

# SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, September 4, 2020

## Teen honored as hero of local 5K



Photo Courtesy

Leicester's MacKenzie Bowen was selected as an honored hero for an upcoming event.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – A local teen has been selected as an honored hero for an upcoming virtual 5K.

Thirteen-year-old MacKenzie Bowen, of Leicester, was named the honored hero for the Running in Place 5K, sponsored by IBD Connect, Inc. The virtual race is slated for Oct. 17, and each participating team will choose the course, costume, and manner in which they will compete. Participants can take part in a walk, a run, a kayaking journey, or another method of recreation.

Last year, Bowen was the top fundraiser for the event, which raises money to assist patients living with Crohn's disease and colitis. As a Crohn's disease patient, herself, it means a lot for Bowen to support others living with IBD (inflammatory bowel disease).

"The funds raised from this 5K allow us to buy supplies for group meetings, a gift bag for any child who has recently been diagnosed with IBD, and the cost of raising awareness for Crohn's and colitis," said Bowen, who attends Leicester Middle School. "This year, we worked on a brochure that patients can take and give to the schools to educate them on what we truly need during the day."

Approximately one in every 100 Americans suffers from IBD, and researchers are still working on finding a cure. The two most common inflammatory bowel

Please Read **BOWEN**, page A2

## Hearings planned on water main project

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD – Residents are invited to attend a pair of public hearings to learn more about the proposed Route 9 water main replacement project.

The public meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m., as well as Saturday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m. Both meetings will be held inside the East Brookfield Elementary School auditorium.

Several items will be addressed at the meetings, including information on project costs, benefits, and the voter authorization that will be required at the Sept. 16 Annual Town Meeting.

"We would like to see great participation at these meetings. Anyone with questions is welcome to attend," said Joseph Kenney, the East Brookfield Water Department Superintendent.

The town has already applied for a loan through the MassDEP's Clean Water Trust, which provides low-interest loans to municipalities and other eligible entities. If authorization is secured at the Sept. 16 Annual Town Meeting, East Brookfield would be able to move forward with the loan process.

The borrowing for the project would be \$2.8 million, officials said. A significant portion of the loan would be eligible for

forgiveness as part of the Clean Water Trust (approximately 13 percent on the principal).

"This is not a debt exclusion vote. We're asking the town to authorize borrowing for this project," said Selectman Theodore Boulay. "The debt service will be paid back through the Water Enterprise Fund. The town will not pay back debt, only residents who use the water."

The town's Water Enterprise Fund is a user-based system that was recently implemented. Residents can learn more about the process during the informational meetings.

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. at East Brookfield Elementary School. Masks will be required at the meeting, and officials are hopeful for a strong voting turnout to address an important project.

"The water main is very old and undersized, and this project will help with water quality and the rating for fire flow. Right now, our fire flow is pretty poor," Kenney said.

Fire flow is the amount of water available for fire protection purposes. About 80 years old, the flow output of the existing infrastructure is limited compared to that of modern equipment. If the water main project is approved, it would

Please Read **WATER MAIN**, page A3

## Webster First Credit Union donates to Camp Marshall

SPENCER — Webster First Federal Credit Union was pleased to present Camp Marshall, located at 92 McCormick Road in Spencer, with a donation of \$35,000 this week.

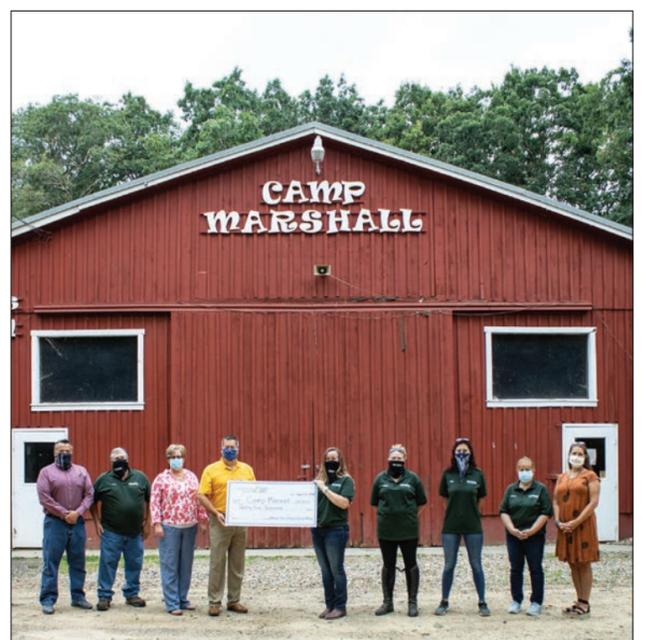
Like many businesses, Camp Marshall has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following new guidelines meant the camp was unable to host the typical amount of summer campers while simultane-

ously incurring more expenses from added health protocols and supplies. When overnight camps were moved unexpectedly to a Phase 4 summer 2021 opening, the camp's staff worried they may be unable to continue operating.

"Not being able to host overnight campers this summer was a devastating blow. We already have to stretch our budget as thin as possible, but having to reduce our camper

capacity combined with the loss of overnight camp equated to almost 75 percent less campers than last year, which is an almost impossible financial hurdle to overcome," stated Camp Marshall's Executive Director, Sheryl Moore.

In response to the news, Ms. Moore reached out to local media to raise awareness in hopes that something could be done to help. A camper parent started a GoFundMe. Camp



staff took pay cuts.

"The staff has been amazing through all of the unknowns that have come with this summer," said Ms. Moore. "We have had to constantly make adjustments and turn on a dime, and the staff was

extremely committed to preserving the experience for the campers above all else."

When Webster First President/CEO Michael Lussier heard about the camp's

Please Read **DONATION**, page A2

## Reconstruction efforts underway at Waite Pond Dam

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Crews recently began reconstruction efforts at the town-owned Waite Pond Dam.

At this year's Annual Town Meeting, voters appropriated funding for the replacement and reconstruction of the dam. The town also obtained a grant to help fund the major project that began on Aug. 25.

The state's Office of Dam Safety has listed Waite Pond Dam as a high-hazard structure for many years. Officials were thrilled to secure the funding needed to proceed with the reconstruct-

tion project.

"We are fortunate that the town was able to obtain grant funding to address a long-standing potential safety hazard to residents," said Town Administrator David Genereux.

The project was competitively bid, as required by state law, and T. Ford Company, Inc., submitted the lowest qualified bid. On Aug. 25, the company began drawing down the water level of the dam; eventually, the pond's depth will be reduced by eight feet.

Officials remind residents that the project will involve several steps. All boats, docks, and other structures in the pond should be immediately

removed to avoid potential loss or damage during the construction period.

Additionally, reconstruction efforts will likely result in a loss of 20-25 feet of shoreline for the duration of the project. Crews will ensure that a designated portion of the pond is preserved throughout the project for fish and wildlife.

Trees and vegetation will be removed from the spillway area in the coming weeks. Several erosion control measures will be put in place where needed, officials said.

"There will be equipment and construction materials stored on site. Please be careful when driving or walk-

ing by the area of the dam during working hours," read a statement released by the town.

Working hours for the project will be 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Some weeks may require Saturday work sessions.

For the duration of the project, public access to the pond will be closed. The area will be monitored by the Leicester Police Department. If you notice trespassing or suspicious activity in the area, notify police at 508-892-7010.

The project is expected to be finished by the spring of next year.

Please Read **DAM**, page A2



**A Call For Art**  
Announcing the 17th Annual Art Show and Sale to be held virtually on **October 17, 2020** and running through **January 1st, 2021** on our website.

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**BOWEN**  
*continued from page A1*

diseases are ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

Last year, Bowen's support group leader, Lisa Fournier, came up with the idea for the fundraiser. The event allows people across the state and country to create a course and a team to support the cause.

In 2019, Bowen and her friends immediately got involved in the fundraising effort and showed off their creativity in the process.

"I decided that I was going to make a team and we would kayak the 5K," Bowen told the New Leader. "My IBD friend, Jocelyn Pressley's team, joined in an effort to raise awareness and funds. We kayaked on Rochdale Pond and had a small barbeque after. Last year, I raised \$2,253."

Bowen's continued fundraising and awareness efforts have impressed the leadership of IBD Connect, a local nonprofit organization that was formed to support, engage, and empower patients and families living with Crohn's disease and colitis. The organization was founded by Lisa Fournier, who has a pair of daughters who were diagnosed with Crohn's disease. One of her daughters, now 22, has been living with Crohn's since the age of four; her second daughter was recently diagnosed.

With an intimate knowledge of the struggles endured by Crohn's patients, Fournier is proud of everything Bowen has been able to accomplish.

"MacKenzie is being honored for her amazing contributions to the IBD world," Fournier said. "She is an amazing role model and inspiration for a child of only 13 years. It is admirable to

see a child go through so much and give so much at the same time."

Despite her honored hero status for the upcoming event, Bowen is focused more on how she can keep advancing the cause.

"I don't believe I am a hero. I believe that I'm in a position where I can help others," Bowen said. "I am very thankful for all of the support that I have in my life, and all of these members that think I have done something special."

Bowen has relied on tremendous family support to help her through each obstacle, including several hospitalizations. One of her major daily challenges is getting the proper balance of nutrition for optimal digestion, and she frequently communicates with her teachers and the school nurse to arrange various health accommodations. She also receives specialized monthly infusions from a medical team.

With each hurdle Bowen encounters, her sister Kaylynn and other family members have been at her side – plus her dedicated medical team.

"MacKenzie has been through so much over the past several years, and through it all she has shown a fierce determination to get better," said Dr. Kerri Gosselin, a member of Bowen's medical team. "She is truly an expert in overcoming challenges and does so with grace and humor. She is a true IBD champion, and I can't wait to see where life takes her next."

Outside of school, Bowen enjoys spending time with her family, playing with her two dogs, and working outdoors. She also babysits and mows lawns, serving as an inspiration to other kids dealing with the struggles of IBD.

"Challenges come at you every

day. Sometimes you feel like giving up, but you have to find the things you love and keep pushing through," Bowen said. "Find the little joys in life and make them bigger. Find others like you, who you can talk to and who truly understand what you go through every day, because even the professionals don't always know."

Bowen's mission of helping others continues to strengthen her connection with fellow patients, doctors, and volunteers. She has also helped inform the community of the challenges IBD patients face and how residents can join the cause. She is a critical member of her support group, Fournier said.

"I have been facilitating support groups for seven years, and I have yet to meet someone like her. She is the kindest and most compassionate patient, always the first to reach out to a new group member and try to make them comfortable and help them with any issues they may have," Fournier said. "She is modest of her own journey and struggles, and she puts her needs after anyone else's. Her smile is contagious and her courage admirable. Despite many hospitalizations, she faces her IBD journey with a positive and nonchalant attitude."

Looking ahead, Bowen is eager to continue her mission to help others and increase public knowledge.

"I will not stop raising awareness until there is a cure," Bowen said.

All funds raised from the Running in Place event will support families living with IBD. Medals will be awarded for top fundraisers, best outfits, and sportsmanship.

For more information about the event, visit [www.IbdConnectInc.org](http://www.IbdConnectInc.org).



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**DONATION**  
*continued from page A1*

struggle to stay afloat, he knew the credit union could make a difference.

"The camp fits in with our values as a credit union – community, family, learning, and leadership," stated Mr. Lussier.

According to Ms. Moore, the large donation will help the camp weather the off season and ensure they can come back for

school and daycare needs look very different this fall," she said.

Speaking at the camp, Mr. Lussier stated, "We love that we have the ability to do this, to give back to the community. Many of our members and employees are from the area, and we have a branch in town. It's making an impact right here at home."

Ms. Moore stated, "We are extremely thankful that Mr. Lussier and Webster First were able to provide such generous assistance in our time of need. Tough times can bring out the best in our community and this is a prime example of just how amazing our community really is!"

About Webster First  
Webster First Federal Credit Union serves the financial needs of Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties. Founded in 1928, Webster First is one of the largest credit unions in

Massachusetts with over \$1B in assets and serving over 77,000 members.

About Camp Marshall  
Camp Marshall is located at 92 McCormick Rd in Spencer. Situated centrally in the state on over 250 acres of unspoiled land, with additional acreage bordering Thompson Pond leased from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Camp Marshall has been serving the community for more than 50 years. Camp Marshall has fostered the youth of Worcester County and beyond, providing a positive learning experience and hands on outdoor and agricultural activities that promote respect, independence, and positive self-esteem. Outside of summer camp, Camp Marshall is home to year-round youth educational programs and an equestrian center, as well as offering facility rentals.



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**DAM**  
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Allen Phillips, a Waite Street resident, has offered to be the liaison for the project. He can be reached at 774-248-0828, or by email at [Allen.Phillips@mass.gov](mailto:Allen.Phillips@mass.gov).

Additionally, the Neighbors of Waite Pond community group has created a Facebook page. Messages and announcements related to the project will be regularly posted on the Facebook page.

"We are looking forward to having this important project completed early next year," read the town-issued statement.



