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Grove & Main



Brookfield Cultural Council sees strong youth involvement

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD – At a time when several local communities have seen a decline in civic involvement, the Brookfield Cultural Council is enjoying a strong youth movement.

The council currently includes three ambitious teenagers who share a passion for community involvement. Damien Sargent, Noah

Clark, and Jonathan Landry have all followed in the footsteps of their family members who also serve on the council.

“Our Cultural Council has always encouraged young people to participate in our town events,” said council member Jeanne Lytle. “All the kids have a parent or grandparent on the council.”



Please Read **BCC YOUTH**, page **A19**

Becker College succumbs to economic impact of COVID

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Becker College has navigated countless challenges over its 237-year history, but the financial impacts of COVID-19 were too steep for the small school to overcome.

Last week, the Becker College Board of Trustees unanimously voted to cease academic programming at the end of the current academic year. The decision was reached after officials spent several months evaluating all options for potentially saving the college.

“This was a deeply painful decision for the Board to make – one that the college administration made every possible effort to stave off, but one we came to realize in recent weeks was unavoidable,” said Christine Cassidy, the chairperson of Becker’s Board of Trustees.

The school’s current spring semester will continue as planned, including ceremonies for graduating seniors on May 8. The college will also provide academic support and transitional services to students through Aug. 31.

After enduring a nightmarish year of remote learning and canceled events, Becker undergrads must now balance their academic responsibilities

this semester with the need to find a new place to study in the fall. For many students, this will involve finding new apartments, jobs, internships, and extracurricular activities.

Becker officials are committed to assisting students as much as possible in their transition efforts. The college has made arrangements with several area universities to provide admission to Becker students. Further details are available on the Becker website.

“Our commitment going forward is to do everything we can to ensure our students finish this year strongly positioned to continue their education, and that they and all our faculty and staff get access to the best education and employment opportunities available,” Cassidy added.

The college’s admissions staff will work with current students, as well as those accepted for the fall 2021 semester, on potential new admissions pathways. All tuition deposits will be refunded.

The news of the college’s closure was equally distressing for staff members, many of whom have called Becker home for years.

“Becker will assist departing

Please Read **BECKER**, page **A17**

Community celebrates retirement of longtime Children’s Librarian



Photo Courtesy

Haston Free Public Library Children’s Librarian Rosemary Mackenzie recently retired after 33 years.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The community recently joined the Haston Free

Public Library staff in celebrating the career of retiring Children’s Librarian Rosemary Mackenzie.

After 33 years of inspiring local youngsters, “Miss Rosemary” Mackenzie retired from her position on March 31 – but not before a grateful community said goodbye and wished her well.

On March 27, hundreds of area children, families, library patrons, officials, and residents honored Mackenzie with a drive-by parade and celebration. More than 30 vehicles – including fire trucks and police units – lined up at North Brookfield Elementary School before proceeding past the library on North Main Street.

Mackenzie – wearing a feathered cap that proclaimed “Officially Retired” – waved excitedly at the parade of beeping vehicles. For library officials, it was a thrill to see the community put on an impressive display of thanks.

“Cars were decorated

Please Read **MACKENZIE**, page **A18**

MAKING MEMORIES



Senior year in high school is always an unforgettable experience, but the Leicester High School Class of 2021 is making unprecedented memories this spring. In preparation of the school district’s K-12 return to fully in-person learning, LHS seniors recently decorated their school with posters and balloons. The LHS student body was welcomed back for fully in-person education on April 5. Although seniors will only have a few months to enjoy with their classmates before graduation, they are making the most of their memories together.

Spencer teen advances on “The Voice”

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – A local teenager continues to impress megastar coaches on NBC’s “The Voice.”

On last week’s episode of the hit show, Spencer’s Ryleigh Modig, 18, defeated another contestant in the daunting “Battle Round.” All singers who advance

from the show’s initial blind auditions and choose teams are then selected for battle pairings within their respective teams.

As a member of Team Kelly Clarkson, Modig faced Texas singer Gean Garcia, 19, in her battle that was aired on March 29. The singers performed a duet of Ariana Grande’s “pov.”

Adding to the intrigue of the performance was the absence of Clarkson, who was ill during the filming of the battle and had to be replaced by backup coach Kelsea Ballerini.

The coaching panel had high praise for both singers following their battle duet. Modig received several glowing reviews of her

talent and creativity.

“You’re the kind of artist that we need on this show to keep it new and fresh and different,” longtime coach Blake Shelton told Modig.

Added coach Nick Jonas, “Your voice is just magical to listen to. As a songwriter, you’re the kind of artist that I would die

to write songs for.”

Although Ballerini and Clarkson discussed the artists and performance ahead of the battle, it didn’t make the decision any easier after a tight competition.

“Kelly was telling me that

Please Read **MODIG**, page **A19**

Grow stevia – nature’s sweetener



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA
MYERS

Sweeten your meals by growing your own sugar substitute in gardens or containers. Stevia is nature’s own sweetener that can be snacked upon fresh or added to soups, sauces, or beverages.

Wait for warm nights and the danger of frost to pass before planting stevia outdoors. It is a perennial in USDA zones 8 and warmer, but those gardening in colder areas must grow stevia like an annual.

Start plants from seed, cuttings, or transplants. Seeds are difficult to find and even more difficult to sprout. Use this method if you like a gardening challenge.

Reduce your effort and increase success by starting with transplants. Check garden centers and mail order catalogs for plants. Place Stevia plants 12 inches apart in full sun or light shade with moist well-drained soils. You will get the best growth and most leaves

during the long warm days of summer.

Incorporate a low nitrogen slow-release fertilizer in the soil or potting mix at planting. These provide small amounts of nutrients over a long period of time. Make a second application midseason if needed.

Water new plantings often enough to keep the roots and surrounding soil slightly moist. Gradually extend the time between watering. Thoroughly water whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist. Spread a layer of evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic matter over the soil surface. Mulching helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil, reducing your time weeding and watering.

Harvest leaves as needed for sweetening your dishes. Munching on a single leaf can help suppress a sweet craving. You may be able to pass on a candy bar and go for a healthier option.

Wait for cool short days at the end of the growing season when the sweetness is most intense to make large harvests for drying. You can dry in a microwave, dehydrator, or a warm dark location in your home. Cut, bundle, and hang stems

upside down to air dry. Knock leaves off the stem and save the dried leaves in an airtight jar. Grind the leaves by hand or use a coffee grinder to crush the leaves and release the sweetness. Dried leaves stored in an airtight jar will last for several years.

You can grow stevia indoors in a bright sunny window or under artificial lights. Purchase plants or start your own from cuttings. Check plants often and water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil is starting to dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any fertilizer labeled for use on indoor edible plants. Harvest the leaves as needed to sweeten your favorite dishes.

Growing stevia indoors or out can add flavor to your beverages and meals and fun to your gardening experience.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Photo Melinda Myers

Stevia, nature’s own sweetener, can be grown indoors or out as long as the plants receive proper care.

YOUR TEETH MATTER



APRIL 4-10 is NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENISTS WEEK

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

Good dental hygiene is very important to overall good health.

Our next Your Teeth Matter is running on June 11 to recognize Oral Health Month. Calling all Dental Professionals to join us!



Exploring dental crowns



Many people visit their dentists and learn they have a tooth that requires a crown. In many instances, dental crowns are necessary for proper tooth care.

Crowns were once widely referred to as “caps.” A crown is a permanent cover for a tooth that would otherwise require a very large filling after dental decay has been removed. Crowns also may be used to repair cracked or broken teeth so that extraction is not necessary. Sometimes crowns are used for cosmetic modifications or to hold a dental bridge in place.

The crown itself can be made from different materials, like stainless steel, gold or metallic alloy, porcelain, porcelain fused to metal, and resin. A dentist will determine which material will work best depending on the application and tooth location.

Understanding your appointment(s)

Crowns are typically installed in two appointments. The first appointment requires prep work so the tooth can hold the crown. This is typically a painless procedure, and one in which the dentist will anesthetize the tooth and gum tissue and then file down the tooth along the chewing surface and sides to make room for the crown covering. If the tooth was decayed or insubstantial, the dentist may have to “build up”

the tooth instead of filling it down. Again, these determinations are made by the dentist who has the expertise to gauge how much workable tooth is left.

Once the tooth has been prepared, an impression will be made of the bite area. That’s because the permanent crown will be fabricated in a laboratory and the fit/color will need to be exact for comfort — and also to ensure that bacteria and food debris do not get caught between the crown and tooth.

The final component is a temporary cap that will keep the prepared tooth clean. This is molded in the office and will be worn only until the custom-made crown is ready.

When the permanent crown is delivered, the patient will return to the office to have it checked for fit and then cemented into place.

Full and partial crowns

A partial crown may be used if only a portion of the tooth needs to be covered. Dentists will often rely on full crowns to get maximum coverage and

strength.

Cost factor

Crowns can be expensive. According to the resource CostHelper, crowns can range from \$500 to \$3,000 depending on the material used and the patient’s insurance coverage. Dental insurance may cover a predetermined percentage of the cost when the crown is medically necessary, but insurance may not cover anything if the procedure is only cosmetic.

It’s always a good idea for patients to express their concerns and ask questions about crowns prior to starting the procedure. Understanding the potential out-of-pocket costs is essential as well.

Dental crowns can last several years and represent the best way to salvage a tooth that is cracked or damaged.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dental caries, or tooth decay, is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever in children. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that children with dental caries in their baby teeth are at much greater risk for cavities in their adult teeth. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that can strengthen tooth enamel and make it more resistant to the acids that can contribute to tooth decay. Parents, even those whose children do not yet have any teeth, can discuss fluoride drops or chewable fluoride tablets with their youngsters’ pediatricians. The CDC notes that more than 40 percent of children have tooth decay before reaching kindergarten, but dental caries is often preventable. Parents who are diligent about their children’s oral care and mindful of potential problems, such as stains on the teeth, can reduce their sons’ and daughters’ risk of tooth decay.

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Sports cards are breaking records



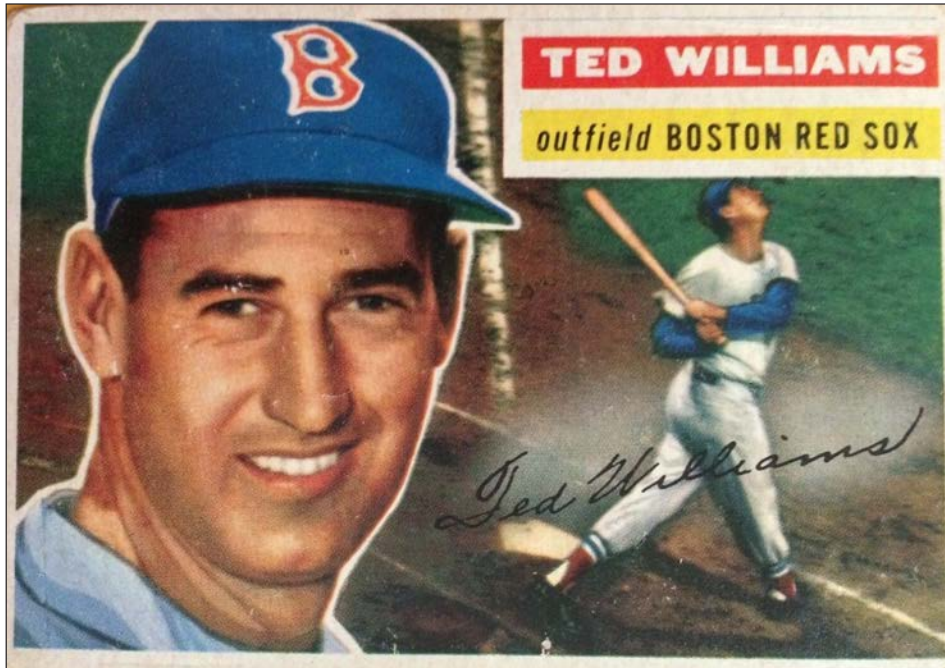
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• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

In my last column, I reported on the Tom Brady rookie card that was nearing \$2 million in an online auction. The bidding ended on April 2, with the rare card selling for \$2.2 million. While there aren't many cards worth millions of dollars, auction prices for cards overall have skyrocketed during the pandemic. Many cards have more than doubled or tripled in value over the past year.

A February Chicago Tribune article cites multiple reasons for the current sports card boom. "Some industry analysts see pandemic stay-at-home boredom as fueling a resurgence of interest, as parents rediscover the hobby and share it with their children," according to the Tribune. They also report, "investors who saw big returns on the stock market last year also have begun to buy into trading cards as an alternative to equities, pumping up prices for the cardboard commodity."

Prices in almost every type of sports card and non-sports card category are seeing strong results. An unopened 1973 Topps wax pack of cards recently sold for \$780. A high grade 1976 Topps Walter Payton Rookie Card #148 went for \$800. An average grade tobacco card of Ty Cobb recently brought \$3,250. Despite being in altered condition, a 1951 Bowman Mickey Mantle Rookie still sold for \$7,100.

