

SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, December 4, 2020

Grady retires from Leicester Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – After dedicating more than three decades of her career to Leicester Public Library, Assistant Director Pat Grady is saying goodbye to patrons and staff ahead of her upcoming retirement.

Grady, who has spent 35 years with the library, will retire on Jan. 8. Although the pandemic will prevent the community from sending Grady off with a large in-person celebration, residents will still have a chance to honor her in several ways.

The library is planning to present Grady with both a digital and physical scrapbook encapsulating residents' gratitude and well wishes. Patrons are invited to send the library cards, emails, videos, photos, or any other items for inclusion in the scrapbooks.

Cards can be mailed to 1136 Main St., Leicester, MA, 01524. You can also email cards to halls@leicesterma.org; video messages can be sent to cberube@cwmmars.org.

Turn To **GRADY**, page **A17**



Pat Grady

School Committee hears debate on mascot

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Continuing their deliberation over whether to retire the junior-senior high school's "Indian" nickname, School Committee members recently heard from residents and Native American leaders during a public hearing.

Among several other speakers at the Nov. 16 meeting, a panel of Native American leaders addressed the controversial topic remotely. School Committee members were eager to hear from a broad spectrum of presenters to help fully illuminate the Native American nickname controversy from all angles.

Many panel members have spent years educating school leaders and communities on why the use of Native American mascots offends tribes and their families. Panel members have led multiple outreach and education efforts throughout New England.

"The fact that racist ideas about native peoples in Massachusetts are deeply engrained and are reflected in sports teams' mascots should not have to be explained in 2020," said Melissa Ferretti, a member of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe.

Ferretti said her family has dealt with racism throughout her life. Other presenters, including Faries Gray, have also struggled with the effects of racism. Each time they see a high school, college, or pro-

fessional sports franchise use Native American names and images as mascots, it only serves to reinforce racial stereotypes, presenters said.

"Some people think we should be honored, or they are honoring us. We are not honored – you are not honoring us. That is no way to honor a person, to use them as a mascot. We use animals and fictional characters as mascots, not human beings," said Gray, a sagamore (chief) representing the Ponkapoag Tribe. "We are not a trophy – we are a living, breathing people with feelings. There is no other race that has to deal with this – it's insane that we even have to have this conversation."

Presenters also decried the lack of educational opportunities and dialogue in public schools focusing on Native American history and culture. Sophia Hasenfus, who graduated from North Brookfield High School in 1999, wishes the current conversation had begun decades earlier.

"I have deep regrets about not bringing up the mascot issue back when I was in high school," said Hasenfus, who represents the traditional unceded territory of the Wampanoag Nation. "I know that people worry that now is not the time because the country is too divisive, but it's my hope that we can see that now is exactly the right time. Mascots like these perpetuate negative stereotypes

Turn To **MASCOT**, page **A10**

EBES adjusting well to hybrid learning approach



EAST BROOKFIELD – If parents and teachers had been quizzed about hybrid learning models this time last year, many would have found themselves stumped. One chaotic year later, however, and the entire school community is well-versed on the combination of in-person and remote learning.

With every pothole and sharp curve presenting itself along the road through the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Brookfield Elementary School community has stepped up to navigate the challenge. After classes were called off last March and didn't return until September, teachers, administrators, and district leaders spent the summer implementing state guidance and readying their building.

Now, with the first month of hybrid learning in the books for the full EBES student body, everyone is adjusting to the new normal. The school year began with students in grades

4-6 operating on a fully remote schedule, but they were welcomed back to school in mid-October.

"To see my students skipping into the room on that first day and saying hello to their friends in person after seven months of not being in the classroom was priceless," said EBES sixth grade teacher Christine Lavin.

District leaders have been impressed by the cooperation and willingness of students, staff, and parents to make the adjustments necessary to keep schools open. Relying heavily on masks, social distancing, and extensive sanitation procedures, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District has not seen a single COVID-19 case among students and staff.

Teachers have also put in several hours of extra work each week to support both their in-person and remote learners. With many families in all schools opting for the

fully remote format this year, teachers have been committed to ensuring that those students don't fall behind.

"I am teaching live to my remote students and students in the classroom via Zoom," Lavin added. "The kids never complain about wearing their masks. They seem to have all taken it in stride."

Students and parents certainly miss the days when homework, quizzes, and tests were the most stressful aspects of school. Now, in addition to their focus on academics, the overarching commitment for the entire school community is safety.

"They are extremely conscientious about following all of the social distancing rules and basic rules such as using hand sanitizer or washing down their desks multiple times a day," Lavin said of her students. "I

Turn To **EBES**, page **A13**

West Brookfield cancels White Christmas event

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD – Joining a long list of local events lost to the COVID-19 crisis this year, the White Christmas in West Brookfield celebration has been canceled.

Event organizers made the announcement several months ago, but they want to remind residents and families who were still instinctively gearing up for the program. The beloved town tradition brings together the entire community for a day of celebration – rain or shine – but the town center will not bustle with holiday merriment in 2020.

For many families who mark the event on their calendars each year, the cancellation of White Christmas came as a great disappointment, especially after the loss of the Asparagus Festival in May and other town favorites throughout the year. Still, most residents have since expressed their understanding and support for the volunteers who make the event possible.

Usually occurring on the first Sunday in December, the daylong White Christmas celebration typically draws guests from throughout the area. Local businesses, municipal offices, town departments, and churches also take part each year. But with the many challenges of 2020, organizers did

not want to risk the potential for COVID-19 transmission in an event that features mostly indoor activities.

"We understand the disappointment; however, when you factor in all of the planning and businesses and activities that go on during the event, we could not in good conscience carry it out," event organizers wrote on social media. "For the safety of the community and our volunteer committee, we feel this is the best decision. We hope that those of you who value this event so much will join the committee when we meet again next year."

The organizing committee has found a few alternate ways to celebrate the season. The White Christmas Committee recently announced that it will sponsor a Christmas decorating contest. All residents looking to register their homes for the contest must do so by December 6.

All voting for the contest will be done online. For more information about the event, or if you would like to register your home, please complete the form available on the White Christmas in West Brookfield Facebook page.

Prizes for the decoration contest were provided by Northeast Pizza, Salem Cross Inn, Cottage Street Collections, and KindaKrafty2020. Organizers thank all donors of prizes for their support.

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MIAA announces winter sports safety measures

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Local student-athletes are looking forward to the return of winter sports, but they'll have to deal with several new safety measures.

Last week, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) made multiple announcements following a meeting of its COVID-19 task force. After extensive deliberations, task force members presented an array of modifications and recommendations for winter sports to the MIAA board of directors.

Prior to making modifications, task force members collaborated with officials from the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, as well as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"It is great to see that so many of our student-athletes will be able to take part in the sports they love this winter," said MIAA President Jeff Granatino. "Many coaches, athletic directors, principals, and superintendents worked hard over the past few weeks to ensure that we would be able to offer interscholastic opportunities for our students."

The MIAA board of directors voted to approve several sport-specific modifications for the winter season. All modifications are subject to changes from state leaders, depending on the severity of COVID-19 conditions as the winter progresses.

Locally, the decision for individual schools on whether to participate in MIAA-recognized winter sports will be determined by district officials and health leaders.

Currently, the high school winter sports season is set to begin on Dec. 14. Coaches, athletes, and parents are asked to review all sport-specific modifications prior to involvement. Also, be sure that your sport is still listed in the 2020-21 winter sports lineup, as several

sports were moved to the "Fall Sports II" season and the spring season.

"The pandemic has reshaped the way education is delivered across the country, and the same can be said about its impact on athletics," Granatino added. "Nonetheless, I am confident our student-athletes and coaches will adjust to the new expectations this winter and have an experience as fulfilling and as exciting as what we saw during the fall season."

Basketball and ice hockey athletes will see some of the most drastic changes to their sports. Masks must be worn throughout the game, and players must utilize social distancing during pregame and postgame activities.

Additionally, access to locker rooms and other venues will be tightly restricted.

For MIAA leaders, it was a challenge to create modifications that strike a balance between maximizing safety while maintaining the basic aspects of gameplay within each sport. Considering the close-contact nature of basketball, hockey, and other winter sports, it is impossible to facilitate social distancing on the playing surface. This means health measures in all other facets of the game must be ramped up, officials said.

MIAA leaders thank all contributors who came together to provide sport-specific guidance, health information, and recommendations.

"Promoting the health and safety of all participants is the association's imperative," said MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine. "Our membership should be proud that our board's actions reflect allegiance to the MIAA mission."

Wrestling, indoor track, winter cheerleading, and dance have all been moved to other sporting seasons. Indoor track will take place during the newly created "Fall Sports II" season, which will begin later in the winter. This season will also include sports like football that were

postponed from the fall.

Wrestling, winter cheerleading, and dance were moved to the spring season.

For students and coaches who are gearing up for Fall Sports II, it will be a culture shock to prepare for football and other sports in the wintertime. Teams have been limited this fall in terms of practice availability and off-season preparation.

"We couldn't do everything that we normally do in practice, but we got some football stuff in," said Chris Barry, an assistant coach with the Leicester High School football squad. "Ultimately, it gave our team a purpose a few nights a week and allowed us to start building our team for Fall II."

LHS anticipates its football squad to feature about 60 players this year, an impressive feat considering the many challenges athletes are facing. Players can't wait for the projected Feb. 22 start date for Fall Sports II, but social distancing regulations will make it difficult to stay in game form this winter.

"We have been told we can work out and lift together, but our weight room is too small to properly social-distance with so many players and coaches," Barry said. "We typically have 25-35 players attend our lifting sessions in the off-season, but this just won't work under all the rules and restrictions."

LHS coaches have used an online platform to send players workouts they can complete at home, without any weights. Coaches and athletes are using similar systems in surrounding communities, with everyone hopeful that all sports seasons can be completed.

For more information on sporting guidance, visit www.mass.gov.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Spencer New Leader is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.com. News during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.



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Leicester's Alex Lockney accepted to Bard Academy at Simon's Rock

GREAT BARRINGTON — It's not every day that high school students break with tradition to attend a school that prepares them to enter college after the 10th grade, but for this Leicester student, that's exactly the case. This year, Alex Lockney joined the fall 2020 class at Bard Academy at Simon's Rock, the nation's first two-year high school for boarding and day students. Simon's Rock successfully created a safe, socially distanced learning environment this semester, with primarily in-person classes as well as hybrid and remote offerings.

Lockney's academic and personal achievements stood out, securing Alex a spot at Bard Academy this fall. Lockney will automatically matriculate into Bard College at Simon's Rock after 10th grade, establishing a clear path for continued intellectual engagement and success.

About Bard Academy at Simon's Rock Bard Academy students pursue an intensive curriculum for 9th and

10th grades, taught by college professors who are leading scholars in their fields. Academy students will earn their Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years, giving them a significant head start on pursuing their personal and professional goals. For more information, visit bardacademy.simons-rock.edu.



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Keith is a quiet, reserved young boy who is known to be a good friend. He is very athletic and enjoys sports and participating in activities outside. He also likes to read. Keith is a great advocate for himself and for his siblings. He has great relationships with his caretakers and he is able to make friends easily.

Legally freed for adoption, Chance and Keith would like to grow up together in a permanent, loving family. The children have requested that their future family consists of a mother, father, and some pets. A family must be open to maintaining birth family contact through an Open Adoption Agreement. Both boys would benefit from continued visits with their older siblings.

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

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

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Country Bank announces holiday support for communities in need

WARE — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced a series of initiatives to help support local communities during the 2020 holiday season, especially those affected by the economic fallout from the ongoing pandemic.

As part of the initiatives, Country Bank teamed up with Old Sturbridge Village to offer

750 free meals to families in need this Thanksgiving. Meals will be delivered to St. Johns Food for the Poor, YWCA, Abby's House, Veterans Inc. and Elm Street Congregational Church.

"We wanted to do everything we could to help support families in the community this Thanksgiving," said James Donahue, President of Old Sturbridge Village. "Country

Bank and Old Sturbridge Village share a collective belief that we can make a difference when we work together, and we are doing just that."

On Small Business Saturday, the Country Bank retail banking team will support local small businesses by purchasing 400 gift cards from businesses throughout its markets. These gift cards will be distributed in Country Bank branch locations on "Giving Tuesday," December 1, 2020. The Corporate Office team will also be partnering with Provision Ministry and assembling 250 backpacks filled with essential care items to be delivered to the Springfield Rescue Mission.

Throughout the month of December, the famous red kettles will be visible at several Country Bank branch locations to help fill the void the Salvation Army will experience this year, in part due to the pandemic. In addition, Country Bank has donated \$10,000 for this meaningful

cause.

Finally, as part of its Community Cares Program, the staff participated in its very own Boston Marathon by "Walking the Distance" via a downloadable App. This virtual challenge brought everyone together while supporting charities of their choice with a \$500 donation. A total of \$30,000 will be granted to charities.

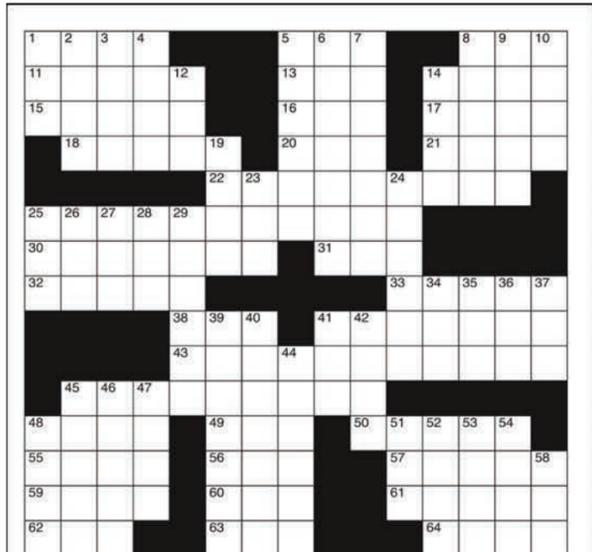
Paul Scully, President and CEO of Country Bank, said, "As a community partner, we care deeply about our communities, and we want to offer our support where it is needed most this holiday season. As we reflect on the past year with gratitude for the Bank's strength and ability to support so many in need, we are also humbled to witness so many great acts of kindness and support throughout our communities from the people and businesses who make this region the remarkable place it is to live and work."

He added, "The pandemic has taken its toll on the people

and places in our communities. We know that many have suffered losses over the last several months. Some have lost their jobs, their business, and others have lost loved ones. There is no more significant time in our history for community partners to step up and provide support to those in need."

