not learned from the pass generation, otherwise we would not be experiencing this present epidemic [corona virus] God's warning to us to humble ourself asking God to remove His present warning and judgment from us. [Psalm 78: 5]

God promises when we humble our self and confess He will forgive our sin and save us from this deadly pestilence [corona virus] [2 Chronicle 7: 14]

How much more simpler and obvious can God pursue you! All you need to do is make the most high God, Jesus your dwelling, and God who is our refuge will continue to keep us safe commanding His angel concerning you to guard you in all your ways [Psalm 91: 9-11]

Why should you see a financial advisor?



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

The social distancing and stay-at-home orders necessitated by the coronavirus have led many of us to feel isolated. Still, we've fought back through social media, "virtual" gatherings and walks in the neighborhood, where we could greet friends and neighbors (from 6 feet away). But when you're dealing with the financial effects of the virus and you're investing alone, you could encounter some problems that may prove costly.

Of course, with so much investment-related information available online, on television and in any number of periodicals, it's not surprising that some people feel they can invest without any assistance. But the volatility of the financial markets over the past few months has also pointed to the dangers of going solo in the investment world. And you might find that a professional financial advisor can help you in several ways, including the following:

Taking emotions out of investing. During this period of market turbulence, many self-guided investors are letting their emotions drive their investment decisions. As a result, they sell investments when their price is down, "locking in" their losses. Furthermore, if they then stay out of the financial markets, they will miss out on the eventual recovery — and some of the biggest gains in market rallies usually occur right at the beginning. But if you work with a financial advisor who has helped you develop a personalized investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, you will be far less likely to react to extreme market conditions by making ill-advised decisions.

Maintaining perspective. When you're putting away money for the future and you suddenly have a lot less of it, you might start to wonder if that future is somehow in jeopardy. But if you've been working with a financial advisor and following your investment strategy, you'll know that you don't have to immediately cash out those investments that have lost value, and you may not need to liquidate them for decades if they were designed for a long-term goal, such as retirement. By the time you do need to sell them, their value may well have appreciated significantly. And if you've got a well-constructed portfolio, you'll also own shorter-term, less volatile investments to help meet your current cash flow needs.

Understanding the history of investing. The recent market instability is unique in the sense that its cause — a worldwide pandemic — is so highly unusual, and it hopefully will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Typically, prolonged market downturns are triggered by explainable financial or economic factors, such as the bursting of the "dot-com" bubble in 2000. However, market drops of 20 percent or more — generally referred to as bear markets — are not at all unusual and have happened every few years over the past several decades. Financial advisors are well aware of this history and share it with their clients. And for many people, the knowledge that "we've been here before" is reassuring and makes it easier for them to continue following their investment strategies.

The road to your financial goals is a long one, with many twists and turns. So you might like to have some experienced company along the way.

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.



Insightful

V is for victory

To the Editor:

These days, there is much conversation about whether we should anticipate a V shaped economic return to the economy of yester-month. I think I can safely predict that it is more likely to look like a reversed J. Let me elaborate on why I am confident in my prediction.

Firstly, some companies, entities, or employers, simply could not weather the interruption of cash flow. Even with an infusion of government cash, a cooperative landlord or other lender, and having retained your pre-shutdown staff, it will require that demand for your goods or services rebounds completely. I am not saying this is impossible, or even that it won't happen for some, but expecting this to be the universal result is likely very over optimistic.

Secondly, some businesses will, with the benefit of lost kineses (things in motion tend to stay in motion), may re-visit whether this was a good opportunity to downsize, close units, or fold the tent completely. Having employees already on unemployment may well influence staffing or re-staffing levels, or consider other options.

Thirdly-many people will have stretched credit cards and assets to the extent that it lessens spending plans, whether travel, items or dinner out. In

that regard, is everyone really ready to re-acquaint themselves with restaurants? Buffets with shared serving utensils and breath shields over open dishes? Will someone be sanitizing chairs, tables, restrooms and door knobs between customers?

I am not sure that I could get excited about a cruise for half off right now. As a regular traveler with Gate 1, I am not sure I am ready to jump on a plane wearing a mask for hours to visit a potentially unsafe place (well, maybe New Zealand, but long trip in mask). These kinds of concerns will not just be limited to travelers, but to diners, hoteliers,, service and construction contractors, and, are you now ready to check in for optional surgery? How about attending concerts, sporting events or church?

As my wife and I are both on Social Security, I find it interesting that three senators think we each need a subsidy payment to survive that exceeds our regular monthly stipend. If that is survival level, what are we getting now? I understand it is supplemental, but think a homemaker with a budget could do better than these clowns. I realize these payments will go on my grandchildren's credit card.

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A19**

The Postal Service's budget dilemma

To the Editor:

The fate of the United States Postal Service has been in the hands of Congress for decades, and through those years, Congress, in its infinite wisdom, would transfer profitable revenue, not inserting those funds back into the USPS budget. Attesting to a conversation over 30 yers ago with a Postal Service auditor friend, when I questioned, where does the money go if there is a profit?

The USPS was noted as a political and nepotism establishment for many years by the general public. In seeking to allow a business platform to succeed, politics must be expunged if the operation is to operate as a successful corporation.

The current Postmaster General, Megan Brennen, a 30-year postal

employee, and the President of the National Letter Carriers both solicit a few of the negative causes in seeking a business efficiency plan. The former quoting from a 2018 Fiscal year Report, "the flawed business model imposed by law continues to be the root cause of our financial instability."

Letter carrier President Fredric Rolando, mentions the Illogical pre-funding policy in the (pension plans). He is referring to the 2006 attempt by Congress to privatize the Postal Service, these infringements, contribute to the uphill battle to achieve fiscal autonomy. Political handouts like to current Congressional perk of twenty-five billion voted by the current US House of Representatives skirts the

Turn To **LUCIER** page **A16**

God does allow and send plagues to get our attention. Do not make the same mistake of the people yesteryear of underestimating, taking God 's love, justice, judgment, values, principals, standards for granted. God is Holy, sin cannot come near God, therefore if we are not repented and have not made a confession, profession of faith to Jesus we will not be going to heaven.

That is not so difficult to understand. Just like us today in our home, family, the father and mother are the authority, they establish the rules [law] of the home and if the child, children disobeys there is a consequence, they do not get to do or go where they want. [Ezekiel 6: 11]

To be continued...

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20C0168CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Marie Bolduc**

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Donna Marie Bolduc of North Brookfield MA**

requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Leanne Marie Moore**
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/02/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 10, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

May 22, 2020

A.C.116A

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS
PROBATE COURT
20P0067EA**

To Kelly A. Potter Warren, Richard R. Greene, Jr and Michael S Greene in the County of Worcester

A petition has been presented to said Court Kelly A Potter, as Personal Representative or the estate of Richard R. Greene praying said Court to request for Decree Authorizing Disclaimer as set forth in said complaint and for such other relief as this

Court deems proper.

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 ninth day of June 2020, the return day of this citation.

Witness LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this eighth day of May 2020.

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

May 22, 2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO20P1274EA
Estate of:
Marguerite S.Ducharme
Date Of Death: April 16, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Amanda F. Raymond of Holden MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Amanda F. Raymond of Holden MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Rep-

And here we are

To the Editor:

This week the report from the re-open committee is due to Gov. Baker. My assumption is that it will recommend a gradual re-opening not because we are ready, not because the math says it is OK, not because the science says it is OK, but because it has been too long. We had two months to get desensitized to community spread and death, so now it doesn't seem as necessary to disrupt our lives any longer.

At the time of this writing, the United States has 1.5 million COVID-19 cases representing 33 percent of the world cases. We have 90,000 deaths, representing 28 percent of the world total. We "locked down" long enough, but we never locked down "hard enough" so we never actually got it under control. Under unprecedented "lockdown," we reduced the daily cases from 30,000 to 24,000. We know that the original exponential growth started from an initial inoculation of a few hundred, we now have 25,000 new cases per day, yet we're done.

This week, we saw testimony from Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has been at the NIH since the Reagan administration. Months ago, we all trusted him and called him

a straight-shooter. Now the President is calling his analysis of the situation "unacceptable" and accused him of playing "both sides." Why are there sides to this, anyway? Dr. Rick Bright, the former Director of Biomedical Advanced Research was 'fired for being right' concerning COVID-19. He testified as well and while he said many things, "We're in deep [expletive]" was the most memorable. The President of the United States is politicizing science, and the worst sin a public official can make is saying something counter to the president's gut.

It is important to note that if we literally froze every soul in place for 14 days, the virus would literally be eradicated. The lockdowns were meant to represent our best attempt at freezing every soul in-place. Eight weeks in some countries has won the battle through stricter lockdowns than America was willing to stomach. The United States looks more like Brazil than anywhere else, where we couldn't stomach our freedoms being curtailed, so instead, we spent the last eight weeks justifying to ourselves that a 99 percent survival rate is just fine, ignoring

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A19**

A new school — yes or no?

To the Editor:

I am torn between voting for or against the new school, and in speaking to several Leicester residents, I am not alone. I did take up the suggestion to read and review as much information I can find including all social media and most importantly the 2,000 pages on the Web site. I went back to 2017, and from what I can gather, the upcoming vote with a Go/No Go vote that requires a two thirds Town Meeting vote to move the project forward to a second vote which is a simple majority at the November general election. There is no fallback position offered in case the project is shot down and all of the funds spent to date are laid to waste.

