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Community supports Spencer girl in fight against cancer



BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – As four-year-old Annaliese Black continues her battle against a rare form of cancer, the community is rallying to join the fight.

Annaliese was diagnosed with undifferentiated embryonal sarcoma of the liver, a rare and aggressive cancer that affects mostly children. When doctors discovered Annaliese’s tumor, it was roughly the size of a softball, but within two weeks it expanded to take up her entire liver. Management of pain and nausea has been a difficult challenge for

her medical team, and another blood transfusion was expected.

Doctors do not know what causes undifferentiated embryonal sarcoma of the liver.

Earlier this month, a GoFundMe page was set up to support Annaliese’s ongoing emergency medical care. Residents from throughout the area continue to donate to the fundraising page and send encouraging messages to Annaliese and her family.

If you would like to access the donation page, visit www.GoFundMe.com. Under the search tab, type: Help Annaliese fight cancer.

The community fundraising goal is \$10,000. Area residents and business owners are invited to continue joining the battle and standing with Annaliese against cancer.

Photo Courtesy

Community support is pouring in for Annaliese Black, a four-year-old from Spencer who is battling cancer.

Brookfield moves toward hiring first town administrator

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD – Hoping to appoint Brookfield’s first ever town administrator by the summer, officials are proceeding through several steps ahead of Town Meeting season.

Members of the Town Administrator Search Committee set a goal of having the administrator in place by the start of the next fiscal year on July 1. The committee has finalized the job description, and members were expected to meet again for further discussion on Feb. 24.

Town officials thank search committee members for their dedication to the process during unprecedented COVID-19 challenges.

“The town is very fortunate, with the pandemic and all going

on at this time, to have these volunteers stepping up,” said Board of Selectmen Chairman Clarence Snyder.

The search committee plans to advertise the town administrator position in April, which would enable interviews ahead of the Annual Town Meeting in June. The committee will seek Town Meeting approval to set the salary and benefits for the town administrator role before formally offering the position.

Selectmen are eager to work with a town administrator for the first time and receive support in a number of areas. From coordinating with department heads, to serving as a liaison between residents and elected officials, town administrators have a role in all facets of leadership.

Additional areas of specialty

for administrators can include town finance, communications, media relations, and even legal knowledge, depending on the candidate.

“I am personally looking forward to having a town administrator in place. Times are changing, where even a small town needs an experienced professional on staff,” added Selectman Snyder.

Many of Brookfield’s surrounding communities, including Spencer, Leicester, Sturbridge, and Auburn, all feature town administrators or town managers. Despite having a smaller population than those towns, Brookfield residents and officials agree that an administrator can help run the town with greater efficiency.

Please Read **ADMINISTRATOR**, page **A3**

Local sports teams face new opponent — Old Man Winter

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – High school football in February? It certainly isn’t ideal, but local athletes and coaches are making the most of a challenging situation.

Back in the late summer, football and other high school sports were bumped by state officials to Fall Sports II, a makeshift season to take place between late February and April. The decision was made amid a statewide summer increase in COVID-19 cases, but many local school officials and football athletes were baffled by why other fall sports were allowed to take place.

Now, with snow and ice piling on after the whistle, local football teams are beginning their Fall Sports II experiences with Old Man Winter as the first opponent on the slate.

“The official date for football starting at Prouty is February 22, weather permitting,” said David Prouty High School Principal Elizabeth York. “As soon as we can get some space cleared of snow and ice for them, the team will begin conditioning. Coach Rossi and the assistant coaches have a very flexible plan for getting the team fit and ready to play, with some scrimmages and games in the second stage, once it gets a bit warmer and safer to play. The players I have spoken with are very eager to get on the field.”

Several local players told the New Leader they’re more than ready to compete in the snow and cold, as long as they can have an uninterrupted season. As more residents get vaccinated and local COVID-19 cases remain on the decline, school officials are optimistic about the football season and Fall Sports II in general. If all goes well, games could be held as early as mid-March.

“The details of the work ahead and preparations are underway by Mr. Fahey, our Athletic Director, and Mrs. York, our Principal,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. “A lot can happen between now and mid-march, especially with the weather in

New England.”

Other sports included in the Fall Sports II group are indoor track and cheerleading. Earlier this month, Superintendent Haughey recommended to the School Committee that the district proceed with these two sports and football for the Fall Sports II season.

Other local schools have also greenlighted their athletic teams for practices, scrimmages, and ultimately games. How soon contests can happen will be determined by the weather and field conditions, officials said. Athletes are prepared to contend with snow, ice, and freezing temperatures during the early part of the schedule, as well as soggy fields and mud in March.

Conditions aside, local officials and parents can’t wait to see their athletes on the field again. For seniors, it’s an opportunity to salvage a season that has been lost altogether for many students across the country.

“The School Committee voted to allow Fall II sports a couple weeks ago. The kids will be excited to play,” said Leicester School Committee member Tom Lauder.

The Leicester High School football team will compete in a regional pod this year, along with seven other local schools. Christopher Schmidt, the director of athletics at Nipmuc Regional High School in Upton, is managing the schedule for the pod.

“Games are slated to begin the weekend of March 19-20,” Schmidt told the New Leader. “Each team will be scheduled five games with a possible sixth, if no makeups are necessary.”

Although the schedule for each team is significantly reduced from a normal year, student-athletes are grateful to be hitting the field. Leicester will compete against such area rivals as Northbridge, Blackstone Valley Tech., Auburn, and Uxbridge, among others.

The DPHS squad, meanwhile, will face rivals like Worcester Tech., Quabog, Oxford, and Bay Path.

Wintry weather creates headaches on area roads



Photo Courtesy

A car struck a tree in Brimfield during a wintry mid-February week. No injuries were reported.

REGION – A wintry week in mid-February delivered plenty of headaches on the roads, bookended by an ice storm and a snow event.

Last week began with an ice storm on Feb. 15, causing several accidents and sporadic power outages. Local highway departments were kept busy throughout the night, going through multiple rounds of salting on roadways.

“The Highway Department has salted every road in town twice, and still there is significant ice buildup,” informed the Leicester Police Department at the height of the storm. “Untreated surfaces such as walkways and driveways are more like skating rinks.”

In Spencer, first responders provided assistance after a vehicle crashed into a utility pole on Route 31. No serious injuries were reported.

Meanwhile, a driver in Brimfield escaped serious injuries after striking a tree.


The week wrapped up with a snowstorm on Feb. 18-19, dumping several inches across the area.

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Simple ways to maintain braces

Many adults recall having braces as children. While braces have evolved dramatically over the last few decades, modern braces benefit teeth in much the same ways as those adults recall from their youth.

Braces are often recommended to help straighten crooked teeth, correct misaligned bites and/or address overcrowded teeth. Maintenance is essential to ensure braces are effective and provide long-lasting benefits, and the American Association of Orthodontists offers these tips to protect braces and prevent patients from developing tooth decay

- Avoid certain foods. Hard, sticky, crunchy, or chewy foods should be avoided. Many candies and snacks fit that description, so parents of children with braces and adults with braces of their own should make sure these foods are not readily available around the house. The AAO specifically mentions foods such as caramel, gummies, licorice, jelly beans, and even soft drinks among the foods to avoid when wearing orthodontic braces.
- Be extra cautious around Halloween. The days surrounding Halloween can be an especially difficult time to maintain braces. Candy is everywhere come the end of October, but people with braces must be diligent in avoiding hard-shelled peanut candies and nut-filled candies.
- Brush twice per day, but be careful. The experts at Oral-B® note that careful cleaning is required when wearing braces. Plaque bacteria can be easily trapped inside and around braces, so it's especially important that people with braces carefully brush each day. Removable parts, including elastics, should be removed prior to brushing. Clean each tooth individually in a circular motion, tilting the brush as necessary to reach small front teeth.
- Continue regular visits to your orthodontist as well as your dentist. Regular visits to the orthodontist are required when wearing braces. These visits are necessary so braces can be adjusted and orthodontists can make sure there are no signs of gum disease. But Oral-B® notes that it's just as important to continue visiting the dentist while wearing braces. Dentists can perform routine services designed to protect tooth surfaces from decay while wearing braces, making dental visits a vital component of orthodontic maintenance.

Orthodontic braces help people have healthy, beautiful smiles.



Maintenance while wearing braces is vital to avoid disease and produce a mouthful of pearly whites.

How parents can get kids excited about brushing their teeth



Dental hygiene is an important component of a healthy lifestyle, but it's an element youngsters rarely embrace with open arms. Parents know that getting kids, especially young children, to brush their teeth is not always so easy.

In recognition of that, the American Dental Association suggests the following strategies to make brushing teeth something kids will look forward to.

- Make it fun. Brushing teeth may not be considered a fun activity, but who's to say it can't benefit from a little levity? The ADA recommends turning tooth brushing sessions into dance parties and/or sing-alongs. Youngsters might be so busy cutting a rug or listening to mom and dad belt out a few hits that they don't even realize they're cleaning their teeth at the same time. If singing and dancing aren't cutting it, then incorporate another fun activity, like reading a child his or her favorite story, into daily brushing sessions. The ADA advises adults and children to brush their teeth for two minutes twice a day, so activities need not be too advanced. But a fun activity that allows kids to do something other than brush their teeth can be a great way to help them meet the "two minutes, two times" guideline.
- Reward good behavior. Parents can reward youngsters who brush their teeth without incident by offering praise or allowing them to pick a bedtime book when brushing at night.
- Put kids' favorite characters to work. The ADA notes that many popular children's television shows and books have stories about brushing teeth. Watch these stories with your children, then reference the stories and characters if kids are reluctant to brush their teeth. Parents also can find toothbrushes and/or toothpaste that feature kids' favorite characters to get youngsters more excited to brush.
- Become a storyteller. Parents also can make up their own stories, explaining to kids how they can be superheroes who brush away the bad guys that cause cavities.
- Brush alongside your children. Kids love to mimic their parents, so moms and dads can brush alongside their youngsters in the hopes they'll follow suit.

Many children may never jump at the chance to brush their teeth. But parents can employ a few savvy strategies to make daily brushing sessions more fun for youngsters.

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University of Maine announces fall 2020 Dean's List

ORONO, Maine — The University of Maine recognized 4,133 students for achieving Dean's List honors in the fall 2020 semester, including Eric Andrews of Spencer.

Of the students who made the Dean's List, 2,670 are from Maine, 1,366 are from 38 other states and 97 are from 35 countries other than the U.S.

Due to the unusual and challenging circumstances faced this semester amid the global pandemic, the university has modified its Dean's List policy for the fall 2020 term. The requirement that students earn 12 calculable credits to be eligible for Dean's List has been waived. Instead, students will be eligible 1) if they earned Dean's List recognition in spring 2020 and have placed all of their fall 2020 courses on pass/fail; or 2) if they have earned a minimum GPA of a 3.5, regardless of the number of credits taken, in fall 2020.

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Random acts of kindness

HEARTS OF BAY PATH PN STUDENTS ON DISPLAY

CHARLTON — According to research, “spreading kindness not only helps others feel better about themselves – it can also boost the giver’s health and happiness.” Feb. 17, the National Random Act of Kindness Day was celebrated by the Practical Nursing Class of 2021 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy by displaying their “RAKtivism” or being a “Random Acts of Kindness Activist.”