To learn more about the various activities that Country Bank will be participating in and how you can donate to local charities it is supporting, please visit www.countrybank.com/seasonofgiving.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of west
- 5. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 8. Helps little firms
- 11. A way to censor
- 13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
- 14. Chalcedony
- 15. Type of sword
- 16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
- 17. Attired
- 18. A sequence of winding turns
- 20. Pal
- 21. Expresses pleasure
- 22. Amendable
- 25. Clear
- 30. A way to cut off
- 31. Indigenous Thai person
- 32. Pale brownish yellow color
- 33. Aquatic plants genus
- 38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 41. Merchants
- 43. Fix a chair
- 45. Throws into disorganization
- 48. Famed German composer
- 49. Keyboard key
- 50. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 55. Partner to pain
- 56. Where golfers start
- 57. Jenny ___: weight loss program
- 59. Sailing dinghy
- 60. Suffix that forms adjectives
- 61. Speeds at which music is played
- 62. Body part
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One point south of due east
- 2. Wings
- 3. One point south of southeast
- 4. The shirts on our backs
- 5. One who works on the seas
- 6. Select jury
- 7. Small intestines parts
- 8. Plant of the heath family
- 9. Extrasolar planet
- 10. Creates more of
- 12. Before
- 14. Forms over a cut
- 19. Runs down
- 23. Exercise regimen ___-bo
- 24. Unkeyed
- 25. Principle underlying the universe
- 26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 27. Residue
- 28. Company that rings receipts
- 29. Rugged mountain range
- 34. Commercials
- 35. NY footballer
- 36. They ___
- 37. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 39. Poked holes in the ground
- 40. Pitchers
- 41. Your
- 42. Diana ___, singer
- 44. Important document for inventors
- 45. Bangladeshi capital
- 46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
- 47. Famed daguerreotype photographer
- 48. Where military personnel work
- 51. Play a role
- 52. La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 53. Unstressed-stressed
- 54. Type of palm tree
- 58. Judo garments

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PERSON of the WEEK

Crystal Caron, North Brookfield, MA

I would like to acknowledge Crystal Caron of North Brookfield for again organizing Thanksgiving dinners for North Brookfield residents. Although she was unable to use the Congregational Church this year, she managed to find a way to get it done.

— Submitted by Michelle Marie Metcalf, North Brookfield, MA

If you would like to nominate a PERSON OF THE WEEK, please email your suggestion to jsima@stonebridgepress.news. Thank you.

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\$330,000, 127 Rice Corner Rd, Romano, Benjamin J, and Romano, Rianna, to Towle, Barbara.
\$10,000, Lake Rd #C, Wilfred A Steadman T, and Steadman, Dana C, to Kent, Paul A, and Kent, Beth A.
\$10,000, Lake Rd #C1, Wilfred A Steadman T, and Steadman, Dana C, to Kent, Paul A, and Kent, Beth A.
\$10,000, Lake Rd #C2, Wilfred A Steadman T, and Steadman, Dana C, to Kent, Paul A, and Kent, Beth A.

LEICESTER
\$315,000, 29 Winslow Ave, Durocher LT, and Durocher, Victor J, to Whitcore, John, and Whitcore, Carol.
\$311,000, 423 Main St, Parkinson, Jeremy S, and Parkinson, Ann M, to Morales, Kathy N.
\$245,000, 481 Pleasant St, Benoit Shirley M Est, and Newsome, Lisa J, to Ardon-Melendez, Alba E.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
\$390,000, 35 Donovan Rd, Duval, Amber, to Fullam, Brandon, and Fullam, Lea.
\$325,000, 88 Gilbert St, Chapin, Raymond F, and Chapin, Amanda M, to Smith, Kevin.
\$150,000, 120 Summer St, Smith, Serena M, to Krajewski, David.
\$30,000, 26 Evergreen St, Cooke, Billings A, to Buzzbuck LLC, Northborough
\$543,988, 25 Otis St, Banks, Christopher D, and Banks, Pamela, to Chen, Hong X, and Shi, Lian Z.
\$540,000, 332 Whitney St, Lewis, Daniel M, and Lewis, Bertha E, to Covarrubias, Edgar F, and Covarrubias, Tania A.

SPENCER
\$399,000, 7 G H Wilson Rd, Groccia, Rod A, and Groccia, Claire P, to Orozco, Octavio A.
\$280,000, 124 N Spencer Rd, Saunders, Kimberley H, to Myers, Tiffany D.
\$257,500, 7-9 Roberta Bay, Reeks, Dawn, and Stumpo, Sherry, to Naghe, Leon.
\$205,000, 1 Candlewood Dr #1, Chesson, Cheryl J, to Metivier, Maureen L.
\$127,500, 27 Elm St, Vanasse, Douglas W, to C2S Development LLC.
\$96,000, 112 Smithville Rd, Moosehill RT, and Curtis, Marc D, to Sote, Jorge, and Sote, Aferdita.
\$95,000, 22 Lamoureux Ln, Maher, Dean, and Maher, Linda A, to Bonder RET, and Bonder, Donald J.
\$37,900, 113 Ash St #1, Zenkus, Vitold C, and Zenkus, Patricia A, to Cradler, Burton, and Cradler, Judith.

WARREN
\$305,000, 24 Southbridge Road Ext, Foster-Carlos, Carol V, to Bassett, Sarah E.
\$230,000, 833 Town Farm Rd, Hammond, Mark, to Casalnuova, Laura.
\$192,500, 1440 Brimfield Rd, Okeefe, Marie H, to Knipe, Seth A, and Knipe, Nichole M.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$288,000, 29 West St, Mosher, Bonnie, to Jenkins, Abdullah H, and Tharpe, Lori J.

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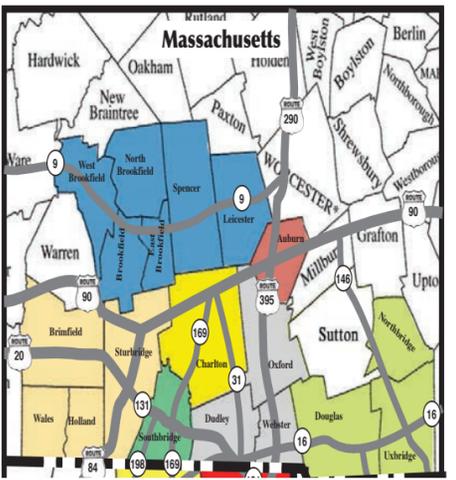
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Public forum planned on North Brookfield's West Side Infrastructure Plan

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Town of North Brookfield will hold a public forum for the Town's ongoing West Side Infrastructure Plan project on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. at the North Brookfield Police Station, 55 School St. Socially distanced seating will be available. The forum will be broadcast live by North Brookfield Cable Access TV and video will be streamed on the North Brookfield Local Public Access Cable Youtube Channel. All documentation will be available on the town's Web site, www.northbrookfield.net. Neighborhood residents and other interested parties are encouraged to attend or otherwise participate.

At the forum, the Town's engineering consultant will discuss the initial results of its extensive field survey of drainage systems, water and sewer mains, roads, and sidewalks in the West Side Neighborhood. This neigh-

borhood is defined as the area bound by Spring Street, High Street, Mount Pleasant Street, North Main Street, and part of Bell Street near the town center. The overall goals of the project are 1) to evaluate existing infrastructure systems in the project area; 2) to develop concepts for improvement projects in key areas; and 3) to produce a final plan with prioritized and phased recommendations for implementation, for use in local planning and in seeking additional grant funds for detailed design and construction.

This part of North Brookfield is currently served by water, sewer and stormwater drainage systems dating to the early and middle 1900s. Water mains in parts of the neighborhood are oversized or made from hard-to-maintain materials. Some sewer lines are prone to clogs or suffer from infiltration or inflow. Stormwater infrastructure

is lacking in parts of the neighborhood and, where present, is not always adequate for today's intense storms. Aside from aging subsurface infrastructure, surface elements such as roads, sidewalks and crosswalks in the area are generally older and are mostly not handicapped-friendly.

At the forum, residents and other stakeholders will have a chance to voice their concerns about infrastructure in the project area and will be able to review and comment on the engineers' field evaluation work to date. The Town of North Brookfield invites residents who have knowledge of neighborhood infrastructure issues like flood-prone roadways, deteriorated sidewalks, or low water pressure to bring their local knowledge to the forum or to submit comments by email.

Lenard Engineering's engineering team is the Town's consultant for this

project. The project is funded through a FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant to North Brookfield from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. This grant is administered on behalf of the town by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). Questions about the public forum should be directed to Ashely Barre at the Board of Selectmen's Office, at (508) 867-0200 or selectmen@northbrookfield.net or Ian McElwee at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, at (508) 459-3331 or imcelwee@cmrpc.org. Questions or comments about the findings of the engineering study to date should be directed to Corey Brodeur at Lenard Engineering, (508) 721-7600 or brodeur@lenard-eng.com.

TOYS FOR KIDS DONATIONS

Monetary Donations may be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept, Spencer Post Office, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St). If you would like to sponsor a child please contact Katie at katrinah@erakey.com or call/text 508-419-3659 OR Donna at donnaflanery@erakey.com or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.

Donations as of 11/24/2020

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First Congetional Church of Spencer	\$100
Robert & Irene Gadbois	\$25
Melvin & Cory Fish	\$100

Spencer Cultural Council extends deadline for funding proposals

SPENCER — The Spencer Cultural Council recently announced an extension of its funding proposal deadline.

The council has set a new deadline of Dec. 14 for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that sup-

port cultural activities in the community. These grants can support a wide variety of artistic projects and activities in Spencer, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools,

workshops, and lectures.

The council will give a strong preference to applicants who secure a venue before submitting their applications.

To receive an application form, or to learn more about the Local Cultural

Council Program (LCC), visit www.mass-culture.org.

For more information about the Spencer Cultural Council or the application process, contact the council at 774-479-8797.

Additionally, the Spencer Cultural Council is actively seeking new members. Volunteers meet several times a year to distribute funds in support of programs that enhance the community. Anyone interested in serving is invited to complete a volunteer application form on the town website, or you can contact the town clerk for more information.

The Spencer Cultural Council belongs to a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year.

For specific information about COVID-19 related considerations, please visit www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Anniversary Committee announces holiday lighting contest

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD — Although local residents will have to miss several favorite holiday traditions this year, members of the town's 100th Anniversary Committee have discovered a new way to brighten spirits.

As part of the 2020 Light the Town program, East Brookfield residents will have an opportunity to register their properties in a yard lighting contest. The program is a great way to show holiday spirit and also community solidarity during a challenging time, officials said.

"This activity allows for celebration of the season while maintaining physical distancing. We hope it will raise everyone's spirits," said Heather Gablaski, a member of the 100th Anniversary Committee.

One year ago, East Brookfield residents were looking forward to what was supposed to be an unforgettable year.

A full slate of programs was scheduled to celebrate the town's centennial milestone, but instead the COVID-19 pandemic made the year unforgettable for all the wrong reasons. The centennial celebration has since been moved to 2022, and countless area holiday craft fairs, festivals, and other programs were canceled this year. Even the Spencer Parade of Lights and White Christmas in West Brookfield were scrapped, leaving families desperate for ways to celebrate the season.

Recognizing the major void of holiday events this year, East Brookfield's 100th Anniversary Committee members stepped up to organize a fun holiday program.

"We are hoping that this decorating contest will help residents and businesses," Gablaski said. "We will publish the houses that are participating so people can drive around and see the decorations. Those who are participating can have fun adding to their decorations, showing off their current decorations, or even decorating for the first time."

The event is also a great way to promote area businesses that have struggled during a long, punishing 2020.

Gift cards to local businesses have been purchased by the 100th Anniversary Committee for distribution as contest prizes. There will be one grand prize winner of a \$200 gift card, plus first and second place prizes offered in the following three categories: "Traditionally Elegant," "Creative Inflatables," and "The Clark W. Griswold Award."

Judging for the contest will take place on the weekend of Dec. 19-20. Any East Brookfield resident who would like to participate in the contest must register in advance by visiting the events page at www.tinyurl.com/EB100th.

For more information about the program, or to learn more about the committee's ongoing planning efforts, send an email to EB100th@gmail.com.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a judge for the contest can send an email to the same address. To ensure fairness, judges cannot have a house entered in the contest.

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N. Brookfield Police Association holding snowblower raffle

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Winter is fast approaching, and the North Brookfield Police Association will help make snow removal a lot easier this year for one lucky resident.

The association is raffling off an Ariens snowblower worth \$1,800.

Please see any off-duty police officer to purchase your ticket, or visit the police department's Facebook page for more information.

The raffle drawing will be held on Dec. 18.

Only 300 tickets are available for the raffle. Each ticket costs \$20.



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Dogs are man's best friend. My life without my two dogs, Twig & Molly, would not be as enjoyable if I did not have them around. A daily walk with them at a local Rod & Gun club helps keep them in shape. The walks are good for this writer also, although I still am slightly overweight because of my eating habits. The dogs wake me up as soon as the light breaks. Molly is first! She quickly jumps in my bed and walk's up my stomach until her face is right over mine. One long lick on my face and I am out of bed. Twig is next although she does not jump in my bed like Molly.

Taking the dogs out to the back yard, often requires a good grip on their leashes because of the high population of rabbits in the back yard. Molly occasionally digs out a spot under the fence to go hunting alone in the woods. A quick blast on the whistle brings her back to the gate in short time. It is nice to see the rabbit population making a comeback in the valley area, but Molly needs to be made aware of the dangers lurking in the woods. The two dogs are inseparable, and remain protective of each other. Coyotes, Fishercat & Bobcat pose a real threat to domestic dogs and cats, and their populations are

increasing every year.

Every year, families plan on purchasing a dog for Christmas, and it is often the wrong time of year to do so. It is a hectic time to bring in a puppy, and often brings more work keeping the dog safe in its new environment. Maybe this year could be different because of the pandemic. Many parents are working from home, away from the stresses of everyday life, especially for the next three months or so.

A new dog in the family could be just the right move this year, as long as you can afford one, as it can become very costly if they need to be brought to a veterinarian. It is a 10-to-15-year commitment to insure a happy & healthy life to the new puppy. Be sure to select the proper breed for you and your family, and never ever purchase a puppy from a pet store. You need to insist on seeing both parents of the pup and also get references. Every pup is cute when they are young and looking at a litter of pups is sometimes overwhelming. Take your time and do your homework. Temperament of the adult dogs is extremely important. What you see is what you will get!

Choosing a dog from an animal shelter is a big risk. Not knowing where the dog came from, how it was treated, etc. needs to be carefully thought over before making a decision. There

have been many great dogs purchased at dog shelters, but it is a big gamble. They all need a second chance and adoption of a family pet or hunting dog is the way to go for some families. Good Luck!

Deer hunting opened for shotgun this past Monday under less-than-ideal conditions, with a rainstorm brewing late afternoon and Tuesday. Archers had a great season deer hunting this year and the harvest could well surpass last year's record-breaking season. Many big bucks sporting large antlers have been reported by a local processing shop, and other reports from sporting goods stores with deer in the 200-pound-plus range is not uncommon. It will be interesting to hear the final results of the archery deer harvest in the coming weeks from MFW.

