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Friday, May 15, 2020

Pan-Mass Challenge goes virtual

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – For the first time in four decades, Pan-Mass Challenge riders won't be hitting the streets this summer. But even though the annual bike-a-thon has been canceled in favor of a virtual celebration, its vital fundraising mission will roll on.

PMC officials announced last week that the August ride has been canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis. Kicking off each year in Sturbridge, the event has been held in all kinds of weather over the past 40 years. Riders are always willing to brave the elements for their cause, but PMC officials are committed to protecting all participants and their families.

Determined to still have a celebratory event this year while continuing fundraising for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PMC leaders came up with an idea for a virtual celebration. Titled PMC 2020 Reimagined, the multi-day event will include several online activities for riders who have worked hard to raise funds.

"Coming together the first weekend of every August is a beloved tradition for thousands of PMC participants. While we're unable to move forward with our ride safely in the same way we have over the past 40 years, we cannot and will not let our community or Dana-Farber down," said Billy Starr, the

PMC's founder and executive director. "Our mission to support Dana-Farber in the fight against cancer is more important than ever. And in reimagining what our event can be, we hope to inspire even more participation from those joining us at home."

The PMC raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. As Dana-Farber's largest single contributor – accounting for 57 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue – the PMC and its riders remain committed to raising critical funds for lifesaving cancer research, treatment, and patient care.

For longtime PMC riders, the process of securing donations was more challenging in 2020 than any previous year, with unemployment figures skyrocketing due to the coronavirus. With their reimagined celebration, PMC leaders want to recognize all participants for their tireless work in securing donations.

The PMC 2020 Reimagined will include many of the activities that riders, volunteers, donors, and spectators partake in during a traditional PMC weekend – complete with virtual adaptations that make it easy for remote participation.

Just a few of the activities slated for this year's program include:

PMC 2020 Reimagined open-

Please Read PAN-MASS, page A17

Spencer resident celebrates milestone birthday



Photo Courtesy

At 102, Norma Cormier is now Spencer's oldest resident.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Norma Cormier's birthday earlier this week was especially memorable, as residents and officials found a creative way to celebrate her new role as Spencer's oldest resident.

Born on May 13, 1918, to David Guertin and Lorena Letendre, Cormier celebrated her 102nd birthday on Wednesday. She moved to Bemis Street in town when she was only seven years old, and she has enjoyed a lifetime of memories in Spencer.

Even though social distancing made it impossible for

residents to join Cormier's birthday celebration, they still found a way to honor her with a small parade last weekend.

Having seen the country navigate several ups and downs over the last century, Cormier didn't let the pandemic spoil her party. She has always inspired friends and family with her constantly positive attitude.

"Norma often says, 'Get up and go is my motto; if you stay in bed, you will soon be dead,'" said Adam Cormier, one of Norma's five grandchildren.

Cormier graduated from St. Mary's Elementary

School in 1932, then attended David Prouty High School until 1936. She continued her education at Becker College, graduating with an associate's degree in 1937 before working as a paralegal for the law firm of Charles W. Proctor in Worcester.

Norma married Adrien Cormier in 1945, and they had three sons: David, Frederick, and Robert Cormier.

After Adrien Cormier passed away in 1950, Norma began working for the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District as a secretary at the newly built Lake Street School. She also served as a bookkeeper for the school district.

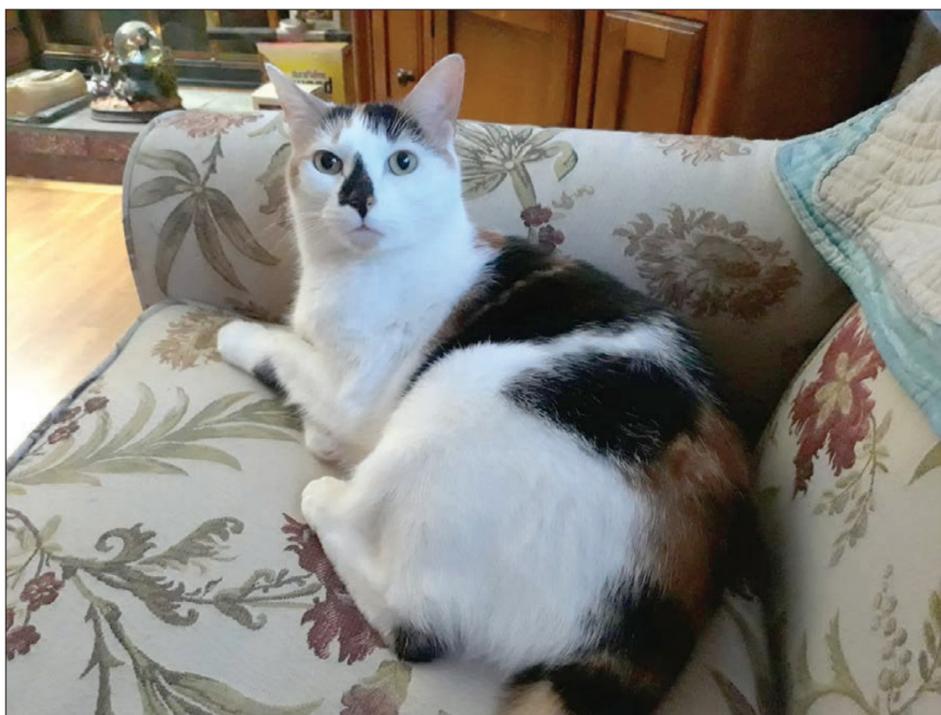
In 1956, she moved back to Bemis Street across from where she grew up (she still lives in that same home today).

Norma worked in the school district until 1979. During her retirement, she has kept active with a number of groups and organizations, including St. Mary's Women's Guild, Eucharistic Minister and Lector, Choir, Golden Age Club, Garden Club, and Red Hatters, among others. After she became legally blind, she got involved with the Audio Journal and even went bowling on occasion.

Norma currently resides with her grandson, Adam, and her great grandson, Frankie. Her five grandchildren are Adam, Sarah, Charles, Casey, and Ivy – and she also has nine great-grandchildren.

She still plays the piano

Please Read 102, page A18



Second Chance volunteers create "poorly drawn" pet portraits

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services volunteers have found a fun way to help pets in need from their home thanks to a creative fundraiser sweeping across the nation. Volunteer 'artists' are creating pet portraits for the non-profit's Poorly Drawn Pets FUNdraiser.

For a small donation, volunteers turn provided photos into portraits. The catch is that you never know which volunteer artist is going to create your masterpiece. It may be created by a seasoned

artist who has honed their skills for years...or it could be a seven-year-old looking for something to do after distance learning. The results, so far, have been great portraits and a lot of fun.

"Volunteers have been unable to volunteer in person since mid-March due to the COVID-19 outbreak" reports Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blacato. "Many have been reaching out to see what they can do to help while they are sidelined at home and one vol-

Please Read PORTRAITS, page A18



Library repairs top North Brookfield Town Meeting warrant

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Among other items slated for next month's Annual Town Meeting, voters will be asked to approve funding for exterior repairs to the library.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, the Board of Selectmen voted last month to postpone the Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting to June 1 and June 5, respectively. The Town Meeting warrant includes an article seeking \$65,000 for exterior repairs to Haston Free Public Library.

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the warrant article for library repairs. Weather deterioration and the age of the building have combined to present maintenance challenges beyond the scope of the library's annual budget, officials said.

"North Brookfield is blessed to have a wonderful library collection, housed in a beautiful building. Despite regular maintenance of the building, there is exterior damage that must be repaired before it leads to greater and more expensive problems," said Library Director Dawn Thistle.

Raymond James Restoration, of Worcester, conducted an inspection of the building in October 2019 and identified sev-

eral areas that need attention. Representatives of Raymond James Restoration have been invited to the Town Meeting to answer questions related to the proposed scope of the work.

"Over the years, the town has supported the library with annual municipal funding, especially the renovation and addition completed in 2007," Thistle added. "The Board of Library Trustees and I hope that the citizens of North Brookfield will continue to support the library by voting in favor of this important article."

For the election, officials are accentuating the availability of absentee voting and early voting. If residents do not wish to attend the election in person due to COVID-19 concerns, officials hope they will take advantage of absentee and early voting.

For more information about the Town Meeting and election, visit www.northbrookfield.net. If either event is postponed again, the rescheduled dates would be posted to the town site. Officials are currently making preparations to ensure that venues are properly sanitized ahead of the events.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@northbrookfield.net or by phone at 508-867-0203.

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Garden Folklore: Old Wive’s Tales or Trusted Truisms?

Farmers have long relied on legendary advice to guide them through a successful harvest season. Steeped in tradition and oftentimes superstition, many of these “rules” of farming continue to serve the modern gardener well. From upping the odds of successful planting to ensuring a bountiful harvest, this week’s column examines the validity of some common garden folklore.



TAKE
THE
HINT
**KAREN
TRAINOR**

tor. Because the flower wilts before other plants when water is needed, it’ll act as a red flag to tell you to irrigate. Cucumbers can also act as flags because they are the first to droop during a dry spell.

Old Wives Tale: Planting rusty nails in the garden can be beneficial.

TRUE: But not for the reason you might think. While people assume rusty nails will replace lack of iron in soil, the jury is still out on that. As experts continue to debate the subject, a Wayne State University finding reveals rusty nails had the ability to help “clean up” soil contaminated in city gardens. According to a published report from Environmental Pollution, Geologist Jeffrey L. Howard discovered soils in demolition areas of manufacturing that that were contaminated by lead and other heavy metals (from industry waste, paints, gasoline, etc.), benefited from the rusty nails (and cement) left behind. When the nails and cement broke down, the resulting iron oxide from the nails (and calcium carbonate from the cement) bound to the lead, preventing it from leaving the soil.

Old Wives Tale: It is good luck to find a black snake in the garden.

TRUE: Black snakes can serve as valuable predators of an array of garden pests – which can result in a successful harvest.

Old Wives Tale: A fire brings a lucky harvest.

FALSE: Old beliefs from Germanic, Slav and Celtic tribes include celebrating the summer solstice with huge bonfires, which were thought to boost the energy of the sun therefore boosting productivity of plants.

Today, the tradition of harvest bonfires continue, but are typically symbolic to show gratitude for a bountiful harvest season.

Old Wives Tale: When a farmer plows up a turtle shell it indicates a bountiful harvest season.

TRUE: With box turtles depending on animal matter for 60% of its diet, the reptiles feast on such garden pests as slugs, grubs, snails, flies and more, thereby aiding in the success of crops.

Old Wives Tale: Planting a lone mum in the vegetable garden helps veggies grow lush.

TRUE: In the sense that the chrysanthemum acts as an irrigation indica-

Old Wives Tale: Squash and Melons should never be planted near flowering plants.

TRUE: Because squash and melons rely on bees be pollinated, planting them near other flowering plants can result in competition for pollinators.

Old Wives Tale: Four O’Clocks (flowers) kill Japanese Beetles.

TRUE: While Four O’Clocks bear beautiful blooms, they can be deadly to Japanese Beetles. The foliage is poisonous to the garden pests, therefore planting the flowers around the perimeter of plants that are at risk for the pests acts as a deterrent.

Note: Four O’Clocks are also poisonous to children and pets so be very careful where you plant them.

Old Wives Tale: Adding Epsom salts to the soil is good for a garden.

FALSE: While some gardeners swear an elixir of Epsom salts help their plants flourish, experts report most garden soils are not low in magnesium, so the salts are an unnecessary pollutant.

Old Wives Tale: Pepper plants should always be planted near rocks.

TRUE: Pepper plants thrive on heat, so it can be beneficial to place large rocks next to your green pepper plants to attract the sunlight.

Old Wives Tale: Toss cooking water into the garden for lush plants.

TRUE: Cooks from days of yore never wasted anything and the water that vegetables and pasta was cooked in was no exception. It makes sense that the vitamins and minerals in the water would be beneficial to growing plants.

Farm & Garden Superstitions

Farm and garden superstitions of days gone by often carried over into everyday life. Even the day one spies the first spring flower is an omen, as the following rhyme attests:

Monday means good fortune,
Tuesday means greatest attempts will be successful,
Wednesday means marriage,
Thursday means warning of small profits,
Friday means wealth,
Saturday means misfortune,

Turn To **TRAINOR** page **A5**



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How to exercise during the pandemic

Life changed overnight for millions of people across the globe in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, which shuttered businesses and forced many people to follow stay-at-home measures issued by their local governments. These measures not only affected the overall health of those infected with the virus, but also those who experienced no symptoms and even tested negative for COVID-19.

In recognition of the mental toll that social distancing and stay-at-home measures can take, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised people to exercise regularly. But opportunities to exercise seemingly dried up when stay-at-home guidelines were issued and gyms were shuttered. People without exercise equipment at home suddenly found themselves wondering how they could stay fit and keep their bodies in the best possible condition to fight a virus that has claimed thousands of lives. Thankfully, there are ways to stay fit and keep immune systems strong without violating stay-at-home measures.

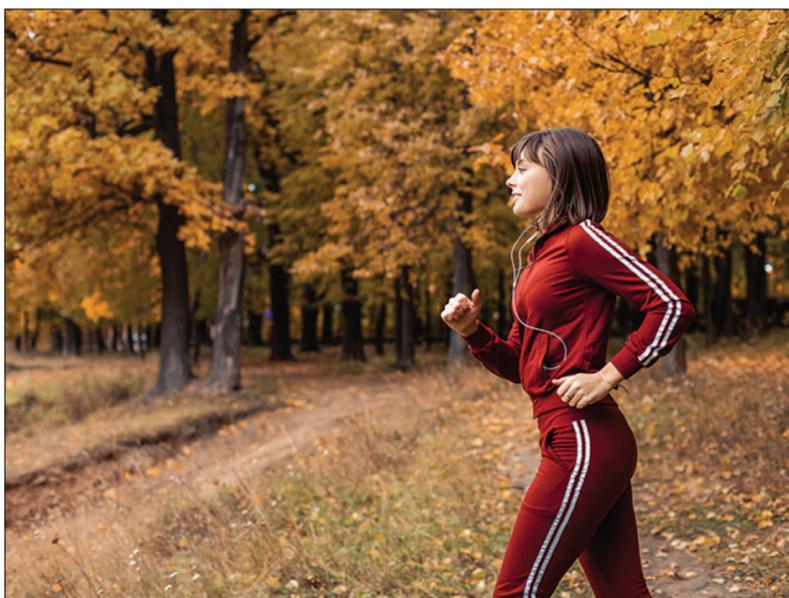
- Access online exercise programs. Many gyms that were forced to close to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus began offering exercise tutorials and classes via social media or websites such as YouTube. These videos can be invaluable resources, teaching people how to stay fit at home even if they don't have weights or other equipment

on hand. In addition to gym-sponsored exercise tutorials, the internet is loaded with free exercise videos and advice that can help people without access to a gym get fit or maintain their fitness routines.

- Go back to the basics. Many people no doubt recall gym class from their school days. Such classes teach youngsters the basics of physical fitness without employing dumbbells or advanced exercise machines. Those same basic exercises that work for youngsters, including push-ups, sit-ups and lunges, can be effective for adults as well. If it's been awhile since you've done your most recent push-up, access an online tutorial so you can be certain your form is correct.

- Do some yard work. It might not feel as high-intensity as a spinning class or a Pilates session, but yard work can be a great workout. Dust off the push mower the next time the grass needs to be cut, and get to work on pulling weeds in garden beds. The added benefit to yard work is it provides a great opportunity to get some fresh air without violating social distancing guidelines.