We do need something and the State is interested in helping with funds. But to what end. The number is confusing and therefore creating a transparency or lack of transparency issue. This is partly due to the similar concerns over the Library and the Fire Station. Partly due to sins of the past, and partly due to the general concern over the intentions of those involved.

The SBC talks about the State helping to the tune of 65 percent of the project. Yet the budget tells me that the 65 percent number is based the State participation of \$41,296,818 against a total of \$63,494,493 Budget. \$63,494,493 represents the total Project Budget of \$85,543,050 less the \$22,048,557, The \$22,048,557 is Scope items excluded from the project total. The real number is \$91,404,373- / \$41,296,818 or 46 percent State participation. Contingencies bring the total Budget from \$85,543,050 to \$91,404,737. Confusing at best when only viewing the sound bites offered by the SBC.

As for Memorial School, I am being told that the school is no longer viable due to actions taken to close it in 2019 by

the School Committee. I am also being told that this is premature statement and we have until September to make the final decision. Due to the conflicting information, having this fact addressed in writing is key. It may already be done but I cannot find it in any written reports.

My informal discussions with Leicester residents tell me that even though the town needs to act, a two thirds majority to approve a plan with a Grand Total of \$91,404,737 will not pass.

My examination of the budget tells me that several of the numbers being used and approved by the SBC are outrageous, yet at least one member of the School Committee claims to be comfortable with this. I have not gone beyond that at this point. This amounts to a simple bet that will either cost the Town a great deal of un-necessary over-blown costs within the project or in the forfeiture of the money already spent should the School Project get less than the 2/3 vote. Neither is a good outcome for the Town of Leicester.

What to do. The Town has a couple months to review the proposed line items with the intention of addressing all items and all concerns brought to light to date. Focus on the "Value" not the highest or lowest price. Eliminate the repeat of sins of the past and put the best foot forward. It will give the project the fighting chance to give the Town what it needs to move forward.

In my humble opinion, this current proposal does not address the concerns of the towns people. It will not get close to the two thirds needed. Not an enviable position.

Sincerely,

BOB MERCER
LEICESTER

representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
May 22, 2020

ADVERTISEMENT

The Town of Spencer, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for **Spencer Senior Center Code and Compliance at Spencer Senior Center** in accordance with the documents prepared by B. Goba & Associates, P.C., 92 High Street, Medford, MA.
(781)-395-2827

The Project consists of new sprinkler system installation, fire alarms, and fire safety upgrade at the Town of Spencer Senior Center at 68 Maple Street Spencer MA.

The work is estimated to cost **\$300,000**

Bids are subject to M.G.L c 149 § 44A (2)(B) and to state prevailing wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 & 26 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of **General Construction**.

General Bids will be received until **2:00pm, Wednesday, June 17, 2020** and publicly opened, forthwith.

Filed sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **2:00 p.m., Wednesday June 10, 2020** and publicly opened forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and have a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

File Sub Bids

Section 210000 Fire Protection
Section 260000 Electrical
This project is being electronically bid. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. You must submit your bid electronically at www.pro-

jectdog.com. Obtain all documents online via the job specific project number **838631**, reviewed at projectdog's

physical location, or request a free project CD. Tutorials, instructions and videos on how to complete an electronic bid are available online as well in the instructions to bidders. You may also call Projectdog, Inc at 978-499-9014 for assistance in submitting your bid package (M-F 9AM – 5PM).

General Bids will be received until **June 17, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.**

The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Equal Employment requirements, all information is provided in the project manual.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternatives), and made payable to the Town of Spencer.

Bid forms and contract documents are available **May 27, 2020**, at www.projectdog.com or at Projectdog, Inc 18 Graf Road, Suite 8 Newburyport, MA (978-499-9014).

There is a plan deposit of **\$25** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to Projectdog, Inc. Refundable deposits must be a certified or cashier's check. This deposit will be refunded upon return of all documentation in good condition within ten (10) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of Projectdog. Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$50.00 for next day delivery, payable to Projectdog, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The existing site will be available for inspection on **June 3, 2020 at 2:00 PM**. There is only **ONE** site visit scheduled. In order to attend the site visit, each attendee must notify Fen Chen by email at fen.chen@bgoba.com.

May 22, 2020

The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.
Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

The final Write Stuff for this school year will be published on June 26, as we take the months of July and August off. Please feel free to send in submissions. They will be kept on file and held until we start back up again in September. Thank you once again to Lamoureux Ford for being our sponsor and to our contributors this month. We appreciate your creativity and your participation. Happy Reading – Happy Writing!

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR JUNE:

1. How has the pandemic affected the way you live?
2. Write a letter or poem to your Dad for Father's Day.
3. What are you looking forward to this Summer?
4. Topic of your choice.

THE NEXT WRITE STUFF will be published on June 26.

Deadline is Friday, June 19. Please email your submissions in a word doc or docx (preferably) to jsima@stonebridgepress.news. If mailing, please allow an extra week and call 508-909-4062 for mailing address as our office is temporarily closed. Thank you.

Charlie and the Hamster

BY BENJAMIN HILCOFF, AGE 8,
NEW BRAINTREE, MA

Once upon a time there was a young boy named Charlie. He was in the basement counting his bullets for his epic Nerf gun party. He was so excited. He had been planning it since his eighth birthday party at Zoinks. He had invited all his friends and family. It was still almost 2 months away but he couldn't wait.

That night at dinner Charlie's mom had some bad news. She said "I was watching the news and the governor said for everybody to stay home. There is a sickness called the coronavirus and we don't want to spread it." "Does this mean I can't have my party" said Charlie? "I don't know yet but we may have to cancel it," said Mom.

That night Charlie couldn't sleep a wink. He was thinking about Bob, Matt, and George, who never listen. The next morning, Mom made cinnamon rolls for breakfast. Charlie went outside to play. It was a sunny day. A few minutes later after he got outside, Bob, Matt, and George walked by. They said "do you want to play basketball with us?" Charlie said, "you guys are supposed to be at your houses. You know there is a sickness around now." "Who cares?" they said, and they kept walking down the street. When Charlie was back inside he was thinking about Bob, Matt, and George. Charlie told Mom what happened outside. Mom said just ignore them and do what you think is the right thing.

Ten days later, Bob Matt and George got sick. They were all in their beds and all the people that they were near got sick as well. Their moms, dads, sisters, and brothers were all sick. Charlie and his family were still staying home so they were healthy. Charlie was getting scared that he might get sick. He knew that he would have to cancel his party.

Charlie's mom said she was going to the store. When she got back, Charlie heard a squeaking sound in one of the bags. Charlie said "what's making that squeaking sound?" Mom said, "you'll see". Charlie opened the bag. He couldn't believe his eyes. There was a hamster. The exact hamster that he had wanted for Christmas and not gotten. It had Sparkling black eyes, gray fur, and cute little cheeks. Charlie named him Chubbster. Charlie said "this is the best gift ever!" Charlie asked, "why did you get the hamster for me?" "Because I felt bad about your birthday party being canceled." Said mom. Charlie felt so happy.

That night when Charlie was about to go to sleep he heard a little tiny voice. What was that? He wondered. He turned on his light to see if anybody was there. All he could see was his hamster spinning on its wheel. Charlie wondered, can my hamster talk? No that would be silly. When Charlie turned back off his light he saw two

small wings sprouting from the back of the hamster. Then he heard the voice again. It was coming from Chubbster. He said, "I am your fairy godfather. And I can grant you one wish." Charlie said, "this must be a dream." He tried to open his eyes but they were already open. Charlie said, "if you can grant me one wish, can you make a cure for the coronavirus?" Chubbster said, "coming right up!" He ran on his wheel backwards and poof! A little stream of green light came out from the wheel and up into the air. It went out the window and up into the sky, and all around the world.

Charlie woke up the next morning and his mom ran into his room all excited. She said, "we don't know how but the coronavirus is gone! You can have your party after all! We can have play dates, go out to dinner, and go back to school." Charlie looked over at Chubbster and smiled the biggest smile ever.

The end.

It used to be Decoration Day

BY RICHARD TRAUSSCHKE

How quickly we turned History's page. from Decoration Day after the Civil War; 1866; was it really a different age/ why can' it still be like before?

We paraded with music and banners then to the cemeteries to render honors and flowers; decorating the graves of the soldiers in heaven, then picnicked 'neath the trees bowers.

1971 there came a law; to change the name to Memorial Day; then later changed the date and saw it further moved to last Monday in May...

It was done to give people a long weekend; forgetting the reason to celebrate; thus diminishing the importance of the fallen' is it now considered "just another day"?

