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N. Brookfield selectmen disregard warnings against July 4th plans

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Despite receiving strong disapproval from the Board of Health, selectmen are pushing forward with the town’s Independence Day celebration.

Scheduled for this upcoming Saturday, July 4, the event will include a parade at 10 a.m., daylong activities on the Common, music, food and drinks, kids’ events, and a patriotic-themed laser light show at 9 p.m. There will not be a fireworks display due to costs and permitting challenges.

The event is being funded mostly through donations, including business support, an anonymous donation, and a contribution from Hannaford’s. A small amount of town funds were used for the light show, officials said.

A scaled-back version of the town’s Memorial Day program is also planned for the celebration, as well as a recognition program for graduating NBHS seniors. Members of the Class of 2020 were invited to walk in the parade.

During the June 23 Select Board meeting, Board of Health member Ethan Melad expressed opposition to the event. Addressing selectmen remotely, Melad urged officials to scrap the program due to COVID-19 concerns.

“I want to advise the Board of Selectmen to reconsider and cancel this Fourth of July event,” Melad said. “A public gathering of this size, with the attractions described – including a parade, music, food, and games for children – poses a serious health risk to North Brookfield residents. It is also in direct opposition to state regulations regarding COVID-19.”

Select Board Chairman Dale Kiley said the event will happen as planned. He noted that North Brookfield has only had 16 COVID-19 cases reported throughout the entire pandemic, and numbers of new cases continue to decline statewide.

During the June 23 meeting, Selectman Kiley juxtaposed the planned celebration with the recent protest in town against racism and police brutality.

“If Black Lives Matter can protest on the sidewalk, all on top of each other, and congregate on a church common, then the people of North Brookfield can march separated down Main Street onto the Town Common,” Kiley said.

Selectmen ask guests to utilize social distancing during the event and wear masks when social distancing isn’t possible.

“We’re not forcing anybody to join. If

Please Read **CELEBRATION**, page **A14**

Howard edges out Monette at Spencer polls

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Officials predicted a close race in the Select Board contest, but no one could have guessed that it would come down to six votes.

At the June 23 election, Select Board challenger John Howard slipped past incumbent Selectman Warren Monette by a count of 455-449.

Incumbent Selectman Ralph Hicks cruised to re-election with 683 votes.

Howard, who is also a member of the Council on Aging, received strong support from seniors at the election. During his campaign, he expressed his disappointment with the town’s handling of the Senior Center sprinkler controversy this past winter. Howard cited the controversy as one of the reasons why he ran for a seat on the Board.

“I would like to thank all of my supporters in town, especially the seniors who stepped up and voted for me,” Howard said.

A former resident of East Brookfield, Howard served on that town’s Select Board, Finance Committee, Recreation Committee, and Cable Committee. He was also a longtime member of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee.

Although Monette edged Howard in Precincts 1 and 4, Howard was propelled to victory by a strong performance in Precinct 2 (117-99).

Hicks was the top vote getter in all four precincts. The former school superintendent looks forward to continuing to serve his town. Like Howard, he performed particularly well among seniors.

“I am deeply honored to have been re-elected by such a large margin,” Hicks said. “I am pleased to be able to continue moving Spencer forward by representing the best interest of all citizens.”

Monette will not seek a recount of the narrow vote. He enjoyed his years serving the community and helping residents.

“I would like to congratulate John and Ralph, and I also thank the people who came out to vote. Whether they voted for me or not, at least they practiced their civic duty,” Monette said. “I was asked about a recount, but I decided against it. I trust the election process, and [Town Clerk] Laura Torti does a great job.”

In other election news, a vacant seat on the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee will be filled by a write-in candidate. Former selectman Chris Woodbury was the leading vote getter in Spencer with 62; East Brookfield voters went to the polls on Monday. The winner of the seat will be announced in the next edition of the New Leader.

Voter turnout at the June 23 election was 11 percent, Torti said.

Community rallies in support of local schools



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Students, teachers, and legislators from throughout the area joined forces last month to demand financial support for public schools.

Fearing a decline in state-awarded Chapter 70 funds this year due to the Coronavirus, the school community rallied in support of teachers and programs. Congressman Jim McGovern and State Rep. David LeBoeuf were in attendance, and demonstrators held signs on the Town Common before marching down to Route 9.

Additional guests at the June 18 rally included Massachusetts Teachers

Photo Courtesy

Guests from throughout central Massachusetts attended a rally last month in support of school staff members and programs.

Please Read **RALLY**, page **A14**

Knox Trail students take an artistic journey



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Knox Trail Middle School art students went on a fascinating journey last month. And they didn’t even have to leave the comfort of home to connect with an accomplished artist.

In one of their final online projects, art students learned about Connecticut-based contemporary artist David Lee Money Penny during a prerecorded video interview. Known for creating art from recycled and discovered materials, Money Penny’s work often deals with social issues.

“I was really impressed by the students’ insights demon-



strated in response to questions I asked after they saw the video,” said KTMS art teacher Caroline Dacey.

Inspired by Money Penny’s cre-



ations, students fashioned their own flag-themed projects from items found around the house and yard. Students showed off their creativity and

skills acquired throughout the year.

“It was really fun to see what each student came up with. The mes-

sages they wrote were very insightful as well,” Dacey added.

After each student

Please Read **KTMS**, page **A14**

Katrina Kalafatis of Park City graduates from the University of Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah 2020. — Katrina Kalafatis of Park City, Utah, graduated from the University of Utah on April 30, 2020. Kalafatis, whose major is listed as Civil and Env Engg MS was among the 8,628 graduates

who were honored during the university's first-ever virtual commencement due to the coronavirus pandemic. The 151st general commencement can be viewed here. The graduating class of 2020 includes students who graduated summer 2019, fall 2019 and spring 2020. Students in the Class of 2020 ranged in age from 18 to 69 and earned 9,280 degrees. Graduates represented 50 U.S. states and 59 foreign countries. This class is the first to graduate from the U since it was selected as a new member of the Association of American Universities—an invitation-only, prestigious group of 65 leading research institutions. About the University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City in the foot-

hills of the Wasatch Mountains, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah. Founded in 1850, it serves over 32,000 students from across the U.S. and the world. With over 100 major subjects at the undergraduate level and more than 90 major fields of study at the graduate level, including law and medicine, the university prepares students to live and compete in the global workplace. In 2019, the university was selected as a new member of the Association of American Universities—an invitation-only, prestigious group of 65 leading research institutions marked by excellence in academic expertise and research impact, student success, and securing resources in support of core missions. Known for its proximity to seven world-class ski resorts within 40 minutes of campus, the U encourages an active, holistic lifestyle, innovation and collaborative thinking to engage students, faculty, and business leaders.

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STAFF DIRECTORY

MANAGING EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
(508) 909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

STAFF WRITER
KEVIN FLANDERS
(508) 909-4140
kflanders@stonebridgepress.com

SPORTS EDITOR
NICK ETHER
(508) 909-4133
nick@stonebridgepress.news

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE
JUNE SIMAKAUSKAS
(508) 909-4062
jsima@stonebridgepress.news

STAFF DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
(508) 909-4101
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
(603) 677-9082
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DiNICOLA
(508) 764-4325
EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
(508) 909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
(508) 909-4105
production@stonebridgepress.news

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SPENCER NEW LEADER

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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.



Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — The following students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) recently completed intense, hands-on research projects.

John Trainor of Spencer a member of the class of 2021 majoring in aerospace engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that completed a research project titled Beckenham Place Park (III).

Ryan Hennigan of East Brookfield, a member of the class of 2021 majoring in electrical and computer engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that completed a research project titled Designing Diversity into Citizen Science.

Jacob Tutlis of Spencer, a member of the class of 2021 majoring in computer science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that completed a research project titled Connecting the Teachers of Victoria with Wildlife Conservation

Partners.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue. Nearly 90% of students typically complete a project in collaboration with partners in communities across the country and around the world, through the university's 50-plus project centers. Students usually travel to the project center for seven-week terms; this spring, however, due to the global coronavirus pandemic, they worked remotely, using video conferencing and other technology to complete their projects. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curricu-

lum's focus on global studies brings students out of their comfort zones to apply their knowledge to solve real problems for people in communities around the globe," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, interim dean of the WPI Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. "Students have the opportunity to learn about a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned

in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Local libraries promote summer reading

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With the extended time off from school, summer reading will be especially important for students to keep their literacy skills sharp. And area libraries are going the extra mile to keep the pages turning this summer.

At Leicester Public Library, staff members will make paper reading logs available for curbside pickup. Weekly curbside crafts are also being offered for youngsters.

"We have already started the crafts. They can be picked up at any time the library is open, without an appointment," said Leicester Public Library Director Suzanne Hall. "The Friends of the Library have sponsored the crafts, so there is no charge."

Like every sector of society, local libraries are making adjustments on the fly as the economy slowly reopens. Richard Sugden Public Library in Spencer won't be able to offer in-person programs this summer, but staff members are providing plenty of online resources.

"Due to COVID-19, the Richard Sugden Library's usually bustling summer reading program is looking a little different this year," said Denise Famosa, an adult reference and circulation librarian. "We are making every effort to provide programs you can do at home for a variety of age groups. We have been providing program ideas for toddlers and pre-K aged children and their families through emails that go out Monday through

Friday."

Students in grades K-5 are invited to join an array of YouTube challenges. Library staff members will also create grab-and-go craft kits that will include instructions for two projects, craft supplies, and a book.

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in YouTube challenges three times monthly. The Richard Sugden Library staff will also offer summer reading books for grades K-8.

"We have grades K-4 in book format and grades 5-8 in book and e-book formats," Famosa added. "All the requirements for grades K-8 are listed on our website as well."

There will also be plenty of summer fun for adults. The Richard Sugden Library

staff will host Zoom-based virtual programs, including the upcoming "Happy Hour with the Librarians" program. Moreover, historical Zoom programs are being planned as well. Also, Mindfulness Meditation programs with Wendy O'Leary will continue to be held weekly via Zoom for adults and teens.

The Spencer library will also continue purchasing new bestselling e-books in which Spencer patrons have first priority. Please sign into your digital library account to check availability. The library also offers curbside delivery; simply request your materials using the website or call 508-885-7513 (ext. 1).

Library officials aren't sure when regular programs and activities will be able to

resume. They thank patrons for their continued patience and cooperation.

"We look forward to the day we can have live performances and entertainment for all ages, gather for story times, and have fun creating and learning together," Famosa said. "Until then, please check out our offerings at spencer-publiclibrary.org. Currently, we have a little free library next to the book drop. All ages are invited to check it out; choose free books, movies, music, and more."

At Hoston Free Public Library in North Brookfield, officials said curbside service is likely for summer reading materials. Visit www.NorthBrookfieldLibrary.org for the latest updates.

Rochdale's Village Bell to ring again for first responders

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Determined to honor frontline workers and COVID-19 victims, a retired fire chief returned to his roots and designed a unique project.

Each Sunday evening in July, the Rochdale Village Bell will be rung at 6 p.m. The bell is located at the Rochdale fire station on Stafford Street. Jacob Menzigan, who served on the fire department for 40 years — four of them as the fire chief — came up with the idea to ring the bell as a gesture of thanks and remembrance.

Each tolling of the bell will recognize first responders and frontline workers, including police, EMS, firefighters, healthcare providers, grocery store employees, and transportation workers, among others. These employees have all been working throughout the

pandemic and risking their health to keep the country operational.

"They've been out there working hard every day, so I figured why not ring the bell for them. I knew I had to do something," Menzigan said of the inspiration for the project.

Thousands of first responders, frontline workers, and volunteers nationwide have succumbed to the virus while helping others. Locally, Leicester resident and Rutland Police Det. John Songy, 48, died in May of complications from COVID-19. Members of Det. Songy's family have been invited to attend the July 5 bell ringing ceremony.

Det. Songy served the Rutland Police Department for eight years, and he previously served on the Oakham force.

Guests at the July gatherings in Rochdale are also welcome to ask that the bell be rung for other Leicester residents who died of COVID-19 or are

battling the disease. Menzigan is committed to honoring those who have lost their battles with the virus or are struggling to overcome it. With thousands of new COVID-19 cases still announced nationally each day — and hundreds of deaths — it can be easy to overlook the individual stories and heroism of those who perished. Each Sunday evening, Menzigan will help celebrate their memories with the ringing of the bell.

"If someone in town knows a person who has passed, or has a family member who has passed, they are more than welcome to have the bell rung for them," Menzigan said.

To submit a special request for someone who passed away due to COVID-19, please send an email to djay903@gmail.com or call 508-892-1064.

The program is organized by Menzigan in coordination with the Rochdale Fire Department and the

Town of Leicester. Menzigan was part of the original committee that organized the acquisition and placement of the Rochdale Village Bell.

The bell was cast in 1851. It weighs about 700 pounds, and it was previously used in a mill as a fire alarm; additionally, it was once used to remind village children of a 9 p.m. curfew. After being stored in a barn for several years and then owned by a private citizen, the bell was eventually mounted outside the fire station in 1978.

Menzigan, who still lives in town, enjoys caring for the bell and the surrounding grounds. The former chief regularly tends to the plot and mows the lawn, and he is looking forward to seeing the bell used in a memorial capacity this month.

"Residents are welcome to come out every single week," Menzigan said.

No injuries reported in boat collision

WEST BROOKFIELD — No injuries were reported after a pair of boats collided last month on Lake Wickaboag.

The incident occurred on June 21 at 1:35 a.m. Police and fire officials from West Brookfield responded, as well as firefighters from North Brookfield.

A total of ten passengers were involved in the accident, according to West Brookfield Police Sgt. Matthew Letendre. No injuries or hospitaliza-

tions were reported.

The first vessel was a bass fishing powerboat; the second vessel was a pontoon boat.

The accident remains under investigation by the West Brookfield Police Department and the Massachusetts Environmental Police. No charges were filed as of press time.

Police remind boaters to operate slowly and safely on the water.



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Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Spring 2020 Dean’s List

WORCESTER — The following local residents were among 1,749 students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) named to the university’s Dean’s List for academic excellence for the spring 2020 semester.

Nicole Escobar of Leicester is a member of the class of 2021 majoring in aerospace engineering.

Joseph Dainis of Leicester is a member of the class of 2020 majoring in biology and biotechnology, and biochemistry.

Annalise Robidoux of Rochdale is a member of the class of 2020 majoring in biology and biotechnology, and biochemistry.

Rose Romanos of Spencer is a member of the class of 2022 majoring in biomedical engineering.

Morgan Emery of Rochdale is a member of the class of 2022 majoring in civil engineering.

Jacob Tutlis of Spencer is a member of the class of 2021 majoring in computer science.

Zachary Langlois of West Brookfield is a member of the class of 2021 majoring in electrical and computer engineering.

Shayne Barton of Spencer is a member of the class of 2021 majoring in mechanical engineering.

Sarah Duquette of Spencer is a member of the class of 2020 majoring in mechanical engineering.

The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

“WPI’s academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in tra-

ditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real” said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. “Some of this nation’s best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean’s List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering

with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

Local residents receive degrees from WPI

WORCESTER — Late this spring, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated the Class of 2020 with a socially distanced commencement season in place of its traditional 152nd Commencement exercises.

Annalise Robidoux of Rochdale was awarded a bachelor of science degree in biology and biotechnology with distinction.

Joseph Dainis of Leicester was awarded a bachelor of sci-

ence degree in biology and biotechnology with distinction.

Joseph Esposito of Spencer was awarded a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering with high distinction.