- Go for a jog. Perhaps the simplest way to exercise during the pandemic is to go for a daily jog. According to the Mayo Clinic, aerobic exercise repeatedly moves large muscles in the arms, legs and hips while engaging the immune system and helping it to ward off minor viral illnesses. That makes an early



morning jog an especially valuable, not to mention easily accessible, way to exercise during the pandemic.

Exercise can help people maintain their immune systems in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, and there are many simple ways to fit in a little physical activity even while social distancing.

How to avoid spreading illnesses at home

Family companionship invaluable. Spending time together with loved ones is an important component of daily life. However, when an illness affects one person of the household, that highly coveted closeness can put others at risk.

Infectious diseases are equal opportunity hitchhikers. Should a person be waylaid by influenza, strep throat, mononucleosis, or COVID-19, casual contact may be all it takes to pass the illness to someone else. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that COVID-19 is primarily spread from person-to-person among people who are in close contact with one another (within about six feet). Respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby or possibly be inhaled through the lungs. Other viruses and bacteria spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects and then touching one's own mouth, nose or possibly the eyes.

Keeping household members safe when one person is ill can be challenging, but it is possible. These steps can help keep everyone in a household safe, particularly from virulent diseases.

- Wash your hands. This is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs. As frequently as possible, wash your hands, but especially after touching frequently used items or before and after preparing and eating food.

- Disinfect surfaces. Target areas that are frequently touched by all members of the household. Such surfaces include doorknobs, stairway railings, bathroom and kitchen faucets, the refrigerator door, light switches, and cabinet knobs. Make sure to keep the disinfectant visibly wet on the surface for the "dwell time" recommended on the label instructions to fully kill the germs.

- Consider color coding. Use microfiber cloths, which don't harbor germs like porous sponges do, with different colors for cleaning each room of the

house to prevent the spread of germs from one area to another.

- Keep your distance. Sick individuals should stay away from others as much as possible. Now might be the time to use a guest bedroom for spouses who normally share a bed. Designate a separate bathroom for healthy individuals. Do not touch hands, hug or kiss others while you are ill. Kaiser Foundation Health Plans also suggests hygiene techniques like coughing or sneezing into a tissue or sleeve to trap the virus.

- Use personal bath towels. Do not share towels and linens with others while sick. Now is the time for a personal bath towel or bathrobe for showering and drying hands, offers Meridian Health.

It can be difficult to avoid spreading disease when one member of a household is sick. But with proper hygiene and diligence, illnesses can be contained.

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Local educators offer updates on remote learning

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Amid unprecedented circumstances, school districts statewide have shifted their focus entirely to remote learning. The New Leader checked in with several educators to discover how they're keeping learning going while schools are shuttered.

It's Monday morning, May 4, shortly after 7 a.m., but the roads aren't bustling with school buses. There won't be any students to pick up or

drop off today...or any day for the rest of the academic year. Hallways will remain empty through the summer, bells silent. School libraries, STEM centers, and science labs will be vacant. Gymnasiums will echo only with the memories of sporting events.

Since mid-March, schools across the state have been ordered closed due to COVID-19. But even though students and teachers can't be in the classroom, learning must continue in order to prepare kids

for the next level and keep their skills sharp.

Like other schools throughout the Route 9 corridor, David Prouty High School students are relying on several online platforms to sustain learning. These include Google Classroom, Zoom, Khan Academy, AP Classroom, and Quizlet Live. Rather than submit assignments in person, students email them to their teachers and receive feedback through email and Zoom communications.

The transition to online learning has been a challenging adjustment for many students, who must now take heightened responsibility for time management and meeting deadlines. It prepares them well for life in college and beyond, officials said, and it also gives them the flexibility to complete most assignments on their own time.

Students' reactions to remote learning have been mixed. There are many pros and cons to the process.

"Remote learning is going well overall," said DPHS Principal Elizabeth York. "Some students are finding that they are more successful, because they can privately ask questions and get feedback from the teacher via email and Google Classroom. Other students dislike remote learning. They just miss the social aspect of school so much that they find it hard to focus on their remote assignments."

"The same is true for the video calls," York added. "Students are very divided about Zoom and Google Meet, as well. Some love the calls because they can see their teacher and their classmates. Others are camera-shy and feel so self-conscious that they can't learn

well. We are all adjusting, and we are all learning as we go along."

Students in other schools have encountered similar pluses and minuses when it comes to learning online. At Leicester High School, students and staff are working together to make the remote learning model a success. Feedback and communication are major components to the process, officials said.

"It has had its challenges, but our staff has been creative and innovative," said LHS Principal Tracey Kenny.

School officials also recognize the challenges remote learning places on families. Access to the internet and technologies is a major challenge for some families, especially with libraries and other venues closed as well. Students also miss out on the personal engagement of collaborating with their peers and teachers, as well as the technologies and resources offered in school buildings. There's no way for chemistry students to set up a fully functional lab in their homes, and robotics students don't have access to their devices at home. Hands-on learning has never been emphasized more heavily than in today's schools, but students will be learning in isolation until the fall.

"Remote learning is not the same as being in a classroom. We have very dedicated educators, but this is new to both the staff and the students," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Marilyn Tencza. "It is a strain on families who are working from home and have to juggle work and how to educate their children."

Leicester school officials continue to update remote learn-

ing plans. The goal is to ensure that all students are prepared to enter the next level in the fall.

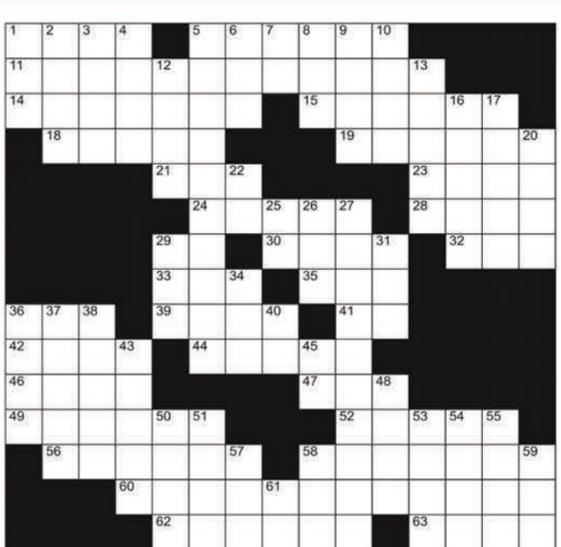
"We will work with the teachers, principals, administrative team, and School Committee to create a plan that will service all students for the next seven weeks," Tencza added. "It is a delicate balance between high expectations for students and stressing parents out."

State officials will also provide guidance on remote learning plans later this week. Meanwhile, Tencza will send out a survey to parents, teachers, and students to gather data that will assist the process. Educators are also preparing to assess students' readiness for various frameworks in the fall; they will likely need to adjust their curriculum to meet students' needs, officials said.

But while educators look ahead to the fall, eagerly anticipating the return to school, local school leaders want to ensure that the Class of 2020 isn't forgotten. Several schools are discussing options for still having graduation, possibly by holding an event over the summer or even having some type of online program.

School committees throughout the region will continue to discuss options over the next month.

"We all want an in-person graduation, but we need to wait for some guidance from the Governor about when we can begin to start gathering," Tencza said. "No definite plans, but we are hopeful we can have the graduation, senior dinner dance, and awards ceremony in some fashion."

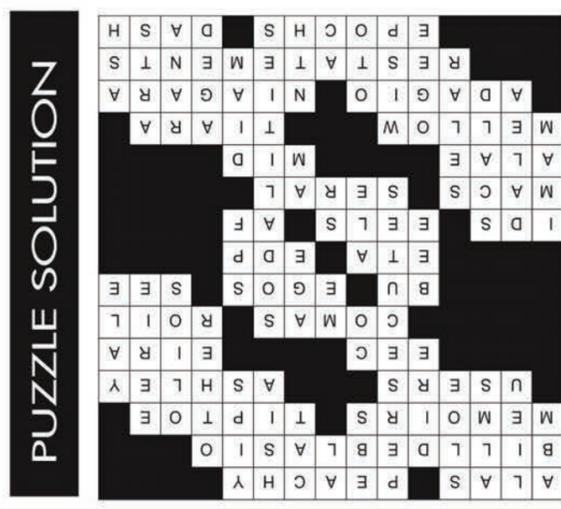


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 5. Not bad
- 11. NYC Mayor
- 14. Essays
- 15. Walk lightly
- 18. Those who utilize
- 19. Actress Judd
- 21. One-time community of nations
- 23. Norwegian river
- 24. Unconscious states
- 28. Make muddy
- 29. Unit of volume
- 30. Consciousnesses
- 32. Envision
- 33. When you aim to get there
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports are some
- 39. Snakelike fish
- 41. Military flyers (abbr.)
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Ecological stage
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination
- 49. Laid back
- 52. Princess's headgear
- 56. Musical composition
- 58. Famed Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Track event

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 2. Instead
- 3. Gifts for the poor
- 4. A type of gin
- 5. Torments
- 6. One point south of due east
- 7. Actor Pacino
- 8. Feline
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. Short cries for help
- 12. Straits can sometimes be this
- 13. Further
- 16. Variety shows
- 17. Supernatural
- 20. A university in Connecticut
- 22. Atomic #27
- 25. Of I
- 26. We all have one
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. This can sting
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Religious leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Jr.'s father
- 43. Ray-finned fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. S-shaped line
- 51. Small bunch of hay
- 53. Ripened
- 54. Crater on Mars
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Of the ears
- 58. To the ___ degree
- 59. Wood
- 61. Cools your home



Quinsigamond Community College to hold virtual commencement

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will hold its first ever-virtual commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020 on Thursday, May 21 at 1 p.m. The ceremony, which was to originally have taken place at the DCU Center in Worcester, will now be streamed live online.

Graduates and their families will be able to experience the ceremony in the comfort and safety of their homes.

"While the effects of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic have made it necessary for us to change the way will be celebrating Commencement this year, this will in no way diminish the amazing accomplishments of the Class of 2020," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "Our graduates have worked through incredible challenges, particularly these last few months as they have adjusted to remote modes of learning. Yet through it all we have seen the best that QCC has to offer and I am deeply moved and inspired by our students, who have risen to these unprecedented challenges."

The choice to move to a virtual ceremony was one the Administration did not take lightly, according to President Pedraja. However, due

to Governor Baker's orders that limit gatherings to 10 people or less and the DCU Center being used as a field hospital for patient overflow, the College Administration felt this was in the best interest of its students, faculty and staff.

"When the current pandemic subsides, we also plan to have a physical ceremony at a later date, as yet to be determined. I, along with the QCC Board of Trustees, look forward at that time to having the opportunity to congratulate each graduate in-person and welcome them into the QCC alumni family," President Pedraja said. "Our QCC family has made an indelible impression on our local communities and many of the first-responders, nurses, respiratory therapists, police officers, firefighters are QCC graduates or soon to be graduates, who each and every day set out to make our world a better place."

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

Warren police officer arrested on domestic abuse charges

Officer Shawn Morin was placed on administrative leave following his April 26 arrest. He is accused of assaulting his girlfriend at a neighbor's house, then placing her in handcuffs and forcing her into his police cruiser before eventually releasing her.

Morin was on duty at the time of the incident, police said. He did not report the incident to his dispatcher, and State Police were eventually called by an unknown party.

Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette said the department cannot comment on an ongoing personnel matter. Morin will remain on administrative leave pending an investigation.

WARREN — A Warren police officer was arrested last month following a domestic violence incident.



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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30AM-4:30PM

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The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical Postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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**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



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Get maximum yield from minimal garden space

Growing on a deck or balcony is a great way to bring the garden to your backdoor. You can attract butterflies and hummingbirds into easy view and grow edibles within close reach when cooking. For some, it may be the only available space to garden.

Make the most of every square foot by growing vertically. You'll not only save space but also create privacy, make harvesting vegetables easier and create a garden that's at eye level as you enjoy your outdoor space.

Train pole beans, like the Seychelles, up a decorative trellis, teepee of bamboo stakes or other creative support. You'll be able to harvest these delicious five- to six-inch stringless beans without bending.

Pick and enjoy a healthy treat of Snak Hero edible podded peas right on the deck. If any of these tasty peas make it into the house, you can add them to a relish tray, stir fry or freeze a few to enjoy later.

Plant a few Green Light Cucumbers and enjoy the abundant harvest of forty 3- to 4-inch fruits. Put away the peeler, slice and enjoy these smooth seedless cucumbers.

Be sure to include a few tomatoes. Apple Yellow's fruit are shaped like a small apple, colorful and ornamental. You'll have plenty to enjoy as each plant can produce up to 1,000 tomatoes. These bright lemon-yellow tomatoes have a sweet citrusy flavor and firm exterior, making them perfect for stuffing.

Grow some flowers for added color and don't forget the herbs. You'll enjoy the evening fragrance of Perfume Deep purple nicotiana, the bold leaves and bright orange flowers of South Pacific Orange canna and the vibrant red flowers of Holi Scarlet zinnia. Mix in a few of your favorite herbs to add texture and color to the garden and flavor to your meals.

These All America Selections (AAS) win-

ning varieties (all-americaelections.org) are tested nationally for their flavor, beauty, and performance in home gardens. This non-profit trialing organization names only new, non-GMO varieties as winners.

Gardening on decks and balconies offer many advantages, but also a few challenges. Winds can be brutal, toppling over or launching tall, leafy plants into flight. Use a heavier pot to help anchor plants or tether the container to a post or railing mounted on the deck or balcony.

Drainage is critical to container gardening success but can be a problem when you inadvertently shower your neighbor below when watering your plants. Consider using a self-watering container and be careful not to overfill the water reservoir.

Another solution is to place containers on a saucer to capture excess water instead of allowing it to seep to the deck or

Photo Courtesy

Grow pole beans, like the Seychelles, up a trellis to get the most out of your available space and make harvesting easier.

balcony below. Elevate the pot in the saucer with a commercial or homemade device. You'll be able to monitor the water level to avoid overflows and keep the pot above the water to prevent root rot.

With proper plant selection and adjustments in your gardening style, get ready to enjoy a season full of tasty vegetables and gorgeous flowers.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" gardening DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and contrib-



uting editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and *Web site is www.melindamyers.com*. Myers was commissioned by AAS for her expertise to write this article.

TRAINOR

continued from page A2

Sunday means excellent luck for weeks."

More garden lore:

*Finding one pea in a pod is considered lucky.

*If one discovers two shoots from a single cabbage root, good luck will be bestowed.

*Looking for a little luck? Place sprigs of basil in the four corners of your house at the beginning of the planting season.

*Basil is a lucky herb. It is said to bring love and wealth to those who have Basil in the garden.

*Cursing while you plant parsley evidently ensures flour-

ishing plants!

*It was claimed lettuce can reduce labor pains

*Both onions and chili pepper were hung up over doorways to ward off evil.

*A row of tomatoes ripening on the windowsill is said to have the power to ward off evil.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the 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.

Local News



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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:
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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



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Voter Information

Name: _____

Legal Voting Residence: _____

1 _____

Date of Birth: _____ Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Ballot Information

2 Mail Ballot to: _____

3 _____

Special Circumstances (if applicable)

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

1. Voter Information – Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.
2. Ballot Information – Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.
3. Special Circumstances – If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.
4. 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).

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Friday's Child



Cyreah
Age 15

Hi! My name is Cyreah and you can call me CJ!