PSA (Professional Sports Authenticator) is the most popular card grading company. Their business has increased so much that they reported grading turnaround times were tak-



ing up to nine months. They recently put all submissions completely on hold until they can catch up on some of the backlog. Polygon.com (a video game website) reports that Pokémon cards are partially responsible for the backlog at PSA. Believe it or not, rare 1990s Pokémon hologram cards in near perfect condition can bring six figure sums.

So, will card prices continue to increase? There is no way to say for sure, but the late 1980s and early 1990s saw a card boom similar to what we are experiencing today. To keep up with the demand during that time, companies such as Topps, Fleer and Upper Deck drastically increased production. The demand dried up in the early 1990s. Many people who bought those cards as an investment are still sitting on boxes of nearly worthless cards. It may be the right time to sell your cards now before

values decline again.

We will soon be offering an online auction of a large collection of sports and non-sports cards from a Holliston, Mass. estate. Our next session of model railroad trains, die-cast cars, model kits and other toys will also soon be running online. Our multi-estate with jewelry, coins, paintings, more sports cards, and a wide variety of other items takes place in May. Keep watching www.centralmassauctions.com for details on all of these events or use the email signup form on our homepage to be notified of all upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula
Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass
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Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111)
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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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NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING TOWN OF SPENCER

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the distribution system starting April 5 thru April 30, 2021. Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality.

When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

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Harrington offering vaccinations to Leicester residents

LEICESTER – Officials remind residents that the town's regional partner, Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, continues to reserve a limited number of COVID-19 vaccination appointments for Leicester residents.

The appointments are being scheduled on a rolling basis. To qualify, you must be in one of the state's priority groups that are currently eligible to receive the vaccine.

As of last week, all K-12 educators, childcare workers, and school staff members are eligible to receive the vaccine. Priority groups also include the following individuals: adults age 65 and over; adults who live or work in low-income or affordable senior housing; and residents 16 or older who have two or more medical conditions that cause an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

If you are an eligible Leicester resident who is interested in entering the waiting list, contact Francis Dagle at boardofhealth@leicesterma.org.

Appointments will be made on a first come-first serve basis as they become available.

East Brookfield Library now open to public

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Library will open its doors to the public on Thursday, April 8.

Required: Masks
Gloves (provided by Library)
Social Distancing

Hours: Monday Noon-7 p.m.
Tues/Thurs 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Closed Wednesday/Friday/Sunday
Please call the Library for more information at 508-867-7928.

LEICESTER POLICE WELCOME NEW OFFICER



Photo Courtesy

Last month, Leicester Police Officer Paul Pepin was officially sworn in by Town Clerk Deborah Davis during a ceremony at the police station. Officer Pepin is currently working patrol shifts with a field training officer. Earlier this year, he graduated from the State Police Municipal Academy in New Braintree. The field training exercises will last up to 12 weeks.



Pet of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Name: Sammy
Breed: Boxer/Hound
Gender: Male
Size: Large
Age: 1 year, 3 mos.



Sammy is my name and fun is my game, but the vet says I need to rest as I just got neutered and I have a slight limp in my left hind leg. So I will be foster to adopt so I can rest up and get better. Once the vet does a recheck in 2 weeks I will be forever yours! After that I am going to be ready to run and play and do all the things you like to do!

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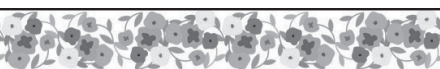
HELD OUTDOORS AT TOWN HALL, 29 DEPOT ST.

This live public auction includes 3 buildable lots on Wallum Lake Rd., all with successful percolation results, a cottage at 11 Arnold Rd. and a variety of land parcels throughout town. Town Says Sell! Visit website for details.

zekosgroup.com

VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, TERMS AND COVID-19 AUCTION PROTOCOLS.

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PERSON
of the
WEEK

Laurie Connors Of Spencer

Laurie Connors is such a caring and giving person. She volunteers at the food pantry whenever she is needed. Laurie also helped make Covid appointments for so many elderly in and around our town. She is someone that helps families drive loved ones to Dr's appointments, deliver food, etc.

Thank you Laurie for the generosity of your time, consideration for others, and for your help to make our community great!

— Submitted by Amy Ekleberry Perro, Spencer, MA

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

Person of the Week is sponsored by:

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THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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Cool mornings had kept many anglers off of the water last week, but those that braved the cool temperatures did very well catching trout at many of the stocked trout waters, including rivers and streams. Wachusett Reservoir opened this past Saturday with many anglers catching their limits of lake trout as one of this week's pictures show. Most Lake Trout caught were two to three pounds, but some were a bit more impressive. Anglers are encouraged to retain their limits of lake trout, because of their high population in Wachusett Reservoir! Some of the lakers had perch, bass, and other fish in their stomachs when cleaned, causing concern about their huge appetite that could have a negative effect on other fish species in the Reservoir.

Wallum Lake opened this past Wednesday after a lot of confusion by Rhode Island's last-minute changes. The lake normally opens on the second Saturday of April each year, but because of the pandemic, Rhode Island decided to open the lake to fishing on April 7, this year. They were also not going to stock it with trout until a later date even though Mass. did a stocking prior to April 7. The Rhode



Mike Daniels and Pete Walker with lake trout from Wachusett this past Saturday

Island Fish & Wildlife reversed their plans late last week, and announced that they were indeed going to stock trout prior to April 7. Wallum Lake regulations apply to the lake under an agreement with Massachusetts! The daily limit is five trout per angler, and can be legally fished with a Rhode Island license or Rhode Island fishing license.

Wild turkey hunting in Massachusetts is not far away. Zones 1-13 open to hunting this sharp-eyed bird, on April 24. Successful hunters need to get out early, and setup

before daylight. Sitting in a ground blind that was often set up the day or two before opening day, will increase the hunter's odds of bagging a gobbler. Only tom birds (male) can be harvested during the spring hunting season. Sitting in a blind prior to daybreak offers the hunter the peaceful quiet start of the day. Watching numerous wild animals and birds can entertain the hunter as he waits patiently for the sound of female turkeys as they waken, and leave their roost. The sound of their wings flapping as they glide down to



Parker with a big rainbow out of west river.

the ground, can get the hunters heart pounding with excitement. It is not long before the gobble of a tom turkey breaks the still morning air.

They are next to fly down from there roost, often high from a big pine tree. Waiting patiently for the birds to make their way to a hunter's set of decoys can be frustrating, but patience often pays off. If the birds are silent for a few minutes, I often give a light call on my diaphragm turkey call. It often gets the attention of the tom bird and he will quickly reply with a gobble. He will soon come looking for your hen turkey call. Suddenly, the movement of a white and red head appears 40 or 50 yards away in thick cover. He is com-

ing!
A couple of calls on your turkey call has the big tom responding with a series of raspy gobbles. Time to get your gun in position for a shot. If you are in a ground blind movement to get ready for the shot is easy, but if you are sitting in camouflage on the ground, your movement of any kind could be noticed by the turkeys keen eye sight, and the hunt will be over very quickly, as the bird heads into the opposite direction. Taking aim at the head of the turkey will often insure a quick kill. Carefully squeezing the trigger, the discharge of the shotgun echoes through the valley in the crisp morning air.

The smell of gunpowder is also in the air, and if you made a good shot, your reward of a tom turkey lays motionless 20 or so yards from your blind. Your heart is still racing, and the excitement of the hunt still has an effect on your body. Time to exit the blind and rush over to the bird. Filling out your harvest report and permit and then attaching it to the bird should be done. Even the simple task of filling out your permit is often complicated by the adrenalin rush of shooting your bird. If you do not experience all of the above-mentioned reactions to your body, you should find another sport.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Financial Management planning Committee seeks community input

TOWN-WIDE SURVEY LAUNCHED

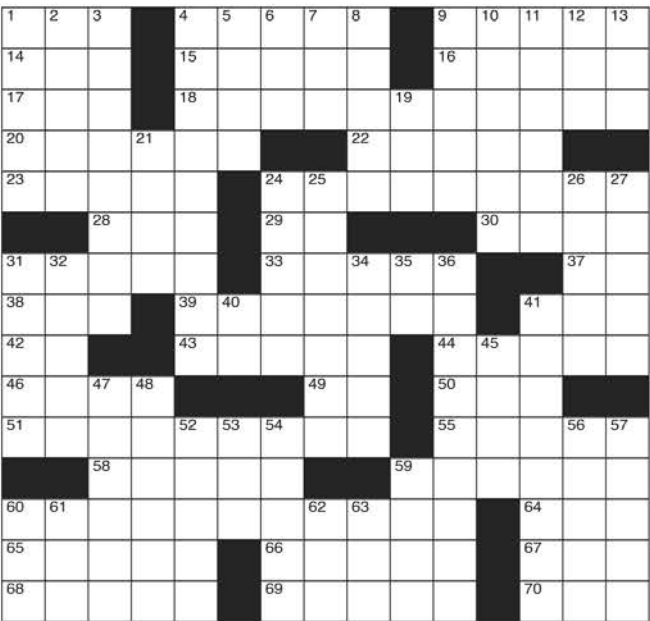
SPENCER — Since the fall of 2019, the Spencer Financial Management Planning Committee, (FMPC) has continued work begun in 2017 to develop a long-range financial plan for the Town of Spencer. The FMPC asked all department heads to identify and project needs for personnel, capital, buildings, and infrastructure in order to create a five to ten-year financial plan. FMPC is now seeking public input, beginning with a survey. To take the survey go to the town website, www.spencerma.gov and select the link "FMPC

SURVEY-Please Complete" or fill out the yellow form in this week's (April 9) issue of the Spencer New Leader. Return the completed form to either of the payment drop boxes at Town Hall or mail them to Town Hall, 157 Main St., Spencer, MA 01562 Attn: FMPC

The survey is open to Spencer residents age 12 and up, Spencer business owners, property owners, town and school employees. Online responses are strongly encouraged. Each individual in a household is asked to answer separately. Participation is not

limited to one per household, but replies are limited to one per person. Because it is critical that all town citizens and business owners have a say in planning, we seek the cooperation of all and ask for ten minutes of your time to take the survey. All responses are anonymous. Participants cannot be identified. Survey results will be reviewed after July 1, and will be followed up with public forums and focus groups.

FMPC is composed of two members of the Board of Selectmen, two members of the Finance Committee, and one member of the Capital Planning Committee. The Town Administrator serves ex officio.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)

4. Ceramic jars

9. Monetary units

14. Alias

15. "Superman" actor

16. Britonic tribe

17. Shorten

18. LA Dodgers manager

20. Hoarded

22. Theatrically portray

23. Noah's grandson

24. Dependent

28. Peyton's little brother

29. Cools the house

30. Principle part of

31. Type of wrap

33. Peels

37. Commercial

38. Make an attempt

39. Arrange in steps
41. U. Utah athlete

42. Old English

43. Trade

44. Nostrils

46. Ticket seller __Hub

49. Of I

50. Institute legal proceedings against

51. Takes apart

55. Doorway

58. Long int'l river

59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson

60. Former CBS News host

64. Sign language

65. Badgerlike mammal

66. Thin strips of wood

67. Brooklyn hoopster

68. Portents of good or evil

69. Footwear

70. When you think you'll arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. Batflower genus

2. Predatory seabirds

3. Fish farm

4. Arrangements

5. Go in advance of others

6. Bulgarian monetary unit

7. " __ Maria"

8. W. African ethnoreligious group

9. Wild Asian oxen genus

10. Vinegary

11. To this

12. Explosive

13. Female sibling

19. Orlando museum (abbr.)

21. Type of hoop

24. About Holy Father

25. Academic environment

26. Extremely angry

27. Surrenders

31. Swiss mountain pass
32. Sharp mountain ridge

34. Erases

35. Spielberg's alien

36. Absurd

40. Dorm worker

41. Used to make pesticides

45. The sister of your father or mother

47. A way to let know

48. Can't produce much vegetation

52. Small streams

53. Folk singer DiFranco

54. Weights

56. Start over

57. Black Sea resort city

59. Wimbledon champ

60. Corporate executive (abbr.)

61. Unskilled actor who overacts

62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

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SPENCER NEW LEADER
PUBLISHED BY
STONEBRIDGE PRESS
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK C. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
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JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
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The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical Postage paid at Southbridge, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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Spring has spring, and few simple pleasures compare to cruising down the highway with the fresh spring-time breeze blowing in the open window. But do you really know how much that joyride is costing you in gas? And are you sure your tires are giving you your money's worth? For answers to these questions, along with some springtime car washing tips, read on!

Do you love highway driving with the wind whipping at your hair? If so, it's a pleasure you'll pay for. Did you know driving with your windows all the way down at higher speeds, will waste 10 percent more gallons of gas than driving with them closed? The drag will cost you more in fuel, so avoid cranking the windows completely until you're at a slower pace.

If your car has cruise control feature, use it. Not only will you give your accelerating foot a rest, you'll save money too! Using cruise control will save you 5 to 10 percent of a gallon of gas on long trips!

Want to conserve more gas? Just use the overdrive shift as soon as your speed is high enough. It also acts as a fuel saver.



