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Friday, March 29, 2024

Local author publishes first novel

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Fresh off the release of her debut novel, local author Mary Anne Kalonas Slack looks forward to greeting readers and writers next month at Leicester Public Library.

Spencer-based writer and member of the Quaboag Writers' Collaborative, Slack pub-lished her first novel with White River Press in Amherst.

"The Sacrificial Daughter" tells the story of 35-year-old Mary Ellen Kelleher, who lives on Vernon Hill in Worcester with her elderly mother. Mary Ellen is beginning to strain at the confines of her responsibilities to her mother when a friend invites her on a trip to China. The trip winds up awakening Mary Ellen to new possibilities and relationships.

"In the process of claiming her independence, Mary Ellen must navigate her relationship with her mother and come to terms with the responsibilities that come with love and connections within her family," read a statement released by the author.

After a successful book launch event last month at Richard Sugden Slack has been promot-



Library in Spencer, Local author Mary Anne Kalonas Slack recently published her

Parks and Rec Committee addresses CORI compliance issues

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Following last month's confirmation that coaches have been able to work with youth in town without receiving CORI checks, the Parks and Recreation Committee discussed potential policy upgrades meant to close the loophole.

A significant portion of discussion at the commit-Leicester Middle School tee's March 20 meeting centered on which authority has the ultimate responsibility of ensuring state-mandated CORI compliance for all coaches and volunteers working with kids under 18.

Despite the Parks and Recreation Committee serving as the town's booking entity for youth sports activities, handling the scheduling of gym and field usage, members insisted that their board is not responsible for enforcing CORI compliance. They argued that individual sporting organizations are instead responsible for verifying CORI checks among their coaching and volunteer rosters, with no confirmations necessary from the committee.

Specifically, committee members heaped blame on the Leicester Hoops youth basketball organization, which until recently hadn't required its coaches to have CORI checks completed.

'We are paying for the sloppiness of Leicester Hoops," said longtime Parks and Recreation Committee three of the projects were member Bob Pingeton. "They didn't do CORI checks. The minute they had an incident with a coach, they did them."

Per state law, entities are required to obtain all available criminal offender record information (CORI) for any adult working or volunteering with kids under 18.

Officials confirmed during the March 20 meeting that the Parks and Recreation Committee facilitated CORI compliance in the past, although it remains unclear whether these actions were specifically for volunteers with committee-run programs or for independent organizations offering sports in town as well.

"When we ran the Parks and Rec league, we did CORI checks. In 2011, I was a coach—I was CORI checked. We basically filled out the forms and turned them in," said former Parks and Recreation Committee chairman

Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux addressed committee members at the March 20 meeting, offering to provide assistance in crafting policy improvements. Moving forward, the committee may decide to include as part of its booking policy a requirement that all youth sports providers—including both committee-run programs and independent Therapeutic Toy Project. groups—furnish proof of CORI checks for staff members prior to receiving approval from the committee for operation in town.

throughout the area. She is eager to discuss her novel and her path to publication on Tuesday, April 16, from 6-7 p.m. at Leicester Public Library.

"My favorite part of writing the book was seeing the story and characters evolve over

time," Slack told the New Leader. "I am not a fast writer. I started writing this in 2012 and put it aside many times before deciding to publish it."

For writers seeking to publish their own works, Slack's event at Leicester Public Library will help provide helpful insights on the author's experiences and challenges while attempting to get her book into print.

Guests will also learn about the importance of perseverance when writing novels and never giving up on a dream.

"The most frustrating part of the publishing process was trying to find an agent. After querying almost a hundred literary agents over the years and getting only a little feedback, I decided to find a publisher myself. I'm very happy with the outcome," Slack

Copies of Slack's novel are available locally at Brookfield Orchards, Richard Sugden Library, Tidepool Bookshop, Annie's Book Stop in Worcester, and A Great Notion in Auburn. You can also order the book from major online retailers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Additionally, Slack's short stories have been published in MUSED, Adelaide Literary, and in the 2023 Quabbin Quills anthology, Our Wild Winds.

Looking ahead, Slack plans to continue writing short stories and novels to share with hungry readers. She is currently in the process of finishing her second

Settlement reached in Pride event suit

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The lengthy battle between selectmen and the Rural Justice Network has ended with a settlement that allows a Pride event to move forward while paving the way for future events on the Town Common.

Earlier this month, the Rural Justice Network (RJN) and the ACLU of Massachusetts announced a settlement in their lawsuit against the Town of North Brookfield.

As part of the settlement, the North Brookfield Planning Board has approved a permit for the Small Town Pride event scheduled for June 29. Moreover, the town has stripped the Select Board of the power to approve all future events in local parks, officials said.

Also included in the settlement, the town agreed to not interfere with Small Town Pride events in the future. In addition, the town will pay undisclosed damages and attorneys' fees.

We are pleased for the assurance that this settlement affords our clients, as well as compensation for harms caused by the unlawful interference by two Select Board members," said Ruth Bourquin, a senior managing attorney with the ACLU of Massachusetts. "North Brookfield has now taken steps we hope will ensure that groups like the Rural Justice Network can exercise their right to express themselves equally and openly in public spaces. We look forward to celebrating Small Town Pride this year and for many years to

In October 2023, the Rural Justice Network requested permission to host its annual Small Town Pride celebration on the North Brookfield Town Common in

During the Nov. 7 Select Board meeting, Chairman Jason Petraitis initially questioned whether Pride event organizers planned to hold the drag performance in a tent. Upon learning that there were no such plans in place, Petraitis indicated he would not support the RJN's request for approval.

'If you're not going to have that stuff hidden from kids, then I'm not voting for it," Petraitis told organizers at the meeting.

Select Board member Elizabeth Brooke Canada subsequently made a motion to approve the RJN's request for resources for the 2024 event. Petraitis and Selectman John Tripp declined to second the motion, which prevented a vote from taking place.

Turn To **SETTLEMENT** page **A13**

LMS students honored for project benefitting local kids

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Three students were recently honored for their hard work and creativity on a STEM project.

Back in January, the One8 Applied Learning Hub invited middle school and high school Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teachers submit student work to receive feedback from industry professionals.

LMS submitted projects for three different eighth grade groups. All categorized under the Therapeutic Toy Project, which asked students to design, build, and test a toy that would be used in occupational therapy to help a child with cerebral palsy develop one of four muscle areas. These include the pincer grasp, wrist extension, handeye coordination, or using a walker.

Under the leadership and guidance of Mr. Therrien, a STEM teacher at LMS, the project created by Charlotte Mercer, Stella Entwistle, and Kyah McDowell was chosen as the PLTW Gateway Award winner for the

"We are very proud these students Turn To CORI page A13 for being recognized for



Three Leicester Middle School students were recently honored for their creative project ben-

efiting kids. their project over 600 other applicants," read a statement released by LMS Principal Douglas Daponde, Jr. "Student Industry Connects was an easy way for our students to connect their work to the real world and have their hard work validated by professionals."

For their project, Entwistle, Mercer, and McDowell created a toy called "Frog Pond." Their goal was to help kids improve their hand-eye coordination by challenging them to capture toy frogs with various fishing poles.

The students' toy gradually includes increasing difficulty options, based on the types of hooks children select.

"For kids with cerebral palsy, this will help their hand-eye coordination and will test their brain. Since students had the option of designing and 3D printing parts for their project, they created 3D printed frogs with different connections/hooks on their heads," read a statement released by LMS officials.

Because the frogs

come with three types of attachments (loop, partial loop, and magnet), this toy can be used in multiple formats. The full loop is the easiest option for children to catch frogs with their hooks, while the partial loop is slightly more challenging. The magnet offers the most challenging level.

School officials congratulate the students on their hard work toward transforming an ingenious idea into a reality. They look forward to seeing the students continue to excel in STEM programs throughout their careers in Leicester.

Leicester Public Schools to host Evening with the Arts April 10

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — In a celebration of student art and creativity in all

MLS

forms, the community will once again come together for an inspirational program.

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Schools will host the 26th annual Evening with the Arts program on Wednesday, April 10. The event will be held

> from 5:30-8 p.m. at Leicester Middle School, formerly the high school building Paxton St.).

"It's the biggest event of the year, and there are always tons of kids proud of their artwork, plus bands, choruses, and theater groups performing,' said Leicester Middle School teacher Kristina Looney, instructs band, chorus, and general music.

Admission to the event is free. Each year, the program showcases artwork created by students in grades K-12. Several educators are thanked for their efforts in organizing a program that the entire community will

"Leicester art teachers Kristen Pike (K-4), Melissa Parent (5-8),and John Yarrows (9-12) have been hard at work helping students prepare their creations throughout the school year," read a statement released by school officials. "Grades K-8 will have their work on exhibition in the gymnasium, while LHS students in grades 9-12 will have a gallery in the

Dining Commons."