Gretheline Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, is grateful for the PN Class of 2021 and their kind gestures. She strongly believes in kindness’ many health benefits such as lower blood pressure, pain reduction, happiness, and the ultimate “helpers’ high.”

“Our student nurses are making the world a better place,” she said. “Any act of kindness, no matter how small changes the world, and any kindness given to others is also a gift to yourself.”

“A random act of kindness I’ve done a couple of times when I have extra money: at the Dunkin’ Donuts drive-thru, I paid for the orders behind me! Hopefully made someone’s day better!” — Brianna Pincince-Mcleish, SPN of Brookfield

“Sometime back, on a Thursday morning while driving on Route 31 in Spencer. The two cars in front of me got into a collision. I pulled over and made sure the police were called. The accident involved a middle-aged man and an older woman. I had the woman stay in her car and not move in case she had any injuries as she was affected more than the male was. The male was anxious and really worked up. I did what I could to reassure him that he needed to be calm. I waited until the police arrived. Fortunately, both collision sur-

vivors left with only minor bumps and bruises.” — Brianna Cloutier, SPN of Charlton

“When a neighbor’s dog, ‘Juda’ (a German Shepard) passed away (of old age), my eight-year-old daughter who had a small stuffed animal that looked like Juda gave the neighbor her stuffed animal in remembrance. It made Juda’s mom (who is in her 50’s) so happy, she gave my daughter daisies with thanks. She makes me so proud.”

“On Christmas Eve I gave a homeless man in downtown Worcester (under a bridge) a variety box of homemade cookies. There were chocolate chips, snowballs, thumbprints, peanut butter balls, peanut butter cookies, and sugar cookies with frosting. Small acts of kindness warm the heart.” — Tianna Welcome, SPN of Oxford

“On term 1, an alumna provided me with textbooks which I was missing for the program. It filled my heart with extreme gratitude to know that someone could do such an amazing gesture for someone who they do not know personally. I am forever grateful! It also served as a life lesson to show kindness towards others, it is a very rewarding feeling!” — Digmery Sanchez, SPN of Worcester

Brought in pastries (Quesitos and Pastelitos de Guayaba) specially ordered from ‘Whisk Me Away Treats’ to share with the class. Whisk Me Away Treats is a “family-based business striving to bake the world a better place one goodie at a time.” Supporting a small business is great for the environment because they have a smaller carbon footprint than larger companies! Bringing so much joy by sharing sweets made daily, from scratch. A win-win!” — Monique

Bull, SPN of Worcester

Stopped at a traffic collision that involved a nursing student on their way to clinicals. She waited with the student until police officers arrived and until the totaled vehicle was towed. She then gave her classmate a ride to clinicals, all along giving emotional support to allay anxiety. — Grace Mwangi, SPN of Worcester

Picked up (and delivered) prescription medications (and over-the-counter pain meds) multiple times for an ill neighbor. Cleared the driveway after a snowfall for the same ill neighbor and brought to ER! Makes it a point to walk with faculty at the end of the night making sure faculty is not alone and feel unsafe at the end of long lectures at night. — Khamphan Houatchanthara, SPN of Southbridge

Brought flowers to cheer up and celebrate milestones for staff and faculty! “Floriography, the language of flowers, was developed as a form of communication at a time where it was not appropriate, polite or proper etiquette for an individual to fully express their emotions with another.” — Brianna Laforest, SPN of Webster

ARC blood donor! She’s definitely someone’s type! “Blood donors report feeling a sense of great satisfaction after making their blood donation.” — Elizabeth Larson, SPN of Webster

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation lists kindness ideas organized by work, community, environment, animals, strangers, kids, seniors and more. For more information visit <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org>.



ACCURACY WATCH

The Spencer New Leader is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.com. News during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.

ADMINISTRATOR

continued from page A1

Although it can be a challenge to draw highly experienced and skilled candidates to smaller towns, Brookfield officials hope to hire an administrator who can hit the ground running.

Looking farther ahead, Brookfield’s first administrator will also inherit the challenge of navigating the community through the COVID-19 recovery process. There will be plenty of budgetary obstacles for the town to overcome, as well as the challenge of assisting small business owners and town departments strained by the pandemic.

Selectmen want to ensure that Brookfield chooses an experienced candidate who can handle the many challenges associated with the current climate, officials said.

Fire Chief Peter Martell is leading the Town Administrator Search Committee. He referred the New Leader’s inquiries to the Board of Selectmen for comment.

Mass vaccination center opens at Worcester State

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With last week’s opening of a mass vaccination center at Worcester State University, area residents now have a resource much closer to home.

Opened on Feb. 16, the site will operate on Tuesdays through Saturdays (9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). Residents who are currently eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine can make appointments using the statewide reservation portal.

For university and city officials, it means a lot to help local residents reduce drive times. Previously, hundreds of area seniors had to drive out to Springfield and wait in long lines at the Eastfield Mall vaccination site.

“As the city of Worcester’s public university, Worcester State takes service to our community to heart,” read a statement released by the university. “We are pleased to host a large-scale vaccination center in the Competition Gym in the Wellness Center to help speed the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to Massachusetts residents.”

Officials remind residents that you must schedule a vaccination appointment ahead of time. As of press time, the state was only vaccinating residents in the 65-plus age group, as well as those with two or more health conditions.

Appointments, though significantly limited at this time, can be scheduled online by visiting www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap. Residents will be asked to enter their zip code or select a location from the map on the website, then follow prompts to schedule an appointment online.

Residents 65 and older who are unable to use the online model can call the Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line (877-211-6277).

“Individuals ages 65 and older will be able to speak to a representative live on the phone to assist them with an appointment through the state’s online

system,” read a statement released by Governor Charlie Baker’s office. “If no appointments are available, callers will have the option to be placed on a call-back list for the mass vaccination sites. The caller will receive a call when an appointment becomes available for them at a mass vaccination site.”

The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line is only meant for individuals seeking to schedule an appointment. Representatives are not able to answer general questions about COVID-19 or provide individual health-care advice.

If you are attending the Worcester State University location, park in the north parking lot and enter through the designated door no more than five minutes before your appointment time.

If the Worcester State campus is closed or has a delayed opening due to weather, the clinic will be shut down and appointments will be rescheduled. Any changes to the campus status will be posted on the school’s homepage.

The university thanks Commonwealth Medicine, which is providing logistics support, project management, and volunteer staffing support at the mass vaccination site. Meanwhile, Saint Vincent Hospital will serve as the clinical partner, providing daily clinical and operational leadership at the site.

“Numerous members of the Saint Vincent team will assist Commonwealth Medicine’s volunteer corps in staffing

the site in both clinical and non-clinical roles,” read the university’s statement.

Volunteer opportunities are available for both clinical and non-clinical personnel. Medically trained and certified volunteers will administer vaccinations and monitor recipients for any adverse reactions. Non-clinical volunteers will help with check-in services, directional assistance, and cleaning of high-touch areas.

State officials urge eligible residents to schedule their appointments as soon as possible. As more priority groups are added in the coming weeks and months, vaccine centers will likely be booked throughout the day.

“Due to extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, appointments are getting booked quickly,” read a statement issued by the Mass. Department of Public Health. “New appointments will be added to the website regularly, and the mass vaccination sites have the most availability for appointments.”

No one will be denied the vaccine due to lack of insurance. You will not need to provide a Social Security card or government issued identification to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

You will never be asked for a credit card number to make an appointment.

Additional mass vaccination sites include Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, the Eastfield Mall in Springfield, and the DoubleTree Hotel in Danvers.

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$309,500, 201 Rice Corner Rd, Brown, Ryan D, and Brown, Colleen M, to Gunderman, Timothy, and Gunderman, Sandra.

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$470,904, 233 Podunk Rd, Black Diamond RT, and Cournoyer, Arthur W, to Clapp, Paul A, and Clapp, Jenna L.

\$350,000, 111 Dunnbrook Rd, Rokes, Randy A, to Verderber, Lindsay.

LEICESTER

\$455,000, 25 Peter Salem Rd, Lucier, Brian S, and Lucier, Heidi, to Delacruz, Joel.

\$125,000, Lilystorm Grv #2, JJ Grove LLC, to Brandt, James A, and Brandt, Teresa L.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$320,000, 45 Ayers St, Germain, Paul H, and Germain, Debra L, to Rezende-Dasilva, Edvaldo, and Dasilva, Meghan.

\$240,000, 5 Hunt Rd, Balut, Jason, to Perron, Michelle.

SPENCER

\$375,000, 46 E Charlton Rd, Kennedy, John J, and Kennedy, June L, to Palubeckis, Mandie.

\$372,000, 63 Lincoln St, Suter, Gary D, and Suter, Donna M, to Gauvin, Marc.

\$235,000, 4 Hastings Rd, Serner, Sean T, to Tomlinson, Brian J, and Newhall, Danielle.

\$222,000, 15 Linden St, Diaz, Maria T, to Luhta, Beth E.

\$177,500, 100 Clark Rd, Gilchrist, Lorna J, to Braun, Dennis, and Braun, Carol.

\$140,000, 39 Chickering Rd, Laurel Point LLC, to Hebert, Jeffrey.

WARREN

\$330,000, 890 Old West Brookfield Rd, Maple Ln Development Corp, to Spera, James A, and Spera, Kora A.

\$175,000, 25 Central St, Hickey, Joel V, and Hickey, Julia H, to Leclerc, Lucas.

\$110,000, 2473 Main St, Baker, Linda G, to Fijol, John, and Plante-Fijol, Carrie.

\$70,000, Brimfield Rd, Fijol FT, and Fijol, Lois M, to Fijol, John R, and Plante-Fijol, Carrie.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$280,000, 88 Juniper St, AG Dream Flip LLC, to Bodzioch, Joe, and Weathers, Kayley.

Warren resident named to WPI Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute has announced that Isabella Clowes, a member of the class of 2024 majoring in Environmental Engineering, was named to the university’s Dean’s List for academic excellence during the fall semester of 2020.

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PERSON of the WEEK

JEAN MONAHAN, North Brookfield, MA

Jean is a kindergarten teacher at Brookfield Elementary School and has been teaching there for over 25 years. She has worked extremely hard this year to provide these children with a school experience that is happy and fun, while trying to learn during these trying times. She absolutely loves her job and the kids she teaches.

— Submitted by Kevin Monahan, North Brookfield, MA

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

Person of the Week is sponsored by:

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Sex: Female
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Age: 3 years, 1 mos



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Leicester School District launches data team

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Committed to using enhanced metrics to track academic achievement, the school district rolled out its first ever data team this year.

The Leicester Public Schools recently announced the formation of its District Data Team. Heading into the 2020-21 school year, Superintendent Marilyn Tencza and the School Committee emphasized the need for greater data-driven analyses of academic opportunities and student performance. With the new data team, officials will be able to more closely examine progress at the district, school, and classroom levels.

The data team consists of district leaders and school staff members. The group will be responsible for the technical, organizational, and substantive aspects of data use.