Jacob Wisniewski of West Brookfield was awarded a bachelor of science degree in management engineering.

Christopher Tillotson of North Brookfield was awarded a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering with

high distinction and a master of science degree in management.

Sarah Duquette of Spencer was awarded a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering with high distinction and a master of science degree in mechanical engineering.

Joshua Harvey of Spencer was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree in biomedical engineering.

Francisco Enrique Vi Castro of Rochdale was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree in computer science.

Anna Hernandez of West Brookfield was awarded a master of science degree in electrical and computer engineering.

Justine Dupere of Spencer was awarded a master of science degree in interdisciplinary.

Since the Class of 2020 was unable to receive diplomas in person this year, they instead received personal commencement packages, mailed to their home, that that included their diplomas, commencement regalia, and other items to celebrate their successes, as

well as a congratulatory video message from President Laurie Leshin. In total, WPI awarded 1,043 bachelor’s degrees, 674 master’s degrees, and 54 doctoral degrees.

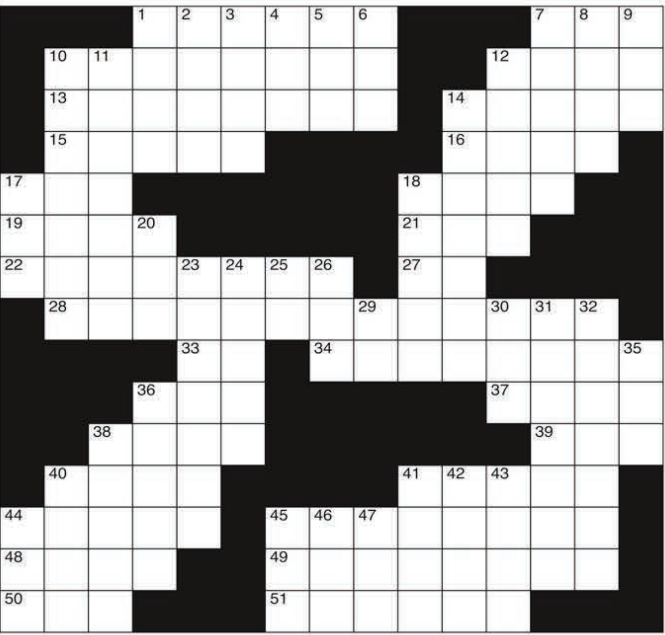
In her video message, Leshin made the traditional Commencement walk to the WPI’s iconic Earle Bridge, which students walk over during New Student Orientation and then again when they graduate. She then stopped, turned, and told graduates, “You should be here. But make no mistake: Today is still your day. You’ve walked this bridge together once, and you will walk it again. I can’t wait to see you do just that. Until then, it’s my honor to wait for you.”

WPI plans to hold in-person undergraduate and graduate Commencement ceremonies in the future, at a date to be announced.

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn

most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu



CLUES ACROSS

1. African nation

7. ___ fi (slang)

10. Not arranged according to size

12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game

13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors

14. Panama has one

15. Taking legal action

16. Top of the body

17. Part of (abbr.)

18. Soul and calypso song

19. Murres

21. Irish river

22. Accepts as true

27. The Bay State
28. 1950s Hollywood icon

33. Blood type

34. In a way, became lost

36. Large primate

37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast

38. Mama ___, folk singer

39. Visual metaphor (computers)

40. Trim by cutting

41. Small group of people

44. Pulitzer-winning scientist

45. Unique S. American mammal

48. Energy, style and enthusiasm

49. One who works for you

50. Snakelike fish

51. Consumers

CLUES DOWN

1. Cylindrical sacs

2. Extinct North Germanic language

3. Late rocker Allman

4. Word element meaning ear

5. Amino acid (abbr.)

6. Promotions

7. Actress Lathan

8. Clothed

9. Unwell

10. Loosen

11. Cephalopod mollusks

12. ___ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull

14. Musical composition

17. Irish bar

18. Greek island

20. Afflict

23. Goes by
24. Ambience

25. Video game manufacturer

26. Surplus Marketing Administration

29. Football position

30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)

31. Furniture with open shelves

32. Clouds of gas in outer space

35. Indian midwife

36. Packers’ signal caller

38. Secret political clique

40. Cry weakly

41. Gomer ___, marine

42. Academic Bill of Rights

43. Negatives

44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___

45. Soul singer ___ Lo

46. Doctors’ group

47. Parts per thousand (abbr.)



PERSON
of the
WEEK

JOHN HEARNLAYE
of North Brookfield

John is an upstanding man who always puts others before himself. He is dedicated to his family, community and church. For years, despite many health issues, which he never complains about, John endlessly and tirelessly helps the elderly, the less fortunate, his neighbors, or anyone in the community by doing yard work, errands, and a number of tasks, and finds great pleasure in service work. He loves to walk and incorporates service work by cleaning up trash from the roadsides. He is an upstanding citizen and a great advocate for his community.

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

Person of the Week is sponsored by:

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Local student receives degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Erin Lowkes of East Brookfield has received a Bachelor of Science degree in Radiologic Sciences from Quinnipiac University.

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two

hours from Boston. The university enrolls 7,000 full-time undergraduate and 3,000 graduate and part-time students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review’s “The Best 385 Colleges.” The Chronicle of Higher Education has named Quinnipiac among the Great Colleges to Work For(r). For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook at [facebook.com/quinnipiacnews](https://www.facebook.com/quinnipiacnews) and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

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North Brookfield voters support library repairs

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – At the Special Town Meeting last month, voters approved funding for exterior repairs to the library.

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, the Board of Selectmen voted in May to postpone both the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting to June 5. The Special Town Meeting warrant included an article seeking \$65,000 for exterior repairs to Haston Free Public Library.

After a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting the needed roof repairs and other exterior projects, Special Town Meeting voters unanimously approved the article.

"I am very pleased that we will finally be able to address the exterior leaks that are damaging the beautiful interior of our building," said Library Director Dawn Thistle.

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

Members of Raymond James Restoration, of Worcester, conducted an inspection of the library in October 2019 and identified several areas that need attention. Representatives of Raymond James Restoration attended the Special Town

Meeting to answer questions related to the proposed scope of the work.

Library officials thank residents for their continued support. Several Special Town Meeting voters expressed their desire to see the exterior repairs funded immediately, rather than wait for the damage to become more costly.

"Over the years, the town has supported the library with annual municipal funding, especially the renovation and addition completed in 2007," Thistle told the New Leader in an interview ahead of Town Meeting.

The \$65,000 needed for the exterior repairs will be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Account to the Library General Repair and

Maintenance Account.

"I thought it was helpful to those in attendance that [Selectman] Dale Kiley explained the purpose of the Capital Stabilization Fund – that it exists for purposes such as the repair work outlined in the Raymond James proposal," said Library Trustee Ellen Smith.

Library officials also thank Raymond Simoncini, of Raymond James Restoration, Inc., for attending the meeting to answer questions about the planned repairs.

"I am always happy to see the town support and maintain our wonderful historic buildings," said North Brookfield resident Maria Beiter Tucker. "We have a beautiful library building, and I am glad we are able to

repair the roof to keep it in good shape."

Meanwhile, Annual Town Meeting voters approved the Fiscal Year 2021 budget recommended by the Finance Committee.

For more information about the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting warrants, visit www.northbrookfield.net. You can also contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@northbrookfield.net, or by phone at 508-867-0203.

To learn more about the library's reopening plan, visit www.NorthBrookfieldLibrary.org. You can also call 508-867-0208 for updates on the COVID-19 reopening process.



Family Dining & Gift Guide

Check with your favorite local restaurants frequently to see if their opening status has changed. Some may be open for outside dining and others may be opening soon!

Please continue to frequent your local restaurants by ordering take-out or purchasing gift cards.



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The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.

Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

It is important for us to get in all the essays that recently came in from the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, so they will be running this week and next. However, we are not accepting new essays at this time for July.

All new essays that come in this summer will be held for September.

Thank you to Lamoureux Ford and to a new sponsor, Ramco Window Services of Leicester, for supporting The Write Stuff this week. Also thank you to the students and Matt Bolduc, Director of Academic Affairs of the SEBRSD for promoting participation in The Write Stuff. We hope you all enjoy seeing your creative writings in print and will join us for the next school year!

Have a Safe & Happy 4th of July! Happy Reading – Happy Writing!

GRADE 4 - SEBRSD

My opinion is that I like learning from school more than at home. I think it is easier to learn from school than at home because the work is right in front of you. We get to leave our houses and also we get to see our friends. These are just some of the reasons I prefer learning from school than learning from home.

The first and main reason why I think learning from school is better is that the work is right in front of you. When you are in school you don't have to learn through a computer screen like at home. You also have access to more learning supplies such as the library, chrome books, the art room, gymnasium, and the music room. Another thing is that we have multiple teachers to answer our questions in real time.

The second reason I think learning at school is better is that we get to leave our houses. When we get to leave the house that means we get to take the bus which is fun. We also get to see our teachers when we get to school.

The last reason I strongly think learning from school is better is that we get to see our friends in real life. When we see our friends we get to talk to each other face to face. We also get to laugh, play, run and most importantly have FUN!

As you can see these are all good reasons learning from school is a lot better than learning from home. At this time I will continue to do all my school work the best I can from home. I sure hope that we will be able to return to school in the fall!

Remote Learning Writing

BY MYA B. - GRADE 3 - SEBRSD

I like learning at home and at school.

Learning at home has been different because at home we are doing school work on laptops. We are not with our teacher and classmates in a classroom.

Our whole life has changed. The things that I enjoy at home is that you have more time for your family. What I miss learning at school is math.

I have not changed much because of quarantine. I have learned a lot about my family. I have learned that my sisters are lots of fun. My opinion learning from school has not changed.

I have learned that I can actually have fun in quarantine. I like learning from school and home. I want learning to be fun.

I like learning at school more than at home but still like both.

My teacher will be different and I will be in 4th grade when I return. We may have to wear masks and keep distant from classmates.

I am hoping to learn more math when I return.

JOSEPH W. - 4TH GRADE - SEBRSD

Topic: Would you rather learn from home or at school?

Kids have to learn from home because of the coronavirus. All the schools had to

be shut down so that people don't get sick. Learning from home is very different from learning at school. There are a couple things that I do like about learning from home but I like learning from school slightly better.

Learning at school is good because you get to see your teacher every day. If you have any questions you can ask her and get help. Also, we learn new things everyday at school. Mostly, the things I do at home is review things we learned in school. I feel like I am only learning a few new things at home. A good thing about learning from home is that I have as much time as I need to do my work. Sometimes at school I feel like I am rushing. I really like the Mystery Science videos. They are very fun and I learn a lot of cool things on them.

I like to be able to see my friends at school. Learning at home we don't get to see any friends. I miss getting to see my friends every day - especially Levi, Michael and Chris. We used to play a lot of games at recess that we made up. It was fun to be

able to be creative and run around with friends. I used to be able to see Michael at ASP too and we would have a lot of time to play together there. Now I only get to play with my brother. I play with my cousin too when I go to my aunt's house during the day. We still have some fun at home and me and my brother jump on the trampoline and ride bikes in the driveway but I wish my friends would be able to come over too. At school there are some mean kids and I don't like them that much.

One thing I don't like about learning from home is that when it is really nice outside I have to stay inside and be on my tablet. I am on screens all the time when I could be playing outside. When we are at school, we are in the classroom with other people. We don't have to be on tablets and computers as much. We also don't get a lot of family time anymore. My brother needs help with his work so my parents have to help him when they get home from work. We used to be able to go for walks and bike rides together after dinner but now we just have to do work. Before, we would just have a page or two of homework to do after dinner and we could still have time to do fun things together.

A nice thing about learning from home is that I don't have to wake up early in the morning for the bus. I am really not looking forward to going to fifth grade because then I will have to wake up super early for the bus! I like that when I learn from home I can wake up whenever I want. I like learning at school better than learning from home because I am not used to learning from home. I am used to going to the school and having my classes. I am used to coming home and having home be a place to have fun and relax. It is hard to do a lot of schoolwork at home because I mostly just want to play.

BY JOSH R, GRADE 3, SEBRSD

I would rather learn at school where I get to see my friends, my teacher, and the school staff. Going to school gives me the chance to learn the typical way. What I mean is waking up early, taking the school bus, and be at school most of the day learning different school subjects. I am currently in my 3rd grade and I'm looking forward going to 4th grade and meet new classmates.

Being at home this past month has been good and even tho I do the school work my teacher gives me daily is not the same as being at school. Being home I get easily distracted and even tho my parents do their best helping me with school work it is not the same as being at school where I'm more focused and determined to learn. It is great to spend more time with my parents and little brother but going to school is important too. I have always been thought that school is important and is the start of a great future. When I grow up I would like to be a Scientist and to be one, I would definitely need to go to school.

I understand that do to the current situation of the Covid-19 its best to be home to be safe and most importantly to keep the community safe. I do hope we all can go back to live our normal life and live freely with no worries of getting infected or worried of getting sick or even dying. At this moment we are all trying to do the best on following the precautions and staying home safe.9

KATHERINE SL, WIRE VILLAGE SCHOOL, GRADE 1

Do You Like Learning at School or Home?

I think learning at school is amazing! At school I can see all my friends, and I can play with my friends. At recess me and my best friend Lucy play horses. I miss the specials at school. I like learning new gym games. I also like getting messy in art. In reading groups I get to play on the iPads. The iPads make math fun. All of these things make learning at school wonderful!

KYLIE N - GRADE 3, SEBRSD

In my opinion I would prefer learning at school over learning at home. I like learning at school better because at home my mom is always asking me questions like "are you done?" or "what subject are you doing now?". I also like school better because it's more fun since I'm with my classmates. Sometimes it's fun to learn at home because in school classmates can misbehave. That is why I like learning at school better!

I have learned more about myself and my family members while learning at home. One reason is because I've been at home a lot more than usual. When i'm home with my family every day all day it can get annoying. Another way that I've grown is in my learning. During my time at home I've learned to ride my bike without training wheels. I have also learned how to use my computer more. Everyday you learn something new and that is a fantastic thing!

I hope that next year we will be at school while we learn. This year I went from learning at school to learning at home because of a sickness. I hope that next year I will have a teacher that is really nice and that I can trust, just like the teacher I had this year. I hope that next year I will be able to watch songs that help me and my classmates learn in a fun way. In math I watch songs that are fun. Another way that I learn is by memorizing the videos and songs that I watch,

so I can sing them on my own. That is what I hope for next year to be like!

BY: LANDON K. - GRADE 3 - SEBRSD

I think learning at home is better than learning at school. I think that because you can sleep in when you are at home. And not have to wake up somewhere before 7:10 AM. For example, at school, you have to wake up either at or before 7:00 AM. But at home, you can sleep until about 12 o'clock. Also, at home, you can take breaks more frequently than at school. You can also have your belongings with you while doing the work. This is why I think learning at home is better than learning at school. I love learning at home. My life has changed while at home. First, my sleep schedule has gotten better. I don't get bullied as much. I can also write easier because I don't have to have great handwriting, and I have a deadly muscle memory on the keyboard. My life has alternated a lot at home.

Though I said I prefer learning at home, I am looking forward to school next year. Once I return I will get to see my friends. I will also get to graduate. I will make new friends. I am excited to go back to school this fall!

PS: I might be doing online middle school.

LENA G. - GRADE 3 - SEBRSD

School has been different. First, it is different because you don't have a teacher to help you when you need help.