**SPENCER ALMANAC**  
**REAL ESTATE**

**BROOKFIELD**  
\$515,000, 50 Pine Ln, Tisne, Severine I, to Olanoff, Jared, and Olanoff, Lauren F.

**LEICESTER**  
\$445,000, 46 Parker St, Lopriore, Alan D, and Lopriore, Cheryl A, to VanHazinga, Jonathan, and VanHazinga, Heather M.  
\$240,800, 7 King Ter, Doug Will LLC, to Tran, Huy C.  
\$180,000, 38 Burncoat Ln, Hollyer, Mark G, and Perkins, Tracy, to Brigham, Benjamin R, and Brigham, Kelsey A.  
\$155,000, 44 Howard Ter, US Bank NA Tr, to Positive Spin Real Estate.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
\$75,000, Collins Rd, Bousquet, Jonathan, and Thomas, Jennifer, to Nmowicki, Shannon, and Pianka, Andrew J.  
\$75,000, Waite Corner Rd #1, Bousquet, Jonathan, and Thomas, Jennifer, to Nmowicki, Shannon, and Pianka, Andrew J.  
\$75,000, Waite Corner Rd #2, Bousquet, Jonathan, and Thomas, Jennifer, to Nmowicki, Shannon, and Pianka, Andrew J.  
\$75,000, Waite Corner Rd #R, Bousquet, Jonathan, and Thomas, Jennifer, to Nmowicki, Shannon, and Pianka, Andrew J.

**SPENCER**  
\$171,000, 28 S Spencer Rd, Santoscordero, Minerba, and Wright, Christie, to Williams, Adrian E, and Williams, Marcus N

**WARREN**  
\$305,000, 650 Reed St, Fredette, Andrew J, and Fredette, Christine J, to Sweeney, Kevin, and Sweeney, Dawn D.  
\$206,401, 250 Reed St, Pothier, Sandra L, and Pothier, Richard A, to FNMA.

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**STAFF DIRECTORY**

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**STAFF WRITER**  
KEVIN FLANDERS  
(508) 909-4140  
[kflanders@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:kflanders@stonebridgepress.com)

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
NICK ETHER  
(508) 909-4133  
[nick@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:nick@stonebridgepress.news)

**ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE**  
JUNE SIMAKAUSKAS  
(508) 909-4062  
[jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news)

**STAFF DIRECTORY**

**PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER**  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
(508) 909-4101  
[frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
RYAN CORNEAU  
(603) 677-9082  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**  
JIM DiNICOLA  
(508) 764-4325  
EDITOR

BRENDAN BERUBE  
(508) 909-4106  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
JULIE CLARKE  
(508) 909-4105  
[production@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:production@stonebridgepress.news)

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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# Sports officials adopt “floating season” approach for football

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – After reaching fourth down in their attempt to save high school football this year, state leaders agreed to a “floating season” approach.

Football, cheerleading, and unified basketball will be played between late February and late April as part of a fourth sports season approved last month by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

Earlier this summer, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) issued updated reopening standards for youth and adult amateur sports. The regulations require significant modifications to contact sports, and they would have made it virtually impossible to play football this fall.

“The guidelines are designed to provide instructions to facility operators and activity organizers to help protect against the spread of COVID-19,” read a statement released by the EEA.

In the guidelines, sports are broken down into three categories: low risk, moderate risk, and high risk. Due to the frequent physical contact in football, it was assigned to the high risk category along with wrestling, rugby, basketball, lacrosse, ice hockey, cheerleading, martial arts, ultimate frisbee, boxing, and pair figure skating.

Since major changes to the basic game structure of football would have been necessary to satisfy the state’s fall reopening regulations, officials decided

to move it to late February. By then, MIAA leaders hope a vaccine is in place and regulations on sports can be loosened.

For now, area football teams are scrambling to find ways to keep their skills sharp. Many coaches have not even seen their players since the spring, before the statewide shutdown.

“Once COVID-19 hit and school closed, we have not been able to be together at all,” said Christopher Barry, the assistant coach of the Leicester High School squad. “Our school facilities have been off-limits, and we are not able to have contact with our players other than through email or text. This is not the kind of relationship we want to have with our players.”

Local football players and coaches are particularly frustrated because almost all other fall sports are allowed to resume this month, with restrictions.

Assigned to the low risk or moderate risk categories, cross country, soccer, field hockey, volleyball, and others will be returning to play, beginning on Sept. 18. Masks and social distancing measures will be heavily employed by players, coaches, and game officials, allowing student-athletes to get back into the game as safely as possible.

But the Friday night lights will stay dark this fall for area football teams, and there are no guarantees that conditions will be improved enough for games in late February. State officials will review COVID-19 data in January and make a determination on whether to proceed with the floating season.

For football athletes and coaches, the uncertainty has been a major challenge. They understand the reasons for the decisions made by state officials, but that doesn’t make the situation any less frustrating.

“We appreciate all of the work and dedication those people put in to make the best decision for our students to have a football season and to be safe,” said Barry, whose team went 12-1 last year and captured the D7 Central Mass. crown. “There are still so many questions that remain unanswered, which is completely understandable during this unprecedented time.”

Added Barry, “Whatever the next steps are, we look forward to seeing our kids again. We have a great group of seniors we want to honor in their final season, 24 freshmen who are interested in joining our program, and players in grades in between hungry to have another winning season and defend our titles.”

Beginning on Sept. 18, football teams will be able to hold modified practices. Several restrictions will be in place, and players won’t be able to participate in hitting, blocking, team meals, and other activities. For coaches, the main goal is to keep their athletes physically conditioned and mentally sharp through the fall and winter.

“To get back to some normalcy would be best for students’ mental and physical health,” Barry said. “We are a football town, and cannot wait until we get back together again.”



## 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. 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.



## PERSON of the WEEK

**Donna Moore, Cherry Valley, MA**

During this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic Donna has taken a front seat in keeping our staff, volunteers and Veterans safe. Donna volunteers at least 3 days a week of shopping at the local Food Bank and assisting in our baby and food pantry. She assists in restocking and running supplies up to our Westfield office and delivering meals to shut in veterans throughout our community.

Thank you Donna for all that you do for Project New Hope and for the community!

– Submitted by Bill Moore

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# Second Chance rising to the challenges of 2020

EAST BROOKFIELD — Second Chance Animal Services has risen to many challenges brought about by COVID-19 as the nonprofit’s shelter and community veterinary hospitals have remained open throughout the pandemic to provide essential services for pets. Now they are left with a major challenge – donations are down while the cost of caring for pets in need has gone up.

“On an early morning conference call in March, as news of the pandemic was growing more dire, a decision was made to do everything we could to remain open. We knew that pets would need us now more than ever,” recounts Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blancato.

In the months that followed, Second Chance took on the challenges brought about by COVID-19, continuing to help homeless and at-risk pets to find loving homes and caring for the medical needs of pets in the communities they serve.

“I am so incredibly proud of our staff for all they have accomplished during this crisis, I am astounded by their ingenuity in finding new ways to help pets while enhancing safety for all. Now Second Chance must tackle the financial challenge so we can continue to be there for pets,” Blancato said.

As a nonprofit, Second Chance relies on donations and grants to operate. Blancato notes that donations are down by more than 40 percent this year. Over one hundred events, including major fundraisers, have been postponed or cancelled this year. These events provide critical funding for all the programs that help pets in need.

“We know times are tough for many

of our supporters, too. Every day, we’re all facing new challenges brought upon us by the pandemic. We’re not alone in sleepless nights of worry. One thing that’s carried me through is knowing we can continue to make a difference for pets in need,” Blancato commented.

Second Chance had to limit volunteer activity due to state restrictions, resulting in increased costs to run some programs like the pet food pantry which distributes pet food to local food pantries. The food pantry has been a lifeline for pets with owners facing serious financial challenges according to Blancato. We’re helping more pantries than ever before with more food than ever before.

Second Chance remains committed to be there for all the pets in. They are still on track to help over 40,000 pets once again this year.

“Since the crisis began, our veterinary hospitals have been seeing two to three times our normal caseload. So many pet owners are turning to Second Chance because other area veterinary programs have been forced to limit services or close altogether. And there are pet owners who have been financially impacted by the pandemic and need the help of our subsidized rates to save their seriously ill pets. We cannot let them down,” Blancato said.

Those able to help sustain all the programs that help pets in need in our community can make a donation at [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org), directly on the Second Chance Animal Services Facebook page or by mail to Second Chance, 111 Young Rd., East Brookfield.

**Piano Tuning & Repair**

GLEN STEVENS  
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**Insightful**

## WATER MAIN

continued from page A1

also provide several other efficiency and environmental upgrades.

The project would range from the Spencer town line to the western part of town near the flats, with construction beginning as early as next summer. Repaving work on Route 9 would then take place between 2022-23.

At the informational hearings, residents will review a presentation from Tighe and Bond, an engineering company hired to assist with the town’s water infrastructure improvements.

The public meetings will also cover East Brookfield’s Water Meter Replacement Program, which is now in full swing. The town’s water rates will be addressed as well.

## P.A.L. of the Week

Sponsored by Cormier Jewelers

**Name:** Suri  
**Breed:** DSH  
**Sex:** Spayed Male  
**Age:** 4 Mos.



Suri is a very sweet kitten although she is a little shy initially when meeting new people. She has her playful moments but then is content to “chill out” and watch the other “crazy” kittens. She would be a great companion for another kitten. She lived in one of our foster homes where she was very compatible with their cats and a dog. Suri has a lovely disposition and will blossom in a quiet and loving home.

**People for Animals League**  
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# Suspected thieves flee police

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Three Connecticut teens are mired in legal trouble after fleeing police, crashing their car, and hiding in a swamp.

On Aug. 25, police were called at approximately 1:40 a.m. after a resident observed two individuals breaking into vehicles. When Leicester and Oxford officers arrived, the suspects entered a getaway vehicle and sped off toward Worcester.

The suspects' vehicle failed to stop for police and was later found crashed and abandoned in Auburn, at the intersection of Route 20 and Route 12. A State Police K-9 unit was deployed to search the woods for the suspects, and they were discovered hiding in a nearby

swamp.

All three suspects were arrested, including an 18-year-old man from Hartford, Conn., an 18-year-old man from Enfield, Conn., and a 17-year-old woman from West Hartford, Conn.

The suspects' getaway vehicle was later determined to have been stolen from Connecticut.

The suspects are facing the following charges: receiving stolen property in excess of \$1,200; breaking and entering into a motor vehicle during the night (felony); unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; failure to stop for police; negligent operation of a vehicle; use of a vehicle without authority; and a marked lanes violation.

Police did not comment on whether they believe the suspects are connected to a rash of previous auto thefts throughout the area this summer.

Similar incidents have been reported in Spencer, Paxton, Sturbridge, Charlton, and Southbridge, and several stolen vehicles have been recovered in the Hartford area.

Over the last year, the Sturbridge Police Department has investigated 14 stolen vehicles in town and more than 40 vehicle break-ins.

"We continue to work collaboratively with the area police departments that are experiencing the same problem," read a statement from Sturbridge Police Department Interim Chief Earl Dessert. "The suspects are believed to be part of a large organized group that is hitting towns throughout the Commonwealth, New York, and Connecticut."

The Leicester Police Department thanks all officers involved in the August 25 pursuit and manhunt for the suspects.

"Thank you to the Oxford Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police, the MSP K-9 Unit, and the Auburn Police Department for your assistance in taking the individuals into custody," read a statement released by the LPD.

Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles and bring all valuables indoors overnight. Several local thieves have targeted unlocked vehicles and items in plain sight.

Additionally, if possible, store your vehicle in a garage or lighted driveway overnight. Police believe there may be several additional roving groups of thieves still targeting the area.

If you witness suspicious activity overnight, call your police department. As in the Aug. 25 incident, thefts have often occurred after midnight.

## Leicester Senior Center hosting socially distanced events

LEICESTER – Even though the Senior Center isn't able to resume all of its normal programs and activities, there are still plenty of fun events happening.

Last month, the Senior Center hosted a socially distanced hotdog cookout that was attended by several guests. Worcester Firefighter Karl Solomon served as the cook for this event. Town Administrator David Genereux and his assistant, Kristen Forsberg, also

attended the picnic.

Additionally, the center has resumed two exercise programs that are held outside on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"Another program we are starting outside of our center is Train Your Brain," said Senior Center Director Rachelle Cloutier. "We have been very fortunate in receiving a grant and donations to help us out."

In another recent event for seniors, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis distrib-

uted bags of goodies for seniors last month. Donna Ostiguy, a member of the Sheriff's office, also attended the event and helped provide bags of fresh organic vegetables for seniors.

The center has also partnered with Project New Hope and Johnson Farm on various unique collaborations.