Additionally, dent performers will showcase their talents throughout the evening. These include the elementary school chorus (5:30-5:50 p.m.); the high school chorus (5:50-6:10 p.m.); the middle school concert band (6:20-6:40 p.m.); the high school concert band (6:40-7 p.m.); the Tri-M Music Honor Society (7-7:20 p.m.); the middle school symphonic band (7:20-7:40 p.m.); and the high school drama club (7:40-8 p.m.).

The event is a fun way for parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, and community members to see the projects students have been working hard on throughout the year. The program also provides a great opportunity for younger students to be inspired by viewing the work of middle school and high school students, officials

"Creativity is an essential skill and drives innovation in society. One of the best ways for students to demonstrate creativity is through the arts, and I look forward to seeing our students' work on display every year," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian.

To learn more about the Evening with the Arts lineup of events for each grade level, contact officials at your child's

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Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Lilyann and I

Lily is a creative, energetic, and

caring girl. She likes to sing and

learn TikTok dances. Lily loves

gymnastics. She likes to listen

to music and journal. She has a

great sense of humor with playful

banter. Lily is a leader with a take

charge attitude. She's a great ad-

vocate for herself and others. She

wants to be a teacher in the future.

Lily attends school daily and re-

ceives some additional support

in school. She is a strong student

and does well academically. Lily

takes initiative and thrives with one

want to be a teacher!

New church launches Easter Sunday

SPENCER — Word of Life Church will launch on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 8 a.m. at the American Legion, located at 175 Main St., Spencer, next to the Town Hall right in the center of town.

Pastor Jack Moore moved into Spencer last May of 2023. He has a burden to reach Spencer and the surrounding communities with the truth of the Gospel.

You are invited to join in fellowship with other like-minded believers and the breaking of the bread of God's Word.

Jesus is Called the Word in the Gospel John Chapter one and the Bread of life in Chapter six And in the book of Hebrews Chapter 10 we are exhorted to not forsake the assembling of ourselves

So come, see and hear what God want to do in your life.

Grant funds police cruiser upgrade

WEST BROOKFIELD — Thanks to a major grant award, the police department's fleet of cruisers will see a significant upgrade.

The department was awarded \$40,000 through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program run by the U.S. Department of Justice.

"As part of this grant, we're proud to share that we've received a 2023 Chevy Tahoe to replace our aging 2017 Ford Expedition with 97,000 miles," read a statement released by the police department.

West Brookfield is one of only six Massachusetts communities that received a law enforcement

vehicle from JAG. Additionally, financial assistance provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant pro-

gram will allow the department to upfit its new vehicle. Moreover, at the June Town Meeting, the police department was authorized to acquire a 2023 Chevy

Tahoe to replace a 2016 Ford Explorer with over 176.000 "We traded in our 2016 Ford Explorer to keep the cost of the grant Tahoe at \$40,000," the department's statement

read. "As part of our Cruiser Replacement Plan, we were

originally going to request a vehicle at Town Meeting this year. Thanks to JAG, we have removed that request."

P.E.T. of the Week Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

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Hello, we're Toucan and June Bug. We're pretty shy and mellow, but don't let that fool you. We're sweet as can be once we get to know you. Our past wasn't the best, we came from a home with too many cats and not enough love to go around. But we're not dwelling on that. We're ready for a fresh

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Columbus

hosting spaghetti dinner

WEST BROOKFIELD — Knights of

Columbus Council 11080 is sponsoring

a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, April 13

in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10

Proceeds from this event will ben-

efit Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Parish. Dinner includes pasta fagioli,

garden salad, meatballs & sausage, spa-

ghetti & sauce, garlic bread, dessert,

water, soda, and coffee. Cost is a \$15.00

donation and \$10.00 for children under

12 years old. Take-out is available at 6

p.m., and sit-down dinner is served at

6:30 pm. Admission tickets are also good

for entry for a special door prize! Raffle

tickets for a 50/50 Raffle and more will

be available! Advance ticket purchase

is encouraged and appreciated! Tickets

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or by emailing bobfalter@gmail.com.

or wallyconnor122@gmail.com.Tickets

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Lily would do well with a family of any constellation who would be able to support a gradual, planful transition. Lily says she would love to have two parents and a younger sibling. She loves animals and would love to have a dog. Lily is of Caucasian descent. Lily would do well with experienced parents who can provide a supportive, consistent structure. She would like to maintain contact with her former foster mother. She has contact with two younger siblings, as well as phone contact and occasional visits with her father, who resides out of state.

https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8795 Can I Adopt?

on one attention.

Lilyann

Age 14

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. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

Leicester police get help making road rage arrest

LEICESTER - Officers from multiple area departments recently assisted the Leicester Police Department in making an arrest following a road rage incident.

On March 14 at approximately 4:30 p.m., Leicester police officers were dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street for a series of road rage reports and a subsequent crash into a utility pole.

Moments before receiving the 911 calls about the crash, officers received a with BOLO (be on the lookout) notice from the Charlton Police Department regarding a vehicle just stolen from their town.

"Leicester Police quickly learned that the male operator of the stolen and now-crashed red Ford Escape SUV had run several vehicles off the road before fleeing the scene on foot," read a statement released by the LPD.

Leicester

officers,

assistance Charlton Police, of Spencer Police, and the Massachusetts Police, set up a perimeter and deployed specialty resources. These included LPD K9 Cooney, Charlton K9 Dozer, MSP K9 Orry, MSP K9 Onee, and the Charlton PD's Drone Unit.

During the ensuing 18-minute scent-based track, K9 Cooney (with the assistance of a Spencer officer) located a 22-year-old Worcester

man hiding behind a boulder near the wood

"The suspect was taken into custody without event and later handed over to Charlton Police for processing of offenses committed in their town related to the initial motor vehicle theft," the LPD statement read. "Additional criminal charges will be sought against the suspect by Leicester Police in East Brookfield District

A 1 1 police departinvolved response thanked for their rapid efforts toward ending a dangerous situation.



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Preparations underway for Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival

WEST BROOKFIELD — With the days getting longer and the weather quickly warming, the final preparations are underway for a beloved springtime festival.

The annual Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival will once again draw thousands of guests from throughout the region and the country. Set for Saturday, May 18, the festival will take place on the Town Common from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dozens of vendors, crafters, and growers from across New England will take part in the event. The festival will also include signature soups and other foods; appearances from local organizations and businesses; and special activities for families and children.

The event will take place rain or shine.

Transfer Station stickers on sale starting April 15

SPENCER — Transfer Station stickers will be on sale at the Spencer Water Department beginning April 15 during regular business hours, Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sticker fee is \$65. Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$25.

Renewals can be paid online at www.spencerma.gov or by mailing your completed form with check/ money order.

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope to:

Department of Utilities & Facilities Attention: Stickers

3 Old Meadow Rd.

Spencer, MA 01562

Questions? Call 508-885-7515.

West Brookfield Cultural Council announces upcoming events

WEST BROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Cultural Council is excited to host a lineup of grant funded events in the coming weeks.

Tuesday, April 2, 6 p.m.: Poetry and Music — Poets Heather MacPherson and Jonathan Blake/Music by Jerry Wilfong and Dick Hummel [Merriam-Gilbert Public Library]

Tuesday, April 16, 6 p.m.: Poetry and Music ~ Poets Karen Sharpe and John Hodgen/Music by Jerry Wilfong, Rich Ardizzonne and Rich Falco [Merriam-Gilbert Public Library]

Tuesday, April 30, 6 p.m.: Poetry and Music ~ Poets Geoff Wilkinson and Andre Juarez/ Music by Jerry Wilfong and Jim Capone [Merriam-Gilbert Public Library]

Sunday, April 28, 1 p.m.: Our Shared History: History of Mother's Day [Quaboag Historical Museum]

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Preference will be shown to applicants proficient in Vadar, GIS, Patriot and Microsoft Office.

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Hours are Monday - Thursday (36 hrs.) Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation \$59,563.87. Please submit a resume and cover letter to Pking@brookfieldma.us.

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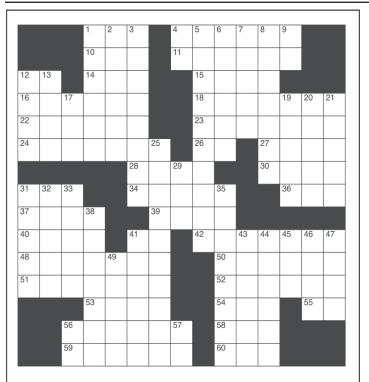
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.) 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A famous one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Spoils
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Products you may need
- 30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- 31. TV network

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Salary 4. Influential world body
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee 17. Value
- 19. A fake name
- 20. Sheep in their second year 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate for a
- particular time of year 29. Creative works

- 31. Recesses 32. W. Pacific island group

59. Moved one's neck to see

34. Silk or cotton garments

36. Soviet Socialist Republics

37. Retired American football

coach Dean

40. A type of gin

48. About ground

50. Medicine man

51. Seedless raisin

53. Appendage

54. OJ trial judge

56. Bicycle parts

60. Commercials

58. Barbie's friend

52. Capital of Albania

55. By the way (abbr.)

41. Atomic #84

42. Sawhorse

39. Hot dish

- 33. Tolkien character
- 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- 38. Pioneer
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Lowest members of British nobility
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Type of sugar
- 47. Crest of a hill 49. N. American people of British
- Columbia 56. Device
- 57. The Mount Rushmore State

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Girl Scouts to hold plant sale

LEICESTER — Spring is here, and what better way to welcome it in than plants for your garden or

The Central-Western Girl Scout Adult Alumnae Troop 2016 will be holding a plant sale on Saturday, April 27 at the Leicester Senior Center, 40 Winslow Ave., from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

There will be a variety of indoor and outdoor plants to choose from annuals and perennials. All proceeds will benefit the Girl Scout Gold Award program.