YOU ARE

BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

When the wind is blowing furiously,
you calm me.
When the water is full of turbulence,
you soothe me.
When the storms threaten to attack,
you bring me peace.
When I'm oh so low in the valley,
you love me.
You're always there when the weather is rough.
You are my rock,
the one who stabilizes the shaky ground.
You are my umbrella,
keeping me dry in the pouring rain.
You are here.
You are there.
You are my everything.

~~~~~

## TRUE FRIENDS

BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

Friendship defies all barriers.  
Age difference is never a factor.  
Distance has no meaning.  
It is within the heart that the miles are logged.  
It is time in each other's mind and souls that is the true measure.  
A friend is forever.  
Thru all seasons, it survives.  
As years pass by, the love grows stronger.  
These are the true definitions of friendship.  
I love you, my friend.  
a

## NOT ALL ANGELS HAVE WINGS

BY SUE ANGELA HEALY, NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA

To all firefighters and men and women in blue  
The state of Massachusetts would like to say thank you  
All cashiers at the grocery stores  
The stock person saying you have four bags – oh wait two more  
And although some people like to drink booze  
It's okay with me whatever you choose  
For all restaurant staff- preparing and delivering meals  
You don't realize how much our hearts you did steal  
Truck drivers in every state driving around the clock  
Making more than a few individual tops  
Thanks all electricians in case our power goes out  
They surely know what darkness and no heat is all about  
To every plumber who arrives early to a dripping sink  
Knowing how important water is for us to drink  
Hail to garbage men picking up trash at least once a

week  
When a safe clean environment we are trying to seek  
To all car dealer mechanics who replace a dead battery in our car  
Without these experts we can't get very far  
Mail carriers and the Post Office there in all types of weather  
We all hope and pray your day will get better  
To all the smiling faces at our nearby bank  
You are a ten in our opinion ranked  
Pharmacy personnel who's stores are open 24/7  
You are certainly a present sent from heaven  
Emergency individuals who are rushed to your home by a call  
Only to pick you up if you happen to fall  
Bus drivers who go merrily on their way  
For their well-being, safety – we hope you are okay  
To doctors, nurses, staff in every single hospital near and far  
In each and every patients' lives you are a brilliant star  
There all hours working your shift plus more  
Treating every person as your family as they walk through the door  
It's very difficult when you are in such great demand  
Helping each other just by lending a hand  
Having to contend with the worst of the sick  
Sometimes wondering why did God decide this person to pick  
Wiping endless teardrops as they fall from your eyes  
Having to tell a family that their loved one has died  
Holding an elderly gentleman's hand in a nursing home  
Reassuring each they shall never be alone  
To our generous food banks – giving meals to all in need  
Thousands of men, women and children every day they feed  
Teachers who still teach even though there's no school  
These students of all ages going by the golden rule  
For our dear children who keep us going day and night  
There health most important as we put up a fight  
Moms, dads, grandparents,

adults all living in fear  
As this invisible enemy swirls thru the air  
To all technicians who keep our phones-computers intact  
If we lose communications will it ever come back?  
Radio announcers-reporters on the TV with breaking news  
On each and every channel – station you decide to choose  
To President Trump, politicians, mayors, governors trying to keep our country safe  
For all the right decisions you will have to make  
Priests and religious leaders who will keep us in their prayers  
For prayer is the best medicine you can find anywhere  
And to every single person who got COVID19 or lost a family member  
You in our thoughts and hearts we shall always remember  
Funeral directors who have seen one too many deaths  
Every day another person – every day another regret  
Especially to virologists desperately searching to find a cure  
Those swabbing thousands of patients – their job – not a choice  
Anyone who donated money – food – masks – ventilators – equipment and mostly their time  
You are loved by all and like the sun shall forever shine  
To any organization – individual – business I may have forgotten in this poem  
You are special and we wish we could clone  
A heartfelt thank you to you from me  
Praying the rest of 2020 will become coronavirus free  
All of you sacrificed so much – asking nothing in return  
Even after your own relatives, hospitalized, died – we eventually learned  
When or if this uncertain world gets back to normal, I'll never forget  
Our heroes sent from our Lord up above  
And always cherish the fact that not all angels have wings  
And their hearts are filled with eternal love



Grandson and granddaughter of a local family. Thank you for sharing!

My name is Aiden and I am 7 years old. I have brown hair. I have brown eyes. My birthday is on April 19. I have tan skin. I play baseball. I have a sister. Her birthday is October 8th. Her name is Ava.

My name is Ava. I am 9 years old. I have green eyes and reddish brown hair. My birthday is October 8. I like cheerleading at school. I like to do science at home. I like to ride my bike and I like to play softball with my dad. My favorite books are Owl Diaries. My two favorite animals are giraffes and toucans. My favorite food is mac and cheese and pizza. I am older than my brother Aiden. That is all about me.

All of us at Lamoureux Ford would like to wish our loyal customers, family and friends well during this difficult time. Our Service and Parts Department is Deemed Essential for commercial and emergency work and will remain open Monday-Friday from 8-3pm. Traditional sales is deemed non-essential and operating online and by 1:1 appointments only. Please call to set up an appointment.. Check our website for updates. **SLOW THE SPREAD and stay healthy!**

366 E. Main Street, Rte. 9 East Brookfield  
877-LAM-FORD or 508-885-1000  
~ SERVICE HOURS ~  
Monday - Friday 8:00-3:00



Visit us on-line [lamoureuxford.com](http://lamoureuxford.com)  
or call 508-885-1000

# The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.

Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

BY LYNNE ANDREWS, SPENCER, MA

My friend Margaret lost her eye in an accident. People used to ask me if “the Nun had been born blind in one eye”.....hmmm...Well that used to make Margie laugh really hard.

She said, “I was anything but a nun...” Margie was a child of the “hippy culture” as she was proud of saying, in the Generation of Love...I think she was 6 years my senior because I know when she would tell me things about the 60s I was too young to remember. I was born in the late 50s but too young to attend Woodstock, and I was not old enough to march on Washington to protest the Vietnam War. She did. I laughed when I pictured Margie handcuffed and dragged to a holding cell because she was Peacefully protesting something...the cause could be anything, but she protested. She never told me when it was her birthday, that used to infuriate me. She did not like celebrating her birth into this world and I do not blame her. Yet, I am so very grateful that she was here! Amidst the notes she left to me before she passed, I found a poem she had copied; in the last line was written, “You can love me most...by letting go of Children that need to be free.” This, I DO understand because she had told me bits of her tortured life here and there. Most of her childhood was spent on the family farm in upstate New York, where 3 generations of Farrens resided, on a high hill overlooking Lake Canandaigua. It was a splendid view, she told me, and they had owned half the side of the shore that was undersold by her mother and father and overbuilt by the new monied builders of McMansions. That so-called privileged class that closes off the view of our lakes and shores as is the case in any coastal location. The Farrens kept one small parcel of land that contained a few acres, the barn and the farmhouse, that her sister was trying to hold on to, in spite of its failing condition. When it became too uninhabitable and the barn was close to falling down, her sister put the place up for sale, but wanted so much money for it, that the sale took years to go through. One McMansion owner wanted the pristine piece of land blocking HIS view of the lake, and knew the sisters were desperate, and would offer only a paltry amount. Rather than give in to him, her sister wanted to donate it as a home for veterans, or something that required grants, or government funding, but that just was not happening. So Margie found herself living here, at the Housing Authority, as many of us do when our means of living are limited and waning health prohibits employment. For some reason, though, she wanted to return to the “home” which she fled so rapidly in her adolescence, and was loathe to return, but I think this was part of her closing the last chapter of her life. Margie had been a victim of childhood rape by an older family member, for years. When she first told her mother, Margie told me that her mother slapped her and said, “You did something to make him want to do that to you!” I cannot imagine the hurt to the soul, the pain in the heart, and trauma to the mind that she bore for many years after this violent act forced upon a beautiful, innocent child of God. She was only 13 years of age sometime in the early to mid 1960s. Unbelievably, after Margie started to act out her anger in protest to the continued rapes whenever her Mother’s brother would visit, her mother did the most unthinkable thing to punish her rebellious behaviour: she sent Margaret to reside with her Uncle and his wife! This is unimaginable to me. Now Margie was in a captive situation. More than ever her position of vulnerability was clear, and in those times and in that age, sex was just not spoken about and schools were only just beginning to see the explosion of children giving birth to children, the implementing of Roe vs. Wade had yet to begun. She told me her uncle was a rather prominent figure in the Washington, DC area, and had a radio program that was of importance and incredibly held in high esteem in the political and academic culture of that time. Who was going to believe HER in regard to these allegations of abuse? So, she did what any brave captive would do, ran away. She found shelter with other young “hippies,” and because of the beginning of the counter cultural revolution, mainly due to the introduction of Zen Buddhism, the use of mind-altering drugs after the Harvard Experiments held by Alan Watts, Timothy Leary, and Richard Alpert (Ram Dass) she found a group of her own that had begun to see the injustices of humanity against mother earth, against mankind. This was the dawning of the Age of Aquarius and this led Margie to a different level of protest, and in that protest she started to drink, drop acid, LSD, marijuana, in order to deal with the psychological trauma she had yet to conquer or address.

But about her eye....So as Margie went through her rebellion, she did find somewhat of a home. She was thumbing up Route 9 in the town of Leicester ,MA, when a woman pulled over and picked her up. She asked Margaret what on earth she was doing, and why was she all alone out in the middle of MA ? Margaret burst into tears and started to tell this woman her story, which led to the woman taking her home, to her geodesic dome and her 12 acres of land to give her a safe haven. This led to her meeting a Trappist monk at St. Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, MA. Father Robert was a tall, handsome, lovely man who hailed from the Berkshires. He was an only child, and his mother was quite proud of his joining the Trappist order. One distinguishing thing about Father Robert was his ability to see the pain in others, and to help