“The District Data Team will inform us of how we can best serve students,” Superintendent Tencza said. “Data collected across the district can help us learn about student progress; that can assist in the process of setting the budget priorities and policies.”

Dr. Tencza also stressed the importance of the data team evaluating student performance at various levels to determine where educational improvements can be made.

Matthew Joseph, the district’s director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, is responsible for facilitating the data team. He will use materials from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a guide to help improve educators’ ability to analyze and use data. This involves training staff members in data analysis, while also developing district-wide protocols, officials said.

The ultimate goal for district leaders

is to convert statistics into insights that can improve education.

“What the district is initiating and undertaking is exciting,” said Leicester High School Vice Principal Ted Zawada. “Using data to help teachers focus on specific needs of the students will move both students and the district forward.”

School Committee member Donna McCance serves as a liaison for the data team. She is eager to see the group take a deeper dive into the statistical elements that are often overlooked in academics.

“The District Data Team is being developed in a way that will keep it sustainable for many years to come. Next year, we will hit the ground running with protocols already in place,” McCance said.

Added School Committee Chairman Nathan Hagglund, “Having a shared vision and plan has been beneficial to our school community. By focusing on

data, our team is better able to develop a plan in real time based on the needs of our students.”

The data team will also identify trends based on learning and curriculum metrics. Information will be shared at all levels of the school community.

“The School Committee is thankful to the District Data Team members for implementing this unified approach to data and learning,” Hagglund added.

Guardians will also be kept apprised of the work done by the team. Officials are committed to having a transparent process as they work toward improving academic offerings.

“The District Data Team is also the vehicle that will communicate with the school community and families to inform them of our progress,” Superintendent Tencza said. “Ultimately, the purpose of regularly reviewing and communicating data will lead to adjustments in practice at every level of the district.”

Local students named to Western New England University Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD — Close to 750 students have been named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Western New England University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must achieve a GPA of 3.30 or higher.

“We are so proud of our Dean’s List students who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in their studies despite the unique challenges of our fall semester,” commented Dr. Robert E.

Johnson, President.

“Of the roughly 3,000 colleges and universities tracked by the College Crisis Initiative, Western New England University was among just 27 percent nationwide that resumed primarily ‘in-person’ teaching last fall. Our Dean’s List students stayed focused and engaged; they should be very proud of their achievements. Well done, Golden Bears!”

The following students have earned their place on Western New England University’s distinguished Dean’s List:

Abigail Gershman, of East Brookfield, working toward a BS in Forensic Chemistry.

Emma Schultz, of North

Brookfield, working toward a BS in Biology.

Jenna Albro, of Rochdale, working toward a BSBA in Finance.

Andrew Fountain, of West Brookfield, working toward a BSBA in Business Analytics & Information Management.

Brianna Niedzialkoski, of W Brookfield, working toward a BS in Neuroscience/Research Intensive Track.

Having just celebrated its Centennial, Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Massachusetts, Western New England serves 3,690 students, including 2,486 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the School of Law.

Local students named to Western New England University President’s List

SPRINGFIELD — More than 500 students have been named to the Fall 2020 President’s List at Western New England University. To qualify for the President’s List, students must achieve a GPA of 3.80 or higher.

“Making the President’s List is a notable achievement under any circumstances, but particularly so during the unique challenges of our fall semester. It is an honor to salute our students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence,” commented Dr. Robert E. Johnson, President.

“Of the roughly 3,000 colleges and universities tracked by the College Crisis Initiative, Western New England University was among just 27 percent nationwide that resumed primarily ‘in-person’ teaching last fall. Our President’s List students stayed focused and engaged; they should

be very proud of their accomplishments. Well done, Golden Bears!”

The following students have earned their place on Western New England University’s distinguished President’s List:

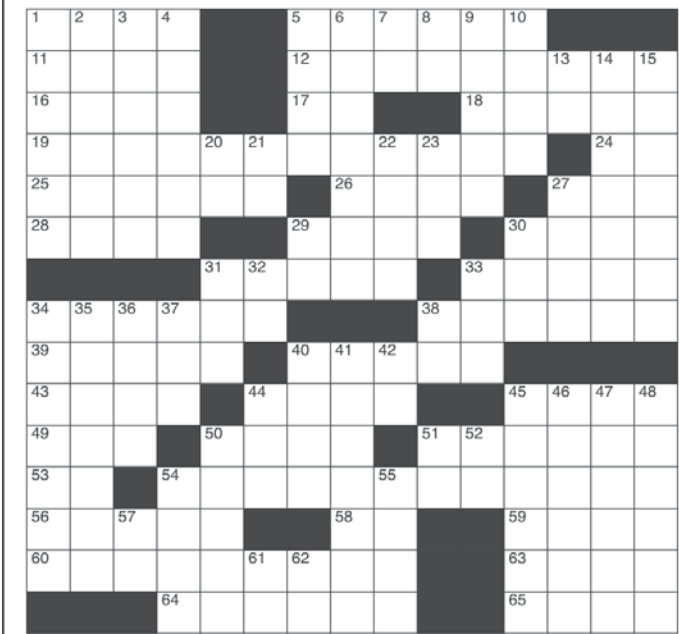
Kevin O’Neil, of Brookfield, working toward a BS in Computer Science.

Jared Aucoin, of Spencer, working toward a BSE in Civil Engineering.

Shaylah Dorman, of West Brookfield, working toward a BS in Health Sciences.

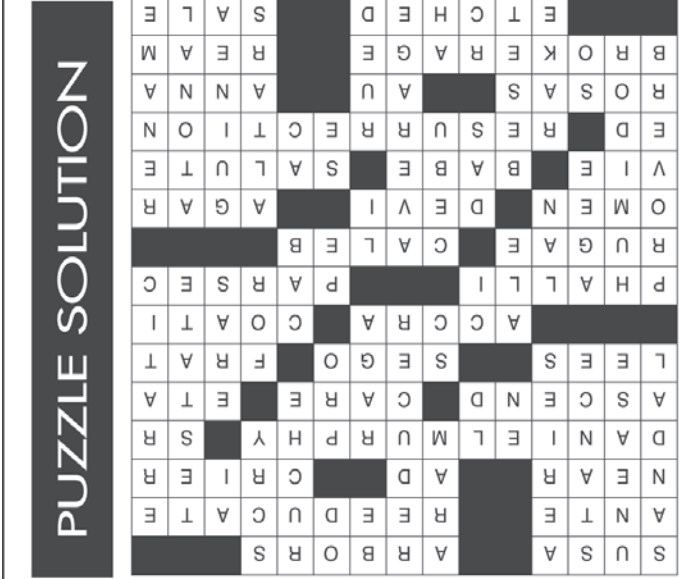
Adeline Ford, of W Brookfield, working toward a BS in Health Sciences.

Having just celebrated its Centennial, Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, Massachusetts, Western New England serves 3,690 students, including 2,486 full-time undergraduate students. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs are offered through Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the School of Law.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Ancient Persian city
 - 5. Spindles
 - 11. Stake
 - 12. Retrain
 - 16. Close by
 - 17. Commercial
 - 18. One who publicly announces
 - 19. American ballplayer
 - 24. Junior’s father
 - 25. Go up or climb
 - 26. Concern
 - 27. When you hope to get there
 - 28. Iacocca and Oswald are two
 - 29. Plant of the lily family
 - 30. Male college organization
 - 31. National capital
 - 33. Raccoonlike animal
 - 34. Symbols of fertility
 - 38. Astronomy unit
 - 39. Series of ridges in anatomy
 - 40. Hebrew leader
 - 43. A portent of good or evil
 - 44. Supreme goddess
 - 45. Gelatinous substance
 - 49. Engage in a contest
 - 50. Famed ballplayer Ruth
 - 51. Pledge
 - 53. - __, denotes past
 - 54. Revival
 - 56. Spanish surname
 - 58. Gold
 - 59. Elsa’s sister
 - 60. Workplace
 - 63. Large quantity of something
 - 64. Engraved
 - 65. Discount

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Shoe
 - 2. Disquiet
 - 3. Posture
 - 4. Large nests
 - 5. Soviet “Second Symphony” composer
 - 6. Joins two pipes of different diameter
 - 7. Exist
 - 8. Overdose
 - 9. Pleat of fabric
 - 10. Predict the future
 - 13. Burgeoning technology
 - 14. Having made a valid will
 - 15. Having no fixed course
 - 20. __ route
 - 21. Lethal dose
 - 22. Indian musical pattern of notes
 - 23. Athlete
 - 27. Geological times
 - 29. Atomic #21
 - 30. In support of
 - 31. Brew
 - 32. Certificate of insurance
 - 33. Taxi
 - 34. Type of saying
 - 35. For cigars
 - 36. Phil __, former CIA
 - 37. Local area network
 - 38. Gym class
 - 40. Philippine Island
 - 41. Not great or bad
 - 42. Eastern part of NY state
 - 44. Gov’t lawyers
 - 45. Constructions
 - 46. Former British gold coin
 - 47. Unkeyed
 - 48. Rechristen
 - 50. Threaten persistently
 - 51. Southeast
 - 52. Cools your home
 - 54. Removes the leaves
 - 55. Regretted
 - 57. Thus
 - 61. Relief organization (abbr.)
 - 62. Exclamation of surprise



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Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Tatiana and I want to try gymnastics!

Tatiana is a funny and lovable girl of Hispanic descent. She loves playing with dolls, coloring and riding her bike outside. One day she hopes to join a gymnastics team.

Tatiana receives extra supports in school to help address her academic, intellectual and social/emotional needs. Tatiana particularly struggles with relating to her peers and often presents as a much younger child. She is on the Autism Spectrum.

Not yet legally freed for adoption, Tatiana will benefit from joining a loving family of any constellation who can provide her with stability, structure and a dependable routine. She will do best as an only child or with older siblings. An ideal family will be comfortable navigating the mental health and educational systems, and be able to act as a strong advocate for Tatiana. A family should also be open to helping Tatiana maintain a relationship with her four siblings and birth parents, who she currently visits with monthly.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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

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Zoom boating safety courses offered

REGION — Our local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing four upcoming boating safety classes through the Zoom video conference platform, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program, Adult-Boating, at <http://mcs.milford.ma.us> or (508) 478-1119 at least 6 days prior; keeping in mind that availability is limited and you will receive course materials prior, covered by the registration fee. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied online by a registered parent/guardian. For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778. About Boating Safely Saturdays: March 27 & April 24 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (\$45)

A one-day course developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and also for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Successful completion of the course will also temporarily certify (until a proctored exam is completed) any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski for 16 & 17-year-old operators, on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunc-

tion with the Mass. Environmental Police. Rhode Island residents born in/or after 1986 can also take the “Challenge Exam” for the RI Boater Education Card to operate motor vessels over 10 horse power, along with anyone, any age, from any state, wanting to operate a PWC on RI waters. It will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory. Several of the boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. The Zoom ABS class is limited to 20 students.

Suddenly in Command Wednesdays: March 17 & April 14 7 – 10:30 p.m. (\$5)

Imagine you are out on the water when the boat’s captain somehow is incapacitated or falls overboard and can’t swim back to the boat. Are you prepared to take basic actions to get help, stop or start the engine and take the helm? A little knowledge could save lives and make you feel more comfortable boating when you’re not generally at the helm.