Fortunately, deer hunters in the valley do not need to travel to Petersham to do some deer hunting. In my younger years, we needed to travel a bit to get a shot at a deer. There was a line of cars a couple of miles long on opening day, carrying hunters to the areas around Petersham and surrounding towns. It was a lot of fun back then even though we never brought home the venison like we do today. We are so fortunate to have such a healthy deer herd in our back yard.

A local angler, Fernando Puglesa, landed a 36-inch Northern Pike in a local river in Whitinsville this past week-



Photo Courtesy

A local angler, Fernando Puglesa, landed a 36-inch Northern Pike in a local river in Whitinsville this past weekend.

end. The fish was released back into the river to fight another, day but not before the angler took a couple of pictures. The fish did not have much girth, as this week's picture shows.

Duck hunters locally have reported on the lack of mallards this year. There are plenty of wood ducks, but the absence of mallards was a bit disappointing to many local waterfowl hunters. Goose and duck hunting closed Nov. 28, and will reopen Dec. 14. The next season will hopefully get better, as lakes and ponds freeze up. It is

a dangerous time for duck hunting for both man & dog, especially on the coast. Wind & freezing temperatures make for great waterfowl hunting, but extreme caution needs to be practiced at all times. More on this next week!

What was the organization on the Meadow Pond called? The Sea Scouts back in the '50s? Stay tuned in next week.

Stay safe, wear a mask and practice social distancing!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending.

Holiday antique and auction news

Many holiday related stories have been featured in recent antique and auction news reports. Several Christmas related antiques recently brought strong prices at auction, according to the Antiques and Arts Weekly. A "red-robed Santa sitting in the gondola under a wicker dirigible with propellers on the side and holding his bag of toys" sold for \$7,800 at auction in November. "Santa in red robe riding a white fur nodding reindeer with orange decorative harness" went for \$13,200. "Santa riding a clockwork nodding donkey" with "a feather tree in one hand and the donkey outfitted in a vibrant harness" reached \$15,600. "Santa on nodding polar bear, 29 inches high with composition feet, hands and head with a mohair beard, the bear covered in rabbit fur" brought \$36,600. Antiques



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

and the Arts reported that the Santa and polar bear seller is a member of the Golden Glow of Christmas Collectors group (goldenglow.org). A "German composition Santa on sleigh behind six reindeer, all on a wheeled platform measuring 35 inches long" sold for well above the \$1,500 estimate, according to the same Antiques and the Arts Weekly article. The auctioneer believed that two factors which contributed to strong bidding on this piece were

that there were six reindeer, instead of the typical four, and that the reindeer were in different positions, instead of staring straight ahead as is typical. The antique Santa and reindeer toy sold for \$72,000 to a buyer in the United States.

A 46-year-old Army vet and his wife made an important discovery in a drawer of their newly purchased home in South Carolina, according to Fox Business. Fox Business writes that "the two cases (they found) contained 64 coins in total, including 46 gold \$5 liberty coins and 18 Morgan silver dollars. The Liberty \$5 coins were minted between 1849 and 1907, while the Morgan silver dollar was coined between 1878 and 1904." The estimated value of the coins is \$25,000. Exemplifying the holiday spirit, the couple immediately returned them to the elderly couple who had



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Community Connection

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

They keys to a happy holiday season

It's official — the holiday season has arrived, with the first big one under our belts. Thanksgiving is the perfect segue into Christmas and Hanukkah. It's when all of the fall decorations, and the dilapidated pumpkins get tossed and the candy canes and red and whites come out. Black Friday and Cyber Monday has passed, and now it's time to put things into cruise control until the big day arrives.

When we were younger, the holidays were magical and fun for most of us, with a minimal amount of stress and an abundant amount of gifts to those fortunate enough to receive any. As we get older and have families of our own, holidays remain fun, as we pour that magic into making our own family's holidays memorable.

Despite our current situation, holiday spirits remain high. Taking a drive around town, decorations are popping up every day. The night sky serves as the perfect backdrop for flashing holiday lights. Many people have started to decorate historically early, as a way to bring some sense of normalcy and positivity to others.

It may be difficult this season; however, try to do something creative to make someone's holiday one they can remember, something they don't expect. When you take the time to essentially play Santa Claus, the joy you get back is tenfold.

As for relieving stress, don't put too many expectations onto yourself and respect your own limits. You don't have to do everything, you can delegate. As for shopping, you can find just about anything online, even from local shops making gift buying easier. If shopping isn't your thing, hand out gift cards with a handwritten letter.

Throughout the season, take in the lights and remember to take in the holiday spirit of those around you. Go for a walk in the snow and listen to how quiet everything is. Begin and end each day with something you find enjoyable. We find that watching holiday movies, eating sugar cookies, drinking hot chocolate and listening to holiday music really can be uplifting. "A Christmas Carol," while a bit creepy at times, does put things into perspective. If you haven't read the book in a while or watched the movie, now is the time.

No, things won't look as they normally do this season. With that said, people throughout history have turned lemons into lemonade. This season it's especially important to support local small businesses, many who now offer items online. Throughout this season, let's all focus on lifting each other up as this pandemic eventually will take its place in history.

In the words of Hamilton Wright Mabie, "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

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What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

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ANTIQUES
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sold them the house. KSTP TV reported that the Santa Claus and Rudolph figures from the 1964 "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" TV special recently sold at auction. Prior to the auction, the New York Times reported that the figures were "constructed of wood, felted wool, leather and lead armature" and

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A big thank you from the Spencer Housing Authority

To the Editor:
Due to the generosity of the Spencer Exchange Club, Tri-Valley Elder Services & Table Talk Pies, and the help of the Spencer Housing Staff we delivered meals to the elderly/handicap residents at The Spencer Housing Authority on Tuesday Nov. 24. The Exchange Club, Donna Farmer (Donald Berthiaume's office) and Staff assisted

in preparing and delivering the meals. During these uncertain times these acts of kindness are what Thanksgiving is all about.
Respectively,

CHARLENE KAISER -PHM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SPENCER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Doing more harm than good

To the Editor:
Watching the faux five, the righteous four go at it, ad nauseum, is a lesson in good, great syntax, awesome similes, metaphors and a Rodeo Drive of glistering raw emotion on display.

So what if an election was stolen, this is America and high crimes and misdemeanors are American apple pie. The movers and shakers, the deep state, by my reasoning, may have pulled levers to unseat Trump for the good of the country; dictators, once their purpose is served, are removed - ask Julius Caesar.

Trump did very well in many areas, Biden will build on those and rebuild what he tried to tear down. If he can't handle the monstrous task of righting this country, he will be removed for the good of the country, too.

Trump needed to go, for many noble reasons, that I fear are way over the heads of you oblivious patriots. So please, stop the sanctimonious rhetoric; stop trying to make Americans hate each other.

As far as Covid goes, I can clearly see, but do not condone, why a large percentage, especially the 40 and under crowd, is snubbing its nose at the pandemic. For one thing they, like myself, most likely do not know anyone who died, see no tangible evidence that justifies losing a job, home or apartment. They are aware that when the fiscal piano drops, from a great height onto our collective heads, every common citizen could sluice down the money drain,

post haste. The logic they are using is simple, if I'm not sick, let me work, if I love grandma, I will try to take every precaution to protect her - and her price: she will remain a prisoner in her own home until the all clear is sounded. As far as the hysterical projected amount of deaths that one writer continually lasers into our very sore eyes, let us reason like a 21st century median age citizen. If three million of us (very worst case scenario) or 1 percent (me) will be culled, that leaves about 347 million left. Not a big deal on a planet with more than seven billion.

That's how many Americans face reality. That's who we are - live free or die.

The bottom line in all this musing is: do the right thing, mask and distance. To those too afraid of the unknown, stay home and don't go out until we get a vaccine. To the government: let those Covid free or recovered go back to work so we may patronize the public square for the benefit of all.

And to the glib nine, darkening the opinion pages month after month with their vapid drivel, there are many who think it would be so beneficial, if, in the words of a once popular pseudo-bigot, you would all just, "Stifle." You are doing much more harm than you realize.

JAMES SPAULDING
BROOKFIELD

The government is instituted of God

To the Editor:
This is a very serious message from God to us today from Romans 13. God is in control and God commands us today to be obedient to the government according to God's will, word, values [strong spiritual lifestyle, proper conduct, blameless, beyond reproach, living an honorable quality of life, highly esteemed, respected] [Standards [obedient living God's established rules, laws that Jesus taught and modeled for us to follow] Principals [God's highest character, proper conduct and obedience, not defiant or disrespectful of others and their property].

Why does God expect so much of us? God is the creator of the universe, the world, all creation, all life. God is Omniscient: universal, knowledge of all things, past, present, future, God is unbounded, infinite, God is unable to forget, God knows the beginning from the end.

God is Omnipotence: unlimited power, all powerful, almighty power, infinite power.

God is Omnipresence: universal presence, God is capable of existing everywhere at the same time.

God is the Alpha and Omega, the first the beginning and the end, the last. God is eternal.

God's love is evident yesteryear and never ending today making His appeal to us through Romans 13, it is our responsibility to work out our salvation [Philippians 2: 12] and maintain a working relationship with the governing authorities according to God's Word. [Romans 13]

What is obedience to God? It to submit in Romans 13, God is not suggesting He is commanding us, teaching that everyone "must" submit himself or herself to the governing authority, "why?" because God, Jesus has established the governing authority and it is God's will that we respect and obey and if we do not we will be guilty of rebelling against God.

God's commands are for everyone, even more Christians who have submitted to Jesus.

The civil government, all human race, life, we all stand accountable before God, Jesus laws, God has instituted, ordained the governing powers, our Constitution to be the agents of justice to restrain evil and to punish the wrongdoers and to protect the good in our society. [Romans 13: 3-4] However, if the governing officials tell us to do something that is contrary to God's Word, moral law, we are not obligated to respect it, our responsibility is to obey God's will, standards and principals, our 1st responsibility is to obey God's Word.

It is the responsibility of the people, especially Christians, to elect governing officials, to elect people with high moral principles, standards to serve our Country, states. God instituted and ordained the government and it is our responsibility to maintain God's institution, "and" if we become negligent, irresponsible we will experience the consequences of God's discipline and we may be witnessing God's discipline today with the lawlessness and rioting while we are anticipating a change of presidential command.

What will be the outcome of this election? A Republic Democracy or a Socialist Democracy. My prayer is; God's will be done!

There appears to be real live evidence of socialism when you witness the attacks of democratic paid rioters attacking peaceful Trump supporters in Washington. God have mercy on them and on us and God restore this country [2 Chronicle 7: 14] and it all starts with respect for God's moral laws, and, appointing governing authorities that respect God's principles, values and standards Romans 13.

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Managing your retirement plan under a new employer

Your employer-sponsored retirement plan is a valuable asset. But sometimes things happen that can affect the status of your plan. So, for example, if you work for a hospital that changes ownership, and you have been participating in a 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) retirement plan, what should you do with it now?

Basically, you have four options:
Cash out your plan. You can simply cash out your plan and take the money, but you'll have to pay taxes on it, and possibly penalties as well. So, unless you really need the funds and you have no other alternative, you may want to avoid liquidating your account.

Roll your account into your new employer's plan. If it's allowed, you can roll over your old 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan. Before making this move, you'll want to look at the new plan's investment options (which should be numerous) and fees (which should be low). If you move the money directly to the new plan, you won't be taxed at the time of the transfer, and your funds can continue to grow tax-deferred.

Leave your plan with your old employer. If your account balance is above a certain level, you may be able to leave your plan with your old employer's plan administrator. You won't be able to contribute any more money to the plan, but if you like the investment options you've chosen, keeping the money in your old plan might be a viable choice.

Move your account into a traditional IRA. One possible advantage to moving your 403(b), 457(b) or 401(k) into a traditional IRA is you'll open up a world of new investment options, because you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of vehicle, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and exchange-traded funds. And if you already have a traditional IRA, you can combine the new funds with the old ones, making it easier to track your holdings. As is the case with leaving your money in your old employer's plan or transferring it to a new plan, you'll continue to benefit from tax-deferred growth. Keep in mind, though, that IRAs have costs, too, possibly including transaction costs to buy or sell new investments. (One more thing to keep in mind: When you want to move a retirement plan to an IRA, you may want to make a direct rollover, so the old plan's administrator moves the money directly into the IRA, allowing you to avoid immediate taxes. If you were to make an indirect rollover, you'd get the money yourself, but your old employer would have to deduct 20 percent for federal taxes, and you'd have to deposit the entire balance, including the withholding, into your IRA within 60 days.)

Which of these choices is best for you? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. You'll want to consider all the options and possibly consult with your tax advisor and financial professional. But do all you can to protect your retirement plan - you've worked hard to build it, and you'll need to rely on it to help you pay for your years as a retiree.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS



DON'T MISS A THING!

cost around \$5,000 each to make in 1964. The two figures were expected to sell for between \$150,000 and \$250,000, according to the New York Times article. KSTP reported that "the seller was Peter Lutrario, 65, of New York, who told The Associated Press before the auction that he thought he would never part with the dolls but wanted to be able to take care of his children and grandchildren with the money." The undisclosed buyer paid

\$368,000, well above the estimates. The Lutrario family stockings will certainly be stuffed this Christmas.

We are cataloging die-cast toys for an online auction that will end in early 2021. This will be the first of multiple toy auctions. Later auctions will feature rare antique toys from the 19th and 20th centuries. We will also be auctioning hundreds of paintings from the estate of Fay Moore. Moore is well known for her horse racing

and other equestrian paintings. Additional auctions are also being planned. Please sign up for email updates on our website or follow us on Facebook for more information.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's return to normalcy, decency, and School re-opening rule of law

To the Editor:

It has been weeks since the election, and the race has been called. Most of the yard signs are down, and yet the president is still casting doubts on the election to the point that a reporter had to ask the president if he would actually leave the White House if the Electoral College confirms Biden was the election. He said of course he would but then followed it up with a tweet that said, "Biden can only enter the White House as president if he can prove that his ridiculous '80,000,000 votes' were not fraudulently or illegally obtained. Interestingly, the recount the Trump campaign paid for in Milwaukee actually increased Biden's lead slightly. The President is continuing to call the

election a fraud because he is playing to the part of his base, who like him, cannot accept the idea of defeat, no matter what, facts be damned. Donald Trump will no longer be president at noon on Jan. 20 and Joe Biden will be president and that is true whether Joe Biden gets to physically enter the White House or not, whether Trump literally burns the White House down or not. The physical building does not make someone president, the people of the United States choose the president, and the people of the United States were clear in choosing Joe Biden.

Trump has had a couple of weeks to do his legal challenges and answer any

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A10**

Trump 45: A Man of Action

To the Editor:

I have been a registered Democrat for my entire voting life. In fact, I still am. There's a reason for this. Massachusetts has been basically a one-party state. If you want to have any voice in local politics, you had the vote in the Democratic primary. The unions and government employee control of their workers has made this state this way.

Four years ago, the powers that run both parties tried to push Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush on us. Along came Trump. He wasn't beholden to any party and he crashed his way thru the Republican Party. Trump won because the average American was sick of the lies and broken promises of the party's candidates. He came along and said it straight. The average American understands that and respects it. For four years, he has done just that.