Superintendent: Highway

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at brookfieldma.us.

letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer

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EAST BROOKFIELD

LEICESTER \$450,000, 266 Auburn St, Green Machine Rt, and Dufresne, David

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\$150,000, 308 Pleasant St, Yursha, Leonard J, to Allen, James R. \$150,000, 310 Pleasant St, Yursha,

Leonard J, to Allen, James R. \$150,000, 312 Pleasant St, Yursha, Leonard J, to Allen, James R.

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Acheampong, Prince O, and Essuman, Bridget M, to Zisk, \$235,000, 96 Mechanic St, Nairn,

Michael R, to Mohdi-Alaoui,

\$37,500, Castle Ln, Kimenker Evelyn Est, and Jacobs, Kenneth, to Moose Pond Rt. and Meltzer. Lynn E.

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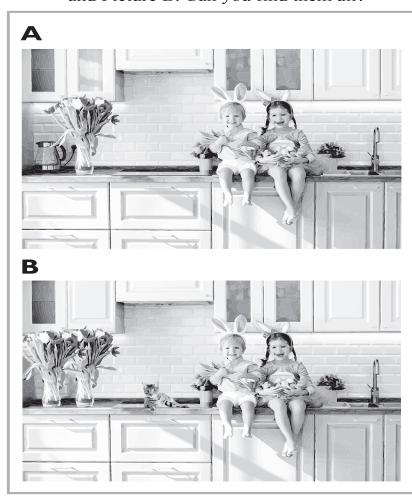


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YNSMEK: SPRING

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There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



3. Cat on counter 4. Lest cabinet is wood Answers: I. Missing tea kettle 2. Extra vase



- 1806: CONSTRUCTION IS AUTHORIZED ON THE GREAT NATIONAL PIKE, BECOMING THE UNITED STATES' FIRST FEDERAL HIGHWAY.
- **1927**: SUNBEAM 1000HP BREAKS THE LAND SPEED RECORD AT DAYTONA BEACH.
- 1973: THE LAST UNITED STATES COMBAT SOLDI-ERS LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM.



EQUINOX

a date when day and night are almost of equal length



GLISH: Bud

SPANISH: Capullo

IAN: Bocciolo

FRENCH: Bourgeon

GERMAN: Knospe



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YNSMEK: YSLYKYGNS



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Brendan Berube

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The origins of the Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny will be getting a workout this season, as the newly fallen deep snow in some parts of New England may make for some difficult travel. But alas, with baskets filled with colorful eggs and chocolates, this beloved character has been a part of Easter celebrations worldwide. Where does this tradition stem from?

The legend of the Easter Bunny traces its roots back centuries, intertwining folklore, mythology, and religious symbolism. While its precise origins are a bit of a mystery, various theories and cultural influences have contributed to the emergence of this cherished icon.

One prevailing theory suggests that the Easter Bunny's lineage can be traced back to ancient pagan rituals celebrating spring and fertility. In pre-Christian Europe, the hare was revered as a symbol of fertility and new life, representing the arrival of spring after the barrenness of winter. As Christianity spread across the continent, pagan customs melded with Christian traditions, giving rise to a hybridized celebration that incorporated elements of both.

Another theory proposes that the Easter Bunny found its way into Christian festivities through German immigrants who settled in America during the 18th century. In German folklore, the "Osterhase" or Easter Hare, was believed to lay colorful eggs as gifts for children who had been good. This tradition evolved over time, with the hare eventually morphing into the familiar bunny we know today, and eggs becoming synonymous with Easter.

Furthermore, the association of rabbits with Easter can also be attributed to their prolific breeding habits, symbolizing fertility, abundance, and the cycle of life. This symbolism aligns seamlessly with the Easter narrative of rebirth and resurrection, making the bunny a fitting emblem for the holiday.

Whether nestled in the pages of children's books, adorning decorations, or delighting young hearts during egg hunts, the Easter Bunny continues to evoke a sense of wonder and joy.

Letter submission

policyLetters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

Opinion and commentary from Spencer, Leicester and the Brookfields

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump, and his following, are a national embarrassment

To the Editor:

After reading three letters in [last week's] paper in support of Donald Trump, I feel compelled to write.

My top priority in any election is voting for an ethical person who treats other people with decency, fairness, and respect. It has been abundantly clear for years that Donald Trump is no such person. Nor are the members of Congress who do not have the courage to stand up to him. This man routinely projects his own faults onto other people, especially people who

oppose him. He has ruined many lives because of his unethical dealings and habits. He is a danger to himself, our country, and the world. There is no way I want him to represent our country as President. At the very least, he is a terrible embarrassment, and the fact that he has accrued any following at all also embarrasses the United States in the eyes of the world.

CAROL MAYS WEST BROOKFIELD

What would you do?

To the Editor:

There is a television show hosted by John Quinones where they enact outrageous behavior in the presence of average citizens to film how and if they will react. While watching, I ask myself what I might have done.

I sometimes wonder had I grown up German, how might I have reacted to Hitler? Being a 13th generation New England WASP, would I have gone along or worked covertly to save minorities?

Fortunately, I have not had to address that particular scenario, but I do live in a time where saying and doing nothing, simply do not work for me, so I will continue to offer facts in the face of massive amounts of disinformation. After having read the published letters this week, I will have plenty of it to address.

Before I start, I have a neighbor flying a sign that says Trump will save America again. If anyone has a memory, four years ago, most schools and businesses were closed, the stock market was less than half current level, we were storing bodies in refrigerated trailers. Trump had backed out of the hard won Iran nuclear freeze and the Paris climate accords, Was trying to dump NATO and help Putin invade Ukraine The day the tanks rolled in, he called Putin a genius and had Russian flags with his name on them at CPAC If you fly a Trump sign, flag or banner, make sure it is a Russian and not a Ukrainian flag with it.

Let's think about the peace that Trump says he will bring to Ukraine. He made his plan clear to Bolsinero, dictator of Hungary, who he reveres, envies and wants us to become. No additional aid would go to Ukraine, and he will back away from NATO ASAP. Putin has already squashed Chechnya, and Georgia. He signed an agreement with the west, that in return for Ukraine giving up its nukes, we would all agree to never change its borders as a sovereign nation. That worked fine until a democratic election removed his puppet, who fled to Moscow. In the past, we have supported and been awed by the will of Ukraine to be free. They have endured brutal war crimes on their citizens, but remain resolute in yearning to be free. If we are not supporting that, after taking so many losses in Korea and Vietnam, I don't even know who we are anymore.

That said, Israel is raining the same barbaric cleansing on Palestine. Hit back is [brutal], and we sort of proved that when after 9/11, we went to Iraq and Afghanistan and killed 200,000 men women and children. we cannot take the high ground after Israel being attacked on Oct. 7. At least some of their attackers were Palestinian. Ours were mostly Saudi, and none were Iraqi.

Brother Blais has indicated that it is Dems who threaten voting rights. He needs better sources', It is GOP gerrymandering, purging voters and restricting voting access. Considering who Trump most respects, I expect he would more likely extend his one day dictatorship, indefinitely.

This is a guy who calls our Veterans suckers and losers, but thinks he should be commander in chief.

I am not a particular fan of the multiple Whitehouse advisors Bolton, Kelly Maddis and his former VP, but the fact that some of them say he is a moron and should never be allowed in the Whitehouse again explains a lot. He was never willing to sit through his scheduled hour of daily briefings (leaving this to staff), but could do 15 minutes if there were pictures and charts. Bolton says he has not enough comprehension ability to be president pretty obvious to me. This is the same goober who wonders why we have not nuked cartels in Mexico or hurricanes and advocated consumption of disinfectant.

So, who is Trump, really? If you think him Christian or religious in any form, you are wrong. Considering the displayed multiple perverted acts, several of which he has or is paying for, If you were taken in by his wealth came at \$8 billion with \$400 million cash on hand, are you sending him or the GOP money (with Lara at GOP, he will get the money anyhow, not your candidate), I was surprised anyone was willing to do an unsecured loan to him (might not). He stiffed and put out of business, many contractors in Atlantic City, banks funding Trump Airlines, Vodka, etc.