Cyreah, also known as CJ, is a handsome and healthy fourteen year old boy with beautiful big brown eyes and a warming smile. He is of African American descent. He loves sports and excels at both basketball and football. He is an avid Patriots fan as well as Celtics fan. CJ's all-time favorite Celtics player is Kyrie Irving!

Appearance is important to CJ and he likes to dress up and look

sharp. Outgoing and energetic, CJ has a fun sense of humor and enjoys playing jokes on his peers. He is known as a leader in school and is academically in target. He is social and respectful to his friends, his teachers and foster family. CJ is very bright and does well academically. Although not sure what he wants to be when he is older CJ does want to attend college after high school.

Legally freed for adoption, CJ will need a family who will not spare encouragement and praise. He would do well in most any family constellation that could provide him with loving support and with structure. He would do best as an only child or the youngest child in a home with much older children. CJ has an older and younger sister with whom he will need to maintain contact.

Who Can Adopt?

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

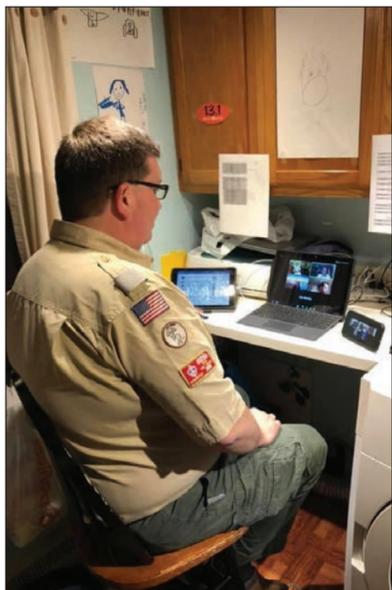
The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

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



To sponsor Friday's Child call Mikaela at 508-909-4126 or email Mikaela@stonebridgeoress.news

Local Scouts take part in Camp Quarantine virtual event



STURBRIDGE — What did you do last weekend? Members of Sturbridge Troop 163, Pack 161 and Troop 161 part of Heart of New England Council, Boy Scouts of America participated in Camp Quarantine 2020, a two-day virtual event that included camping, cooking, training, advancement and so much more!

The Boy Scouts of America, and their programs, are outdoor based programs. It relies on interaction between scouts to teach skills like knots, fire building, lashing etc. Scouts lead hikes, go on trips as a group, work with their patrol,

den, crew or ship, relying on each other for help, guidance, and support. In times like these, it becomes challenging to do this and still feel like you are part of the group or a larger organization. Adaptations to the program, virtual troop meetings, email communications, these are all things that have increased over the last two months to keep the program running as smoothly as possible in these challenging times. So how do you incorporate more of the outdoors, and peer to peer interaction when social distancing and stay at home orders are in place? You “Do Your Best” to “Be Prepared” it’s all about flexibility in the program. Heart of New England Council and Western Massachusetts Council, Boy Scouts of America collaborated on Camp Quarantine 2020, a two-day event similar to a camporee but instead of camping in one location participants camped at home.

Starting Friday Scouts could set up tents or hammocks in their backyards, in their living rooms. Some set up forts or slept in their tree houses. Opening ceremonies began with introductions of the staff and what was to come. There was a campfire, of course there was a campfire. Scouts submitted skits, songs, stories, jokes and more! Scouts shared pictures of themselves sitting in front of their own campfires toasting smores or making banana cones. Taps was played, and Scouts went to sleep, eagerly awaiting what Saturday had in store.

Saturday morning started with reveille a flag ceremony and summary of the day’s events. From there Scouts could participate in a plethora of activities. The Cub Scouts could take a color

or alphabet or listening hike, participate in an egg drop or do Cub Scout yoga, learn about water safety, how to cook, play with their food, or some cool yo-yo tricks. Scouts BSA could learn how to build a wilderness shelter, how to cook in, and care for, their dutch oven, and what programs the four high adventure bases offered. They could participate in merit badge classes, learn how to pack for backpacking trek, talk to Order of the Arrow members and learn more about the program. There were training and informational sessions for Adults along with sessions geared towards Venturers and Sea Scouts. All Scouts and Scouters had the opportunity to participate in virtual escape rooms, a scavenger hunt, trivia, a cooking competition, and so much more. There was also a virtual 10k, find 10 items beginning with the letter K. So many activities to participate in, it could have taken 2-3 weekends to get through it all.

Scouts said grace before meals, there was a closing flag ceremony, a Scouts Own service and a fireworks show to close out the event. Using #CampQuarantine2020 Scouts posted pictures of themselves participating in the events, activities and trainings.

“I have been smiling nonstop today, to see all the posts and all the Scouts having so much fun, it’s a definite bright spot,” commented Chrissy Chamberland a member of the Camp Quarantine 2020 program committee.

Camp Quarantine 2020 started small, with the goal of being something fun something to distract the Scouts from what was going on around them and to

remind them the program is alive and well. To get them outside, in their own back yards, playing games, working on skills and advancement and having a fabulous time doing it. What it grew into was something more than any of the program team could have imagined.

Kevin Fuller, Camp Quarantine 2020 Program Chair, said “Meeting new people, working with old friends, Scouting really does bring people together even when they’re miles apart during trying times.”

He went on to add “What was pulled together in only a matter of two and a half weeks shows the devotion people have to the Scouting movement.”

In the end, Camp Quarantine 2020 had more than 1,400 families registered with participants from 45 of 50 states and 13 countries. Between the three livestream shows there were over 10,000 views and over 1000 posts using #campquarantine2020.

Just before streaming the closing show, Andy Collins, one of the Camp Quarantine 2020 tech gurus, commented “It’s been great to see so many families from across the country, and world, join together for our little virtual camporee.”

This little virtual camporee turned out to be a big success. There are no plans for an encore event, program planners are hoping this is a once in a lifetime event, however, now that they have seen it can be done who knows what the future may bring.

For more information on how to join one of the Sturbridge units, contact Chrissy at ChrissyCSM163@gmail.com

Governor’s order requires face coverings

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Masks have been the source of much discord in recent months, with constant arguments flaring up over when they should be worn and their overall effectiveness. But no matter where you stand on the issue of face coverings, you’ll have to wear one in public to be in compliance with Gov. Charlie Baker’s latest order.

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration issued an order requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public places where residents cannot properly socially distance from others. The order took effect on May 6, and will remain in place until further notice.

The order supersedes all previously issued guidance relative to mask use. Violators can be subject to a fine.

“The Baker-Polito Administration has ordered all residents over the age of two to use a face covering or mask in public places where maintaining proper social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are not possible,” read a statement released by the Governor’s office.

The order applies to all workers and customers of essential businesses and other organizations that are currently open to the public, including grocery stores, pharmacies, and retail stores. Residents are also required to wear a mask or face covering at all times when using any means of public mass transit.

As of press time, Massachusetts ranked third in the nation for most total COVID-19 deaths. The only states with more recorded coronavirus deaths were New York and New Jersey. With the increased use of face coverings, the Governor and his team are hoping to slow the spread.

“A face covering may include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including a mask, scarf, or bandana. Healthcare masks should not be used and should be preserved for healthcare workers and first responders,” read the Governor’s statement. “Cloth masks should not be worn by young children under the age of two, persons with difficulty breathing, or those who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.”

Instructions on how to make a cloth mask are avail-

able on the Centers for Disease Control website, www.cdc.gov. Meanwhile, local communities have posted information about the Governor’s order on their websites.

“It is critical to emphasize that masks do not replace social distancing, staying at home except for essential travel, and frequent hand washing. All remain vitally important to slow the spread of the virus,” read a statement from Spencer officials posted to the town Web site.

Governor Baker also announced expanded community health center COVID-19 testing capacity at centers throughout the Commonwealth. In continued partnership with Quest Diagnostics and the Mass. League of Community Health Centers, the state now has 18 community health centers. The new facilities that will begin expanded testing include:

- Lynn Community Health Center
- Holyoke Health Center
- North Shore Community Health Center
- South Boston Community Health Center
- Community Health Center of Franklin County

Hope Rudzinski of Brookfield receives English Department Award at Nichols College.

DUDLEY — Hope Rudzinski receives the English Department Award at Nichols College.

The English Department Award is given to a deserving senior each year, a senior who has maintained a high GPA overall, as well as within the major. We also look for a senior who has significantly contributed to the program and exemplifies the English major.

Hope Rudzinski, worked as a TA for Professor Mike Lajoie, served as an editor for Windfall, a student magazine and interned at the Worcester Telegram and Gazette

Hope embodies many of the qualities one would expect of an English major-she is creative, enjoys reading, and acted as a leader in class discussions. During her four years, Hope grew in her writing and her thinking.

In particular, Hope shines in her creative writing. One English faculty member said that her poetry inspired her

to write, and another commented that her fiction is “dark and impassioned.”

With her charming quirks and passion for writing, Hope showcases the unique spirit of an English major.

About Nichols College
Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. Nichols also offers Master’s degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today’s professionals.



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Watching for waterfowl season

A few days this past week sure felt as though winter was returning. Hopefully, this coming week's weather will be a lot better. Even with the cold wet and snowy & windy weather, many ground nesting birds successfully hatched their young. A couple pairs of Canadian geese managed to have their young at a local Rod & Gun club. One pair had five goslings and the other pair had four. Every day that goes by gives the young birds a better chance for survival. Snakes and turtles are there largest threat in the water, and fox, coyote, Fisher cat, hawks, and owls, and bobcats are predators that often take their toll on newly hatched goslings.

A picture of a great horned owl was observed by Don Danforth recently in his back yard, and this week's photo of the bird was captured by him a few weeks ago. This writer has a pair of Red Tail hawks flying over my property daily, and are fun to watch as they do different maneuvers in the sky directly overhead. One bird would fly extremely high and then cup his wings dropping real fast to its mate below. They sure are taking care of the squirrel population in my area. No problems at my bird feeders this year!

It will not be long before extremely large snapping turtles start to leave their watery environment to lay their eggs along many river banks, and local residents back yards. They can cause serious harm to anyone that comes to close, especially young children.



Someone losing a finger or two happens every year by these turtles, especially this year with a lot of people enjoying walks along trails and river banks.

A lot of people need to be reminded to leave all wildlife alone, if they encounter them on their daily walks. Young deer are often encountered by trail walkers at this time of year. They may seem alone, but the mother of the young deer is often not far off.

Some real impressive tautog were caught by local anglers like the one in last week's column of William Toner in Long Island Sound with his 10 pound tog. Sorry I forgot to identify the angler last week. I must be getting old. Nice fish!

Wild turkey hunting is coming to an end on May 23, this year in Massachusetts. It was not the best of weather for turkey hunter's but many large toms were harvested. Numerous turkey hunters had already harvested there two bird's by last week, and reported encountering a lot of young

birds. It was a crazy season this year, with birds scattered all over the place, but if you could walk, finding a big tom to harvest was not hard.

The Massachusetts Waterfowl 2020-2021 regulations are out and can be found on the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Web site. Many waterfowl hunters were surprised by the new regulation allowing veterans a special two-day hunt on waterfowl. The new special veterans' waterfowl hunting days are Oct. 3 & Jan. 30, which are prior to the regular opening days for the season dates. I thought it was great. The early Canada goose season in Massachusetts starts on Sept. 8 this year.

This week's picture of Yair Tufeld with his six pound, 10 ounce brown trout from Ashland Reservoir was a real nice fish. Anglers continue to catch some real nice rainbow trout from numerous bodies of water in the valley.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

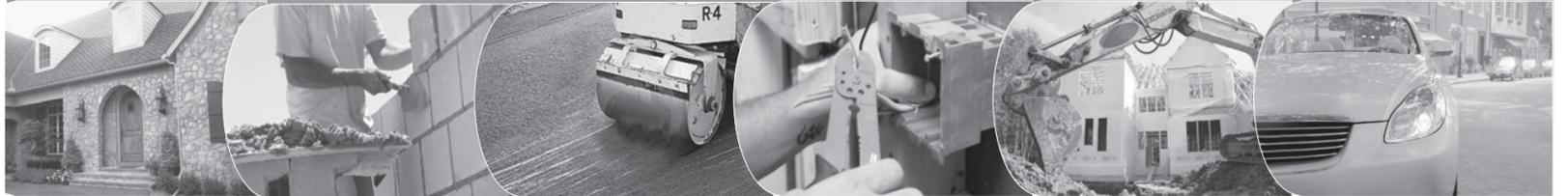


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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The making of Mother's Day

Another Mother's Day has come and gone, and this year's was certainly different as far as celebrations go. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, traditional Mother's Day luncheons or brunches did not take place. Mothers living in long term care facilities replaced in person visits with zoom or telephone calls. From what we can see, most everyone has made the best of the situation.

We would like to recognize the fact that today, "mother" is increasingly becoming a word that could also apply to a father, aunts, uncles, grandparents and other family members who, for one reason or another, step in to that role as single parents or caregivers. To those people, we wish you a happy Mother's Day as well. With that being said, motherhood should be celebrated. Our children bring out the best in us and sometimes the worst, however at the end of the day the bond between most mothers and children is one that is stronger than anything we can describe.

Interesting is the fact that the creator of the holiday, Anna Jarvis, in 1908 fought to remove the day from the calendar after it became overly commercialized. Mother's Day was officially placed on the calendar in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson. Mothers were to wear white carnations given to them by their children and presented with other gifts.

The ancient Greeks, along with the Romans, held festivals to honor mother goddesses Cybele and Rhea. In more recent history the Christians called it 'Mothering Sunday.' Across the Atlantic Ocean, the holiday fell on the fourth Sunday during Lent and every mother was expected to return home to their 'mother church' to attend a Mother's Day service.

Ann Jarvis (the mother of Anna Jarvis), along with Julia Ward Howe, held special classes in West Virginia during the early 19th century to teach women how to care for their youngsters. In the year 1868, Jarvis put together a 'Mothers Friendship Day' where mothers would socialize with former Union and Confederate soldiers in helps to create reunification.

Howe penned a 'Mother's Day' Proclamation in 1870 in which she asked mothers across the country to help promote world peace. Three years later, Howe was pushing to have a 'Mother's Peace Day' celebrated on June 2 annually. In Michigan, Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering worked together to organize the holiday into the 20th century.

In 1905, Anna Jarvis lost her mother Ann. The grieving daughter looked to honor the sacrifices her mother made for her by celebrating Mother's Day and hoped other children would do the same.

The first big celebration took place in 1908 in West Virginia, where a business owner named John Wanamaker held an event at a church to honor motherhood. That same day in Philadelphia thousands attended a sister store of Wanamakers to celebrate as well.

In 1970, Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., used the holiday to bring awareness to underprivileged women and children. In Thailand, Mother's Day is celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen. In Ethiopia each fall, a big feast along with music is held over the course of a few days to celebrate motherhood. A fun fact, is that more phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year.



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Storms can make us stronger, part 2

To the Editor:
 Nowhere in the Bible does God promise life would be easy. Unfortunately, we have inherited that sinful nature from Adam and Eve, however, Jesus came into our world to help us and teach that the Father [God] of all creations loves us and sent His Son Jesus into this world to redeem us and to council us and promises us that we would not be alone in our trials. Jesus reminds us in His teaching that the ultimate victory has been won by Him, Jesus; Jesus overcame this world and we can also by claiming Him, Jesus as the Lord and Savior of our life and the peace of God would enter our troubled life troubled times, days, and we need to claim Jesus as our refuge, shelter in these most troubling times, days we are presently experiencing, this evil virus storm. [John 16: 33]

I am not trying to be insensitive. It is a fact that our life on earth is a preparation for eternity, the choices we make determines heaven or hell, we can choose the life God, Jesus wants for us or we can choose to be deceived and follow the worlds [Satan] style. The choice is ours.