Look at his accomplishments:

Best economy with lowest unemployment before the Covid.

Peace in the Middle East.

The complete destruction of the ISIS Caliphate

Made NATO pay their full share of their commitments.

Renegotiated trade pacts with Mexico and Canada that are fair to America.

Brought terrorist countries like Iran and North Korea under control.

Imposed Tariffs on China to force them to fair trade.

These alone would be enough. He had to do all these while battling a hostile Democratic Congress, hostile news media, and global elitist controlling the large tech companies. But his greatest achievement was his battle with the China Plague. He was a wartime pres-

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A10**

Corona was sent to us by God

To the Editor:

God is calling us and he is testing us. In November 2020, we had the most important election of our lifetimes – whether to reelect a Godly agenda through Donald Trump as God's prophet and conduit or whether to usher in blasphemy. We are a Christian nation, we need Christian judges who push God's agenda, we need a constitutional amendment establishing Christianity as our official state religion, English as our official language, and criminal penalties for blasphemy.

In this election, we had a choice between continuing to make America Great Again and a Godless Communist state where the government takes away our freedom, our guns, closes our churches, prohibits our bibles from

schools, takes our jobs away in the name of a virus, re-imposes crushing taxes, and allows men to use women's bathrooms against God's will and natural order. The choice couldn't have been clearer, and President Trump was cruising towards a landslide re-election never before seen in this country.

God commissioned us to go to the polls and vote for President Trump and 74 million of us, a record for an incumbent president, answered God's call. We understand other people by talking to our friends, family, neighbors, and fellow parishioners. I don't associate with anybody who voted for Biden. Somehow, the Godless and borderline Satanic Democrat cult filled out

Turn To **DUBOIS** page **A12**

Riot season! Looting season!

To The Editor:

As champagne corks flew, the left celebrated the, not yet certified, Biden 'victory,' many of those jubilant citizens, sans masks, tugging from the same bottle of bubbly, Chirona Virus be damned. Along with the shouts of joy for a candidate that will try to rule us like serfs (an odd thing to cheer about, in my own humble opinion), an almost audible sigh of relief came from the business owners that, in anticipation of the Burning, Looting, and Mayhem crowd likely to be triggered by a decisive Trump Victory, had boarded up their restaurants and shops. It was as if the storm clouds had parted and sunshine blazed through. No longer did they need to worry about those peaceful Antifa and BLM 'protesters' destroying yet another block, leaving ashes in their wake. Let's not continue to try and fool ourselves into believing that those who are terrorizing

cities and sucker punching people are protesters. They are thugs, thieves, and rioters. The acts of violence are only rivaled by the wanton destruction of public and private property. And for what? Because they believe their side and their candidate are far superior to that of their opposition? I would be willing to bet that most of these walking definitions of felonies and misdemeanors have never stepped foot in a voting booth. I also doubt that they even give politics a second thought as they throw bricks through windows, commit assault and battery, plunder businesses, and then burn the block down.

While we are on the subject of these Morons of Mass Destruction, who have caused billions of dollars in riot losses and have sent a thousands of civilians and police to the hospital, have any of the Imaginary Intellectuals of the Spencer

Turn To **HERHOLZ** page **A13**

At long last, liberals, have you no decency?

To the Editor:

It was in 1954, I believe, when the entire country was absorbed in watching the Army-McCarthy Senate Hearings regarding allegations of communist infiltration of positions of power and influence in various operations of the federal government as well as in Hollywood and academia. The bête noire of left wing American politics at the time, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wisc. (as a 12 year old, I thought he was right then, and still do, but that's another topic for another letter) was eventually summarily dispatched by the white-shoe, Boston patrician lawyer Joseph Welch when he cried out in some say feigned-anguish, "Senator... you have done enough...have you no sense of decency?!"

The dramatic, cri de coeur question, in all its histrionic delivery, brought down the curtain on "Tail-gunner Joe's" well-intentioned but poorly executed campaign to root out real enemies of the American people and the system under which they lived. The old WWII Marine died fairly young at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, but the liberals will not let his memory be interred along with his body. Every time they need a whipping boy to try to impute

guilt by association to the pro-American, anti-collectivist actions and positions of the right, they drag out poor old Joe to beat him up again.

I'm no Brahmin barrister, but I like Welch's question--the classic "Have you stopped beating your wife?" query--which I now put to you liberals in the area, the ones still clinging to your "Hate has no home here" sense of-fantastically hypocritical-moral superiority.

Let's start with, what part of free and fair elections do you not understand? As you who intone the word "democracy" as if it were one of the Seven Sacraments, is your worship of democracy (even as you consistently misconstrue its meaning) so embraced to the point you are willing to turn a blind eye to, if not wholeheartedly endorse, the lying, cheating, and bribing leading to the grand theft on a massive scale of an election in order to regain your grasp of power from a candidate who, by any honest analysis of that election, won it while playing punctiliously by the rules? Apparently, it is.

To believe this barely functioning, unlikeable, crooked, political hack--this

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A18**

To the Editor:

The situation with schools closing, re-opening, and re-closing would be funny to watch if there weren't so many victims. Schools have become ground-zero for various culture wars and political fights that have little to do with schools with parents and students have become pawns for a game of chess between the unions, the Democrats, the Republicans.

Shortening the school year by two weeks was a handout to the teachers' unions, and robbed our children of 5 percent of their education this year. Even worse, those cancelled two weeks in September had exceptionally low virus numbers. The concept of starting remote and phasing students in, which was adopted by the Spencer-East Brookfield School District was and is simply stupid.

All is retained which has not been surrendered

To the Editor:

As much as some people would like to believe that any pandemic response measure or mitigation is unconstitutional it is important to consider both what the constitution explicitly says and what the case law says. We must avoid the trap of labeling anything with which we disagree as "unconstitutional." We are a nation of laws, not of men, and not of whims.

First and foremost, the Constitution does not address pandemics. The 10th Amendment, however, states "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." As was stated in *United States v. Darby Lumber Co.* in 1941, "The amendment states but a truism that all is retained which has not been surren-

The lowest COVID numbers of the school year occurred early and anybody could have predicted that COVID would get worse as the weather got colder and days got shorter. All respiratory viruses get worse. Furthermore, the use of fresh outdoor air becomes less feasible as it gets colder. In late August class could have started under circus tents outdoors. We even could have fitted all the classroom windows with fans blowing out through October to create positive pressure.

Low and behold, the virus numbers have been worsening steadily since the originally scheduled start date. Somewhat surprisingly the kids are actually being phased in, hybrid even though each week that passes the COVID risk

Turn To **KASPI** page **A10**

dered. There is nothing in the history of its adoption to suggest that it was more than declaratory of the relationship between the national and state governments as it had been established by the Constitution before the amendment or that its purpose was other than to allay fears that the new national government might seek to exercise powers not granted, and that the states might not be able to exercise fully their reserved powers."

In simpler terms, the federal government's powers are only those which are outlined in the Constitution. The powers of the states are infinite unless specifically prohibited by the Constitution. The United States' response to COVID-19 has certainly been less than stellar and much poorer than our peer

Turn To **MILLER** page **A12**

Leftists vs. rightists

To the Editor:

The editorial section of this newspaper is always interesting, and this [past] week did not disappoint! It is always fun to see the Facebook of yesteryear with a multi-week turnaround on responses.

Mr. McRae seems obsessed with a number of writers he has promised on several occasions not to read, respond to, or otherwise engage with...only to break that promise. Mr. McRae disagrees with these folks and seemingly every issue, so if their talking points and views are "easily rebutted," one would think that he would engage and rebut them. We read the opinion pages not only to affirm our own opinions but to also understand the opinions of others and possibly think about things from an angle we hadn't previously thought

of. If the New Leader were being "infected" with "easily rebutted rehashed N.Y. Times talking points" I would think it would be important for a Rightist and self-proclaimed patriot to actually rebut and set the record straight rather than boycott. Another possible explanation is that the views expressed are not so easy to rebut. It's hard for me to say, I get my news from "The Daily Show," "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," and my Facebook feed.

The reaction of boycott, then pleading with the newspaper to censor, then occasionally blowing up over the inability to harass and personalize attacks should be illuminating.

On the topic of "Leftists," it made

Turn To **TAYLOR** page **A13**

America is slipping through our fingers

To the Editor:

America is in a precarious moment where our country is being stolen in slow-motion by the treasonous and traitorous DemocRAT swamp-dwellers.

The Democrat party started their fear campaign around the Virus from Wuhan (SARS-CoV-2) as a last-ditch effort to topple the legitimate government of the United States, Donald Trump. They blamed our President with the deaths of old people who were going to die anyway, obese and diabetics who created their own health risks, and the unlucky few who could have died from anything but got their out-of-touch liberal over-educated friends to fraudulently list "COVID-19." When they realized that the people still backed President Trump and he had lost no support over the PLANdemic, they went to their hail-Mary plan of stealing the election. They used their phony made-up deaths and

fabricated risks to contrive a universal mail-in voting which is rife with fraud. This is not your father's secure military absentee voting - universal mail-in voting sends blank ballots to all the dead people and illegals for Democrat operatives to fill out.

This election is in the process of being stolen. We know this. Remember when we all went to bed on Nov. 4 and Trump was cruising to victory? Does anybody truly believe that giant truckloads of ballots in Milwaukee, Detroit, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Tucson all happened to find truckloads full of ballots, more than 90 percent for Biden, at 3 a.m.? With our country divided, does anybody believe these big cities actually all voted for Sleepy Joe by such outrageous margins? Why exactly do we let those cities choose our President, anyway? Those cities are totally corrupt, and the people living

Turn To **GRAHAM** page **A15**

Condescending reading endurance test

To the Editor:

Every week, I think I'll have a chance to focus on me and my brilliance. I have some ideas on a progressive tax policy with the first few brackets being negative but each week it seems that there is just new and interesting craziness which attracts my attention.

Mr. McRae really outdid himself this week. It is always interesting when he earns an "editor's note" at the end of his screed, but last week he earned two! I am very thankful the New Leader seems to have no limit to what it will publish – the right-wing crackpots make the case against themselves so well. I had never noticed a particular pattern with which letters got "top billing" and had assumed the New Leader changed it up on purpose. My purpose is to inform and argue my points to those interested enough to read my letters, not to tire readers out in some sort of persistence hunting strategy so that they will be too bleary-eyed to read the conservative screeds. Now that I know it is first-come, first-served basis, I am torn – part of me wants to make this a race to get my letter in first and the other part of me wants to cede top-billing to the craziest venom from my ideological opponents. I really think you guys' ability to repel the undecided is greater than my ability to attract.

First of all, this has to be the 10th time McRae has vowed not to read my letters and those from others and at least the third time McRae has broken his pledge not to respond because "a friend" told him about the content. While I like to think my content is as original as it can be for someone who consumes news from a number of sources, it seems as though our several conservative authors are re-hashing talking points from Breitbart and Rush Limbaugh. Interestingly, Fox News has recently fallen out of favor for them since Fox accepted the reality of the 2020 election while Donald Trump still has not and may never.

To expand on the "fight" terminology, Mr. McRae's most recent letter doesn't know what form the fight will take if 75 million people "conclude" (I want to know how...) that the election was stolen from them? He mentions that the left can't control 75 million rambunctious people and to that point, he is correct. Democracy depends on the consent of the losers. If the losers can't accept defeat we are all in trouble. Not since the Civil War did we have a serious bout of the losing side of an election not accepting it. McRae "prays things don't go down the wrong

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

RSENBURG

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questions that might be out there about fraud. We've looked into it, the vast majority of the president's claims have been laughed out of court, and as for his remaining claims nothing is going to pan out for him. If his claims are accepted Biden still wins. Only two things could lead to a second Trump term - Trump somehow convinces the Supreme Court to do a re-vote or Trump ends democracy in the United States. It is time for President Trump to set an example for his base, for America, and for the rest of the world and concede. President Trump has a responsibility to shepherd the nation for the next two months and provide an orderly transition of power to his successor. It isn't just about leaving the White House. President Trump needs to acknowledge publicly that he lost and it's over.

Biden has not really engaged on this talk of fraud. We have a stark contrast - on the one hand we have an incumbent outgoing president who since the election has given up doing the actual job of being president while lashing out on Twitter. President-elect Biden on the other hand, is ignoring the charade coming out of the White House, ignoring the taunts, and ignoring the traps Trump thinks he is laying for Biden. Joe Biden is reminding the country of what it's like to actually have a President of the United States who puts the care, comfort, and concerns of the citizens ahead

KASPI

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increases. This is so backwards... The kids should have all been in school 5 days in August, September, and October. According to health experts, Worcester County crossed the line at which a general stay-at-home order should be considered around Nov. 8. Yet, we are sending High School kids back into the school buildings 4 out of 10 days starting in November? It was too dangerous when the virus numbers are low, but now the schools have been closed for too long so we stop caring?

Part of me wants to say, "This is great and well deserved for the union." They robbed our kids of in-person education for months while it was safe and overplayed their hand such that they can't seem to stop in-person learning now that it is actually becoming dangerous. The other part of me doesn't want to see death, disease, and suffering of people for simply listening to their union reps and losing the bet.

We now know that children are less likely to contract and spread COVID than adults. We also know that when kids get it, it is mild enough not to be a concern. We now know that High School kids transmit the disease similar to adults, but they don't get terribly ill themselves and they can effectively fight it off. Another interesting factoid is that several studies are now coming out that show that when elementary kids are in-person it lowers community spread of COVID. Children in in-person programs have been found in several states to test positive for COVID at half the rate of their remote-learning peers. This is likely because remote-learning kids get thrown into informal childcare which does not enforce social distancing and

of his own needs, wants, and objectives. By moving forward, naming his cabinet, and showing what the incoming Biden administration will look like, and calming assuming power provides contrast to the freak-show we've had the last four years and helps explain why 80 million Americans chose President-elect Biden.

President Trump has been doing what many outgoing presidents, especially those who know they are outgoing do - considering pardons. The least surprising pardon of all why to General Michael Flynn - the only member of Trump's cabinet to have been convicted of felonies not once, but twice. Flynn even pled guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Kremlin.

The president has continued undermining the entire election process and the very concept of holding elections and honoring their results. The longer the president undermines the process the harder it will be for Biden to govern. It is the responsibility of Republicans across the country from the voters with MAGA flags in their front yards to elected officials on Capital Hill to rise up against things that are anti-constitutional, anti-democratic, and speak out loudly and clearly against the ongoing undermining of the rule of law. The President, for the sake of everyone and the sake of our system, needs to signal to the world that the United States has honest elections and a peaceful and orderly transfer of power.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

masks as well as structured schools. The kids then go home at night and spread it to their respective families who then spread it elsewhere in the community.