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GARY W.
MOORE

What is your new normal? It's your choice.

I think my life is forever changed, even though I'm not sure what that means. I believe the pandemic has had a profound and maybe permanent impact on my life. Around the time this shut down began, I received a serious health diagnosis. This one-two punch was powerful.

In the beginning, we only left our home for doctor visits and groceries. For Christmas, our daughter signed us up for Instacart, a shopping home delivery service and I haven't been into a grocery store since Dec. 23.

I wear a mask out of the house always and when I visit the hospital for chemo/immunotherapy treatment, I add a face shield. I wash my hands and never pass a hand sanitizer opportunity. When the pizza man comes, he leaves it on the porch, rings the doorbell and leaves.

I realize my life has been reduced to an exceedingly small size. Partly out of necessity. Partly from following the alleged science that seems to change before our very eyes ... and partly ... maybe mostly ... out of fear. I think many Americans are frightened because the available info changes within the moment and we really do not know what the healthy and safe protocols are.

"Masks don't work" ... wait ... "Masks do work and are mandatory" ... wait ... "one mask doesn't work, so wear two" ... "After vaccination, masks won't be required" ... wait ... "Masks should be worn into 2022 and maybe beyond." Here's the real kicker ... "Follow the science!" ... wait ... But we've learned that we really have been ignoring the science when it comes to schools and the classroom. Instead, the teacher's unions are leading the way with no scientific basis at all.

Who do we listen to? Who do we believe? Who do we trust? No wonder so many are frightened.

I believe most health officials and politicians continue to act on the best

Keeping tires properly inflated and aligned equals gas savings. Periodic wheel alignments and keeping tires inflated to the maximum recommended pressure really does improve your gas mileage, according to experts.

According to a major tire company approximately one third of all tires on the road are under inflated.. These tires not only wear out quicker and but they are more at risk for a blow out. Since tires lose air at a rate of about a pound a month, it pays to periodically check your tires

Not sure how to rotate your tires? According to the experts, radial tires can be crossed from side to side in the rotation pattern. Bias ply tires should never be rotated from side to side, only front to back.

Confused when it comes to using your car air conditioner efficiently? Memorize this mantra: In town, turn it down; going fast, let it blast! According to cooling experts, when traveling 45 mph or less, you should open the windows or vents to create a steady airflow that'll give your car a cool boost. When going faster than 45 mph, you should crank up the a/c instead. This method avoids the drag generated when windows are left open during high-speed travel.

Believe it or not, tires driven at 70 m.p.h. wear out almost twice

as fast as cars that go 55 mph. So it really does pay to slow down!

Here are some tips for the do it yourself car washer: Experts claim you should wash your car every ten days, and especially after it rains or snows. Waxing is recommended only every six months.

From Consumer Reports: When rinsing, use a hose without a nozzle and let the water flow over the car from top to bottom. This creates a sheeting action that helps minimize pooling of water.

Did you know more frequent waxes are needed if your car is red, black or white? The reason for this is because these colors are more susceptible to acid rain and UV rays. And one of the most critical times to wash your vehicle is immediately after a rainfall. Even after the lightest rain shower, the water evaporates, but the acid remains on the vehicle's finish.

When you wash your car, be sure to use a separate sponge to clean the wheels and tires. They may be coated with sand, brake dust, and other debris that could mar the car's finish.

Never wash your car when the body is hot, such as immediately after driving it or after it has been parked in direct sunlight for a while. Heat speeds the

drying of soap and water, making washing more difficult and increasing the chances that spots or deposits will form.

If you need to get all the water off the car, try using your leaf blower. It will blast water from even the tiniest crevices.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Is it time to begin stepping into the light of normalcy?

information they have. I'm not a conspiracy theorist and refuse to buy into that brand of anguish. Has the virus been politicized? Of course. It's an unfortunate part of our democratic system. I think most can see through and past it. Are we safe? Will we be again? Were we ever?

I'm told that until we achieve eighty-percent herd immunity there are still risks, but again,

I'm tired of living my life waiting for the next health directive. Arlene and I are vaccinated. It was an easy decision for us. Being vaccinated makes sense to us and we are happy with our choice. I don't know what to say to the anti-vaccination crowd. I have two friends who are dead from Covid. One died early in the pandemic and one in February. It's real. It's not going away soon. We all must make our choices based upon our personal research, beliefs and needs. I'll encourage all to be vaccinated but will also respect your choice regardless. Do your research and take the proper precautions to protect you and others.

The late, great Vince Lombardi said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all," and I think most of us are fatigued by this pandemic. Get out. Take a breath of fresh air. Do not be afraid.

I do believe it's time to step out of the darkness of fear and into the light.

For Arlene and me, it's time to take our lives back and we started by going grocery shopping and a visit to Staples. Small steps but positive steps towards normalcy.

I began by asking, "What is your new normal?"

It's our choice to make. I'll wear a mask, but I'm not putting on a second. I'll social distance but I'm going to start living my life outside of our home. I can go into the store and pick up my groceries. I can greet friends. Maybe I'll bump fists for a while rather than shaking hands. I'll be cautious. I won't act stupidly or irresponsibly but I will

no longer allow the fear to determine my actions nor rule my life. We have a finite number of minutes on this earth, and we plan on living them, unafraid and with family and friends.

I encourage you to properly protect yourself and others, then do the same. Step out of the darkness of fear into the bright light of life. Walk in the sun. Say hi to your neighbors. Catch up with each other and once again, breathe in the fresh air of life. Hug your family. Eat in your favorite restaurant. See a friend you have not seen in a year. Make up for lost time.

When the nurse put that needle in my arm for the second vaccination, I felt like screaming "Freedom!" I felt like I was given my life back.

Southwest Airlines has a tag line where there is a 'ding' and a flight attendant says, "Your free to move around the country."

It's time. I hope to see you outside!

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

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*At this time all positions run through the end of the school year.

Friday's Child



Maleki
Age 15

Hi! My name is Maleki and I love comics!

Maleki is an engaging teenage boy of African American descent. While he enjoys spending time by himself, if he is interested in a conversation or activity, he will happily engage with others. He is very passionate about certain subjects, particularly all things related to Marvel and DC comics. Maleki loves to talk about his favorite superheroes and what their powers are. He also enjoys music therapy and trying to make sounds on the instruments. Maleki is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum

Disorder and developmental delays.

Maleki attends a collaborative school where he receives supports to ensure that his emotional, social, and educational needs are met. Maleki has no behavioral problems at school or in the program where he lives. He gets along well with peers, staff, and teachers.

Maleki is legally freed for adoption. His social worker is hoping to match him with a family who is committed to advocating for him throughout his life. He will do well in a family of any constellation, with or without other children in the home.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

Two face charges for railroad prank

SPENCER – A pair of suspects are facing multiple charges stemming from a railroad incident last month.

On March 31, complaints were filed in Western Worcester District Court for the two suspects.

Joseph Barylski, 29, of Spencer, was charged with one count of obstructing or endangering a railroad crew, as well as trespassing on railroad property.

Andrew Thebeau, 29, also of Spencer, was charged with three counts of obstructing or endangering a railroad crew; three counts of trespassing on railroad property; and one count of malicious injury to a railroad switch.

Following the incident, police posted photos of the suspects and information on social media. They received dozens of tips from residents.

“Thanks to the tremendous response and numerous tips from the public, we have identified and charged two individuals, whom Western Worcester District Court in East Brookfield has issued arrest warrants for,” read a statement released by the police department.

Both men will be arraigned in Western Worcester District Court after the arrest warrants are served, officials said. Patrol officers have been assigned to locate the suspects.

Haston Library hosting digital scrapbooking program

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Haston Free Public Library officials invite residents to take part in a digital scrapbooking program.

Stuck at home for much of the pandemic, many residents have found some extra time to scroll through their devices and organize digital photos. Now it’s time to take the next step and learn how to turn those collections into a digital scrapbook or photobook.

Lindie Wessling, a photo organizing and management coach, will introduce residents to helpful scrapbooking techniques during a Zoom program. The session will take place on Tuesday, April 13, from 7-8:30 p.m.


Among other activities scheduled for the program, Wessling will demonstrate the creation of a photobook using free Forever.com software.

The virtual program is open to adults, but space is limited. Please register in advance by sending an email to illnb@cwmar.org, or by calling the library at 508-867-0208.

Registrants will receive a Zoom link they can use to access the program.

Participants should be ready with up to 50 digital photographs to include in their digital scrapbooks. Each new Forever.com participant will receive a \$20 coupon toward the creation of photo products.

The program is made possible by CARES Act grant funding, which is administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.



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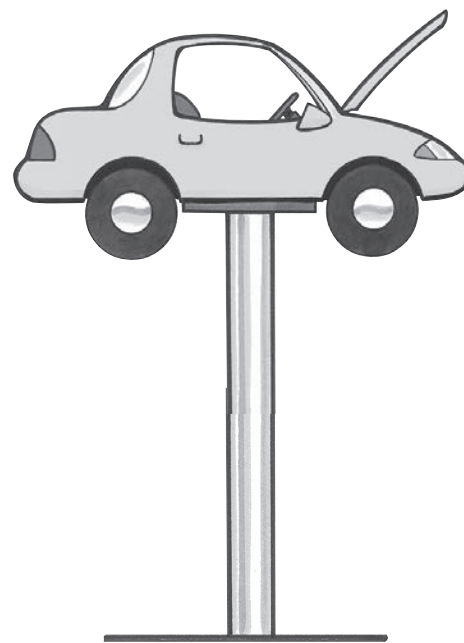
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The power of positivity

Every day, we wake up with the best intentions — or we like to think that most of us do. Each new day brings with it specific challenges. Many times, those challenges come by way of a misunderstanding or a shifted perspective. We have come to realize, long ago, that often there is more to a story than we can see at its surface. Just being aware of that one simple fact, can change the way a situation is viewed. Often times it's easier said than done, however the more we choose to remain optimistic the better. What might seem catastrophic in the moment is usually nothing more than a small frustration that has an easy fix and will pass. A wise man once said, 'Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff.'

This isn't to negate the fact that larger issues do surface and take some time to sort out, however we need to remind ourselves that we are all surrounded by well intended, intelligent people. People who are willing to be helpful, generous, rational and kind through productive conversations will always find the pot of gold in any situation.

Remembering to check a kneejerk reaction before gathering all of the facts is crucial to your ability to remain optimistic. Again, this is not always easy, but once mastered can change everything.

Believe it or not, optimism is a choice and offers surprising benefits. Choosing to look on the bright side of life can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke while also extending your life.

One study revealed that individuals who spent five minutes a day thinking positive thoughts about their future increased their ability to be optimistic in just two weeks. Before turning in at night, list five things that you are grateful for and five things that you are looking forward to. Every time you stop at a traffic light, tell yourself something that you like about yourself. Keeping pessimists in your life at a distance is always a good idea.

When a negative thought does creep through your mind, that's ok. Recognize it, and decide how realistic it actually is. To offset those thoughts, try spreading positivity yourself. While at work, offer a co-worker an 'atta boy' or 'atta girl' for a job well done. If your child has been hard at work on a school project, tell them how proud you are. Send a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on your life. When you bestow positivity on others, it has a lasting effect on your own life.

One way to practice being more optimistic is to flip every negative thought with a positive one despite how creative you need to get. For example, if you're thinking 'I'm going to be late for dinner and I don't feel like cooking' you can flip that by reminding yourself about the wonders of the microwave and take out. If a rainy day has you feeling groggy, remind yourself that those are the best days to read all day, catch up on Netflix and not feel guilty about missing all of that sunshine.

A quote from Rodolfo Costa, "Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what it is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, evolve and become a better person."

The Golden Rule

To the Editor:

In a recent article, I referenced the Golden Rule. It was the one that said we must do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Today, I will be addressing a different Golden Rule. It is the one that works in tandem with a bill that was ludicrously named "Citizens United."

This bill is the embodiment of "he who has the gold, makes the rules." Good counsel says, follow the money. Only if you have a team of capable investigators will you find out that PACC for American Greatness is some kind of shell game to keep you from knowing whose interests they actually represent.

I realize that some states hastily made

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The U.S. needs fewer progressives, not fewer firearms

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. Rosenberg and Ms. Cohen regarding firearms and all in the April 2 edition of the New Leader.

Mr. Rosenberg:

The USA has always been armed. If not for that, we would still be genuflecting to inbred Brits and Europeans. The USA does not need fewer firearms. It needs fewer 1 percenter progressive nitwits and their useful idiot drone hoi polloi who march blithely, chained together, toward the abattoir of slavery. Progressives have been cultivating depravity, decadence and perversity for decades. As the poo pile grows ever larger, they propose more of their "com-

mon sense," at the same time encouraging increased moral rot.

Ms. Cohen:

Your ignorance is neither unprecedented or amazing. It is typical, either because you are part of the 1 percent or you are a drone. The AR15 is not a military firearm. Stop using terms like "assault ..." when you obviously have zero knowledge about the subject other than the lies fed to you by your 1 percent masters.