Senior Center leaders thank all businesses, supporters, volunteers, and officials who have recently contributed to events, programs, or donations. These include Walmart, Golden Needles, Nancy Lamb, Karen Chiaravallotti, Joan Anderson, Marilyn Hyland, Barbara Paszuk, Diane Bergin, Dorothy Dudley, Sheriff Evangelidis,



Photo Courtesy

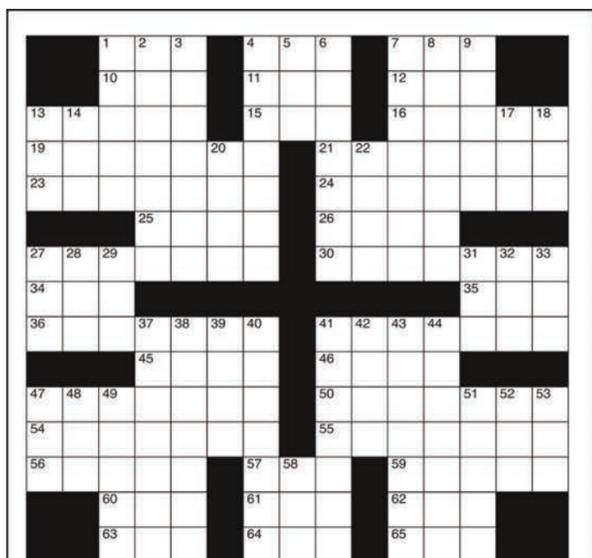
Local seniors recently enjoyed outdoor activities offered by the Leicester Senior Center.

and Donna Ostiguy.

Senior Center leaders also thank Heidi Gambaccini for providing the ongoing senior exercise program and chair

yoga program.

To learn more about programs currently offered by the Senior Center, call 508-892-7016.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chop with an ax
- 4. Where a bachelor lives
- 7. Indicates near
- 10. Doctors' group
- 11. It's just a number
- 12. Type of bread
- 13. Lively ballroom dance
- 15. Charles S. Dutton TV series
- 16. A way to use up
- 19. Singular event
- 21. Home of Disney World
- 23. Minerals
- 24. Most insightful
- 25. Consult
- 26. In addition
- 27. Agents of downfall
- 30. Organizations
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Bar bill
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dish soap
- 45. Witnesses
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Newspaper bigwigs
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Small group with shared interests
- 55. Support
- 56. Popular sportcoat fabric
- 57. Take hold of
- 59. Pre-Mayan civilization
- 60. Woman (French)
- 61. Wheeled vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Cold War player (abbr.)
- 64. Pitching stat
- 65. Attempt

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Czech monetary unit
- 2. Arousing intense feeling
- 3. Elks
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Before the present
- 6. Figures out
- 7. Infinite
- 8. A low wall
- 9. Silly
- 13. Political organization
- 14. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 17. Divisions of the psyche
- 18. Denial
- 20. Ancient Iranian person
- 22. Count on
- 27. Popular sports league
- 28. Water (French)
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 31. When you hope to get there
- 32. Angry
- 33. One point east of due south
- 37. Respects
- 38. Organize anew
- 39. French wine grape
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships take on cargo
- 44. Holiday season singer
- 47. Shock treatment
- 48. Popular average
- 49. Products
- 51. A type of bear
- 52. Utilize
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river

## Roger Williams University announces Spring 2020 graduates

BRISTOL, R.I. — The following local residents were among the students who received their degrees in May as part of the Class of 2020:

Amelia Ashworth, of West Brookfield, graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Legal Studies in May as part of the Class of 2020.

Riley Mucha, of West Brookfield, graduated with a B.S. in Construction Mgmt. in

May as part of the Class of 2020.

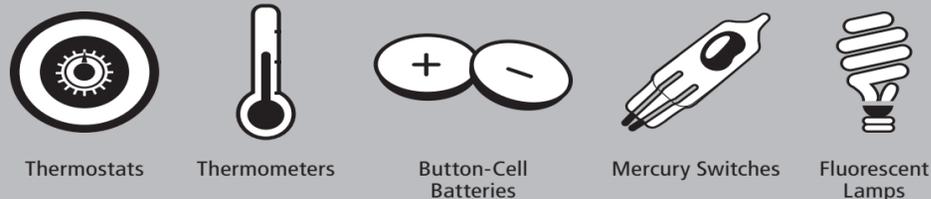
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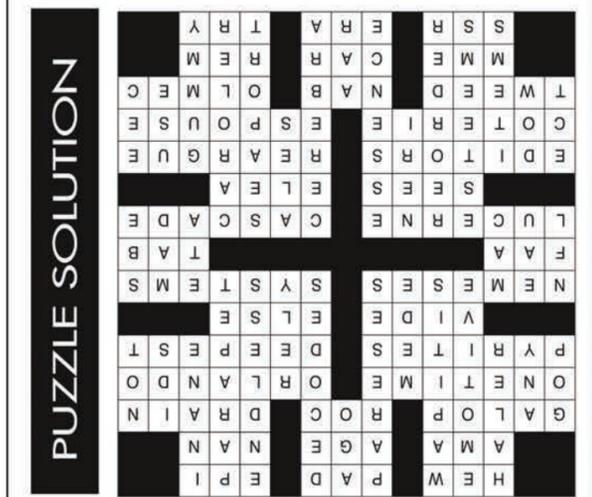
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## EDITORIAL

# Happy trails

Actress Shirley MacLaine once wrote "Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends."

This week, the topic of strangers has been at the forefront of our minds. Having met several strangers on the hiking trails over the past few months has opened up an appreciation for others that has always been there, yet as of late, for some reason, these meetings have become more meaningful. Simple conversations can lead to an unraveling of several rewarding conversations.

They always say there's no such thing as a solo hike, and it's true, for the most part. While hiking the Mount Cabot loop during a recent excursion to our friendly northern neighbor New Hampshire, a chance meeting with a teacher from the southern part of the Granite State took place. It was interesting to hear his views on his school re-opening plan and how he handled remote teaching. According to him, he sort of "rolled with it." On that same trail, a fortunate meeting with Ray took place. A CPA from Boston who was on his 47th of New Hampshire's 4,000 footers, was in the right spot at the right time. Being five feet, one inch in height, the hop from one boulder to the next on top of The Horn, would not have happened without a boost from Ray. Clasp his hands together and lifting me from one perch to the next made for a great lunch on top of the mountain. His tales of climbing to the Mt. Everest base camp and his ski adventures all over the world was the perfect accompaniment to a well deserved peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

A 66 year old veteran named Brian was the perfect person to head down Mount Willard with. After the storm wreaked havoc on the trail, the trek down was, well, sort of like an obstacle course. Brian (and his dog) shared so many eye-opening stories about his time serving in the military. I was proud to have him by my side and honored he shared his story.

On top of North Sugarloaf, a Spanish teacher with her family topped the list. They were in from Mass for the weekend. They shared their love of New Hampshire with the best humor and were so appreciative of the nature around them. The family has decided to make lemonade out of lemons and are choosing to get their elementary age students out into the mountains as much as possible, the kids said they love every minute of it.

When hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail, you will meet a ton of thru hikers, each coming with a unique name. This past week, while hiking the Beaver Brook Trail up to Mount Moosilauke, "Whole Foods," "Square Peg" and "Sherpa" each had amazing tales. Whole Foods is from P.A. And was hiking south to Georgia, in a kilt. Square Peg stopped to chat as he was making his way down and told us, this was his third time completing the AT. Sherpa told us that the wind at the top literally blew him over. He was a tiny thing, and after summiting, we believed him.

On top of Mount Nancy, a family surprised 'Dad' for his 50th with party hats and cupcakes. It was so neat to be a part of that. Impromptu parties are the best. This is a story that deserves it's own and will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Whether you chat someone up on the trails or in line at the store, you never know what you will learn. Some people will engage, others won't. It's a coin toss and that can be a fun game all it's own.

If you have a fear of talking to strangers, do it anyway. When you do something repeatedly the fear tends to dissipate and your conversation techniques will feel more natural. If you imagine that the person is already your friend, you'll treat them as such and this approach can alleviate an awkward feeling.

In the words of Anais Nin, "Each friend represents a world in us, a world not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born."

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What will you do?

To the Editor:  
With the plethora of recent pressing subjects to write about, it's difficult to choose just one. How does one sum up the current heated political landscape in a simple letter? How does one convey compassion and concern with the Corona, COVID-19, or whatever it's called, outbreak, and its lingering consequences.

I do not know exactly, being the mere mortal that I am. However, as Admiral David Farragut famously cried out, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

Let's start with the political landscape. Some have said this season's election cycle is the most divisive ever. I am not sure about that claim, as I haven't been around forever. What I do know is that politics, by its own nature, is divisive. It's supposed to be. So poli-

tics is not necessarily bas, as some have insinuated.

Americans are witnessing a planned, well financed, all out attack on its core values, principles and imperfect history upon which it stands. One of which is, "One Nation Under God." This very phrase being omitted from the oration of the Pledge of Allegiance, not once but twice, in error (sure) at the recent Democratic Convention. Perhaps it was an honest omission, but I seriously doubt it. More likely, it's an insight into their vision of the United States. A vision devoid of God and replaced with the tyranny of the state. So perhaps the new Pledge will be "One Nation Under US" (the state, their state). A frightening prospect at best.

Turn To **BELTON** page **A12**

### This is our future?

To the Editor:  
Last Friday, I witnessed firsthand the insanity, absurdity and ridiculousness of the "Black Lives Matter" crazy, crony cult!

Initially, I passed very slow so I could get a gander of the demographic holding the signs. As I circled back, I could not stop shaking my head. I was appalled and in awe! Ten juveniles, all white, 70 percent female and all 18- 25 years of age, were holding their makeshift

signs, protesting...who knows what?

Upon re-approach, I waved my three-foot United States flag out the window!

As I passed, they screamed "fascist," "racist," "sexist," and "homophobe!" Really!

These "Stepford" kids are the future of the United States? Sad!

I am glad I am on the way out!

JEN GAUCHER  
SPENCER

### Just me and my brilliance

To the Editor:  
Mr. Reid's criticisms, and specifically his entire letter devoted to denouncing me, deserve a response.

I don't think I've ever publicly proclaimed myself to be an intellectual giant, but the more I read from others and the more Facebook arguments I get into with folks, the more I realize just how unintelligent and willfully misinformed the general population is.

I believe Mr. Reid and I are in agreement on the basic facts of the causes of the Civil War, but not in agreement on how to interpret them and we are going down a rabbit hole of semantics. Sure, the Civil War was fought over "states' rights," specifically and almost exclusively the right to own other human beings as slaves. To say "states' rights"

was somehow separate from slavery in 1860 is intellectually dishonest. The Civil War was fought to ensure the continuation of the institution of slavery. The end.

The Republican party platform of 1860 promised not to interfere with slavery in states where it was legal but opposed further extension of slavery into new Western territories. Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860 on this platform. The trigger for the Civil War and the southern states seceding from the union was fear that slavery could eventually be abolished by legal means, a constitutional amendment if you will. By this time, slavery was abolished by all European empires leaving the United States and

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A17**

### Avoiding the left hook

To the Editor:  
I usually don't respond to imaginary people, but, I suppose I can make one exception. Mr. Yarok, you assume much that isn't so. While your true identity may have some inside information regarding Mr. McRae, you couldn't pick me out of a one-man line up.

As far as how I raise my children, I will raise them as my wife and I see fit. Following the advice from a possible figment of one person's angry imagination is not something I plan on entertaining. I'd ask if you have children, but I feel I may already know the answer. Unlike you, I am not going to sit here and try to prognosticate any aspect of your life. May I be so bold as to assume you would also take issue with me bringing my children to

church? Am I, yet again, indoctrinating them with what I want them to believe? Wait... that's right... It takes a village. Somewhere, Mr. Yarok, a village is missing its fool.

In May of 2015, Kamala Harris, Attorney General of California at that time, was speaking at the Ford Foundation regarding Prison Education. During her speech she stated that 18 to 24 year olds in college are, and I quote, "Too stupid... They make really bad decisions." Fast-forward a whopping 4 years, now playing the part of a United States senator in the running for presidential consideration, during a Presidential Town Hall she was asked whether 16 year olds

Turn To **HERHOLZ** page **A15**

### Dystopia is here

To the Editor:  
In the Aug. 14 edition of this newspaper, I published a letter titled "Dystopian future" where I imagined a terrible future state where Zoom video conferences were seen as appropriate alternatives to in-person meetings for all things including schools.

I have been extremely disappointed with how the teacher's unions have torpedoed in-person education. As I have explained before, schools have a dual mission - education and childcare. From March-June 2020 the childcare portion of their mission was non-existent and the education portion was pretty poor. Not for lack of trying on

the part of the teachers but because "remote learning" is really teacher-assisted homeschooling and either the parents are unable or simply don't have the time to keep up with it. The reality is that there was nobody to watch our children last spring and they barely learned anything.

As we entered Summer 2020, the COVID-19 cases were very low and Governor Baker allowed childcare to open. Given the unprecedented circumstances and how imperative it is for children to be educated, did we create tent-cities in school yards to take

Turn To **KASPI** page **A8**

### Musings on leadership

To the Editor:  
I recently read this in one of my morning meditations. I have edited and condensed it to remove anything offensive to anyone. It is in regard to leaders and leadership. It said of them:

"Someone who would exercise authority with fatherly concern and compassion, not self-promotion, domination, or greed.