Misfortunes can and do happen while on that fishing, diving, adventure, or party charter. Being out on your own boat with that significant other at the helm, or going out on a friends’ pontoon boat can also turn to horror if the skipper is suddenly out of commission. This is a boating safety primer for those not generally at the helm but would like to know what to do, to be better prepared.

POLICE SEEK SUSPECTED SHOPLIFTER



Photo Courtesy

Police are asking for the public’s help in identifying a shoplifting suspect. The theft took place on Feb. 16 at the Spencer Package Store. The suspect used a mask, hat, and hood to prevent facial recognition. Items taken from the store were not disclosed by police.

The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.
Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!

Thank you to our writers this month and to LAMOUREUX FORD for sponsoring this special section each month! I’d like to invite teachers and students, including home schoolers, tweens and teens, adults and grandparents to share your thoughts, funny anecdotes, poems, short stories, and essays.

For those of you who prefer suggested topics, here are a few for March:

1. It’s Spring! Write a poem or story about the joys of Spring!
2. Tell us a childhood memory about playing outdoors in Spring.
3. How will you celebrate Easter (April 4)?
4. March is National Craft Month...what is your favorite craft to create? (include a photo if you’d like)
5. Topic of your choice.

THE NEXT WRITE STUFF WILL BE PUBLISHED ON MARCH 26

Deadline by email is Friday, March 19. Please email your submission to jsima@stonebridgepress.news.

If sending your submission by mail, please send by March 15 to
The Write Stuff, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Thank you.

A Valentine’s Day Surprise

BY EMILY JANES, NORTH BROOKFIELD

“Happy Valentines Day Love!”

Lisa spun around from doing the dishes. Her husband Matt stood there with a big grin and a bouquet of roses.

“Aww honey” Lisa cooed. Matt handed Lisa the flowers. She gave them a sniff.. MMM.

“Thank you”

“I have a surprise for you too” Lisa put the flowers on the table and went to the kitchen drawer. She pulled out a picture. A special picture! It was a sonogram

She handed the picture to Matt.

“ARE YOU PREGNANT!?” Matt looked up in shock.

“I am!” Lisa grinned. Matt embraced Lisa in a big teddy bear hug.

Tears sprung to Matt’s eyes, happy tears of course.

The young couple got married two years ago and were unable to get pregnant. This baby was truly a blessing.

The couples kissed and danced around the kitchen happily!

“This is the best valentine’s day ever!” Matt cheered. Lisa had to agree! OF all 3 years of valentines together, this was truly the most special

~~~~~

### A Pretty Flower

BY EMILY JANES, NORTH BROOKFIELD

“Ellie, look at the pretty flowers” Ellie and her Mom were taking a walk around the local garden.

Ellie squatted down and picked a dandelion, of all the flowers that was a silly choice.

“What color is it Ellie?” Mom asked.

“Pink” Ellie smiled.

“Actually its Yellow, it’s called a Dandelion” Mom explained to her two year old daughter.

Ellie tossed the flower on the grass and the two carried on.

“Look at those purple flowers. They are called lavender” Mom pointed. Ellie clapped excitedly. Mom laughed.

“Ellie stand by the roses so i can take your picture” Mom said. She stood her daughter by the red roses,

“Say cheese” Mom held up her cell.

“Cheese” Elie grinned. Mom snapped her picture.

“Good job sweetie”

Mom took Ellie’s hand and the two carried on their journey through the beautiful flower garden.

~~~~~

Caboose

BY RICHARD TRAU SCHKE, WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

I grew up listening to steam trains; leaving and arriving all the time.

Many’s the time I’d watch them strain, pulling many loaded cars

up a steep incline.

In ’42 Ken and I ran, and it was just our luck;

We bounded up the hill, and watched it come.

Loaded with tanks and Jeeps and trucks;

there was a hundred cars, if there was one.

We waved at the engineer, as we always did;

and counted the cars out of the railroad yard.

Never failing to wait right up to the end;

To wait for the caboose, and salute the guard.

The caboose was special, at the trains end;

it was sad to see it moving down the track.

That red railroad car, disappeared round the bend, that caboose now gone, is not ever coming back.

It was replaced by a coupler-covered box, no less;

That transmits brake data to the engineer.

They named it an EOT (end of train) I guess,

I’d still prefer a red caboose, bringing up the rear.

~~~~~

### First Time Sugarin’

BY RICHARD TRAU SCHKE, WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

I once was as young as I could be; and being a lad of curiosity;

I asked my mom about the maple tree, and if she knew how the sap runs free

We had four tress on our property, and she’d be willing to now, show me, how to collect raw sap, you see, then boil it until it will syrup be.

I hammered a nail, well off the ground; about two inches in, sturdy and sound.

With an awl and wire, and a can I found;

pail on the nail, then guess what came round?

Sap dripping quickly, from tree to nail; in no time filling the empty pail; from all four trees, filled without fail, gathering five full gallons before daylight paled.

I helped mom boil the sap in a pot,

4 hours it took, it was very, very hot;

Till at last it smelled sweet, and like as not,

It wasn’t a lot, but I loved what I got.

~~~~~

Photographs & Memories

By Sher Morse, Spencer, MA

Photographs and images of years gone by... Happier and younger, days we remember fondly. Still lifes of you on paper go directly from the eyes to