The question I need to ask you is, Do you believe in God? Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that God works in "all" things? Do you believe that God, Jesus has our best interest, desires the best for us? Now! That does not mean that everything that happens to us is good! We know for a fact that evil is bad and it is prevalent, however, God, Jesus is able to turn every evil circumstances into good if we let Him, and God does this through His Son Jesus.

The first thing we need to understand and realize God is not necessarily interested in making us happy; God, Jesus' desire is to fulfill His purpose and that is for us to believe, accept and profess Jesus and to make us holy and to prepare us and receive us into His Kingdom, heaven, eternal life, and that can only happen through Jesus and Jesus is teaching us that God's priority is for us to seek first God, Jesus Kingdom, heaven and then other things will be given to us hear on earth [Matthew 6: 33] the choice is yours, ours. [Romans 8: 28]

God, Jesus is eternally reminding us that though we may feel we are at the end of our endurance, we are reminded by Jesus we are never at the end of our hope, feelings, feelings are not facts, we need to believing and hope is in Jesus, is real and alive, and yes, our perishable bodies are subject to sin and suffering because of our inherited sinful nature; however, God, Jesus will never abandon us, Jesus won the victory for us on the cross and today we have eternal life with God, Jesus when we repent, confess and profess Jesus in our heart. It is through Jesus we inherited the opportunity, privilege of eternal life. Do not be deceived; apart from Jesus our eternal future life is doomed into hell. [2 Corinthians 4: 8-9]

God's grace is sufficient for us. God may not remove our affliction; however, God does promise He will be with us in our affliction, suffering promising

A prayer for our time

To the Editor:
 Staying at home has caused me to do my best to stay busy. While going through drawers of "stuff," I came across this prayer, of sorts, that was put away in a folder and forgotten: "Desiderata" - The original text by Max Ehrmann, 1927. I thought it appropriate at this time of strife. Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what vir-

His [God's] grace is sufficient for us.

When we are weak, God, Jesus is strong, our weakness helps us to rely more on Jesus, helps us to develop our character, helps deepen our worship, faith and trust in Jesus. When we seem down and out and admit our frailty and weakness, who better to turn to, God, Jesus love and strength. God was with Jesus from beginning to end and God promises He will not leave or forsake His adopted children [Deuteronomy 31: 6] [Hebrew 13: 5] it is our choice, we can submit to the ways of this world or we can affirm God, Jesus love and strength by professing Jesus in our life and becoming God's adopted child, children. [2 Corinthians 12: 9]

Storms develop our faith, perseverance, maturity, wisdom, knowledge, and when we honestly don't know what to do we need to go to Jesus, Jesus was given all authority by the Father, God [Matthew 28: 18] we can talk, seek His wisdom, guidance, discernment, trusting Jesus to lead the way He is our refuge, God, Jesus cries out to us, come to Me all who are burden, anxious, desperate, discouraged, heavy laden and I will give you rest. [Matthew 11: 28-30] [James 1: 3-5]

Jesus makes it very clear if we come near to Him He will come near to us. What does come near to God mean? God does not impose; God gives us free will, choices. If we choose to accept Jesus has our Savior, Lord, God will receive us, adopt us as His child. [James 4: 8]

What God, Jesus is teaching us, is, we need to humble our self under God the Father and creator of all humanity, life, creation. That we need to place all our cares, anxieties on Jesus who is the Lamb of God, our Savior and Lord of our lives now and eternally. Whether or not we receive, accept Jesus that is our choice. [1 Peter 5: 6]

In closing, I would like for you to meditate on Malachi 3: 7, God is addressing the people of yesteryear and us today informing us of our disobedience, our procrastination, compromise, that has gotten us into so much trouble, trials, storms, God is crying out to the people "return to Me." God, Jesus is very patient with us, God's patience seemed endless with the people yesteryear and with us today who seem to continually disobey and do their own thing, taking God, Jesus for granted. God continues daily to welcome and invite us to accept Jesus and receive God's forgiveness and restoration. God wants for us to accept Jesus, our redeemer. God is wanting any and all to return, profess and confess Jesus. The choice is ours. [Deuteronomy 30: 19-20] [Romans 7: 24-25 & 8: 6] Unless some of you take the time and read the scriptures available to you none of this will make any sense.

If you want to be blessed by God, Jesus live by God's moral and dietary law [Jesus did] and you will be blessed. Amen!

ROLAND BLAIS
 BROOKFIELD

What can investors learn from cyclists?

May is National Bike Month. Of course, millions of Americans enjoy biking, so there's reason to celebrate. But even if you're not much of a rider, you can apply some of the guidelines and lessons of bicycling to other areas of your life - such as investing.

Consider taking some of these ideas for a spin:



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

Tune up your portfolio. When bicyclists tune up their bikes, they adjust their brakes, clean and lubricate the chain, tighten nuts and bolts, and check the tire pressure, among other tasks. Such a tune-up keeps their bikes running smoothly and reduces the chances for breakdowns. And by "tuning up" your investment portfolio, you can help it stay in line with

your goals and risk tolerance, while also preparing it for a "breakdown" in the financial markets, in the form of sharp downturns. To tune up your portfolio, look for ways to increase diversification, which can help reduce the effects of volatility, and watch for investments that may have chronically under-performed or are no longer suitable for your risk tolerance. You might be better off selling these and using the proceeds to invest in new opportunities.

Know when to shift gears. Bicyclists move into higher or lower gears in response to changing road conditions and elevations. As an investor, you, too, may need to "shift gears" or adjust your investment strategy when your personal financial environment changes. So, for example, in the years immediately preceding your retirement, you may want to move some - but certainly not all - of your investment dollars from growth-oriented vehicles to income-producing ones. That way, you can lock in some of the gains you may have achieved while lowering your portfolio's overall risk level. This is important, because once you reach retirement and you need to start withdrawing from your retirement accounts - which essentially means liquidating some of your investments - you don't want to worry too much about having to sell when prices are down. However, keep in mind that, even during retirement, you'll need some growth potential in your holdings to help yourself stay ahead of inflation.

Protect yourself. Smart bicyclists always wear their helmets - they know that an unexpected bump in the road could cause a dangerous spill. And on the journey toward financial security for yourself and your family, you can also expect that some hard knocks could come your way - which is why you need the proper protection. To safeguard your family in case anything should happen to you, you must have the appropriate amount of life insurance. And to help ensure your financial independence - and avoid becoming a potential burden to your grown children - you may want to consider some type of long-term care coverage, which can help cover many of the costs of a lengthy nursing home stay. You could choose a long-term care insurance policy or a "hybrid" policy, which combines long-term care protection with the death benefit of traditional life insurance. A financial advisor can recommend the option that's most suitable for your needs.

You may want to observe National Bike Month by taking a few rides yourself. But in any case, making these cycling-inspired moves can help you keep rolling along toward your financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.



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JIM REID
 SPENCER

The Twilight Zone

To the Editor:

I am finding myself harking back to the words of Rod Serling more and more every day. It feels increasingly like we live in an alternate reality where the truths we hold to be self evident, the rules of law and logic, justice and common sense, are being randomly and constantly, upended.

Going back to the Nixon era, which was thought to be the fullest extent to which anyone thought an attorney generals off ice could be compromised, we are now breaking new ground, where the AG of the USA, turns out to be the loyal lap dog of the president.

Even, setting aside that he is actively working to repeal the ACA, cutting off people's healthcare, in the midst of a pandemic.

He has found the time to get submitted, dropping of all charges against General Flynn, who has already confessed to lying to the FBI and failing to register as a lobbyist for Turkey, while becoming national security advisor. Barr actually had to go hire someone from his law firm to submit the request, as no current justice department attorney would sign off on it. The Whitehouse has also requested that the justice department, not release the grand jury information of the Mueller era, as was supposed to happen Monday. Considering his perversion of the original report, nothing surprising here.

I know I watched the daily briefing when the CDC released its suggested guidelines for states to re-open. I am thinking, that only diligent research, will find them in evidence anywhere. The states are not only not using them, but appear to be making adjustments to reporting to obfuscate tracking of what is actually going on. While it is reasonable to think that we are not actually seeing the whole picture, we are seeing that as 5 percent of world population, we are reporting a third of the world's cases of Covid 19. With the substantive number of states now open, what will 3 weeks down the line look like or will it

be obscured from us?

There certainly seems to be a lot of chatter about-"What did China know and when did they know it" All things considered, I believe President Xi knew that announcing this outbreak would severely impact his economy, and hoped to contain it. I believe that WHO was intentionally given bad information for the same reason. I can't attest to what Xi may have told Trump but know that when Azar tried to sound the alarm, Trump downplayed it and actually made announcements that, in retrospect, I am sure he will live to regret. He did exactly what Xi did, downplay the threat in support of the Dow.

As it turns out, Jared and Ivanka are also doing a superior job. Both are on the Whitehouse payroll for zero dollars, and have earned 325 million since taking those jobs. An office in the west wing and influence must work. Speaking of jobs, I know we did a big rescue bill to help even poorly managed companies like Boeing. Might we find a rescue bill for the USPS, which is substantially staffed by vets?

To my thinking, what we really need is a committee of homemakers, who know how to stretch a dollar and get bang for their buck. I am thoroughly convinced that there are few, on either side of the aisle, who know hunger or distress. Some, naively believe, that successful businesses with good credit are the ones who need help. Though I wish I were wrong, I can virtually guarantee that those entrepreneurs working without a safety net, will largely fail, and being that there are so many, we will not soon recover to where we were.

I can see where a new Democrat sweep could embrace green energy projects, infrastructure repair, healthcare reforms and energize an economy in collapse, as did FDR and Obama. I see little future for this inept "Apprentice" spinoff.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

A thank you to our Harrington community

To the Editor:

Despite the constant flow of news and information about the novel coronavirus and the worldwide pandemic it has spawned, it can still be challenging to describe the enormity and complexity of the situation before us. It requires that we all make personal decisions – sometimes at great sacrifice – to limit risk to the most vulnerable among us and avoid the collapse of our healthcare system.

In a career that spans over 40 years in healthcare, I have never experienced a time like this. Despite the fact that we are required to be physically distant from one another, I have never felt such a powerful spirit of unity and connectedness within our community.

As a community healthcare system, we have always had a special responsibility to our local residents. Because the healthcare environment is so challenging and ever-changing, we have had to make difficult decisions about where to focus our resources, sometimes reducing or closing services that we can no longer provide in a financially sustainable way. But we have always done so with an eye towards assuring our long-term ability to serve as a local and reliable critical healthcare provider.

It was this dedication that drove our strategic decision to be acquired by the UMass Memorial Health Care System; assuring that we could maintain our position as a health care partner and safety net for our community. Little did we know that a completely different challenge would be before us in a matter of weeks.

The Harrington HealthCare team has always based our decisions, both large and small, on how we can continue to make our community healthier and safer. Today, we are seeing that commitment return to us in spades. Our departments work seamlessly to ensure compassionate quality care. That is why we have received our 14th "Grade A" in LeapFrog Group's spring 2020 Hospital Report.

I couldn't be more proud of the way every single member of our team – from front line clinicians to support staff – has pulled together to plan for and face the coronavirus in our community. Everyone has contributed to assure that Harrington HealthCare facilities will continue to be safe accessible resources. Across all floors and units of our hospital campuses, in offices and satellite locations, we have been a resource for safe testing and have created protocols to limit the spread of infec-

tion while caring for our community. This is the power of local healthcare.

We are heartened by the outpouring of support we have received from our community. We have long known that all of our employees are "Harrington Heroes;" and we are so glad to know that you see it too. Not only do we greatly appreciate donations of food supplies, homemade masks, and other personal protective equipment (thank you!), we are also so encouraged and motivated that in a time of global challenge you are thinking of us. This knowledge is particularly meaningful as we celebrate our staff in observance of Hospital Week this week. We also had the opportunity to honor our Nurses during National Nurses Week the previous week. A special thank you to MAPFRE Insurance Group who went above and beyond to make our nurses and staff feel extra special by delivering dedicated treats, signs and snacks. It is truly remarkable to see the outpouring of support from our community.

We urge the public not to delay seeking care out of fear that they may contract the COVID-19 virus at a healthcare facility. Extensive infection control measures have always been in place at HHS and additional measures aimed specifically at preventing the spread of COVID-19 have also been in place since early March.

Our goal right now is to assure everyone that they can safely access care for all emergency, urgent and chronic care needs, and to remind them that they should also continue to receive routine care through in-office visits and Telehealth appointments where possible.

We at Harrington are doing our part to help you, and we thank you for doing your part to help us. We will get through these trying times. When we do, we will never forget that it was by working together; healthcare and community, that we beat this pandemic.

By ED MOORE
PRESIDENT AND CEO
HARRINGTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Flynn and re-opening the economy

To the Editor:

Last week, the Department of Justice asked a federal judge to throw out the case against Michael Flynn, Trump's former National Security Advisor, who previously pled guilty to lying to congress and the FBI about his contacts with Russian diplomats tied to the 2016 election. The President is praising this highly unusual move and saying that the FBI is full of people acting in bad faith.

We need to remember that Jeff Sessions was essentially fired as Attorney General for not being Trump's in-house hit-man and lawyer. Bill Barr, the current Attorney General, is living up to Trump's expectations and destroying any semblance of independence. Michael Flynn twice admitted, twice pled guilty, and publicly apologized for his actions and asked for the grace of god to make things right. Flynn confessed, pled guilty, and I for one take him at his word that he did what the evidence points to and acted against the interests of the United States. Now he is about to walk free.

I for one think it would have been more appropriate for Trump to pardon Flynn rather than strong-arm Barr into strong-arming somebody else to decline to prosecute. Trump should have to pardon him and own it but instead he will have his "deep swamp crooked FBI" line of BS. This was a condoning of Russian intervention in the 2016 election and it is a green light to Russian intervention and subversion in the 2020 election.

Concerning the pandemic and the economy, one line of thinking is that we are not winning. The death rates are at about 2,000 a day, and it doesn't appear to be going down. Our infection rates are stable but high. We are not winning. If we re-open now more people will die.

Other countries are winning against the virus. We are quitting. As bad as that sounds, we really don't have a choice. We can't stay shut down indefinitely and I understand that. We can't survive on stimulus funds forever; our economy needs to get back to work at some point. We have been shut down for two months, and cell phone data

shows we are voting with our feet, socially distancing less and less every day.

The countries that have either won or are on the precipice of beating this virus had one thing in common: much stricter lockdowns and suspensions of personal freedoms. The United States has proven itself culturally incapable of doing what is needed to control this virus. If we continue status quo, we risk armed rebellion. I imagine if we tried to lock down like countries that are beating this virus did, we would see the 2014 Bundy standoff and 2016 occupation of Malheur NWR nationwide with bullets flying at law enforcement at every level.

The best we are able to muster keeps things at the same place we were six weeks ago. Although other countries can beat this virus, we can't. We can't stay shut down indefinitely. We really don't have a choice but to back off on the restrictions gradually, ready to "lock down" again if the hospitals are at risk of being overwhelmed. People need to get back to work and unfortunately, we blew our opportunity at controlling the virus and we don't have more time, so people will have to die too.