Sincerely,

R. MICHAEL SMALL
NORTH BROOKFIELD

The voice of the people should be a priority

To the Editor:

There is a company, TCP Realty, LLC, a fuel company, in the process of appealing to the Land Court Judge in Boston for a special permit to install large propane gas tanks [gas farm] that consist of above ground tanks nine feet diameter by 70 feet long, holding approximately 100,000 gallons of fuel in a residential neighborhood between Route 9 and Maple Street, a residential street. These tanks will be placed approximately 400 feet from the elementary school and 100 feet from Maple Street residents.

This heating fuel company distributes oil and propane gas, and recently acquired the opportunity to apply for a special permit with an out-of-town court "because" the Planning Board chairperson neglected to file the vote results with the Town Clerk and the residents involved that the special per-

mit was denied by the residents, and the Planning Board Chairperson and members did not have the votes to override the residents.

So today, we, the Maple street residents, are filing an appeal with the Land Court Judge in Boston to deny the fuel companies request for a special permit.

It also appears the Select Board members are covering up for the Planning Board by allowing this so the company can obtain its special permit.

The town's governing process in this particular situation is deceptive, dishonest, and, according to Massachusetts general laws, it is illegal.

This must not be allowed.

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Humanity's biggest threat

To the Editor:

Years ago, when I was a young kid, I got a pair of gerbils as pets. I remember my dad built a big cage for them, and we would put in fresh wood shavings. It was fun to feed them and watch their antics as they would go on the hamster wheel and chase each other around. Eventually, they had a litter, and there was a bunch of cute little ones. These then grew and multiplied. Eventually, the cage got crowded and I noticed something happening. Any new litters would have the babies killed. One of the larger gerbils dominated the others. The smaller ones would be hiding, and I noticed their tails were bitten off. It was no longer a fun hobby. You see the stress of over population had caused them to practice genocide and malice toward one another. I decided it was no longer fun to have them and gave them away.

If you look from space, Earth is a lot like a cage or fishbowl. So, what effect do you think is going to happen in future when the earth population doubles. Will we be concerned with Global Warming when you are fighting just to get enough food to eat? Will countries like China and India who can no longer grow enough food for their burgeoning population care about carbon emissions? Will they care about depleting the fish in the oceans? What recourse does a country have when its people are starving and restless. What do they do when they see other countries that have some resources? The answer is easy: War. It's all too clear what the future holds for a world where population just keeps expanding exponentially. When the fishbowl gets more crowded than the bigger fish start to dominate the smaller ones. It will start with issues like Global Warming, Social Equity, and Income redistribution. These will justify their reasons for future atrocities. They have the

moral right. When it comes down to it our animalistic survival instinct will take over. You know the politicians and the rich will make sure that they are taking care off. There will be battle for control of the resources and it won't be pretty.

But there is another answer. If the fishbowl gets to crowded, then get a second fishbowl and move some to that one. This is exactly what pioneers like Elon Musk are trying to do. He and his group of engineers are working hard at Space X to build vehicles that can land and take off easily. Another division of Elon Musk's company is a tunneling project in California where his engineers are building innovative tunneling technology, The end game. Build a colony on the moon. If you can borrow into the moon, then you can create a space that is safe from the radiation and impacts of debris. Solar panels on the surface can convert the light at the surface and be used to provide artificial light in below ground chambers to grow food, this is already being done in old bomb shelters in England. One you establish a working livable colony on the moon, then travel to other planets becomes much easier since you don't have to use huge rockets to lift thru earth's atmosphere. You can use ships powered by light engines to travel at the speed of light.

So, the great dilemma facing the survival of human race is not Global Warming or Racial Justice. It is the allocation of resources. If we continue to be run by radical socialists, then we have lost. They will promote division and social justice to force our governments to use whatever money and resources to placate the exploding mass of humanity. This will inevitably result in war, famine, and death for half the world. My hope is

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

Will investors change behavior after the pandemic?



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The COVID-19 pandemic may end up changing our lives in some significant ways. To cite one example, it's likely we'll see a lot more people continue to work remotely, now that they've seen the effectiveness of tools such as videoconferencing. Education, too, may be forever changed in some ways. Perhaps just as important, though, is how many people may now think more about the future – including how they invest.

If you work with a financial professional, you may have connected with this individual over the past several months through a videoconferencing platform, rather than in person. Some people like this arrangement because it offers more scheduling flexibility and eliminates the time and effort of traveling to and from an appointment. Others, however, still prefer face-to-face contact and look forward to when such arrangements will again be practical and safe for everyone involved. But if you're in the first group – that is, you prefer videoconferencing – you may now wish to use this communication method in the future, at least some of the time.

But beyond the physical aspects of your investing experience, you may now be looking at some changes in your investment strategy brought on, or at least suggested, by your reactions to the pandemic.

For example, many people – especially, but not exclusively, those whose employment was affected by the pandemic – found that they were coming up short in the area of liquidity. They didn't have enough easily accessible savings to provide them with the cash they needed to meet their expenses until their employment situations stabilized. Consequently, some individuals were forced to dip into their long-term investments, such as their 401(k)s and IRAs. Generally speaking, this type of move is not ideal – these accounts are designed for retirement, so, the more you tap into them early, the less you'll have available when you do retire. Furthermore, your withdrawals will likely be taxable, and, depending on your age, may also be subject to penalties.

If you were affected by this liquidity crunch, you can take steps now to avoid its recurrence. Your best move may be to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the funds held in a separate, highly accessible account of cash or cash equivalents. Of course, given your regular expenses, it may take some time to build such an amount, but if you can commit yourself to putting away a certain amount of money each month, you will make progress. Even having a few hundred dollars in an emergency fund can help create more financial stability.

Apart from this new appreciation for short-term liquidity, though, the foundation for your overall financial future should remain essentially the same. In addition to building your emergency fund, you should still contribute what you can afford to your IRA, 401(k) and other retirement plans. If you have children you want to send to college, you might still explore college-funding vehicles such as a 529 plan. Higher education will still be expensive, even with an expansion in online learning programs.

Post-pandemic life may contain some differences, along with many similarities to life before. But it will always be a smart move to create a long-term financial strategy tailored to your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It doesn't get any easier

To the Editor:
Like many Americans, I have been watching the Derek Chauvin trial closely, and experiencing the re-traumatizing experience of remembering.
During the first week of the trial, we saw opening arguments from both sides, and it seems that the defense is going to essentially say that Derek Chauvin was justified in killing George Floyd because a crowd was assembling around him (because he was killing a man) and his fear justified taking a life from a handcuffed man who was on the ground. The defense focused on nine minutes and 29 seconds for which there is simply no excuse.
George Floyd was pinned to the ground for four minutes and 45 seconds while he cried out for help. He was pinned down for 53 seconds

while he flailed due to seizures. He was pinned down for three minutes and 51 seconds while he was non-responsive.
The defense focused on witnesses, their recollection of what they told Derek Chauvin that made him so scared, such as witnesses yelling at him to “check his pulse!” or “he’s down already!” or “get off his neck!” It was simply shocking for the defense to blame the growing scene of bystanders as a threatening crowd, and it is them who are responsible for Floyd’s death.
The defense’s witnesses had little in common except trauma which united them. Some witnesses tried to reason with Chauvin. One called the police to say he was witnessing a murder. The witnesses ranged in age from nine to 61, and all

Turn To **WASHINGTON** page **A10**

Elementary schools are open!

To the Editor:
It was 15 months ago, in January 2020, when the then President of the United States was alerted of the largest crisis of his presidency. Later in January, the then President was recorded seeming to acknowledge how contagious and deadly the coming pandemic was, but then went on to say he preferred to downplay it. About 13 months ago, the states realized the situation we were in and closed everything they could, including schools.
We assumed that the virus, like most viruses, would transmit through children as the primary vector, and we shut down schools. Within weeks, “emergency childcare” opened up for the children of essential workers. This struck me as very odd because if we were in the life-or-death pandemic of the century, then we had to tell parents to figure out their childcare or put them on leaves

of absence and let non-parents pick up the slack. But of course, it was political; nobody wanted to pay parents to stay home, nobody wanted to force overtime on the non-parents, so we opened emergency childcare. Luckily and strangely, though, there were no major outbreaks. This was not due to sound policy and steady leadership, but because COVID didn’t transmit through children, as we had all assumed.
By June 2020, it was clear that COVID-19, for some strange reason, didn’t seem to affect children. It sickened very few children, and didn’t transmit through them efficiently. This was unlike other respiratory illnesses, and unlike the 1918 flu pandemic, which was the last pandemic on this scale. Gov. Baker allowed childcare to re-open in June, summer. Schools in countries around the world

Turn To **KASPI** page **A11**

A glimmer of hope in a dark night

To the Editor:
As I type this on Easter Sunday, a day of hope and a fresh start for beleaguered believers, I am somewhat heartened by items in the news over the past few days.
Living in a land now utterly transformed almost overnight from one of full employment, reasonably secure borders, a more-or-less respected First Amendment protection of freedom of expression, and a military in which we could vest at least some degree of confidence, to one of a fake election leading to supposed governance by a mumbling, stumbling, fumbling, corrupt and stupid fake president controlled completely by nameless, faceless operatives who hate our country and most of the people who live here, and who are determined to destroy-root and branch-anything of the old America: our history, institutions, and culture — I, like many others of my acquaintance, have been living under a dark cloud of despair for some time now.
Suddenly, everything is upside down. Freedom of speech (especially in higher education)? Gone. Secure borders? Gone. Common sense in the military? Gone. Equality under the rule of law? Gone. Any slightest trace of unity among the disparate groups in the culture (the classes, sexes, races, urban v. rural, old v. young, etc.)? Gone. A respectable and objective media? Gone. One wonders: Is it over, the grand 244-year-old experiment in self-government? Has the Communist left finally succeeded in delivering the coup de grace, the fatal blows to the Old Republic from which recovery is not possible?

In my despondency, and knowing that as an old man, there is nothing left for me to do to try to help stave off the collapse-the fight for freedom has always been a young person’s privilege and opportunity-you will understand, then, how cheered I am to learn of actions taken anywhere by anybody to stand up in opposition to the forces leading to the anarchistic ruination of a culture, or a country, or the entire western world.
Now comes word from Hungary — not surprising if you follow European issues at all — that not everyone is willing to roll over and show the belly in the face of BLM/Antifa-style provocations. Last week, some would-be revolutionary artist in a Budapest park erected a monument in the form of the Statue of Liberty taking a knee, draped in a rainbow-striped robe (get it?) and, taking the place of the Lady’s Torch of Liberty a raised, clenched fist. It lasted 24 hours before a Hungarian patriot said, “Not here, not now.” It was torn down.
And, I say, good for Hungary. In terms of scale, it probably didn’t equal the destruction of effigies in America and Britain during the orgy of statue smashing of the past summer, but it was a good start. It certainly wasn’t in the same class of resistance as shown by outraged Hungarian students in October of 1956 when they tore down the 82-foot-tall statue of the Soviet butcher, Joseph Stalin, but, again, it was a start of normal and decent people

saying, enough is enough, and, like Twisted Sister “...we’re not gonna take it anymore...”
The Hungarians, from 1949 to 1989, suffered under the savage yoke of Russian-imposed Communism, and know all too well the stench of political prisons, of labor camps, of police torture chambers, of the fear of the ubiquitous informer system where no one trusts any-

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A11**

The American Jobs Act

To the Editor:
The President put forth an infrastructure plan in excess of \$2 trillion. Progressives say it doesn’t go far enough, Republicans say it spends way too much. It is important to look at this plan as not just an infrastructure plan, but a general jobs bill, and the name of the bill is “The American Jobs Act.” One of the criticisms is that much of the bill isn’t infrastructure because it isn’t just roads, bridges, seaports, airports, and those types of things. The American Jobs Act is expanding on what “infrastructure” really is — wind turbines, solar energy, wiring the country for broadband with the same priority we gave interstate highways in the 1950’s, and upgrading our electric grid. This is a big bold plan and time will tell how much of this the president gets.
The obvious criticism to this bill is the debt. The national debt is large, increasing, and it’s a problem. I find it interesting that Republicans were not

concerned about the debt back when they passed the 2017 tax cut that gave billions of dollars to millionaires and billionaires, but not they cry foul as we debate a spending bill which will put people to work and make this country more prepared for the decades ahead. I wonder if the debt-hawks will suggest rolling back the Trump tax cuts now that they’re not paying for themselves and they are blowing up the deficit...
It is a fact that rising debt contributed to the decline of the Roman Empire, the Spanish Empire, Napoleonic France, and 19thcentury China. History is replete with nations who hurt themselves by going too much into debt. Nonetheless, under the circumstances, the Biden plan is worth it. We haven’t invested sufficiently in infrastructure of basic research in decades. The economic history of the United States over the last 50 years is that we have created a giant funnel — sending resources and wealth to highly educated peo-

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

Talk about tangents...