Departing from my initial thought to High School teachers of "you reap what you sow" it seems that the best thing for our community at this point would be to have 100 percent of K-6 in-person 5 days/wk so that parents can work, the kids can learn, and we can limit community spread from informal childcare. Grades 7-12 should be 100% remote because they actually can get and spread COVID, they are better suited to remote learning, and they don't require childcare. We can then use our school buildings to appropriately space out the K-6 students. Knox Trail can use the entire building for 5th & 6th. Grades 3 and 4 can use Prouty. As for staffing all of these half-filled classrooms, how many furloughed teacher's aids do we have? Lunch ladies? Front office staff? Why can't we use these other staff members as teachers' aids?

We have seen disturbing statements of national values during this pandemic. We hear from highly distinguished experts while dumb people we went to High School with say otherwise on Facebook and we're not sure who to believe? We have 4% of the world's population and 20% of the deaths while we ignore the experts, conclude it was inevitable, and journalists from overseas report on the situation in the US with bewilderment. We have grown numb to the deaths and 2,000 a day isn't even news anymore. In this country, professional sports leagues have better access to regular testing than healthcare workers. In this country we consider keeping bars and gyms open more important than schools.

TANYA KASPI
SPENCER

ROBBILARD

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ident. Unfortunately, the enemy had a fifth column, the fake news of CNN and CNBC. They were paid by China to thwart our efforts. They claimed he "Had no plan". But quite the contrary. His plan was to eliminate the virus. President Trump's wartime cabinet kept the country going while mobilizing the greatest achievement every achieved in a war on disease. He promised a vaccine by November. Promise made and promise kept. The fake news brought out experts to refute him. The entrenched political hacks fought his efforts tooth and nail. But Trump knows what a business mentality can do. If you're in the way, your fired. If you aren't full in, your pushed aside. He doesn't play the political favoritism game of the swamp. Your either an earner or gone. We have seen countless numbers of these hacks pushed aside and only to be given time on CNN to trash the president. It's clear to everyone now that this vaccine was ready before the election. But it was being held back by those who want Trump removed. Even now they are going to try to hold it back. They do not want Trump to get the praise he deserves. If Trump had his way, those in nursing homes would be getting it now. Death rates would be down 50 percent. The Democrats will draw it out until Biden gets in to try to steal Trump's magnificent achievement. After all that's all there good at, stealing.

Thank God we had elected Trump. Imagine a political hack like Hillary in there. Or worse mumbling, bumbling Joe Biden. (He just broke his leg falling over his dog. What a loser!) The Pandemic under one of them would

be an America in shutdown mode for years, with no prospect of a vaccine. Our wealth and power would have been drained. China would rise to be the world's superpower. Wasn't going to happen under Trump. Trump was a man for the time, a man of action. He is like another Man of Action. Many years ago, in December of 1944 it was the great General George Patton who broke thru to Bastogne and ended the Battle of the Bulge. My grandfather was there and received the bronze star and purple heart. He was proud to serve under Patton. A man of action that fought hard and won. Till his dying days he loved Patton. This December it is going to be our great president Donald Trump who will deliver the vaccine that ends the China plague. America will once again be the country that saved the world from the greatest threat, China and its plague. History will show him to be one of our greatest presidents with the many of the greatest accomplishments ever achieved. In doing so he has revitalized the Republican Party. It has been transformed by Trump from a party run by rich business tycoons to one that is now supported by average hard-working Americans like farmers, oil field workers, truck drivers, and factory workers. People that expect a good pay for a hard worked day. It will have leaders from every race fighting for those that want a chance to be free and prosper without government intrusion. To these Americans the 45th president has earned their respect and admiration. He will live in their hearts as the man who stopped the China Covid plague and be loved for it. Trump 45, the Man of Action.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

MASCOT

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of indigenous peoples and reduce entire cultures into a generic symbol. It is my sincere belief that it is our job as white people in this country to grapple with the history of racism without requiring indigenous people or people of color to do the extra work of explaining problems repeatedly to us."

Hasenus said there were never any educational conversations about negative stereotypes or Native American history while she was in school. She and the other presenters believe the process of change is long overdue, and they thanked the school community for being receptive to the discussion.

"We understand that some people are attached to their mascots because it's part of their memory, but this has to stop," Gray said.

Added Shawna Newcomb, a Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe member who teaches at Hanover Middle School, "Native Americans have a higher suicide rate than any other race in this country. Native American males, in high school, have an eight times higher suicide rate than any other [racial category]. I'm not saying that mascots are the reason for that, but it certainly does not help

the case."

Supporters of the current nickname and logo have frequently mentioned the costs associated with adopting a new mascot. The new name and logo would need to be applied throughout the building, as well as on equipment and apparel. Other supporters believe the preservation of school history should take precedence, and that a new nickname would sever the link between past and future students.

Multiple residents and alumni members have submitted written comments to the School Committee supporting both sides of the controversy.

The committee plans to vote on the issue during its Dec. 21 meeting. Over the next few weeks, committee members will review a variety of materials ahead of the vote, including student and staff surveys, written comments from the public, and further research on the issue.

"The School Committee is listening to all stakeholders and is gathering all the relevant information to carefully consider all aspects of this issue before voting," said North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Richard Lind. "I am confident, based on their thoughtful approach and diligence, that the committee will lead North Brookfield Public Schools in the right direction."

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MILLER
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nations, and much of that comes from the fact that constitutionally we require the states to pick up the baton. While federalism has served us well, it led us to 51 separate pandemic responses (50 states plus the federal government which controls all territories).

While the current situation is unprecedented in our lifetimes, it is not unprecedented in the history of the United States. Thomas Jefferson once wrote at length of the dangers of disease in cities, going so far as to call for the reorganization of American cities to lower disease risk. George and Martha Washington spent the summers of 1793 and 1794 in away from the capital to avoid yellow fever outbreaks. Eight of the 13 original colonies adopted laws imposing harsh penalties, including death without clergy, on people who violated quarantines. The founders clearly were very concerned about pandemics. Congress even passed a "quarantine and health law act" in 1799.

Regulating health falls under the government's "police power." It is quite curious that those modern "patriots" who seem to fall over themselves with

love and support for law enforcement quite often advocate for violating pandemic related lawful orders. Under the American constitutional system, general police power resides with the states. Alexander Hamilton referred to the "domestic police of a state" in the Federalist papers in the context of "administration of the general government." In *Gibbons v. Ogden* in 1824, the Supreme Court upheld police power, and the power to enforce quarantines, as residual power predated the Constitution that has been retained by the states.

Even after the 14th Amendment established the concept of individual rights against states, the Supreme Court continued to uphold state laws relating to epidemics. In 1905, the court upheld 7-2 Massachusetts' mandatory smallpox vaccination program because states "may be justified in restricting individual liberty...under the pressure of great dangers." The court further argued that mandatory immunization was not "arbitrary or oppressive" because "all civilized peoples" recognized the importance of vaccinations in eradicating disease.

The last time the United States faced a threat even remotely similar to COVID-19 was the 1918-1920 influenza pandem-

ic. There were several state level court cases affirming the states' authority to control the pandemic through draconian means however few were appealed to the Supreme Court. The court cut its sessions short during the pandemic perhaps as both a "stop the spread" campaign as well as indirectly allowing the states sovereignty over pandemic related issues.

The question of the day, however, is what if a state's pandemic response appears to violate a different, addressed, area of the constitution. This week religious organizations challenged New York Gov. Cuomo's restriction on religious gatherings to 10 people in "red zones."

We are now seeing the mark of Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell's giant gambles with the court. In a 5-4 decision, with all three of President Trump's nominees (Amy Coney Barrett included) in the majority, the court struck down New York's restriction on religious services as violating the 1st amendment's "free exercise" clause. Justice Gorsuch wrote at length about the dangers of treating religious institutions more harshly than secular ones with comparisons to liquor stores, outdoor parks, stores, etc. The Supreme Court's action was to vacate all restric-

tions on religious gatherings.

Upon deeper examination, Gov. Cuomo actually was less restrictive to religious institutions than secular ones. In the red zones secular mass gatherings were outright banned whereas houses of worship were allowed 10 people. Places such as parks and stores are fundamentally different because they are transitory and not gatherings.

The McConnell court has taken us to a dangerous place. The obvious answer for governors is to issue no special orders for religious institutions and restrict them as they would all gatherings, all in-person meetings, theaters, sporting events, etc. This will functionally shut down religious gatherings until the pandemic is under control. Once that happens, religious leaders are likely to challenge the broad and general pandemic mitigation measures and either the governors win and we have a rubric for shutting down religious gatherings or the court vacates 244 years of precedent and declares that the United States, unlike other civilized people, is prohibited from managing infectious disease.

EDITH MILLER
LEICESTER

DUBOIS
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millions and millions of fraudulent ballots that trucks mysteriously brought to be counted in the dark of night to suggest that Joe Biden received 80 million votes with enormous numbers of them filled in for only president and no other race. We have common sense. We know fraud when we see it. Those ballots were fraudulent. Any ballot that arrived by truck in the dark of night needs to be disqualified.

God is calling. God tried working through democracy to usher in greatness and then enemies of the almighty stole it. We are being called to fight. We are being called to take no prisoners. We are being called on to take our country back. There has been much said about how far we are or should be willing to go with this but let's not forget that the constitution is only 244 years old and the world is 6,000 years old.

Constitutions come and go. God is forever. If you consider that this is a fight between God and Satan, which side are you on? How hard will you fight? Will you let a silly document written by man get in the way? God is watching...

On the topic of the coronavirus, our government has no business restricting any business, any job, any religious activity, anything that interferes with our freedoms. We are being told that this is to keep us safe, but that the virus is also 99 percent survivable. By the government's own admission this is barely a problem. How many lives and livelihoods are we willing to destroy for something 99 percent of people survive? Even if man could control God's will, if 1 percent of the country dies, we would still have 327 million people remaining, and we would still have a lot of people...

At its core, the concept of man controlling God's will is just wrong. Corona was sent to us by God to cull the herd and eliminate the weak. God does this every 100 years to strengthen us. God

decides whether we live or die and it is sacrilegious to try and interfere with God's will. Corona was sent to us by God and our responsibility is to show God our strength, pray hard, appeal to God as to why we should be in the 99 percent and not the 1% and those that fail at praying will be the ones culled. The mortal world will be better off without the people who try to subvert God's will.

One percent is a very small number of people. I don't know anybody that died of this... Perhaps it is because 1 percent is too small to even care about, but perhaps it is because I only associate with God-fearing people who are being spared by this modern plague.

Make no mistake, those that claim to be trying to save lives are merely trying to destroy religious institutions and usher in Communism. Governors have been banning in-person religious gatherings in violation of the constitution which weakens faith in all parishioners and financially devastates the church-

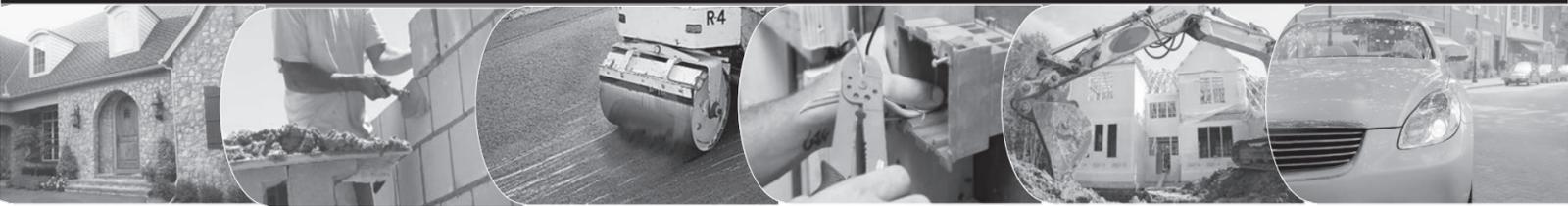
es. The governors have been calling churches non-essential while liquor stores are open - church is the only essential public place. Furthermore, the destructions of jobs and unemployment is intentional so that people go on unemployment, become dependent on the government, and support Godless communism in the future. It's a trap!

Luckily, the Supreme Court, buttressed by 3 Justices sent by God himself (Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett) have banned all limitations on religious gatherings as they violate the 1st amendment's free exercise of religion. I call on all Christians to put a sign outside their business labeling it a "Church" and open at 100% capacity.

They are trying to steal this country from God and give it to Satan. The question is, will you let them?

CHRIS DUBOIS
SPENCER

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TAYLOR

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me wonder what is a Leftist? What is a Rightist? I looked it up and a leftist is somebody with left-wing political views which are generally thought to support social equality, egalitarianism, and in opposition to social hierarchy with a concern for the disadvantaged and a belief that there are unjustified inequalities that need to be reduced or abolished. A rightist, or somebody with right-wing political views believes that social orders and hierarchies are inevitable, natural normal, or desirable. Right-wing positions are typically based on "natural order," tradition, or the result of market economics. Of course, the concept of a political right and left go back to French revolution when the right supported the monarchy and the left supported the people. I guess in 1776, the Rightists were called Loyalists and Leftists were called Patriots? Is being a Leftist really so bad?

I didn't think that the state of discourse in this country could get any worse but it has sunk to new atrocious lows. It is simply astounding to read all of the letters asserting voter fraud, and yet nothing is referenced to back it up. These letters convey that simply because some crazy idea that they or Trump has asserted is not covered by the "mainstream media" then the conspiracy theory must be

true. By this logic, anything that Donald Trump asserts must be true because if the media was part of the conspiracy to steal this country, calling Trump's assertions false, baseless, without evidence, etc. is EXACTLY what they would say... My question for the election conspiracy theorists among us – what would convince you that the election was free, fair, and accurate? What could be different for you to believe that Joe Biden won, fair and square?

Never before in my lifetime have the results of an American election been called into question before it even happened. The comparisons to Democrats being unhappy about the 2016 election are absurd and its apples and oranges. In 2016 nobody claimed that ballot boxes were stuffed, votes were changed, or ballots were destroyed. The accusation was that Russia conspired to engage in a disinformation campaign to influence the body politic of this country and that members of the Trump campaign were co-conspirators leaving open the question of whether Donald Trump himself was a foreign agent and co-conspirator or simply the unwitting beneficiary. Hillary supporters believed that 63 million American citizens filled in the bubble next to "Trump" in 2016. In 2020 80 million Americans filled in the bubble next to "Biden" and it's sad we can't all agree on that.

Some have said that the odd results

of Biden winning the presidency while Republicans did well otherwise are evidence of rigging. I guarantee you, if anybody were so inclined to steal the election for Biden, they would have stolen the Senate, the House, the state legislatures, and the governors. The explanation is that Biden didn't win as much as Trump lost. People broke with their voting patterns to remove Donald Trump from office. Our record turnout was because so many people felt Trump needed to go. The unusual number of ballots filled in for Biden but no other races is because people who don't normally vote and don't have opinions of the other races felt it important to vote against Donald Trump.

The abandonment of Fox News by the Trump faithful is even more interesting. I thought that people would believe whatever Fox told them to, it seems as though Fox can't even control the monster they've created in Donald Trump.