them deal with trauma. He was loving, and had such a large aura of light and energy about him that he attracted a lot of women! And, though he did take a vow of celibacy he was a man. I do not think Father acted upon any of normal feelings a man would for a woman, for Margie was traumatized by men. But Father offered her a safe life with nothing to fear in that department. So she allowed herself to be healed. He took her to get sober, he had her deal with the rapes by her uncle, and he basically saved her. In all senses of that word. She came back to Jesus Christ in the most spiritual way, followed the Christian and Catholic tradition closely, adhered to her own self-imposed loathing of Materialism, dressed very austere, and father renamed her “Mary,” and vowed he would see that she was taken care of the rest of her life. So that sense of safety gave Margie peace...serenity, and true humility, so actually, people assumed that she was a nun! After decades of Healing, Margie, now I believe she was in her 40s, made peace with her mother, her family, (not her uncle) and became as serene and healthy person as she could be. But then, tragedy struck again. Her brother was diagnosed with cancer and it was deemed fatal. Whilst driving to “Say goodbye “ to her brother, who was dying of cancer, an overloaded semi rig ran a light and plowed into her car.

The accident left her in a coma for I believe 3 - 6 months. Every bone in her body broken, and her eye socket smashed; there was no way to save it.

This took years of healing, and Margie was embarrassed to be seen in public, so Father arranged for her to go to the woods of New Hampshire and live at a place called Shin Bone.

Now I ‘m not remembering exactly where this was or if it was even one of St. Joseph Abbey’s holdings, but there she resided alone, with her lambs, her chickens, and her cats....but she learned to live as a monk would.. a Tibetan monk, perhaps, or a Buddhist monk. Father Robert introduced her to the property caretakers, a nice young couple with whom she became good friends, so she was not totally alone for long lengths of time, and Father would come visit her as well. He would bring her supplies, and he somehow got the Abbey to supply her with a car also. For years she lived there until she was ready to face the public. She came to Spencer, and stayed at the Abbey guest house for a period of time where she worked with the sheep. But her eremitic life- style had had an impact upon her and she did seem to isolate quite often, because she found solace in silence, and in the purest things in life. The Holy Spirit worked through her, in her. And I do believe this is why many people assumed she was a NUN. In a way, she was. She then came to stay at Howe Village, moving into the unit right behind me. She gave me courage to sit outside and play my guitar in the fresh air, or under the moon. To this day, her courage stays with me as I try to not care what ANY one here feels about how I choose to live or what I do. In summertime, I put out an umbrella, with a drop netting for mosquito-control, and I have an artificial tree which someone had brought to my church one day which no one wanted, so I had my dad drag it and put it up. I decorate it with lights all year round, I hung the Tibetan Prayer Flag Margie gave me from the umbrella, and I sing out loud when I feel like it. I planted a garden from the perennials that were left at my former home on Upper Main Street in town; Margie and I would go up there as it was vacant property, and dig up all the Mandrake Root, the Phlox, the Lilies and Hosta, I found precious Jack -in -the -Pulpit but it got weed whacked by maintenance here, so I hid the Trillium well and hopefully it won’t meet the same fate. But it has been said I have a 3-ring circus over here, and I do not care. It gives ME pleasure and it was great that my protesting partner in crime, Margie, led me on to live my life as free as I could under the captivity of CML, financial loss, and within the restrictions of the “”authority.”” I am grateful I have a place in which to live but I have NEVER lived without freedom to do things I want in my own yard. So it is a challenge for me, for sure, and I’d never had neighbors very close by either.

Margie was incredibly beautiful: her spirit, her quiet loving soul touched my life in a healing way.

She handed me over to Father Robert at a time in my life when I was giving up. Surrendering to the pain, and struggling under the weight of my battle with CML, the distancing of my family, friends, my financial struggles. I lost my house, my small business, and any financial security I thought I had. Father guided me away from my wanting to “leave” this world after years of suffering from treatment, saying to me, “Though I do believe that Jesus would not want a child of his to suffer, and to come home to him, YOU still have a lot of work to do on this earth, so you cannot leave...just yet.” Well, that put me on a brand new path of trust in God...in the Universe, and in myself. I have also say Father and I had something in common: he was an alumnus of the College of the Holy Cross, and I had worked there for many years. Father told me that each of us are here for one another for a Reason, whether it be for a Season, or a Lifetime. Thanksgiving we three spent making dinner in the little green house on route 31 North where monks are allowed to have visitors and Father drove us around the Abbey lands later...little did I know that was the LAST outing I would have with him. For he became very ill in what seemed just a few weeks, and Margie broke it to me that Father Robert was dying! I could not believe this, it was too soon, and she made the time to sit with him

every day, as he thrashed about and swore at the doctors, distressing the Abbot. Then shortly after the New Year, Father left this world on a clear and bright cold day in late January. I cried and cried, while Margie seemed to take the death in stride... little did I know that she was to give up within the following years without Father Robert to be around her.

Margie taught me true humility. How to live “poor” in this materialist society. Now I said, “poor, “not “poorly.” There is a difference, because I have learned that there is a way in which we all can handle loss, material loss, and other loss as well, such as a loved one, or our health, our self-esteem, our looks, our perspective, our independence, our talents, our dreams, trust in others, etc. and not lose our Faith. We can all lose anything at any time...we live life knowing that life has fatal consequences, but one must know living is preparing for that very thing each day. And HOW we live our lives is the important thing. Margaret helped teach me this, and yet, deep inside I think I already knew. Most of us do “know” we just do not choose to implement our knowledge. The titanium metal they used to rebuild Margaret was starting to be rejected by her body. It was growing through her upper face, cheekbones, chin, inside her mouth, through the front of her legs and out through her heels. She lived a life of incredible pain and yet she was the kindest, most loving soul I’ve ever met here in this life. Father had been there to rescue her when she was at her own road to cross after her recovery from her accident.

Margaret was one who understood this on so many levels. I was able to talk to her about any thing in life, and I’d get up at 4am and see her light on and her moving about within her apartment, so sometimes I’d show up at the door with a few pieces of home made dill bread with soft butter wrapped in a napkin, and my mug of tea. We would sit and talk for hours...into the dawning day...then she’d go off to church and I’d go off to walk my little dog, Tink.

She was a true friend, a loving neighbor, and a guiding light in darkness. I could count on Margie to put a “spiritual bandaid” on my wounds if I needed.....and although I felt no where as strong as she, Margie would tell me, No, YOU are the strong one, Lynne....woah, you teach ME, and I learn something new every day. She never preached, nor proselytized to me. Even though I was studying all different types of religions, or philosophies.... she was stalwart in her Catholic convictions. Mass every day, she loved her involvement in making the vestments for the monks at the Abbey, from tending the lambs to the carding of the wool, to seeing the finished product like the beautiful stole she made for Father Robert.

Margie was surprisingly independent, but Father always saw that she was take care of and had enough. Just enough... and when I gave her my most outlandish clothing because I had no longer use for the long looks I’d get around the town I decided to stay in, she would don them and beam as she loved bright colors and my daring cultural garb, like the peruvian wool thunderbird cape... someone said I looked like I was wearing a horse blanket one day, and that was it....off it went, or the bright purple satin Mandarin Chinese jacket line in turquoise she took to wearing that with her LL Bean wool cat slippers I’d bought her one Christmas...her plaid pull-string pants and her long silver-grey hair covering her missing eye.... OH, almost forgot..her ear was also torn and could only wear one earring.. another characteristic that I had to remember..so if I lost ONE of my best earrings, guess who’d get the remaining one? But Margaret seemed to not care...and she tried to teach me not to ..haha....although to this day, I am still slave to Marshall’s or TJMaxx, and love my (ah..fake) jewelry and to have my highlights in my hair...hey let’s face it...I am not the same and no one would want me to be.

She lived like Lao Tzu, laughed like the Buddha, and taught like her true love, Jesus Christ.

An artist friend of hers, who has passed on himself long ago, did this rendering of her. He painted many others but this is the one SHE chose to highlight.

I love the lectures, writings, lessons of Alan Watts, a prolific writer and catalyst for the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s- he introduced the “hippie counterculture “ introduced ZEN to our Western culture. Margie lived very isolated and even though she had heard of Watts, Leary and Dass, she really did not know their works... but by pure Instinct and the need for societal change, she learned what Watts taught: lessening the alienation that accompanies the experience of being human that he felt plagued our American culture, by incorporating more aesthetics: ART, Finer Architecture, finer cuisine, MUSIC!”

This is a direct quote from Wikipedia. And this is what led me to understand what I did not understand but “knew,” as existence.

Thank you if you took the time to read this- in HONOUR OF MARGARET FARREN. Left this earthly plane to follow her God, Father Robert Morehaus, and Christ Sunday, MARCH 22, 2020... that is what she truly believed, and that she was Not loved. I wish she had known, really known, how well she was loved by so many.

# OBITUARIES

## Kenneth Harold Dominick, 72

WEST BROOKFIELD- Kenneth Harold Dominick, 72, died peacefully at home on May 7, 2020. He is survived by his wife and best friend of 41 years, Debra Kelley-Dominick; a brother, William Dominick and his wife Susan of Monson, MA; 2 nephews Jason Dominick and his partner Kayla Slessler of Wilbraham,

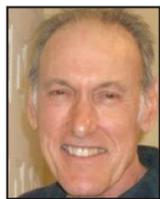
MA and Cameron Dominick and his wife Sarah and their children, Riley and Henry. He was pre-deceased by his parents Harold and Shirley Dominick of Monson, MA.