To the Editor:
At least Mr. Reid can agree that Joe Biden received more votes in more states, and that is the reason he is serving as our 46th president. Former President Trump’s behavior is of course his decision, and his decision alone, but that does not shield him or his supporters from criticism. There is one 1 set of facts — one fact is Joe Biden won the 2020 election and another fact is that Donald Trump will go to the grave believing he won.
What I have said many ways and many times is that when a monkey shoots someone, we don’t blame the monkey — we blame whoever gave the monkey the gun. Trump is an interesting and unique individual to be sure, but the truly despicable people are his supporters who know better.
I haven’t done the math but, but sure, if we sold California to Mexico and New York to Canada former President Trump would have been reelected. By the same token if Texas were independent, we gave Florida to Cuba, and Arizona was given back to Mexico Hillary would have won in 2016. If we admitted the Canadian provinces as states I’m sure Hillary would have won in 2016. So what? Who cares? As it turns out, New York, California, Texas, Arizona, and Florida are all part of the United States, Canadian provinces don’t get to weigh in, Donald Trump

won the 2016 election and Joe Biden won the 2020 election. A better question to ask is what would have happened in 2016 if Russia hadn’t intervened.
Voter turnout was higher in 2020 compared to 2016 because voters on both sides realized how much is at stake, and that every vote counts. Suggesting that California and New York sent extra ballots to states Trump narrowly won in 2016 but Biden narrowly won in 2020 is incredulous and absurd.
To respond to Mr. Weissner, it is nice to see new perspectives, but I sincerely hope that his suggestion that we further God’s work by releasing radioactive waste into the community is a hyperbolic attack on Mr. Robillard. I suppose God littered the earth’s crust with Uranium-238 during the earth’s creation four billion years ago so that so that someday, starting in the 1940’s, we could further God’s work by splitting Uranium and returning Krypton, Barium, and a few neutrons to the earth while showering us with beta and gamma radiation. Surely, God waited 4 billion years before there were any hominids, and then he waited 10 million years until there were anatomically modern humans, then he waited another 80,000 years before we figured out how to split atoms to make electricity to charge the new GMC

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KIMBALL

continued from page A8

against them paying more taxes or funding fixing the road that their commerce and employees travel over.

In quick review, the founders (who had motives beyond what we credit them) were the original - Golden rule, as they and the wealthy, funded everything until we created the IRS.

That did not happen until the early 1900's. The founders created the electoral system and had states appointing senators, in order to make sure they controlled the big decisions. When we started actually electing senators, someone invented the filibuster. It is a control mechanism that should never fly in the face of democracy (one person one vote-majority rule).

So where are we? Biden has kept more campaign promises in three months than Trump did in four years. Covid is receiving the attention it needs, finally, people who are hurting financially have been addressed, schools are getting opened, businesses are being rescued, and much more.

Now we are looking at a \$3 trillion infrastructure bill. It will fix the streets and bridges that have wrecked your car, create needed jobs, etc.

What they are trying to sell you is that spending this money is bad. Where does money come from? You either

print it (devalue what you have) or borrow it from China our Saudi Arabia, et al. They tell you that you are spending grandkids' money.

Pay attention, because this lesson comes from 72 years on this earth and paying attention.

At some point, they will take from you. in taxes, or by some means, as much as they think you will tolerate. (I am talking now and then.) After bankrupting enough of us for healthcare, eldercare, or you choose, they (the government) will take up the slack and pay. We are on a road that will eventually mirror Mexico, Egypt, etc., with 1 or 2 percent wealthy, 5 to 15 percent comfortable, and the rest of us worker bees.

I hope my children and grandchildren get tapped over large to pay our debt, because only the very wealthy will see any variance in rate. In the meantime, go for the benefits — decent roads, bridges, jobs — because fasting will only provide hunger and, for most of us, won't change one damned thing.

So, if you feel the need to gripe about spending \$3 trillion for your benefit, go for it.

Rupert Murdoch got a hospital to stay open late to administer his vaccine. He owns Fox.

Just remember, He who has the Gold, makes the Rules.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

ROSENBERG

continued from page A9

ple in large metro areas, and building infrastructure and the balance of the American Jobs Act funnels money towards other Americans – blue collar and rural Americans. We need the jobs, we need to bolster the poorly educated, we need to spread wealth across our country, we need infrastructure in order to create new wealth in the decades to come, and this bill does just that.

Democracy over the last decades has turned out to be a race to the bottom while the Capitalist class (top 5 percent) do extraordinarily well, and the top 1 percent seem to be owning more and more of the entire country, and this is because they are using their money to pervert the democratic system. We have to show that democracy, as a system, can work. The Chinese system so far in the 21st century has been demonstrating that it can work – authoritarian state capitalism. The American Jobs Act is the latest battle in a contest to show that democracy can get big things done.

While it is easy to claim we can't afford this, the place to look is taxes. The total U.S. tax revenue at all levels of government is about 24 percent of our GDP whereas the average of peer nations is 34 percent of their GDP. There are only three countries in the OECD with lower taxation than us and 33 with higher. The United States also has worse inequality, with a Gini index more similar to Jamaica and Rwanda

than Canada, the UK, or Australia.

If we're honest, the \$2 trillion bill, as it stands now, isn't going to pass. Mitch McConnell and the rest of the Republicans will vote no. The likelihood that the Democrats can keep all 50 of their members without Joe Manchin flinching is pretty low. The likely scenario is that something big will pass, but Sen. Manchin and West Virginia will need some pretty sweet incentives.

Over 100 million Americans have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as we see the number of infections increase and the variants run rampant. We have seen discussion of vaccine passports while at the same time some governors have tried banning their use. We are so close in getting to the other side of this pandemic and it seems like the states are too impatient to wait and are messing things up by repealing mask mandates and opening things up too early. We're not out of the woods yet and people are being a little too optimistic about how open our society can be during this period of vaccination instead of waiting for after the vaccination.

We are at a critical juncture right now and we need to do everything we can to get the vaccine hesitant on board and vaccinated. Perhaps vaccine passports and normal lives for those who are vaccinated while the vaccine hesitant are stuck in a quarantine holding pattern will break the logjam and we can get to herd immunity.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

WASHINGTON

continued from page A9

either cried or fought back tears as they recounted how they didn't get involved while they knew they should and how it has haunted them that they didn't intervene. One black teenager recounted how she looked at him and realized that could be her or one of her family members and she often can't sleep because she feels guilty for not physically intervening. A Minneapolis firefighter and EMT was off-duty and repeatedly tried to reason with Chauvin, told him to check his pulse, and tried to render aid. Even the cashier at the deli expressed regret for not just accepting the fake \$20 bill because the whole situation would have been avoided and George Floyd would be alive.

The only thing that killed George Floyd was an overdose of excessive force. The only responsibility that crowd has is not moving in on Derek Chauvin as a mob and stopping him.

We saw cell phone footage from more angles than I can remember. We saw bodycam footage from all of the cops there. Watching a man be killed like that brought tears to my eyes and after watching it over and over again it doesn't get any easier. Heart wrenching as it has been it is important that we all watch it. Every police officer in the police academy should need to watch every angle of footage before they get their badge. Every police officer in the police academy should need to see George Floyd's friends and families crying on the witness stand. There is simply no excuse for what happened.

Even the wall of blue has cracked. Lt. Richard Zimmerman, the top homicide detective at the Minneapolis Police Department, testified that Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck after he was handcuffed was "totally unnecessary." It really says something when high-

ranking police officials from the same department as Chauvin aren't even willing to defend him. Anybody knows not to keep a human being facedown like that where they can't breathe. Chauvin did just that and kept his knee on Floyd's neck even after he had become unconscious for several minutes.

Lt. Zimmerman was asked if he was ever trained to kneel on a person, he said no, and he then qualified "because if your knee is on someone's neck – that could kill them."

The defense is going to try and make this about the fake \$20 bill George Floyd tried to pass, the addiction issues he faced, resisting arrest, the crowd, probably his hypertension and elevated blood sugar, too. This trial is not about George Floyd. It is not about his character or mistakes he made in life. This trial is about Derek Chauvin and his actions. This trial is about sending a message to all cops about the cracking strength of the wall of blue and the existential threat cell phone cameras represent to their ability to abuse citizens they are paid to serve and protect.

The neck underneath Chauvin's knee could have been anybody's.

TERRANCE WASHINGTON
SPENCER

ROBILLARD

continued from page A8

instead of we can elect visionary leaders who will unify the world look up to the skies for new frontiers for a better tomorrow. New planets and places where we can all flourish with freedom and liberty.

MARK ROBILLARD
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KASPI

continued from page A9

that don't have a summer vacation reopened. After emergency childcare had no large outbreaks, summer camps in 2020 had no outbreaks.

In July 2020, Gov. Baker relented to the MTA and let them cut two weeks off of the school year, and seemingly every school district in the state cancelled the first two weeks in September, which had exceptionally low virus numbers, and the lowest numbers of the pandemic. Once August hit and the MTA had their two-week shorter school year cemented, that is when we heard the "start remote and phase the kids in" plan of stupidity. The numbers in September were 10 times lower than they were in November when the kids started going back. This was political.

For many months Gov. Baker and Sec. of Education Riley have been "urging" school districts to go back in person, 100 percent. The governor and the secretary tried using their bully pulpit, soapboxes, and the media and nothing seemed to work. They suggested there was nothing they could do to convince local school districts to go back. That was until March 2021, when Sec. Riley announced an end to remote-learning and set a date after which "remote days" won't count as "school days" and basically said schools will be decertified and subject to state receivership should they continue remote learning. Like clockwork, every district made plans to bring back 100 percent of the elementary students on April 5, the deadline.

As it turns out, the state government in Boston can, and was always, able to force the schools open. Apparently, they waited for the one-year birthday of the COVID crisis to pull that lever, since one year is long enough.

The funny thing is that the danger today is far higher than it was in September; cases in Massachusetts today are 12 times higher than they were in September. The original COVID virus didn't seem to impact children and in-person childcare workers who were supervising remote learning (i.e.: non-unionized teachers) did not get COVID at higher rates than the community at large.

The B117 variant from the UK is now in the US, and it's a very different beast.

It is more contagious than the original, effectively defeating masks, and it affects children. Children are getting sick with this variant, and are transmitting it effectively. In Europe, where they actually prioritized keeping schools open, they've had a hell of a time keeping them open with this B117 variant due to actual outbreaks (not fear). This variant is more contagious, infects kids, is making younger people more seriously ill, and is deadlier. So not only are cases 12 times higher than in September, when it was "too dangerous" to open schools, we have a new beast of a virus which runs through kids and runs through schools....But it's been too long, so the schools must be open.

But wait, there's more! Massachusetts is the hotspot in the U.S. for the new Brazilian variant, which is more contagious and is re-infecting people who already had COVID down in Brazil, leading to the worst case and death rates of the entire pandemic right now. Being fair, though, Barnstable County (Cape Cod) is the hotspot, so I'm sure it will stay there... Nothing to worry about; if it was bearing down on us from Vermont, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, or New Hampshire that would be cause for concern, because those are other states...

Not to be outdone, the South African variant has been detected in Massachusetts and it is known for rendering vaccines much less effective.

How many people had Easter dinners or Passover seders this past week? How many people have been reconnecting with friends as though the pandemic went away, when in reality, it has accelerated 70 percent in four weeks? My social media feed says many people... The cases in this state on the eve of Easter were similar to where they were on the eve of Thanksgiving except in November people were scared and now they think it's over.

Even the best vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, are only 90 percent effective. Doing some quick math, it seems that vaccinated teachers today are at higher risk than they would have been if schools opened before vaccines were even available. Considering that the new variants are far scarier than the original it seems to me that vaccinated teachers today are at substantially higher risk today compared to a hypothetical open school in September 2020.

If schools had been open Sept. 1 through Thanksgiving, then re-opened after New Year's, it might make sense to close them now until the vaccination campaign can be completed and we get a better understanding of these variants. In a reasonable world that is what we would do. In the world we all live in where our children were robbed of months of education for no good reason and then had to endure hybrid learning for many more months despite the science telling us that hybrid learning led to more virus spread than 100 percent in-person... My opinion is that the schools need to stay open. Perhaps the MTA will remember this the next time there is a pandemic... Perhaps the MTA will remember not to waste their political capital keeping schools closed when it's safe because nobody will care or want to listen to them when it's actually dangerous.

Personally, I'm still scared. My children need to be in school, and their likelihood of bringing COVID home is high. It's too bad that the MTA robbed our children of safe in-person learning, and now we all have to deal with dangerous in-person learning.

The only way out of this mess is for everybody to get vaccinated. Everybody includes the "anti-vaxx" and the "vaccine-hesitant" crowd. Gov. Baker mandated all students (even remote learning) get a flu vaccine last fall, then delayed the mandate, then rescinded it once it became clear that the hospitals wouldn't literally overrun (with the help of the DCU Center and Tsongas Arena). This was a huge mistake, he should have stuck to his guns if for no reason other than to set the tone for, "this isn't a choice."

Biden's \$1,400 stimulus should have been contingent on getting the vaccine. It would be worth it to run another \$1,400 stimulus just to put strings on it this time to force people to get vaccinated. We need to make life extremely difficult for those who don't get vaccinated... We should require proof of vaccine to board a plane, attend a large venue, etc. As variants emerge there will need to be booster shots and the government needs to use every arrow in its quiver to end this pandemic. I'm not hopeful.