The most hilarious piece of election news this weekend is that the recounts in Wisconsin that the Trump campaign paid \$3 million for ultimately left Biden with 87 more votes. Biden initially won Wisconsin by 20,521 votes but after Trump's recount his victory was affirmed at 20,608.

Many point out little problems here and mistakes there as evidence of a larger conspiracy. Over 155 million ballots were cast. It is silly to think that there would be no mistakes. If perfection is the

standard, news flash: that standard will never be met and you guys will never be satisfied with any election regardless of who wins. The harder we look the more mistakes we will find but we won't find enough to flip the results. Trump lost. By a lot.

It seems as though Trump has adopted the "DQIP Plan" (Disgruntled-Quit-in-Place). He doesn't seem to be interested in his policies of earlier in the year such as the TikTok ban. As important as Trump thought making ByteDance sell TikTok to an American company was for national security, he has ghosted them. TikTok hasn't heard from the government since September. They have been submitting plans for a deal for approval and getting no response. Their deadline to strike a deal has come and gone and they aren't banned. Trump seems to have lost interest. Instead, the Trump administration's priority at the moment seems to be boxing the Biden administration in from a policy perspective and salting the earth. Trump is apparently considering a 2024 run for President so I suppose his best chance at winning is tying Biden's hands and feet behind his back as much as possible.

The current state of discourse in this country is just sad.

RICHARD TAYLOR
SPENCER

HERHOLZ

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New Leader disavowed the violence and destruction caused by Antifa and BLM? Har, Rosenberg, Miller, Cohen, Bagg, Washington, Kaspi? Anyone? Some of those named have made claims to have driven past Trump supporters standing on the side of the road and, too frightened to stop and engage in anything close to a spirited debate, they decide it is safer to dedicate four or five paragraphs to denigrate these civics-conscious patriots. While they claim to have seen us, we certainly have never seen them.

If anyone who has attended the Trump Standouts had the occasion of meeting any of the seven listed above, please let either myself or John McRae know. One of the 7 seems gravely concerned with Mr. McRae's use of the term, "Fight on!" worried that it is a 'veiled' call to arms, as if Trump Supporters are going to 'take it to the streets' in violent outbursts since the left cheated the President out of his second term. No need to worry, Mr. Faux-Yarok, the only bad actors are the ones being funded by the Democrat Party. By the way, do you and Rosenberg coordinate your submissions together? There are so many similarities between your letters that all I need to do is read one of them and I already have a synopsis of the other. It's almost as if these let-

ters are produced from the same mind! But, I digress.

Some Democrats may have, through gritted teeth, disavowed the actions of these BLM and Antifa thugs. However, there are others who, unapologetically, welcome their acts of hostility. The most glaring and frightening example being Mrs. Kamala Harris. During her remote appearance on "The Late Show with Steven Colbert" she said, "These nationwide protests are a movement. They're not going to be stopped. They shouldn't stop." In another interview, pandering to the NAACP, she praised BLM and their 'peaceful protests'. And in yet another display of her unabashed ability to appeal to the lowest common denominator of the Democrat base, she vowed to 'stand with the protesters' in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Kamala Harris might very well be but ONE heartbeat away from the presidency. The horror! The horror! IF Biden becomes our President, then I estimate there is a 99.97 percent chance that Mrs. Harris will be taking over, most likely very early into the first term. If you haven't noticed, Joe Biden is not well. Besides the wandering around on stage, mistaking his sister for his wife, the looks of confusion, harrowing stories of his encounters with Corn Pop the bad dude, kids rubbing his hairy legs in the pool, have you actually listened to a complete speech of his? Even with every advantage afforded to him; teleprompt-

er, ear piece, marionette strings, substituting Biden with Jeff Durham and his puppet, Walter, Joe can't complete a sentence without losing his place. When he stumbles through another sentence it's not because he is at a loss for words, it is because he has LOST the words! I've seen less confused Japanese tourists in the middle of Time Square looking for Central Park. Just like with every other resource, the Democrats will bleed it dry and then discard the hollowed remains. Biden used to be one of those benefitting from this practice. Now, he is the victim of it.

What will be in store for this country in the next few weeks? Only God knows. What I hope will happen and what He has planned could be at opposite ends of the spectrum. While I do not trust what the Democrats have planned, should Joe Biden be allowed to keep his plundered spoils, I do trust in God's plan and can rest assured that He has my best interests.

This Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. until high noon, we will be holding a Stop the Steal/Support President Trump Rally in the center of Oxford. It may be getting a bit nippy out there, but that won't compare to the warmth you'll receive from the red-hot liberals, angry that they 'won'!

MATHEW HERHOLZ
SPENCER

EBES

continued from page A1

am so proud of how they have adapted to all of the changes. I miss having all of my students in person, but I am so happy to have them coming back in a hybrid model."

David Prouty High School also reopened last month, enabling East Brookfield and Spencer students in all grade levels to return to class. Moving forward, the goal for district leaders is to keep students in school amid the winter surge of the COVID-19 pandemic. "It is important that we remain vigilant in maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all staff and students," wrote SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey in a statement earlier this fall. "Families play a critical role in supporting the culture of health and safety in our schools."



LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing

Planning Board The Spencer Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing for the 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan on their regularly scheduled meeting on December 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Any interested citizen who wishes to comment on the plan is encouraged to call in and express their views. To dial in call United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679 with Access Code: 924-512-829 Any questions on the Plan should be directed to George Russell, AICP, Conservation Agent at 508-885-7500 x 123 or to grussell@spencerma.gov November 27, 2020 December 4, 2020

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday December 15, 2020 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall and the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard.

Special Permit - Applicant: Daniel Rubin, Freedom Forever Massachusetts, LLC; Owner: Craig Lusignan, Location: 83 Northwest Road; Spencer Assessor's Map R50-3-1. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Section 4.8.9 (Solar Photovoltaic Generating Installations) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install a ground mounted 13.050 KW solar panel system. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.

November 27, 2020
December 4, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20P3203EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Phillip E Chipman, II
Also known as:**

Phillip Chipman

Date of Death: June 30, 2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Carmen M Chipman of Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Carmen M Chipman of Brookfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/15/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 13, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

December 4, 2020

Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

Todd Ryan has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to repair a retaining wall located at 8 Wildwood Lane, Spencer, MA.

Bercume Realty Trust has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to trim the field edge, install fencing, work on pasture renovation and pond restoration at Map R10, Parcel 1 & 23 South Spencer Road, Spencer, MA.

Donna LeCourt has filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to repair the drainage channel and repave parking area and repair the culvert pipe ditch on the road at 21 Rustic Lane, Spencer, MA.

Eric Ware has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to install a septic system with grading at 129 Smithville Road, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspection Services, Town Hall. A remote public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at which time all persons having an interest may call in to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 7:00 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
December 4, 2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court

225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20P3283EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:
Danny S Sampson
Date of Death: 04/28/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Ricky J Sampson of Holden MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Ricky J Sampson of Holden MA** be appointed as Personal Representa-

tive(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/29/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 23, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

December 4, 2020

TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD PUBLIC NOTICE TAX CLASSIFICATION

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of East Brookfield will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:15 P.M. in the Memorial Town Complex at 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, Massachusetts, to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2021, pursuant to Chapter 369 of the Acts of Massachusetts General Laws relating to classification and taxation of property according to use.
December 4, 2020

OBITUARIES

Douglas F. Bell, 88

SPENCER- Douglas F. Bell, 88, of Spencer died peacefully on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at UMass Memorial Medical Center, after a long illness.



He leaves his wife of 28 years, Joanne K. (Reavey) Bell of Spencer; his daughter, Laurie Bell of Southbridge; his son, Brian Bell and his wife Audrey of Spencer; two stepsons, Steve Anderson and his wife Sue of Spencer and Shaun Anderson and his partner Sue of Haydenville; as well as his sister, Dorothy Ellis of Whitinsville. He was predeceased by his first wife, Nancy (Gilbert)

Bell, his sister Elva Youngsma and his two brothers Donald Bell and Harry Bell. He also leaves behind six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. His cat, Mow, will miss him dearly. He was

born in Spencer, son of the late Lester F. and Wilhemina M. (McGregor) Bell.

He served in the United States Army and was a member of American Legion Post 138.

Douglas worked as an Armored Truck Driver transporting money to various locations, before retiring in 1994. During his retirement years, he enjoyed spending summers at his home in Wells, Maine and living in Largo, Florida before moving back to Spencer a few years back.

Services for Douglas will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515 or at www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate or Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center, 47 East Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585 or at www.quaboagonthecommon.com.

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

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Charles R. "Bob" Emerson, 73

SPENCER- Charles R. "Bob" Emerson, 73, died November 27 in Quaboag Rehab and Skilled Care Center after a long battle with cancer.

Bob was born in Wichita Falls, TX the son of the late Marilyn and Louis Emerson. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Margaret Emerson; cousins; numerous nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brother Richard Emerson.

Bob graduated from Penn State University and worked many years at Hanover Insurance Group as a systems analyst. He had a very sharp mind and intense curiosity about many topics, including history, both modern and

ancient. Playing his guitar was one of his favorite ways to relax and he had a beautiful singing voice. He was also an avid gamer. Bob enjoyed woodworking, building much of the woodwork in the house, including built-in cabinetry. He served on the Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals for several years.

Funeral services are private for the family. Memorial donations may be made in his name to: NET Research Foundation 31 St. James Avenue, Suite 365 Boston, MA 02116 (www.netrf.org) Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.

Frank A. "Frankie" Thomas, 80

EAST BROOKFIELD/AUBURN – Frank A. "Frankie" Thomas, 80, of East Brookfield and formerly of Auburn, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 20, 2020 at his home, surrounded by his loving family.



Born in Worcester, raised and educated in Auburn, Frankie was one of ten children born to the late Frank E. and Irma L. (Batchelor) Thomas. He attended Auburn High School, prior to beginning a career

in trucking. Frank first worked for Hood Co. out of Worcester, for almost two decades, then went on to work for Quaboag Transfer Co. in Palmer. He retired in 2002 from FLEXcon Co. in Spencer, where he dedicated 15 years as a sheeter operator.

Being the youngest of a large family, Frank was an awesome storyteller, mostly "jokes." He loved spending time with friends, family, and his dog Bella, who was his faithful companion throughout his illness, and working on his yard and garden. Frank took great pleasure in showing and helping the kids to fish and hunt – he was an avid hunter and fisherman, who loved fishing the Cape Cod Canal for stripers and hunting in Vermont. Frank was also a longtime member of the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club. He enjoyed skiing, camping, boating, and spending time in Florida.

Frankie leaves his loving wife of 42

years, Brenda J. (Pike) Thomas; his children: Lee A. Martenelli and her husband David, of Leicester, Lynn A. Wood, of Leicester, and Russell Eastman and his wife Shalini, of Charlton; his grandchildren: Stephanie, Kim, Christina, Kyle, Leah, Jason, Jessica, and Charlie; his many great-grandchildren; his siblings: Carlton Thomas and his wife Shirley, of Oxford, Edith Garneau, of Auburn, and Helen Soponski and her husband Donald, of Auburn; his brother-in-law, Martin LaPrad, of Warren; as well as many nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, Frank was predeceased by his daughter, Lorrie J. Bachand, in 2017; his siblings: Everett, Robert, Alice, Olive, Gilbert; and, most recently, Janet LaPrad, who passed in August of 2020.

His family would like to say a special 'thank you' to his hospice nurse, Tarah, and home health aide, Sue. He will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Road, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01545 (secondchanceanimals.org/donate).

A graveside service will be held privately for Frank's immediate family, at Hillside Cemetery, Auburn. The BRITTON-WALLACE FUNERAL HOME, 91 Central Street, Auburn, is honored to be assisting with arrangements. To leave a note of condolence for his family, please visit www.brittonfuneralhomes.com Bottom of Form

Michael Edward Melanson, 57

SPENCER- Michael Edward Melanson, 57, passed away on November 21st, 2020 in Worcester Massachusetts due to complications from the Coronavirus.



Mike was born on September 30, 1963 and attended school in Spencer Massachusetts where he spent most of his life. Those who knew Mike knew him as

kind and friendly with a wonderful sense of humor. He was always ready with a helping hand for those in need. Mike is survived by his daughter, Kara Brooke Melanson of South Carolina, his mother Beverly Downing of Spencer Massachusetts, grandchildren Alexander and Natalie, and

his three brothers; Peter Melanson of Central Massachusetts, Steven Melanson of Cranston Rhode Island, and Jeffrey Melanson of Oak Bluffs Massachusetts. He was predeceased by his father Raymond Melanson of Maynard Massachusetts, and also by his stepfather Alexander "Big Al" Downing of Leicester Massachusetts. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be private for the family. In Lieu of flowers the family has requested donations to Angles at Risk, addressing the crisis of teenagers and their families at risk for drug and alcohol use and abuse. Visit www.anglesatrisk.com for additional information. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main Street Spencer Massachusetts.