If he actually does have \$400 million cash reserve, it may well be encumbered as well as his property maybe so everaged that selling is only option. Has it occurred to anyone that you would be bonding a judgement already assessed and guaranteeing payment might be a very bad call?

Then, there is the elephant in the room. If he actually comes up with the money, where from and why? Who will he owe, and do we want a compromised president?

Like Bernie, who honeymooned in China, I have been there, Vietnam, Cuba, Hungary Egypt, Israel and 30 or 40 other countries, which just makes me more knowledgeable, not commu-

Joe Biden is old, but his special prosecutor says he has a photographic memory and is sharp as a tack. Donald Trump is none of those, does not recall anything lies and fumbles with facts, and really is too dumb to be president, as more of a mob boss in word and deed. He is now banned from doing business in the state of New York, refuses to answer for any of the felonies for which he is charged and guilty. His handling and blabbing about classified documents, means any security cooperation with allies will be over. This guy actually conspired to overturn our government, and the facts are on record. 'Traitor' is more appropriate than 'deplorable' to describe his supporters.

Ken Kimball Brookfield

Time for financial spring cleaning? FINANCIAL



Focus

TREVOR NIELSEN

Spring is almost here, which means it's time for some spring cleaning. This year, in addition to tidying your home and surroundings, you might want to consider sprucing up your financial environment, as well.

Here are some suggestions for doing

Improve your vision. Once the days are warmer and longer, you may want to get outside and clean all the winter grime and smudges from your windows, allowing you to see the world more clearly. And you may want to bring more focus to your financial vision by asking some key questions: Is my investment strategy still appropriate for my needs, goals, and family situation? If not, what changes should I make? And am I prepared for changes in my life, such as health challenges or a need to retire earlier than planned? The answers to these and other questions can help you clarify where you are, in terms of your financial picture, and where you want to go.

De-clutter. As you look around your home, you may find things such as expired health care products, old prescriptions, ancient cleaning solutions, and so on, in addition to duplicate household items (how many blenders do you really need?) and non-working equipment — printers, laptops, etc. Most people find that eliminating this clutter gives them a good feeling - and more livable space. As an investor, you can also find clutter in the form of redundant investments — for example, you might own several nearly identical mutual lungs. You might be better oil selling some of these funds and using the proceeds to find new investments that can help you further diversify your portfolio. As you may know, diversification is a key to investment success, but keep in mind that it can't prevent all losses.

Plant seeds of opportunity. Whether they're planting camellias and crocuses or carrots and cilantro, gardeners are busy in the spring, hoping their efforts result in lovely flowers and tasty foods. And when you invest, you, too, need to plant seeds of opportunity in the form of investments that you hope will grow enough to enable you to make progress toward your goals. So, you may want to review your portfolio to ensure it's providing this growth potential, given your individual risk tolerance.

Reduce dangers. You may not think about it that much, but your home and surroundings can contain potential hazards. You might have ill-fitting caps on cleaning products with toxic chemicals, or sharp cutting instruments protruding from shelves in your garage, or heavy, cracked tree branches hovering close to your roof. Spending some time on a spring-cleaning sweep can get rid of these dangers — and devoting time to consider the possible threats to your financial security, and those of your family, can pay off, too. For starters, review your life insurance to determine if you've got enough. Your employer may offer some coverage as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient, so you may need private coverage. And lems including erosion, habitat and the same is true for disability insurance, because if something were to happen to you, and you couldn't work for a while, you'd still want to protect your family's lifestyle.

> Spring is a great time for brightening your physical space — and your financial one, too.

This article was written by Edward and with the commercial providers to Jones for use by your local Edward improve their installation and opera- Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact tion, not whether or not they should be Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

Solar panels – Not either/or, but how

To the Editor:

First, a story. When a child in the early 1950's, my father would take me to a farmer who lived across the lake from our simple camp to buy a two square foot or so block of ice to keep our ice box cold, The farmer, in the winter, would "harvest" the block by sawing it out of the winter frozen lake and store it under sawdust in his barn.

Fast forward 30 years or so to the 1980s, and our three young children and friends would skate and play on that same ice bound lake for weeks upon weeks in the winter.

Fast forward another 40 years ago to this winter. And because the ice was so thin that I didn't see a single skater.

The reason for this "lost Ice" is "Global Warming" caused by too much fossil fuel

Last summer, it also the temperature of the ocean along the Florida Gulf Coast to rise to over 90 degrees and the death of over 400 people do to extreme heat related causes in Phoenix Arizona.

And the same reason that, globally, last year ranked as the hottest on record; however, will likely be "cooler" than this year, or next.

This Global Warming has been caused by far too much use of fossil fuels.

My children's children and yours will likely never skate much on our lakes on enjoy the environment that I have. But we have a chance to prevent them from the worst effects of global warming.

For the last couple of weeks, the New Leader has featured some interesting articles and letters on solar panel farms, planned and existing, in Spencer.

These articles have almost entirely

focused negative actual and potential aspects solar farms, particularly that they don't look nice and possible probwildlife danger, disposal etc.

I agree that in some of them, they don't look nice.

However, most possible physical damage can be prevented by good regulation,

ongoing inspection, and, where necessary, fines etc. These seem to me reasonable "costs" for rural New Leader towns to contribute reduce global warming So the question for me is "how"

working with town and other officials allowed.

KEVIN KANE SPENCER

Gardening Tips and Tricks

Spring has sprung and gardening season is around the corner! As all home growers know, it takes careful planning and many hours of labor to produce a bountiful garden. While nearly every successful gardener has their own special tricks to ensure a productive crop, the novice planter may need a helping hand to nudge green sprouts from uncooperative soil. If that's the case, the following tips culled from various "green thumbed" sources, including previously published tips from readers, may just be all you need to make this the most successful gardening season yet.

The addition of peat moss is necessary to keep window boxes and other container gardens properly watered. But, if you are not wetting down the peat moss before adding it to the soil, you may be doing your garden more harm than good. Peat moss must be moistened before it is used in potting mixes. When dry, the substance actually repels water!

Here's how to pretreat it: If you want to wet a full bag of peat moss, poke several holes in the bottom of the bag and open the top. Then pour water slowly into the top of the bag until it seeps out of the bottom holes. Push on the bag and knead it to ensure the peat is getting saturated. To test, scoop out a handful of peat moss and squeeze it. If you can squeeze water out, it is ready to use. If not, keep wetting until you can.

Here's an easy test to gauge if your garden soil is ready to plant. Simply scoop up a handful of dirt and squeeze it into

Positively

SPEAKING

TOBY

our home with the sound of

poses

racehorse, would you let him

stay up half the night drink-

ing coffee and booze, smok-

ing cigarettes, and eating

junk food?" Of course, you

wouldn't! He then extends the analogy, asking, "Would you

treat a \$10 dog or a \$5 cat that

way? What about a billion-dol-

The point he's trying to

make is clear. You are that

billion-dollar body. You may

not feel like a Billion Dollars

but nobody is going to bring

you the life you want except

yourself. It's true that you're

are the best investment your

money can buy. You must

invest in yourself to get far

his motivational speech-

es. One story that

always stuck with me

was the story about

a million dollar race-

thought-provoking question: "If you did

have a million-dollar

Ziglar

lar body?"

a ball. If ball the crumbles when you release vour fingers, the soil is all set for dig-



Take THE HINT **KAREN TRAINOR**

ging. Τf the ball sticks together, the soil is still

to wet to work.

Flower bulbs are now plentiful at large garden centers. But, bulbs sold at such places are a bargain only if you know how to avoid poor quality bulbs. Here are some tips:

* Bulbs should feel solid and heavy. If they are light, they may be dried out. * Avoid bulbs with discolored, dark or

moldy spots. Make sure there are no holes or other signs of insect damage on bulbs.

* Pick over bulbs that have sprouted; it is better if they grow roots first.

Color Tip: Garden designers recommend most flower gardens have a splash of red. The bright color acts as a stunning accent when planted in a clump among white flowers and thick greenery!

Farmer's Planting Timetables Our forefathers took great pains to plant crops at the precise time of year to promote a bountiful crop. With this in mind, below is this column's annual reminder of some interesting "old farmer's tales" that indicate when it is time to plant garden vegetables:

Lilac's Bloom: When the lilacs have their first leaves it is time to plant cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, and onions. When the lilac flowers are in full bloom, it s safe to plant tender crops such as tomatoes and corn.

Native American's Rule: The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today. Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long).

Moon Signs: Many natural gardeners plant successfully by the phases of the moon. Here's how: Between the new moon and the first quarter: sow or transplant leafy plants and those that bear seeds on the outside of the fruit, such as strawberries.

Between the first quarter and the full moon: plant crops whose seeds develop inside the fruit, such as tomatoes, peas, beans and squash.

From the full moon to the last quarter: plant root vegetables.

Never plant from the last quarter to the new moon.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick

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

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

Trout season produces impressive fish



Don Cook with a nice brown trout caught last weekend at Lousia Lake.