2 Also I get sad because you can't see your friends. 3 you don't have a teacher to tell you what to do and explain the directions. I believe that those are the 3 things that are hard for me.

Have you grown when we have not been at school? I think I have not grown because I think that it is getting in my brain to think that it is ok to forget all of the hard work that I have done in 2019 and 2020. Also I think I have not grown because i am having a very very hard time trying to keep up with school because i'm forgetting that we have school. Lastly i think i have not grown because i'm having a hard time with waking up in the morning because i used to wake up at 5:00 and 6:00 and now i wake up at like 9:00 9:30 so that has been hard for me. Also I have been eating a lot. That is what I think is the most hard for me and that is why I think I have not grown.

Hope it is a very strong word rite? These are things that you can use hope for. I hope my future teacher is

nice and kind just like you. I want my future teacher to know that I'm funny and that I'm creative in so many ways. Lastly I want her to know that I'm smart but sometimes I don't get it. That is what I hope for when I get my new teacher.

LOGAN S. GRADE 4-SEBRSD

After a lot of thinking and writing out my pros and cons, I believe that I would rather learn at home instead of at school. Although I miss my school, my teachers and my friends, I have decided there are more reasons I prefer learning at home.

First, I sometimes feel embarrassed at school, when I am called on in class. I was called on in class once, and when I answered I was told I was wrong in front of my friends, it made my cheeks red and I felt embarrassed.

Second, I miss my family when I'm at school all day, at home I am able to be with my older sister for my whole school day and I like that we do so much together. In school I will only see my sister at lunch or recess.

The third reason is that I have more options for gym and physical activities at home. For instance, I have a trampoline that I can play on, and a hoverboard. I can also use our treadmill for physical activity, all of these are not available to me at school.

Another reason is that when I am learning from home I have a better start to my day, for example being able to sleep in until 10am and not start work until later. I feel like I have more time to eat Breakfast, I can stay in my pajamas, and I also don't have to ride a noisy school bus.

Lastly I prefer learning at home because I am able to have more snacks throughout the day. For example I can only have snacks once at school during snack time, but at home I can take breaks and eat between lessons. Having snacks helps me stay focused on my work.

For all the reasons I've given you above, you can see that I would much rather learn at home instead of at school.

MASON R., GRADE 4, SEBRSD

I think some parts of learning at home are much better. For example, at home I can spend time with my family while I am learning. This makes me happy because I love my family. Another reason I like learning from home is I can cuddle with my cat while I work. She is very soft. Finally, when I learn at home, I can work in my pajamas. When we go back to school, I think we should be able to wear pajamas and bring our pets! Even though I love learning from home, I don't think I am doing as much work or learning as much as school. In the fall, we will have lots of catching up to do! As much as I like working from home, school might actually be a better choice.

Ramco Window Services Inc. is proud to support the students of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and sponsor your writings this week. We are very proud of the way you've coped so well during this crisis. Have a safe & fun summer!

— Mike & Katie
Ramco Window Services

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The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

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Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

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Have a Safe & Happy 4th of July! Happy Reading – Happy Writing!

COLIN L.
DISTRICT WRITING ASSIGNMENT
GRADE 3 – SEBRSD

Would you rather learn from home or school?

I think that learning at home is better than learning at school. The reasons that I think learning at home is better are that I can take as many breaks as I want, if I don't feel good I can rest and my mom sits and helps me when I learn at home. There are probably other reasons that learning at home is better but these are the best for me.

When I am learning sometimes I need breaks because I have ADHD and I need to move around. When I am learning at school I can't get up and move when I want to. When I am at home I can stand at my table and move when I am writing and drawing. I can take a break and do something else to give my brain a rest. Sometimes it is hard to learn at school because I have to stay in my seat or I get in trouble. I like recess and being with my friends but there is not time to do those things.

I take medicine for my ADHD and I get a headache sometimes or I just don't want to talk. At school when I don't want to talk it isn't good because I have to answer questions. Sometimes I don't want to answer questions or do the work. I just want to look out the window and think of being outside. If I get a headache I don't want to do anything. I don't want to go to the nurse. I just want to close my eyes for a minute. When I am at home I can take a break and lay down or sit down on the couch and do work later.

When I learn at home my mom sits with me and helps me know what to do. We tell ideas and how to do the work better. When I learn at school the teacher helps me but there are a lot of people in my class so she has to help a lot of people. I like when I sit at the table with my mom. She works on her work and I work on my school. If something is hard she helps me to do it. I know my mom does a lot of her work and it is hard for her to stop and help me so I try not to ask to much.

There are reasons that I like to be at school. I like to see my friends and do art and recess. But that is all I really like about being at school. So I like to learn at home better. I know that I will have to go to school again and I will miss being home and doing school. Why I like to learn at school and home

BY: CODY FORAND - GRADE 3 – SEBRSD

Due to the Coronavirus we had to stop learning at school. There are many reasons why I like learning at school and at home.

I like learning from school because I get to see my friends. When I learn at school there are other people. Specials are in other room's, so I get to leave my classroom. My favorite special is Gym because you get exercise. My favorite subject is spelling because you learn how to spell and write better. I also like to learn at school because I learn many different things at school than I do at home.

I like learning from home because I like using the computer. Learning on the computer is fun because I get to go on Moby Max and do different subjects. But I like to do my Math on paper because it is easier. I also like learning from home because it is not noisy. It is easier to concentrate because my classmates are not here talking very loudly. I like to do my work at home because I can take my time.

I wish we could learn at school because it is easier. I hope I get to see my friends, teachers and school staff in 4th grade.

C.S.
GRADE 3 - SEBRSD

School is fun but I like learning at home.

Home learning is better because I have more people to help me. I can work with my mom, dad, brother or stuffed animals. Also, I have more room to work. I can work outside, or in any room in my house like the sunroom or the office. I would rather stay home to work because it is more quiet. There are less people making noise. I can close my door and listen to music with headphones on.
That is why I like learning at home.

DARYL
GRADE 3 - SEBRSD

I think I rather learn in school because it's less harder. In school you actually learn from a teacher and not just learn by yourself. And i like when you have a partner at school so if you are stuck on something they can help you! Also at home you have to do this "find a app for reading, writing, math, and go to every zoom". At school you get to "have reading work with a partner writing, write without any sound math and others a teacher

Dear Mr. Haugney and Governor Charlie Baker,

My name is Gabriel and I am in 2nd grade. We have been remote learning since mid March because of our country's pandemic. I would rather work at home because I can be home with my mom and dad and my mom helps me. I can also go to my moms work and do remote learning, we can take walks and go outside too. One thing I do miss about school is I get to spend time with my friends and see my teachers.

Thank you for taking the time to read my response and stay well.

Gabriel C.
2nd Grade

can help you! That is why I think working from school is better then working at home. And by the way some people don't even do there work at home.

BY DEVIN S.
3RD GRADE - SEBRSD

I would rather learn at school. I think learning at school is more active. I miss my teachers and friends. I miss my classes especially art.

Learning from home is a bit boring which is my opinion about it and half of the work I do there is frustrating.

And I like read time at school because that's when I can feel calm at school.

I also I do not have specials because I do not have much space in my room, but I can do jumping jacks or do push ups and use my indoor trampoline.

E.M. GRADE 2, SEBRSD

I'm writing about learning at home or at school. I will explain why I like learning at school better.

First, I can see all of my friends and teachers. Next, I get to eat lunch and play outside at recess with my friends. Then, I get to do a lot of writing. Last, we have special chairs in our classroom and we like to sit in them.

These are the reasons why I like learning at school better.

GRADE 1 RESPONSES – IS IT BETTER TO LEARN AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL

I think it is better to learn at school because it's more fun to do math there. I get to see all my friends. I get to do GoNoodle. I am excited to go back to Wire Village.

BRIANNA B.

I like going to school better because I get to see my friends. I also get to play at recess outside or inside. My favorite things at school are specials...gym, library, and art.

JAMES T.

I think it is better to learn at home. I like to play at home. I like to watch tv. I like reading on Epic. I like to be at home.

DOMINIC B.

Would I rather learn at home or school?

BY I.R., 3RD GRADE, SEBRSD

I would rather learn at home because I find it more fun to learn at home. I get to do less work and watch tv when I'm done. I am able to see my mom and baby brother whenever I want.

It is harder because the teachers are not able to sit next to me to help me but my mom and aunt try to fill their spot.

ISABELLA T. - GRADE 4 - SEBRSD

In my opinion learning at school is better than learning at home. I feel that specials are a fun part of a school day. My favorite special is art.

I think that being in school with my classmates is fun.

I think the best part of learning at home is being with my mom and dad more.

My favorite part of learning at school is learning from my teachers. My teacher is nice to me when she is teaching me. My favorite teacher so far is Mrs. Speht.

Learning at school is better than learning at home.

It is an important topic because we learn more in school than at home.

JACE R. GRADE 4 - SEBRSD

I would rather stay home and do my school work here because:

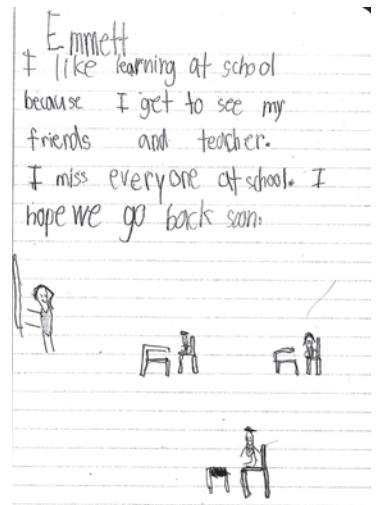
It's easier to do my school work/homework at home because you don't have to always get up and pass the paper in. Instead, you can pass the "computer work" test once you finish. Also, there are a lot you can do on Google classroom! You can watch videos, learn some math, and a whole bunch of other stuff.

You can always go on cool, fun, and new learning apps you've never tried! It's always fun to look stuff up and learn new things you never knew about. Did you know that Philo Farnsworth invented the T.V. in 1927? Crazy, right?

We all like activities at school, but I have more activities at home! You can go outside more often, play more sports, play in the snow/rain, play with toys, play with your dog outside, play with your cat inside, and ride your bike. I usually spend about 6 or 7 hours a day outside if it's really nice outside. Even though sometimes I get a little sunburnt, it's still worth it.

On apps like IXL learning and Splash learning, there are many cool things! Science, math, and social studies! Even though we can't go to school and see our friends, we have a zoom meeting every Monday and Friday. So at least we can see our friends in the meeting! Everything would be fine if the Coronavirus wasn't even a virus! We would still see our friends if there was no virus.

Even though it says in the title, "I would rather stay home and do my school work here" it's BETTER working on school work at school but I would RATHER stay home. It's BETTER staying at school because I think it's more fun being at school and school has WAY more books you can read and it's always fun reading! Reading is as addicting as Netflix™. I always say "The more books, the better!" I would RATHER stay home because you do a lot more at home like ride your bike. You can't



ride a bike at school. You can also ride a dune buggy. (If you have one.) You can't ride a dune buggy at school. You can ride a hoverboard. (again If you have one) you can't ride a hoverboard at school.

I would also rather stay home because I get to spend more time with my family and help my mom with vacuuming, mopping, help with my baby brother, watering the plants in my family's garden, and all those cool things. Plus, you get to have way more fun! (I'm not saying school isn't fun.) Everyone has Legos™ and everyone has a lot more Legos™ at home than in class. You can have candy at home. You can't have candy in class. We all have toys at home and we have way more toys at home than at school.

You can always see your pet if you're at home. (if you have one.) you can't bring your pet to school. (Unless that day take your pet to school day.)

All of these things I have listed are just a few reasons why I would rather stay home and do my school work at home, than be at school doing my schoolwork!

JACOB K., GRADE 4 - SEBRSD

In my opinion I would rather learn at school because I get to see my friends, teachers and I get to play at recess. At school, learning is a little easier for me because I get to see the teacher do examples on the whiteboard. That makes it easier for me to understand. At school I have a schedule which makes my days easier for me to focus.

While learning at home it is harder for me to focus. There are to many distractions for me to be able to concentrate. I do like that I get to sleep in a little bit later. Being at home I do like that I can take a break whenever I want. I like watching movies, playing games and going outside on my breaks. However, being at home learning things like math is harder for me because I don't get to see the teacher do an example of the problem.

During this time we are safer at home because we are helping not spread the virus. So in conclusion, I would rather be at school because I find it to be easier for me to learn by examples from the teacher. My parents are lucky enough to still be working during this tough time. They help me whenever I need it but it is difficult on all of us. I am trying really hard on my work from home but I miss school. I can't wait to go back to school to see everybody again.

JAYDEN G-B

Be sure to check out
next week's
Spencer
New Leader
for additional
Write Stuff
submissions

Congratulations to the students for your success working from home these past few months. This proves that you can conquer any challenges you may face in life. Lamoureux Ford is very proud to support you and The Write Stuff.
Have a great summer and stay healthy!.



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Have a safe and happy 4th of July! Bob's pick for summer fun!

**2019 Ford Mustang
Premium Convertible**

I-4 cyl, auto, Black, 1-owner, 21K miles, CU7391.....**\$26,999**




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25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Telephone (800) 367-9898
Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Some fun facts about the Fourth

One of our favorite holidays to write about is Independence Day. We all know the stories of our Founding Fathers — John Adams, Sam Adams, George Washington, Paul Revere, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton, to name a few. However, the history is endless. We thought we would shine a light on aspects surrounding Independence Day that aren't commonly known.

The famous painting that depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence isn't exactly an accurate portrayal. All of the delegates were never together at the same time in Philadelphia. The final signing took place roughly a month later on Aug. 2. The Declaration was formally dated and adopted by Congress on July 4; however, Congress voted for independence on July 2.

Celebrating their new independence, soldiers along with civilians tore down a statue of King George III and melted it into bullets. In Georgia, people burnt the King in effigy and even held a faux funeral service. In Philadelphia, the King's coat of arms was burned in a bonfire. Massachusetts was the first state to recognize July 4th as a holiday in 1781.

In 1777, fireworks could be seen in the sky and the ringing of bells rang through the night in Philadelphia. Ships were decorated and lined the coast and streamers could be seen flying in celebration everywhere. The oldest annual parade takes place in Bristol, Rhode Island. 2020 will be the city's 235th consecutive celebration since its start in 1785.

In New England, dining on salmon became tradition. The story behind the popular cuisine, is due to the influx of salmon that summer. Along with the salmon, people had peas and turtle soup.

One common fact, is that Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826. James Monroe also died on the fourth of July in 1831. President Calvin Coolidge was born July 4, 1872.

Left out of mainstream history was the story of Crispus Attucks, the first to die in the patriot cause. Attucks was a black/native American patriot who was shot, and the first to fall during the 1770 Boston Massacre. Attucks was a runaway slave who was a rope maker and sailor. History says he was shot by two musket balls to the chest. In 1778, it became legal in Rhode Island for free and enslaved blacks to serve the cause, with freedom as part of their payment.

Educated by her owners, Phillis Wheatley was a well known poet during those times. Wheatley was kidnapped in West Africa and brought to America. At the age of 20, in 1773, she became the first African American and third female to publish a book of poetry. She eventually became free. She also advocated for independence, writing in support for George Washington's Revolutionary War in her poem, "To His Excellency, General Washington." Washington, impressed by her talent invited her to a meeting.

In 1958, when Alaska and Hawaii were on deck to become states, a history teacher assigned his class to design a flag, depicting the two new states. Sixteen-year-old Robert Heft, received a B- on the project. Unhappy with the mark, Heft sent the flag to Dwight D. Eisenhower. After the flag was chosen, Heft had his grade changed to an 'A.'