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
 12:08-12:18 a.m.: parking violations (Main, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 12:19a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:21 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:22-12:44 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:49 a.m.: parking violation (Cherry Street), ticket issued; 12:53-1:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:14 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 1:14-1:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:24 a.m.: fire (Main Street), referred; 9:40 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 10:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), skunk in yard; 10:52 a.m.: burglary (Church Street), investigated; 10:55 a.m.: restraining order service (Prospect Street); 12:07 p.m.: fraud (Meadow Road), unemployment scam; 12:59 p.m.: fraud (Jolicoeur Avenue), scam call; 2:03 a.m.: fraud (Chestnut Street), SS scam; 2:27 p.m.: fraud (Paxton Road), unemployment scam; 3:19 p.m.: disturbance (Town House Court), domestic disturbance; 3:54 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 4:18 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:38 p.m.: mv stop (May Street), David L. Adams, 34, 151 Hartford Turnpike Square, Shrewsbury, op w/suspended license, arrest; 4:46 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), mv vs deer; 4:46 p.m.: residential alarm (Clark Road), services rendered; 4:51 p.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln Street), stray cat; 9:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 9:23 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:04 p.m.: parking violation (Temple Street), ticket issued; 10:10 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:04 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 11:06 p.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); (Total daily mv stops – 9).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
 1:00-2:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:17 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 4:03 a.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 5:06 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 6:58 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 10:16 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:03 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:17 a.m.: fraud (West Main Street), internet scam; 12:13 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 1:40 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 1:42 p.m.: residential alarm (Howe Village), services rendered; 1:47 p.m.: DPW call (Charlton Road), stop sign down; 2:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:02 p.m.: fraud (Howe Village), SS scam; 3:29 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unemployment scam; 3:55 p.m.: parking complaint (Temple Street), truck w/flat; 6:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), concern for friend; 6:17

p.m.: medical/general (Clark Street); 7:35 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pearl Street), accidental; 7:49 p.m.: larceny (Chestnut Street), shoplifting/alcohol; 9:33 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:36 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:01 p.m.: accident (Norcross Road), report taken; 10:45 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), fight; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
 12:48-2:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:59 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 7:17 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info given; 7:54 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), spoken to; 10:13 a.m.: fraud (Terkanian Drive), unemployment scam; 10:20 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 10:28 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:29 a.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), cats left in apt.; 10:57 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 11:40 a.m.: mv lockout (Deer Run Road), assisted; 11:47 a.m.: disturbance (Dale Street), neighbor issue; 11:52 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:20 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:31 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), missing pkg.; 3:01 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), test; 3:24 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 4:00 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Street); 5:06 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 5:19 p.m.: larceny (Water Street), phone stolen; 5:45 p.m.: mv lockout (Temple Street), assisted; 9:19-9:50 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:07 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hastings Road), investigated; 11:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. disturbance; 11:13-11:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 6).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
 12:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:29 a.m.: parking violation (West Main Street), ticket issued; 3:42 a.m.: suspicious persons (North Brookfield Road), investigated; 5:35 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:20 a.m.: officer wanted (Thompson Pond Road), loose pontoon boat; 9:36 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 9:44 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 10:02 a.m.: mv lockout (Paxton Road), assisted; 10:29 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 10:35 a.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), open line; 12:21 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 12:41 p.m.: fraud (Buteau Road), unemployment scam; 1:21 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 1:59 p.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), ticket issued; 2:43 p.m.: fire (Mechanic Street), referred; 3:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Dale Street), neighbor complaint; 7:19 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 7:35 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), m/f dispute; 7:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Lloyd Dyer Drive), spoken to; 8:23-9:18 p.m.: build-

ings checked, secure; 9:27 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 9:49 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road), lift assist; 10:19 p.m.: building checked, secure; between 10:19-11:52 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 11:52-11:53 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
 12:21-12:37 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:40 a.m.: parking violation (High Street), ticket issued; 12:42 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:46 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 12:57-1:45 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:40 a.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), investigated; 4:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), loose horses; 5:27 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 8:08 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 11:10 a.m.: 911 call (Church Street), elevator/accidental; 11:38 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Road), lift assist; 11:52 a.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 12:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Shore Drive), neighbor issues; 12:32 p.m.: assault (West Main Street), rep. altercation; 4:22 p.m.: larceny (Mechanic Street), BMX bike taken; 4:43 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), accidental; 4:51 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:01 p.m.: elderly matter (Howe Village), welfare check; 5:19 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), riding bikes in road; 5:34 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:38 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; between 7:00-8:57 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 8:57-9:37 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:57 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 11:52 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; (Total daily mv stops – 10).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
 12:02-12:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:21 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic Street), tickets issued; 12:21 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:21 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:25-12:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:55-12:58 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Cottage Street), tickets issued; 12:58-1:29 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:39 a.m.: accident (Browning Pond Road), report taken; 8:34 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Grove Street), no contact; 8:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), welfare check; 10:11 a.m.: lost/found (Charlton Road), sweater found; 10:18 a.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), stray cat; 10:35 a.m.: fraud (Mechanic Street), unemployment scam; 12:07 p.m.: lost/found (Smithville Road), wallet lost; 12:28 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 12:44 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), unwanted party; 1:29 p.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 2:40 p.m.: fraud (I. Capen Road), unemployment scam; 3:32 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 3:51 p.m.: restraining

order service (West Main Street); 4:38 p.m.: fraud (Cottage Street), SS scam; 4:46 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:30 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), no emergency; 8:10 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:54 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 8:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Dufault Road), intoxicated female; 10:17 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Borkum Road), no contact; 10:38 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops -2).

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
 12:00-12:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:13-12:24 a.m.: parking violations (Emmett, Main, Chestnut, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 12:25-12:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:31 a.m.: parking violation (Prospect Street), ticket issued; 12:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:36-12:41 a.m.: parking violations (Cherry, Salem streets), tickets issued; 12:43-12:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:49 a.m.: parking violation (Summit Street), ticket issued; 12:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:59 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 1:01-2:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:04 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 4:35 a.m.: commercial alarm (Donnelly Road), services rendered; 7:26 a.m.: accident (Clark Road), utility pole struck; 7:56 a.m.: fire (Highland Street), referred; 8:25 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), icy conditions; 9:15 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), landlord/tenant issue; 9:59 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), unemployment scam; 10:19 a.m.: fraud (Lamb Grove), unemployment scam; 11:24 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (Brooks Pond Road); 11:39 a.m.: fraud (Wilson Avenue), unemployment scam; 12:41 p.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 12:42 p.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), info taken; 1:03 p.m.: abandoned mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:24 p.m.: suspicious persons (Ash Street), info taken; 1:51 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 2:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), landlord/tenant issue; 2:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), welfare check; 2:48 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 3:07 p.m.: fraud (Duggan Street), unauthorized use/cc; 3:58 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 4:16 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unemployment scam; 4:24 p.m.: fraud (Northwest Road), unemployment scam; 4:27 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), spoken to; 4:29 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 4:54 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bixby Road), hang-up; 5:12 p.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 5:50 p.m.: medical/general (Spring Street); 5:58 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 6:47 p.m.: larceny (Mechanic Street), rep. taken; 7:52 p.m.: medical/general

GRAHAM

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there don't exactly look like a cross-section of America. Given the difficulty in securing a massive mail-in election in those cities we should have a re-vote in those states, in-person only, voters must show ID, and given the problems in Detroit, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, etc. those voters should have to vote in other more secure counties.

There is simply no way Sleepy Joe Biden got 80 million votes. In 2016, Hillary got 66 million votes and lost. In 2012 Barack Obama got 66 million votes. George W. Bush won with 62 million votes in 2004. Yet, they want us to believe that Joe Biden got 80 million? Do they think we're stupid? That number is so absurd that it is proof the election was rigged!

Trump warned us back in 2016 and again in 2020 - if he loses it's rigged. We were on the lookout for rigging and we found so many smoking guns it isn't funny. Dead people voted thrice, more ballots than people were submitted, criminals voted that should have been barred for life, more black people allegedly voted in these cities than I even believe we have, people mailed ballots in from overseas, software systems in voting machines algorithmically transferred votes from Trump to Biden, and the Globalists the world over got involved with funding and puppet strings from George Soros. Finally, when it wasn't enough, trucks showed up in the wee hours filled with ballots all in the same handwriting.

This election was rigged and is being stolen from under our noses. Trump should never concede, never surrender, and never leave the White House. If Sleepy Joe tries to stage a coup and convince a few rogue liberal Secret Service agents to remove our Dear Leader, We the People need to go to Washington, armed, and peaceably assemble encir-

cling the White House and protecting our President. There are 74 million MAGA voters, we can take shifts and only have one million in Washington at a time. While protecting Trump we also need to break off a small expeditionary force to make sure Sleepy Joe stays in his Delaware basement, where he belongs. Freedom comes with responsibility, and we all have a responsibility to "Stop the Steal!"

If Democracy means honoring fraudulent votes and installing an illegitimate senile socialist pedophile, then our Dear Leader, Donald J. Trump, needs to declare a junta, and finally We the People can get the government we want and deserve. If the liberals put up a fight, then we need a one million — no, a 10 million — MAGA march on Washington and we need to remind them that the Second Amendment was the final check and balance built into the constitutional era, put there so that We the People could fight tyranny and make sure that our legitimate leader, President Trump, remains in power.

We can't unite our country by demanding that 74 million Trump supporters just sit down, shut up, and suck it up. It doesn't work like that. That approach only divides us further, especially since the last 4 years were spent resisting, impeaching, and obstructing. President Trump not only won a well-deserved second term by a lot when only the legitimate legal votes are counted, he deserves a third term to make up for the presidential abuse of his first term.

On the topic of COVID... Nothing is more sacred than freedom. Nothing, I am so sick of hearing about the Coronavirus. If you're afraid of the 'rona, stay in your basement and keep your hands off my freedom! Be afraid! If you are a true patriot, you will refuse to wear a mask because they can't arrest all of us; you will go to restaurants, patronize our small business, don't bother to cover your mouth, and stop wasting so many cleaning products. Real Americans get sick a few times

a year. Real Americans get colds a few times a year. Real Americans get the flu every now and then. Real Americans will get COVID-19 while they have a stiff upper lip and carry on, just like our eternal leader, Donald Trump. We are not seeing problems with the virus; we are seeing problems with fear of the virus.

We keep hearing and reading about numbers of cases, deaths, and whatnot. Well, figures never lie, but liars always figure. Given all the fake news out there, we should all ask ourselves what we've observed with our own two eyes. I don't know anybody that's died. I don't see/hear ambulances all day long. I don't see bodies in the streets. All seems pretty made-up to me...

The 'rona originated in a Wuhan lab and is a genetically engineered biological weapon manufactured by Chinese people funded by the Chinese Communist Party. It is biological warfare. China hates freedom, and they knew that if they let the virus loose in the world, they could control it by crushing freedom but they knew that the western world would be caught flat-footed between freedom and tyranny leading to a mixed and drawn-out response. Their plan was to release a biological agent that would bring us to our knees but that they could control. The 'rona can be handled one of two ways - the Chinese way is a permanent theft of everyone's freedom subjecting the entire population to periodic house arrest. The American way is to power through it. Ninety-eight percent of us will survive. The rest will be sacrificed to freedom. We will be a freer and more just society for it.

China is retaliating for the tariffs and Trump's trade war that we were decisively winning. China seemed to think that they would have spineless liberal governments in this country willing to let them gobble up more and more of our jobs. Trump said, "enough is enough" and he brought jobs home. Then China retaliated.

If the Coronavirus kills the one to two

million people the "experts" predict, we should act accordingly. If the Chinese kill two million of us with bio-warfare, we need a proportional response. Given China's population is 4.2 times larger, we need 8.4 million deaths for it to be proportionate. The United States does not engage in bio-warfare, we engage in nuclear warfare - just ask Japan how we ended their WWII adventurism. Perhaps a proportional military response to China can be the new U.S. Space Force's first mission of consequence. Nothing says we mean business like having troops in spacing raining bombs down from the cosmos.

Once this messy election is behind us, a proportional military response to China is behind us, and Trump starts his second term, it will be time to start focusing on improving the lives of regular Americans and getting back to the pro-growth pro-job Trump agenda. We need to return America to normality - ban masks, by executive order force all states back to 2019 regulatory schemes and vacate all gubernatorial orders since. We need to put competent leadership in HHS and the CDC who won't stoke the fears of hypochondriacs and thanatophobics but instead exude a pro-growth pro-jobs pro-economic message. We need a CDC making lives better for Americans, not subverting our entire country at the behest of China and the Democrats.

We need to focus on real problems in this country, like the ongoing invasion of our southern border. Walls and fences work. Half of our border is water, we can introduce alligators to fortify it and then put a fence on the shore. The criminal immigrant gang MS-13 is still operating inside the United States and as soon as the Democrats stop pushing their corona-hoax we can go after them. We need to focus on real threats to America, like illegal immigration.

God Bless America, and no place else!

GEORGE GRAHAM
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Police

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(Meadowbrook Road); 9:19 p.m.: medical/general (Point Eastalee Drive); 9:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), door open; 9:59-10:05 p.m.: parking violations (Linden, Prospect streets), tickets issued; (Total daily mv stops - 6).
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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
5:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:48 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, suspended registration, mv towed; 7:50 a.m.: investigation (Charlton Street), services rendered; 8:00 a.m.: investigation (Lake Avenue North, Worcester), services rendered; 8:12 a.m.: investigation (out of town, no destination specified in police log), services rendered; 8:23 a.m.: fraud (McCarthy

Avenue), assisted; 9:33 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 10:55 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 11:09 a.m.: fraud (Sabina Circle), report taken; 11:10 a.m.: fraud (Burncoat Lane), report taken; 12:26 p.m.: fraud (Oak Bluff Lane), report taken; 12:47 p.m.: fraud (Lexington Avenue), report taken; 12:48 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 1:11 p.m.: fraud (Henshaw Street), report taken; 1:17 p.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), services rendered; 5:03 p.m.: family problem (Westminster Street), services rendered; 8:03 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
9:00 a.m.: fraud (Lakeview Drive), report taken; 4:13 p.m.: trespassing (Main Street), gone on arrival; 9:57 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 11:28 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), unfounded.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
12:28 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), unfounded; 1:57 a.m.: mv stop (Burncoat Street), spoken to; 2:00 a.m.: welfare check (River Street), spoken to;

10:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:42 a.m.: fraud (Brown Street), report taken; 12:32 p.m.: fraud (Hillside Road), report taken; 12:42 p.m.: assist citizen (King Street), services rendered; 1:22 p.m.: fraud (Burncoat Lane), report taken; 6:37 p.m.: fraud (Oakwood Lane), report taken; 10:03 p.m.: disturbance (Olney Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
1:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:26 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), services rendered; 8:12 a.m.: b&e/past (Marshall Street), investigated; 11:25 a.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), peace restored; 12:15 p.m.: disabled mv (Charlton Street), transported; 3:06 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:04 p.m.: assist citizen (Watson Street), unable to locate; 8:51 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Edward Street).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
2:30 a.m.: suspicious mv (River Street), services rendered; 9:54 p.m.: investigation (Henshaw Street), spoken to; 11:17 a.m.: accident (Rawson Street), report taken; 11:39 a.m.: investigation

(Main Street), spoken to; 11:41 a.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), citation issued; 2:47 p.m.: family problem (Pleasant Street), assisted; 6:27 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), spoken to.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
1:08 a.m.: assist citizen (River Street), spoken to; 2:06 p.m.: fraud (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:37 p.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), spoken to; 9:28 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), unable to locate.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
8:23 a.m.: welfare check (Marshall Street), gone on arrival; 10:25 a.m.: assault (Mt. Pleasant Avenue), spoken to; 1:47 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 2:18 p.m.: fraud (Laurelwood Avenue), report taken; 3:46 p.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 4:57 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 5:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:28 p.m.: fraud (Fairview Drive), report taken; 11:14 p.m.: suspicious mv (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered.