Trout fishing is producing some impressive fish in Mass. waters, with some impressive rainbow trout being caught at various ponds and lakes in the valley. Mass. has pretty much stocked all ponds and lakes in the valley at least once, and trout will continue to be stocked up to Memorial Day weekend. Because of the high water from recent heavy rain, streams and rivers may not be stocked until waters recede. Many anglers are smoking the trout that they catch.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will open their pond for the April trout fishing derby on April 13, for members only. The pond will receive another huge trout stocking prior to the derby. The derby will start at 7 a.m., and will end at 10 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded for the largest trout.

Trout fishing anglers need to be reminded again that Wallum Lake in Douglas is closed to all fishing until April 13, as the lake is controlled by Rhode Island regulations. When Wallum Lake opens, the trout limits are six fish per day. To check on all regulations, go to the Web site at Rhode Island freshwaterfishing.com. Most local Rod & Gun Clubs in the val-

had their



THE GREAT **OUTDOORS RALPH** TRUE

annual wild g a m e dinners, with tickets selling out in one

Whitinsville Fish & Game club will be holding their pistol & clay shoots every Wed at 6 p.m., and they are open to the public. Check out their newly renovated

This past week, I was driving down the road on Route 16 near my house when a large rabbit was spotted crossing the road, and it was very large, but what made him stand out was the huge ears he was sporting. It was the size of a large snowshoe hare, but it definitely was not a hare. I had one in my backyard last year. Now, there are a lot of rabbits throughout the valley area, but these do not have all the features of the standard New England cottontail rabbits we are used to seeing.

The Eastern cottontail rabbits are also located in New England, and have many of the same features of a New England cottontail. Whatever they are, they raised havoc with my vegetable garden and with my flower bed last year, prompting me to fence off the garden this year. Bear are coming out of hibernation,

and sightings are being reported by homeowners throughout the valley that have bird feeders out. They are the number one food source they enjoy eating.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Treat yourself like a million-dollar racehorse Growing up, my dad was a returns on investment can be life-changing. huge fan of Zig Ziglar, filling

Consider your personal development as a portfolio.

Diversification is key to any sound investment strategy. Similarly, investing in oneself encompasses various aspects: physical health, mental well-being, emotional strength, and intellectual growth.

It requires consistent effort. Whether it's committing to a regular workout routine at the gym, attending night classes to further our education, or seeking therapy to address underlying issues, each action signifies an investment in our well-being and future success.

Through the years, I eventually started to think of myself as an investment in my future, and I thought a lot about bad habits. Just like investors review and adjust their portfolios to optimize performance, we must periodically assess our habits, routines, and choices.

in life, but it takes work. While we may know on an Investing in yourself takes intellectual level that we need time, patience, and sacrifice. to take care of ourselves to accomplish our dreams and This investment concept extends beyond the racetrack be healthy, it's not easy, and bad habits are hard to kick. to the broader market of our personal development, where Very few of us can kick a bad the stakes are high, and the habit Cold Turkey.

Bad habits, in this analogy, are like underperforming assets. They drag down our overall portfolio's value—our life's potential and well-being. Just as an investor wouldn't hold onto a stock plummeting in value without good reason, we shouldn't cling to habits that don't serve our ultimate goals of health, happiness, and success.

Yet, the process of divesting from these habits isn't akin to simply clicking a "sell" button. It's a gradual, sometimes challenging process of trial, error, and perseverance.

I've been paying close attention to Bitcoin since 2016, and I'm always amazed at its volatility. Yet, amidst the ups and downs, it keeps trending

Watching Bitcoin's ascent has taught me that volatility is part of the journey. There will be days when our resolve weakens, and old habits resurface like a market correction testing investors' nerves.

However, it's not the daily fluctuations that define our success but the overall trend. If you're gradually becoming more mindful of your health, more resilient in facing stress, and more dedicated to your personal growth—even amidst occasional setbacksyou're on an upward trajec-

Remember, the most significant investments don't yield returns overnight. They require time, belief in their value, and the patience to ride out the volatility. Your investment in yourself is no different. Each step toward breaking a bad habit, no matter how small, is a deposit into your billion-dollar body's account, accruing compound interest in the form of a healthier, more fulfilled life.

As you continue on this journey, don't beat yourself up if you have the occasional backslide, stop counting calories for a couple of days, get too busy to make it to the gym, or aren't able to stay on track the way that you thought you should. Volatility is part of the game; just keep focused on making those baby steps and keep trending upward!

Keep the image of the million-dollar racehorse in mind, and remember, that racehorse is you! Would you bet against a horse of such value by neglecting its care? Unlikely. Then why bet against yourself? By viewing each choice and habit through the lens of investment, you position yourself to succeed and thrive.

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Evoke positive emotions by adding Pantone Color of the Year to your garden



Ball Horticultural Company — Courtesy Heat and drought-tolerant Celosia Celway™ Salmon has spiky blooms atop 40- to 48-inch

Add a warm, cozy feel to this year's gardens with the 2024 Pantone Color of the Year, Peach Fuzz. It was selected for generating a feeling of kindness and ten-

derness and encouraging sharing, community, and collaboration. Consider including this color in your garden to convey these emotions or as a good excuse to add more plants to your landscape.

This is the 25th year Pantone Color Institute has selected a color that reflects the

spirit of the times. These are colors you are likely to see in home furnishings, advertisements, and even our landscapes. Peach Fuzz lies somewhere between

pink and salmon. Many garden plants have flowers that fit into this color spectrum and can be used in containers and garden beds.

Dianthus VivaciaÔ Orange is hardy to zone 7a, but can be used as an annual in colder areas. The large double flowers top 10- to 16-inch-tall plants and are showy during the cooler months of the growing season. They combine nicely with other flowers and their sturdy stems make them suitable for cutting.

SuperTrouperÔ Orange Dianthus has similar colored flowers that are about 20% smaller. It is hardy in zones 5 to 9 and has a spicy fragrance.

Celosia CelwayTM Salmon has the same GARDEN heat and drought tolerance as other celosias. **MOMENTS** The spiky blooms are held atop 40- to 48-inch stems, making them **MELINDA** great additions to the **MYERS** middle or back of the border.

If you love salvias, you can find a variety of peachy-colored blossoms. These plants tend to be deer-resistant and humming-

bird magnets. Just check the plant tag for more specific information on the mature size and hardiness. Luxury Lace daylily has subtly fra-

grant star-shaped flowers. Hardy in zones four to eight it has the same low maintenance requirements as other daylilies. Just water thoroughly when needed. Geum 'Mai Tai' has vermillion red

flowers that fade to a peachy pink early in the season. The 18-inch-tall burgundy stems are a nice contrast to the flowers. Grow it in full sun with moist soil in zones five to seven.

Last but certainly not least is threadleaf coreopsis 'Crème Caramel' (Coreopsis verticillata 'Crème Caramel'). Hardy in zones five to nine, it slowly spreads making it a nice addition to a sunny slope or traditional border. The fine foliage blends nicely with other flowers, adding welcome texture to any planting. Watch the peachy-pink flowers deepen to salmon when temperatures cool.

Use the artist's color wheel to find colors that pair well with these and other peach-fuzz-colored flowers and foliage. Then look for opportunities to add interesting texture for some additional pizzazz. You and your visitors will enjoy the cozy warm feeling when walking through your landscape.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Mvers' Web site is www.MelindaMvers.



Solve the code to discover words related to agriculture. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = E)

11 22 19 20 8 18 11 24 17

Clue: Machinery

15 5 16 18 В.

Clue: Where some food is grown

10 20 1 11 13 17

Clue: Farm animals

9 5 16 1 11 13 D.

Clue: Gathering in crops

SUDOKU



Numbers Like puzzles?

Fun By The

Answers: A. equipment B. farm

D. harvest

Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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OBITUARIES

Nancy Jane Johnson,80

SPENCER- Nancy Jane Johnson,80, formerly of 16 Irving St., died Saturday, March 23rd in Quaboag Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center, W.Brookfield.

She leaves her brother; Paul Johnson of Spencer, sister in laws; Pamela Johnson of Millbury and Winifred Johnson of Spencer, nieces, nephews and cousins. She is predeceased by her brothers; Edwin and Richard Johnson

She was born in Worcester, the daughter of Charles E. and Florence (Veroneau)

Johnson and later attended Leicester High School.

Nancy was a longtime bus monitor for AA Transportation & County Cab in Spencer. She also once worked at Allegro (formerly Sprague Electric in Worcester) before retiring.