TANYA KASPI
SPENCER

MCRAE

continued from page A9

one, and the suffering by all except the ruling class elites from incessant shortages of everything that makes life livable, not to mention the unending misery of a chronically failed economic system. I think they are very much on their guard against ever again falling under the ironclad control of totalitarians of any stripe. They know Black Lives Matter is a Communist front organization founded in 2013 by three women proud to call themselves committed Marxists, and they-Hungarians-want nothing to do ever again with the Reds.

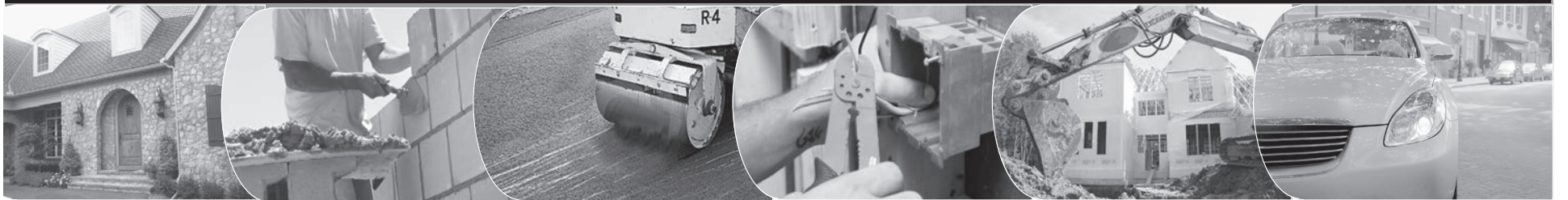
They continue to maintain effective border control, and let in only those who can be helpful for their country. They are proud of their Christian culture and their long historical heritage, including their role in the Dual Monarchy, the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Visitors can go to Hungary as well as other formerly Eastern Bloc nations to experience Europe as it used to be: safe travel, beautiful cities along the Danube, gracious cafes, hotels and restaurants, and, above all, the freedom from having to worry about being run down on a sidewalk, stabbed, shot, raped or beaten by deranged foot soldiers of the Religion of Peace. Sadly, the same cannot in any way be said for many of the decadent, guilt-ridden, self-loathing cities in Germany, France, The Netherlands, England, Scandinavia, and other places on the Continent that have lost their sense of identity, their cultural and national pride, and their self-respect.

Hungary, along with other eastern European countries with a painful memory of Communist and/or Nazi occupation seared into their subconscious, gets it, and wants nothing to do with self-professed Marxist organizations such as Black Lives Matter and Antifa. Once burned, twice cautious. The consensus is, I suspect, "Stay away, you're not welcome here."

Poland, like Hungary, also brought a smile to my face when, at last week's qualifier for the World Cup, their team declined an offer from their opponent Great Britain (no surprise there) to

Turn To MCRAE page A19

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LEGALS

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT**
Docket 21 SM 000311
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Cheryl C. Fallstrom; John W. Fallstrom and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act:, 50 U.S.C.c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2018-3, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Spencer**, numbered **48 Lambs Grove aka 46-48 Lambs Grove**, given by **Cheryl C. Fallstorm and John W. Fallstorm** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for **AMCAP Mortgage, Inc.**, its successors and assigns, dated January 11, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38214, Page 334, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **May 3, 2021** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on March 18, 2021
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
(19-010075 Orlands)
April 9, 2021

**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. WO21C0092CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Tanieka Annaliecia Gentles**
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Tanieka Annaliecia Gentles of Spencer MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Tanieka Annalicia Gentles-Robinson
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/20/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 19, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

April 9, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO20D0245DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Angela Rose Gour
vs.
Jason Eric Gour**
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which

would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
**Julie Dick, Esq.
Community Legal Aid
405 Main St
4th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608**
your answer, if any, on or before **06/16/2021**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 25, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

April 9, 2021

**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. WO21C0097CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Hayzleigh Mae Crespo**
A **Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by **Hayzleigh Mae Crespo of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Hayzleigh Mae Lombardini
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/20/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 19, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

April 9, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO21P0976GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Issiah J. Malo
of Brookfield, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES**
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **03/12/2021** by **Lisa E. Hanrahan** of Brookfield, MA will be held **04/29/2021 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Magistrate Hearing Zoom 160 280 6833 or call 646-828-7666**
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:

A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: March 24, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

April 9, 2021

**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. WO21C0107CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Brady James Shipman**
A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Brady James Shipman of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Brady James Dupre
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/27/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 29, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

April 9, 2021

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**
Premises: 12 North Brookfield Road, Spencer, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John R. Sherman Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Santander Bank, N.A., said mortgage dated September 5, 2014, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 52783 at Page 13 and now held by U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust, by virtue of an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Lodge Series IV Trust, to U.S. Bank Trust National Association., as Trustee of Dwelling Series IV Trust, dated October 23, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63794, Page 167, previously assigned by Santander Bank, N.A., to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Lodge Series IV Trust, by virtue of an assignment dated February 4, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62095, Page 20, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Santander Bank, N.A., to Santander Bank, N.A., by virtue of an assignment dated January 16, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53301, Page 11, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **May 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land in said Spencer, with the buildings thereon, on the Northerly side of North Brookfield Road and being shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Spencer, Massachusetts owned by Joseph R. and Susan C. Foley, surveyed by John & Francis Dowgiewleicz," dated November 1972, John W. Dowgiewleicz, R.L.S., said plan being recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 379 Plan 35 bounded and described as follows:
BEGINNING at a point at an iron pin in the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road, said point being the Southeast corner of the tract herein described, as shown on said plan;

THENCE N. 81 degrees 22' W., 262.3 feet along the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road, partly along a stone wall, to a point;
THENCE N. 70 degrees 00' W., 296.9 feet still along the Northerly line of North Brookfield Road and partly along a stone wall, to a point at other land of the grantors;
THENCE N. 20 degrees 00' E., 76.7 feet along said other land of the granters to a point at an iron pin at a stone wall;
THENCE N. 70 degrees 00' W., 87.9 feet along said wall along other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin;
THENCE N. 20 degrees 00' E., 633.0 feet partly along other land of the grantors to a point at an iron pin at a stone wall;
THENCE S. 84 degrees 00' E., 242.0 feet along said stone wall to a point at a corner of walls;
THENCE S. 5 degrees 03' W., 659.5 feet along said stone wall to a point at an iron pin at a corner of walls;
THENCE S. 83 degrees 46' E., 216.3 feet along said wall to a point at a corner of walls;
THENCE S. 8 degrees 23' W., 135.5 feet along said wall to the point of beginning.
The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagor's Title, see deed dated 8/26/2014, and recorded in Book 52783 at Page 10 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust N.A., as Trustee of the Dwelling Series IV Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868

April 9, 2021

April 16, 2021

April 23, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20P0889EA
Estate of:
Richard Steven Ciufo
Date of Death: 11/06/2019
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Linda Aranzullo of Monroe CT** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First and Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
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 05/04/2021.**
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.
Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court
March 29, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 9, 2021





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– Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA

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OBITUARIES

Albina C. Balcunas, 95

LEICESTER- Albina C. Balcunas, 95, of Leicester died on Monday, March 22, 2021 in UMass Memorial Hospital, Belmont Street. She is survived by her niece Patricia Buchyn with whom she lived, a grandniece Kristiina Buchyn of Charlton, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. She is predeceased by her siblings, Lenard A., Stephen J., and Vito S. Balcunas and Aldona Buchyn. She was born in Worcester a daughter of the late John and Pauline (Traupis)



Balcunas. Ms. Balcunas was raised and educated in Worcester graduating from the former Commerce High School. She worked in Worcester at State Mutual Insurance (Hanover Insurance Company), the Worcester City Clerk's Office and the Massachusetts State Division of Employment and Training. She was a member of the former St. Casimir's Church, Worcester, and the Knights of Lithuania. Services and burial at St. John Cemetery are private. DIRSA-MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 298 Grafton St., Worcester is assisting the family with arrangements.

Charles L. Whitman, Jr., 84

WEST BROOKFIELD - Charles L. Whitman, age 84, died peacefully at his home on Sunday, March 14. He is survived by his wife, Carol, his son Cart Whitman and wife Leanne of Evanston, Wyoming, grandsons, Mark and wife Jennifer, Carl Whitman Jr., and and great-grandsons Carter and Ayden, all of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Also, sisters Claudia Kenady, Oadkland, CA, Shirley Wilk. Thorndike, MA and Ruth Lyon, West Brookfield, and several nieces and nephews. He was born in Ayer, MA, the son of Charles L and Isabel A. Whitman; he moved with his family to West Brookfield in 1940, and later to Warren.



He attended local schools, and Umass, Amherst. His six years of service in the U.S. Army included service in Germany and Vietnam. He later graduated from Pioneer Valley School of Nursing, retiring from that caring profession to his West Brookfield home In 2001. Charlie was known as a man of many talents. He entertained as an accomplished pianist while still a teenager, his music charmed audiences, friends and relatives throughout his life. A notable wit. he was a poet and writer, distributing verbal bouquets or brickbats with accuracy, ability, and at times, acerbity. He loved teaching piano, fishing, gardening and spending time with this family and friends. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to: Second Chance Animal Shelter 11 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515 www.SecondChanceAnimals.org

Ronald D. Maclin DO, 77

SPENCER- Ronald D. Maclin DO, 77, a longtime physician in Spencer, died on Thursday, March 25, 2021. He was born in Dunlap, TN. the son of the late John and Janet (Sullivan) Maclin. He leaves his wife Constance (Woods) Maclin; a son Gregory Maclin of Cleveland, OH.; step children Lisa Hartmann of Columbus, OH and Donald Hartmann of Worcester; 2 cousins Joy and Robert Britton of FL. Dr Maclin attended Mercer School of Pharmacy and Medical School at

Kansas City School of Medicine and Bio Science in 1975. He moved to Southwest Missouri - Joplin and Webb City where he started a rural family practice. In 1978 he moved his family to Massachusetts and started a family practice at 136 Main St. in Spencer (with podiatry and ophthalmology available) until he retired in 2011. Memorial visitation will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 3-5PM in PILLSBURY FUNERAL HOME 163 Main St. in Spencer.

Marian A. Waydaka, 90

Marian A. (Tryon) Waydaka died on March 17, 2021. She was 90. Marian was born on September 17, 1930, and resided in Enfield, MA until the town became part of the Quabbin Reservoir. She took great pride to be part of the Quabbin Reservoir history and her family has many memories of the stories she told of her time there. In 1946, Marian moved to East Brookfield where she lived for the remainder of her life. Marian was a graduate of Spencer High School, Class of 1948. Marian is survived by her son, Mark Waydaka of East Brookfield; her daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Jay Corbeil of West Brookfield; her former son-in-law, Robert Streeter of Venice, FL; her granddaughters, Jennifer Disley of Dudley; her granddaughter and husband, Sara and Stefan Chaires of Melrose; and her beloved great grandchildren, Nicholas, Kayla, Gavin and Harrison. She is preceded in death by her daughter, Ellen Streeter. Marian enjoyed good health and was a spry 90-year-old who seemed years younger than her stated age. She took immense pride in her appearance, and there is not one occasion that her fam-

ily can remember where she was not dressed to the nines with her signature high heels. And lest one not forget that her appearance was not complete unless she had recently been to see her long time hairdresser, Joan, who held a special place in her heart. Marian was ever present for all things related to family, and it wasn't a proper holiday or birthday until you received her card with her signature stickers on the envelope. She loved her chardonnay, gardening, and her rescue cat, Spencer. She most looked forward to her visits and lunches with her lifelong best friend, Virginia, whom she graduated high school with. Marian will always be remembered for her sense of humor and dry wit. She was always current with events and had no problem keeping up with, and meaningfully contributing to, discussions relating to reality tv, politics, and the latest events in the news and entertainment industry. She was genuinely interesting and delightful to talk to. She took life as it was and had an amazing outlook. Most importantly, she enjoyed herself unapologetically. In lieu of funeral services, and to honor Marian's character, we ask that all who wish to participate make a donation to Second Chance Adoption Center located at 111 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

Carol J. St. Peter, 71

SPENCER- Carol J. (Reno) St. Peter, 71 of Spencer passed away Sunday, March 28, 2021 in St. Vincent's Hospital of congestive heart failure. She leaves her husband of 50 years James R. St. Peter Sr; her son James R. St. Peter, Jr and his wife Kristene of Spencer; their daughter Sherry St. Peter of Brookfield. She was the proud grandmother of Indy, Vance, Reece, Ashley and Kaitlynn and great grandmother to Shaeleigh, Kristianna, Brody and Nissa. She will be missed by her brothers John Reno and his partner Roberto Rivera of NJ, David Reno and his wife Pat of Charlton, her sister Susan Petraitis and her husband Mark of North Brookfield and her nephews and nieces. She is reunited with her parents, John A. Reno and Mabel (Rowell) Reno, her sister Ann Reno and her brothers Paul, Mark and Peter Reno.