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- Fresh Butternut Squash
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DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD
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<p>WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD</p> <p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>Quintessential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. New Price \$399,900.</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 21 3RD STREET UNIT: B</p> <p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>Condominium - Living leisurely! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath (including master suite) home. Freshly painted! Recessed lighting, gas fireplace, and sliding doors, to beautiful balcony. Walkout basement! built-in outdoor grilling spot. Easy access to 1395. \$224,900</p>	<p>N. ATTLEBORO - 523 KELLY BLVD.</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Farmhouse style home! Sun-drenched interior! Spacious floor plan! living room, eat-in kitchen. 6 rooms total, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths! Heated by gas / hot water baseboard! Outdoor kitchen, pool! Jacuzzi tub/shower. Located just minutes from Rt 95 & 495! assisted sale \$408,500.</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD</p> <p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>Estate Sale! LOCATION, LOCATION! Scenic Upper Gore Rd! Amazing View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Main level has 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Common Bathrm, Master Bedroom & Master Bath - Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level, 1/2 Bath, Laundry, Large room w/Pellet Stove & Direct Garage Access! Tiered deck, w/Screened porch, leads directly to your "Salt water" Inground Pool! \$319,900.</p>	<p>LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS</p> <p>Oxford - 4 Leinster St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! \$89,900</p> <p>Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. NEW PRICE \$115,000.</p> <p>Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! Each \$24,500.</p> <p>Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! ON DEPOSIT \$132,900</p> <p>Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.</p> <p>Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. Will not last! SORRY SOLD! \$50,000</p>
<p>OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stained appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac! New Price \$314,900.</p>	<p>SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale \$279,900.</p>	<p>OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bar! 2 car garage. Extras above ground pool! \$369,900.</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, new well to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! \$360,000.</p>	<p>WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD</p> <p>SORRY, SOLD!</p> <p>1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! \$499,900.</p>

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Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave

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Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd

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GRADY
continued from page A1

Items can also be left in the book drop at the library, which is always open. "It has been a privilege to work with Pat at the library. She has done a variety of things over her 35 years here, and she has a deep connection to the library and the community," said Library Director Suzanne Hall. "Patrons still remember the story times she did for them or their children. She always has time to help a book club find their next book, help a patron find the right town office, or navigate an official website. And she always found a few minutes

to talk to patrons who sometimes just needed someone to talk to." Grady has worked in many capacities during her tenure at the library, helping patrons of all ages. Many residents ascribe their love of reading and the library to Grady's programs when they were children. Now, years later, those same residents bring their own kids to the library to enjoy activities and programs. "I have been so fortunate to have had a job that I loved for 35 years," Grady said. "Working at the Leicester Public Library, I have been able to see the wonder in children's eyes when they learn how to read and their excitement when they are selecting books. Being able to

assist people of all ages and meet their needs has been very gratifying. I will miss the patrons and the staff." Library officials not only relied on Grady to assist patrons, but also to welcome new employees and make them feel at home. She was a fount of knowledge for guests and staff members alike. "I will always be grateful for how helpful and kind she was to me when I was a new director," Hall said. "Although she will be missed here at the library, we all wish her every happiness in her much-deserved retirement." Grady encountered plenty of challenges over the years at the library, but her knowledge and problem-solving skills always helped pave the way to

success. Whenever a guest needed an answer or struggled with an obstacle, Grady was eager to assist. "Each day at the library brings its own challenges and rewards," Grady said. "I have learned something new each day that I have worked at the Leicester Public Library. I wish to thank all the patrons and staff for all they have brought into my life." The scrapbooks will be presented to Grady in her final weeks before retirement. From all of us at the New Leader, congratulations to Pat Grady on your career and retirement.



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Market Volume	\$7,804,001	\$6,977,000	▼
# of Homes Sold	26	20	▼
Avg Days on Market	33	14	▼
OXFORD			
Median Price	\$286,700	\$322,000	▲
Market Volume	\$4,351,152	\$4,303,820	▼
# of Homes Sold	16	13	▼
Avg Days on Market	41	20	▼

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ON DEPOSIT

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22 Whiting Rd- \$389,900

REDUCED

Dudley: Survey completed, needs some cosmetics, 3-4 bedrooms, garage, in-ground pool
11A Paglione Dr- \$239,900

MCRAE
continued from page A9

Biden—running with an equally unappealing and horribly flawed anti-American radical—Harris—without ever campaigning could defeat a candidate whose first term record had been remarkably good for most Americans, and do it in record-breaking style garnering 15 million votes more than the Black Jesus ever received beggars belief. One has to be either as corrupt as both of the two Democrat candidates—which would not be easy—or one would have to be a very stupid, gullible sad sack of a person. Which one are you?

I think, if the truth were to somehow be discovered, you haters on the left would be brought to slitting your wrists upon learning the President, in actuality, probably received the greatest landslide victory in American political history. This, despite four-plus years of non-stop, visceral—and, I should add, mindless—hatred, vitriol, mockery, and horrifying lies directed at him from all the centers of power: the mainstream, fake-news press (95 percent negative coverage since even before “coming down the escalator”); the Deep State Swamp (the corrupt FBI, the Justice Department’s do-nothing Attorney General(s) and politicized federal prosecutors, Obama’s political federal court judges; Uniparty Democrats and their quisling Republican adjuncts); the mainstream churches which have sent God to the sidelines for four years while the preachers and priests compete to see who can be the most scathing in their denunciations of the one man who has done more for religious liberty than anyone since George Washington; faithless friends and family members who couldn’t wait to play Brutus to Trump’s Caesar; the hopeless, lost cause elite colleges and universities; and, so dis-

appointing, the political, backstabbing retired generals who should be Trump’s greatest champions, but, instead, want more young American men and women to be fed into the bottomless pit of the wars these characters through their “military/industrial complex” connections foment and have to support.

But, despite all of it: relentless, 24-hour per day hatred and propaganda from our Pravda, our Izvestia, our Ministry of Truth for over 1400 days, our man, President Trump, managed to claim the voting affections of 70 to 75 million real Americans (love that term, don’t you, you liberals?) Now that the brazenly stolen election has brought on the greatest political crisis for the old Republic since April of 1861, we shall have to see what we will see. The authentic voters, the honest people, clearly chose Trump and his vision for America and the future. The crooks, the ignorant, the bought-off (in addition to the dead, the illegals, the millions of votes pulled out of the ether) lined up for the side that actively hates our country, our history, our traditions, our culture, our faiths, heroes, songs, stories, and all the rest of it.

It cannot be allowed to pass unresolved. If seventy million people come to believe their vote was stolen and the thieves got away with it, then the game is up. Who knows what course those tens of millions will take? The next “strong man” could make President Trump look like Mr. Peepers (Wally Cox, you’d have to have been born around the time of Pearl Harbor to get it.)

But, for you area Biden-Harris groupies. Would you like to take an opportunity to go on record to say perhaps your hatred was, in fact, a little demented—like your candidate? You’ve been driving on two-dollar Trump gas for a few years now, half what it was under

Obama. Your pensions and 401-K have never been in better shape, your stock portfolio must be doing well as the market broke 30,000 this past week for the first time ever. You fall all over yourselves proclaiming your support for Black Lives Matter while black unemployment was never lower than under Trump—same for Hispanics, Asians and women. Any appreciation for the Donald? Prison Reform, aid to the Historically Black Colleges dramatically increased by President Trump—no plaudits? Peace treaties between Israel and some Muslim nations...unheard of ever. Any credit to Trump? No trouble from No. Korea. ISIS on the run everywhere in the Middle East, no more spectacular mass beheadings. Just an accident? Or, more likely, a result of Trumpian foreign policy. Piracy at sea has virtually been eliminated over the past four years. Did you enjoy your tax cuts, stable prices, wide availability of things you receive from the market? Didn’t you like not having to go down to the candlelight vigil to protest some war somewhere that U.S. troops were fighting since under Trump casualties have become nearly non-existent? Oh, that’s right, you didn’t protest persistently high losses under Obama, it’s only when Republicans wage war that the virtue signallers go down to the Common to hold a candle, sing “Imagine” and shed crocodile tears for working class American youths in the military whom they neither respect nor like.

But, here’s the really salient point of my interrogatory regarding your singular lack of appreciation for anything the President has done. Shortly, my esteemed, learned, urbane and very clearly superior liberal friends and neighbors, you are going to be offered the near-miraculous opportunity to receive a shot in your butt—or arm, or wherever—to help you escape the rav-

ages of the Chi-com flu. It’s the “Warp Speed” miracle thanks to President Trump’s administration—on his orders—cutting bureaucratic red tape and time-consuming regulations, trials, etc. and working 24-hours a day to find the magic bullet. I know if you’re under 50, you have about a 99.2 percent chance of surviving the little germ, but, if you’re getting up there, like me, this vaccine will mean some extra years for you. A few more sunsets, martini’s, and NPR on the radio as you drive to Tanglewood this summer in the old Tesla. Doesn’t get any better than that, does it? My generation thanked Dr. Jonas Salk for the polio vaccine. This one can thank you-know-who for the Trump vaccine! How delicious is that?

So, to my question (not, have you no decency?) but, rather, can you say—after me—“Thank you, President Trump. I like living my life of white privilege out here in the country safe from all the troubles my Party causes wherever we control everything. And now, because of you, I’ve got a few more years left. I was so wrong about you!” So, can you say it? Oh, come on...I know you can do it. Be a man, buddy. Speak some truth, lady. Because, you understand, it would be rather shabby for an honorable liberal like yourself to see so many good things done for you and your country, and not be able to summon up even a few words of appreciation. Attorney Welch might have looked at you and said, “Have you no decency?”

But, maybe the best thing President Trump did for us was to put Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court. We may soon see if she meant it when she said the Constitution was her lodestar in determining the right or wrong of a legal question. The Republic may yet be saved.

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HAR-YAROK

continued from page A9

path"... "...leftists will bear responsibility for whatever transpires..." "... true Americans will not be herded into totalitarian railroad cars..." I know I'm dense, but that sounds like a call to arms to overthrow our duly elected government – the one that earned 80 million votes as opposed to the 75 million who won't accept that.

If Mr. McRae thinks my left-wing views and talking points are easily rebutted, then I invite him to do so.

Mr. Reed mentioned that Republicans did well nationally; except for the Presidential election which Joe Biden won. He is correct – Republicans picked up seats in the House, gained state-level offices, and will likely hold onto the Senate. Where he is incorrect is that there was no theft – Joe Biden won. The accusations of election theft are hilarious. If the Democrats had stolen the presidential election, don't you think they would have stolen the down-ballot races, too? A Republican Senate is a huge problem for Biden and re-districting happens next year at the state level... Do you really think they filled out ballots for Biden but didn't bother for all the other offices? Worst thieves ever? A better explanation of course is Donald Trump is singularly and uniquely unpopular and more so than his enablers and fellow Republicans. This split between the presidential and down-ballot races is the best evidence I can think of for a legit election.

As for looking like a third world banana republic – totally agree. We have a President who has never and still hasn't committed to respecting any election, and refuses to concede while we have a significant majority of the country convinced the election system and news media generally can't be believed.

Mr. Robillard's invocation of common sense is interesting. Common sense is "sound practical judgement concerning everyday matters". To justify a position with "common sense" is circular reasoning because common sense is defined in the eyes of the beholder. "Common sense" is a neat way of packaging, "I know I'm right, I can't conceive of being wrong, I can't explain or justify my positions, now stop questioning me". Our elections are decided by voters who submit ballots with all the votes getting counted – not anyone's "common sense". Trump doesn't play by the constitution, he feeds his own ego and he doesn't even know what's in the constitution.

Mr. Herholz – The situation is reversed from your notions – the

Republicans are trying to lie, cheat, and steal their way to retain the White House whereas the Democratic candidate's win is so obvious even Fox News isn't entertaining this. The people in Trump's orbit are slowly distancing themselves which indicates that they know this election was legit. Each day as his enablers distance themselves more my level of concern goes down.

It will be at least a week or two, possibly by the time of publishing, before we know what the true damage to the pandemic that our society has sustained from our government's spineless response that allowed Thanksgiving to occur. I noticed social media was eerily quiet as in all likelihood many people were gathering, knew they shouldn't, so they did it anyway without posting on social media. The US failed bigly by first not locking down hard enough to control the virus in the spring, then we went to a primary strategy of shaming and stigmatizing people to socially distance seemingly forever over the summer, then as the cases shot up in the fall most Americans are sick of it. This is going to be a case-study for decades if not centuries of how NOT to manage a pandemic. As it turns out shaming only serves to push socialization underground.

The pandemic is accelerating nationwide. We have more people hospitalized with COVID than at any time since the start of the pandemic. Hospitals are becoming overrun and care is being rationed on a localized basis essentially through tornado alley right now (West Texas to North Dakota) with the highest cases per capita in the world being North Dakota, highest deaths South Dakota, and El Paso, Texas and Tulsa, OK are literally out of room in the hospitals, erecting tents in parking lots, and are rationing care. North Dakota is allowing COVID positive staff to work in hospitals because they have no choice. More cities will be in the same boat by next week. The fictitious "death panels" used to scaremonger support away from the ACA in 2010 are a reality in the middle of the country, Trumpland.

To the people who have long said, "just protect the vulnerable" – that isn't possible. How do you think COVID ever got into nursing homes? The vulnerable interact with a lot of staff, the staff got it in the community, and the staff brought it into the facilities. The only way to "protect the vulnerable" is to prevent it from running rampant in the community. In Minnesota they literally have the National Guard staffing nursing homes right now because too many employees are out with COVID. As great of a short term solution the National Guard

staffing nursing homes is, camouflage fatigues don't prevent them from getting COVID themselves.

It has been 10 months and this is not sustainable. Epidemiologists do not actually recommend open ended lockdowns as a primary pandemic management strategy. They recommend short, sharp, and severe lockdowns to cause a rapid "reset" of the virus prevalence in the community and then re-opening. The U.S. never had the stomach for the "sharp and severe" part so instead it dragged out until now and is being ignored by many. Imagine how nice it must be for New Zealand – their Army enforced absolute lockdown ended in May and they are back to normal except for international travel.

Shaming and stigmatizing was never going to work – we needed (and still need) a short, sharp, and severe lockdown that is not voluntary to put this back in the bottle. Allowing ordinary people who clearly don't understand how pandemics work make decisions for themselves is causing us all to lose. Most people are unable to understand likelihoods, they want the world to be black and white – i.e.: Either I'll die from this or I won't.

The world watched the U.S. ahead of Thanksgiving with dread, disbelief, and bewilderment.

Joseph Stalin is reputed to have said,

"the death of one person is a tragedy; the death of one million is a statistic." Mother Teresa once said, "If I look at the mass, I will never act." It is sad, but it is well documented that the human mind reduces compassion and sympathy as the number of victims increases, likely as a defense mechanism against being overwhelmed by emotion. For some reason lesser tragedies have concerned Americans more than the COVID disaster and it seems as the death toll keeps ticking up people care less and less.

By the time you read this, there will likely have been 13,000 people who have died from COVID in America since I wrote this for a grand total of 275,000 and accelerating. We used to care about 55,000 people dying in Vietnam. We used to care about 3,000 people dying on 9/11. We used to care about 4 people dying in Benghazi. Now we have 275,000, increasing by more and more each week and it's old news/boring? In 2020 the US will see nearly 400,000 more deaths than we would see in a normal year and half the country doesn't care? Think of how many grieving family members, friends, colleagues...

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"I am Definitely glad to be a part of the team as well. I feel like I'm home and everyone has been wonderful." — Nicole V. (LPN)

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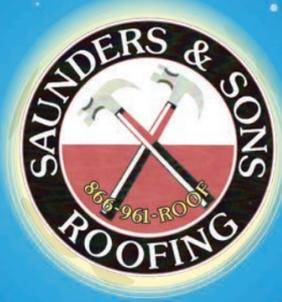
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