Leicester Police Log THURSDAY, MARCH 14

12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 2:16 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:02 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), no action required; 10:10 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 11:19 a.m.: ambulance (Moose Hill Road), transported; 11:42 a.m.: investigation (Fobes Street, Worcester), report taken; 12:54 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Soojians Drive), Shawn W. Ferris, 15 River Street, Leicester, default warrant. straight warrant, arrest; 2:10 p.m.: ambulance (Upton Street), transported; 2:31 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:26 p.m.: disturbance (Pine Street), name and address redacted from police log, negligent operation, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, speeding, criminal application issued; 5:26 p.m.: harassment (Woodland Road), spoken to; 5:57 p.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), assisted; 6:06 p.m.: assist other agency (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 7:07 p.m.: unknown alarm (Paxton Street), resolved; 7:19 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 7:58 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 8:28 p.m.: property found (Washburn Square), resolved; 10:46 p.m.: disturbance (South Main Street), resolved.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

12:19 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:15 a.m.: my stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, mv doesn't meet RMV safety standards, lights violation, speeding, criminal application issued; 5:24 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 10:07 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), spoken to; 10:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Mannville Street), referred; 1:14 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 3:02 p.m.: ambulance (Granite Street, Worcester), transported; 3:08 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 4:50 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), unlicensed operation, failure to stop for police, littering from mv, speeding, criminal application issued; 5:07 p.m.: animal complaint (Deer Pond Road), referred; 5:43 p.m.: parking complaint (Flint Way), gone on arrival; 6:16 p.m.: ambulance (West Street), transported; 8:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:21 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 11:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 12:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:53 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 3:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:13 am.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 8:54 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 8:56 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 9:53 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:39 a.m.: assist citizen (Parker Street); 11:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:17 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw

Street), transported; 12:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:01 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:07 p.m.: assist citizen (Towtaid Street), referred; 1:10 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:55 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 2:31 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 2:32 p.m.: erratic operator (Deer Pond Road), unfounded; 3:08 p.m.: fraud (Memorial School Drive), report taken; 3:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:54 p.m.: ambulance (Maighan's Way), transported; 5:58 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:06 p.m.: welfare check (Hemlock Street), peace restored; 10:15 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

12:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Omar Ricardo Londono, 54, 199 Paxton Road, Spencer, OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, negligent operation, arrest; 6:10 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 9:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/ suspended registration, op w/suspended license, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 10:15 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), written warning; 10:33 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation; name and address redacted from police log, op w/ unlicensed/suspended permit, criminal applications issued/2; 12:32 p.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 1:00 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:34 p.m.: animal complaint (King Street Extension), referred; 5:10 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), unfounded; 6:50 p.m.: ambulance (Market Street), transported; 7:03 p.m.: accident (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, criminal application issued; 8:01 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 8:07 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), services rendered; 9:35 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:00 p.m. larceny (Main Street), report taken; 10:37 p.m.: ambulance (Parker Street),

transported. MONDAY, MARCH 18

12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:30 a.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 8:26 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 9:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:55 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:28 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 10:40 a.m.: name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 11:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv,

The family would like to thank the caring and compassionate staff at Quaboag who constantly made Nancy laugh.

At her request no funeral services are planned at this time. The J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to:

MA. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, ATTN; Donations, 350 S.Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

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criminal application issued; 2:46 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:52 p.m.: animal complaint (King Street), referred; 3:53 p.m.: fraud (Flint Way), report taken; 4:05 p.m.: accident (James Street, Worcester), resolved; 4:24 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Craig Street), assisted; 4:34 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:38 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 5:18 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 5:25 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:16 p.m.: ambulance (out of town/no location noted on police log), transported; 6:17 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:54 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), advised civil action; 8:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:55 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 10:23 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), referred; 10:26 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 2:14 a.m.: welfare check (Flint Way), report taken; 7:38 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:43 a.m.: mv stop (Winslow Avenue), citation issued; 7:51 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, speeding; 8:58 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:08 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 9:11 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:17 a.m.; ambulance (Roberta Bay, Spencer), transported; 10:49 a.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 11:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:08 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), transported to hospital; 5:13 p.m.: harassment (Main Street), report taken; 5:25 p.m.: harassment (Warren Street), report taken; 6:06 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Mannville Street), report taken; 6:12 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), report taken; 10:20 p.m.: assist other agency (Hemlock Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 1:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:44 a.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 8:39 a.m.: commercial alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), call canceled; 12:02 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 12:13 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), services rendered; 1:02 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:36 p.m.: restraining order service (Pond Court), unable to serve; 1:52 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:03 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 2:16 p.m.: welfare check (Mannville Street), resolved; 3:51 p.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street); 4:03 p.m.: welfare check Virginia Drive), services rendered; 4:10 p.m.: ambulance (Lovell Street, Worcester), transported; 5:01 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 9:56 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm.

Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

12:56-2:22 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:49 a.m.: parking violation (Valley Street), ticket issued; 4:19 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:23 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:53 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 10:40 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Smithville Road), Douglas J. Witt, 69, 100 Wire Village Road, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 10:53 a.m.: fire alarm (Church Street), referred; 12:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Bay Path Road), rep. neglected dogs; 12:22 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 1:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), loose dog; 1:51 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), rep. of incident; 2:47 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 3:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), tenant/landlord issue; 3:49 p.m.: medical/general (Rene Drive); 3:50 p.m.: suspicious persons (South Spencer Road), investigated; 5:17 p.m.: mv complaint (Northwest Road), m/cs doing wheelies; 5:55 p.m.: medical/ general (Howe Village); 6:51 p.m.: residential fire (Greenville Street), referred; 6:51 p.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), noise complaint; 9:12 p.m.: suspicious persons (Pleasant Street), investigated; 10:02 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (total daily mv stops – 0).

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

12:48-1:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:52/1:09 a.m.: intelligence/ parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 6:37 a.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), assisted; 7:08 a.m.: animal complaint (Water Street), dead raccoon; 8:55 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 10:38 a.m.: medical/general (Valley View Drive); 11:06 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), re: dead animal; 11:29 a.m.: mv complaint (North Brookfield Road), erratic operator; 1:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), spoken to; 1:28 p.m.: juvenile arrest (Ash Street), re: incident at school; 1:50 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo;

2:21 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:51 p.m.: restraining order service (Oakland Drive); 3:12 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:28 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 3:46 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 4:18 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street); origin of request not noted on police log/re: stolen mv; 4:26 p.m.: fire alarm (Meadow Road), referred; 4:42 p.m.: juvenile matter (Greenville Street), req. residence check; 6:20 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 6:36 p.m.: illegal dumping (North Spencer Road), lg. trunk dumped; 6:48 p.m.: RV complaint (Maple Street), re: dirt bike/no plates; 7:42 p.m.: 911 call (Pioneer Valley Drive), open line; 8:00 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), open line; 8:21 p.m.: suspicious persons (High Street), spoken to; 9:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 9:04 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), resolved; 10:07 p.m.: animal complaint (Bell Street), loose dog; (total daily

mv stops - 0). FRIDAY, MARCH 15 12:02-2:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:50 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 1:52 a.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 2:19 a.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 4:04 a.m.: drug/narcotics offenses (Church Street), Matthew R. Cross, 48, 1572 Wachusett Street, Holden, trafficking cocaine/36 g or more, trafficking heroin/morphine/opium 36 g or more, possession Class A drug w/intent to distribute, arrest; James E. Woodbury, 47, 37 Church Street, Spencer, trafficking heroine/morphine/opium 36 g or more, trafficking cocaine 18 g or more, possession Class A drug w/intent to distribute, arrest; 4:55 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 6:56 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Debbie Drive), no contact; 7:40 a.m.: DPW call (Bisby Road), water leak; 7:52 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:04 a.m.: medical/general (High Street), lift assist; 9:34 a.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 9:49 a.m.: medical/general (Sampson Street); 10:01 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mv tailgating/passing; 10:03 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:47 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 12:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), req. officer tour apt.; 12:10 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 12:14 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), services rendered; 12:22 p.m.: larceny (Spring Street), report taken; 12:29 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:40 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 1:57 p.m.: property check req. (Main Street), rep. damage to food pantry; 2:06 p.m.: mv disabled (Ash Street), assisted; 2:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Oak Lane), ex abandoned my; 2:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), assisted; 3:20 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), rep. neighbor stealing electricity; 4:43 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 6:50 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 6:57 p.m.: harassing phone calls (Cherry Street), rep. threats from ex; 7:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Thompson Pond Road), loose dog; 9:19 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), noise complaint; 9:34 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; 9:47 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), fight; 10:46 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 5).

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 12:21-2:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:58 a.m.: RV complaint (Main Street), re: dirt bike; 2:26 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 2:37 a.m.: accident (North Brookfield Road), report taken; 6:49 a.m.: medical/ general (Main Street); 7:56 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:29 a.m.: DPW call (McCormick Road), tree on wires; 10:26 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 12:42 p.m.: vandalism (South Spencer Road), juveniles kicked in door; 1:41 p.m.: shoplifting (West Main Street), report taken; 2:26 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line/hang-up; 2:41 p.m.: mv complaint (North Brookfield Road), erratic operator; 6:19 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 8:27 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:44 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Temple Street), report taken; 8:53 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:00 p.m.: medical/general (Westland Drive); 11:37 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:48 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: restraining order; (total daily mv stops - 2).