"A leader who doesn't lord their authority over the people in his care.

"Leaders who don't put themselves first.

"They are not greedy for honor or power.

"Instead of setting up people against one another, his people serve one another with love, respect, and honor.

"Leadership does not equate to tyranny."

Take this for whatever you glean from it. It said a lot to me about our current situation.

JUDY ROSE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

## Labor Day: Make investments work as hard as you do



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Labor Day is almost here. Of course, this year, the holiday may have a different impact, given the employment-related stress and disruptions stemming from the coronavirus. Yet, it's good to recognize the value of work and its importance in achieving your life's goals. But if you're going to retire comfortably and reach your other financial objectives, you also need to invest - and your investments need to work as hard as you do.

To help make this happen, you need to know why you're investing in the first place. You likely have a variety of financial goals, including short-term ones - a long vacation, a new car - and long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement and the desire to leave a legacy for your family. But you can't invest in the same way for these goals. For example, when you're planning an overseas vacation for next year, you want a certain amount of money to be available at a certain time, so you'll want an investment that offers a high degree of preservation of principal. However, when you're saving for a retirement that may be decades away, you need to consider investments that offer growth potential. In any case, you can help your investments work efficiently for you by matching them with specific goals.

You also want to keep your investments "on the job." In the immediate aftermath of large market downturns, such as we saw earlier this year, many people simply stopped investing altogether. But taking a "time out" can be costly. For one thing, when you stop adding to your investment portfolio, you reduce its growth potential. Furthermore, if you're on the investment sidelines, you might miss out on the next market rally - and the biggest gains often happen in the early stages of these rallies.

Not everyone simply abandons the investment world following a downturn, though - some people just put more money into cash and cash equivalent accounts. And while it's a good idea to have enough cash on hand for emergencies (about three to six months' worth of living expenses), you may not want to have cash as the major component of your portfolio. Cash simply doesn't "work" hard enough in the sense of providing you with long-term growth opportunities.

So, whether the markets are moving up, down or sideways, it's important to keep investing and keep a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio, with the exact amount depending on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. These investments will fluctuate in value, but the longer you hold them, the more the impact of short-term drops may be reduced, especially if you maintain a diversified portfolio, although diversification, by itself, can't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Finally, here's one other step you can take to help keep your investments working hard: Check up on them periodically. Review your portfolio at least once a year to determine if it's still helping you make progress toward your goals. If it seems like you're falling behind, you may need to adjust your investment mix.

You've probably discovered that hard work pays off for you in just about every endeavor - so why should it be any different with investing? Keeping your investments working diligently can help boost your chances of achieving your important financial goals.

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



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Welcome to Fantasy Island

To the Editor:  
Drawing on advice a Sergeant Major gave my oldest son (“Never miss an opportunity to shut the hell up”), I have remained silent until I had the opportunity to experience both parties’ nominating conventions. I thoroughly followed both events, so now have things to offer.  
I have been a longtime follower of things political since Eisenhower left office, and have followed many conventions since that time. I have to say that I actually prefer the format that the Democrats used.  
As with State of the Union speeches, I find the obligatory applause an un-needed redundancy. Proceeding through the speeches and even the entertaining remote state roll call, in

such a seamless fashion, was a refreshing change. I would love to see the remote roll call become permanent for all future conventions.  
As a practicing Democrat, I have little argument with any of the presentations made at the DNC. I thought it was more of a review of the Trump presidency than packed with specifics of what a Biden administration will look like, but since unlike the RNC, there actually is a platform you can peruse, and because nobody ever gets everything they want, it appears that my priorities will be addressed, whether or not I will support the outcomes. I will cite disparities in RNC review.  
I must start with the fact that I, like

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A9**

### Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind

To the Editor:  
“A people that elect corrupt politicians, impostors, thieves, and traitors are not victims...but accomplices.” George Orwell, author of “1984” and “Animal Farm”—among other attacks on the totalitarian state—made this comment in the 1940’s, but it could not possibly be more applicable than today in all of the most troubled areas of the present day United States of America.  
In much of “normal” America, i.e., towns, cities and states managed by Republican or conservative governance, life goes on pretty much as it generally has throughout the experience of most of us, even considering the—hope-

fully—temporary changes wrought by the Chi-com Virus. We get and spend, eat and sleep, chat with our neighbors, cut the grass, and have the reasonable expectation that we can move about safely, that our rights and property are secure, and that our hopes for the future of kith and kin are not illusory.  
Not so in “Blue” America, those formerly great and dynamic metropolises like Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Louisville, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and too many others to list, and where in every case the Democrat Party has held

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A8**

### McRae should read my letters

To the Editor:  
In the Aug. 28 edition of the New Leader, Mr. McRae assumed that the readers of this great publication had not heard of the tragic death of Cannon Hinnant, and he would like to use too many words to hurl too many insults at those he considers enemies of the United States.

Mr. McRae need look no further than my own letter published in the Aug. 21 edition titled “Protests.” I beat him to the punch although from a very different viewpoint and analysis of the situation. Rather than simply repeating myself anyone who is interested should read my letter of Aug. 21 and then Mr. McRae’s letter of Aug. 28.

Perhaps Mr. McRae first learned of the Cannon Hinnant case from me and couldn’t let an opportunity go to waste where he could hurl things like “Chi-com,” “Bad Orange Man,” call John Lennon stupid and useless, Marxist, Communist... I imagine he takes any chance he can get to claim Christianity, cops, capitalism, prisons, suburbs, home-schooling, and America itself is about to be wiped from the face of the planet by black citizens who don’t want to be brutalized by the state. There is a theory boiling over in conservatives’ heads and it is an opposition to protesting at all (lest we be called ingrates). We have learned that there are a lot of “wrong” ways to peacefully protest — kneeling to the flag, refusing to go on a field for the national anthem, boycotting whole games. It seems like there isn’t a “right” way to protest and the real issue is that they don’t want us to protest. There is a pecking order and de facto caste system in place and how dare they protest it. The First Amendment makes things murky, so they try to paint all 25 million who protested for racial justice this summer with same brush as a rioting few.

This was an interesting week, from the White Nationalist Trump party to the shooting and later protests in Kenosha, Wisc.

First and foremost, no number of “tokens” speaking at the RNC will erase history and cloud reality. There are 42 million black people in America, of which 8 percent supported Trump in 2016. Eight percent while normally thought of as comically low still means that there is a pool of 3.3 million people from which to pick tokens to speak. The speakers had to be carefully chosen for their ability to not mention the pathological pursuit of a white nationalist, white power agenda and for their ability to connect with their abuser as though they had Stockholm syndrome. These speakers were chosen, and their speeches written to soften or erase Trump’s overt history of racism and to falsify a story where liberals are the worse racial offenders.

The undertone of the entire convention is that the protests and violence that has erupted in the United States during President Trump’s term is somehow Joe Biden’s fault, no one would be safe in Joe Biden’s America, and re-electing Trump is a vote for change. Someone should remind Trump that the images he shows are from his term. Joe Biden is not in a position of power, and the prior administration of which Joe Biden was a part represented a better and safer time in America. Someone should really remind Trump that he’s the incumbent and he is supposed to ignore what went bad the last four years and play up what went well...

Donald Trump’s message only makes sense if you view the world through a lens of us vs. them. Trump is trying to run against ‘Democrat Mayors’ (it is ‘Democratic’). Regardless of what he

thinks of these mayors, either we believe in separation of powers/local control and their actions are beyond the scope of the presidency...or Trump failed to take charge in his 1st term, so give him another?

Meanwhile, there was a horrific shooting in Kenosha, WI where the police shot Jacob Blake, a black man, in the back at point blank range while he walked away in front of his three children. He was shot seven times, paralyzed, and is still in the hospital. These things happen in America all the time — as is often the case these days it was filmed. The “back the blue” crowd should really focus their efforts on banning cell phone cameras, cops had it a lot easier before witnesses all carried video cameras in their pockets.

Of course, like clockwork whenever a black person is brutalized by state actors on camera, the protests started and thousands of people had taken to the streets within hours. Jacob Blake was shot at 5:15 p.m. and a state of emergency in Kenosha was declared by 10:15 p.m. the same day and garbage trucks were used to block streets. Within an hour of the declared emergency several garbage trucks and a trolley car were on

Turn To **WASHINGTON** page **A16**

### Smash and Grab

To the Editor:  
I work in Worcester. At noon on my lunch break, I take a walk around the plant. I do this because I know it’s my responsibility to stay strong to fight off viruses. I was on one of these walks in June after a night of BLM protest in Worcester. As I walked, the owner of a motorcycle store in the area stopped and asked me if he had seen any motorcycles in the woods. I said no, and asked what happened. It seems that night some people smashed his windows and stole a number of bikes. He was visibly upset. This was a business he was

trying to run during the devastating Covid shutdown. He didn’t need this crap going on. I then heard that many businesses had the same problem. It looked like a concerted effort. Lure all the police to deal with the social disruption. That leaves the way for others to Smash and Grab free stuff. That must be the way these thugs get social justice.

In the coming months, we see the same thing happening in cities across the United States. Start a protest, then confront the police so they are drawn

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A9**

### It’s off to the races

To the Editor:  
With both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions behind us, we’ll probably find that Joe Biden’s polls popped up during his convention and Donald Trump’s polls bumped up during his. It will probably all shake out to neutral because both Joe Biden and Donald Trump are such well known and understood characters at this point.

To summarize the Republican speakers, the country had been brought back from the economic precipice from the darkest of times by the unrivaled leadership of President Trump. According to them President Trump is solely responsible for

the final three years of the 11-year-long economic expansion which ended with the COVID-19 crisis and the economy since the COVID crisis is not to be spoken of. The COVID crisis itself is mostly ignored besides using it as a reference point for when things were good. If COVID was addressed, the blame was laid squarely at China which of course ignores how China was able to contain the virus and we were not and have now given up. They continued that the country, during Trump’s term, has descended into chaos in the cities and we are surrounded by lawlessness.

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A16**

### Time zones

To the Editor:  
While I usually focus on the economic issues and the various antics of our local crazed writers, I thought I would bring up the issue of time zones and daylight saving time. This has been hotly debated, and in 2017, Massachusetts even looked into moving to year-round Atlantic Standard Time (no setting the clocks back in the fall).

I demand that our various politicians running for office go on record... Are you for DST or against it? Do you support us being in the Eastern Time Zone dominated by New York and Florida or do you

support a move to Atlantic Time?  
First and foremost, I am a pro-Daylight Savings Time, and I hope to support pro-DST candidates in the fall.

I really appreciate the novelty of shifting the solar cycle with reference to the civil clock we all use twice a year plus it is less confusing to shift fore and aft along with the rest of the United States and Canada than it would be to have different time offsets at different times of the year. Consistency is key. In the spring, it is fun and novel to have the sun set later and

Turn To **TAYLOR** page **A12**

### A Democrat for Trump

To the Editor:  
A couple of weeks ago, the Middle East peace agreement was signed and the positive news story should have been the headline of the week. It was the same time as Mr. Biden’s call for a mask mandate for the next three months. Hmmm...I wonder why for the next three months...oh, that’s right — by then, the presidential election will be over, and the reason the M.E.P.A. got little recognition — some of the news media is so biased, unfair, dishonest and vicious.

The mask mandate requires the wearing of masks not only on the outside, but also on the inside of our homes, and hard working, taxpaying, law abiding citizens can be sued for not following the law; meanwhile, on our nightly news, we see our beautiful cities with burning buildings and businesses, looting, destruction beyond repair, and the

merry “peace protectors” go on their merry way with sometimes getting their hands slapped.

How the Democratic Party labels this violence as “peaceful protesting” is beyond belief. Where is the justice? Oh, I know — it followed common sense out the window a few years ago.

One of the speakers at the Democratic Convention stated, “If you think the violence in cities is bad now, well, if Mr. Biden isn’t elected president, things will get a lot worse.” Is that a threat?

Our country needs prayers, and our only hope for a safe, secure United States of America is the re-election of Donald Trump as our president.

I am proud, as a former member of the Democratic Party, to cast my vote for President Trump.

EVA E. PERRON  
EAST BROOKFIELD




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**KASPI**  
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advantage of the good weather and make up for lost time? Of course not! Nobody would dare suggest teachers should have to work in the summer even during a 100-year plague.

As we entered August, the teacher's unions sprang into action, with ventilation system demands and whatnot that couldn't be fulfilled in time for school to start. We had protests with galling signs that said things like "I will not sacrifice myself" as though the rest of the country hasn't had to go back to work. COVID is dangerous, but our country responded poorly, now it's not going anywhere, and we all have to live with the consequences. We are all at risk of catching COVID. We all can't stay home forever. We all perform functions in society that need to be performed. Teachers aren't special.