Another fun fact is that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration on what was referred to as a laptop. A writing desk that could fit over a person's lap.

In 1778, Washington ordered a double ration of rum for soldiers to celebrate with.

In 1776, there were roughly two and a half million people living in America. The current population is now 325.7 million.

Wearing an American flag, whether it be on a tee-shirt, headband, towel or shorts is in violation of the Flag Code. The code says that you are in violation if you sell or display any "article of merchandise, upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of [the flag... in order to] advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or distinguish the article or substance on which so placed." The code, however, has long since been deemed unenforceable due to the logistics involved. Good news indeed for all of us who love to let our patriotism shine at this time of year.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

God's loving discipline, part 2

To the Editor:

Come on, church people [Christians] — God is lovingly encouraging us to come out of our comfort zone and defend God's Word, moral law [Bible] this Country, Nation from people like Madelyn Murray, who influenced the courts to remove prayer and Bible reading from schools and we have allowed the Supreme Court to legalize abortion as a women's Constitutional right, and we have allowed sodomy to enter and influence this country with prostitution, homosexuality, adultery, fornication; and for those of you who are wondering what fornication is, it is allowing people who are not married to share, indulge with each other sexually, even live with each other, and now today, we are witnessing this pandemic and the protesting rioting. This is God's loving discipline allowing us to witness what life is like apart from God, Jesus, God wants to get our attention and God is warning us in 2 Chronicle 7: 14 to humble our self, repent, return to Him [God, Jesus] stand united in God's Word the Bible or accept the consequences of God's anger, wrath. The choice and responsibility to repent accepting Jesus as our only redeemer is ours [Romans 3: 23-24]

It is our responsibility not to allow sinful actions in our life, and, apart from God, Jesus sin cannot be avoided. Do not make any presumptuous mistake; apart from Jesus we are "no" match for Satan the devil. In order to be able to outwit Satan, we need help, and that help can only come from and through Jesus, and that is a choice you need to make. [Romans 10: 9] [2 Corinthians 7: 10]

What has happened to Mr. Floyd in Minnesota is tragic; there is absolutely "no" reasoning why the police officer in question, and the other officers observing, looking, did what they did. Murder is not acceptable; they need to be punished! However, that is not an excuse to do what the people, the rioters, are doing. Their action is just as bad. They are allowing evil [Satan] to control their emotions. Protesting is a civil expression! Rioting [terrorism] is a disregard for the law-abiding people, and we need the law to help protect the law-abiding people. The law cannot, and will not, be removed [defunded]

Coronavirus is not the only disease we face

To the Editor:

Our nation is currently facing two diseases, one caused by a virus, and one caused by a legacy of greed and hatred. Our inadequate response to both threatens the fabric of this nation. President Trump's failure to recognize the danger posed by the COVID-19 pandemic has had disastrous results. We have fared worse than any other nation. With just 4% of the world's population, we have experienced 25 percent of the deaths caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The stupidity of turning the wearing or not wearing of a face mask into a political statement has caused and will continue to cause thousands of lives. Other countries have been able to control spread of this virus. Why can't we? Wearing a face mask when appropriate should indicate a position of caring, not just about yourself, but about all those you may contact. Turning that into a political statement will ensure a disastrous resurgence of the pandemic.

But we face a far greater threat than a coronavirus. That threat is white supremacy. Just as white supremacy in Germany nearly destroyed not just Germany, but the world as we know it, white supremacy in this country has enslaved and continues to enslave many people. Germany has faced its demons. You will not find the face of Hitler or any other Nazi on their currency. We have yet to face our demons.

White supremacy has a long, dark history in this country; and it is wreaking havoc in the lives of many people. President Trump claims that tearing down monuments to "heroes" of the Confederacy is destroying our history. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jeffery Robinson, a lawyer who has

because God is the one who established the law [Romans 13: 1-7], and what God has opened cannot be closed and what God has closed cannot be opened [Revelation 3: 7-8] and we today also have the ability and responsibility to be law abiding citizens and it starts by submitting to God, Jesus. God warned the people yesteryear in Genesis 19: 12-24 and the people were reminded in the book of Luke 17: 29, & 2 Peter 2: 6, & Jude 7 and God is warning us, this country our states today it is time to turn from evil submit to God, Jesus before this country, states, become a Sodom and Gomorrah. God warned the people yesteryear and us today to turn to God, Jesus before more individual states [cities] become destroyed by paid rioting terrorist.

When people, countries, nations turn from God, God removes His crown and allows evil to enter into our lives and we are witnessing that evil by the evidence of the corona virus and the rioting terrorist, we have a choice, we can help change the present events. We can start by humbling our self, cry out to God, Jesus by repenting and God, Jesus will hear our prayers and rebuke the evil that is attacking some of us directly and others indirectly. [Hebrew 12: 1-2]

What does it mean to humble our self? It means recognizing that our worth, existence comes from God, Jesus alone. To humble ourself involves working, co-operating, submitting to God's authority, God's guidance. Despite our independence and human shortcomings God's loving favor reaches out to us in love and gives us worth and dignity, and, it is our choice, God's gift of free will as to whether we receive or reject God, and, if you reject God today along with the protesting, rioting terrorist, you also will need to be prepared to accept the consequences that follow as some are experiencing. [James 4: 10]

Our daily prayer today needs to be as it was yesteryear in Psalm 67 and so many other Psalms reflecting our need and responsibility to praise and submit to God, Jesus.

Do you want to be spiritually and physically blessed? Live by God's moral and dietary law. Amen!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

spent most of his career defending civil rights, gives an excellent lecture highlighting the true history behind all those monuments to the Confederacy, and the motivation behind their construction. He also gives some history about President Andrew Jackson, President Trump's favorite president. This is the year that Harriet Tubman's portrait was supposed to be displayed on the twenty dollar bill. Please watch Jeffery Robinson's talk. I think you will better understand why Harriet Tubman is so worthy of that honor, and why Andrew Jackson is not. Jackson's disgraceful treatment of native Americans and his brutal treatment of his many slaves is a shining beacon to white supremacy. My parents came from Kentucky. A distant aunt was the mother of Patrick Henry; and many of my ancestors were part of the historical South, including some slave owners. But none of us are slave owners. We do not have to be ashamed of the actions of our predecessors. We were not yet born, and we had nothing to do with that past. But we should be ashamed if we try to rewrite history, "white-washing" that past and preventing us from learning the valuable lessons that true history can provide. The legacy of white supremacy is still enslaving many in our society. The Black Lives Matter movement is a refreshing movement of hope that we will finally face our history with open eyes, and correct the terrible injustices that have festered in our society.


Jeffery Robinson's lecture can be found at the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOPGpE-sXh0>

DAVID W. BROWN
NORTH BROOKFIELD

have tried to paint figures such as Dr. Fauci as partisan. Only the most idiotic of so-called leaders such as President Trump have tried to stake their positions as counter to science, math, and facts.

Much has been said, including by me, about how the world was taking COVID-19 seriously but the U.S. was giving up. The reality is America as a whole didn't give up, Republicans did.

Managing withdrawals carefully can protect retirement income



FINANCIAL FOCUS

JEFF BURDICK

Throughout much of your working life, you contribute to your 401(k), IRA and other investment accounts to help ensure a comfortable retirement. However, once you do retire, you'll need to shift your focus somewhat from building these investments to using them — in other words, you'll have to start withdrawing from your portfolio to meet the costs of living. How can you be sure you're not taking out so much that you risk outliving your resources?

First of all, you need to establish a proper withdrawal rate — the percentage of your portfolio's value needed for one year's worth of retirement expenses. Ideally, if you were to stick with this rate, your portfolio would last as long as you do. Your withdrawal rate should be based on a number of factors, including your age, amount of assets, portfolio mix and retirement lifestyle. A financial professional can help you determine the rate that's right for you, but it's important to understand that this rate is a starting point since you will want to review your withdrawals each year to ensure they are still appropriate.

If the financial markets performed smoothly and predictably, year in and year out, any adjustments you make would likely be more modest. But, as you know, and as we've all been reminded the last several months, the markets are neither smooth nor predictable. Rather than constantly trying to change your withdrawal rate and spending in response to movements in the markets — which may be challenging if you have grown accustomed to a certain standard of living — you might be better off adopting a more conservative rate at the beginning of your retirement. For example, if you are in your mid-60s, you could start at a withdrawal rate of about 4%, which also assumes an increase in withdrawals (a "raise") of approximately 3% each year to incorporate inflation. By starting at a more modest withdrawal rate, you would have some flexibility for those years in which the market drops significantly. And you could increase your chances of extending the lifetime of your portfolio.

But even if you started out with a conservative rate, you may need to review it during periods of extreme market movements. If, for instance, your portfolio were to fall 20 percent in one year, the 4 percent you had planned to withdraw would actually become 5 percent because you're taking out the amount you had planned, but now it's from a smaller pool of money. If this happens, should you consider making an adjustment?

There's no easy answer. The amount you withdraw from your portfolio has a major impact on how long your money lasts. You'll improve your likelihood of success if you are able to be flexible and make some spending adjustments — spending less on some of your discretionary items, for example, or not taking a "raise" until your portfolio recovers. Importantly, your financial advisor can help run different scenarios to determine if adjustments need to be made to ensure you remain on track.

In any case, think carefully about your withdrawal rate. By managing it carefully, and reviewing it over time, you can take greater control over your retirement income.

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.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Daley R. Kiley is no patriot

To the Editor:
Daley R. Kiley, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for North Brookfield, is no patriot, nor are his fellow selectmen, Jason M. Petraitis and John H. Tripp. They are staging a constitutional crisis at the state level by instructing their police force to ignore and not enforce Gov. Baker's orders and lending credence to the type of anti-science and anti-fact thinking that has caused the cataclysmic rises in COVID-19 cases in other areas Trump decisively won in 2016. We are so lucky that we are boxed in by pro-science liberals as a red island in the sea blue.

I just read in the Telegram & Gazette that North Brookfield will be holding their July 4 celebrations despite the ongoing global pandemic. The Board of Health has decreed this as irresponsible. I will go beyond that and say not only is it beyond irresponsible, it is unpatriotic to endanger the lives of not only the attendees but lives in the community at large that these attendees could spread COVID-19 to. It represents a Fascist salute more than it represents comradery and good citizenship.

In fairness, the entire board of selectmen deserves to be roasted over this, but Chairman Kiley was the one willing to be interviewed by the paper so he deserves more of the wrath. Chairman Kiley is also a retired police officer, and his opinions and actions give us a little insight into the thought process and inherent hypocrisies with cops. At least in my mind, it makes me think that re-training, de-militarizing, defunding, re-allocation of budgets is in order.

It should be noted that North Brookfield is not upholding a long-standing tradition. They have never had fireworks on the common. They have decided 2020 is the first year to do it because other towns canceled theirs and they want to make an anti-public health political statement. I wonder if they are prohibiting masks like at a Trump rally... To call the Board of Health "left leaning" is unbecoming. Are doctors left-leaning? What about scientists? Mathematicians? Engineers? Are accountants and actuaries left-leaning? Are experts that seem to know things generally left-leaning?

Chairman Kiley compared the town-sponsored July 4 celebration to the recent Black Lives Matter protests in North Brookfield. I understand that both involve a lot of people but they are fundamentally different. The BLM protest was constitutionally protected speech, assembly, and attempt to redress grievances with the government and our first amendment prohibits any interference. The BLM protest was not sponsored by any government organization. The BLM protests are best compared to the "anti-lockdown protests" of April which I hope everybody remembers, the government didn't interfere with.

The July 4th celebration is a town sponsored event, a party some might call it. The Chairman is either blinded by his own politics or simply being dishonest to compare it to a protest. My guess is that the Chairman more than anything is vehemently opposed to the mission of the BLM protests and wants to one-up them. He is free to stage a march of people wearing brown shirts and jackboots holding up signs that say

"Blue Lives Matter" if he chooses, but hosting a town sponsored event in violation of the Governor's orders is not a protest. He could even hold a protest calling for fireworks and I would laugh even harder if he launched his own fireworks as a civilian that he had illegally smuggled in from New Hampshire. It would really be the icing on the hypocrisy cake.

It should be noted that the Board of Selectmen had directed the town's police department not to enforce Gov. Baker's pandemic orders. This is a state Constitutional crisis. The town has no sovereign powers; its very existence is at the pleasure of the state. As was recently noted in a letter, the state dismissed the entire Spencer Police Department many years ago. It isn't within the town's authority to decide which Governor's orders apply and which don't. They all apply. Gov. Baker clearly looked the other way, but this is open insurrection. The appropriate response is to dismiss the Board of Selectmen and install a state oversight board, like had happened to Springfield under Gov. Romney. Disestablishing the town could be appropriate. Dismissing the North Brookfield Police for failing to enforce state law could be an appropriate response. This is at a small scale, but North Brookfield deciding which laws out of Boston they like and which they don't like is not different from when Arkansas decided to ignore the Supreme Court and still refused to integrate schools. As we all know, President Eisenhower eventually sent the Army into Arkansas to escort black students into Little Rock Central High. Arkansas can't pick and choose which orders out of Washington, D.C. to follow just like North Brookfield can't pick and choose which orders from Boston to follow.

It should be notable to all that the "Law and Order" and "Rule of Law" crowd are often hypocrites. It is very interesting to see a former cop in a different position give the middle finger to the Governor's executive orders. I guess "rule of law" only applies to certain laws, at certain times, and certain people.

Chairman Kiley made mention that the town of North Brookfield elected Donald Trump easily. He is nakedly making public health and science a political issue. I wonder if he thinks of Leonhard Euler as a Democrat...

Let's assume that one person attends this event that has COVID and doesn't know it. The doubling time of COVID unchecked is four days. That means two people on July 8, four people on July 12, eight people on July 16, 16 people on July 20 and...32,768 people on Sept. 2, when the kids are in school. This could be a seeding event for this area and by the time we realize it is bad this 1 case will have spread through so many layers of hosts it won't even be possible to know for sure where it came from.

I will concede, though, that if nobody in the crowd has COVID-19, it will be a good time. Hopefully, along with the dunk tanks, they have a game of Russian Roulette, since this crowd seems to like that kind of thing.

TANYA KASPI
SPENCER

You are here

To the Editor:
Whether in a mall, hiking a trail or looking at your GPS, you will often see an indicator that tells you exactly where you are. As a resident of Massachusetts, I am favorably impressed with our Republican Governor Baker. He has meticulously tracked where we are in the Covid crisis, has marked his measured re-opening process by meeting of CDC criteria, and proceeded accordingly. Unfortunately, we are here also includes the USA, where we have a leader who is worried about the integrity of our national borders, claiming his opposition ants open borders. Guess what? Between states, we have open borders. What that means is that no matter how inept and inadequately other states are addressing this pandemic, or how widely it spreads in their states, you are free to bring that baggage home. One news station spoke to a mask-less attendee at Trumps Tulsa rally from Boston, others from New York. I won't even speculate on who they might encounter or interact with along their way- but You are here.

I don't have any idea how many people follow things like firings of AGs and IGs. How many people realize that the much taunted law breaking of the Obama administration, had to do with their having seen smoke and obtaining warrants to find the fire through shortcuts. (The fire/criminal activity was there and is not disputed, any more than the Ukraine blackmail was.) New ground is being broken in how actual criminal or treasonous activity is being, not just perceived, but re-written, by the «justice» department. You are here.