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

12:41 a.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), re: intoxicated male; 12:44 a.m.: fire alarm (Bemis Road), referred; 1:18-2:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:25 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 8:13 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 8:55 a.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 9:09 a.m.: vandalism (Main Street), mv window broken; 11:14 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 11:30 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), spoken to; 1:06 p.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), lg. pothole; 1:23 p.m.: commercial

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LOGS

continued from page A10

alarm (Water Street), accidental; 1:33 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), vandalism to food pantry; 3:12 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 4:41 p.m.: fire (Sunset Lane), referred; 5:21 p.m.: juvenile matter (Valley Street), req. officer; 5:34 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 6:15 p.m.: RV complaint (Maple Street), dirt bikes back/forth in roadway; 7:59 p.m.: medical/general (Fourth Avenue); 9:16 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), speeding/passing; 9:32 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:42 p.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 10:45 p.m.: suspicious persons (Charlton Road), investigated; 11:07 p.m.: accident (Route 49) report taken; (total daily mv

MONDAY, MARCH 18

12:13-1:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:05 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 5:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Route 49), re: unknown mv w/roof lights; 7:59 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:56 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 10:42 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:44 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), call canceled; 10:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. stolen item; 12:16 p.m.: citizen complaint (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:19 p.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), accidental; 12:45 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:58 p.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 2:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 4:09 p.m.: restraining order

service (Temple Street); 5:30 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 6:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), rep. earlier incident; 6:43 p.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 7:16 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street), 8:13 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 10:55 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), State Police bolo; 11:47 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops -2). TUESDAY, MARCH 19

12:00-2:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:11 a.m.: medical/general (Sherman Grove); 4:57 a.m.: medical/ sudden death (Sherwood Drive); 5:18 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street); 6:17 a.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 9:06 a.m.: animal complaint (Cottage Street), re: missing cat; 9:21 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road);

10:07 a.m.: fire alarm (South Spencer Road), test; 10:10 a.m.: medical/general (Roberta Bay); 10:33 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:28 p.m.: counterfeiting/forgery (Howe Village), re: coins purchased online; 2:45 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 3:12 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:41 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 4:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), apt. lockout; 4:43 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), apt. lockout; 4:43 p.m. turbance (High Street), Calon Alexander Milam, 36, 756 Main Street, Worcester, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, trespassing, arrest; 5:11 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 7:24 p.m.: DPW call (Elm Street), no water; (total daily my stops - 1).

###

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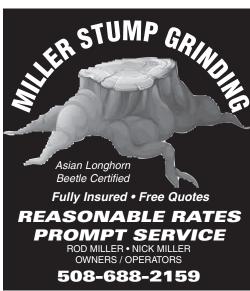
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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate** and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P0804EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate of: Angel Luis Diaz Date of Death: 02/23/2024 To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Angellese Camacho of Leicester

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Angellese Camacho of Leicester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/16/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further no-

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

tice to you.

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 19, 2024 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate March 29, 2024

[Project Name: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)] LEICESTER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Leicester Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the Leicester Zoning Bylaws on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, starting at 7:05PM or as soon thereafter as may be heard in Meeting Room 3, Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA.

The subject matter of proposed amendments is as follows:

Addition of Section 5.19 Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to the Town of Leicester Zoning Bylaws, definitions to be added to Section 1.3 of the Leicester Zoning Bylaws, additions to section 3.2.05 Schedule of Use as well as in the following zones not outlined in Section 3.2 3.30 Business Residential -1 Zone (BR-1), 3.32 Residential Industrial Business Zone (RIB), and 5.6 Greenville Village Neighborhood Business District (NB). The complete text and maps relative to the proposed amendments are availat https://www.leicesterma.org/planning-department-planning-board. Joshua Campbell, Chair

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer

Susan Boucher has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove a tree located at 27 Jolicoeur Avenue, Spencer,

Thomas Mitchell has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to add a covered front porch to the house located at 152 Ash Street, Spencer, MA.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman

Industrial-1 (HB-1) Bylaw Amendment]

LEICESTER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

the Town of Leicester Zoning Bylaws to include Mixed Use, Horizontal Mix allowable by Site Plan Review in the Highway Business Industrial 1 (HB-1)

Town of Leicester Zoning Bylaw to include new sections Section 5.5.01.2 cific requirements for the allowance of Mixed Use, Horizontal Mix, Density Regulations, and Design Standards.

able for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours and on the Planning Board's web page on the Town of Leicester's website

Leicester Planning Board

March 29, 2024 **Town of Spencer Conservation Commission**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Residential (BR-1). Wetlands By-Law:

MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15

Mary McLaughlin March 29, 2024

[Project Name: Highway Business

Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Leicester Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, starting at 7:45 in Meeting Room 3 at Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524 to discuss proposed amendments to the Leicester Bylaws. The subject matter of proposed amendments is as follows: To amend Section 3.2.02 of

To amend Section 5.5 of the through 5.5.01.4 which include spe-

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news The complete text relative to the proposed amendments is available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours and on the Planning Board's web page on the Town of Leicester's web site at https:// www.leicesterma.org/planning-department-planning-board. Joshua Campbell, Chair

Leicester Planning Board March 29, 2024

LEICESTER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to MGL, Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Leicester Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, starting at 7:30PM in Meeting Room 3 at Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524 to discuss proposed amendment(s) to the Leicester Bylaws and Zoning Map. The subject matter of proposed amendment(s) is as follows: To amend the Zoning Map by re-zoning properties on Route 9/Main Street currently zoned Highway Business Industrial 1S (HB-1) to Business This includes the following parcels from 1326 Main Street to 1512 Main and 1323 Main Street to 1445 Main Street, then 1521 Main Street to 18 Burncoat Street (Parcels 17-B9, 18-B11, 18-B12, 18B-12.1, 18-B13,19-A1.1.0, 19-A1-0, 19-A2, 19-A3, 19-A4, 19-A5, 19-A6, 19-A7, 19A-A1, 19A-A2, 19A-A4, 19A-

A5, 19A-A6, 19A-A7, 26B-A2, 26B-A1, 26A-B28.1-0, 26A-B28, 18B-B5, 18B-B6, 18B-B7, &18B-B10) and properties from 0 to 52 Burncoat Street currently zoned Highway Business Industrial (HB-1) to Residential 1 (R1) (Parcels 18B-B12, 18B-13, 18B-B14, 18B-B15, 18B-B16, 18B-B17, 18B-B17.1-0, 18B-B18, 27B-A22)

The complete text and maps relative to the proposed amendment(s) are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours and on the Planning Board's web page on the Town of Leicester's web site at https://www.leicesterma.org/planning-department-planning-board. Joshua Campbell, Chair

Leicester Planning Board March 29, 2024

Public Notice

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a

meeting on April 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Offices, 215 North Main Street, North

Brookfield, MA for an NOI and associated activities at 12 Madbrook Road. Any person

interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing. March 29, 2024

Notice of owners of funds held by the Town of Leicester and deemed abandoned. Per MGL C200A S9A, unclaimed property less than \$100.00 will become the property of the town on May 29th, 2024; unclaimed property of \$100.00 or more will become the property of the town on June 2nd, 2025. To claim owned funds, go to www.leicesterma.org and visit the Treasurer Collector Department Page for a claim form under "Unclaimed Property".