Ken loved growing up in Monson playing in the woods and fields with his friends and brother. He graduated with a BA from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. He went on to graduate from UMASS in Amherst with a Masters in Fine Art.

Ken remembered fondly his days at The Experimental Television Center in New York and his days exploring the art scene in New York City in the 1960s. Ken was a great thinker and writer, artist, birder, naturalist and photographer. He had a strong interest in Native American Art and taught classes at several colleges. He loved to walk, run, bike and canoe. Ken had a very strong Buddhist practice and was committed to living a life of compassion.

Before retiring in 2014, Ken worked as a cartographer for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

A Celebration of Ken's Life will be held at a later date. Donations in his honor may be made to Kurukulla Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies of Medford, MA or Second Chance Animal Shelter po box 136 East Brookfield, MA. 01515. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.



## Alan W. Coolidge, 74

SPENCER- Alan W. Coolidge, 74, of Spencer, died Monday, May 11 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester due to complications with Covid-19. Al was familiar to many in Spencer as friendly and full of sports information. Al was a hockey coach at Westboro High School, and helped the Rangers

get to the 1983-84 state finals. He was born in Worcester, the son of Donald E. and Josephine (Dempsey) Coolidge and later graduated from Hudson High School and Boston College, and went on to coach and train many young athletes at schools and sports camps.

He served his country with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. His

friends would like to extend their gratitude to the staff and caregivers at the Life Care Center of Auburn for the care and many



kindnesses Al received there.

Graveside services with Military Honors will be held Saturday, May 16 at 10 a.m. in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer.

Social distancing will prevail while at the graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Veterans, Inc., 69 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605.

J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer, is directing arrangements. [www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com) [1]

## Barbara L. Sinkis

Heaven gained a special angel as Barbara L. (Petit) Sinkis passed away on Saturday May 9, 2020 at Care One of Millbury from complications related to COVID-19. She was born in Worcester, MA on January 13, 1934.



She leaves her loving husband of sixty-seven years Chester Sinkis, her sons Stephen Sinkis of E. Brookfield, Mark Sinkis and wife Carol of No. Oxford, Chester Sinkis of Brookfield, and David C. Sinkis

of Terrell, TX (formerly N. Oxford, MA) who passed away in 2013, and her daughters Debra Wyszynski and husband Konrad of Oxford, Donna Korp and husband Arthur of Worcester, Cathy Laskowski and husband Benjamin of Webster, Barbara (Bonnie) Harden and husband John of Dudley, Laurie Baarda and husband Richard of Webster and Kim Brassard of Oxford, and her grandchildren Michael Wyszynski who passed away in 1997, Justin Wyszynski, Kristin Santerre, Meagan Brousseau, Stevie Sinkis, Chelsea Korp, Tiffany Rivera, Matthew Laskowski, Brian Harden, Kevin Harden, Nicole Baarda, Danielle Baarda, Lindsey Baarda, Jacklyn Los, Davie Sinkis, Dean Brassard, Mandy Brassard, and 15 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents Archie and Lois (Hartley) Petit of Worcester, and her brothers Phillip, Robert and Allen, her sister-in-laws Marie and Carleen Petit and brother-in-law Benas Sinkis, and leaves her sister Shirley Sinkis and husband Al of Oxford, brother Richard Petit of Auburn and sister-in-laws Eileen and Paula Petit of Worcester and Deborah Sinkis of Auburn. She also leaves many nieces and nephews, and other relatives

and many loving friends.

For years she worked at Marvin Richmond Studios in the film processing laboratory and then worked and retired from Liberty Mutual Insurance as a Call Director Agent. After retirement she and Chester enjoyed many years camping at Lake Dean campground spending time with family and friends, having cookouts, sitting by the campfire listening to music, and sitting by the beach. Then they relocated to No. Fort Myers FL, and enjoyed several years making new friends, enjoyed senior activities and having family visit them there. They moved back home to Oxford where they have enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were her pride and joy, she enjoyed cooking and baking, family cookouts, listening to music, spending time at the lake and ocean, loved dancing and going to events that had Polka music.

There will be no calling hours and when time allows due to the COVID-19 there will be a Celebration of Life luncheon planned for family and friends. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Care One of Millbury and Ascend Hospice of Marlborough.

To all of the staff at Care One of Millbury especially the nurses, aids and residents, and the Ascend Hospice team, we cannot thank you enough for your support, prayers, dedication, thoughtfulness, and loving compassion during this very difficult time.

The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Barbara.

## Maria Colon-Lozano

SPENCER/ SOUTHBRIDGE- Maria Colon-Lozano passed unexpectedly at home on May 2, 2020.



She leaves behind her husband Juan Lozano, her 3 children Destinee Sylvester 19, Jisenia Lozano 17 and Juan Anthony Lozano 12, her only sibling Becky Toohey brother-in-law William Toohey and 2 nephews

Julian and Korbin Toohey, and her love Edgar Laboy. She also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends She was predeceased by her mother

Anne Loranger of Sturbridge MA and her father Orlando Colon of Orocovis Puerto Rico.

Maria loved to help others whenever possible. She enjoyed music, spending time with her children and family, going to the lake and being social. She was always the life of the party. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral services will be private due to the health crisis at this time. Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street Southbridge, MA 01550 is assisting the family. <http://www.sansoucyfuneral.com>

## Allen E. "Rocky" Wright

Allen E. "Rocky" Wright, passed away on Monday April 6, 2020 in the comfort of his home with a long-time friend and caregiver Cheryl Hague by his side, after a long battle with cancer.

Allen "Rocky" Wright was born in Framingham Ma. Rocky was raised in Hopkinton Ma, where he spent most of his life. Rocky was known for his sense of humor and laughter among friends. Rocky had a passion for horse, motorcycles, operating heavy equipment and owning as well as driving Tractor Trailer.

Rocky was a member of the Brookfield Rod and Gun Club, Spencer Fish and Game, Choochs, West Warren Fraternal Order of Eagles Club

Allen E. "Rocky" Wright was born to the late George and Pearl Wright. He is predeceased by his younger brother George, Daughters Kim Bunnell, Donna Kiellon the loves of his life who left Rocky to soon in his life.

Rocky is survived by his wife Joyce, Sons Allen Bunnell, Robert Bunnell, Marc Bunnell and Steven Wright. His Brother Richard Wright, Stepchildren Christine Chausse, Lorraine Chausse and Marc Chausse Sr. Grandchildren:

Paige Marsh (Little Rock) who spent many

days helping Rocky fight his battle with cancer along with her father Warren Marsh who helped with his rides to and from visits to Dana Farber Hospital. Gary Bunnell his right arm from Bellingham Ma, Mark Chausse Jr, Tony Chausse, James and Mark, Great grandchildren Mason son of Ryan and Paige , Makailyn son of Mark Chausse Jr of Webster, Aryhanna, James Jr, Brandon, Marc children of James Bunnell of California, Kyle, Kimberly, Damien, Violet Jayden children of Gary Bunnell, Christine, Khiana, and Patrick Children of Allen Bunnell and many nieces and nephew.

Rocky is also survived by his extensive family in Hopkinton. A very close friend Keith Hevy who spent every day with Rocky giving him the support he so needed. Cathy Bunnell of Medfield who he was close to.

Flowers are to be omitted donations can be made to Dana Faber Hospital in his name.

There will be no calling hours a get together in his memory will be held at a later date .

## Rachel Lindell, 88

BROOKFIELD- Rachel Lindell, a young-hearted 88yr old, child of Yehovah through George Edwin &



Lillian Britch, widow, mother, GREAT Grandmother, singer-songwriter, artist, confidant and friend-to-all left her temporary home at the Highlands in Fitchburg, MA to go to her forever home

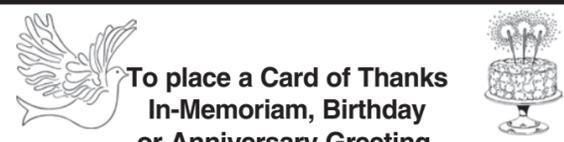
with her LORD in the early morning hours on May 14, 2020 after bravely battling Alzheimer's and Covid19.

Rachel is preceded in death by her loving parents, husband, best friend, and country music manager Ernest H. Lindell, beloved granddaughter Maisie Kay Patterson, and big brother David Britch.

Rachel was born in Dr. Murdock's home on Pleasant Street in Spencer on July 14, 1931. She shared her life with three siblings, David Britch, Carroll Britch, and Esther Sablack. Rachel left Brookfield high school in her senior year to pursue a career in music, traveling and performing on stage, radio, and TV in all 50 United States and every province in Canada. She left the "on the road" life to raise five children, Ricky Ernie Lindell, Sherry Naomi Dambra , Kaylene Belle Lindell, Cathy Candace Battige, and Elaine Rhea Gagne. Her artistry didn't stop with her beautiful

voice. Self-taught, she created many pieces of artwork in oils, acrylics, watercolor, pen and ink, as well as literally taught hundreds of her cherished students her trade. An accomplished seamstress, she was adept at all forms of needlework from petit point to sewing her own clothes and stage costumes. If asked how she did it, she would credit her LORD in all the works of her heart and hands.

A graveside service for Rachel was held Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 1:30PM in Brookfield Cemetery in Brookfield. Social distancing and protective face masks are required (just pretend you are in painting class with Rachel creating your own masterpiece and need to keep from breathing toxic paint fumes). Did we mention that Rachel had the best sense of humor? In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to one of her three favorite charities- 1. Compassion International child sponsorship (because she believed in carrying out the LORD's command to give to the poor and orphans), 2. Athol (Massachusetts) Public Library Art and Music collection (because she loved their books and librarians), or 3. Mount Wachusett Community College's Student Emergency Fund (because she always wanted to go to college). Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.



**To place a Card of Thanks In-Memoriam, Birthday or Anniversary Greeting,**

the deadline is Friday noon for the following week.

**(Memoriams will run on the Obituary pages)**

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3") or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

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# OBITUARIES

## Joseph W. Edson, 66

LEICESTER- Joseph W. Edson, 66, of Leicester died Saturday, May 9 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Worcester due to complications of Covid-19.



He leaves his wife of 45 years, Elaine A. (Goodrow) Edson, a brother Philip L. Edson, Jr. of NC, two sisters Allyson C. Gordon and her husband Robert of W. Boylston and Robin E. Hammock and her

husband George of FL., several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews, as well as several loving in-laws. Joe also leaves a very special friend, Betsy Benoit of Leicester. He is predeceased by his brother Courtney M. Edson.