the heart. The memories will always survive, even tho you were unable to... We cling to those better days, for sometimes, that’s all we have. We cherish those old photos as if they were gold. We cling to those memories so alive in our hearts and minds. Always of you – Always.

~~~~~

### Calling Heaven

BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

I want to pick up the phone and call you, but it’s not that simple. You reside in Heaven now, and the lines don’t go that far. So, instead I’m calling you in Heaven. I talk aloud to you. You silently answer me in whispering words. I wish I could actually hear your voice again, but that’s not meant to be. I have to be content calling Heaven which I shall do the rest of my life.

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# Discussing duck boxes



THE GREAT  
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The recent cold weather has made a lot of ponds safe to fish on, and it also made the ice safe enough for Mass. Fish & Wildlife personnel to visit the hundreds of Wood Duck boxes that are erected throughout the state. Each year, repairing and cleaning out boxes in numerous bodies of water needs to be addressed. The state is not the only entity that has taken on the interest in helping the Wood Ducks by erecting boxes. Numerous Fish & Game Clubs have taken on the task of placing Wood Duck boxes on their property, and in local rivers and swamps. When checking and cleaning boxes, it is like opening a gift, revealing whether the box was successful in a duck hatching her eggs. The sign of empty shells in the box is very satisfying.

Paul Soars has maintained a number of Wood Duck boxes on the Uxbridge property for years. Efforts by both Fish & Wildlife and local clubs and private citizens have kept the Wood Duck population in good shape. At one time, the Wood Duck population was in bad shape, but with the erection of Wood duck boxes over the years, the population is high enough to allow a three-bird daily bag limit during the hunting season. At one time, only a single Wood Duck was allowed



in the daily bag limit of ducks. Over the years, Boy Scout troops and other outdoor groups have built numerous duck boxes, and actively monitored and repaired them every year. Any group that is interested in finding out more about building and monitoring them should call the Mass. Fish & Wildlife in Westborough. They can get you started, and also have plans, as to building the boxes and all other information that you will need to get started. This writer contacted the Boys Trade school back a number of years ago, and was successful in getting the carpenter's section of the school to build more than 100 boxes in one year. All we did was to supply the wood from a local sawmill and passed them out to sportsmen that erected them in suitable habitat. The Wood Duck is a migratory bird that will return to New England every spring. This year's migration is due to arrive in a

few weeks. This past week, ice fishermen were out in force again trying to enjoy the outdoors and to catch the big one. Reports were coming in from all over the state about lunker bass, pike, pickerel, perch and some large trout. One local angler caught a two pound rainbow trout at the Whitinsville Fish and Game Club's fishing derby this past Saturday, that netted him a \$500 purse. More than 80 anglers entered the derby which was a record turnout. This week's picture shows Patrick Soullier with his derby winning trout. There were a lot of youngsters also fishing, which was nice to see. The second picture shows young Sophie, waiting patiently for a bite on her jig stick! She was social distancing and wearing her mask. The bite was a bit slow, but everyone had a great time. A report of more than five or six anglers that fished Wallum Lake this



past Saturday caught nothing, while another group caught a couple of bass, but no trout. That is the way Wallum Lake is. Do not forget that Wallum Lake closes to all fishing on Feb. 28! Mass. Fish & Wildlife released their proposals for an increase in 2022 hunting and fishing licenses, permits and stamps and a new stamp for pheasant hunting for 2022. They are only proposals! The partial list is as follows: Resident fishing license \$40, Resident hunting license \$40, Resident sporting license \$75, all stamps and permits \$20 each. A new Pheasant and Quail license will cost \$20. Most Non-Resident permits could be \$40 each! For a complete list of all license changes and permit changes, go to the Mass. Fish & Wildlife Web site. Saltwater licenses are also up for an increase for 2022. Mother Nature had been kind to all wildlife this win-

ter, until this past couple of weeks. With very little snow this year, finding food was relatively easy after the heavy acorn crop of last year. Female deer are now carrying their young, but should have no problem finding food and navigating the recent snow left by the last two storms. The snow should be gone in the next two weeks. The Whitinsville Fish & Game Club will hold their annual Game dinner on March 27. The event will be a take-out only dinner with all of the usual great food. Tickets are \$20 each. Go to their Web site at [www.whitinsvillefishgame.com](http://www.whitinsvillefishgame.com) to purchase your tickets. A raffle will also be held. At this time of Covid-19, numerous Rod & Gun Clubs are doing everything they can to keep the lights on, and they need your continued support.

*Take a Kid Fishing & Keep them Rods Bending!*

## The positive power of influencing others

A few weeks ago, we spoke of the power of influence and that we become the average of the five people we spend the most time around. People often brush aside the idea that they are influenced by others. To do so is foolish. We are all influenced, and we all influence others.

Today, I want to speak with you about the power of influence we have over others. Let me first break down the difference between casual influence and purposeful influence. Casual influence is the impact you have on others by just who you are. Purposeful influence is in mentoring others. Let's focus on the power of influence you can have on others and we will call it mentoring.

Mentoring is about helping another person learn through a one-to-one relationship. It's a common practice for transferring knowledge and promoting best practices and procedures in the workplace, as well as being an effective way to develop new leaders. Serving as a mentor can play a powerfully influential role in younger generations and can benefit you as well as the mentee.

We spend a lifetime learning, gathering information and experiences. My oldest son once told me, "When a person dies, it's as if a library full of one-of-a-kind books



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

burns to the ground. Unless shared, all your knowledge, information and experience are lost." If we allow that to happen it's as if a lifetime of learning is wasted.

What experience and information do you have that can benefit others if shared?

I don't care who you are, what your education level is or what you do or have done for a living, you have something inside your head and heart that would benefit others to know.

A few years ago, our community was desperate for substitute teachers. I have a degree in education, so I began. I contin-

ued doing so two days a week until I was diagnosed with stomach cancer.

I also started a drum line and color guard in association with Youth for Christ and found weekly opportunities to set an example and share life experiences with eighth grade through high school age students. Many of those students came from broken homes and did not have a father figure in their lives. I found it to be an incredibly rewarding experience for me as well as them.

What experience do you have to share? Are you a musician, athlete, business professional or tradesperson? If so, you have experience to share. Do you know how to

Turn To **MOORE** page **A19**



# Community Connection

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EDITORIAL

How about  
this weather?

“How about this weather?”

If ever there was an easy, non-challenging conversation opener, this is it. You can be in line at the grocery store, serving jury duty or pushing papers around at work – it doesn’t matter where you are - this line never fails.

Everyone seems willing to talk about the weather. It’s a built-in, slam-dunk, easy topic that allows complete strangers to either commiserate or celebrate, depending on the daily meteorological situation.

So, what is it with the weather? Why do we love to discuss, comment and re-hash it?

Weather is complicated, frustrating and ultimately uncertain. Weather breaks our hearts and lifts our moods and forces daily choices for everyone. Weather drives our decisions, affects our attitudes and makes fellow survivors out of strangers.

Weather is our most true common denominator. No matter what our life circumstances - student, professional, retiree – when you live in the same geographic area, you and your fellow community members have the weather in common.

Weather doesn’t care about politics or sports teams or vacations or the date on the calendar. It is an equal opportunity annoyer and a great equalizer – everyone has to drive in snow, or dash to the car in the rain, or stand in long lines at the fair in the hot sun. Almost everyone has had a picnic cancelled, a vacation spoiled or a ball game rained out.

But weather is also the unexpectedly warm, sunny, sweet-smelling spring morning that causes smiles and banter with co-workers. It’s the light snow flurries that add sparkle to early December and prompts holiday greetings between shoppers. It’s the crisp, snappy feel of fall football games and the slow, sultry, humidity of summer evenings spent on backyard patios. It’s the backdrop of every day of our lives.

So, what is it with the weather? Maybe we love the topic because it’s universal. Maybe we love the excitement of something that will change – either for the good or the bad. Maybe it’s that it is temporary and fleeting and some- thing to either be withstood or enjoyed, knowing that it will not last. Maybe it’s simply because weather is always with us... whether we like it or not.

“Gotcha,” Berthiaume & Durant...

To the Editor:

For many weeks now, Rep. Durant and Rep. Berthiaume have been asked relentlessly some simple yet very pertinent questions regarding political events in the United States, and they have chosen to ignore the calls for answers and pretend as though they don’t know they are being asked.

It isn’t me who deserves an answer; it is all of their constituents.

Rep. Berthiaume owes an answer to approximately 42,751 constituents. He owes answers to the 14,609 people who voted for him, the 8,824 people who voted for Sam Biaggetti, the 887 people who voted but not for either of them, and the roughly 18,431 constituents who didn’t vote in 2020.

Rep. Durant owes an answer to approximately 41,886 constituents. He owes answers to the 15,947 people who voted for him, the 5,231 who voted in 2020 but not for Durant, and the rough-

The gift of imagination

To the Editor:

Imagination is a wonderful gift if you possess it. It is the inspiration that drives all invention and innovation. All the great inventions were a concept in the heads of an inventor. You must be able to take those abstract ideas and build the plans using your imagination. It is also the driving force for the great artistic accomplishments. Painter, sculptors, and writers must have imagination to visualize their interpretation of the world into their works of art. Every novel written is from the imagination of the writer. Indeed, even America sprung from the great imagination of the founding

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leicester is blessed

To the Editor:

In the midst of a recent snowstorm, I called 911 for a medical emergency and needed to go to the hospital. I cannot say enough about the two young men who came to my aid. They were courteous, kind, and knew just what I needed. They even shoveled their way into my home.

There was a plow that came up before the ambulance and waited so that it

There is sometimes no evidence...until there is

To the Editor:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. I also believe that the One Holy Catholic Church is also an Apostolic Church.

This Creed has been the center of my life for the past 73 years. Even our Faux Irish Catholic president has uttered these words many times over the years. But, is this Creed baseless and a big lie? According to modern day thinking (faith be dammed), it certainly seems

The 7th party system takes shape

To the Editor:

This past week we have seen a stunning display of animosity between state GOP apparatus and the Senators who voted to convict the former president. Nearly all of the Republican Senators who voted to convict either have been censured by their state parties or will be in the near term.

There seems to be complete amnesia that all public officials take an oath of office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic and that they will faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which they are about to enter. The framers of the Constitution didn’t anticipate political parties and expected each political officer to act on their own conscience and for their own constituents. Impeachment, as outlined in Article 1 Section 2 Clause 5 & Section 3 Clause 6 of the U.S. Constitution was never intended to be a partisan activity so it is wildly inappropriate for official political party apparatus to punish mem-

ly 20,708 constituents that didn’t vote.

Sen. Gobi & Rep. LaBoeuf honestly aren’t much better. Their political ambitions seem to be getting in the way of them doing the right thing.

Is this seventh week in a row asking for answers likely to elicit a response? Of course not... The purpose is to remind everybody that Donnie Berthiaume and Peter Durant don’t think you, the constituents, the readers of the Spencer New Leader, deserve to know where your state reps stand on such important issues such as whether we should respect elections and who is responsible for the events of the 6th of January. Neither Durant or Berthiaume should be given the opportunity for the constituents to forget that they have deliberately avoided answering, and that is the reason for the repeated.

My goal is to remind everyone that they don’t feel you deserve answers.

fathers. The Constitution was a document envisioned in their wild dreams and imagination. To understand the past, it also requires you to use imagination. No living person really knows what those great people in our history really thought. You have transfers yourself back in time using your imagination. Only then can you get a feeling how the hardships, their surroundings, and how these influenced their lives. Yes, imagination is a true gift given to use by our creator. It is one of most important elements of our nature that elevates us above all other living creatures on our earth. It’s what separates us from the baboons.

could go before the ambulance on the way out of the street.

Leicester, we are blessed, and should be very proud of those who are there to take care of us. A great big thank you for your service. God bless you all. Stay safe and keep up the good work.

AUDREY M. LOVELY  
LEICESTER

that way. Where is the evidence?

President Donald Trump believes the 2020 election was stolen – to a certain extent, I concur. His belief has been referred to as “The Big Lie,” and his followers have been labeled as cult members that need to be reprogrammed because there is no evidence to support it. Maybe the Biden Justice Department should investigate the Catholic Church as a cult and ultimately brand it as such.

I wonder if our Catholic champions (Biden, Pelosi and Casey to mention a few) will stand up and support the Catholic Church or cave to the faithless, socialist, commie left. I think I know the answer.

As a closing thought: there was no evidence that Lance Armstrong was doping, athletes were taking steroids or Pete Rose was betting on baseball – until there was. Maybe that is why history is written by others well into the future.

JIM REID  
SPENCER

bers for “voting wrong.”