CheckNumber	CheckDate	PaidTo		mount	AP/PR
122980	01/06/2022	HORN HANNA LORRAINE	\$	25.14	AP
123009	01/06/2022	PAUL A ORSI	\$	85.00	AP
123152	01/20/2022	SUPERNOR%MICHAEL T.	\$	298.21	AP
123270	02/03/2022	DISTRICT E TRACK & FIELD	\$	350.00	AP
123352	02/03/2022	COMM OF MASS	\$	2.20	AP
124194	03/31/2022	DRAKE%JANINE	\$	30.31	AP
124198	03/31/2022	ERIN L SLACK	\$	10.00	AP
124211	03/31/2022	HULTGREN%BROOKE A	\$	5.03	AP
124221	03/31/2022	MARY LOU HUTCHINS	\$	10.00	AP
124262	03/31/2022	VANALSTYNE TODD J	\$	28.44	AP
124329	03/31/2022	NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	\$	149.00	AP
124399	04/14/2022	COMM OF MASS	\$	38.80	AP
124410	04/14/2022	EASTERN BANK	\$	380.20	AP
124496	04/14/2022	UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS - BOSTON	\$	20.00	AP
124497	04/14/2022	UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS - BOSTON	\$	20.00	AP
124679	04/28/2022	BRUNELL BRIAN A	\$	36.05	AP
124717	04/28/2022	GREGORY SAMUEL ROGER	\$	49.85	AP
124732	04/28/2022	LLOYD MADISON M	\$	40.63	AP
125094	05/26/2022	BRINDISI RILEE ANN ELIZ	\$	16.13	AP
125255	06/09/2022	DURKAN%LIAM	\$	99.00	AP
125276	06/09/2022	MARTIN JR%DANIEL	\$	189.00	AP
125362	06/09/2022	COMM OF MASS	\$	59.65	AP
125592	06/23/2022	KUCHINSKI JENNIFER JO	\$	12.36	AP
125593	06/23/2022	KUCHINSKI JOSEPH CHARLES	\$	24.62	AP
125727	07/07/2022	COMM OF MASS	\$	5.55	AP
125731	07/07/2022	CPTC - CITIZEN PLANNER TRAINER COLLABORATIVE	\$	20.00	AP
126020	07/21/2022	BERANTUO ERICH	\$	7.02	AP
126025	07/21/2022	CAMBRIDGE PROPERTIES LLC	\$	63.95	AP
126129	07/21/2022	PAGAN JUAN A	\$	6.42	AP
126145	07/21/2022	ROCHETTE CONSULTING SERVICES L	\$	23.00	AP
126160	07/21/2022	TAGMAN DOROTHY I LIFE ESTATE	\$	8.96	AP
126161	07/21/2022	TAX SERVICES OF AMERICA INC	\$	16.63	AP
126179	07/21/2022	WARD NATALIA IRR TRUST	\$	10.06	AP
126230	07/21/2022	PLANTE%COLLEEN	\$	100.00	AP
126257	07/28/2022	MASS COALITION OF POLICE	\$	420.00	AP
126333	08/04/2022	KENNETH T WOLFF	\$	25.00	AP
126468	08/18/2022	BORRELLI TRACEY MICHAELA	\$	20.95	AP
126514	08/18/2022	FENNER DEREK A	\$	6.61	AP
126522	08/18/2022	GRANT CORY D	\$	6.07	AP
126537	08/18/2022	KEKA ARBEN	\$	14.78	AP
126619	08/18/2022	TRACTOR SUPPLY CO	\$	11.47	AP
126800	09/01/2022	COTE MARYANN	\$	37.54	AP
127186	09/29/2022	PRESCOTT BRANDON CHAD	\$	18.24	AP
127187	09/29/2022	RALPH A SEAVER	\$	138.15	AP
127188	09/29/2022	RALPH A SEAVER	\$	42.13	AP
127415	10/13/2022	BROOKS%SCOT D	\$	20.00	AP
127681	10/27/2022	ARIC FRIEND	\$	100.00	AP
128244	11/23/2022	FREDERIC JAY PROSSER	\$	100.00	AP
128449	12/08/2022	COMM OF MASS	\$	1.00	AP
128455	12/08/2022	DALY PATRICK J	\$	34.07	AP
128485	12/08/2022	JARED GAGNE	\$	90.00	AP
128685	12/22/2022	COMM OF MASS	\$	8.25	AP
703039	11/03/2022	Robbins, Mitchell	\$	76.45	PR

March 29, 2024

SETTLEMENT

continued from page A1

"It means nothing happens. It doesn't go forward," Petraitis explained to a guest questioning the status of the vote.

The result prompted an ACLU lawsuit in December, alleging a pattern of discriminatory treatment, violations of free expression and assembly rights, and unlawful discrimination on the basis of gender.

Tripp resigned from the Select Board in January.

Petraitis could not be reached for comment on the settlement by press

Meanwhile, RJN leaders are thrilled with the path forward established by the settlement.

"In spite of challenges we have faced in the past two years, events like Small Town Pride always make it worth the effort," said Rob Orpilla, President of the RJN. "We're happy to start making concrete moves for our 2024 event now that we've resolved the lawsuit. This is another victory for change in our area.'

previous battle between the Select Board and the RJN took place in the spring of 2023. Originally, on March 28, the Select Board voted to approve the use of the Town Common for the 2023 Small Town Pride event, which included a scheduled drag performance. Two weeks later, that decision was rescinded by a 2-1 vote at the Board's April 11 meeting. A secondary vote that evening allowed the event to occur without the drag performance.

Following the Board's reversal on April 11, the town was inundated with criticism and a threat of legal action from the ACLU of Massachusetts.

The 2023 Small Town Pride event ultimately went forward as originally planned, after an April 25 Select Board meeting in which selectmen unanimously voted to rescind their April 11 decision to block the drag performance.

"Let's be clear—the government has no right to censor LGBTQ+ people or their right to assemble partners and simultaneand express themselves, said Carol Rose, Executive ry owner of the Miami Director of the ACLU of Massachusetts, in a previous statement.

CORI

continued from page A1

"It's incumbent upon any other organization to actually do CORI checks. We can certainly change the policy," Genereux told members. "I think it makes perfect sense, when you're going through the rental process, to change the policy where they would have to provide a list of their employees, volunteers, and vendors. They give

us a list of names and the dates of when they were CORI checked. That would go through Parks and Rec.'

At the state level, the processing and administration of all CORI reports is governed by the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS).

"A CORI report is a name and date of birthbased record of your Massachusetts criminal court appearances," read a statement released by the DCJIS. "The information includes your criminal court appearances, beginning at the age of eighteen.'

Last month, Genereux confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Committee is not currently requiring CORI checks as part of its booking process.

To date, Parks and Recreation Committee members have not responded to the New Leader's questions over CORI issues.

Leicester Hoops director Jason LoVerme did not respond to requests for comment on the situation.

To learn more about state CORI regulations and training resourcvisit www.mass.

gov/CJIS. The site also includes information about the state's iCORI system.

"The iCORI system is operated by the DCJIS. It is a web-based application which is used by individuals and organizations to request and receive CORI. Users must first register with the system to establish an account," the DCJIS statement read.

The story of Joe Robbie

Like most Englanders, I am a big fan of Boston sports. I'm willing to talk about the Celtics, Bruins, Red Sox, and Patriots anytime. But this interesting story has its roots in a different sports franchise, namely the Miami Dolphins.

Joe Robbie was born in South Dakota on July 7, 1916. The son of a Lebanese immigrant, he came from modest beginnings and worked a variety of jobs to earn a living. He spent time as a lumberjack, sportswriter, served in the Navy, and eventually attended the University of South Dakota where he received his law degree. Post graduation, Robbie's legal career gradually morphed into local and state politics. But it's what happened in March of 1965 that turns this into an interesting sports story.

In 1965, Robbie had a meeting with Joe Foss, the commissioner of the American Football League. Foss encouraged Robbie to look into Miami as a potential site for a new expansion franchise. As a lifelong sports fan, Robbie was very much interested in the idea, but he personally didn't have the money to make it happen. And so, Robbie formed a general partnership with a few other individuals and raised the \$7.5 million to purchase the expansion team. A couple of short years later, Robbie bought out his remaining ously became the prima-Dolphins.

Fast forward to the 1980's and Robbie's family net worth had skyrocketed. In 1987, he even built a new \$114 million stadium, appropriately called "The Joe Robbie Stadium."

By most measures, Joe Robbie was a very successful busi-

nessman and he amassed a substantial fortune during his lifetime. So, when he died in 1990, one would assume his wife and children should remain financially "set for life." Unfortunately, this was not the case for the Robbie heirs. When Robbie passed away most of his net worth was tied up in illiquid assets (i.e. the new stadium). The estate tax bill due upon his death was an estimated \$47 million. His wife and children did not have the funds available to pay this tax, and they were forced to sell the Miami Dolphins franchise (and stadium) at a very, very deep discount. Unfortunately, the Robbie family would no longer

be a part of the NFL. While 99.99 percent of Americans will never own an NFL franchise or amass the type of fortune Joe Robbie had, we can all learn an extremely valuable lesson from this story. Estate planning is extremely important. Had Robbie done a few things differently, his family would likely still own the Miami Dolphins today (fun fact: the Miami Dolphins franchise currently has an estimated value of \$5.7 billion).

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BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM MANAGER

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enced financial planner will help you create a plan for the various assets you do own (i.e., real estate, businesses, investment accounts, IRA's, etc.). The goal is to get your assets transferred to the correct people, and in a tax-efficient manner. At a minimum, a financial plan should evaluate how your accounts are titled (individual, joint, trust, etc.), who you have listed as beneficiaries, review your asset allocation, and make proper use of insurance.

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This article was written by the author, Christopher Mallon

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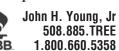


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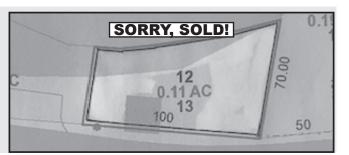
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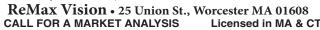


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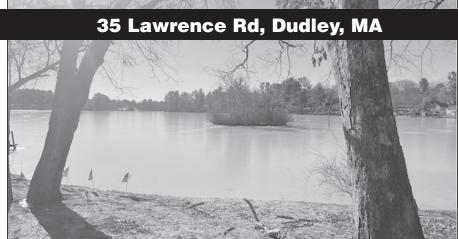
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