Joe worked in public service for the State of Massachusetts, the Leicester

Police Department, and for the Spencer Schools in the Building Services Department, retiring in 1999 due to declining health.

Born in Worcester, he was the son of Philip I. and Claire (Julien) Edson, Sr.

Joseph was recognized by the Town of Leicester for his dedicated charitable work for both the Jimmy Fund and the Special Olympics.

Due to current health restrictions, a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Please omit flowers. Memorial donations can be made to the Jimmy Fund/ Dana Farber, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or online via [www.jimmyfund.org/gift](http://www.jimmyfund.org/gift)

MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements.

[www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

SPENCER- Roger J. LaPlume, 67, of Pleasant St., died peacefully, Sunday, May 17th. at home.



Roger was the oldest living person in the United States with Downe Syndrome.

He leaves his brothers, Robert D. LaPlume and his wife Donna of Worcester, Donald W. LaPlume and his wife Donna

of Barefoot Bay, FL, his sisters and guardians; Joyce I. Guzewicz and her husband Paul of Douglas and Elice V. Chiapulis of Spencer. His sister Gail F. Hussey of Worcester, several nieces and nephews. His longtime caretakers; John and Sandy Tebo of Spencer with whom he lived. He is predeceased by a sister Diane M. Snodgrass.

Born in Worcester, he was the son of

Lucien and Isabelle (Peters) LaPlume. He attended Our Lady of Mercy School, and went on to Seven Hills. He settled in with the Tebo family, John and Sandy the caretakers. Everyone that met him felt his love and saw his smile that warmed their heart. He was full of tricks and when he got you, his belly would roll just like when he played Santa Clause. He was one of a kind that God Blessed the world and us with. Hats off to you Roger with our Love.

Private burial and services will be held at a later date in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

[www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

## Roger J. LaPlume, 67,

## James J. "Jim" Monahan, 71

STURBRIDGE- James J. "Jim" Monahan, 71, passed away on Saturday, May 9th, in the Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge, after a brief illness.



He leaves his loving and devoted wife of 44 years, Christina M. (Paladino) Monahan, with whom he shared a passion for family; his son, Nicholas Monahan and his wife Jessica of New Braintree; and his sister, Marilyn Monahan of Leicester. He was also a light in the lives of his grandchildren, Olivia, Parker and Amelia Grace, they loved him as "Papa Jim". He was born in Worcester the son of the late Francis and Mary (Moriarty) Monahan.

Jim worked for the Teamsters Local

170 throughout his 30 years at New England Grocers. He later drove for Van Pool Transportation before retiring.

Jim approached life with much enthusiasm and vigor. The hallmark of his life was that all who knew him appreciated his great sense of humor, warmth and spirit that has shone through in his big heart and smiling face. He was a true gentleman.

Jim's funeral services will be private. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in loving memory of Jim to the American Heart Association, 300 5th Ave., Waltham, MA 02451 or online at [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

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

[www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

## Carol A. Plouffe

BLACKSTONE - Carol A. (Pepka) Plouffe passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at her home with her family by her side following a five-year battle with cancer. She was the wife of Arthur G. Plouffe.



In addition to her husband Arthur, she is survived by her daughters Kelly Taylor and husband Thomas Taylor of Bellingham, MA and Tammy Surprise and husband David Surprise of Blackstone, MA; 2 brothers Donald Pepka and wife Naomi Pepka of Dudley, MA and Kenneth Pepka and wife Sandra Pepka of Thompson, CT; brother-in-law Alan Plouffe and wife Karen Plouffe of Spencer, MA, sister-in-law Susan Plouffe of N. Grosvenordale, CT, and sister-in-law Ann-Marie Ellis and husband Dan Ellis of Dyer, IN; her 3 beloved grandchildren Skyler, Jared, and Thomas; and many loved close family members and friends.

Carol was the daughter of the late Felix and Eleanor (Parmentier) Pepka. She attended St. Louis schools in her younger years and was a graduate of Bartlett High School in 1971. Carol and Arthur celebrated their 47th Anniversary while on an Alaskan Cruise May 20, 2019. This was a dream come true trip for them.

She worked as a postal worker at the Charlton City Post Office. She also enjoyed working at Commerce Insurance and at Park 'N Shop.

She was a very social person that loved spending time with family and friends. She loved to attend her grandchildren's events and was proud to be their "Mimi". She enjoyed her weekly trips to the casino, watching the Red Sox, and listening to her 60's music.

A graveside service at St. Joseph's Garden of Peace, Webster will take place at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the Cancer Center at Harrington Fund, 55 Sayles St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

Arrangements by Buma Funeral Home, Uxbridge. [www.bumafuneralhome.com](http://www.bumafuneralhome.com)

## Gene M. Bailey, 69

DUDLEY - Gene M. Bailey, 69, passed away peacefully at home with his loving wife and family by his side on Tuesday May 12, 2020.



Gene is survived by his wife of thirty-five years, Elizabeth (Gauthier) Bailey; two sons: Michael Bailey and his wife Johanna of Auburn and Sean Bailey of Dudley; his sister Linda Madonna of

Leicester; his granddaughter Michelle; he also leaves many relatives and friends; he was predeceased by his brother Robert E. Bailey.

Gene was born in Boston, MA, son of the late Robert and Mary (Bouret)

Bailey; He served honorably in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and worked for the Scales Industries Technology Company. Gene greatly enjoyed reading, going fishing, boating, and watching his NASCAR Races.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to the American Cancer Society in honor of Gene.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Gene.

## Bernard T. Vink, 86

SPENCER- Bernard T. Vink, 86, of Smithville Rd., died Thursday, May 14 in Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge due to complications with Covid-19.

He was the husband of Rita T. (Farland) Vink who died in 2012. He leaves his son John P. Vink with whom he lived and his daughter Jean M. Vink of Brooklyn, NY, three brothers, Jack, Jos and Jon Vink and two sisters Rita Atkinson and Ans Bader, his sister in law Carol Lorusso and her husband Paul of Citra, FL., several nieces and nephews.

Bernard worked at Astra

Pharmaceuticals in Westboro before retiring.

Due to health restrictions, a Memorial Mass in St. John the Baptist Church, E. Brookfield and burial in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton will be held at a later date. Please omit flowers. Memorial contributions may be made to Second Chance Animal Services, P.O. Box 136, E. Brookfield, MA 01515. J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements.

[www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

12:33 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:43-1:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:51 a.m.: residential fire (Oakland Drive), smoke in residence; 2:31-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:41 a.m.: officer wanted (Park Street), investigated; 2:43 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:18 a.m.: illegal dumping (Wm. Casey Road), trash scattered/parking area; 8:20 a.m.: illegal dumping (Bell Street), neighbor complaint; 10:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), threats; 10:38 a.m.: medical/general (Sherman Grove); 11:03 a.m.: mv complaint (Adams Street), unsafe canoing; 11:35 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:37 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 12:02 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 12:12 p.m.: disturbance (Browning Pond Circle), neighbor dispute; 12:28 p.m.: 911 call (Salem Street), misdial; 12:46 p.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), poss. rabid fox; 12:51 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 1:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), welfare check; 2:30 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 2:50 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Northwest Road), illegal burn/extinguished; 2:52 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no emergency; 2:56 p.m.: fraud (Donnelly Cross Road), scam calls; 3:16 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:41 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), info taken; 4:52 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:29 p.m.: disturbance (Langevin Street), poss. domestic; 5:46 p.m.: 911 call (Crestwood Avenue), accidental; 6:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Road), info taken; 7:16 p.m.: medical/general (Delude Avenue); 7:52 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road), Lynda A. Rhodes, 56, 480 Main Street, Oxford, OUI liquor, negligent operation, passing violation, speeding, alcohol in mv, arrest; 9:03

p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), staggering male; 9:12 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 9:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 10:06-10:07 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:40 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 10:49 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street).

THURSDAY, MAY 8

12:03-1:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:27 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 5:49 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), clothes strewn on street; 8:37 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:52 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 10:23 a.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), info taken; 10:36 a.m.: suspicious mv (R. Jones Road), investigated; 11:23

a.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 11:24 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 11:35 a.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), info taken; 1:16 p.m.: disturbance (Grove Street), m/f dispute; 1:48 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 2:31 p.m.: fraud (Wm. Casey Road), poss. scam; 3:19 p.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), info taken; 3:45 p.m.: officer wanted (West Avenue), spoken to; 3:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 4:08 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chery Street), shooting BB/air gun out of window; 4:55 p.m.: juvenile matter (Mechanic Street), 5:30 p.m.: buildign checked, secure; 5:32 p.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), water issue; 7:17 p.m.: suspicious persons

(Main Street), investigated; 7:40 p.m.: mv stop (Cranberry Meadow Road); 9:11 p.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 9:12 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (Elm Street), info taken; 9:19 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 9:22-9:24 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:26 p.m.: RV complaint (Pleasant Street), loud minibikes; 9:39 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Valley Street), investigated.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

12:52-12:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:36 a.m.: medical/overdose (Treadwell Terrace); 8:28 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address/2; 10:33 a.m.: juvenile

Turn To **POLICE** page **A14**

# Professional Directory

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**POLICE**