The reason to keep schools closed is not because the teachers are at special risk - teachers can be protected with masks and plexiglass well. Kids are not at high risk for COVID, either. The reason to close schools is for the community. If we put all the town's children in one place for six hours a day and then send everybody home, we create an efficient community vector. It isn't about the teachers. It is about the community at large. I understand the teachers are doing a union-protected foot stomping, but it would have been nice if they at least made their reasons about "us" and the community instead of all about them.

So, here we are, many

large school districts are 100 percent remote and most districts are "hybrid." "Hybrid" is used loosely - like K-3 going to school for four out of 10 days (Monday through Thursday every other week) with grades 4-12 100 percent remote. This is terrible for both kids and parents.

Of course, some parents simply can't accommodate this. Some parents need to be back in work because they don't have a public union to stomp feet for them while the schools abdicate their childcare function. Gov. Baker responded to this problem by issuing an executive order. Did it target teachers and their union? Did it target private employers who expect their employees back at work? Nope and nope!

Gov. Baker has authorized daycare centers to accept school age children up to age 14 to supervise remote-learning. Baker has further waived all licensure requirements for informal home-based school aged care/remote learning supervision as long as it is run by an unpaid parent.

The reason for closing schools should never have been and should never be for the health concerns of the teachers. Teachers are employees just like all of us. School teachers are at higher risk than office workers and lower risk compared to daycare workers. Governor Baker should make stay-at-home orders and re-opening plans based on the science and the data. We should all be affected by these stay-at-home orders equally. If it isn't safe for schools to be open then it isn't safe for private daycares either and it probably isn't safe

for any non-essential employee to be at work. If it is safe for daycares and daycare workers, then it's safe for schools and schoolteachers.

What is the point of closing the schools if we are just going to open daycare centers, paid study halls like I described in by Aug. 14 letter!? The sole reason to close schools is to force social distancing and eliminate the school as a viral spread vector for the community. It seems what we did is we caved to the whims of a public union, but we are allowing the viral spread vector to move to the private sector and the community's risks are unchanged.

Baker probably thinks it is moot because as we enter fall the COVID numbers are likely to get out of control and everything will be shut down again anyway. I am guessing that Baker sees the hypocrisy but decided it wasn't a battle worth fighting, especially if he is going to shut everything down by October anyway. I beg to differ. For one, it would have been valuable for our kids to go to school even if for only a month. It isn't just about this year though. COVID isn't going anywhere. If a union needs to be busted we need to start now for whenever the next re-opening is that they will oppose. Surely there must be private companies that are set up to offer Zoom Academy for far less than we pay our teachers. Surely there must be schoolteachers in India who would jump at the chance to teach our kids in the middle of their night for half what our teachers earn.

TANYA KASPI  
SPENCER

**MCRAE**  
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absolute sway for a very long time—a hundred years, for some—and with only an occasional and brief respite when Republican rule occurred (Giuliani, New York City; Samuel, Phila., and a very few others.)

In these formerly robust and exciting—if not magical—cities, ruination now is the defining characteristic of them all. From Mr. Bennett's "City by the Bay"—the only place in America where even the dogs fear stepping in ubiquitous sidewalk(human) waste—to Chicago where on a typical three-day weekend 25 to 50 denizens of the Windy City are routinely shot (almost always black males by other black males), to The Big Apple where the greatest police department in the world—NYPD—are so demoralized they all want to quit and take a job as sheriff in Tanktown, South Dakota or some other peaceful place far removed from Gotham ...they're all collapsing. Frantic inhabitants can't rent a U-Haul moving van in these places; they've all been taken by disillusioned, fearful, life-long residents of these conurbations eager to get out...to anywhere except to another city or state run by liberals.

Let's, for example, look at New York City, the Big Apple, where, according to "Old Blue Eyes" in "New York, New York!!" it is: "...if you can make it here... you can make it anywhere...it's up to you...New York, New York!!"

Well, Frank, hate to tell you, but the only things being made in New York these days by rational people of any means at all are plans to get out as fast and as far away as possible. It's dead, Frank. The coroner's certificate reads: "NYC,

1624 - 2020. Cause of death: by its own hand."

Oh, yes, it was once great, no, spectacular among the cities of the world. The most exciting; the greatest bridges; tallest buildings; longest tunnels; finest restaurants and hotels; greatest entertainment; most famous cabs and cops; best parks; home of the Yankees, the Knicks, the Rangers, the Giants; the greatest museums and orchestras; fabled statues and monuments; beautiful cathedrals and churches; deep and wide rivers; steeped in history—it had it all. Everyone wanted to come to New York.

Now, no one does anymore except those looking for handouts of one kind

or another—in exchange for their vote. Today, long distance drivers travel a hundred miles out of their way to avoid having to drive through the place. There's too much to risk by breaking down on the Cross Bronx or the G.W. to take the chance, not to mention being ripped off by the exorbitant tolls.

Those long in the tooth like myself will remember with fondness Ella Fitzgerald in her inimitable cabaret-style singing Rodgers and Harts' "Manhattan." Lorenz Hart's lyrics, written at a time when genius counted for something in the business of putting words to a melody—unlike today's devolved American pop music which usually consists of nothing more than some screaming of barely intelligible words proclaiming..."oooh baby...all night long...all night long...oh yeah..."—paid tribute to the fun and glamor of the city especially for a young couple in love and started with:

«We'll take Manhattan...the Bronx and Staten.. Island, too...»

It's lovely going through the (Bronx) zoo...»

After Larry Hart takes the listener through much of the City and its features, the song concludes with:

«The city's clamor can never spoil... The dreams of a boy and girl...»

We'll turn Manhattan... into an Isle of joy.»

Well, all right, but the famous romance of the city, the verve, the fun of which Mr. Hart wrote is gone, probably forever, thanks to Mr. Orwell's "...corrupt politicians, impostors, thieves and traitors..." and their accomplices, the fools who voted for them.

As in everything else that once worked gloriously well, but which has now been destroyed in this country, look no further than the Democrat Party and its corrupt, traitorous leadership. Many such things as cities, states, schools, families, neighborhoods, police departments, churches, race relations, businesses, and other once-successful organizations are all in various states of collapse thanks to the unworkable, failed policies of liberals. Everything they touch: wreckage.

Exhibit A, New York City. With apologies to Mr. Lawrence Berra, late of the Pinstripe Boys, "New York? No one goes there anymore...it's too cruddy." Any people who would elect a full-blown communist like Bill de Blasio and his embittered, race-obsessed wife,

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A15**

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**KIMBALL**

continued from page A7

most of us, am really tired of this pandemic. I diligently wear a mask to pick up a gallon of milk, and socially distance, even with healthy neighbors or family. I do this based upon science and wanting to finally close the thing down. I am not a bit surprised at the lack of leadership from this administration. I am also not surprised by the utter lack of giving any deference or enforcement of either the Hatch Act or the Emoluments clause.

I thought the self serving swearing in of specially selected new citizens without them knowing they were an RNC segment, while the thousands of others who likely will not become citizens in time to vote, due to the prohibitions against large gatherings in these difficult times, was completely overshadowed, first by unmasked audiences semi-separated at Fort McHenry, then shoulder to shoulder in thousands on the Whitehouse lawn. It appears that this president, who is also bored with the pandemic, has just declared it over. He may have made sure for many of us, that it won't end in our lifetime. Him cowering and suppressing the health experts, is consistent with what has now happened to the Republican party.

The Republican Party, of Lincoln, Eisenhower, Reagan, GHW Bush, no longer exists. It has been supplanted by the Trump Cult. The nature of it is very much along the lines of a monarchy, dictatorship or banana republic. If it did exist, people like GW Bush, Mitt Romney, and John McCain would have felt welcome within it. Instead, the presentation consisted largely of the Trump family, government employees (in violation of the Hatch Act), people pardoned, with supported agendas or just cult members at large.

It surprises me to hear that followers believe campaign promises were kept. Not only did Mexico not pay for the wall, only 275 miles of the 2000 mile stretch, has one, and only 25 miles of that is new, and funded by taking funding away from VA projects. Not only is there no new better cheaper healthcare plan, Trump is in court trying to repeal the ACA, including pre-existing condition coverage- during a pandemic where less people are insured than when he arrived, the deficit is not only not smaller, but the only thing he delivered was to borrow \$2 trillion more and give 83 percent of it to the highest earning one percent of earners (including himself), neither North Korea or Iran are less of a nuclear threat, not only did he not release his taxes, even the courts are having trouble seeing them.

It is no coincidence that non-partisan inspector generals, have been replaced with loyalty pledged people and that Barr is not even remotely non-partisan. I am even expecting a Comey style release before Nov. 3. Not only do they not enforce laws impartially, they actually ignore some.

It is almost foolish to go through the fact check process on Trump claims, but an example is him trying to scare you into thinking the country will look exactly how it does now under his watch. That Biden would defund police, when in fact he wants to increase funding \$300 million to improve policing. I guess he thinks we can improve on having a training officer kneel on someone's neck until dead, or making a habit of shooting black men in the back. MSNBC's Maddow did several minutes of fact checks after the main event at the circus. Pointing them out would be redundant for people concerned with facts and a complete waste to tell the people who think over 180,000 dead and counting is acceptable, and that two thousand maskless people on

the Whitehouse lawn, shoulder to shoulder is leadership. I think it was Forest Gump who said "Stupid is as stupid does".

If you actually think that putting a decent man in the Oval Office who will address things the vast majority of us want addressed, like climate change issues, and the related industry that would create, as opposed to drilling in the pristine artic reserve, so we can have cheap gas and all drive pickup and SUV's until our southwest burns up, our lowlands flood, and we can exchange cloth masks for oxygen, Trump is your guy. If you women want the government to mandate your reproductive options, the great morality the religious right and catholic church have displayed should guide you. If you really think everyone walking around with an assault rifle is a great idea and should be a right, because, clearly, gun owners all have excellent judgement, Trump is your guy. If you have no problem with selective law enforcement and rules not applying equally to all, Trump is your guy.

It is pretty clear that this administration is no fan of actual democracy. The cult is already saying what order the Trumps should continuously serve in the oval office. I encourage all Americans to vote. In some instances you should plan ahead to accomplish that. While I don't expect trouble here, I remember Wisconsin or Minnesota shutting down polling places, forcing long lines in frigid conditions. It would be a sad testimony, that the country that landed on the moon 51 years ago, could not run a fair and efficient election. GHW Bush was infinitely more deserving of a second term than Trump, and he did not even have to outlast the prosecution time limits, although statute of limitations should not absolve responsibility. Vote.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

**ROBILLARD**

continued from page A7

The other part of BLM them goes into the Smash and Grab mode. They know there are no ramifications. The mayors and governors will let them steal, loot, and, if anyone resists, kill with impunity. Even if they are arrested, they will be released out immediately. This has nothing to do with social justice. It is just another gang of thieves that has figured out a way to game the system. It's called distract then Smash and Grab. It seems to BLM your live only matters if you're a thug, felon, or low life. There are no marches for justice for those killed during the protest. Take for instance retired St. Louis captain David Dorn. He tried to protect a business from the BLM rioters. He was executed by being shot in the head. They laughed and streamed it online. I guess his black life didn't matter. Take for instance Bernell Trammel in Milwaukee. His crime was supporting Trump. He was executed by one of the thugs. I guess his black life didn't matter. No marches for them because you can't Smash and Grab if the police support you. It only works if you can have a confrontation with the police.

Now we see the rich hypocrites in sports and Silicon Valley feigning their social awareness. Do they live in

these communities and try to make them better? No, of course not. They know they will be the first victims of Smash and Grab. Instead, they feign indignation so they can maintain their high-flying lifestyles. And in these communities overrun with these thugs who do the decent people have to protect them. No one. The politicians are following the prevailing winds and siding with the thugs. They order the police to stand down and refuse Federal help. If you try to protect yourself with the rights provided you by the second amendment of the constitution by bearing arms to protect yourself, then you will be arrested. The whole purpose of this amendment was for such a case. Allowing you to protect the lives of your families and property when the malevolent groups attack you. It looks like you can't count on a Democratic government to protect your life, so they have given a good reason for good people to go out and buy a gun.

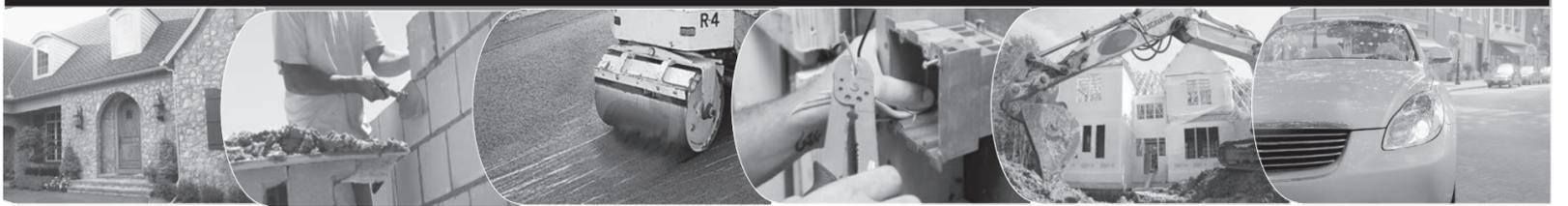
So how to squash this gang of felons and thieves that have been unleashed on society by the leftist Democrats wishing to destroy America? Show them that All Lives Matter and vote for Donald Trump on Nov 3. With the voters mandate behind him, you can be sure he'll break up this gang of hoods fast.