A challenge from God

To the Editor:
So often in the Old Testament of the bible, God says, in essence, "if you abandon me and refuse to live according to what I tell you, you will no longer have my protection." But they don't listen. They go their own way, and utter destruction follows.

The same thing is happening today. We have largely abandoned God. We ignore him. We'd rather go our own way and do our own thing. Who has time for God, or an inclination to listen

While reflecting upon some of the editorials in this week's paper, I heartily agree with some of the liberal views expressed, that fairness does not necessarily get factored into many aspects of life. I do remember checking out at the grocery with my careful selections to feed our family of four. I have vivid memory of checking out behind a woman with two shopping carts including live lobsters, paying with food stamps, and loading it into her new car when I came out and set my bag on the seat beside me in my old beater. I doubt we are capable of legislating fairness or justice. I am not complaining about my wife and I receiving stimulus checks, as we have had some unexpected set backs recently, though not related to the pandemic, as we are retired and on Social Security. Since my grandchildren will be paying back the loan, I hope my estate will help. Social justice is a complex issue, with no indication of being adequately addressed in the near or distant future. In my naive youth, I believed that we boomers would address and repair all of the injustices, but you are here.

God may be the answer and comfort that you seek and will help you through tough times, but God helps those who help themselves and the prayer to St. Francis says it best- Have the strength to address the things that you can change, the fortitude to accept the things that you can't,,, and the wisdom to know the difference. You are here.

Ken Kimball
Brookfield

Now is the time for every good man to come to his country's aid

To the Editor:
Living in Massachusetts, history lovers can't travel five miles down almost any road without encountering a statue, a historical road-side marker, a building, a plaque, a monument, a grave site, or some other reminder of the old Bay State's past, some might say glorious past.

One of my favorite sights honoring the service of those of a bygone era is the statue of the Grand Army of the Republic warrior standing guard over those sleeping forever in the town cemetery of Brookfield, Mass. on Route 9. The monument, beautifully situated on a slight rise and backed by a magnificent spreading old New England sugar

maple and flanked by a well-placed flag pole, shows an erect Yankee soldier with a passive yet stoic face looking out on the passing traffic as if to say, "Do you remember us?"

Who would "us" be? Brookfeldians probably know, but all of us privileged to live in the area ought to know, that between 1861 and 1865 the little cross-roads farming village of Brookfield sent 266 volunteers off to try and help the "Railsplitter" hold together the disintegrating Union and to see that "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth." Of the 266 boys and young

Turn To **McRAE** page **A11**



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NFL hijacked by the progressive left

To the Editor:

One of the things I liked about the NFL was it was true Meritocracy. What is a Meritocracy? It is a society or group holding power based solely on their ability to do the job. There was no favoritism or prejudice based on race or religion. The sole purpose you were hired to fill that position was your ability to perform at that position. That has now been changed now that mediocre players like Colin Kaepernick have injected racism and politics into the system.

Colin Kaepernick was drafted by the '49'ers based on his playing skills in college. His first seasons with the team went well. His skill was not in passing but in scrambling in the pocket. The other teams then watched film and saw while he scrambled well his passing was poor. They adjusted to playing him with extra line backers to contain him which meant he had to pass the ball. He was a very poor passer as he has limited passing ability. As such, the 49'ers with him as quarterback suffered and had losing seasons. It discovered that he was not a good quarterback and was replaced. This was done to make the team better, not because of any racial issue.

This did not sit well with him. He couldn't accept that after all the admiration and pampering in college it turned out his skills are mediocre at best in the NFL. But no, that is not the reason he argued, it must be racism. That's when he started injecting politics into the game and starting kneeling during the anthem.

The Democrats, seeing a situation they could use, started highlighting it as a social issue. So they took a sport that

had no racial discrimination whatsoever and made it a political grandstand. Yeah, that's great for the country.

There are a lot of great black quarterbacks in the league that I would love to see on the Patriots. Maybe progressive Seattle will trade Russell Wilson to the Patriots. Russell is a proven winner with phenomenal playing skills. The people in New England would love him and welcome him with open arms. It would also be great to see how long they would put up with Colin's crap in Seattle when he started chucking interceptions all around. I'm sure he would find another scapegoat.

Donald Trump is a true Meritocrat. He doesn't care what color you are. The only thing he cares about is your ability to get the job done. The political establishment hates that. Our political systems are ones with deeply entrenched favoritism and good ol' boy networks. That's why after all there are only two parties. All others get squashed. This can be easily be seen in the corruption in our state house which is controlled by the Democratic cronies. Bulger, Finneran, etc. All crooks. Donald was elected because both parties hated him and the electorate wanted to "Shake" it up. Now they are doing the same as Colin and labelling him as "racist" because that is the only answer they have for their mediocre performances. Biden is a classic example. A doing nothing political leech for 45 years. A vote for Trump is to push back against this crap. It's a vote to make America and the NFL great again.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

Congratulations to The 84 Movement

To the Editor:

I am writing to congratulate the Leicester Middle School chapter of The 84 Movement on their leadership and award of The 84 Movement's No Menthol. Know Why mini-grant. This project enabled the youth to promote the new media campaign, No Menthol. Know Why, and to explain the new Massachusetts tobacco law and changes that took effect June 1.

As of June 1:

Menthol cigarettes and all other flavored tobacco products like flavored cigars, flavored chewing tobacco, and flavored e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping products, will no longer be widely available in Massachusetts.

E-cigarettes and nicotine vaping products will increase in price.

The Leicester Middle School youth wanted to build awareness about the law and provide information about the resources available to help people quit smoking. They understand that the tobacco and vaping industries have targeted youth, LGBTQ populations and communities of color with their deadly products, causing many health consequences for these populations specifically. Flavors, like mint and menthol, are a leading reason that young people start vaping and using tobacco.

The young people listed below, with the guidance of their advisor Melissa Ledbetter, promoted the No Menthol. Know Why campaign on social media to encourage people to visit the Web site, nomentholnowhy.org, share stories and use the campaign materials to educate about why the menthol change will improve health and address past injustices for youth, communities of color and LGBTQ populations.

Through their participation in The 84 Movement, these youth educate and mobilize young people to take action to protect their communities from the influence of the tobacco and vaping industries. They are learning leadership, public speaking and advocacy skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Congratulations on a job well done!

Molly Baker, Treasurer; Chloe Bouchard, Secretary; Hannah Collette, President; Kayla Bouchard, Dylan Delage, Ryan Delage, Alexis Herbert, Jack Ledbetter, Jeremy Ledbetter, Jillian Rodrigue.

Sincerely,

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

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

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

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

McRAE
continued from page A9

men from this dot on the map, 38 would lose their lives in the effort. Who knows how many came home missing an arm or leg, psychologically destroyed, blind, or in some other way ruined for what remained of their lives? Many would never again be able to help mother and father keep the little farm going.

And for this monumental sacrifice of "Billy" and his family, (and 350,000 of his comrades who also never came home) I'm supposed to nod my head in agreement when I'm lectured about "white privilege"? Or beg for mercy when I'm hectorated about "systemic racism"? Forget it, I couldn't be prouder of Billy and his comrades; I weep when I read of their sufferings, their sacrifices only to be written off by academics as if they never happened or mattered.

The statue is a beautiful tribute to those men, and I love it. Sometimes, I imagine having a conversation with the "blue belly" as if by some trick he were able to converse. "So, Billy Yank, did you ever 'see the elephant'? Were you at Fredericksburg and did the Rappahannock actually turn pink with Yankee blood that cold December day? Did you really march all day long on dusty southern roads in 95 degree heat in your New England-made woolen uniforms with woolen socks and underwear? Did you ever see the "Glory Regiment"? Did you ever meet any of our very own "Fightin" Joe Hooker's ladies who followed the troops? Did you watch that mile-wide line of 7,500 Rebs come inexorably across that long gradual ascent toward the "Bloody Angle" at Gettysburg on that hot afternoon of 3 July, 1863? Tell me about it, Billy. That and so much more." What kind of culture produces such men?

But, Billy's not talking. All that's left now, after 150 years are the grave markers, the diaries, letters, books, swords, old medals, and museums. And, in many towns, the statues.

It grieves me to write these words, but if I lived in that town with such a beautiful tribute to the heroes now seen only dimly through the mists of time, I would take pictures of it, have an artist paint it, or make a video of it, because it and every other lovely reminder of our past is now on borrowed time, liable to be pulled down, smashed, and expunged from our collective memory by the howling mobs allowed to live among us. Admit it, reader, it would not surprise you even now to drive by and see poor Billy still standing but covered with red paint or daubed with some revolutionary slogan. Just wait, if nothing is done soon to stop these Jacobins, these Bolsheviks, these Sanders Jugend, these white millennial commie scum, one day you'll pass through on your way to Amherst (The Kremlin by the Connecticut) and there will be our eternally young man a pile of rubble on the ground with his head neatly severed from his body and a mutilated American flag discarded next to his remains. Then you'll know: the end has come... for him, and for you.

Are you crazy, old man? Why would you say such a thing? It's because I've studied these people, this vicious, America-hating, God-hating, ignorant, self-worshipping, mob of crazed ingrates who never change their objectives or their tactics. Whether it's the Communists of the '50's and '60's, the Black Panthers, the Weather Underground, the Symbionese Liberation Army (Patty Hearst), the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Occupy Wall Street, C.A.I.R., The Free

Cuba Committee, the Democratic Socialists, Black Lives Matter, Antifa, and a host of others, they're all the same: embittered; full of hatred for anything American; total ingrates sucking up all the benefits of American-style freedom to say or do just about anything in their undying quest to destroy the nation, its history, its Constitution; its religions; its traditions; its heroes; its language, borders and culture. They were successfully resisted by a majority capable of intelligent thought. But, not, I fear, any longer.

That's why, Brookfield, your statue is doomed: it is beautiful, it connects today with the past, it tells of a glorious struggle waged by good and valiant people, and properly understood it inspires others to be proud of their country, their town, and their people. It has to go, and it will go unless the current insanity causes millions of real (I love to use that term as I know it causes the liberals to grind their teeth) Americans to stand up and say "That's it. Enough is enough. Bring it to a halt, Mr. Trump."

Anything-bad or, especially, good-about America before, oh, say, the election of Obama, must be ground into the dust by these dull-witted cowards and losers who have never accomplished a thing in their short, miserable, and useless lives. Remember the anti-war crack "What if they gave a war, and nobody came?" Well, that day, it appears, has materialized. We are now in a war, a war for our very survival as a nation and as a people whether you care to acknowledge it or not. To do so might mean some sleepless nights for you, might make the golf game or the Fourth of July cookout a tad less joyful for you this summer. Out of sight, out of mind. To be sure, there is an intense war being waged...but only one side is fighting.

So far, I see little in the way of a resistance building to these revolutionaries even among the sensible people of this country and this area. In 1917, less than 10 per cent of the Russian people supported the Communists, but the failure of the majority to recognize the hideous threat posed by their young Leninists led to seventy-five years of an absolute hell of starvation, shortages of everything, mass murder, slave labor camps, and total depravity and corruption only ended by Ronaldus Magnus, Mrs. Thatcher, and the Pope.

Unfortunately, the "Useful Idiot" brigade is more than well-represented in this once-remarkable state, so the displays of abject cowardice from our political leaders do not augur well for the successful emergence by the citizenry from our slumber.

But, you say, come on old man, it can't happen here. I give you Santayana: "Those who refuse to learn the lessons of the past are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past." Only a willfully blind individual can't see the exact parallels to the descent of America, a free country, into a totalitarian hell hole just as has happened to most countries at various times around the world.

Maybe the Old Republic is over, and we just don't know it yet. Maybe three generations of indoctrination at our so-called institutions of higher education (not to mention grades K-12) by a legion of guilt-ridden, hate-filled, hypocrites who taught their charges that America and especially white, Christian America is responsible for all the wrongs in the world) has taken its toll, and the unquestionably greatest and freest and most generous country in the history of the world is now dead.

If that analysis is correct, don't worry, for if left unchecked, they'll be coming soon in your towns for its mon-

uments, your churches, your homes, your land, your very lives. As Edmund Burke famously said in his 1770 letter to American Patriots, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." And that's precisely what "good" men have been doing throughout this crisis.

The question before the house is directed at the men of Brookfield-and all the other surrounding towns with icons to be protected-what will you do, men, when you hear the mob is forming down at the cemetery? Stay safe in your bed? Watch an ESPN re-run of he '67 World Series? Get on your Harley and take a long ride in the country?

The men of Lexington on April 19, 1775 didn't cower in fear when the bell


tolled summoning them to the Green, and their enemy was infinitely more menacing to life and limb than this ragtag collection of ignorant Antifa/BLM thugs in their pathetic skinny jeans, black t-shirts, and masked faces. Can you-we-do any less when our hour arrives? Martin Luther King commented "If you've got nothing worth dying for, you've got nothing worth living for." I think we're going to see, before long, how many believe that.

Wake up, America. The barbarians are not only at the door, they're in the house and heading for the bedrooms, where they expect to find you fast asleep.

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

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Friday's Child



Francisco
Age 17

Hi! My name is Francisco and I like to make people laugh!

Francisco is an intelligent, creative young man of Hispanic descent who speaks both English and Spanish. He is fun, full of life, and very compassionate. He also enjoys playing basketball and video games, drawing, and trying new things.

In school, Francisco enjoys art and always looks forward to attending that class. At this time, Francisco attends a vocational high school with a focus on working in sheet metal. He and others in his sheet metal class are currently working on making signs for local businesses as well as traffic signs for the school's parking lot. He feels that working in sheet metal may be his future career. Francisco is also a money manager and spends and saves his money wisely.


Legally freed for adoption, Francisco would like to be placed with a two-parent family. He is also open to a single male parent. Francisco will need a family who will provide him with love, stability, and a safe environment in which he can grow to his fullest potential. The family will also need to understand that it will take time for Francisco to build trust and feel safe. Francisco would like the family to know that he does enjoy his privacy. Francisco will need to maintain contact with his siblings who reside in Virginia.

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

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

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





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TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Collecting, whether for business or pleasure, is one of today’s most popular pastimes. From rooting out attic relics to buying at high end antiques stores, stumbling upon a vintage “find” can be an exciting challenge. While aged wares often boast plenty of charm, the vintage goods also come with imperfections. Thankfully, all it often takes is a bit of elbow grease to bring a beloved piece up to par. With this in mind, this week’s column will review some suggestions from experts on proper cleaning for specific antiques and collectibles.

**Note:* The above information is offered as a guideline only and not meant as instructional. Any application applied is strictly at the user’s own risk and responsibility.

Textiles: From ornate Victorian textiles to simple childhood aprons, vintage linens are one of the most favored collectibles. While old fabrics can be especially beautiful, they are also often very delicate, especially after years of use or storage. Washing aged pieces can be a challenge. First you must assess the situation carefully as textiles are not always as strong as they may appear. If you are not willing to risk damage with a water wash, do not take chances. Instead, seek professional cleaning advice. Once you have decided to wash your textiles by hand, proceed with caution. If you are attempting to clean dirty or grimy fabrics, first lightly shake the item, then vacuum (with a nylon stocking over the hose) the surface to safely remove any tiny particles that could damage the piece. Many sturdy linen items can tolerate a warm wash with gentle soap. For best results, only

wash one piece or two small pieces at a time. Do not rub the fabric and never scrub. Simply swish by hand to agitate the piece in soapy water. Never rub the fabric. Swish it around in the soapy water. (You may decide the piece needs soaking; if so, rinse off soap and soak only in clear water). When it is time to wash out the soap, rinse very carefully, in a tub of clear water or under a soft stream of water. Repeat rinse at least two times. Do not wring, instead gently pat the water out. Lay textile on a towel to absorb water and allow to dry flat in well ventilated area. Or if is safe for the fabric, place it over a hanger padded with a towel to dry. Many sturdy linens such as sheets and pillowcases will benefit from a line dry in the sun to freshen and remove stains. If your item cannot tolerate the stress of line drying, you might want to try laying out the item on a towel in the sun. Keep in mind sunlight can fade and damage bright colors and wools. If a hand wash and soak fails to remove common yellow stains from white linens, experts recommend soaking items in sodium perborate. This is available at some drug stores and is the main ingredient in common washes sold to soak vintage quilts.