continued from page A13

nile matter (Vine Street), info taken; 10:55 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:28 p.m.: abandoned 911 all (West Main Street), accidental; 12:28 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), EBT card stolen; 12:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), loose dog; 1:04 p.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 1:52 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 5:09 p.m.: parking complaint (Brown Street), mv blocking d/way; 6:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Parent Street), neighbor issue; 6:27 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; 6:46 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant View Drive); 9:08 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:16 p.m.: abandoned 911 all (Chickering Road), accidental; 11:21-11:23 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:35 p.m.: officer wanted (South Street), welfare check.

**SATURDAY, MAY 9**

12:40-1:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), Randy Wayne Barclay, 43, 12 Shore Drive, Union, Conn., possession Class B drug, arrest; 7:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), alarm at Fish & Game; between 8:00-9:10 a.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 10:54 a.m.: fire alarm (Whittemore Court), services rendered; 11:22 p.m.: DPW call (Jolicoeur Road), damaged utility pole; 11:44 a.m.: harassment/phone call (Charlton Road), unwanted texts; 12:31 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 12:33 p.m.: DPW call (R. Jones Road), tree on wires; 1:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), loose dog; 1:46 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operation; 2:37 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road), lift assist; 2:42 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:43 p.m.: medical/general (Browning Pond Road); 3:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), services rendered; 3:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), 4:04 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 4:32 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lincoln Street), investigated; 4:37 p.m.: animal complaint (Temple Street), loose dog; 4:48 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 6:20 p.m.: mv complaint (Langevin Street), dangerous operation; 6:21 p.m.: fraud (Chestnut Street), scam call; 8:58

p.m.: suspicious persons (Franklin Street), info taken; 10:21 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 10:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (Meadow Road), investigated; 11:41 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 11:59 p.m.: building checked, secure.

**SUNDAY, MAY 10**

12:21-1:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:14 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), investigated; 1:18-1:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:06 a.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), no water; 7:13 a.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 7:23 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 7:57 a.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Road); 12:37 p.m.: medical/general (Cranberry Meadow Road); 1:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), Eric J. Abdow, Junior, 34, 19 Bixby Road, Spencer, warrant arrest; 2:53 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 4:54 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:11 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:28 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Auburn PD bolo; 7:02 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 7:53 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; 8:31 p.m.: mv stop (Bell Street); 8:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), courtesy transport; 9:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:49 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street).

**MONDAY, MAY 11**

1:17-1:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:20 a.m.: officer wanted (Kingsbury Road), hunter close to residence; 8:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Sunset Lane), escort request; 9:38 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 10:11 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 11:20 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:57 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 12:20 p.m.: harassment/phone calls (High Street), info taken; 12:31 p.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 12:51 p.m.: animal complaint (Buteau Road), injured coyote; 1:01 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), juvenile fled; 1:30 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 1:47 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 2:29 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Main Street); 2:56 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), verbal altercation; 3:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Wm. Casey Road), no

contact; 4:03 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 5:02 p.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), neighbor issue; 5:35 p.m.: suspicious persons (Valley Street), investigated; 6:48 p.m.: juvenile matter (Cherry Street), welfare check; 7:16 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), noise complaint; 7:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), barking dog; 7:56 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 8:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Road), injured coyote; 8:36-9:40 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:51 p.m.: medical/general (McDonald Street).

**TUESDAY, MAY 12**

6:29 a.m.: missing person/juvenile (Old East Charlton Road), son missing; 8:22 a.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), accidental; 8:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Lakeshore Drive), bear in yard; 9:00 a.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 12:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Ledge Avenue), loose dog; 12:30 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Ash Street); 12:36 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Road); 12:59 p.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), wire arcing; 1:54 p.m.: accident (Smithville Road), report taken; 2:20 p.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), family issue; 2:30 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), info taken; 3:23 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:36 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Road); 6:11 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), neighbor dispute; 6:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), info taken; 8:08 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:28 p.m.: suspicious persons (Grove Street), investigated; 8:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 11:46 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 11:58-11:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

###

**Lecister Police**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**

10:52 a.m.: assist citizen (Grove Street), spoken to; 11:29 a.m.: mv stop (Warren Avenue), no action required; 1:54 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:03 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:11 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 2:58 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), peace restored; 3:21 p.m.: investigation

(Whittemore Street), services rendered; 7:41 p.m.: malicious mischief (Stafford Street), report taken; 8:11 p.m.: erratic operation (Mulberry Street), gone on arrival; 8:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), services rendered; 10:14 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), investigated; 11:28 p.m.: disturbance (Sargent Street), report taken.

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

11:42 a.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), no action required; 1:07 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Glen Ellen Lane), peace restored; 2:48 p.m.: animal complaint (Deer Pond Drive), report taken; 3:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

**SATURDAY, MAY 9**

12:09 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), services rendered; 8:39 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 8:58 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), unfounded; 10:38 a.m.: animal complaint (Marshall Street), services rendered; 10:46 a.m.: investigation (Siaini Road), services rendered; 12:05 p.m.: fraud (Salminen Drive), report taken; 12:22 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 1:53 p.m.: erratic operation (Main Street), unfounded; 2:14 p.m.: family problem (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 8:50 p.m.: disturbance (Crestwood Road), peace restored.

**SUNDAY, MAY 10**

2:45 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 8:34 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:26 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, report taken; 12:43 p.m.: assist citizen (Merrick Street); 8:35 p.m.: disturbance (Pine Street), report taken.

**MONDAY, MAY 11**

12:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), services rendered; 9:27 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Parker Street), services rendered; 9:39 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 11:42 a.m.: family problem (Pine Street), peace restored; 12:14 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 1:19 p.m.: assist other PD (Craig Street), no action required.

**TUESDAY, MAY 12**

1:56 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 6:58 p.m.: welfare check (Rawson Street), report taken; 7:41 p.m.: parking

Turn To **POLICE** page A18

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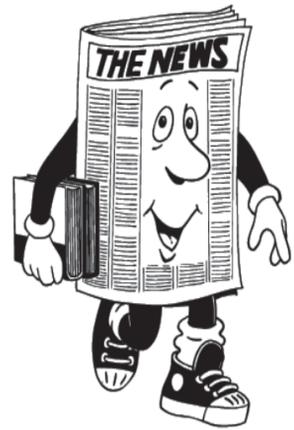
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**LUCIER**

continued from page A9

real cause of the US Postal Service fiscal problems.

Whether or not the Postal Service remains a political football, as in the past, strong and solid management planning must be headed before there is no entity as the US Postal Service.

Making decisions with-in a cooperation business plan will require sacrifices among all parties. It is not uncommon in regular corporate circles to make difficult decisions as what is proposed, increase costs to your Cooperation Business Vendors whether it be

Amazon, Wal-Mart and others, no matter the risk. The survival for all is the principle to meet that goal of Independence. Do we Americans believe that these corporate mammoths care about our postal workers, then why not treat them as a business competitor and aim for the best effective financial pact towards any contractual arrangements. The country is trillions in debt, how much more is the decreasing percentage of wage earners, noted by the Census Bureau (close to 50 percent, not counting the unemployed) to spend of their disposable income for fruitless solutions? Many citizens appreciate

our postal workers retired and present; they are the nation's last human link to serve the public as a personal representative in individual communications. Union and management are responsible to conduct sensible and profitable business practices for their customers; it is about time us taxpayers inherit those benefits. Why has it taken decades to accomplish pecuniary fruition?

Finally, this writer's postal career spanned 20-plus years, both as a craft employee and a member of management. Retirement led to operating a small business for over 25 years. If our small company depended continual on public monetary support which

was not considered as sound fiscal accountability, we would have never reached fiscal stability and profitability