MARK ROBILLARD  
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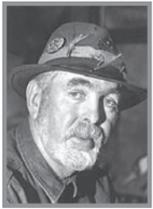
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# A family fishing trip



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This past week, this writer and my granddaughter Andrea Henchey decided it was time to go fishing at Galilee, R.I. for seabass and fluke. She decided to take along her son Logan, but I was a bit nervous about taking him because of his young age of five years. He is on the water a lot at their lake-front home on Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury, so we brought him along. They arrived at my residence in Uxbridge at 6 a.m., and we were on the road at 6:15 a.m.

The little guy was wide awake and ready to go fishing, and kept asking how much longer it would be before we got to the ocean. "Not long," we replied, and he went back to playing with his iPad! After making a few unscheduled stops along the way, we finally arrived at the boat ramp. It was time to catch some live bait with a small net. Logan was all excited and had a great time helping with catching the bait. We quickly launched the boat and we headed out through the Breachway of Galilee's West Wall.

After a ten-minute run out to 45 feet of water I brought the boat to a stop and we started fishing. Placing a mummy and a piece of squid strip on a hook, Andrea lowered the bait to the bottom. She started to get a bite within seconds of hitting the bottom. Logan quickly started to reel the fish in with his mother's help, as this week's picture shows. It was lock and



Andrea Henchey and her son Logan reeling in fish.

load action for three hours and then the tide flow stopped. Fishing was slow and we decided to head for the boat ramp. We were also running out of food to eat, which is not good. The fast action sure gave us an appetite, as it always does when fishing. The largest seabass weighed in at five pounds, with others just making the 15-inch size limit. There were a lot of short fish including a few nice fluke.

As we pulled into the boat ramp, we had to wait for a couple of boats to leave, so I parked the boat at the very end of the right-hand dock. The water is pretty deep there. Andrea grabbed the rope from the bow and decided to jump out

of the boat and onto the dock before the boat was secured. As she jumped from the boat, she quickly found herself in the water! She had one foot on the dock and one on the boat prior to the big splash, which quickly caused a spread eagle, sending her into the ocean.

Falling between the boat and the dock has caused serious injury for many boaters, but she was lucky she did not sustain any injuries other than a bit of humiliation, as others boaters looked on. I went to retrieve the car and trailer after securing the boat properly, and making sure she did not get injured. Her son Logan did not know what to make of his mother's actions, and stared

to look for more bait fish that were visible in the shallow water.

I quickly floated the boat onto the trailer and pulled the boat out of the way of other boaters launching and retrieving their boats. Andrea quickly changed her wet clothing for dry ones, and was ready to help secure the boat for the ride home. "Can I do anything to help Pop?" she replied! I gave her a bucket full of live mummies to carry back to the water and release them. She was not 50 feet from the ramp when I heard her say "Oh No!" Now what? It seems the handle on the bucket broke and the live bait was flopping all over the



This writer with two 20-inch fluke caught the week before.

ground. "Forget it," I replied.

As she approached the boat she asked if she could do anything else! I said "Yes, go sit in the car and do not touch anything else!" She laughed and we were on our way home. I really could not have a better granddaughter, and have had many enjoyable times with her and her husband Chris, and my great grandchildren, Logan and Eva. I am extremely fortunate.

A few anglers were loading their boat at the ramp that day and reported catching a few Bonito in the area of the Charlestown Breachway, using flyrods.

Seabass limits have increased to seven fish daily per angler as of Sept. 1 in Rhode Island waters. Seabass are considered to be one of the best tasting fish in the ocean and catching them is exciting. I would recommend holding onto the rod real tight, or it could end up in the ocean.

*Take A Kid fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*

## Fall lawn care tips

As summer transitions into fall, it is time to help lawns recover from summer stress. Let the weather and the condition of your lawn help you develop a plan suited to your landscape.

Continue mowing actively growing lawns. Mow high, leaving cool season grasses like bluegrass and fescues at least two and a half, preferably three and a half inches tall after cutting. Warm season grasses like bermudagrass, carpetgrass, centipedegrass and zoysia should be grown at 1 to 2 inches tall, while St. Augustine should be a bit higher at two to three inches for best results. Taller grass is better able to compete with weeds, is more drought tolerant and less susceptible to insects and disease.

Mow often, removing no more than one third the total height. Leave short clippings on the lawn. They will quickly break down, adding organic matter, moisture and nutrients to the soil. Run your mower over long clippings to reduce their size and speed decomposition.

As the tree leaves begin to fall just mow them into small pieces and leave them on the lawn. As long as you can see the grass blades through the shredded leaves your lawn will be fine. And just like the clippings, they add nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

Fertilize lawns in early September



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

and high maintenance northern lawns again around Halloween, but always before the ground freezes. Make sure the last fertilizer application to warm season grasses is at least one month prior to the average first

killing frost.

A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds. Even with proper care these unwanted plants can bully their way into your lawn. Try digging, root and all, to remove small populations of weeds. Think of it as a workout or way to reduce stress.

If you decide to use a weed killer, try spot treating weeds or problem areas to minimize the amount of chemical used. Select the least toxic or an organic product whenever possible. Whether using traditional or environmentally friendly products read and follow label directions carefully. All these products are plant killers and can cause damage to other plants if not applied properly.

Fall, when the cool season grasses are actively growing, is also the best time to core aerate or dethatch lawns suffering from thatch build up or compacted soil. Overseed thin lawns after core aeration or dethatching. You'll have better results once the thatch layer is removed or openings exist for the grass seeds to contact the soil and sprout.



Photo Courtesy

A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds.

Those growing warm season grasses should wait until the lawn greens up in spring or is actively growing in early summer. Avoid doing this when the weather is hot and dry.

Begin implementing some of these strategies and soon you'll be on your way to a healthier, better looking lawn for the coming growing season.

Melinda Myers is the author of 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 a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Are you part of a herd?

Life is an incredible journey, full of twists and unexpected turns. We are herd animals and were not created to make this journey alone.

As most of you know, I was shocked in February to be diagnosed with Stage 4 Stomach Cancer. It was unexpected and certainly unwelcomed but it's now part of my life's journey. I embrace the reality and fight for time. As I've said before, there is no cure and so I'm told I can't beat this but I'm fighting to go the distance. I believe I'll still be here, writing this column in five years.

My diagnosis isn't all negative. I've never felt so loved and cared for. I have a team of medical professionals fighting on my behalf. I have friends I haven't seen in years reaching out, visiting and offering their support. But best of all is my family.

My wild and crazy sisters, Debra and Kim, and their wonderful husbands, Keith and Roger, travelled from North Carolina and Florida to spend a week with me. They came to

catch up and have fun, but to also provide support and lend a hand. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, we are downsizing from our very large home of twenty-five years into a condo that's dramatically smaller, so they, along with Arlene's best friend, Tracey, who's just like family, spent most of each day helping us rummage through shelves, cabinets and boxes to determine what we keep, sell or pitch. It was an emotional week preparing for the estate sale, but in many ways, it's the history of our forty-five years of marriage, laid out on tables for others to buy. My sister's sense of humor and free spirit not only made the experience tolerable but fun. I don't see them often enough but when we do see each other, we make it count. I don't know what I'd do without them.

Tracey didn't really know them until this week. She was in complete dismay as my sisters chased down a local police officer to give him a Buster Bar (from Dairy Queen) and to tell the young officer he was



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
.....  
GARY W.  
MOORE

appreciated. That's just how they roll.

For those of you who are long-time readers of my column, know that my daughter, Tara Beth, and her husband Jeff, accepted positions in Pasadena, Calif. over four years ago and headed west, with our grandsons, Caleb and Noah. Like most of life's twists and turns, it was a mixture of happiness for their new opportunities and sadness to see them go. Their move wasn't ended with a period but only punctuated with a comma, as they announced this week they are moving back. We are thrilled. I'll never miss one of my grandson's baseball games or concerts again! My only regret is that their move is motivated by my health. My life journey should not dictate

theirs, but I was told, "Don't worry about it. I only have one Dad and we want to be close." Of course, I did the only thing I could do in that moment. I cried. As I said, I've never felt so loved.

In a lighter note, my handsome and smart nephew, Westin, called me on Sunday to tell me about his new dog. He said, "My puppy is two years old and I'm five."

I responded, "So, you were three years old when he was born."

Weston paused and said, "He wasn't born. We bought him!" I laughed all day at the enthusiastic innocence of his words.

I've always loved my friends and family, but never fully realized the importance of relationships and how their love can brighten the darkest times. I'm grateful. My heart is full.

For those who say, "I don't have friends," be a friend. Join a small group at your church. Take up a group hobby that places you in the same room with others of similar interests. Volunteer for a local charity.

Join a herd. Be part of a pack. They want and need you as much as you need them, and for most of us ... the day will come when you need their love and support.

Yes, creating meaningful relationships takes effort but it will be effort well spent.

I also hear other say, "I'm estranged from my family." It's not too late to forgive and forget. It doesn't matter what happened. It was in the past. Unless the relationships are toxic, dangerous or otherwise damaging, make the effort to reconnect. Reach out and rekindle family connections. I don't think you'll be sorry.

We were not created to travel alone.

Join the herd.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, *Playing with the Enemy*. Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).



# OBITUARIES

## Nancy J. Hall, 70

GILBERTVILLE- Nancy J. (Lazarick) Hall, 70, of Gilbertville, died on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester.



She leaves her sisters Patricia Staiti and her husband Tony of Gilbertville and Ann Robinson and her husband Duane of West Brookfield. She was predeceased by her husband, Leonard Hall in 2001, and her brother Joseph Lazarick. She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Gladys F. (Harvender) and Joseph F. Lazarick.

Nancy worked as a machine operator at Quabaug Rubber Company for several years before retiring.

A Graveside Service for Nancy will be on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 11:30AM in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield. A calling hour will be held from 10 to 11AM in the Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., West Brookfield prior to the burial. In accordance with COVID regulations, facial coverings and social distancing guidelines must be followed while in the funeral home and at the cemetery.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)

## Genevieve A. Kowalski, 101

EAST BROOKFIELD/N.FT. MYERS, FL.- Genevieve A. (Jolda) Kowalski, 101, passed away peacefully on August 24, 2020 in the home of her daughter Carolyn Cole in North Fort Myers, FL.

Born in Webster, MA on February 17, 1919, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Baran) Jolda.

She is survived by her sons Anthony R (Marcia), and Thomas E. (Debby) Kowalski; her daughter Carolyn S. (Ronald/Skip) Cole; 6 grand children Ronald Jr, Robert and Cynthia Cole and Michael, Kenneth and Krystal Kowalski; 4 great grand children Michael, Katrena and Elizabeth Cole, and Jackilyn Melanson; 4 great great grandchildren, Joseph and Anthony Santos, Genevieve and Mila Melanson and Vivianne Santos who will be born in November and not get to meet her beloved babchi, and two step grandchildren Seth & Alec Pickard. She was predeceased by her late husband Anthony (Tony) Kowalski, 2 sisters Nellie Bonczyk (Ted) and Stasia

Kawiaka (Ted), and 3 brothers William (Bessie), Edward (Irene), and Louis (Jeanette) Jolda, and her beloved granddaughter Christine Cole Ingalls (David).

Jenny worked for many years at the former Brookfield Athletic Shoe Co and later at Chess King warehouse in Worcester. She was a member of St John the Baptist Church. She enjoyed traveling with her husband and later with family and friends. Jenny enjoyed many years of riding her bicycle around East Brookfield and stopping to visit with its many residents.

She was joined in Florida by her devoted grand daughter Cindy Cole, who had been her second caregiver during her final years and Jackilyn, Genevieve, and Mila Melanson.

No memorial events are currently scheduled. A celebration of life will be held at a future date when her whole family is able to come together. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.

## William C. Prizio, 86

WEST BROOKFIELD - William C. Prizio, 86, of West Brookfield, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center surrounded by his loving family.



He leaves his wife of 61 years, Irmgard (Schaefer) Prizio, his daughter, Robin and her husband Aram, Jr. "Ticky" Thomasian of North Brookfield; his son, Robert Prizio and his wife Sabine Prizio of Charlton; six grandchildren Aram and Derek Thomasian, Maria Hatstat, and Robert, Sarah, and Joseph Prizio; one great-grandson, Anthony Hatstat; three sisters, Linda

Lincoln and her husband Gary of Brookfield, Mary Truhel of North Brookfield, and Elizabeth "Betty" Dorney of Warren. He was predeceased by his daughter, Eva Prizio in 1981, and his sister, Julie Nydam. He was born in Brookfield, son of the late Grace (Boynton) and William G. Prizio.