Keep in mind, proper storage of textiles can often prevent dirt and damage. When storing vintage textiles, do not iron them first. And never place fine linens in plastic bags, which can damage fibers by not allowing them to breathe. Also avoid folding, as creases can cause the fibers to break down and this practice can lead to yellow fold lines common to stored linens. Some experts roll flat linens on wide cardboard tubes laying down acid free tissue paper between layers of fabric. If storing vintage textiles, always wrap items in acid free tissue to prevent decomposition. Never pack linens for storage in plastic

tote boxes. Archival storage boxes with lids are a safe choice and they are available at art supply or specialty stores.

Ceramics and Glass: Although ceramics are generally considered to be stable materials, a certain amount of caution must be used when cleaning them. According to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan the majority of ceramic items can be successfully cleaned provided that a few basic instructions are followed, as recommended by the museum:

Some antique ceramics contain fragile painted or gilded surface decoration which can be removed or damaged by harsh cleaning solutions. It is important to use only dilute cleaning solutions, applied with soft cloths during cleaning. Antique ceramics should never be soaked in any liquid. Prolonged soaking and uneven drying can lead to staining of ceramics. This is particularly probable in items that are chipped, scratched or that have cracked glazes. Lastly, automatic dishwashers should never be used to clean antique ceramics. Recommended materials for cleaning ceramic objects include mild detergents in water. The detergents used at the Henry Ford Museum are Triton X-100, Vulpex and Orvus. All three products are available from Conservation Resources International L.L.C. A mixture of ethanol (ethyl alcohol) and water at a ratio of one to one can also be used for cleaning. Before proceeding to clean an object, it is important to inspect and test the object to make sure that no elements will be removed or damaged during cleaning. Once it has been determined that it is safe to proceed with cleaning, the cleaning solution should be tested in a small inconspicuous area to insure that decorative designs will not be damaged.

Dilute detergents (approximate-

ly 1% in water) should be applied using a soft cloth or cotton balls. The residual detergent should be removed by rinsing with distilled water applied also with a cloth or cotton balls. In both instances, the cloth should be damp not wet. The object should then be allowed to air dry.

Glass can be cleaned in much the same manner as ceramics... with the addition of dilute ammonia as a cleaner.

Coin Collections: The golden rule for cleaning coins is “don’t!” When it comes to caring for coins, many a novice collector has learned the hard way that cleaning or even polishing a coin can cause its value to plummet. The first rule of coin collecting is never clean a coin unless it is done professionally, as cleaning damages the coin’s natural “toning,” which may takes decades to acquire. While commercial dips and such may make a coin shine like new, the chemicals not only remove the tarnish, they remove the luster and can damage the surface. In fact collectors advise to never clean a coin you cannot afford to lose.

That said, if you have a less valuable coin that desperately needs a “wash” and are determined to clean it up, you may want to try careful rinsing with a gentle hand soap to remove grime. Or some collectors simply soak coins in water to loosen surface dirt. Others have reported success by soaking coins in olive oil. Drying can be tricky however, as rubbing can cause surface abrasion, so be sure to pat coins dry. As they say, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and this rings true when it comes to keeping coins clean and free from preventable damage. While the tendency for beginning collectors is to collect favored coins in a jar or container, it is better to prevent further scratches by storing collectible coins properly. This

can be accomplished economically if you store coins in approved Mylar “flip” coin holders, coin albums, or individually in envelopes that are of archival quality. Some serious collectors invest in a specialized wooden coin cabinet to store their valuable collection. A coin collection should not be stored in damp, humid spaces as these conditions encourage corrosion.

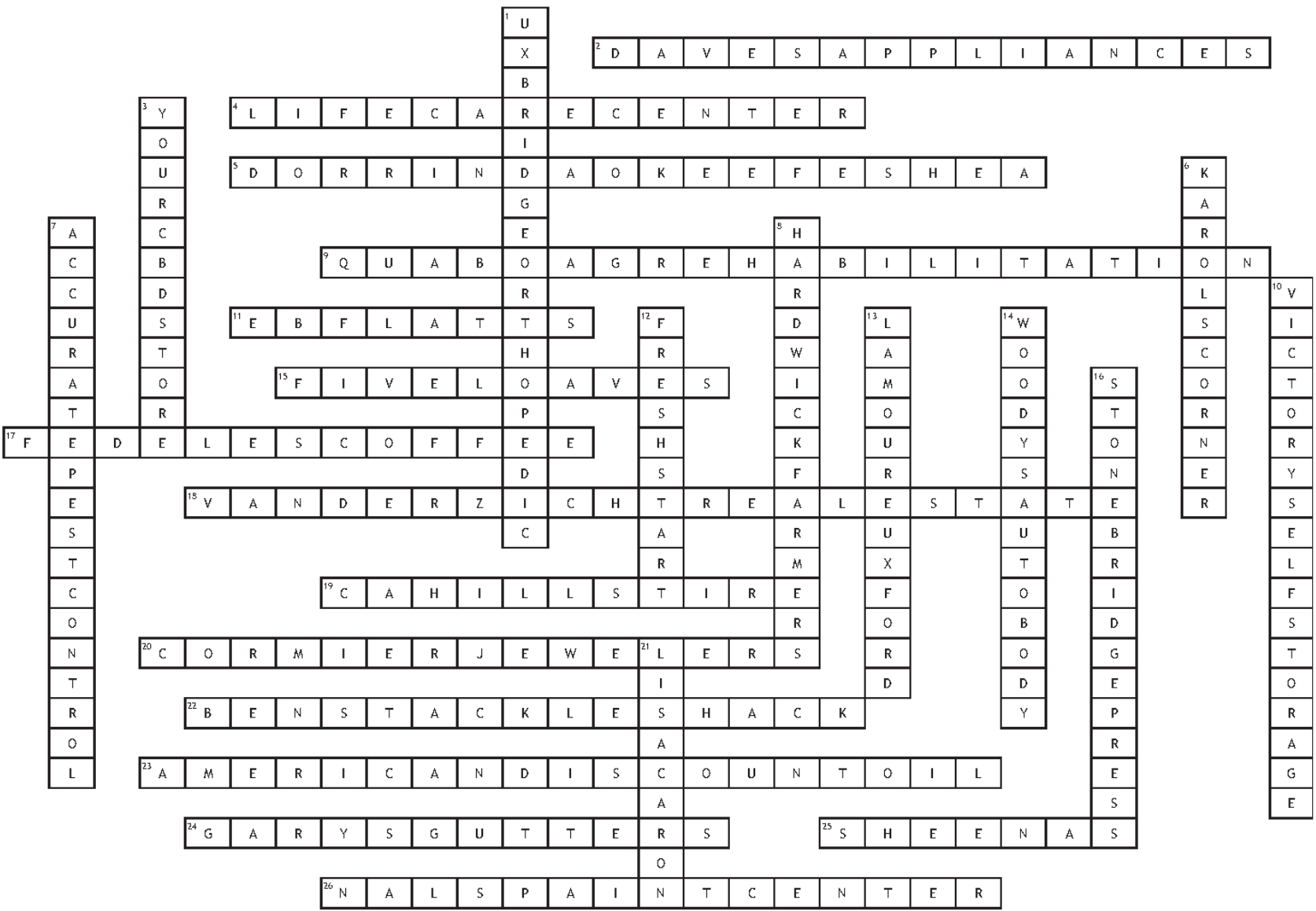
Proper handling of a coin is also important. When working with a collection, cover work surfaces with a soft material such as velvet to avoid scratching. Collectible coins should be handled only by its edges. The face of the coin is adversely affected by skin oils and therefore rare or valuable coins should only be touched while wearing soft cotton gloves.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

2nd Annual ABC’s of the Seasons ~ Spring Edition



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- 2. Instant Credit - In-shop Repairs
- 4. Helping you get back home.
- 5. Official Sponsor of the Boston Bruins
- 9. We are a deficiency free community facility
- 11. Breakfast \$9
- 15. \$25 Dinner for Two
- 17. Outside seating now open!
- 18. Experience, Education, Enthusiasm. It Makes a Difference!
- 19. Free oil change to any doctor or nurse with valid hospital ID
- 20. Engagements, Weddings, Birthday, Anniversaries, or Just Basing
- 22. White's Landscaping
- 23. 1182 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069
- 24. 50% off leaf guards with gutter installation
- 25. Hair Lashes Waxing Skincare Facials Massage
- 26. Find our BOGO Coupon on our Website

DOWN

- 1. Update on COVID-19 for our patients
- 3. Get back to you
- 6. Covid-19 safety protocols at all times
- 7. One time treatments starting at \$125
- 8. Maple Syrup Products, Country Toys
- 10. 2nd Building Complete
- 12. Call us today 508-868-4291
- 13. Everybody talks
- 14. Rental Car or Truck Can Be Arranged For You
- 16. Read all about it
- 21. 16 Years Real Estate Experience

We hope you enjoyed our 2nd Annual ABC’s of the Season Spring crossword puzzle. The randomly chosen winner of all the correct entries for a \$25 gift card to E.B. Flatts is **Kristy & Anthony Graves of Charlton.**

Please continue to support these and all of your local businesses. Our next ABC’s of the Seasons will be our Summer Edition, coming out on July 31.

Thank you to all the ABC businesses and to those who completed our puzzle! If you would like a letter for our next ABC Page, please contact your sales representative to see what is available.

June
*Spencer New Leader,
Charlton Villager, Auburn News,
Blackstone Valley Tribune,
508-909-4062*

Mikaela
*Southbridge News,
Sturbridge Villager,
Webster Times -
508-909-4126*



OBITUARIES

Thomas F. Lilley, Sr., 84

LEICESTER- Thomas F. Lilley, Sr., 84, died Saturday, June 20 in Rose Monahan Hospice Home after an illness.



He leaves his wife of 64 years, Shirley A. (LaMountain) Lilley, two sons; Thomas F. Lilley, Jr. and his wife Mary Kay of New Milford, CT and Stephen J. Lilley and his wife Mary of Woodbridge, CT, two daughters; Deborah A. Wall and her husband William of Spencer and Michele M. Maglione and her husband Andrew of Charlton, two brothers; Joseph Lilley of Napa, CA and David Lilley and his wife Darleen of Nampa, Idaho, four sisters; Madeline Stoskus of Leicester, Kathleen Conner of San Jose, CA, Gloria Loader and her husband Al of Millbury and Patricia Lilley of Reno, Nevada, 14 grandchildren; Jennifer, Jeffery, Daniel, Patricia, Sean, Ian, Brenna, Arianne, Ryan, Juliana, Kristin, Nicole, Andrew, III & Stephen, 10 great grandchildren; Mallory, Jace, Kaelyn, Ava, Jameson, Myles, Ashleigh, River, Eva & Paul and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by four brothers; James, John, Louis and Timothy Lilley and three sisters; Bernadette Lawrence and Rose & Sara Lilley.

Thomas was born in Westborough, son of James H. and Madaline B.

(Despres) Lilley. He served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. He was a television technician for RCA for 20 years before retiring. He was a member of St. Pius X Parish and was a longtime CCD teacher. He was a past Commander and life member of the Cherry Valley American Legion Post 443. In



2007, due to his petitioning, the Lilley Bill was signed into law, which gave thousands of disabled veterans license plates for those who have service connected disabilities. He loved spending time with his family. He enjoyed golfing, gardening, cooking, canning, and family get-togethers in Rhode Island. He was an avid Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. The family would like to thank the staff at Rose Monahan Hospice House for their compassionate care.

The funeral was held Thursday, June 25 at 10:00 AM with a funeral Mass in St. Pius X Church, 1153 Main Street, Leicester. Friends are asked to please go directly to the church. Masks are required and social distancing must be observed. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery, Leicester. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Veterans Inc., 69 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605. MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main Street is directing funeral arrangements.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Daniel "Dan" Letendre, 80

EAST BROOKFIELD- Daniel "Dan" Letendre, 80, of Doane Ave, died June 21, 2020 at UMass with his family by his side after a battle with AML.



He leaves his wife of 34 years, Shirley Letendre; two brothers, Gerald and James; children Michael S Letendre and his wife Laurie, Caron McNeaney and her husband James, Rebecca Day and her husband, Steve; two step children John and his wife Nicola Ferguson, and Chris and husband Mike DuPont; nine grandchildren, Michael Jr, Benjamin, Adam, Meghan, Alison, Andrew, Sara, Ryan and Travis; five great grandchildren

Tabor, Julian, Layla, Brannon and Erik.

Daniel was born in Spencer, the son of Harold and Lilliebell Letendre. He was an Air Force veteran and member of the American Legion Post 138. Dan was also a former member of the Spencer Fire Department and the Spencer Rescue Squad. He retired from Savings Bank of Rockville in Rockville, Connecticut in 2001. Dan was an avid Red Sox and UConn Womans Basketball fan. He loved his coffee hour at Dunkin' Donuts with his friends Dick, Sandy, Stu and Joanne. Dan and Shirl lived in Florida for 18 years, traveled extensively until moving home to be closer with family.

A graveside service will be held in Mary Queen of the Rosary Cemetery in Spencer. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.

Marion Cote, 87



N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D - Marion (Ackerman) Cote, 87, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, June 22, 2020.

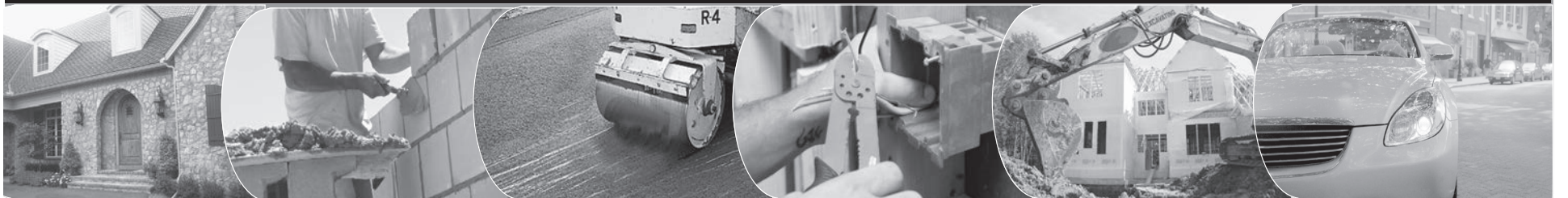
She is predeceased by her husband Armand Cote in 2019. Marion leaves a son

Randy Cote & Marie Croteau; 2 granddaughters Alicia and Staci and 4 great grandchildren.

Marion has lived over 30 years in North Brookfield. She will be sadly missed by her loving family and friends.

Funeral services are private for the family. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

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North Brookfield Savings Bank announces promotion of Jennifer Plassmann



Jennifer Plassmann

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce the promotion of Jennifer Plassmann to Loan Servicing Representative within the Bank’s Loan Center.