The Postal Service endured much turmoil throughout my tenure including the launching of the US Postal Reorganization Act, 1970 First Strike and the Blizzard of 1978. During these challenges our Postal workers carried out their duties with pride and persistence in good customer service. I know we can lick this dilemma to achieve fiscal solvency by using Nike's motto, "Just do it."

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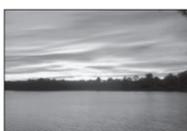
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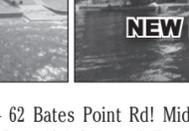


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*On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg*

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Memorial Day is the day that’s set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who served and died for our country and our freedom. May your day be filled with memories and peace.  
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| ADDRESS                             | STYLE | TIME                   | PRICE | REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE                             |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SATURDAY, MAY 23</b>             |       |                        |       |                                                  |
| <b>DUDLEY</b><br>7 Joseph St.       | S     | 11-1<br>By Appointment |       | Re/Max Advantage<br>Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044 |
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# Sharing some “sunshine” with home bound seniors

REGION — Tri-Valley, Inc., in partnership with Marsh & McLennan Insurance Agency and Stonehenge Gardens in Charlton, distributed 800 healthy plants to seniors receiving Meals on Wheels deliveries on Friday, May 8. Meant to lift spirits, and just in time for Mother’s Day, the project was conducted as part of Tri-Valley’s SOS (Supporting our Society) volunteer initiative. The goal of this program is to assist people living in our communities to continue to live safely and comfortably. Volunteers and employees delivered the plants which included tomato, lettuce, egg-

plant, pepper, basil and parsley along with meals to seniors in the Agency’s 25-town service area. An uplifting poem and plant instructions were included in the delivery. “At this time of year, and especially this year, it is important to share some happiness with the seniors in our community. The plants represent life, nourishment and hope and will bring a little bit of sunshine to those who need it the most,” said Lisa Prince, Executive Director of Tri-Valley. Tri-Valley is grateful to the Marsh & McLennan Insurance Agency for funding the proj-

ect; to Stonehenge Gardens for their beautiful plant selection and cooperation; to Christie Higginbottom, local Garden Consultant and Research Historian who provided the plant care instructions which were included as an insert; and to our incredible employees and volunteers who continue to deliver meals with smiling faces underneath their protective masks. As an ‘essential’ service, Tri-Valley continues to provide services to seniors and younger disabled individuals. We are delivering Meals on Wheels, providing Care Management, In-home Services, Protective

Services, and our Information & Resource team is fielding calls during this pandemic. If you need assistance, please give us a call at 508-949-6640; if you would like to make a donation, please mail to Tri-Valley, Inc., 10 Mill St., Dudley, MA 01571 or donate online at [www.trivalleyinc.org](http://www.trivalleyinc.org). Tri-Valley, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency providing in-home and community-based services in 25 towns located in south central Massachusetts. The Agency receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from the Federal

government, under the Older American’s Act, processed through the Central Mass Agency on Aging.



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**POLICE**  
*continued from page A14*

complaint (Dale Street), investigated; 11:20 p.m.: welfare check (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered. **WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**  
8:57 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 9:08 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 9:48 a.m.:

accident (Rawson Street), mv towed; 10:38 a.m.: assist other agency (Utica Street), services rendered; 10:51 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), peace restored; 1:46 p.m.: illegal dumping (Cemetery Road), services rendered; 1:54 p.m.: fire/unauthorized burn (Main Street), services rendered; 2:33 p.m.; restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 2:59 p.m.: investigation

(Utica Street), service rendered; 3:05 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 5:15 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 5:33 p.m.: fraud (King Street), report taken; 5:58 p.m.: suspicious mv (Baldwin Street), gone on arrival; 6:37 p.m.: disturbance/gathering (Auburn Street), unable to locate; 6:40 p.m.: suspicious person (Peter Salem Road), spoken to.

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**HAR-YAROK**

continued from page A9

the fact that 1 percent of our population is 3.3 million dead people.

We are unwilling, incapable, and we risk armed rebellion if we were to lock down hard enough to be true to the "pro-life" mantra. Ironically, it is the pro-life crowd who will be the first to send lead another person's way. So we will re-open. Semi-lockdown isn't sustainable, real lockdown is off the table, so now we'll all get the virus eventually. Unless the world shuns us we will re-infect them as well due to the massive viral reservoir the U.S. represents. We are re-opening, that is reality, and I accept that. I all ask if for each of you to be honest with yourselves why we are doing this: It has been too long, collectively we are unwilling to do what is necessary, and we've had eight weeks to get used to the disease and the death.

Who would have thought that the end of times would be brought on by a Jewish kid from New Jersey. Before Facebook, information required gate-keepers which kept conspiracy theories and hateful content from disseminating effectively. In Mark Zuckerberg's quest to connect all people and lower the barriers to entry of speech he assumed a new era of peace and prosperity would ensue but instead we are seeing the breakdown of society. This is much like the Gutenberg printing press - while it did lead to an explosion of literacy also lead to hundreds of years of religious wars.

The types of things that can be found on Facebook and uttered by seemingly decent people are simply incredible. There are the videos re-posted from "Blue Collar Logic" which while the content incredibly stupid the production and scripting is done so well that I believe it is propaganda put out by smarter people trying to play the "blue collar" like pawns. The best video I watched is titled "who are we saving anyway" while showing images of wheelchairs being pushed by people in hazmat suits. Is the propagandist foreign or domestic? I don't know. We know that Russia has an active presence in American propaganda but they are by no means the only player.

I have seen virtual melees (either as the target or a bystander), and it looks to me like they took their bar fights to the

internet.

The cherry picking of anecdotes is also incredible. There are millions of doctors in the United States but surely there is a Medical Doctor somewhere in Texas who manages to say "from my cold dead hands" in reference to assault rifles while also saying that she received exemplary medical advice from Donald Trump and started injecting patients with the hydroxy per Trump's suggestion. Sure, some people snap and go crazy for a variety of reasons and it may not even be her inner shame. Sure, 99.9 percent of doctors know she's a quack. Sure, her medical license may actually be coming up for review. Do we see videos from the rest of the medical community propagating through Facebook? Nope. We elevate the quacks because that is what some people want to see.

More than one person has defended the statement that when the weather warmed the virus would disappear. Clearly, this is not the case. Brazil is a very warm place and it is spreading out of control. What concerns me now is that the virus may well slow during the warm months. We are desensitized to the low rate of death and disease. Americans will think it is mostly behind us. What is dangerous is that it will come back with a vengeance next year in a second wave. History buffs will remember that the second wave of the 1918/1919 flu pandemic was far more deadly.

Of course, this re-opening is only partial. We are leaving schools and childcare centers closed until at least July 1, so re-opening physical workplaces will, of course, cause the childcare crisis of March all over again. Restaurants will likely have such reduced capacity that profitability is impossible. Many will be afraid to go out and spend when they know that the area is teaming with COVID-19 and all that changed was our politics.

While I have been arguing for doing the right thing, saving lives, and controlling the virus... President Trump and his "conservative" (team name only) sycophants have backed me into a corner where I actually worry about the virus slowing down because it will cause us to lower our guard and set us up for the darkest of winters. It will be such irony if the virus appears to abate only to make this pandemic look like child's play next year.

OMAR HAR-YAROK  
EAST BROOKFIELD

must be for so many. It is said that the average citizen would be hard pressed to clear a \$400 unexpected cost. There is an old Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times." I can safely say, we are doing so..

Stay safe- keep your head down and your face covered.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

**KIMBALL**

continued from page A9

While I do miss my 30 or 40 year old body and agility, this is a good time to be a retired 72 year old. Having worked from the age of 14 to 69, raised a family and owned and run businesses, I can only imagine what a stressful time this

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# Friday's Child



Photo by Nate Richards

**Danielle  
Age 16**

**Hi! My name is Danielle and I am really easy going!**

Danielle is a bright teenage girl of Caucasian descent. She has many strengths that shine through, but some of Danielle's best qualities are her manners, her friendliness, and the fact that she can see the best in everyone. Danielle enjoys reading, participating in Girl Scouts and doing arts and crafts projects. She loves horses and hopes to have a career working with animals one day. Danielle likes attending school, and looks forward to learning new things. She does well advocating for herself when she needs to. Danielle would thrive in an experienced family who will allow her to build a relationship and develop trust at her own pace. Danielle is legally freed for adoption and has two siblings she will need to maintain contact with once she is placed.

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More Seafood Options added this week! We have updated our family style meals on Facebook and on our website. Payment by credit cards over the phone when you call in your order, or exact amount cash will be accepted as well. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you all again once this crisis is over.

*Stay safe everyone!*

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## Family Dining & Gift Guide

Please continue to frequent your local restaurants by ordering take-out or purchasing gift cards. Together we will get through this.

Call June at 508.909.4062 or email [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) to advertise on this page.





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