To be fair, the animosity between Republicans who voted to impeach and convict and the party base is very deep. The state and county GOP’s are a reflection of the Republican Party base. Former RNC Chairman Michael Steele back in 2016 said that the nomination of Donald Trump in 2016 would hasten the conversation that the Republican Party needed to have regarding who they are, what they value, and the role of race and racism within the party. Five years later, the conversation did happen... Donald Trump transformed the Republican Party into a party completely loyal to him individually therefore those Republicans who voted to impeach and convict in accordance with the evidence, their conscience, and their constitutional responsibilities are not “real Republicans.”

What is yet to be seen is if these censure votes and reprimands in 2021 have

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

Some readers agree with me and some don’t, and that is fine. Our local state reps may agree with me or not, and that is fine. What I ask is that they go on record and own their positions, not cower until the problem goes away. They should be proud to either defend Donald Trump or condemn him, but avoiding the issue should not be one of the options.

I hope I highlighted the basic “gotcha.” Representatives Durant & Berthiaume have put themselves in a position where there is no good answer and that’s why they are silent. Are they peddling lies, fear, and threats? Honestly, we won’t know until we hear from them. Do they know that there is insufficient evidence of fraud and Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 election? We won’t know until we hear from them.

Turn To **BAGG** page **A11**

In a column here a few weeks ago, Har-Yarok stated that “I wish I had a wild imagination such as Mr. Robillard.” I am sure he wishes he did! Imagination is a gift that you are born with and can develop into a wonderful mind. It cannot be substituted for by MBA’s or online diplomas. In fact, Har reminds me of the Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz. His life is a journey in search of imagination. He hopes a wizard or dean at some school will bestow the gift of imagination on him with a diploma or award. He doesn’t know that memorization of facts is not a substitute for imagination. Imagination requires you not to ask “why” but to

What can  
investors learn  
from 2020?

Now that we’re a few weeks removed from 2020, it’s a good time to reflect on such a momentous year. We can think about developments in the social and political spheres, but we also learned – or perhaps re-learned – some valuable lessons about investing.



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Here are four of them:

A long-term perspective is essential. Volatility in the financial markets is nothing new, but, even so, 2020 was one for the books. Of course, the COVID-19 outbreak was the driving force behind most of the wild price swings. Soon after the pandemic’s effects were first felt, the S&P 500, a common index of U.S. large-cap stocks, fell 34% but gained 67% by the end of the year. Consequently, investors who stuck with their investment portfolios and kept their eyes on their long-term goals, rather than on shocking headlines, ended up doing well. And while 2020 was obviously an unusual year, the long-term approach will always be valuable to investors.

Investment opportunities are always available. The pandemic drove down the prices of many stocks – but it didn’t necessarily harm the long-term fundamentals of these companies. In other words, they may still have had strong management, still produced desirable products and services, and still had good prospects for growth. In short, they may still have been good investment opportunities – and when their prices were depressed, they may also have been “bargains” for smart investors. And this is the case with virtually any market downturn – some high-quality stocks will be available at favorable prices.

Diversification pays off. Bond prices often move in a different direction from stocks. So, during a period of volatility when stock prices are falling, such as we saw in the weeks after the pandemic hit in March, the presence of bonds in your portfolio can lessen the impact of the downturn and stabilize your overall returns. And this, in essence, is the value of maintaining a balanced and diversified portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can’t guarantee profits or prevent all losses.)

The market looks ahead. The pandemic-driven market plunge may have been stunning, but it made a kind of intrinsic sense – after all, the sudden arrival of a pandemic that threatened lives, closed businesses and cost millions of jobs doesn’t sound like a positive event for the financial markets. But the strong rally that followed the initial drop and continued into 2021 has surprised many people. After all, the pandemic’s effects were felt throughout the rest of 2020, and are still being felt now, so why did stock prices rise? The answer is pretty straightforward: The financial markets always look ahead, not behind. And for a variety of reasons – including widespread vaccinations, anticipated economic stimulus measures from Congress and the Biden administration, and the Federal Reserve’s continued steps to keep interest rates low – the markets are anticipating much stronger economic growth, possibly starting in the second half of 2021.

All of us are probably glad to have 2020 behind us. Yet, the year taught us some investment lessons that we can put to work in 2021 – and beyond.

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

ask, “why not.” You see this in people like Elon Musk and Donald Trump. They push the limits to fulfill their dreams. Those who do not possess it are the followers. They are like parrots, trained to repeat the thoughts of others. With all his Covid hysteria and numbers copied from the CDC we see this in Har. If he every should have the opportunity to meet his hero Dr. Fauci, I am sure he would get a pat on the head. He may even get a cracker or thrown a ball to fetch. I am sure he would fit right in a those one of those government union jobs where he is told how and what to do. You can

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**REED**  
*continued from page A9*

of non-logic. Their hateful, vain and unjust attempt to falsely accuse President Trump of inciting violence and an insurrection against the U.S. Congress/Capitol Building on that day. Many of us locally wanted to be there in that peaceful and patriotic crowd, yet we were certainly there in spirit. The many excellent videos online showing the remarkably huge and well-behaved mass there during the rally was heartening to see, around a million non-violent real Americans who love President Trump, and the rule of law—that same be followed in elections!

Noting the projectionist behavior of the anti-Trumpers, Congressional Democrats and other Leftists over the course of the Trump Presidency, even still, I went back in time to consider the antics of some of my classmates in the Tatnuck School yard of the 1970s. We fairly-fortunate West-siders used to pull what I'll call "school-yard stinkers" on one another occasionally, all part of how kids amuse themselves from the routineness and boredom of another long school day not yet ended. Someone in the group would eventually pass some gas, the strong odor of which was both unmistakable and successful in reaching one or more pair of nostrils nearby, resulting in an equally strong condemnation by the recipients thereof: "Oh, ohhhhhhhh, who cut the cheese?" "Who stepped on a duck?" "Who [rhymes with "hit"] their pants?" The quick response to such inter-

rogatories would often be one of the following: "He that detected it connected it!" "He that smelt it dealt it!" "He that accused lit the fuse!" Well, you get the drift, right? It was an early youthful lesson in the all-too-common dishonest and deceptive adult practice of hanging the stink on, not necessarily the actual guilty party, but more likely the innocent party, or messenger, towards the end goal of deflecting/removing guilt from the likelier or actual doer of the dirty deed. This is precisely what the Democrats/Left have done (including several Leftist Viewpoint contributors here, those authentic and/or phony-named in this publication) and are still doing to President Trump. They have fomented racism and hatred by trying to set fellow Americans against each other with foolish labels and nutty concepts like "White privilege." When cities were being burned, looted and destroyed by Left-wing mob violence over the last year, the Democrats were largely silent about same, and as bad, blamed President Trump for the unrest they themselves have created with their own heated rhetoric. Then-U.S. Senator Kamala Harris advocated for a fund to benefit the accused and charged perpetrators, not the victims of the vandalism!

The slowly-emerging evidence reveals that anti-Trump Leftist agitators (Some nonetheless dressed in pro-Trump garb, but not even registered to vote in their home precincts! Wait, what?) caused the mayhem at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th; it was not our beloved and peaceful

President Trump, nor his proud unarmed supporters on hand. The Democrats and corrupt swamp Republicans like Mitch McConnell are dead wrong. President Trump had absolutely no role nor guilt to bear in the unlawful and violent acts following the peaceful Stop-the-Steal rally. That is why Mr. Trump was easily found Not Guilty at the fake Impeachment Trial in the U.S. Senate recently. Only seven weak, hateful, spiteful, egotistical and jealous Republicans joined the Democrats who (as usual) marched in lock step. You cannot impeach a former President; it is unconstitutional. Even liberal Harvard University Professor-Emeritus Alan Dershowitz realizes this, but apparently almost 200 other so-called "scholars" said the Senate Impeachment trial/vote was legitimate. No, they are wrong! (Remember Calvin Coolidge's observation around 100 years ago: "...the world is full of educated derelicts.") Professor Dershowitz is right, and so is Chief Justice John Roberts of the U.S. Supreme Court who correctly refused early on to preside over the mean-spirited hateful political charade of a second (but now post-Presidency) Trump impeachment vote in the U.S. Senate. No surprise then that Professor Dershowitz is no longer invited to many of the soirees of the "beautiful people" on Martha's Vineyard, but at least he has his Constitutional bona fides, principles and honor intact.

DANA GEORGE REED  
SPENCER

**ROBILLARD**  
*continued from page A8*

tell from his articles critical thinking and the use of an imagination is not one of his strong traits.

The Democratic Left likes to twist the facts so imagination seems fanciful. Look at Congresswoman Greene. She had an open mind that lasers from space could have started the California brush fires. They criticized this as fake and completely stupid. I suggest you go online and search "Space Based Solar Power." It's a real concept under development. Large solar collectors deployed in space capture the Sun's rays and concentrate into a beam that is fired down to earth to heat a Solar Tower to produce electricity. Its being developed in countries where they have no energy resources, like Israel. Is it possible that during testing of a device that a beam inadvertently ignited a fire? Imagination says yes, it is possible. When the left controls the media they try to control your thinking. Those with imagination will question it, investigate it, and generate their own ideas and conclusions. Don't take the Democratic Left propaganda being touted in the news as facts. They have closed off public discord by eliminating opinions and voices of the moderates and right leaning pundits. Their intended purpose of this is for you to

be "re-educated" and for you to "group think." This only works on the weak minded and those without imagination. Kind of like the Jedi mind trick from Star Wars. You can tell it doesn't take much to control the mind of Joe Biden.

The tragic part of the Covid is the draconian lockdowns by the left are designed to depress the freedom and imaginations of the people. Social media programs are no substitute for real life social interaction and exchange of ideas that happens when you're in a group. The real losers are the children kept out of schools. The imagination and exchange of ideas you get thru live interaction in sports, face to face social interaction, and just playing around cannot be replicated in sterile computer meetings monitored by social shamers. Sitting around a computer all day and surfing thru the net will likely create more self-professed geniuses like the Unabomber Ted Kaczynski or worse, more Har-Yaroks. It's time we open our world again to fully energize the imagination of our people. After all, the greatest country in the world, America, sprang from the wild imagination of our founding fathers and the Patriots who fought to make it. God blessed them, and us, with that gift.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

**ROSENBERG**  
*continued from page A8*

any political meaning for their reelection campaigns in 2022, 2024, and 2026.

There is a fight going on within the Republican Party about whether the members are loyal to the political party, goals, and ideals as political parties are generally understood in America or if

they are loyal to Donald Trump as an individual. Polls have shown that the GOP is split about in half as to whether they are a party or a personal apparatus for Trump. Those that want to move forward as a political party want to work with Democrats to shape policy and those who are loyal to Trump seem to not want to work with Democrats and settle back into being the "party of no," throwing darts, and throwing nails in

the proverbial road.

The former president called into conservative cable news channels and continued to talk about the election being stolen and was openly fighting with Mitch McConnell. It makes me wonder if the current 6<sup>th</sup> party system in the United States is nearing its logical end and we are entering a 7<sup>th</sup> party system which is yet to be fully defined. Will it be a three-party system between

Democrats, Republicans, and MAGA? Will it be a four-party system by causing a split in the Democratic party between Progressives and the pragmatic? The plurality system used in the USA can only be stable with two major parties so it will be interesting how this plays out.

DAVID ROSENBERG  
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## TAYLOR

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ute it. Right now, it is possible to “side load” the app onto an Android phone by downloading it directly since Android is an open platform but it is currently impossible to put the app on an Apple phone because only Apple approved apps can be installed on an Apple phone and there is no technical way around it.

While I never thought I would agree with a weird bill coming out of North Dakota, I was quite surprised this week to learn that North Dakota had a bill in their State Senate to force Apple to allow alternative App Stores on iOS. As dangerous as Parler and its users are, I find the power Apple has over all Apple phones very concerning. Unfortunately, though, the ND bill failed and the whole issue of monopolistic anti-trust with the Apple App store will fade into the background.

In other interesting tech news, the Australian government seems to be going to war with Google and Facebook. They are about to pass a law requiring that tech giants pay news organizations for content and if they can't reach an agreement it goes to arbitration. Australia's basic argument is “80 percent of Australian internet advertising dollars goes to you guys so we're going to require you give some money to the newspapers.” It strikes me as «Robinhood politics...» They are concerned that news organizations are doing poorly while they see internet companies doing well so they want to make companies successful in the 21st century subsidize companies with unsuccessful business models.