This never was a question of the economy vs. public health. American governors, Republicans included all chose public health and put their economies on 'pause.' This was a question of individualistic freedom vs. public health and America chose individualistic freedom to varying degrees across the country. The economic pain comes from the length of the shutdown and we gave this more than enough time. The epidemiological impact of the shutdown comes from the strictness of the lockdown and that is where we failed bigly.

The worst part about this is that while the world chose public health over temporary freedom restrictions, it might all be for naught. The U.S. is such a reservoir of the virus it is hard to see how we won't re-infect the world over and over again. The history books will judge us, and I don't think it will be kindly.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

An open letter to veteran organizations

To the Editor:

Lately, there is much conversation relating to the sorrowful status of The Soldiers Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Over the last several years it appears that a State Audit Report which was written on Dec. 14, 2017 by the Office of the State Auditor was or not followed up in its negative findings. Suddenly, State and Federal Politicians are screaming for Justice to correct the medical and administrative problems beset recently as the Covid-19 virus took a horrendous toll of suffering and deaths. I was wondering, this is not because of an election year or is it? The Veterans housed in the Living and Nursing care facilities on the campus could not be the advocates for improved care, we expect as citizens our Executive and Legislative Branches to step up to the plate before a tragedy as this unfolds before us. Where were the Oversight agencies and State Legislators and the Massachusetts Department of Veteran Services together with Federal VA responsible Departments?

The report brought significant flaws in the operation regarding housekeeping inspections which points out the lack of documentation. This fact of laxity shows no due diligence in the daily

safety of every Veteran resident for their protection from slip shortness accountability. This is against every virtue of responsibility set forth in many preambles in the mission and objectives for the American Legion, DAV and VFW together with other noteworthy Veteran Organizations.

While my tenure in serving several Communities as Veteran Service Officer under the direction at that time, the Commissioner of Massachusetts Veteran Services such towns as Spencer, Rutland plus others, we expected when we spoke about the opportunity to become a resident at Chelsea or Holyoke Veterans Homes, it was to provide and comfort and safety of all Veterans housed in the Homes.

Finally, I employ all Veteran Organizations and our local legislators not only in my local area but the entire State to demand a full responsible Public report on the failure of all involved and solid action to correct discrepancies whether from criminal or non-criminal behavior.

BOB LUCIER
RETIRED, CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
US NAVAL RESERVE
(SUBMARINE SERVICE)
SPENCER

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ON PAGE 11

LETTERS

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

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

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

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

Mother's Day Honors

Happy Mother's Day in Heaven



Two very special moms missed every day. You would be so proud of your grandchildren and great grandchildren and they would all adore you. We pray that you're smiling down and guiding us all.

Love, June, Al & family



I know most moms are the best but mine leads the pack, NUMBER 1 - THE BEST! She's so patient, understanding, helpful, includes me in everything, and is a great cook!

Mommy I love you as much as you love me.
Greyson



To my beautiful Mother & Grams: You are an amazing mom and person. Thank you for being so strong and brave and never giving up. Your love and commitment continues to show us the way.

For all of the lives you have touched and for the beautiful person you are. Thank you - Happy Mother's Day
Love you, Chris & Jenna





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Americophilia, Sinophilia, and missing the point

To the Editor:

It's time for our weekly reminder. Trump, in 2018, disbanded the White House pandemic team, and those officials left the administration abruptly. In January, Trump claimed to have the virus under control and that the number of US cases would go "down, not up" and that the virus would "disappear" through a "miracle" and would vanish by April with warmer weather. In February, he called it "the Democrats' new hoax." In March, he complained about states shutting down and compared COVID-19 to a common cold or flu.

We now have 1,311,923 cases and 78,855 deaths from the U.S., according to Johns Hopkins University, the most comprehensive data aggregator at this time. We represent 32 percent of the world cases and 28 percent of the deaths, yet we represent 5 percent of the world population, and he had months of warning. Our cases are going up by 25,000 per day and our deaths by 2,000 per day. We had 3,000 cases with 55 deaths when Massachusetts first shut down. President Trump declared there would be 60,000 deaths by August, and on Mother's Day, it is 80,000.

There are surely thousands of readers that either agree with me, respectfully disagree with the points I make, or disagree. We need to hear from more of them. I encourage all, write in! This is your paper, too!

Regarding a flippant comment from Mr. Rick Belton responding to my letter of May 1 regarding the savages in our world today. First and foremost, I encourage all to re-read the letters. I stand by my comments. The savages are the conservatives, and the savage land from which they hail is the United States of America. Savage isn't the only adjective I would use to describe them, however. American conservatives are complex creatures.

I find it interesting that in a 1,200 word essay, Mr. Belton picked out "praise for China." In a single paragraph, I praised the coronavirus response in four different countries as being better than the US, and somehow he got "Commie=good" out of that in an extreme show of "black and white thinking." China, Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea, and many other countries have had an excellent response to the coronavirus and the United States response has been half-assed, ineffective, disastrous, deadly, embarrassing, and has the optics of a savage people from a savage land.

Do I wish I lived in China, or that being Chinese is better than being American? Honestly, no. Do I think that living in New Zealand and being a New Zealand citizen is better than American? Absolutely. Is Australia better? Absolutely. Why am I here? The same reason you're here - I was born here, and I don't have rights anywhere else. It is the quintessential American trait and tradition to criticize our government. Put power to free speech, the pen is mightier than the sword. There is nothing more American than pointing out our flaws. Letting patriotism serve as a religion with unconditional love and support for how this country is run is no different from the loyalists in the American Revolution who saw George III as the legitimate king.

The conservatives didn't have unconditional support for President Obama. The "law and order" crowd is now storming state capitals with assault rifles and flagrantly violating lawful orders. I guess they only support enforcing the laws they like - hypocrites!

Not everything done by China is good, but their coronavirus response has been excellent. The Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution

roughly 50 years ago left many dead, I don't minimize that, and I was specifically referring to their handling of COVID-19 in 2020. The 1989 Tiananmen square massacre is indefensible; however, I am praising their handling of COVID-19 in 2020 and I believe I am being very clear. The Chinese response to COVID-19 has been excellent. We have 80,000 the deaths from COVID-19 and they had 4,600. They were the first country hit and we were the 4th with months to prepare. We are still growing at 2,000 deaths a day and they have arrested the pandemic. In terms of COVID-19 the American response has been pathetic, embarrassing, and the political commentary coming out of the conservatives reduces them to savages. Don't let your hatred for China cloud your judgement.

American and Chinese histories are both filled with good and bad. I believe American history has more good in it than China. I believe China is better prepared for the complexities of 21st century challenges and COVID-19 put that front and center. A government by for and of the people can only work when the people are well informed, reject corruption, demand the truth from their leaders, and don't fall prey to a cult. Support for Donald Trump always was but in the COVID era is even more repulsive. If half our country will choose Trump and continue to support him, we are doomed. American history may be better than Chinese history, but I believe China has a brighter future.

I don't hate all Americans, all things America, or everything about American history. America is full of good but conservatives and Republicans increasingly represent more and more bad. Nothing is 100 percent bad, but the Republicans are getting pretty close to the point where the best I can say is, "at least they

aren't suggesting internment camps for people born here." We are all better off armed with more knowledge. I will continue to point out the less savory areas of American history and I will not whitewash it to your satisfaction. If you think I am wrong, I encourage you to set the record straight. If your complaint is "I don't like those facts," then sorry. I will continue to point out the things America should be embarrassed of and I will continue to point out how we could be doing things better.

Last night, I went on Dr. Fauci's Wikipedia page, watched a 2018 interview from Greta Van Susteren where he basically described his "worst case scenario" as what ended up happening with COVID-19.... Third World leaders denying it, burying data, and letting it rage out of control and to try and "save" their economies, and everything. The only part he got wrong was that a Third World president would be at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

On to Mr. McRae's letter. Many of the Nazi and Communist comments are just beyond the pale, and I'm not going to waste my time. True, this is not the apocalypse. We have every reason to believe this is as bad as the 1918 flu pandemic. While we could ignore it and let millions of bodies pile up, we don't have to and it seems only the savages value their personal freedom more than millions of lives. What happened to the sanctity of life? Regarding the 2009 H1N1 flu, remember how President Obama declared an emergency and filled our national stockpiles with supplies in case it got out of hand and remember how in 2020 President Trump simply denied we were at risk for months until the bodies started piling here? Regardless, humanity will continue. Darwinism may well cull the herd, but the species will continue.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

What is an apocalypse?

To the Editor:

The Spencer New Leader's opinion page has always been interesting, and last week did not disappoint.

I was happy to see that Samuel Biagetti is running against Donnie Berthiaume to represent us in Boston. After looking up his campaign, it almost made me a little sad - he appears to be new to the area and we don't deserve him. All I'll say is please, before you put personal funds into this campaign, read the archives of these Opinion pages. Before you put personal funds into the campaign, look at how we voted in 2018 and 2016. Before you put personal funds into this campaign, look up Donnie's voting record and understand that he has won either by landslide or unopposed. Understand what you're dealing with here.

The dictionary definition of an apocalypse is a world ending event, the final destruction of the world as described in the Book of Revelation. Clearly, COVID-19 is not that, with an estimated 2 percent fatality rate; clearly, 98 percent of the population lives to see another day. The other definition of an apocalypse is an event involving destruction or damage on an awesome or catastrophic scale. Clearly, COVID-19 is shaping up to be the latter type of apocalypse.

A pandemic event which leaves 6.5 million Americans dead seems pretty catastrophic. Even if those numbers are inflated by 10 times, 650,000 is a lot of dead people. The Civil War, seen as the most catastrophic event in U.S. history, left about 2 percent of the population, or 620,000 men, dead. World War II cost the lives of about 3 percent of the world population at the time, with the U.S. death toll in WWII at 417,000. A 2 percent COVID death rate is like 118 Vietnam Wars, or 9/11 happening every day for six years. A 2 percent COVID death rate would be similar to MS-13's 52 murders multiplied by 125,000 or if each MS-13 member murdered 650 innocent Americans.

To date, we've only seen 80,000 deaths and 1.3 million cases for a death toll of 6 percent. We have already surpassed Vietnam's death toll and we have about 26 times the deaths from 9/11 so it seems pretty serious. When you consider that the evidence points to a death toll similar to the Civil War, the bloodiest event in our nation's history, "apocalyptic" sounds fitting.

Being fair though, humanity has seen worse disasters. Smallpox was definitely much worse but thankfully has been eradicated through effective public health measures. The Black Death of the 1300's killed 10-60 percent of Europe and the Mediterranean, so that was worse. The Plague of Justinian of 541 was worse. Of course, Homo sapiens were not wiped extinct and we went on, so while I think of those events as apocalyptic I suppose they don't meet the Book of Revelation definition.

The 1918 flu pandemic, by the time it ended, killed more than our current COVID death toll, but even the 1918/1919 flu epidemic only killed eight tenths of a percent of Americans, and

we're being told that 2 percent for the current pandemic is nothing to worry about.

What is most perplexing is how anybody could look at tragedy in their own family and say, "see, I got through it, so you can suffer too." Parents should never have to bury their own children. I can't imagine losing my daughter to disease, never mind if it could have been avoided. The next worst thing to happen is to watch your own child suffer, I can't imagine if my son became disabled due to disease. For somebody who clearly has issues to brush this pandemic aside and say, "hey, my sister died and my brother was paralyzed by disease and I turned out fine so don't lecture me!" is simply incredible. I guess it takes a Marine to say, "I suffered and so can you." Perhaps that is the result of being raised by broken people who had to bury 1 child and watch another suffer.

Those of us outside of the reaches of Trump's spell do not want to see as many dead Americans as possible. We are fighting for as few dead Americans as possible while Trump is normalizing death and de-sensitizing us to it. We want a strong economy that is not hampered by fear for years - how many fewer people will get their nails and hair done in the post-COVID world? As for the election in November, all we hope for is Americans to see the last four years with clear eyes. Russian interference, Ukrainian extortion, mishandling of the pandemic, and the dangers of having a narcissistic megalomaniac as President who thinks it is all about him.

I for one would like an option on the Presidential ballot for "Literally anybody else, lottery including all U.S. Citizens to be held [Nov. 4]." I'd take my chances with literally anybody else.

TANYA KASPI
SPENCER

American heroes

To the Editor:

Since the coronavirus reached us, no group of Americans has put themselves at greater risk than healthcare workers; doctors, nurses, custodial staff and administrators in hospitals, rest homes, prisons and home care organizations, both public and private. All these people have put themselves in harm's way to help others.

Right behind them are the mostly public servant first responders, paramedics, firefighters, and police officers.

In the next category fall, food processors, supermarket, convenience store, and bodega staff, delivery drivers, short order cooks, trash collectors, remote learning teachers and many more.

Throughout this process, there has been another kind of American who hasn't received nearly enough praise.

You.

The mask-wearing, protective-glove-wearing, six-foot social distancing, stay-at-home-adhering, Zoom-conferencing, home-schooling, mind-slightly-losing, non-complainers.

You're not out hugging your friends and neighbors; you're the one walking down the street and moving to the other side to keep space for a family-walkers coming the other way.

You're going for a walk on a Brookfield Common, or in the woods, but keeping your distance. Your mask is uncomfortable and makes your glasses fog up. You dutifully stand in line at the supermarket, drugstore or restaurant takeaway waiting your turn, 6 feet apart.

You're clipping your own hair and missing your salon, rather than demonstrating at the State House about how your freedom is being taken away by Gov. Baker.

Each of you, with the choices you make every day with the greater good in mind, is doing your part to beat back a virus that has killed 80,000 Americans

and infected almost a million and half. And to make sure it doesn't return.

You are the heroes and patriots.

Responsible leaders, like Baker and Gov. Cuomo ask Americans to step outside their comfort zone, to do things they don't want to do and not just for their own health, but the health of other around them, including the elderly and those with cancer, heart conditions, high blood pressure, diabetes, and other conditions.

There are, of course, plenty of people doing the opposite. They are the ones carrying Confederate Flags and 2020 Trump banners, screaming at police officers and health care workers.

They are the reactionary Tea Party like blowhards, local and national, telling us not to be like "weak" science driven Democrats and anti-Trump Republicans; it's not so bad; support our (fake) "Warrior" of a President.

They are those holding public meetings at the White House-which now has Coronavirus infections- and other places without wearing masks, or maintaining social distance.

They are the ones calling for the re-opening of the economy whatever the future risk or human cost to our families-young and old, They are the ones who support punishing workers like meatpackers who don't want to work in in virus hot spots without government mandated oversight or the possibility of holding owners liable.

But make no mistake, they are the exception. You American heroes are the rule. Focus on those others and you

Turn To **HEROES** page **A15**



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MARY QUEEN OF THE ROSARY FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

This week's honor goes to all the Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry volunteers - including the guys who sleep to the Food Bank to help get the food to the pantry. Even in the cold rain today (April 9th), the volunteers were there, all bundled up, distributing food. Week after week, still feeding the hungry. Kudos for coming up with an alternative when the patrons couldn't go inside to pick up their food. Many of the volunteers are in the elderly high risk group themselves.

Thank you to the Food Pantry volunteers for your commitment to our community.