“We are so pleased to announce Jennifer’s promotion and for her continued growth with the Bank,” said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. “She brings years of retail customer service experience to her new position in the Loan Center and we know she will continue to use that valuable experience to help our customers as they move through the process of financing.”

Jennifer Plassmann, of West Brookfield, joins the North Brookfield Savings Bank Loan Center team located at 35 Summer St. in North Brookfield. In her new role as Loan Servicing Representative her responsibilities are to perform day-to-day maintenance, review and processing of loans, to provide quality customer service to the Bank’s customers and to support her customer-facing teammates in the residential lending, consumer lending and retail banking departments.

Plassmann has more than 10 years of experience in banking during which she learned a great deal about consumer and mortgage loan applications, taking loan payments, and processing loan pay offs. She most recently served as Branch Manager for the Palmer Branch at North Brookfield Savings Bank where she performed such duties as supervising and overseeing all aspect of banking within the Palmer branch, including managing the teller line, scheduling, opening accounts, taking loan applications and providing the ultimate customer service experience while assisting customers with their banking needs.

In addition, Plassmann is a strong community supporter, often volunteering her time and efforts for various

local community events, fundraisers and support of the Palmer Senior Center. Plassmann has also served on the board of directors for Top Floor Learning in Palmer.

“I am excited to grow in my new position, work more closely with the loan center team, and to provide our customers with the very best loan experience,” said Loan Servicing Representative, Jennifer Plassmann. “I look forward to learning the back office side of lending and gaining a more intricate understanding of the loan process, while still continuing to support my colleagues who are helping customers face-to-face.”

Jennifer Plassmann, Loan Servicing Representative, NMLS ID# 1702071, can be reached directly by calling 508-637-7410 or by emailing JPlassmann@BankNBSB.com. For more information, contact the North Brookfield Savings Bank Business Center at 508-637-7500 or visit NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

Area residents named to dean’s list at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Aliya Zubi of Brookfield, Erin Lowkes of East Brookfield, and Hannah Wickson of Leicester were named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2020 semester at Quinnipiac University.

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible.

Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

About Quinnipiac University is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 7,000 full-time undergraduate and 3,000 graduate and part-time students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law,

Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review’s “The Best 385 Colleges.” The Chronicle of Higher Education has named Quinnipiac among the Great Colleges to Work For(r). For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook at facebook.com/quinnipiacunews and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

Kaitlin E. Prescott named to Husson University’s Dean’s List

BANGOR, Maine — Spencer resident, Kaitlin E. Prescott, has been named to Husson University’s Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester.

Prescott is a junior who is currently enrolled in Husson’s Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in national/corporate security program.

Students who make the Dean’s List must carry at least 12 graded credit hours during the semester and earn a grade point average of 3.60 to 3.79 during the period.

For more than 120 years, Husson University has prepared future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable class-

room, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has come to represent superior value in higher education. Our Bangor campus and off-campus satellite education center in Northern Maine both provide advanced knowledge in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; as well as communication. In addition, Husson University has a robust adult learning program. According to a recent analysis of tuition and fees by U.S. News & World Report, Husson University is one of the most affordable private colleges in New England. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

LEGALS

**Notice of Public Hearing
Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, the hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Special Permit (Renewal) – Applicant/ Owner: Royal Crest Farm/ Robert Moschini Location: 30 Howe Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map R23-25. The applicant is looking to renew their Special Permit under Sections 4.2 (H.1) and 4.8.6 of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to continue a gravel removal operation. The property is located in the Rural Residential zoning district.

Special Permit– Applicant/ Owner: Michael & Krystal Reno, Location: 46 Browning Pond Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map R57-39. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit under Section 4.8.1 of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to construct an accessory apartment in their home. The property is located within the Lake Residential zoning district.

Interested Parties may review these applications at the Office of Development & Inspectional Services in Memorial Town Hall located at 157 Main Street Spencer, MA 01562, during regular business hours from 7:30am-4:30pm Monday-Wednesday and 7:30am-12:00pm on Thursdays. The ZBA is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Should you require auxiliary aids, services, written materials in other formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, please call 508-885-7500 ext. 180 in advance of the scheduled meeting.

July 3, 2020

RALLY
continued from page A1

Association representatives, the Education Association of Leicester, and the Leicester Paraprofessionals Union. Moreover, guests represented teachers unions from the following school districts: Worcester, Wachuset, Montachusett, Auburn, and Southbridge.

“The message was that teachers are essential, not expendable,” said Leicester Middle School music teacher Kristina Looney. “Our slogan was SOS: Support our Students. Whether

KTMS
continued from page A1

submitted a project to be viewed online, Moneypenny was invited to choose the top three submissions. Students were thrilled that the artist took time to review their work, and Moneypenny offered a glowing review of his first-place selection: Isabella Costello’s “Plants on Pavement.”

“Isabella’s piece wins hands down for so many reasons. Art is a form of communication, and her piece enhances her written message,” Moneypenny wrote. “The materials she uses

CELEBRATION
continued from page A1

you don’t feel comfortable being in that setting, please don’t be in that setting,” Kiley said at the June 23 meeting.

Following the Select Board meeting, the Board of Health issued a letter expressing its opposition to holding the event. Health officials said the event defies Gov. Charlie Baker’s orders regarding large gatherings.

“When a Board of Selectmen collectively and unanimously calls the current health crisis Covid Hysteria, in open defiance of the health and wellbeing of the citizens of North Brookfield, the Board of Health cannot condone or encourage such a gathering, as it is counter to the health and safety of the residents,” the Board of Health letter read.

Selectmen argue that the program is protected by an exemption issued by Baker, which has allowed for statewide protests and events of political and personal expression.

“This falls squarely in that exemption. You can’t say that one type of speech is okay, but another type of

students need support from teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, or through programs such as the arts and athletics, we want to assure that our students have access to what they need to be well-rounded and successful.”

The Chapter 70 program is the major source of state aid for public elementary and secondary schools. Several school districts have already made cuts in staff and programs to prepare for state budget reductions. The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District recently announced that 22 teachers would not see their contracts renewed.

In Leicester and surrounding towns, residents hope to avoid seeing fur-

have a voice, starting with her excellent choice of amosite for the background. The amosite gives a neutral textured base – a gray noise in extreme contrast to the soft organic flowers used as parts of the flag. She has the red, white, and a derivative of blue that also makes that U.S. flag connection. The piece has the overall feeling of a flag but is loosely put together. It steps away from the rigid rectangular confines of a traditional flag, which coordinates with the text.”

The students also wrote messages to go along with their projects. Costello offered the following message:

“I wanted my message to be, there is always hope in the world. We are suffering in this pandemic right now, but we are slowly working our way out of it. Everyone keep fighting and don’t give up.”

The second place selection belonged to Eliana Barnett, who created a project out of toy vehicles and old newspapers.

“Americans are always on the go. They always are traveling and need to be doing something or going somewhere, relying on cars,” Barnett wrote. “The newspaper represents the smoke and pollution that comes

ther cuts. Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Marilyn Tencza said the district cut six teachers in May. District leaders are delaying further action until the state Chapter 70 numbers come in.

“We are waiting for the state budget. We have some contingency plans and haven’t made further cuts since May,” Tencza said.

Leicester officials thank all guests who showed up to support local schools, including many staff members in the Leicester Public Schools.

“There has been a tradition of pride in Leicester Public Schools for generations,” Looney added.

from this.”

The third place winner was Julia Burgos, who designed a creative piece from tree and bush leaves.

“I made this because I’ve been spending a lot more time outside connecting with nature,” Burgos wrote about the inspiration for her project.

After the project was complete, Dacey made a slideshow video of the students’ artwork. It will be posted to YouTube and also aired on Spencer Cable Access.

KTMS students and staff thank Moneypenny for supporting the project and promoting art education.

speech is not okay,” Selectman Kiley said.

Health officials also oppose the use of town monies for a gathering that cannot be enjoyed by all members of the community. Selectmen argue that the \$4,400 used to pay for the laser show was reappropriated from its initial allocation to the Town Beach, which is closed due to COVID-19. The funds were not slated for any other purpose and would have ended up entering Free Cash if they weren’t used, officials said.

Regardless of where residents stand on the issue, the July 4 controversy has accentuated a deepening divide between selectmen and the Board of Health. Several previous points of contention surfaced during the course of the pandemic, including the process of reopening the playground.

The Board of Health acknowledged that it has no recourse to prevent the July 4 event, and that the decision lies with selectmen.

“As a small board, with limited resources and little to no assistance from the state or the Governor’s office, despite repeated calls for assistance, we can only issue a public statement and our admonishment of the Board of

Selectmen,” the Board of Health letter read.

“Furthermore, the Board of Health disclaims any and all liability which may be incurred from attendance at such an event. The Board of Selectmen, in their capacity as elected officials, having the ultimate authority, are responsible for any and all consequences of such an event, along with the sponsors of said event.”

Selectmen said the Board of Health has detrimentally impacted the event by drawing statewide attention to it.

“We wanted this to be a small event for our town, not a large event with guests from across the state,” said Kiley, who was initially projecting 250-300 guests at the celebration. “I think [the Board of Health is] being hypocritical and hyperpolitical with their viewpoints on this. They did not raise any objection to the Black Lives Matter protest, and they have not raised concerns about people gathering at the Brooks Pond beach. Everyone at this [July 4] event is supposed to have proper spacing. In situations where they can’t get that spacing, they should wear a mask. People have to be allowed to use personal responsibility.”



Help your pets beat the heat



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

With the recent stretch of warm, humid weather a week ago, my thoughts are that another stretch of hot, humid weather during July and August is more than likely. A lot of dog owners keep their hunting dogs outdoors and need a lot more attention during these hot summer days. Daily exercising during the early morning and early evening hours will help to keep your hunting companion healthy & in shape for this year's hunting season. Making sure that your dog has plenty of cool fresh water daily and has a cool shaded spot for the hot weather which will help keep them in good health.

If the temperature is in the 90-degree range and you have a cool spot for them in your home, they should be brought in. If not, they should have their kennel in the shade with comfortable bedding. Feeding twice daily, with short exercising in the yard if possible, should keep them healthy. The late veterinarian Dr. Fenzell of Douglas always told me never to feed my dogs any animal bones, and I do not; however, I do feed them the Milk Bone treats that are made in the USA.

People often feed their dogs scraps from the table which you need to be careful with. Hotdogs and cold cuts are something you should not feed your dogs, to mention a couple. A good diet of dry dog food like Purina is all that they need to stay healthy. Do not wet the food prior to feeding. They will drink the necessary



water as needed.

Heartworm and Lyme disease prevention should always be administered monthly. So far, tick populations have been low in the areas that I run my dogs daily, but other areas are not as lucky. Losing a dog to Lyme disease or heartworm, can be prevented with a monthly pill. Owning a dog or two is not cheap, but they are worth every penny.

My nine-year-old Labrador hunting dog Twig was always outside because of the heavy shedding, but after the passing of my wife, I brought her into the house after learning how to run a vacuum cleaner. Both dogs get along great, but Molly is the alpha of the two dogs. Molly also has a bit of my wife in her, and lets me know when I get out of place. I cannot imagine being without these two dogs in the house. Molly has her place at the end of my bed, and Twig sleeps on the side of my bed.

With the increased population of cottontail rabbits this year, Molly has taken more interest in them. Last week, she

spotted a rabbit in the back yard and started to vocalize, as most beagles do. I also spotted the rabbit and quickly opened the gate. The chase was on! The rabbit must have found its hole in a clump of brush after a few minutes, and the hunt was over almost as fast as it started. Sure did sound great to hear her trailing the often-elusive cottontail rabbit.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will hold there 3-D archery shoot this Sunday July 5. The public is invited to attend the event that had more than 80 archers enjoying the shoot last month. Masks and social distancing are encouraged. The kitchen will be serving a light breakfast, which can be enjoyed in the club's pavilion.

This week's picture shows a Virginia man with a striper he caught weighing in at a cool 81.88 pounds, creating a new world record. Some local anglers doubt the striper was that big, and that anything you see on the internet needs to be checked out for being authentic. I agree.



The absence of local freshwater bass tournaments this year, because of the pandemic, has not stopped local bass anglers from fishing. Families and friends are still fishing, but hope that things will change in the coming weeks.

Local Rod & Gun Clubs are open to trap & skeet shooting. Uxbridge, Whitinsville and Wallum Lake ranges are open on weekends and some weekdays. For a complete list of shooting opportunities, go to their Web sites. The public is invited to attend most shooting activities, including shooting on their pistol ranges. Check them out!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Latest antiques, collectibles, and auction news

It has been nearly three months since our last update on antiques, collectibles, and auction news. Much has occurred since my last report, beginning with some valuable antique eyeglasses that were saved from destruction.

The rare pair of eyeglasses were saved by a knowledgeable employee of a second-hand store before they were buried in a New Zealand landfill. They were recently sold in an online auction according to UPI. The Martin's Margins style glasses were designed by optician Benjamin Martin in 1756. According to UPI, "the unusual thick-framed look of the glasses results from Martin's belief that exposure to sunlight would cause damage to eyeglass lenses." The glasses sold for \$5,282.

A 1933 "The Invisible Man" movie poster went on the auction block in March according to the Antique Trade Gazette. The one sheet "Invisible Man" poster (two feet, three inches by three feet, five inches) starred Claude Rains in the title role as a scientist. The film



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

was based on a novel by H.G. Wells. This "Type B" version of the movie poster sold for \$152,000.

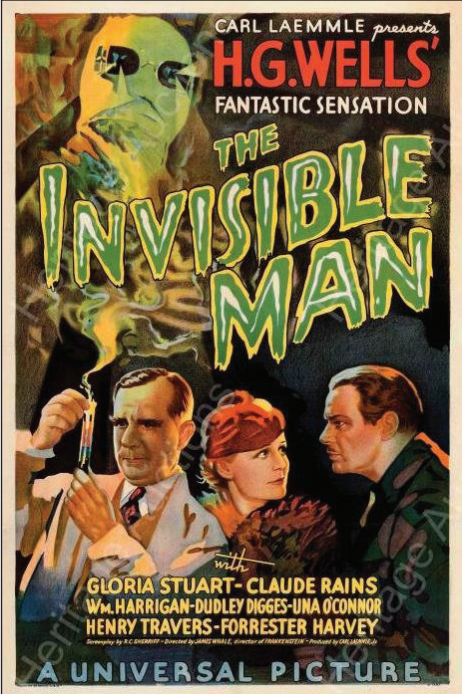
A valuable baseball card collection is currently being sold in an online auction. According to ESPN, the "Uncle Jimmy" collection belonged to James Micioni of Boontown, N.J. ESPN reported that "he never married, never became a father and never owned a car. He walked to nearby jobs as a high school custodian and a chemical-factory worker." He only left his small town to serve in World War II. He was a fan of the Yankees and Jackie Robinson. ESPN reported "experts believe to be one of the most extraordinary private collections in the hobby's history." When he passed the cards were willed to his nieces and nephews who consigned them to an auction house. The cards have been grouped into 2,000 lots and are being auctioned in 3 sessions. Six 1933 Goudey Babe Ruth cards alone are expected to sell for \$1 million.

A 1959 Martin D-18E guitar that had been modified to accommodate the left-handed Kurt Cobain recently set an auction record according to the Rolling Stone magazine. Cobain played the guitar in Nirvana's iconic 1993 MTV Unplugged performance. It sold for slightly over \$6 million. The winning bidder was identified as Peter Freedman. Freedman plans to include

the guitar in worldwide exhibitions that he is planning to benefit the arts. The Rolling Stone reported "the previous record was \$3.95 million for a Black Stratocaster owned by Pink Floyd's David Gilmour."