The thing that is interesting to me is that if anything, Google and Facebook are helping journalism, not hurting it. A lot of news is published for free, by the choice of the publisher for whatever reason (ads, outside funding, whatever). Google and Facebook drive a lot of customers who wouldn't otherwise click on the content. If a pub-

lisher doesn't want to offer it for free, they put it behind a “paywall.” Only 15 percent of the population or so is willing to pay for news, though. When news is behind a paywall most people just don't read it and move on. From my perspective, if your content is free, then you thank Google/Facebook for bringing you views/clicks. If you have a paywall then more exposure is better, Google/Facebook still benefit you. Lobbying for a law which requires tech companies to give money to journalists just seems bizarre. If they want to tax Google and then subsidize journalism that might make some sense, but this is just bizarre.

Both have threatened to leave the Australian market entirely over it. They both take issue with arbitration... If The West Australian deems their content to be worth more than Google wants to pay for it, Google could be forced to pay them what some judge thinks it is worth and not allowed to just decide not to carry it. They want to have their cake and eat it too, they want Google and Facebook to continue to universally connect content creators with content consumers but they want some of their money. It doesn't seem workable to me and it seems like jealousy and a misunderstanding of the business models.

The precedent is terrible for both Google and Facebook. If they give in to this it will open the floodgates around the world.

Facebook recently stopped carrying all news and information content in or from Australia. Their attitude is that only 4 percent of their revenue comes from news, they're not playing this game, and Australia can pound sand. Google appears to be trying to negotiate. I understand why Facebook is choosing the nuclear option of taking their ball and going home. I am not quite sure why Google isn't playing hardball...

RICHARD TAYLOR  
SPENCER

## BAGG

continued from page A8

At this point, all we know is that they know they put themselves into a lose-lose situation and have chosen dereliction of duty instead of clearing the air.

To remind everyone of the questions Rep. Durant & Rep. Berthiaume refuse to answer:

Question 1: Who won the 2020 presidential election?

Question 2: Was the 2020 election a free and

fair election?

Question 3: Do you approve of Former President Trump's behavior, misinformation, refusal to concede the election he lost, and incitement of insurrection from Nov. 8 through Jan. 20. Regardless of whether you support or condemn the former president, please use his name in your statement. Be specific. Nothing squishy.

Question 4: Of what political loyalty are those that stormed the Capitol

on Jan. 6? Choices are Trump supporters, Right-wing domestic terrorists, Antifa, foreign agents, BLM, Patriots.

Question 5: Which events were a more serious threat to the United States? George Floyd's tragic death and the BLM protests/riots of Summer 2020 or Former President Trump's refusal to accept the outcome of the 2020 election and resulting storming of the Capitol?

FRED BAGG  
SPENCER

## MCRAE

continued from page A9

crack that “I never let schooling interfere much with my education.” Neither did Rush, he dropped out of the local state college after one year which he said he hated, and began his quest for a career in radio. What a blessing it must be for anyone to know early on what it is that excites your interest in how you will earn your living, and to have the necessary drive and motivation to go after it, no matter the obstacles in your way. His father, though, didn't see it that way. The WWII pilot thought his wayward son had ruined his chances in life.

And there were obstacles. Rush knew what it was like to fail. He was fired five times from different jobs, but each time picked himself up and kept moving forward. He was tough, and never a whiner. He knew what he wanted and come hell-or-high-water he was going to get it or die trying.

His was not an easy life, for much of it. Once established, and notorious for his poking the sacred cows of contemporary American liberalism, the tolerant, love-oozing left squealed with delight at the news El Rushbo (a little Spanish lingo there) had, as a consequence of long-term severe neck pain, ended up addicted to Oxycontin and had gone around the law to maintain a supply. “Stick a fork in

him, he's done!” they laughed. But, not Rush. He faced the problem head-on, didn't ask for anyone's sympathy, and regained control of his life.

Later, he suffered what should've been the coup de grace for a broadcaster: he lost his hearing. Totally. Nothing left. Still as determined as ever, he pressed on, and, with the aid of cochlea implants as well as radio callers' comments being instantly reproduced as text he could read, he was back in business. Once again, the fervent hopes and wishes of the “better” people were dashed upon the rocks of frustration. You cannot keep a good man down.

Rush sold millions of copies of his books (“The Way Things Ought to Be,” “See, I Told You So,” and his children's series, “The Rush Revere Stories”), but he never wrote a book on succeeding in marriage. That's because he had four of them. Maybe he should have done one called “Think Twice Before You Say I Do.” But, even with bad luck in marriage, and there had to be a lot of suffering there that we never heard about, Rush soldiered on and found Katharine, the love and glory of his life who partnered with him, loved and cared for him, and was with him to the final moments.

He, even without a cherished degree from Southeastern Missouri State, was

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**BLAIS**  
*continued from page A9*

little faith, God cannot help us [Heb. 11: 6] when we pray and praise as a child of God, God, Jesus is present with us [Matt. 18: 19-28] [Heb. 10: 25] God is our refuge, a shelter, protector, comforter, safety, God is the stronghold, our strength and sanctification, our refuge.

Verse 3, fowlers snare can be hidden dangers, deadly diseases. Pestilence is a disease that causes long-sufferings even onto death. God promises that our prayers to Him, God, Jesus and our faith as a church and individual, God, Jesus will save us.

Verse 4 God is teaching us that as a church and individual praying, praising and faith God's love will cover us like a shield and shelter us like mother shelters her hens, chicks. [Matt. 23: 37]

Verse 5 in prayer, praising and faith, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit is our shield and faith. It is through our faith that God blesses us, without faith God cannot bless us. [Heb. 11: 1 & 6]]

Verse 6 God promises us His people, it is through prayer, praise and faith as a church [Matt. 18: 20] and has individuals Jesus will protect us from pestilence [diseases, worldly influence] the plaques are afflictions, troubles, physical and emo-

tional challenges, annoyances. We who are believers in God, Jesus must remain focus on Jesus, Jesus is our only spiritual, emotional and physical doctor, Jesus is more powerful than medical shots and medicine. Without Jesus, medicine is limited, and can be useless.

Verse 7 what God is teaching us through David, when we stay focus on God, Jesus we won't lose faith, we will remain faithful when we witness the evil happening around us, God, Jesus will comfort and protect us.

Verse 8 God, Jesus will be our protector, shelter.

Verse 9-10 no harm will befall you means! Nothing can happen to a faithful servant of God, Jesus "except" by God's permission, just like Job, God allowed, now, this does not mean there will never be any unpleasant or difficult times in our lives, what it means is as long as we make God, Jesus the Lord of our life anything that happens to us God will work it for our good, good will come from it, even if we don't recognize it at the time. [Rom. 8: 28] God promises when we make Jesus our most high, no harm, disaster will happen to us without God's authority. If God should allow it that is because there is a greater purpose for you that will bring glory to God.

Verse 11 each of us who are in Christ Jesus has an angel who watches over us.

This or these angels are commissioned by God to carefully care for us our best interest, the angels guard our soul and spirit, they protect us in ways we are not aware of. We daily walk, live in the shadow of the Almighty God, Jesus, the angels lift us up in our troubles, the angels give us support we probably take for granted as we daily face, live in this world of spiritual enemies.

Verse 12 the angel watches over us so we do not suffer unnecessary evil.

Verse 13 the lion and the cobra are figuratively Satan, the devil and his demons. We were given authority over Satan through Jesus who trampled over the devil under Jesus feet when Jesus hung on the cross, and for us today who have made a confession of faith in Jesus we have the authority over Satan.

Verse 14-15 because God, Jesus lives and we have accepted Jesus in our lives God promises to come to help in times of troubles. We need to ask our self what is our responsibility to receive God's protection? Our responsibility is to remain faithful and focus on Jesus with heart, soul and body. We need to be intimately attached to Jesus. God knows our heart, God knows who is sincere and God will give His sincere believers, followers comfort and grace to live a full divine life in this world and in God, Jesus eternal presence. What is a full divine life? Prayer,

praise, faith growing in God's Standards, established rules, laws] values [spiritually devoted, blameless, beyond reproach] principals [highest character, proper conduct] God promises to be with us in trials.

Verse 16 It is in and through our prayers, praise and faith that God, Jesus gives us the gift of salvation, God's divine presence, provision. Amen, amen, and amen!

The Lord God Jesus is our light and salvation, our stronghold of life, whom shall I fear? No one! [Psalm 27: 1]

John 10: 10-11, Jesus assures us that He comes to us in the Father, God, so that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Jesus professes to be the Good Shepherd; Jesus gives His life for us, we His sheep. The life Jesus promises for His people will be abruptly fuller and eternal, heavenly, and it begins now here on earth when we make that profession of faith that Jesus is our Savior.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, Jesus is eternal life, never again will there be spiritual, emotional or physical dangers, we will receive the crown of glory. [1 Peter 5: 4] Amen!

ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD

**HERHOLZ**  
*continued from page A9*

that is their cold, hard hearts. Just visit the Fakebook or Twittle pages of these Hollyweird elites, these self-proclaimed Social Justice Advocates, and icons (aka, morons) of the music industry, and their claims of being more compassionate than anyone else, are quickly dismissed by sympathetic gems such as, "Cancer killed the Cancer" – David Cross, "former" heroin addict and purported comedian. Rather than just let Rush's fans grieve, they need to throw sand in our eyes as they kick us while we are down.

Rush predicted that this would be the reaction from the Left. He knew that they just cannot contain the hatred that cocoons them. Among other detestable attributes, one talent Lefties have mastered is the ability to hate with an inauthentic justification. They fight what they call fascism with true fascism. They combat what they consider racism with true racism. And undeniably, nobody can match their level of putrid rancor towards anyone who dares to put their kindheartedness to the test. Just as they cannot see the forest for the trees, they are blind to their own hypocrisy, yet, they always have excuses to validate

their abhorrent behavior.

During his 30-year reign on AM radio, and as Professor of the Limbaugh Institute of Advanced Conservative Studies, triggering Libs was something at which El Rushbo became expert. He used phases such as, "... with half my brain tied behind my back, just to make it fair" and called the members of the National Organization for Women, "Feminazis." He was constantly under attack from the cancel culture, even before that was a thing. In hopes of appeasing the livid lefties, some of Rush's sponsors would pull their advertisements when threaten with a boycott of their products or services. However, they were never successful in terminating Maha Rushie! His pet names for the major political players on the Left were legendary: Bill Clinton – Slick Willy (Bill hated that nickname); Nancy Pelosi – Bella Pelosi; Chuck Todd – F. Chuck Todd; Chuck Schumer – Chuck U. Schumer, just to name a few. And to show his bi-partisan side: Lindsey Graham – Lindsey Gramnesty. But, it seems that nothing stuck in the craw of Congressional Liberals more than when President Donald Trump awarded Rush the highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, during his State of the Union Address. The reac-

tion was, well... delicious! The spontaneous gasps and groans from the disbelieving Democrats were clearly audible, only to be quickly drowned out by the enthusiastically cheering Republicans.

These eternally empathetic and open-minded Marxists will do all they can to focus on all of the negatives Rush went through during his long and successful career as the Voice of the Right. They'll, of course, call him a racist, a bigot, a homophobe, etc. never having any substance to bolster their specious claims. As much as they tried to silence Mount Rushbo, they failed every time, and they will continue to fail. Even in death, there is still triumph!

"America's Dr. of Democracy" will be deeply missed by tens of millions and AM radio now has a huge void to fill. In truth, a man with Rush's ability to fill three hours with knowledge and entertainment, without sounding like those monotone windbags on NPR, is very hard to come by. Many hosts have co-hosts, or take a ton of calls to get through the program. Rush could fill the entire time with the material he had without taking a single caller, and still have enough to carry over into the next day. The Left has no one in their corner who could have done that for 30 years,

Monday through Friday, 3 hours each day. After thirty seconds of listening to Rachael Maddow, I find myself reaching for an icepick to stab into my ears just to make the pain stop.

Rush had the ability to make you laugh, and, as he closed out his last show of 2020, to weep. He knew his time was very short, and that he had held off the light at the end of the tunnel as long as he could. Rush would start each broadcast with, "Talent, on loan, from God." That phrase took on a whole new meaning to him when he received the devastating news of his terminal illness. The last broadcast he said it was on February 2. He returned that talent to God fifteen days later.

Thank you, Mr. Limbaugh. Nobody could have done the job as well as you have. You were a true talent, a wealth of knowledge, the Pioneer of Talk Radio, and the Rock of the Conservative movement. It is now our duty to carry the torch that is the Golden E.L.B. Microphone. It is now our duty, as Patriots, to continue the fight to keep America as the beacon of hope to the rest of the world. God Speed, Rush.

MATHEW HERHOLZ  
SPENCER

**MCRAE**  
*continued from page A11*

exceptionally articulate in his defense of the Constitution, of free enterprise, of the Judaeo-Christian traditions woven into the fabric of American history, and of the American people in general, that is, the good and decent portion of the populace who work hard, love the coun-

try, and are grateful for their freedoms. He knew a lot about things beyond politics. He knew everything there was to know about football, flying airplanes, cigars, music (as a DJ, he was a go-to expert on the MoTown Sound, Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Martha and the Vandellas, and all the rest of the gang), and, unfortunately, golf-total waste of his valuable time. Not bad for a fat guy

dropout from some sleepy town down by the river, I'd say.