- Submitted by Susan Terkanian, Spencer, MA

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

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1:00-1:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:15 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 6:33 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 9:03 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 9:38 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:45 a.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 9:48 a.m.: animal complaint (Briarcliff Lane), barking dogs; 10:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Spinnaker Drive), poss. theft; 10:24 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 10:54 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Wilson Street), misdial; 11:12 a.m.: RV complaint (Linden Street), ATV in street; 11:25 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Buteau Road), no contact; 12:04 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no emergency; 12:14 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), info taken; 1:41 p.m.: suspicious persons (Smithville Road), investigated; 2:26 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 2:45 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 3:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Condon Drive), fox chasing chickens; 3:38 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbor issue; 4:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), missing cat; 4:35 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lake Street), investigated; 4:58 p.m.: medical/general (Old East Charlton Road); 5:23 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 5:55 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Howe Road), kids lighting fires; 6:19 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:58 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), issue w/ATM; 7:20 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lloyd Dyer Drive), kids throwing rocks at house; 8:36 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), info taken; 9:32 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Oakland Drive).

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

12:14-1:08 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:37 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 2:08 p.m.: building checked, secure; 4:46 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 7:26 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:45 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 8:57 a.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), elevator emergency; 9:33 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), accidental; 9:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), info taken; 9:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Nottingham Circle), req. property check; 11:03 a.m.: fire alarm (South Spencer Road), services rendered; 12:37 p.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 1:28 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 2:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 3:32 p.m.: fire alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 4:43 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 5:19 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 7:12 p.m.: accident (Borkum Road), report taken; 7:38 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 9:18-10:11 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:54 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), info taken.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

2:04 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:42 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 7:04 a.m.: disturbance (South Street), unwanted party; 10:08 a.m.: accident (Sampson Street), report taken; 10:52 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 11:29 a.m.: medical/general (Browning Pond Road); 12:21 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:22 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 1:34 p.m.: fraud (Howe Village), scam call; 1:45 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Wilson Avenue); 2:21 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 3:43 p.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road), lift

assist; 3:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), custodian not wearing mask; 4:41 p.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), assisted; 5:36 p.m.: medical/general (Norcross Road); 5:57 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), neighbor issues; 6:12 p.m.: disturbance (Charron Street), cyber bullying; 8:53-9:10 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:21 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), info taken; 9:52 p.m.: elderly matter (Woodside Road), keys/phone missing.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

1:11 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), loose dog; 9:49 a.m.: officer wanted (Adams Street), spoken to; 11:33 a.m.: officer wanted (Lloyd Dyer Drive), welfare check; 11:41 a.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), loose dog; 12:12 p.m.: medical/overdose (Maple Street); 1:01 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 1:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Wire Village Road), aggressive dog; 1:17 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Street), services rendered; 1:52 p.m.: RV complaint (Lake Street), dirt-bikes behind school; 2:43 p.m.: medical/general (Sunset Lane); 3:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), ATM malfunction; 3:53 p.m.: fraud (Briarcliff Lane), unauthorized c/c use; 4:46 p.m.: DPW call (Deer Run Road), flooded catch basin; 5:37 p.m.: 911 call (Kingsbury Road), accidental; 5:48 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 6:09 p.m.: suspicious persons (Northwest Road), investigated; 6:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Irving Street), spoken to; 6:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Prouty Street), spoken to; 6:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Marble Road), dog found; 6:54 p.m.: mv stop (Meadow Road); 7:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), bear family in area; 7:39 p.m.: 911 call (Oak Lane), accidental; 8:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), welfare check; 9:10 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:23 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Temple Street), large bonfire; 9:56 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 10:10 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:44 p.m.: harassing phone calls (Valley Street), mother/daughter issues.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

12:10 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 1:57-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:40 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), unwanted party; 10:16 a.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 10:50 a.m.: parking complaint (Paxton Street), fire lane blocked; 11:06 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), poss. harassment prevention order violation; 11:38 a.m.: lost/found (Pleasant Street), needles found; 11:43 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), bear family in area; 12:31 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 12:48 p.m.: medical/overdose (Maple Street); 1:34 p.m.: mv lockout (Paxton Road), assisted; 5:04 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 5:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Bond Street), investigated; 5:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), tenant issue; 5:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), noise complaint; 5:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), debris in road; between 5:24-6:00 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 6:03 p.m.: parking complaint (Dale Street), trailer on street; 6:09 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), bear family in area; 6:46 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:58 p.m.: 911 call (Hastings Road), open line; 8:01 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 8:02 p.m.: suspicious mv (Bacon Hill Road), mv parked in field; 8:50 p.m.: parking complaint (South Spender Road), misdial; 10:34 p.m.: building checked, secure.

MONDAY, MAY 4

12:00-12:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:09 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 12:26-1:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:41 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 6:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Bacon Hill Road), investigated; 7:35 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:30 a.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), c/o harassment; 10:35 a.m.: citizen complaint (Mechanic Street), info taken; 11:20 a.m.: shopliftig (Main Street), report taken; 1:15 p.m.: trespassing (Northwest Road), juveniles on property; 1:20 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 1:35 p.m.: accident (Wire Village Road), report taken; 1:48 p.m.: mv complaint (Dale Street), speeding; 1:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Cottage Street), scam phone call; 1:55 p.m.: medical/general (Borkum Road); 2:31 p.m.: disturbance (Town House Court), neighbor dispute; 4:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:14 p.m.: medical/general (Summit Street); 5:22 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Summit Street), sick fox; 6:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Borkum Road), bear on porch; 11:53-11:57 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

12:00-12:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:15 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 8:19 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 9:15 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Marble Road); 9:21 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 11:22 a.m.: animal complaint (Briarcliff Lane), poss. rabies exposure; 11:53 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:30 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Lyford Cross Road), barking dog; 1:14 p.m.: RV complaint (Mechanic Street), quad on street; 2:22 p.m.: harassment prevention violation (West Main Street), male on property; 2:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 2:31 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 2:49 p.m.: lost/found (Bixby Road), wallet missing; 3:00 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tenant issue; 3:52 p.m.: FID card issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:52 p.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), baby deer in yard; 3:54 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), info taken; 4:26 p.m. FID card issued/ (West Main Street), assisted; multiple LTC issued/5 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), fox in area; 5:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 5:49 p.m.: vandalism (Taylor Road), chicken coop damaged; 6:05 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 6:44 p.m.: fire alarm (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 6:49 p.m.: animal complaint (Thornberry Circle), loose dog; 7:01 p.m.: suspicious persons (Northwest Road), juveniles on property; 8:35 p.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), neighbor issues; 9:40 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:52 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), speeding; 11:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Franklin Street), neighbor issues.

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Leicester Police Logs

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

3:24 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:37 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), name and address redacted from police log, negligent operation, speeding, citation issued; 6:20 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:27 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 10:21 a.m.: harassment (Huntoon Memorial

Highway), spoken to; 1:37 p.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 3:36 p.m.: summons service (Boyd Street), served; 10:16 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

2:39 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 10:07 a.m.: vandalism (Waite Street), report taken; 4:59 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street, Worcester), transported to hospital; 5:43 p.m.: erratic operation (Paxton Street), no action required; 7:47 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), advised civil action; 10:18 p.m.: disturbance (Clark Street), spoken to.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

1:13 a.m.: ambulance (Flagg Drive), transported to hospital; 11:44 a.m.: family problem (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 1:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Lexington Avenue); 2:35 p.m.: mutual aid (Lisbon Street, Worcester), transported to hospital; 3:58 p.m.: illegal dumping (Mayflower Road), no action required; 6:25 p.m.: disturbance (Auburn Street), unable to locate; 9:07 p.m.: gunshots heard (Rawson Street), unable to locate; 9:50 p.m.: assist other PD (Clark Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

12:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Pine Street), spoken to; 1:07 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:10 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:11 p.m.: erratic operation (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 7:30 p.m.: domestic disturbance (River Street), report taken.

MONDAY, MAY 4

4:02 a.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), mv towed; 6:28 a.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), services rendered; 8:24 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 11:40 a.m.: suspicious activity (Parker Street), report taken; 11:43 a.m.: welfare check (Siani Road), spoken to; 1:06 p.m.: mutual aid (Queen Street, Worcester), transported to hospital; 4:11 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 5:30 p.m.: mutual aid (out of town, no location noted in police log), transported to hospital; 7:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway), referred; 8:49 p.m.: erratic operation (South Main Street), investigated.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

5:08 a.m.: ambulance (White Birch Street), transported; 5:18 a.m.: disabled mv (Whittemore Street), gone on arrival; 8:20 a.m.: lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 9:23 a.m.: missing person (Mulberry Street), no action required; 11:51 a.m.: erratic operation (Stafford Street), message delivered; 11:57 a.m.: family problem (Hemlock Street), spoken to; 3:46 p.m.: drug violation (Parker Street), report taken; 4:19 p.m.: lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 4:56 p.m.: family problem (Whittemore Street), spoken to; 5:36 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), unable to locate; 6:55 p.m.: ambulance (Tanglewood Road), transported; 9:21 p.m.: assist citizen (Boyd Street), spoken to; 10:08 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), no action required; 11:50 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), no service.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

3:30 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 9:12 a.m.: welfare check (Cricklewood Drive), services rendered; 10:26 a.m.: debris in road (Mannville Street), referred; 10:50 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:52 a.m.: fraud (Pleasant Street), report taken; 2:08 p.m.: missing person (Stafford Street), spoken to; 7:03 p.m.: assault and battery (Town Beach Road), peace restored; 7:32 p.m.: assist citizen (Whittemore Street), spoken to.

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If there was ever a time for radical optimism, it is now



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

Be optimistic. Get excited. Great things are on the brink of occurring. Positive shifts in paradigms are happening. Be open and embrace the future. From the ashes of a pandemic, incredible and positive change can occur. Be open!

Our nation has always responded positively and with overwhelming optimism to any challenge. When looking back at the history of World War II, you see how lives changed overnight and factories building cars one day were turning out tanks and airplanes the next. From the tragedy of Pearl Harbor emerged the greatest and most powerful nation in history. Democracy spread like wildfire and the world has never been the same. I believe that something positive and similar will happen because of this pandemic.

Look at General Motors. One

day, they were turning out cars, and 40 days later they are turning out respirators. Look at the multitudes of company's and everyday people sewing masks. Americans are always up to the challenge. Americans have a history of radical optimism that inspires nations and people around the globe.

I keep hearing people ask, "Will things ever get back to normal?" And my response is "maybe there's a new and improved normal coming. Many have commented that they like having their groceries delivered. I embrace the idea that other than emergencies, I can visit my Doctor on my phone or laptop and not have to go into the office. I think we have all become more deliberate at keeping in touch with relatives and loved ones that live in distant places via Facetime, Zoom and other group meeting programs. Yes, some are commenting that we are becoming germophobic, but shouldn't we all wash our hands more and practice social distancing when we have a cold or flu? Being aware of the various ways to protect ourselves

and others is a healthy thing.

My friend Judith Salitore wrote to me and said, "Radical optimism is having a dedication ... a commitment to always trying to find the good in every situation and not remaining on the side of defeat, hate or negativism in your life or experience." She also sent this quote from the Athenian historian, Thucydides. "The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them. Glory and danger alike, and notwithstanding. Go out to meet it."

My point is simple. If there was ever a time for bravery, vision, and radical optimism, it is now. Many people look only at the negatives that come from change. Sure, I can sit and point at a few obvious negatives but what good comes of complaining? Let us instead focus on the positive and embrace the good that comes from hard or difficult times.

I believe this pandemic has uncovered many weaknesses and cracks in our nation's foundation. Now exposed, we can positively fix them.

I believe turning over the

manufacturing of our pharmaceuticals to China was a national security risk that has been exposed. We should expect and demand it return within our nation and control, and I believe it will. We cannot allow our basic health and wellbeing be held hostage by a foreign government.

We've learned that some of our high-tech firms are sharing information in China that puts us all at risk. This is something we the people must demand comes to an end. In the name of business, we cannot allow our companies to sell the safety of our people off for financial gain.

I believe the World Health Organization has been exposed to be either inept or corrupt.

Make no mistake. We need a global health organization of some kind but not one that is politicized and run with extreme bias and mismanagement.

Acknowledging these weaknesses, and others, is a positive, if we recognize them and act to make the positive and necessary changes. We are up to the challenge.

I'm confident in the human spirit and our ability to overcome the greatest obstacles. We will survive this pandemic, then thrive.

Be optimistic about our future. Why expect gloom and doom? Sure, we have a rough road ahead, but that road leads us to a bright future and greater times.

I'm a radical optimist. Will you join me?

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



OBITUARIES

David J. Lacroix, 76

SPENCER- David J. Lacroix, 76, died Friday, March 27 at UMASS Medical Center in Worcester, following a long illness.



Born in Spencer, he was the son of the late Louis and Juliette (Larocque) Lacroix. He is survived by his brother, Jean Lacroix, and his wife Linda of Hyannis, and his sister, Lucille Dion, and her husband Richard of Leicester. He is also survived by nephews Jack Lacroix of Spencer, Matthew Lacroix of Cherry Valley, Richard Dion, Jr. of Rutland and his niece, Theresa Dion-White of Brookfield.

Dave was a graduate of the former Worcester Boy's Trade High School and was employed as a tool and die maker at Brookfield Machine for more than thirty five years retiring in 2002. He later worked at Borelli Machine following his retirement.

Dave was an avid sportsman and enjoyed spending time out doors in nature. He also enjoyed participating in many family gatherings.

Due to the ongoing health crisis, a Memorial Mass and service will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

J.Henri Morin & Son Funeral Home, 23 Maple Terrace, Spencer is directing arrangements.
www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Frank H. Stewart Jr., 90

SPENCER- Frank H. Stewart Jr. age 90 passed away Wednesday evening, April 29, 2020. He was the husband of the late Marylyn (Joerger) Stewart who died in 1993. He leaves his son Frank H. Stewart III and his wife Cynthia Callahan-Stewart of Spencer. Frank also leaves numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and many friends. He also had a son that predeceased him, Richard Stewart of Sandusky, Ohio.

He was born in St. Petersburg, Florida son of the late Frank H. Stewart

Sr. and Helen McKenna. Frank was a machinist and was employed by Schwab Machine in Ohio. He loved mathematics and collecting antique clocks.

There are no calling hours, all services are private. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

William H. "Kippy" Minns, Jr, 105

NORTH BROOKFIELD - William H. "Kippy" Minns, Jr. passed away peacefully at his home in North Brookfield at the age of 105, on May 9, 2020.

William was born in North Brookfield on August 13, 1914 and had lived in North Brookfield all of his life.

He leaves his daughter, Dorothy (Minns) Revene; two grandchildren, Colleen Aucoin and her husband Richard, Thomas Revene and his wife Nancy; two great-grandchildren, Casey Aucoin and Allison Aucoin; a great great-granddaughter Brooke Aucoin; and a niece, Nancy Minns-Piepho. He is predeceased by his wife Jeannette (Letourneau)Minns, his brother, Albert Minns, his sister Dorothy Minns, and son-in-law, Patrick M. Revene. He was the son of the late William H. Minns and Lavina (Mathieu) Minns.

William worked for the H. H. Brown Shoe Company and retired from Quaboag Rubber Company. He was the last surviving shoemaker in the town of North Brookfield.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Cardinal Gibbons Council # 2381 for 81 years.

William was a proud recipient of the Boston Post Cane in North Brookfield in August of 2014.

A Memorial Mass for William will be held at a future date in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in North Brookfield. Interment will take place privately in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 28 Mount Pleasant Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535 or to the North Brookfield Emergency Squad, P.O. 73, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

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

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Irene "Patt" Petterson

Irene "Patt"(Connolly) Petterson, of Brockton, formerly Weymouth and South Boston, died peacefully on May 6, surrounded by her loving family. She leaves daughters Susan McNamara of New Port Richey, FL, Joanne and son in law Earl Bernier of Cherry Valley, her most beloved granddaughters Abigail, Kaleigh and Meghan Bernier and



many much loved nieces and nephews. She was a loving and dedicated pediatric nurse having retiring from the Boston School for the Deaf in 1992 and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

A celebration of life will be shared with family and friends when allowed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leicester Food Pantry, 761 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524. O'CONNOR BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, 592 Park Avenue, Worcester is assisting the family with arrangements.