Mr. Prizio is a United States Army

Veteran.

Bill worked in the Food Service Industry for over 30 years and retired from Kraft Foods in 1993, where he worked as a Sales Representative.

Bill enjoyed staying active even in his more senior years. He would follow his almost daily gym routine at either Sims or at the YMCA in Southbridge. He was a life-time member of the North Brookfield Lions Club where he served as Past President and Membership Chairman receiving many awards such as the Melvin Jones Fellowship, Joseph Camada Award, and he volunteered at numerous events over his membership. He was also a former member of the West Brookfield Sportsman's Club, and had served his community as a member of the West Brookfield Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

A private Graveside Committal Service with Military Honors for Bill is being planned for a later date. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 540, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

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

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)

## William "Bill" Mankin, 82

WEST BROOKFIELD - Bill Mankin, 82, died peacefully on Monday, August 24, 2020, with family by his side, in person and virtually.



Mr. Mankin leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Linda (Ross) Mankin, and their six children: Richard Mankin and his wife Laura of New Braintree; Wendy Correll and her husband Richard of Ann Arbor, MI; Stacey Simons and her husband Billy of Ware; Travis Mankin and his wife Melinda of Ware; Courtney Troiano and her husband Gary of Vicenza, Italy; and

Tori Bourgeois and her husband Jason of Rutland. He leaves behind eleven grandchildren: Ashley (Troiano) Starcke, Jeremiah Mankin, Leeya Correll, Allison Correll, Caleb Mankin (Kelsey LaRosa), Aidan Troiano, Claire Troiano, Ryan Troiano, Cooper Bourgeois, Sophia Mankin, and Benjamin Bourgeois. He also leaves behind two great-granddaughters, Julie Starcke and Charlotte Mankin.

Bill was born in Arlington, Virginia, to the late Richard B. Mankin and Alberta C. Eichelberger. He is a United States Navy Veteran of the Post-Korean Conflict, where he served on the U.S.S. Wisconsin and Iowa Class Battleship.

Following his service, Bill and Linda raised their family in the area, settling in West Brookfield forty years ago. Bill worked at several local businesses, including the Barre Wool Combing Company, Barre Highway Department, Salem Cross Inn, West Brookfield Housing Authority, and Hardwick Post and Beam. He could fix or repair nearly anything, no matter how large or small. Bill was an avid sportsman, having learned to hunt and fish as a child. He passed this knowledge on to his children, grandchildren, and many of their friends.

At his request, funeral services will be held privately with burial in Riverside Cemetery in Sunderland. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148 or at [www.stjude.org/](http://www.stjude.org/) or the Wickaboag Sportsmen Club.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)

### TAYLOR

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after work. In the autumn, the sun is setting as we leave work anyway, so it is fun and novel to get an extra hour of sleep as well as leave work when it is pitch black.

I, however, believe that most of New England (those areas that are Red Sox and not Yankees fans) would be better served by Atlantic Time (UTC -4) rather than Eastern Time. Eastern Time is just too big longitudinally, and we need a separate time zone from New York and Florida. If we joined Atlantic time we would be aligned with New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and much of South America.

If we were on Atlantic Time with Daylight Savings Time...The sun wouldn't set until 9:30 p.m. in the summer! We

give us more daylight

would still get the novelty of changing our clocks! The sun would be out until 5:15 at the winter solstice, allowing for an evening walk! New England would get a time zone we could economically dominate and be the epicenter of. No longer would our time be known as "New York Time"; we would be in "Boston Time" or "New England Time." We would be "ahead" of Florida and New York on all fronts...Always an hour ahead.

There are those that are concerned it would be confusing if Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont were not on the same time zone as Massachusetts. I agree. However, that doesn't mean we all need to blindly follow New York. Massachusetts is the economic and cultural epicenter of New England. If we changed to Atlantic time, I guaranty that the rest of the New England states would shortly follow. If forced to choose between New York and Boston, what do you think they'll choose? This could be our chance to flex our Massachusetts muscle, publicly embarrass our vassal states, and declare dominance over our sphere of influence.

As voters we can no longer accept ambiguity from our politicians. They must take a stand.

Anne Gobi, Peter Durant, [TBD Dem Nominee for Worcester County Probate], Steven Hall, and Stephanie Fattman ... You are not slinking away from this one. I call on all of you to make public statements concerning time zones. Are you a supporter of Massachusetts time/Boston time/New England time...or do you prefer to be a vassal of New York and sheepishly accept earlier sunsets than we would otherwise have?

RICHARD TAYLOR  
SPENCER

### BELTON

continued from page A6

Speaking of the DNC and Democrats... the violence in the mostly Democrat controlled cities, large and small, continues under the guise of social justice protests. Nothing about the violence and rioters is about justice. Mind you, I am not talking about the protest and protesters. As long as the protests remain peaceful and are conducted in daylight, they remain legitimate. However, once darkness falls, it's been painfully obvious that the peaceful protests turn into violent riots. One doesn't participate in a peaceful protest armed to the teeth with bats, bricks, hammers, crowbars, face shields and professional grade gas masks. No, this equipment is for one reason and one reason only. To engage in violence and riot. It's not about social justice, nor anyone who has been a victim of injustice. The weapon wielding rioters are using the excuse of social justice for BLM as an excuse to burn down, loot and plunder. And the BLM organization is more than happy to have these ill-informed and ill intentioned rioters unleash anarchy on the streets of America.

As most people, black lives matter to me. I too have black friends and co-workers. However, it is necessary to point out that the BLM organization

read. Research their founders, their history and their current ideology. Look at Chicago and the number of black lives lost due to the murderous gangs. All one gets from the BLM organization is complete silence. They don't care about Chicago, Portland, and most recently Kenosha. They simply didn't give a hoot about any community suffering under gangs in black neighborhoods. It doesn't fit their agenda. Those thousands of black lives do not matter to them.

So, what does matter to them? For one thing, it's power. More specifically, it's political power. They are using the social justice mantra as a cover to cause division, incite violence and perpetrate a coordinated assault on America, its institutions and its people (you and me).

They masquerade as a benevolent and worthy cause while they continue to implement the downfall of this country.

I will continue to care and support my black friends, co-workers and fellow citizens. However, I will not offer the same for an organization which is Marxist (socialist/communist) and anti-freedom at its dark, sinister core.

I pray that the violence will end. And end just as quickly as it began. I pray for, and will support, real social justice. I pray people will see through the charade of the organization that supposedly champions social justice. I pray for all Americans, no matter what their skin color, to live peacefully while they pursue their dreams and live their lives.

So let us be adults and act as adults. Caring, kind, compassionate, ready to defend one another from the evils that sometimes ensnare us.

A man far better and immeasurably superior than I said, "Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called the children of God."

What will you do?

RICK BELTON  
SPENCER

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

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

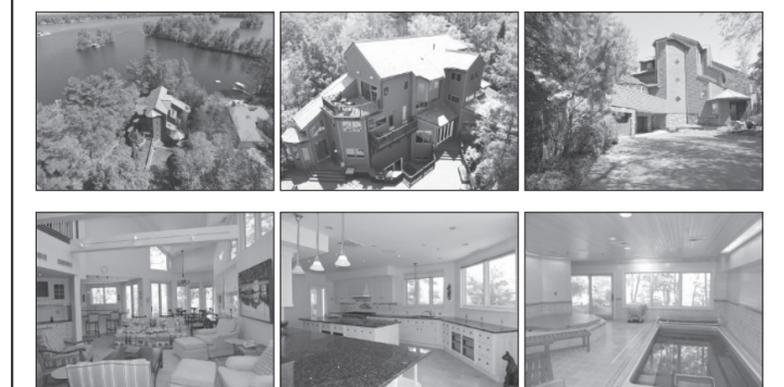
**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT** - 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to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

**GRAFTON** – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3Acre! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x25 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**

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ON DEPOSIT  
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**LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD**  
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**HERHOLZ**  
continued from page A6

should be given the right to vote. With canned enthusiasm, she whole heartedly embraced the idea. While some may classify that as an evolution of thought I would file it under shameless pandering. To each their own. Remember, these are the same people who think a three-year-old has the right to make life altering choices regarding which gender they want to identify as. While my memories from that plucky age are a little gray, I can state, with certainty, it didn't include whether I wanted to keep my wedding tackle or not! The left is trying desperately to convince children that gender is fluid. Now children can watch drag que... wait, it seems I cannot use that word anymore... men who like to play dress-up and expect that everyone else help them pretend, with outfits and makeup so colorful peacocks are made jealous, read stories to them. Later in life, these children are shipped off to the lib-factory, a.k.a. college, to complete their indoctrination. These institutions of 'higher learning' then churn out in debt 'adults', expert in the highly sought after field of Gender Studies. It is no wonder these uptight, penniless, untalented, societal drains flock to socialist politicians such as Bernie "The Red" Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC). The false promise of getting money and healthcare for nothing must be absolutely appealing to them. Economically unsustainable, but appealing, none-

the-less. Wasn't AOC's area of study, Economics? Just what are they being taught in those 'hallowed halls'?

It should also come as no surprise that Antifa is comprised of college age individuals who seem to think that vandalism and riots will help them get their point across. They are nothing but a cowardly mob who were never told, 'No,' as a child and were awarded participation trophies for accomplishing nothing more than just showing up. Now, because the world hasn't been handed to them on a silver platter and mommy isn't there to advocate for them, these Social Justice Warriors have nothing better to do but 'take it to the streets' and 'fight for justice.' If you are fighting for justice to rid the world of fascism and racism by targeting people based on the color of their skin and using fear and oppression to silence your opponent... You're doing it wrong. This angst and indignation that fuels their hatred and rage would be terrifying, if they could sustain a fight mano-a-mano (that's Spanish for 'hand to hand' for those of you wondering). However, their ability to go three rounds is only based on the number of Antifa they have behind them. When backed by a crowd they have all the intestinal fortitude that they need. Juxtapose with if you happen to face one of these 'freedom fighters' in a one-on-one duo, their Wizard-of-Oz-like ferocity seems to be about as intimidating as the man behind the curtain. My advice, if you see a crowd of them, walk away. They simply aren't worth your

time getting into a fight. Remember, if you wrestle with pigs you only get dirty and the pig has fun...and these pigs fight real dirty. If you happen see only one of them... Walk Away. Again, they are just not worth the effort. Feral pigs usually run in packs, so where there is one, the others are probably not too far behind. With these cowards, your head needs to be on a swivel because they love to exploit the blind-side. With a magician-like sleight of hand, while you are distracted with the one calling you a racist, bigot, etc. (the flashy magician), the one designated to attack (the trick) is waiting for their opportunity to strike. The front line (free hand) provides a good distraction for the aggressor(s) in the back. After a quick dash for the front to commit the assault and battery with a long pole or a padlock in a sock, the crowd (left hand) quickly 'palms-the-ace' concealing how the assault (trick) was accomplished. Most of the time, it is only when this is caught on video and slowed down does the assailant get discovered.

While you may not know how many people it will take to kick your butt, know how many they are going to use. Some very wise words courtesy of Ron 'Tater Salad' White.

Fellow patriots! Let your voices be heard! Come join us at the next Stand Out, this time on the beautiful grounds of the Paxton Commons, Friday the 28th starting at 4 p.m.

MATTHEW HERHOLZ  
SPENCER

**MCRAE**  
continued from page A8

Chirlane McCray, to run the greatest city in the world, as well as install another far-left would-be Mussolini like Governor Cuomo to also have life and death powers over the city, deserves, I'm sorry to say, what they get.

And what they get is: no bail procedures for violent criminals(Book 'em, Danno, and then let 'em go), emptied jails, looted stores, burned out buildings, homeless encampments everywhere, urine-soaked subway stations, skyrocketing crime, terrible schools, terrified subway riders who have no options, omnipresent graffiti, trash and filth all around, demoralized police with their confidence broken, shuttered restaurants and shops, and so on.

It is so over, and none of it was necessary. How any rational American of sound mind can continue, now, to vote for this radicalized, hateful, vengeful, and totally corrupt Democrat Party for anything, is completely beyond me.

All of you once-proud Democrats who have the brains and integrity to see what even a blind man could see about your old party—that it no longer exists—are more than welcome to come join us in our weekly Trump rally/standout this Friday, Sept. 4, in Oxford Center. You'll be welcome with open arms.