Carol was born in Spencer and graduated from David Prouty High School. She met and married the love of her life and raised their children, going to work after they were older. She worked for The Fair and then in the office of Klem's Tractor before retiring. She enjoyed crafting, attending her grandchildren's events, visiting with family and watching sports with her husband. Friends and family were invited to attend a calling hour on Friday, April 2, 2021 from 10-11AM in Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer with Covid19 precautions, social distancing and face masks. The funeral followed at 11:00AM in the funeral home. Burial will be in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Spencer EMS, PO Box 147, Spencer. MA. 01562. For an online tribute please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

Theodore P. "Ted" Antanavica, 80

LEICESTER: Theodore P. "Ted" Antanavica, 80 of Leicester, died Wednesday, March 31 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester due to complications with Coronavirus. He leaves his wife of 62 years, Judith A. (Dube) Antanavica, his sons; Michael P. Antanavica and his wife Roberta of Sturbridge, Stephan A. Antanavica and his wife Dana of Spencer and Dr. Pete Antanavica of Leicester. He also leaves his grandchildren; Garret Antanavica and his wife Elizabeth of Tewksbury, Marci Prockett and her husband David of Hudson, Alix Lane and her husband Nate of Leicester and Aaron Antanavica and his wife Heather of Holden, his adopted grandchildren; Immaculata, Jenny and Quinn Antanavica, 6 great grandchildren; Elise, Katherine, David, James, River and Archer. He also leaves his brothers Richard Antanavica and his wife Deborah of Leicester, Kenneth Antanavica (who coined the nickname Ted-E-Bear) and his wife Mary of Leicester and Brian Antanavica and his wife Lisa of Leicester as well as several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his sisters; Sandy Johns and her husband Richard, Beverly Hiltner and her husband Bill and is also predeceased by adopted grandchildren Shamal, Tynisha and Joslyn. His family truly meant the world to him. Ted was born in Worcester, the son of Julian T. and Sophie "Jackie" (Smeagle) Antanavica and later graduated from Leicester High School. Ted

was a natural leader with his charming, charismatic personality. He was a kind and generous person (so much more than anyone knows) who never had an unkind word to say. Ted was a leader in his family business, Antanavica Construction Co, since 1978. He also balanced that with his deep-seated commitment to the community by serving on the High School and Police Station Building Committees. He served on many more committees and boards in Leicester as well as being a longtime Trustee of the Pine Grove Cemetery and Rawson Brook Burying Grounds as well as a member of the Leicester Lions Club. Ted served his community always and was a proud member of the Leicester Fire Department., starting in the early 1970's. From 1984-1990, Ted served as Deputy Fire Chief and later as Fire Chief from 1990-1992. He also served as the Town of Leicester's Parking Hearings Clerk from 1994-2021. If we learned anything from Teddy it was to work HARD, keep your nose to the grindstone and love unconditionally. We were lucky to have known him and all strive to emulate him and make him proud every day. At Ted's request, private funeral services and burial in Pine Grove Cemetery Leicester will be held at a later date. Please omit flowers. Contributions may be made to the Leicester Food Pantry, 759 Main St, Leicester, MA 01524 or North Brookfield Hearts for Heat, PO Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535. The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is directing arrangements for the family. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

David A Harris, 79

NORTH BROOKFIELD- David A Harris, 79, of North Brookfield, MA, passed away at home on March 27, 2021 surrounded by his family. David grew up in Acton, MA, and graduated from Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. He received his B.S in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnical Institute. David retired from Babcock Power in Worcester after a long distinguished career in the power plant industry. He held many positions in business development and was fortunate to serve as Director of International Marketing where he had the opportunity to travel the world. He is a U.S. patent holder who has authorized and presented numerous technical papers on boiler design. David served proudly on several volunteer fire departments in the towns he lived in over the years, including Acton, Simsbury, CT and Paxton, MA. He also served on the North Brookfield Fire Headquarters Building Committee. Firefighting was his true passion and he treasured the camaraderie and friendships that developed

among his fellow firefighters. David was predeceased by his parents, Frederick and Leota Harris; his son Michael; his beloved partner Julie McCarthy; and his brother Philip Harris. David is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Rice and her husband Stephen, Brattleboro, VT; son David Harris and his wife Mandie, Worcester, MA; grandchildren Kayla, Molly, Jeremy, Samuel, Alastair, and Ryan; sister Ruth Thatcher, Acton, MA and numerous nieces and nephews including 11 nephews inherited from Julie. The family wishes to express their deep gratitude to the staff of Baystate Hospice for their support and care of David and his family. Private interment of his ashes will be at a later date in the Harris family gravesite in Evergreen Cemetery, Acton MA. Donations may be made in his and K. Julie McCarthy's name to The Friends of The North Brookfield Townhouse, 215 N. Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.



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BROOKFIELD – School Union 61 is pleased to offer a language-based preschool program for children age three and four. Brookfield Elementary School is accepting preschool students from Brookfield and surrounding towns. Together, teachers and teaching assistants will stress language, motor, and social development to a class of

no more than 15 preschool children. The program offers either MWF or T/Th half-day sessions. In order to be eligible for preschool, your child must be three years old by Aug. 31, and be independently toilet trained. All transportation will be provided by parents. Registration is currently underway. If interested in applying to our preschool pro-

gram, please complete an application and return by April 9. Kindergarten registration is also underway; if you need a registration packet please contact the school as soon as possible. For more information, or questions, please call Jennifer Grybowski, Administrative Assistant, at (508) 867-8774. to reserve. Pick-up times vary and will be given when reservation is made. Deadline: Monday, April 12. Pick-up will be in the rear of the church by entering from Church Street.

First Congregational W. Brookfield hosting Luau To-Go!

WEST BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield, 36 N. Main St., is hosting a Luau To-Go dinner on Saturday, April 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

Dinner includes Hawaiian Sweet & Sour Chicken, garlic carrots, succulent rice & choice of dessert. Tickets are \$10 each. Call Nancy at 414-267-3863 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24
1:16 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 1:31 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 5:09 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), message delivered; 6:09 a.m.: 911 call (South Spencer Road), open line; 7:46 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 8:15 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Duggan Street); 10:25 a.m.: vandalism (Gauthier Road), rep. re: CSX property; 10:57 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 11:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Kittredge Road), landlord/tenant dispute; 11:58 a.m.: lost/found (South Spencer Road), wallet found; 12:38 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 12:40 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 2:07 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 3:12 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), question re: motorcycle regs.; 3:17 p.m.: juvenile matter (Bixby Road), rep. bullying; 3:46 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 4:45 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 4:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), welfare check; 6:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), welfare check; 6:50 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 9:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Briarcliff Lane), rep. loud noise; 10:00 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:08 p.m.: vandalism (Gauthier Road), stroller left on train tracks; 10:16 p.m.: suspicious mv (Jolicoeur Avenue), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 3).
THURSDAY, MARCH 25
12:14 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 6:57 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), Leicester PD rep. erratic operator; 9:25 a.m.: citizen complaint (Mill Street), d/way blocked; 9:43 a.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), dog bite; 9:53 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 10:02 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:13 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:59 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:25 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), gunshots heard; 12:06 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 12:17 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), neighbor dispute; 12:33 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), neighbor issues; 12:39 p.m.: mv repossessed (West Main Street), info taken; 1:17 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:13 p.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), unruly customer; 3:11 p.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 3:33 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), info taken; 3:44 p.m.: medical/general (Spring Street); 4:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 4:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Sullivan Street), missing cat; 5:29 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), pkg. accidentally del. to PD; 5:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Town House Court), re: warrant; 6:17 p.m.: 911 call (Old East Charlton Road), open line; 6:40 p.m.: fraud (Oakland Drive), SS scam call; 7:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dogs; 7:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), keys dropped btw. bleachers; 7:17 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Road), accidental; 7:42 p.m.: 911 (Smithville Road), accidental; 8:38 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 9:26 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:29 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 10:53 p.m.: disturbance (Grove Street), m/f altercation; 10:52 p.m.: medical/overdose (G.H. Wilson Road); 10:57 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), noise complaint; (Total daily mv stops – 2).
FRIDAY, MARCH 26
7:19 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:40 a.m.: warrant service (Main Street), Justin S. Phachansiri, 20, 10 Ecklund Drive, Lowell, warrant/2, arrest; 9:44 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), re: suspicious mv; 9:48 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:12 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:14 a.m.: improper target practice (Howard Hurley Road), shooting too close to residence; 11:15 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), inquiry re: alien LTC; 11:42 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. loud exhaust; 1:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 2:08 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), neighbor issues/harassment; 2:26 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), rep. of scam; 2:48 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Holden PD bolo; 3:19 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 3:31 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:04 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:24 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), item shipped to wrong address; 5:01 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/12 (West Main Street), assisted; 6:07 p.m.: mv lockout (Bixby Road), assisted; 6:21 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Road), referred; 7:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), aggressive driver; 7:15 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Oxford PD req. assistance; 7:18 p.m.: disturbance (Dale Street), neighbor issues; 8:27 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 8:35 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 8:40 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 9:43 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), unauth. entry to apt.; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
12:43-1:23 a.m.: parking violations/8 (Mechanic, Elm, Main, High, Cherry, Adams streets), tickets issued; 1:39 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), open line/altercation heard; 2:18 a.m.: medical/general (Sampson Street); 8:20 a.m.: illegal dumping (West Main Street), investigated; 8:27 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), lost dog; 9:21 a.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 10:44 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (Dale Street), info taken; 10:46 a.m.: lost/found (Watson Street), Amazon pkg. found; 10:50 a.m.: fraud (Charlton Road), web accounts hacked; 1:05 p.m.: medical/general (Brown Street); 1:45 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), kids/bikes in road; 2:34 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 2:34 p.m.: larceny (Jolicoeur Avenue), missing delivery; 3:09 p.m.: RV complaint (Lakeshore Drive), re: boat launched; 3:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 4:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Hastings Road), re: retrieve belongings; 5:41 p.m.: suspicious persons (Park Street), investigated; 6:14 p.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 6:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Brooks Pond Road), re: suspicious person; 6:34 p.m.: juvenile matter (Elm Street), poss. child abuse; 8:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: irate customer; 8:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Highland Street), re: suspicious activity; 8:21 p.m.: school alarm (Lake Street), Samantha M. Pearlman, 18, 333 Marshall Street, Paxton, breaking/entering in the nighttime, breaking glass in building, trespassing, arrest; 8:22 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 9:09 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 9:10 p.m.: lost/found (Town House Court), lost license plate; 9:57 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); sometime between 9:57-10:35 p.m.: time/address/nature of incident not included on police log, Josiah Joshua Izquierdo, 21, 100 Hamburg Street, Springfield, assault/battery on person over 60/ disabled, strangulation or suffocation, arrest; 10:35 p.m.: medical/general (Shore Drive); 11:01 disturbance (South Street), noise complaint; 11:06 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 11:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), poss. involvement in previous incidence of assault; 11:31 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; (Total daily mv stops – 1).
SUNDAY, MARCH 28
12:46 a.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), loud domestic dispute; 1:26 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 5:44 a.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 8:47 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 9:08 officer wanted (Briarcliff Road), lg. tarp blown into yard; 10:04 a.m.: animal complaint (Casey Street), dead rabbit; 11:29 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 11:35 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 12:04 p.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; 12:24 p.m.: threats (Adams Street), re: comment from stranger; sometime between 12:24-2:04 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 2:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Valley Street), dog bite; 2:41 p.m.: residential fire (Paxton Road), referred; 2:53 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:35 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic/aggressive operator; 3:48 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), family issue; 4:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Pond Street), re: poss. booby trap; 5:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:40 p.m.: 911 call (Highland Street), accidental; 7:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), spoken to; 7:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), unwanted parties in mv; 9:52 p.m.: mv lockout (Greenville Street), assisted; 11:00 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:28 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); (Total daily mv stops – 0).
MONDAY, MARCH 29
12:50 a.m.: disabled mv (Bay Path Road), assisted; 7:19 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 7:48 a.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), tree in road; 7:53 a.m.: medical/general (Summit Street); 9:01 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), mv struck by falling tree; 9:52 a.m.: elderly matter (Ledge Avenue), father missing; 10:01 a.m.: burglary (Greenville Street), rear screen damaged; 10:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), debris in road; 10:49 a.m.: RV complaint (Deer Run Road), golf/go carts in street; 11:00 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:14 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), trash barrel in road; 11:30 a.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), tree limb in road; 11:37 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 11:53 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), tree across road; 12:15 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:17 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), raccoon in hallway; 12:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), welfare check; 1:24 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:34 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:51 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 2:11 p.m.: juvenile matter (Northwest Road), attempted runaway; 2:20 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 2:48 p.m.: disturbance (McDonald Street), neighbor issues; 3:19 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:00 p.m.: mutual aid (Howe Village), Mohegan Tribal Police req. assistance; 4:23 p.m.: mv

complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 4:27 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), hit/run; 4:34 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:15 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Brookfield Road), open line; 6:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), East Brookfield PD req. assistance; 7:30 p.m.: suspicious mv (Holmes Street), investigated; 7:59 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Wilson Street), no contact; sometime after 9:43 p.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; (Total daily mv stops – 0).
TUESDAY, MARCH 30
4:26 a.m.: medical/general (Lake Avenue); 4:56 a.m.: residential alarm (Clark Street), services rendered; 7:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), dead cat; 8:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), re: custody issue; 8:23 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), customer c/o cat; 8:43 a.m.: animal complaint (High Street), loose/aggressive dog; 8:44 a.m.: suspicious persons (Bixby Road), mailbox run over; 9:52 a.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), no contact; 10:42 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), ACO needed in Leicester; 11:08 a.m.: fraud (Linden Street), SS scam calls; 11:23 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:38 a.m.: parking complaint (Wall Street), spoken to; 11:51 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 12:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Brooks Pond Road), investigation; 1:45 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 2:48 p.m.: fraud (Mechanic Street), Medicare scam; 2:54 p.m.: fraud (Lakeshore Drive), Medicare scam; 2:57 p.m.: residential alarm (Delude Avenue), services rendered; 2:57 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:05 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 4:40 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 4:56 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:14 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 6:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), rep. of theft; 8:16 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 8:17 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), loose dogs; 10:58 p.m.: commercial alarm (Pleasant Street), services rendered; (Total daily mv stops – 2).'