Angela Clayton, 48

WARREN- Angela (D'Amore) Clayton,48, passed away Thursday April 7, 2020.

Angela was born in Ware, August 24 1971 the daughter of Daniel and JoAnne (McCarthy) D'Amore of Palm Beach, FL. She also leaves her husband John; sisters Teresa Barrett and

Darcy D'Amore; nephews and nieces Nick, Zack, Emily Barrett & Briana and Tyler Geane.

A Celebration of Angela's Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

Daniel A. Dudley, 70

NORTH OXFORD- Daniel A. Dudley, 70, died Friday, May 8 in St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester from complications due to Covid-19.



He was predeceased by his wife Madeleine C. (Mahaney) Dudley in 2017, who was the love of his life.

He leaves his daughters; Miranda L. Peloquin and her husband Mathieu of Charlton and Rebecca "Becki" Dudley of No.Oxford, his son; Sean Paul and his wife Norma of Burbank, Calif., a sister Dorothy Dudley of Leicester, two brothers David Dudley and his wife Beth of East Booth Bay Maine and Dean Dudley and his wife Rhonda of Oxford, two grandchildren; Raegan and Jameson Peloquin., several cousins, nieces and nephews; and close friends.

Dan was a longtime group leader of heavy equipment operations at Norton

Co. in Worcester prior to his retirement.

Born in Worcester, he was the son of Stephen and Doris (Walden) Dudley. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war. As a combat veteran he earned four bronze stars, expert rifle, and other commendations.

Dan loved and cared for his family very much. He loved the outdoors, boating, golfing, four wheeling and yard work.

At his request, no funeral services are planned at this time. Please omit flowers. Memorial contributions may be made to Project New Hope, 70 James St. #157 Worcester MA 01603 or Veterans Inc., 69 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605. The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.
www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Elaine A. Lamoureux, 89

SPENCER- Elaine A.(St. John) Lamoureux, 89, of Clark St., died Monday, May 4 at St. Mary Health Care Center due to complications with Covid-19 virus.



She was the wife of Robert D. Lamoureux who died in 1989. She leaves her son Jean R. Lamoureux, her daughters Marie E. and Celeste Y. Lamoureux all of Spencer, her brothers; Pierre St. John and his wife Carol of Spencer, and Arthur St. John of Chapel Hill, NC, her sister Diane Cyr and her husband Robert of Spencer, several nieces and nephews.

Born in Worcester, she was the daughter of Abraham and Naomi (Letiecq) St. John and later graduated from David Prouty High School in

Spencer. She was a member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish.

Elaine loved being with her family and especially enjoyed time with her grand dog Mylo. She was a devout Catholic with a special devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Elaine's family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of St. Mary Health Care.

A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date in Our Lady of the Rosary Church when restrictions and social gatherings have been lifted. Funeral and burial in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer were held privately. Memorial contributions may be made to Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer, MA, 01562. J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements.
www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Helen Evelyn Magee, 100

SPENCER - Helen Evelyn (Dube) Magee, 100, passed away peacefully Tuesday, May 5,2020 in her home. Her husband Albert Magee, died in 1973.



Helen is survived by many nieces and nephews who will fondly remember her as "Aunt Honey". She is predeceased by 2 brothers, Albert and Ralph Dube and 4 sisters, Marie B. Gatto, Loretta B. Norberg, Rita M. Gatto and Florence R. Allaire.

Helen was born in Worcester the daughter of Albert J. and Rose J. (Lavallee) Dube.

Helen graduated from the former Commerce High School and retired from Worcester Envelope in Auburn. She spent many years traveling with her husband to locations on the West Coast and later to Cape Canaveral,

FL and Albany, NY where he oversaw projects as a civil engineer and she volunteered within those communities.

Helen was an avid gardener and could always be found outside tending to her yard. She enjoyed holidays and special occasion dinners with her family, a good game of Michigan Rummy or Pokeno along with visits with those at Howe Village and The Lashaway Senior Center. She was a member of St. John the Baptist Church in East Brookfield and Gaudette-Kirk American Legion Post 138 Women's Auxiliary.

Due to health concerns and restrictions on gatherings, funeral services are private. Burial will be in Notre Dame Cemetery, Worcester. A memorial Mass and a celebration of life will be held at a time to be announced. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.

John H. Bettencourt ,50

NEW BRAINTREE- John H. Bettencourt ,50, passed away on Thursday, May 7,2020 after a long battle with Vasculitis. He was a dedicated father, husband and Freemason. He leaves behind his wife, Jessica (Klem) Bettencourt; two children Eli Bettencourt and Olivia Bettencourt; many close friends and extended family members. He gradu-



ated with a degree in Engineering and was a Mechanical Engineer for many years. John was an avid car enthusiast and one of his loves was running the car show at Klem's. He was a Freemason for many years and the current presiding Worshipful Master of the Mt. Zion Lodge A.F. & A.M. in Barre. A private graveside service will be held in Evergreen Cemetery in New Braintree. Funeral Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

Harlow E. Jones, Jr, age 83

Harlow E. Jones, Jr, age 83, of Indian Trail, NC, previous resident of Cohasset, MA, passed away Saturday, April 25th, 2020,



of pneumonia and complications of the COVID-19 virus. He was born in Warren, MA, son to the late Harlow and Alice Jones. He was preceded in death by his 2 sisters, Barbara Keith and Betty Jones.

Harlow graduated from Warren High School in 1955. He served in the Army from 1956-1958. Harlow was a retiree of the U.S. Government, having spent over 40 years serving in posts throughout the world. He enjoyed traveling in his RV, playing cards, volunteering at Wampatuck State Park and Sandhills Wildlife Refuge, and keep-

ing up with his many friends from around the country. He was thoughtful, loving, generous, and caring. He is survived by his children, Laurie (Bryan) Herboldsheimer of Potter, NE and Keith (Kathy) Jones of Indian Trail, NC. He is also survived by 3 grandchildren, JT and Ginny Herboldsheimer and Sami Jones. He had multiple nieces and nephews, and special friend Marlene Winn, of Cohasset, MA.

No service will be held at this time. According to his wishes, he will be cremated and his ashes spread over the graves of his ashes in Brimfield, MA. Condolences can be sent in care of Keith Jones, 4002 Sedgewick Road, Indian Trail, NC 28079.



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.

To send by mail, please mail or drop off to June Simakauskas, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550.

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For more information, please call June at 508-909-4062 or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news and she'll be happy to help!



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Pan-Mass Challenge goes virtual

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – For the first time in four decades, Pan-Mass Challenge riders won't be hitting the streets this summer. But even though the annual bike-a-thon has been canceled in favor of a virtual celebration, its vital fundraising mission will roll on.

PMC officials announced last week that the August ride has been canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis. Kicking off each year in Sturbridge, the event has been held in all kinds of weather over the past 40 years. Riders are always willing to brave the elements for their cause, but PMC officials are committed to protecting all participants and their families.

Determined to still have a celebratory event this year while continuing fundraising for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PMC leaders came up with an idea for a virtual celebration. Titled PMC 2020 Reimagined, the multi-day event will include several online activities for riders who have worked hard to raise funds.

"Coming together the first weekend of every August is a beloved tradition for thousands of PMC participants. While we're unable to move forward with our ride safely in the same way we have over the past 40 years, we cannot and will not let our community or Dana-Farber down," said Billy Starr, the PMC's founder and executive director. "Our mission to support

Dana-Farber in the fight against cancer is more important than ever. And in reimagining what our event can be, we hope to inspire even more participation from those joining us at home."

The PMC raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. As Dana-Farber's largest single contributor – accounting for 57 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue – the PMC and its riders remain committed to raising critical funds for lifesaving cancer research, treatment, and patient care.

For longtime PMC riders, the process of securing donations was more challenging in 2020 than any previous year, with unemployment figures skyrocketing due to the coronavirus. With their reimagined celebration, PMC leaders want to recognize all participants for their tireless work in securing donations.

The PMC 2020 Reimagined will include many of the activities that riders, volunteers, donors, and spectators partake in during a traditional PMC weekend – complete with virtual adaptations that make it easy for remote participation.

Just a few of the activities slated for this year's program include:

PMC 2020 Reimagined opening ceremonies, broadcasting live on WBZ-TV (Friday, July 31)

An official "starting line" to symbolize the commencement of the 2020 PMC (Aug. 1)

The PMC Pedal Partner tent, in part-

nership with Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic

Entertainment and celebration at Massachusetts Maritime Academy's quad

A global Living Proof toast to honor those who are currently undergoing, or have undergone, cancer treatment

Dana-Farber officials commend PMC leaders for their commitment to fundraising, even when the ride is canceled and donations are difficult to come by.

"We are incredibly grateful for the PMC's unwavering dedication to Dana-Farber. Their creative thinking in rallying their community around an event that provides essential funding for our institution and patients is a shining example of agility and commitment," said Laurie Glimcher, the president of Dana-Farber. "Cancer doesn't stop, even during these difficult days. PMC dollars are critical to support the world-class cancer care and additional resources we provide our patients and their families."

The PMC's annual ride, which offers participants 12 routes spanning 25 to 192 miles, has become a tradition for several local families. Not only do they enjoy their training routine, but also the process of collecting donations from friends and family. Even though many donors have lost their jobs, they still made it a priority to give back to Dana-Farber.

"The Reimagined PMC will bring together thousands of riders, volunteers, donors, and supporters from their

hometowns around the globe to celebrate the spirit of PMC weekend while making an unparalleled impact on the fight against cancer," read a statement released by PMC leaders.

The PMC 2020 Reimagined program will also include pre-taped content to augment its real-time offerings.

For local PMC riders, the news of the cancellation was disappointing but expected. Members of Team De-Feet Cancer, which was established several years ago in West Brookfield by the late Steve Morris, continue to raise money in his honor.

"We are saddened, but resilient. We will miss seeing our PMC friends and family in August, but we know that now, more than ever, cancer patients need our help. Dana-Farber needs our help," said Team De-Feet Cancer member Jessica Piowarski. "We continue to raise money, and we continue to train and ride solo. We do have hopes of small team rides over the summer if restrictions ease. We look forward to the ways PMC will help us stay connected."

In 2019, the PMC donated \$63 million to Dana-Farber, the largest financial gift ever received by the institute. For more information about the event, visit www.pmc.org.

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world's leading centers for cancer research and treatment. The institute's mission is to promote scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy.

Country Bank donates \$75,000 as part of 'Neighbors in Need' program

WARE — As the pandemic continues to disrupt business activities both nationally and in Massachusetts, Country Bank today announced a \$75,000 series of donations designed to assist organizations on the frontline.

As the latest installment in a string of recent financial support, the bank will be facilitating donations to select organizations throughout its market from Springfield to Worcester. The Greater Worcester Community Foundation and Community Foundation of Western Mass will receive \$25,000 each to provide additional grant funding for critical needs programs. These programs offer support for vulnerable seniors, those without stable housing, limited English, and with compromised health conditions, including mental health and drug addiction.

Other programs receiving a contribution include: Friends of the Homeless and The Springfield Rescue Mission; Abbey's House, Saint John's Food Pantry, and the Boys and Girls Club in Worcester. These donations will assist in continuing to meet the ever-changing needs in their communities. Many non-profit organizations are not only combating reduced financial support as many businesses are closed, but they also are faced with a lack of volunteers. They are having to continually evolve how they support their clients while keeping everyone safe, on a limited bud-

get and with limited resources.

"This is an uncharted time for our bank, our customers, and our local business community. As part of our effort to assist those most affected by COVID-19 Country Bank has already donated \$400,000 to help local hospitals, first responder recovery centers, food pantries, homeless shelters, veterans, children and community foundations," stated Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank. "We continually look for opportunities where we can help make a difference in the health and well-being of the people in our communities"

Country Bank continues to be one of the many businesses that have been supporting these organizations and so many others out there who are fighting a good fight.

To learn how you can help these great organizations, visit www.countrybank.com/COVID19.

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western

Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

U.S. Attorney investigating reports of abuse by landlords

REGION – U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling's office continues to investigate reports of housing-related sexual harassment resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As the country adopts drastic measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, many Americans have lost their jobs, and many more have seen their wages curtailed," read a statement released by Lelling's office. "These losses have forced some to seek abatements or suspensions of their rent. According to a recent memo from the Attorney General, there have been reports of landlords who have responded to requests to defer rent payments with demands for sexual favors and other acts of unwelcome sexual conduct."

Lelling has pledged to vigorously prosecute those who seek to use the COVID-19 crisis to break laws.

"Sexual harassment in housing is illegal and despicable," Lelling said. "No person should have to tolerate this behavior in order to keep a roof over his or her head."

If you have been a victim of sexual harassment by a landlord, contact the U.S. Attorney's Office by calling 888-221-6023 or emailing USAMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov.

Knox Trail salutes week's top students

SPENCER – The Knox Trail Middle School staff has released its latest edition of top weekly performers.

The following list of students includes write-ups provided by the KTMS staff:

Fifth Grade: "Micah Garipey is completing all of his work, helping and supporting other students, joining Zooms, reaching out to teachers for help, engaged and active in all aspects of remote learning."

Sixth Grade: "Julian Orvieto-Fasoli and Jorelys Ignacio were chosen because they consistently show up, day after day. They always give their best effort. What's more, they are always

HEROES

continued from page A11

miss the larger story; a silent majority of hundreds of millions of Americans who try to do the right things. You are our country's greatest asset.

And even if for now, your contributions are being wasted by a president and a group of self-serving, partisan hate-the others politicians, dishonest writers and media personalities and corrupt hangers-on, remember one thing.

Not only history, but your children, grand children and their children in books and in stories, passed on from generation to generation, will remember you as true American heroes.

(This Letter to the Editor was motivated by and adapted from a Michael Cohen Boston Globe article)

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

there to lend a helping hand to their peers in times of confusion or struggle."

Seventh Grade: "Mino Anifantis Minos has done a great job. He completed his academic opportunities, and has been an integral part in Zoom discussions."

Eighth Grade: "Hannah Luukko has been a strong contributor to every class, whether we are in classrooms in school or at home. She is consistently a hard worker and always has a positive attitude. She has been very responsive and has been consistent in communicating with classes and teachers during this difficult time."

Leicester's Shelby Miller honored at University of New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Shelby Miller, a graduating senior from Leicester, has been honored with a pair of prestigious awards at the University of New Haven.

Miller was the recipient of the Excellence in Marine Biology Award, given annually to a Marine Biology major who has demonstrated an outstanding academic record, conducted significant research under mentorship of a faculty member, and provided service to their fellow students. She was also presented with the Herbert F. Wright Biology & Environmental Science Award, named in honor of the founder of the university's Department of Science. This award is presented to a Department of Biology and Environmental Science graduating senior who exemplifies excellence in scholarship, research, and service.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO20P0989EA
Estate of:
Pamela Jean Crawford
Also Know As:
Pamela J. Crawford
Date Of Death: 12/23/2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **John H. Crawford, Jr. of Spencer MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

John H. Crawford, Jr. of Spencer 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 Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

May 15, 2020

OBITUARIES

Richard C. Robertson, 76

North Brookfield- Richard C. Robertson, 76, of No. Brookfield, died Tuesday, May 5 in Life care center, Auburn due to complications with Covid-19.