JOHN MCRAE  
EAST BROOKFIELD



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**LEGALS**

**Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**  
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Bonnie St.Cyr, for the property located at 73 East Main Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to tear down the existing garage and build a new one, not on the current footprint of this pre-existing nonconforming property in the General District. She will need a Special Permit as per sections(s), -1.5 Nonconformity: (§1.5.2 Nonconforming Structures (a) et al). The public is invited to attend.  
Renee Adams White  
Clerk  
September 4, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO2DC0241CA CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME In the matter of: Richard Pisarski**

**A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Richard Pisarski of Warren MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Richard Henry Pisarski**  
**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 09/15/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.**

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: August 14, 2020  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
September 4, 2020

**Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board**  
The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday September 15, 2020 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall and the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard.  
**Request for Extension –Site Plan Approval; Applicant: Beta Group, Inc; Owner: DG Northeast 2020 Holdings, LLC, Location: North Brookfield Road; Spencer Assessor's Map R39-14. The applicant is requesting an extension to the Major Site Plan under Sections 7.4 of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install a 1.98 MW solar array. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.**  
August 28, 2020  
September 4, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO20P2246EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Dorothy M Jolicoeur Date of Death: 06/25/2020 To all interested persons:**

**A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Rene M Jolicoeur of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Rene M Jolicoeur of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/22/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: August 17, 2020  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
September 4, 2020

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 7:15PM at the Police Station Conference Room, 55 School St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received regarding amending the Zoning Bylaw. The following changes are proposed: Section IV. Use Regulations: Add Table 2 – Reference Table of Uses by District (three page table, to become pages 18,19&19A), Section IV.E.4.b. Cafes and Restaurants less than 4000SF, Section IV.E.5.d. Restaurants and Cafes greater than 4000SF, Section IV.E.6.a. Retail operations with more than 4,000 SF of gross floor area on any individual floor, Section IV.E.8.c.(2) Off street parking shall be within five hundred (500) feet of the property for which it is being requested, and Section IV.E.6.b. Move Drive-through Operations to above Section 5 and have it as subsection e. Subsection c. would become b. Adult Entertainment. Proposed changes to the Zoning Map are being made for the Industrial District at the junction of Union St./Summer St., change to R-11 and two properties in R66 District located near intersection of East Brookfield Rd. and Slab City Rd., change to new district to be Business General 2(BG2) with minimum lot area of 40,000 SF and minimum frontage of 150 feet. Any person interested in or wishing to be heard should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed by-law and map amendments is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA.  
William King, Chair  
September 4, 2020  
September 11, 2020

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**ROSENBERG**  
 continued from page A7

The Republican speakers made a clear case that due to the economic success of the first part of the president's term and the chaos that has erupted during his term we need to elect an outsider, Donald Trump. It was honestly incredible that they were able to lace a story together and run the same candidate as the incumbent and the insurgent at the same time. It seems clear that the president prefers to run as an insurgent fighting the system as opposed to the incumbent at the helm of the system.

I was listening to those speeches and it seems that Joe Biden is feckless and unaccomplished in his 47 years of public service and yet the most terrifying threat that the American republic has ever seen. From listening to those speeches, it seems that Joe Biden is a closet socialist desp.

A political party, in general, would sit down and hammer out a coherent strategy considering the year it is, the issues, and

what they're going to do about it. The Biden team since they began their candidacy in 2019 decided that their number one issue is Donald Trump. They figured that the country is exhausted and wants a uniter and have stuck to that message. It isn't clear exactly what the GOP strategy is and there is no coherent line of thinking other than support of Donald Trump, the man, the cult, the legend. There is no coherent critique of Biden, no coherent sense of what the priority is right now, and they have no general argument to make. Trump spoke for 71 minutes and it was all over the map.

The Democratic convention by all accounts was better and Biden's speech better than Trump's. I do have to say though that the Republican Convention was far better television and far more entertaining. First, it started with flagrant violations of the Hatch Act and Trump's Chief of Staff explaining to the media that nobody cares about the Hatch Act outside of Washington. Then it went to using not the White House living quarters to host the president on Zoom from his desk upstairs

**WASHINGTON**  
 continued from page A7

fire. Later that night a used car dealership's entire lot was engulfed in flames. Several other downtown buildings sustained a range of damage.

There is a moral to the story: Whenever police abuse their power and kill or maim somebody and it's filmed, there will be massive protests and the city will burn. Get used to it. This is going to continue either until the state sponsored violence against our own citizens is ended or white America demands re-segregation and fences in Bantustans for the undesirables. Maybe President Trump will re-direct the southern border wall to wall in Chicago. The status quo was never OK, and when viral videos spread throughout a community within hours we should all expect mayhem.

but instead the White House being used as one of the most elaborate TV sets ever. The President gave pardons and accepted oaths of citizenship on live TV. We saw beautiful views of the Rose Garden and South Lawn lit up with dozens of flags. We even saw Trump point to and brag about having use of the White House and then the convention ended with fireworks over the Washington monument.

The footage was fit for a reality TV-show host turned President. It looked better than a Hollywood set and shockingly inappropriate. While the scenes were beautiful it makes one wonder, could Joe Biden have booked a similar venue? Would Trump have loaned out the White House and Washington Memorial for the DNC the week prior? Is there any similar venue Biden could have booked for any price? Quite obviously, one candidate in 2020 has access to the most iconic TV set in the world and the other doesn't, and that makes its use inappropriate.

We went into the conventions with Biden commanding a stable 10 point lead over Trump. It seems though that Democrats

Like clockwork, the state needed to restore order so the National Guard was called. There were thousands upon thousands of people engaging in peaceful protests (I'm sure they were "wrong" for some reason). There were a small number of violent criminals as there is in any large group, there was damage. The conservative media used telephoto lenses to zoom in on property damage while the mainstream media used drones to show the sheer numbers of peaceful protesters. Nothing new for 2020, really.

What was new and interesting however is that armed white vigilante/militia groups descended on Kenosha to "protect" the city. So now we had peaceful protestors, some violent riot inciters, cops, national guard, and vigilantes all in the same space...Awesome. As it turns out a 17-year-old white militia member

Turn To **WASHINGTON** page **A17**

are more anxious and Republicans more confident.

Somehow, Democrats have come on the wrong side of "order" in the eyes of the voters, despite the fact that order was better during the last administration and has broken down under this administration. A lot of "law and order" talk is code for racism and there is no question about that but Democrats have a seemingly impossible task of threading the needle where they denounce the crypto-racists and address legitimate concerns people have over safety. Biden has to thread the needle of saying he is for policing, but policing needs to be reformed, we must stop the systemic racism embedded in the current state of policing, but we also must keep everybody safe from criminals.

Now until November is likely to be a long, brutish, and scorched-earth campaign.

DAVID ROSENBERG  
 SPENCER

**HAR-YAROK**

continued from page A6

Brazil as the only major slaveholding nations.

The South could hear the drumbeat of “legal means” of abolition and seceded before it happened. The Confederate States of America specifically (unsuccessfully) pursued expansion of slavery into new territories to the west and into Latin America so that they wouldn’t be such an outlier. Ironically, slavery was abolished with the 13th which seemed less like ‘rule of law’ and more like coercion in that militarily defeated states were forced to sign on.

The Civil War is not unique in that the union was restored. The Korean War is unique in that they are still separated. Vietnam has been unified since 1976. The Yemen Civil War ended with Yemen re-united in 1990. The troubles in Northern Ireland ended in 1998 with peace and without territorial changes. Most Civil wars do not end in territorial changes. When a war ends with a territorial change it is usually called a war of independence such as the American Revolutionary War, Kosovo War, Croatian War of Independence, Indonesian National Revolution, First Indochina War, Irish War of Independence, etc.

Regarding monuments to the losing side of a war that represented what we now recognize as abhorrent views, the Confederates are just like the Nazis. There are no Nazi statues in Germany. There should be no Confederate statues in the south. Regarding the Loyalists – yes, we live in Massachusetts. This was sovereign British territory and there were many Loyalists who lived here and many who fought in red coats. If it makes sense to memorialize Confederate soldiers, why aren’t we memorializing Loyalist soldiers? New York City was a Loyalist stronghold in 1776 – where are their memorials? Oh yeah, they lost, and their cause is now considered illegitimate.

To the university argument – how about Sri Mulyani, the former Director of the World Bank? Abhijit Banerjee,

Nobel Prize winner? Miguel Nicolelis, the neuroscientists known for his research with monkeys that led to the development of robotic arms? Of course, third world countries produce some great minds. This is a statistical argument – in a Gaussian distribution if the mean is shifted down, say a standard deviation, there are still some at the top. Just like in the South, just because there are more dumb people doesn’t mean there aren’t still some shining starts. Just like the southern shining starts, foreign shining starts are drawn to the universities of the Northeast. Massachusetts is the educational capital of the world and being connected by road to Mississippi doesn’t make them much better.

All violence is tragic but to compare state sponsored violence against a private citizen by a paid employee (cop shooting a black person) to crimes between individuals (“black on black crime”) is absurd. Many people try to change the subject with this and it is a logical fallacy.

Provocative? Sacrilegious? Thank you for the compliment. Misleading, vile, boring, and usually wrong – I beg to differ. I would love to write my original thoughts with all of my brilliance, but I choose to use my time to counter the misleading, vile, boring, usually wrong, and downright dangerous things I read in this publication. Neutralizing our guys is really more my calling.

Mr. McRae – there was a letter just last week in this paper about Cannon Hinnant and I was aware of it from my news feed. I’m pretty sure the media didn’t bury that one, otherwise how would you have known? Clearly you see the Cannon Hinnant situation as proof that the BLM movement is flawed despite the fact that the organs of the state within hours arrested, charged, and held his killer without bond. Please explain for all of our edification, how would you like the news media and activists respond and what should their goal be?

I am curious why Mr. McRae feels the need to inform us all that the duly elected Attorney General of Minnesota is black and Muslim. I am wondering how Mr. McRae decided that Attorney General Ellison is also “radical socialist”

He was illegally in possession of the fire-arm, travelled across state lines to cause trouble, went into a community he didn’t live to cause trouble, ended up shooting people at close range, and he is a hero of the political right? What!? How would they feel about a black teenager bringing a gun to a protest in case he encounters a vigilante? I saw memes with thin blue line flags trying to raise money for his legal defense. Shouldn’t this teenager of just stayed at home and stayed out of trouble?

The way the conservatives seem to be lionizing the indefensible is the most telling and troubling of the entire Kenosha incident. It is scary and it is telling. I don’t think any of this is new, we’ve merely ripped the mask off.

TERRANCE WASHINGTON  
SPENCER

and “communist”... While Keith Ellison is indeed black and Muslim, he was also born in Detroit Michigan, holds a degree in economics, is a lawyer admitted to the bar, and before he entered politics specialized in defending indigent clients. Mr. Ellison has served in the Minnesota House of Representatives, and the U.S. House of Representatives, and in 2018 was elected Attorney General by the people of Minnesota for exactly moments like this.

Mr. Robillard – I have to say that is an impressive string of terrible things to say about Joe Biden. I continue to be amazed at how the Trump party faithful can possibly characterize Joe Biden as a Communist, Antifa, BLM, Nation of Islam, Socialist who is a disciple of the Marx’s manifesto. If the goal of COVID mitigation was destruction of the middle class why is it that seemingly every other nation on earth responded better and with less economic destruction? How you can possibly paint the unrest that has started and raged during Trump’s presidency on his challenger who hasn’t been in government for years is pretty warped. Try not to forget - Donald Trump is the incumbent, responsible for the last four years. Joe Biden is the challenger representing a more peaceful time. I know it’s hard...

COVID-19 continues to be the scourge that is on the precipice of getting even worse. United States citizens are still banned from travel to Canada and nearly the entire world because we represent so much risk of disease. Other places responded appropriately to the plague, we did not. Since last week we have had 292,016 new infections and 6,490 new deaths bringing our total to 5,991,809 cases and 183,364 deaths respectfully.

I know this sounds boring. That is because you are becoming desensitized to the death and disease and it is starting to sound normal. Think about this – 292,000 Americans are extremely ill this week that weren’t last week due to a viral outbreak that in other countries was controlled to about 1/10 of the per capita rate. That is 262,000 people ill because President Trump thought this was a hoax months ago. Of the 6,490 deaths perhaps 6,000 of them would be alive if not for the bungled response. This is not normal. This can’t be normal. Don’t let yourself get desensitized to the scope of this disaster. Don’t believe the Democrats – take a look at every other developed country in the world.

While I do a lot of responding and make counter-arguments I still consider my thoughts original. Someday everyone will read a letter contained of my own original thoughts on a virgin topic. That day will be when there isn’t anything in the New Leader or prominently in the community at large worth responding and counter-arguing. I have a lot of ideas, my brilliant mind is full of topics, but with limited time and limited space I like to focus on what is most important and that is responding to utter nonsense.

OMAR HAR-YAROK  
EAST BROOKFIELD

**WASHINGTON**

continued from page A16

and vigilante from Illinois responded to a Facebook call to arms and ended up shooting three protestors, killing two of them. This kid is the very definition of an “outside agitator.” He didn’t live there, he grabbed an assault rifle to go down and “restore order” himself. He is now charged with intentional homicide among other charges.

This kid meets the mythical definition of a “white thug,” case closed, right? Not so fast... Tucker Carlson of Fox News defends this vigilante by saying he “maintained order when no one else would.” Conservative media seems to be holding him up as a hero. The Facebook comments on various threads on local news sites have been mind blowing. People are actually defending this kid!?

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