Leciester Police
THURSDAY, MARCH 25
12:34 a.m.: welfare check (Collier Avenue), services rendered; 12:46 a.m.: ambulance (Collier Avenue), transported; 1:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:30 a.m.: fraud (Burncoat Lance), services rendered; 9:43 a.m.: fraud (Town Beach Road), assisted; 11:55 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:54 p.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), services rendered; 3:05 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), message delivered; 3:32 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Stafford Street), unfounded; 4:01 p.m.: suspicious activity (McCarthy Avenue), spoken to; 4:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 4:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:09 p.m.: mv stop (Church Street), verbal warning; 5:36 p.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), mv towed; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), mv towed; 6:55 p.m.: welfare check (Oxford, no address given), no action required; 6:59 p.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), assisted; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning.
FRIDAY, MARCH 26
10:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:02 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 12:19 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), services rendered; 1:41 p.m.: harassment (Redfield Road), spoken to; 3:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:12 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:12 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:47 p.m.: ambulance (Sherri Lane), transported; 5:50 p.m.: restraining order service (Boyd Street), served; 6:13 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 7:12 p.m.: holdup alarm (Fairview Drive), false alarm; 7:29 p.m.: assist other PD (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unable to locate; 7:37 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 9:35 p.m.: disturbance (River Street), investigated; 9:56 p.m.: debris in road (Pleasant Street), removed; 9:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), services rendered; 10:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 11:22 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning.
SATURDAY, MARCH 27
12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:42 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 3:15 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, defraud innkeeper of over \$100, criminal application issued; 3:42 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 4:03 p.m.:


parking complaint (Church Street), investigated; 4:33 p.m.: disturbance (Towtaid Street), services rendered; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 4:53 p.m.: gunshots heard (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 5:17 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 5:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:50 p.m.: investigation (Pine Street), services rendered; 6:13 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), citation issued; 6:22 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 7:02 p.m.: mv stop (Chapel Street), written warning; 7:14 p.m.: investigation (Maryann Drive, Worcester), services rendered; 7:35 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 8:42 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, speeding, mv towed; 9:48 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), services rendered; 10:36 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered.
SUNDAY, MARCH 28
12:08 a.m.: assist other PD (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unable to locate; 12:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:51 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 4:17 p.m.: investigation (Burncoat Lane), services rendered; 4:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, mv towed; 5:28 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), written warning; 7:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.
MONDAY, MARCH 29
5:16 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 6:33 a.m.: hazardous condition (Main Street), referred; 9:40 a.m.: hanging wires (Stafford Street), referred; 10:48 a.m.: fraud (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 3:35 p.m.: threats (South Main Street), report taken; 5:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), 5:45 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:09 p.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), assisted; 7:50 p.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), report taken; 8:00 p.m.: mv stop (Warren Avenue), verbal warning; 8:26 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), no action required; 8:31 p.m.: family problem (Mannville Street), peace restored.
TUESDAY, MARCH 30
12:11 a.m.: assist other PD (Wilson Avenue, Spencer), services rendered; 1:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:42 a.m.: mv stop (Rawson Street), citation issued; 7:42 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 7:54 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:25 a.m.: mv stop I(Paxton Street), written warning; 8:39 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), spoken to; 9:23 a.m.: restraining order service (Boyd Street), served; 10:11 a.m.: assist citizen (Broad Street), spoken to; 10:56 a.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street), spoken to; 11:24 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 2:30 p.m.: fraud (Winslow Avenue), spoken to; 4:32 p.m.: restraining order service (Boyd Street), served; 4:53 p.m.: assist other PD (Auburn, no address given), no service; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), name and address redacted from police log, op w/revoked license (HTO), unregistered mv, uninsured mv, written warning; 5:47 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 6:10 p.m.: threats (Sargent Street), spoken to; 8:07 p.m.: investigation (Henshaw Street), no service.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
12:01 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 12:15 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:42 a.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), spoken to; 1:58 a.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 4:29 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 8:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:53 a.m.: parking complaint (Stafford Street), services rendered; 9:00 a.m.: parking complaint (Stafford Street), services rendered; 9:14 a.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), services rendered; 9:23 a.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 11:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:18 p.m.: assist citizen (Craig Street); 12:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Brian D. Sardelis, 46, 416 Main Street, #2, Cherry Valley, failure to appear upon recognizance, warrant, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, arrest; 1:16 p.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 1:31 p.m.: accident (Marshall Street), mv towed; 4:35 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), spoken to; 5:25 p.m.: family problem (Mannville Street), peace restored; 8:12 p.m.: assist citizen (Bottomly Avenue), report taken; 9:00 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning.
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WEBSTER – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/IsL, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



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



WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond + Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**



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



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ON DEPOSIT

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Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**

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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave

SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining / formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing is Everything!** **\$1,075,000.**

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Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**

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OXFORD			
	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$262,500	\$335,000	▲
Market Volume	\$1,692,400	\$3,787,000	▲
# of Homes Sold	7	11	▲
Avg Days on Market	44	21	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.01	.66	▼

AUBURN			
	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$274,000	\$357,100	▲
Market Volume	\$4,201,500	\$3,651,100	▼
# of Homes Sold	15	10	▼
Avg Days on Market	58	24	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.72	.33	▼


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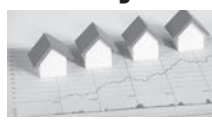
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BECKER

continued from page A1

faculty and staff in finding new career opportunities after their employment with the college ends," read a statement released by the college.

Becker operates campuses in Leicester and Worcester. Established in 1784 as Leicester Academy, the campus at the town center eventually merged with Becker's Business College in 1887. Both campuses are deeply stitched into the academic and cultural fabrics of their communities.

Although the pandemic drove the final nails into Becker's coffin, school officials were already grappling with several challenges long before COVID-19 ravaged colleges nationwide. As a small, tuition-dependent institution, Becker faced mounting adversity in recent years with declining enrollments and rising costs.

When COVID-19 struck in March 2020, college officials struggled with the added challenge of maintaining physical campus operations while transitioning to online education. A year later, as Becker moved to reopen on-campus housing and classrooms, many residen-

tial students chose to become permanent commuters or engage in remote learning from home due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis. The prolonged absence of on-campus residents exacerbated the college's financial situation.

"Ultimately, the impacts of COVID-19 turned what was a very challenging situation into an unsustainable situation," said Becker College President Nancy Crimmin.

Rather than risk placing students and staff into an untenable position next year, officials decided to close the school at a time when students' academic transitions could be best managed.

"We pushed ourselves to develop scenarios in which Becker remained open for another year and beyond," Cassidy said. "However, those scenarios included more debt, selling assets, and further cutting operations. Guided by the advice of our auditors and other expert consultants, we concluded that this would be irresponsible and unsustainable over time. As devastating as closing this 237-year-old institution is, we want this closure process to be one that conveys the maximum possible respect and support for everyone whose lives and careers we know it will affect."

Becker's trustees remain in close communication with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, as well as the college's accreditation agencies.

To help answer questions from students, their families, and faculty members, the college has developed a specialized website. It includes information on applying to other schools, transferring credits, and obtaining financial aid. Information is also provided for student-athletes who must plan for the next chapters of their careers.

Looking ahead, Becker officials said decisions on the future of the college's property and assets will be made in the coming months. Leicester officials are in the process of securing more information on the college's impending closure, which will inform discussions over the summer.

"The town certainly has interest in obtaining the title to the Town Common, much of which is currently owned by Becker," said Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux. "Beyond that, we have not had any discussions. I expect that they will take place in the coming months."



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MACKENZIE
continued from page A1

with balloons, streamers, and posters, some made by children, others by the Friends of the Library. After the parade, Rosemary’s fans gathered at the front of the library for speeches and presentations,” said Library Director Dawn Thistle.

Former library director Ann Kidd was in attendance to share some of her favorite memories with Mackenzie, including their adventures of capturing bats with “bat nets” and dealing with a summertime infestation of honeybees.

Also on hand was Sen. Anne Gobi, who presented Mackenzie with a citation.

“Miss Rosemary has made such a positive impression on generations of children,” Gobi said. “Her passion and complete enjoyment of her role as Children’s Librarian helped to instill a love of reading and learning in all that she encountered. She will be missed greatly.”

Dawn Sedlier, the president of the Friends of the Library, joined her son Ducati in presenting Mackenzie with scrapbooks full of cards, notes, and photos sent by grateful patrons.

Library staff members can think of no one more deserving of the many honors than Mackenzie.

“Rosemary has been the warm, cheerful, kind, and constant presence in the Children’s Library for 33 years,” Thistle said in a previous interview.

“Two generations of children have run upstairs to hear her stories, sing along, and make crafts. Rosemary always has taken a genuine interest in people, getting to know the families who have come to the library over the years.”

A plaque commemorating Mackenzie’s 33 years at the library was presented by Assistant Librarian Brianna Lamb. The plaque will be displayed in the Children’s Library to remind families of a woman who inspired countless kids’ passions for reading and writing.

Following the many speeches during the March 27 celebration, Mackenzie told guests that she had the best job and she loved every minute of it.

Mackenzie’s journey at the library began shortly after she moved to North Brookfield with her family in 1986. She was on the lookout that summer for fun local experiences for her daughters.

“We were unfamiliar with the town but had heard only good things about it, and we were not disappointed in that regard,” Mackenzie recalled a few weeks before her retirement. “School was out for the summer, and I was looking for things to do with my three daughters – nine-year-old twins and a seven-year-old. The first thing I thought of doing was to find the town library and get them their library cards.”

Mackenzie and her daughters were greeted warmly that summer by then-library director Jean Miller. Mackenzie enjoyed the atmosphere so much that she began to take part in small clerical jobs around the library. Two years later, in 1988, she was offered the position of children’s librarian – and the rest is history.

Now, as the library enters its first month in 33 years without Mackenzie’s daily presence, staff members have experienced a gamut of emotions.

“Rosemary, we will all miss seeing your smiling face at the library. Have a wonderful retirement,” Thistle said.

For many local parents who met Mackenzie years ago when they were youngsters, it’s been a thrill to have their own children learn from the woman who sparked their interest in reading.

Former library director Ann Kidd worked with Mackenzie for more than 25 years, helping to inspire the next wave of readers, writers, and creators. And even though there were plenty of changes at the library along the way, Mackenzie’s dedication to children’s programming served as a constant foundation for local families.

“Rosemary excelled in entertaining the youngest members of the community with her enthusiastic story times and craft programs,” Kidd said. “Children were always excited to head to the Children’s Room to see what Miss Rosemary had in store. Throughout the years, she has skillfully guided children in their reading selections, and I’m sure she has instilled a lifetime love of reading in so many.”

Kidd also described the excitement of the many first grade classes that used

to walk down to the library. Mackenzie would read to them, give them a tour, teach them how to use the library, and provide them with new library cards.

Additionally, Mackenzie coordinated summer reading programs, scheduled special performers to visit the library, and participated in community reading programs. Whenever the schools needed a guest reader, she was always among the first to volunteer.

The library staff would like to thank the many residents, officials, and organizations who helped make the March 27 parade an unforgettable experience. These include Sgt. David Churchey; the North Brookfield Police and Fire Departments; Gobi; the Friends of the Library; the Board of Library Trustees; North Brookfield Schools; Scott Norrie and Howe Lumber; Rosemary Mackenzie’s daughters, Christine Mackenzie, Emily Mackenzie, and Glenna Stocks; and all individuals who took the time to send a card or write a note.

Also thanked were the volunteers who helped prepare for the event by raking the library lawn, tying balloons, hanging garlands and banners, and setting up a sound system for the parade.

Looking ahead, Mackenzie has plenty of big plans for her retirement. She has always loved to travel, and she plans to eventually take her grandsons to Europe.

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