He leaves his wife Norma J. (Bouchard) Robertson, his children; Matthew Pina and his wife Celsisha of N. Brookfield, Claudia and Frank Pina Jr. of Riverside, CA., and Jessica Padron and her husband Armando of Riverside, his sisters; Halina Kersey of Riverside and Elizabeth Rondeau of Spencer, 8 grandchildren; Falecity, Michael, Alexie, Kaylee, Frank III, Felix, Isabella and Matthew Jr., a close cousin; Patricia Dokmonovich of Omaha, NE., several nieces and nephews.

Richard was a Registered Nurse hav-

ing worked at the former Worcester City Hospital and local Nursing Homes before retirement. He was a collector of movies and electronics. He enjoyed trips to the ocean.

He was born in Germany and later graduated from St. Mary's High School in Worcester & Mount Wachusett Community College.

He served his country with the U.S. Air Force.

At this time, due to health restrictions, no funeral services are planned. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

J. HENRI MORIN & SON, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Services, P. O. Box 136, E. Brookfield, MA 01515.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com



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OXFORD – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frplcd Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studed Yard! **\$349,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 9 Pebble Beach Rd! Middle Pond – Winter Cove! Private Peninsula Protected from the Storm – Safe Harbor! Custom 3,179' 8 Rm Contemp Ready for Your Immediate Enjoyment! Grand Entry Foyer! Ideal Open Flr Plan w/Sky Lighted Cathedral Ceilings, Tall Windows & Hrdwd Flrs! Beautiful Applianced Custom Granite Kit w/Center Isl! Formal Din, Fireplace Liv Rm w/Water/Estuary Views! 1st Flr Laundry! Second Floor Master Suite, Ideal Full Bath, Huge Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full & 2 Half Baths! Walk-out Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm! Buderus Oil Heat! C/Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! **\$779,900.00**



OXFORD – 10 Huguenot Rd! 8 Rm Colonial! 1.36 Acres! Country Setting! Country Kitchen w/Bay Window Overlooking Back Yard, Front to Back Living/Dining Rm w/French Doors to Deck! Office! Side Entry Breezeway! 3 Bdrms Plus a Study/Craft Rm on the 2nd Floor! 1 Car Detached Garage w/Workshop! Easy Access to Shopping and Highways! **\$179,000.00**

DUDLEY – 38 Pine St! 5 Rm Ranch! Original Owner! Quaint "Eat-in Kit! Formal Din Rm! Spacious Liv Rm w/New Picture Window! Fam Rm w/Views to Private Back Yard! Mudrm! Huge Deck! Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! New Septic! Vinyl Sided! Newer Windows! Solar Panels! **\$239,000.00**

DUDLEY – 231 Dresser Hill Rd! 8+ Rm Custom Built 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath Split Set On 2.63 Acres Professionally Landscaped w/Panoramic Views of Nichols College at a Distance! Stamped Concrete Walk Leads to the Transom Side Light Door Entry! Custom Granite Kitchen w/SS Appliances including Gas Range! Dining Area w/3 Walls of Windows for the Views! Formal Din Rm! Beautiful Frplcd Liv Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & French Doors to the New Deck with the Incredible Views! 3 Comfortable Bdrms w/Crown Moldings, Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath! Finished Lower Level w/Fam Rm Offers a Potential In-law! LP Gas Heat & C/Air for Comfortable Living! 3 Car Garage! Recent Driveway! Don't Delay! **\$449,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 23 Beacon Rd! Killdeer Island – Middle Pond – Southern Exposure – Full Day Sun! Level 90' Waterfront Lot w/1,011 Square Feet! Meticulously Maintained 5+ Rm, 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Home w/Room to Expand! Soaring Cathedral Ceiling Family Rm w/Stone Fireplace Opening to the Maple Cabinet Kit & 4 Season Sunroom w/Anderson Slider to the Expansive Deck! 2nd floor Lake Facing Master w/Master Bath, Huge Closets & Slider to It's Lake Facing Deck! C/Air! 2 Car Garage! Lake Living at its Best! Listed by Another – "SOLD" by Century21 Lake Realty! **\$645,000.00**



WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! Extremely Conveniently Located just off Exit 1 of 395! Loads of Potential! 6 Rm Cape! Applianced Kit! Din & Liv Rms w/Wall to Wall over Hrdwds! 3 Bdrms w/Hrdwds! 1st Flr Bdrm w/Commode Closet! Recent Furnace! Recent Roof! **\$169,900.00**

WOODSTOCK – 9 Fawn Ridge! Renovated 4 Rm Townhouse! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances! Kit & Liv Rm w/Hrdwds! 2 Comfortable Bdrms w/New Wall to Wall! New Full Bath! Freshly Painted Throughout! Lower Level w/Laundry & Storage, Able to Finish Additional Living Space! 2 Parking Spaces! **\$129,900.00**



WEBSTER – 60 East Main St! Established Local Bakery & Delicatessen Specializing in Polish Foods being Sold with Building! Turn Key Business! Equipment to be Included with Sale! High Traffic Count! Ample Parking! Easy Access to Rear for Deliveries! Building also consists of a One and Two Bedroom Apartment! The Owner presently uses two rooms for his office and storage which could easily be added to the One Bedroom Apartment! Building was Totally Renovated in 2010! **\$599,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' AC'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$1,199,900.00**

WEBSTER – 14 Summit Street! Conveniently Located 8 Room, 4 Bedroom Cape! Featuring Newly Remodeled Stainless Steel Applianced Granite Eat-in Kitchen w/Custom Cabinetry & Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring! Formal Dining w/Hardwoods! Spacious Living Rm w/Hardwoods! 2 1st Floor Bedrooms w/Hardwoods! Newly Remodeled Full Tile Bath! 2nd Floor w/2 Bedrooms w/Hardwoods, Plenty of Closet & Storage Space! Updated Second Full Bath! Recently Oil Heat, Cast Iron Baseboard! Detached Garage! Corner Lot! **\$279,900.00**



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DOUGLAS - 14 MOUNT DANIELS WAY



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WEBSTER - 5 SURREY LN



Gently Used 5 Bdrm Colonial, or 4 Bdrms & Game Room! This 24 x 28 3 Car Garage HAS HEAT! Open Concept Kitchen, Dining & Living Room, Full bath, Beautiful Granite Counters w Breakfast Bar, Second Floor - 5 Over-sized Bdrms! Bath & Laundry Rm! Walk up Attic. **New Price \$399,000.**

LAND
WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer. **ON DEPOSIT \$70,000**

Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest! **\$132,900**

Webster - Potential 6 Buildable Lots! Water/Sewer Access, Zoned Lake Residential **\$129,400.**

Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre, artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. **\$130,000**

Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

WOODSTOCK, CT - 64 LYON HILL RD



Estate like long paved driveway! 3158 Sq Ft Colonial! Geothermal built. Open floor plan, ash flooring throughout! Granite and s/s applianced kitchen! Large master bedroom, coffered ceiling, master bath, W/Jetted tub! Walk in closets. Two car garage. **assisted sale \$499,900.**

WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD



2 BUILDABLE LOTS

Potential from 10,000+ sq. ft. Lot. Need to be divided. Town Water/Sewer. Zoned Lake Res. **\$24,500. Each - Total \$49,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 28 BLACK POINT RD



2019 CUSTOM BUILT WEBSTER LAKE (WATERFRONT ACCESSIBLE) CONTEMPORARY CAPE! Sunrise (E) & Sunset (W) Exposure! 2,600+ SF, 11 Rms, 3 BRS, Loft, & 2 Full Baths. Open Flr Plan, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone-faced Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Nook w/Built Ins, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Rm, Mudroom & Coat Closet, 2 Main Level BRs & Full Bath, 2nd Flr Private Master BR Suite w/Private Bath & Walk-in Closet! Central Air! Cavernous 1,500 SF+ Unfinished LL plumbed for a Bath, Oversized 2-3 Car Att'd Garage! Corner Lot, 12,599 SF (.29 Acre), of Land plus BOAT DOCK. **\$674,000.**

WEBSTER LAKE - 32 JACKSON RD



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11 Paglione Dr. - \$129,900

Dudley: House & Land Opportunity. 4.1 Acres, 2 bedroom expandable Bungalow, Updated electrical service, roof, window, 2-3 potential lot in a great location with water & sewer available.
71 Mason Rd - \$319,000

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Dudley: 18 lot Subdivision for Single family homes. water & sewer available.

Dudley: 22 units subdivision for 55+ Community water & Sewers available/

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142 Gleason Ave - \$310,000

WANTED

Buyer wants a home in Dudley, Charlton, Southbridge, Thompson — Ranch or Cape \$250-\$310,000 Private Setting

PAN-MASS
continued from page A1

ing ceremonies, broadcasting live on WBZ-TV (Friday, July 31)

An official "starting line" to symbolize the commencement of the 2020 PMC (Aug. 1)

The PMC Pedal Partner tent, in partnership with Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic

Entertainment and celebration at Massachusetts Maritime Academy's quad

A global Living Proof toast to honor those who are currently undergoing, or have undergone, cancer treatment

Dana-Farber officials commend PMC leaders for their commitment to fundraising, even when the ride is canceled and donations are difficult to come by.

"We are incredibly grateful for the PMC's unwavering dedication to Dana-Farber. Their creative thinking in rallying their community around an event that provides essential funding for our institution and patients is a shining example of agility and commitment," said Laurie Glimcher, the president of Dana-Farber. "Cancer

doesn't stop, even during these difficult days. PMC dollars are critical to support the world-class cancer care and additional resources we provide our patients and their families."

The PMC's annual ride, which offers participants 12 routes spanning 25 to 192 miles, has become a tradition for several local families. Not only do they enjoy their training routine, but also the process of collecting donations from friends and family. Even though many donors have lost their jobs, they still made it a priority to give back to Dana-Farber.

"The Reimagined PMC will bring together thousands of riders, volunteers, donors, and supporters from their hometowns around the globe to celebrate the spirit of PMC weekend while making an unparalleled impact on the fight against cancer," read a statement released by PMC leaders.

The PMC 2020 Reimagined program will also include pre-taped content to augment its real-time offerings.

For local PMC riders, the news of the cancellation was disappointing

but expected. Members of Team De-Feet Cancer, which was established several years ago in West Brookfield by the late Steve Morris, continue to raise money in his honor.

"We are saddened, but resilient. We will miss seeing our PMC friends and family in August, but we know that now, more than ever, cancer patients need our help. Dana-Farber needs our help," said Team De-Feet Cancer member Jessica Piwowarski. "We continue to raise money, and we continue to train and ride solo. We do have hopes of small team rides over the summer if restrictions ease. We look forward to the ways PMC will help us stay connected."

In 2019, the PMC donated \$63 million to Dana-Farber, the largest financial gift ever received by the institute. For more information about the event, visit www.pmc.org.

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world's leading centers for cancer research and treatment. The institute's mission is to promote scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy.

Local food pantries receive donations from NBSB to support neighbors in need

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank and its employees have always been deeply connected to their local communities, offering service through various acts of volunteerism and contributions. The Bank and its valued community ambassadors are always striving to find a way to spread hope, kindness and support to those in their communities, whether it be offering an uplifting word to someone who is struggling, making a donation to an important cause, or giving time to make our shared community experience the best it can be. While as of late they have not been able to be out in the community doing what they love most, they have still been suggesting and implementing new ways of showing their care for the communities.

Most recently, in an effort to ease the struggles of community members, North Brookfield Savings Bank made donations to local food pantries to help the remarkable pantry volunteers to stock their shelves and distribute grocery store gift cards to local residents in need. In a time when many locals are facing hardships because of the pandemic, including job loss and illness, it is an unfortunate reality that some

residents are also struggling to put food on the table. It is the Bank's hope to do their part to ease those struggles.

North Brookfield Savings Bank donated to the following local food pantries supporting the relative communities and the surrounding areas:

First Congregational Church, 144 North Main St., North Brookfield
Call for more information: 508-867-8428

St. Joseph's Parish Food Pantry, 296 North Main St., North Brookfield
Call for more information: 508-867-6811

East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry, 262 East Main St., East Brookfield
Call for more information: 508-867-7725

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry, 36 North Main St., West Brookfield
Call for more information: 508-867-7078

Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry, 20 Park St., Ware
Call for more information: 413-967-3274

FoodShare, Inc., 39 Walnut St., Palmer
Call for more information: 413-323-6272

Belchertown Ecumenical Food Pantry, 24 Jabish St., Belchertown
Call for more information: 413-323-6272

Before visiting these food pantries, it is suggested to contact them for

their specific hours, ID or paperwork requirements, and policies for pick up during the pandemic.

As a local and dependable bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank has been a part of its communities for over 165 years. It is their commitment to their values of supporting their communities and sharing kindness that drives them and forms the foundation of their business. This has always been their way of doing business, but now more than ever they are working hard to ensure that their community members know NBSB is here to support them. From the creation and distribution of vital and informative resources on their website, through active support of their customers as they adopt unfamiliar but important remote banking options, as they implement innovative ways to continue to offer the same great service through their drive-ups and as they assist businesses as they navigate loans programs, to offering great online and mobile banking options, NBSB is here to help.

"It is an unfortunate reality that these hard and uncertain times can pose great challenges for many individuals. Our local food pantries are great resour-

es that help support our community members in need and it is our honor to help them in their efforts," said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. "Thank you to the many local volunteers who keep these vital pantries running during these times, when they are needed more than ever."

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and all of the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

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PORTRAITS

continued from page A1

unteer saw this idea and shared it with our staff.”

Blancato says she is amazed by the artistic talent of the group of volunteers helping with the portraits.

“Each artist brings their own style to the portraits. I look forward to the daily Facebook posts

featuring a gallery of new artwork,” she said.

Blancato is currently waiting for a portrait of two of her pets.

The fundraiser inspired Second Chance to create a volunteer from home program nicknamed Create 4 Critters. The program was launched with two other projects in addition to the pet portraits: creating catnip mice to help entertain feline shel-

ter pets and creating one of a kind quilt and crochet squares, which will be assembled to be auctioned off at a later date.

Poorly Drawn Pets was originally planned just for Facebook, but Second Chance received many requests from people who don't use social media, so the fundraiser is now available on the secondchanceanimals.org Web site.

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and attends Summit ElderCare daily to par-

take in various activities. At a later date, the Board of Selectmen will plan to present her with the town's Boston Post Cane. The cane is given

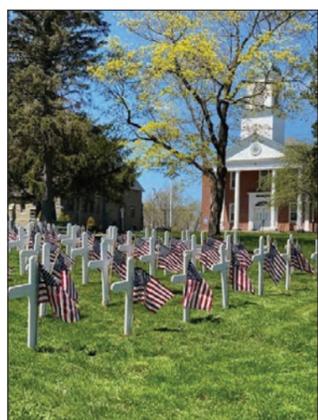
to the town's oldest resident.

From all of us at the New Leader, happy birthday to Norma Claire Guertin Cormier.

HONORING THE FALLEN

Photos Courtesy

In an annual tradition prior to Memorial Day, volunteers once again decorated the Town Common in Leicester with flags to honor residents who gave their lives defending freedom. Town officials will announce next week whether the annual Memorial Day parade will go on as planned. Regardless of any changes that might need to be made, volunteers wanted to make sure the Town Common project continued to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



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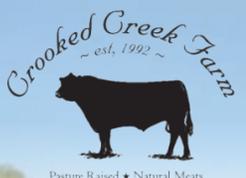
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