Food and Wine magazine reported that an over 250 year old bottle of cognac recently set an auction record. The 1762 bottle of Gautier Cognac was said to be the oldest bottle ever sold at auction. There are believed to be only 3 bottles of this vintage that still exist. The bottle with its original label sold for a little over \$144,000. There was no information on whether the winning bidder planned to sample any.

I'll be presenting a webinar on June 8 at 2 p.m. in conjunction with Worthpoint.com "Don't Give Away Your Valuables. Get the Most for Your Estate Contents." There is a link to register on our Web site. We are also cataloging items for an online estate auction in Warren, R.I. and are planning to run an estate sale in Auburn, MA this summer. Bidding was strong during our recent online only antique estate auction. We are accepting quality consignments of smaller, high value items such as jewelry, sterling silver, coins, paintings, vintage comic books and sports memorabilia for our next auction. Please watch our website or sign up to be on our email list for



updates on future events.

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



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
.....
GARY W.
MOORE

Most of what we fear in life never becomes true. As children we were afraid of the shadows in our bedroom and that the Boogeyman would come and take us away. As adults, most of our fears switch to lack of security. Fear that our home would be broken into, our family will be harmed, or fear of lack of financial security. Regardless of what frightens us, most of us will admit we're living with some form of fear and/or anxiety.

Fear of sickness from Covid-19, fear of job loss or econom-

Our nation afraid ...

ic collapse, fear of racist cops, fear of rioters, looters on the streets that are openly committing harm to property or others. If you believe cable news, there is much to be afraid of ... and we are.

Gun dealers across the country are selling their shelves empty. Citizens are stocking up on toiletries and food supplies, buying guns at a record pace and loading up on ammunition. What's driving these actions?

Fear.

Fear is a healthy sensation, as it can keep some of us from what I'll call the "Oh yeah? Hold my beer" syndrome. Fear kept our early ancestors from being eaten by sabre-tooth tigers. I can

go on, but you get the picture. However, fear can also make you react irrationally at times where rational thinking is needed. Fear can negatively impact your health and ruin your life.

I grew up in an anti-gun family. My dad didn't like guns nor want one in the house. For most of my life, I never wanted a gun, but 25 years ago we moved out onto 40 acres and coyotes were everywhere. I still didn't buy a gun as I felt the coyotes had just as much of a right to be here as I did. But as our two beloved dogs began to age, the coyotes would try to lure them away from the house and we had our clash with nature ... so I bought a shotgun. Mostly for the noise,

I thought I'd scare they coyotes off and did.

Now, as I age, I began worrying about being out and away from civilization and bought my first hand gun. A Smith & Wesson 357 magnum now sits on my nightstand next to me as I sleep. Rational? I think so. But at what risk?

Last night, the dreaded intrusion happened. I was asleep and heard a commotion on our side deck. Our door was open and only the screen separated us from the apparent intruder that

began pushing on the screen. I rolled out of bed, grabbed my handgun, crawled to the screen and there he was. The biggest Opossum I'd ever seen. He growled at me, then slowly walked away, never knowing that all three of us, me, Smith & Wesson, were poised to send him to Opossum heaven. He was just a friendly neighbor out for a walk. I recognize that I moved into his neighborhood. He isn't trespassing in mine.

Turn To **MOORE** page **A18**

Michael Reniere of Spencer makes Dean's List at RIT

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Michael Reniere of Spencer was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 Spring Semester. Reniere is in the computing and information technologies program.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete", "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least

12 credit hours.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

The university is internationally recognized and ranked for academic leader-

ship in business, computing, engineering, imaging science, liberal arts, sustainability, and fine and applied arts. RIT also offers unparalleled support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The cooperative education program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation. Global partnerships include campuses in China, Croatia, Dubai and Kosovo.

For news, photos and videos, go to www.rit.edu/news.

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Saint Anselm College has released the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.3 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade. A total of 879 students representing 26 states and 6 countries received this honor.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that Nicholas St. Germain of Spencer has been named to the Dean's List for the

spring 2020 semester at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire.

About Saint Anselm College Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.

Saint Anselm College releases Dean's List



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DUDLEY – 6 Lakeside Dr! 6 Rm Cape! Move-in Ready w/3-4 Bdrms in a Great Neighborhood! 1-2 Bdrms on 1st Flr (1 could be a Dining Rm). 2 Additional Bdrms Upstairs! 1st Floor w/Hardwoods! Interior Painted in Neutral Colors! Gas Heat on the 1st, Electric Heat on 2nd! Detached Garage w/Newer Door being used as a Hobby Rm! Newer Roof! New Insulation Added! Home is Wired for a Generator! Newer White Vinyl Fenced-in Level Backyard! Town Services! Take advantage of Dudley's School System and Low Taxes! Walk to the Town Beach or the Playground at the Elementary School! Won't last long... **\$263,000.00**

DUDLEY – 8 Tanyard Rd! 5 Rm 3 Bdrm Ranch! Some Sweat Equity Needed! 13,000' Lot! Eat-in Kit! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flrs & Picture Window! Mudroom/Sunroom! Bdrms w/Hrdwds & Ample Closet Space! Full Tile Bath w/Linen Closet! Unfinished Lower Level! Gas Heat! C/Air! Garage! **\$249,000.00**

DUDLEY – TOBIN FARM ESTATES! 9 Tobin Rd! 7 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Federal Front Colonial! Move Right In! 2 Story Grand Entry w/Gleaming Hrdwds in the Din Rm, Liv Rm & Kit! Frplc Fam Rm w/Cathedrals & New Wall to Wall! Granite Kit w/Center Isl, SS Appliances & Din Area! Tiled Mudrm! 2nd Flr w/Open Balcony! Master w/Full Bath & Walk-in Closet! Comfortable Bedrooms! Full Hall Bath w/Laundry! New Wall to Wall in Bdrms! Private Backyard w/Deck & Hot Tub! 2 Car Garage! Shed! Fire Pit! **\$449,900.00**



ON DEPOSIT



ON DEPOSIT



NEW PRICE



ON DEPOSIT

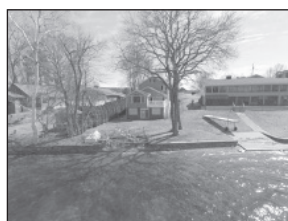
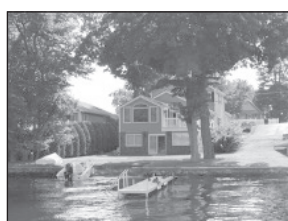


WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks – Fill Up Once 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**

WEBSTER – 110 S. Shore Rd! Across the Street from Webster Lake! Killdeer Island! Access to Swimming & Boating w/Killdeer Island Club Assoc. Membership! Perfect 1st Home or Summer Retreat! 7 Rms! 2 Bdrms! Full Bath! 12x25' Deck w/Water Views! Garage! Don't Delay! **\$249,000.00**

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 Flr 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 Frplc! 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**

DUDLEY – 12 Glendale Drive! Conveniently Located 6+ Room Split Entry set on .52 Acres – 22,500'! Ready For You to Move Right In! New Flooring Throughout! Freshly Painted! Newly Appliance Kitchen! Cathedral Ceiling Living Room with Ceiling Fan! 3 Comfortable Bedrooms! 2 Full Bathrooms! Finished Lower Level with Kitchennette! Recent Deck! Forced Hot Water by Oil Heat! 1 Car Garage! **\$289,900.00**



NEW PRICE



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 Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/ Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$999,900.00**



NEW LISTING



WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrooms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Wiking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplc Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**



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WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD



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\$600,000.

WEBSTER - 548 SCHOOL ST



ON DEPOSIT

Aesthetically pleasing 4-5 BR CAPE!! 1,800 SF Cape! 8 rooms. 4 lg rooms & bath on 1st flr, eat-in kitchen, living room, family room, office/possible 1st flr in-law bedroom. 2nd flr - 4 lg bedrooms & bath. 2 car garage. **\$199,900.**

WEBSTER - 36 PARK AVENUE



ON DEPOSIT

Well cared for Colonial on Park Avenue! Hardwoods! Formal dining room, eat in kitchen, 3 bedrooms! Hollywood Bath. 1-1/2 baths total. deck! Garage! Freshly Painted **\$264,900.**



DUDLEY - 25 MARSHALL TER.



SORRY, SOLD!

Custom Hip Roof Ranch! 1,480+- Sqft. One Level Living, Spacious Open Floor Plan. Combination Kitchen/Dining w/Breakfast Bar, Cooktop Range & Built-in Oven, 3 Large Bedrooms w/Large Closets, Linen Closet, 1st Floor Laundry Room, Hardwood Floors, Separate Bath Tub & Shower. Forced Hot Water Heat by Oil w/High End Cast Iron Baseboard, Recently Shingled Roof, Overlooks Attractive, Level Landscaping! **\$274,900.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

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

Webster - 85 Upper Gore w/View of the Lake. 1+ acre! Much work done! Artesian well, Septic Design, & Conservation **\$130,000**

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

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

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster - New Lake Listing!



ON DEPOSIT

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE

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

WEBSTER LAKE - 32 JACKSON RD



SORRY, SOLD!

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HAR YAROK

continued from page A8

are in the United States. It is important to point out again, for those Trump sycophants out there that we only represent 5 percent of the world population with 25 percent of the disaster, it didn't even start here, and we had months of warning. America is five times worse than the world average. The virus has been eradicated in other places. Those of you that voted for Trump because he was "pro-life," "a good businessman," or "cares about America" should be ashamed of yourselves.

The European Union is opening its external border on July 1 and making a final list of countries that will be able to travel there. The United States is unlikely to make the cut given our COVID infection rate, the fact that it is growing exponentially, and the fact that we are not aggressively managing it. A schism in the world is opening up and the USA is on the side of Brazil, India, and Russia. The EU has said that they will update the list every 14 days based on how COVID is spreading in each country.

On inauguration day 2017 Donald Trump spoke of "American carnage"

and said the world was laughing at the United States. At the time I thought it was ridiculous for being so off-base. I think though Trump may deserve some credit for predicting the future. Perhaps it was his garbled grammar that threw me off and he was prognosticating what 1 term of his presidency would bring... Today, three and a half years later, we have American carnage while the world laughs at us.

As I and anybody else with a brain could have predicted last week, the south and west are spinning out of control with the first wave of COVID-19. Since Memorial Day we have been in exponential growth however it didn't become obvious until 2 weeks before this writing when the U.S. infection rate went up 75 percent. The United States has hit new record highs of infections this week, significantly higher than what we saw back in April.

We only had "so many weeks in the tank" of lockdown. We had four to eight weeks (depending on the state) to get this under control and we only had 1 shot at it before everybody got sick of it. We never took lockdown as seriously in 'Merica than other more responsible countries and didn't eradicate the virus when other countries were able to. In

the Northeast, we pushed the infection rate down 90 percent or so to a dull, stable roar waiting to come back in the fall when the schools open and the weather gets colder. The disease is spreading out of control in the red states, their hospitals are filling up, and the media is making it sound like nobody could have seen this coming.

Even in Massachusetts, we are clearly "done" with social distancing. Just this weekend, I drove by a house that had many cars parked out front and I thought, "it must be a social distancing barbecue". It turned out to be a kid's birthday party with a bounce house in the front yard. Not only is it an unnecessary gathering, not only was it poorly socially distanced, not only did it involve kids who are nasty when it comes to spreading germs, not only did it involve a bounce house which in the best of times is nasty... They did this in their front yard. Neither the hosts nor the guests were even embarrassed to be doing such a thing on display to the neighborhood during a pandemic.

The way mask wearing has become a political rally cry is simply beyond me. In no other country, to my knowledge, are masks debated. The coronavirus is highly infectious, it has killed

125,000 Americans, it will kill many more, some survivors take as many as six weeks to clear the disease, and there are some that seem to be perpetually ill. The "mask debate" is a microcosm of the disgusting aspect of American culture that for years we kept hidden from polite society and the world at large. Our political fault line has turned into "those that accept reality" and "those who either reject reality or value their garment wearing freedom above their own and their community's health". If there's anybody that deserves to be removed from a 1st world country and shipped off to a third world land ruled by African dictators with periodic unavoidable pandemics it is the mask-refusers.

When COVID hadn't reached our shores yet I watched the news in awe, like a deer in headlights. When evidence of community transmission in the United States was confirmed I thought to myself, "Oh no... Managing this is culturally incompatible with the United States". As much as many of you dislike me, my commentary, and my "tell it like it is style"... I challenge you to prove me wrong.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
 EAST BROOKFIELD

MOORE
continued from page A15

I also realize fear almost caused me to pull the trigger. It was a wake-up call for me. Relax.

I think in normal times, I'd have sleepily gotten out of bed, walked to the door, looked, smiled, said a friendly word to a curious visitor and climbed back into bed ... but something has changed.

Before we start shooting each other ... Lets' take a breath. Relax. Step away from our fear and understand what's driving our anxiety.

The news is frightening. A bad cop murdered a relatively harmless suspect on television. Statues being torn down, stores looted and burned. Innocent civilians are being killed. It's all real. Television pundits stoking the fires and encouraging lawlessness are also real, while municipalities are voting to defund or disband local law enforcement.

On CNN an ignorant pundit, while encouraging rioters and looters shouted,

"Show me where it says public protest should be peaceful!" Well ... Look no further than the First Amendment.

"... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

I think peaceably is a key word here. I'm mailing Chris Cuomo at CNN a copy of our Constitution, with the First Amendment tagged to make it easy for him to find without having to read too much. I highlighted the word "peaceably" in hopes he might understand.

And it's not just CNN. Fox photo shopped images allegedly depicting "CHAZ/CHOP" to escalate fear. MSNBC is full of fearmongering. There is not much real news on cable, especially after 8 p.m. EST. Only ideological agendas designed to frighten us.

My longtime friend, Tim Duggan's says, "This is all driven by a 24-hour news cycle, that is driven by ratings, which networks found can be driven by fear." He's right. Fear is an effective ratings tool.

There is a drive, which I agree with,

to license police officers. Maybe there should be the same for political pundits and politicians. I get the feeling lately that most have little knowledge of civics or American history. If a pundit, while on the air, is encouraging others to commit crimes, shouldn't he or she be charged with a crime? I think it's largely our political pundits on cable news driving much of the fear and anxiety on both sides.

I'm not talking about prohibiting free speech. I am recognizing that screaming "fire" in a crowded theater where there is no fire is prohibited. Promoting and encouraging others to commit crimes, using your platform on an international cable show is even more dangerous. Why is it not prohibited?

"Common Sense Americans" need to relax and be more discerning about what voices we allow into our heads and hearts. The nation is in turmoil. We have problems that must be addressed but we cannot allow a group of irresponsible talking heads on cable news to drive us over the edge ... and they

are working overtime to do so. They are mixing news of the day with "False Evidence Appearing Real (FEAR)" to drive their political agenda. And make no mistake about it. There is little real news available to us on television. It's all sensationalized to drive an ideology. Do you still wonder why we are afraid?

What can we do to relieve this fear and anxiety?

Let's start with recognizing that an Opossum is just an Opossum. Maybe our fear is misdirected. Is it possible that sensationalized media is the true source of our national fear and not each other?

Shut them out. Turn them off. We are smarter and better than this.

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 @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

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