His generosity was legendary. Raising many millions for his causes (leukemia research, children of fallen Marines and law enforcement, and other efforts in other areas), Rush, the beneficiary of his own hard work and the kindness of others along the way, paid it forward in grand style all his life.

The left always got their hits in on Rush, the consummate patriot, because he never served in the military-which, of course, neither did most of them-and therefore had no right to wrap himself in the flag. I say, so what? I'm eternally grateful the younger version of Rush wasn't obliged to spend two years dishing out S.O.S. and eggs at some base in Kaiserslautern, or typing orders just up the road at Fort Leonard Wood, or issuing skivvies as a supply clerk in Korea (or some other place nearby.) After his two years, he might've gone home, talked his way into law school, and written wills, contracts, and deeds for his grandfather for the rest of his life. And, where would that have left the rest of us? No Professor of the Limbaugh Institute for Advanced Conservative Studies with his "formerly nicotine-stained fingers" riffling papers while ensconced behind the Golden E.L.B. Microphone blowing away the fog of liberal obfuscation three hours a day for three decades? No, fellow veterans, Rush-against all manner of obstacles-did more to advance and defend the cause of freedom than anyone of my generation whether he ever wore a uniform or not.

If you never heard his musical parodies of liberal windbags like Rev. Al Sharpton, Ted Kennedy, The Animal Rights Wackos, Rev. Jesse Jackson, the N.A.G.S. (National Association of Gals), and other man-hating socialists he dubbed "feminazis", then you missed out on some of the great and brilliant bits of American entertainment hilarity in comedic history. It took brains and talent to produce them, and the guts to feature them. What? You never heard? It's against the law, you understand, to lampoon or ridicule a liberal in contemporary America, especially anyone or thing from a protected class. But, Rush was fearless. That's why we loved him.

Now, what would you expect the liberals to do when they were confronted with a man who they couldn't control, couldn't shut up? Play the race card, of course. Rush was a chubby, rich, white guy from a border state. How could he not be a racist?

But, the narrative falls apart when one recalls that Rush was great friends with many black Americans, and frequently took their calls and treated them with the greatest respect and appreciation. His longtime friendship with the black ex-Cowboys, Packers, and Seahawks linebacker, Ken Hutcherson, resulted in many calls to the show where they would discuss the upcoming weekend's games, golf, family, and God, as Hutcherson had become a pastor of a large church in Seattle. "Hutch," who grew up in seriously segregated southwestern Alabama, and who claimed he was initially drawn to football because he could legally hit white people, admired and loved Rush, and the feeling was clearly mutual.

And then there is the matter of James Golden, out of inner city Rochester, N.Y., and black as can be. Rush fans know

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# LEGALS

## MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Teresa Johnson and Phyllis Schoof to “MERS”, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., “Lender”; and its successors and assigns dated April 24, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 41306, Page 356, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated October 26, 2011 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 48090, Page 120 and as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated November 20, 2015 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 54663, Page 74, and assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated July 6, 2017 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 57379, Page 185, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 11:00 AM, on March 5, 2021**, on the premises known as **115 Charlton Road, Spencer, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit: A certain tract of land on the easterly side of the Charlton Road, Route 31; in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts being shown as a parcel of land entitled “Norman S. Kenward (sic), et ux, September 12, 1972, Reney Bros. Inc. Registered Engineers and Surveyors, Worcester, Massachusetts” which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 370, Plan 84 and which property is more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southwesterly corner thereof, which point is in the easterly line of said Charlton Road, Route 31, and which point is the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Eaton; Thence N. 05° 44’ 05” E., 376.6 feet

+1- along said Charlton Road, Route 31, to a point at land now or formerly of Hamelin; Thence S. 84° 16’ 00” E., 155.2 feet along said Hamelin land to a point at land now or formerly of Myron H. Sibley; Thence S. 11° 09’ 00” W., along said Sibley land to a point at land now or formerly of Eaton; Thence N. 84° 16’ 00” W., along said Eaton land to the point of beginning. Granting the right of way to take water for ordinary household purposes from a spring on Myron Sibley’s land lying easterly of the granted premises; and subject to the restriction that the grantees premises and the adjoining land of Myron H. Sibley. Being the same premises conveyed as described in a deed epm (sic) Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter to Alfred E. Deschamps dated September 30, 1991 recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 13682, Page 239. See also deed from Irene R. Kenward to Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter dated July 31, 1980 and recorded in said Deeds in Book 13616, Page 27 regarding water rights. Conveyed with an easement to maintain an existing barn on land of Myron W. Sibley as recited in a deed from Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter by deed of Myron W. Sibley dated September 26, 1991 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 13682, Page 237. Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record. Purchaser shall also bear all state and

county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts. In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder. Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale. Dated: February 5, 2021 Present holder of said mortgage MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by its Attorneys Guaetta and Benson, LLC Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire P.O. Box 519 Chelmsford, MA 01824 February 12, 2021 February 19, 2021 February 26, 2021

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
**Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Special Permit – Applicant: Concord Brewer, Inc (DBA Rapscaillon); Owner: Thomas Lowkes (LTJ, LLC), Location: 8 Meadow Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map U12-48-1. The applicant is requesting Special Permit under 7.2 and of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw Zoning to operate a microbrewery. The property is located within commercial zoning district.  
February 19, 2021  
February 26, 2021

**Public Hearing**  
The Brookfield Zoning Board of Ap-

peals will hold a Public Hearing beginning at 6:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 9 2021, at the Brookfield Town Hall located at 6 Central Street. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an Administrative Appeal from Daniel Plourde regarding a Cease and Desist Order for outdoor winter recreational activities, including but not limited to, snow-cross activities at his property at 5 Quaboag Street, Brookfield in the town’s Business (BB) and Flood Plain zoning district. Timothy Simon – ZBA Chairman February 19, 2021

**Town of Spencer**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law: Roger Bouley has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to clean up Stormwater debris located at 135 Smithville Road, Spencer, MA. Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A remote public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at which time all persons having an interest may call in to participate in the Conservation Commission meeting that opens at 7:00 p.m.  
**Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman**  
February 26, 2021

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
A public hearing on the proposed Brookfield Elementary School budget for 2021-2022 will be held on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., at the Brookfield Elementary School**, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, § 38N. Copies of the proposed budget are available from the Office of the Principal at Brookfield Elementary School. Andrew Dunn, Chair Brookfield Elementary School Committee February 26, 2021

## KIMBALL

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used in war, and that, upon retirement and being asked to accept lucrative board of director jobs, he declined, saying you don’t want me, you want the stature of the presidency, and it is not for sale. He and his wife hopped in their car and drove home to Missouri. These were Democrats and patriots, whose honor is beyond reproach. Dwight Eisenhower was another such person. A retired 5 star general and supreme commander of our forces in the European theater of WWII. The high watermark of his presidency was absolute loyalty to our vets and the construction of the interstate highway system. We were on the cusp of what was known as the cold war, and it would consume our attention well beyond his presidency. He made an observation at the time, which I fear to be as true today as then. “Beware the military industrial complex. They will take your last dollar, and let you starve sleeping in the streets.” To some extent, this was an homage to frugality, something that used to differentiate the GOP from the spend and tax Democrats. In today’s world, that discrepancy has more to do with who gets the money. The Republicans like to spend on tax breaks, that largely go to the most wealthy, and see no problem building ships, planes and walls, none of which are as effective as you might think. Most drugs and contraband arrives through ports of entry. If we can blow up a specific car in the middle east, thinking a carrier group would not be as vulnerable is bluster more than judgement. Remember, we defeated the British Army, by hiding behind trees with muskets, not wearing bright suite and lining up in rows to exchange fire. My point, in what seems like digression, is that our nation, which the founders originally argued was only necessary for international and interstate commerce, a national bank for common currency and to settle disputes between states., has now evolved into the largest business in the world. That said, there are many downsides that never get adequately addressed. In a normal world, when you borrow money, you pay it back (or at least pay interest). When your tool belt

includes the option to just print money and increase the supply, you have just “borrowed” (stolen) other people’s money by making it worth less. I can even understand and support the need to keep our economy from collapse, until the pandemic and its associated challenges are overcome. Even so, I tell you truly, putting the government (especially with printing presses) , in charge of anything, will likely be done in the most expensive, least efficient manner. While not wanting to sounds exist, most housewives that I have ever encountered, can create and thrive on a budget, more effectively than any government. An example would be a navy that has the ability to let an admiral build a new carrier fleet, when the same amount spent on missiles and drones could destroy every carrier in the world. How about a contractor allowing cost overruns on fighters to more than double- and paying them. My original intent was to point out that there is likely a far better way to bring us together, by starting a new party, that actually reflects what I think to be our shared values. The two that now exist are both being made irrelevant from within. Trump supporters are said to be 46 percent of Republicans. Many still don’t acknowledge that he lost the most free and fair election in history, as stated by his own security chief, who he fired for saying so. He was guilty of creating, inciting and promoting the invasion of congress on January 6. No one, including the senators who voted not guilty at his impeachment, are stupid enough to think it would not have happened unless he did it. There is still a plethora of followers who, despite zero evidence, perpetuate a fraud rumor they started themselves or hear from the Don. My point being, the right has been hijacked by radicals. Then we need to look at the left. What started as fair and equitable treatment of DACA people, path to citizenship and reasonable immigration laws, is being pushed towards open borders and the crazy catch and release proven not to work. What should be fair and legal rights and treatment for all, not mentions reparations. Generations of my family have worked, fought in wars, including the union army, and now I need to pay people for being black? Forgiving college debt is

likely not that at all. It is buying up that debt, and putting it on we who could not afford to go. I understand the concept of the costs of our society being paid by our society. Whether we use the police, fire department or public schools- that socialism is part of who we are. While both over 65, we choose to stay on the federal Blue Cross that we have been on 20 years, and pay for it. That said, I think our end of life program is disgusting. People losing the lifelong home to bankruptcy, because care prices are so high, they would crush all but the most wealthy. When Bernie was first running, and advocating the \$15 minimum, I had a somewhat challenging customer service job with a state contractor. My co-workers and I joked that even having gotten a raise on every review in 10 years, \$15 would be a raise. I doubt doubling the minimum wage will double union wages, so do not be surprised that they think maybe start smaller so they can keep up. In addition to thinking a more center leaning party is in order, some serious tweaking of that old document is too. We can start by removal of impeachment as an option, since it clearly isn’t. Pardon powers should never include co-conspirators or personal favors or preferences. The founders envisioned congress, like the constitutional convention, as a part time job. Define and term limit it. No pork in deficit budgets- rob Peter to pay Paul only- what comes out to add more in. Take a serious look at military budget and what makes sense- Using millions of gallons of fuel to move equipment around that would not survive an actual missile or drone attack is defending a system that denies healthcare to citizens. I think I can safely say that most of us are fed up with the far left and the far right. It took 140 years for women to get the right to vote. Gerrymandering is an atrocity that parallels voter suppression in some markets. Equal rights are equal- sorry- can’t define it better, but society now so convoluted, the road there is long and not easy. I think we all want better options than the status quo. Let’s get on it.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## MCRAE

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Mr. Golden as “Bo Snedley” producer and call screener extraordinaire of the Rush Limbaugh Program for the past couple decades. Rush hired Golden long before it was considered good business practice to get some minorities on board; he was good at what he did, and Rush recognized that. Here’s what brother Bo had to say about his boss: “Beyond all his accomplishments, Rush Limbaugh was one of the finest human beings you would ever want to meet. A generous, wonderful, beautiful spirit; humble, a gentleman...never looked down on people. It burns me to my soul when people sully his reputation with falsehoods, calling him a racist. This man was just an incredible phenomenon—and we love you, Rush.” To which I say, amen...and amen! Millions of us love you, Rush, and you will never be forgotten. You reminded us always of the incalculably precious gift of having been born in this blessed land of opportunity and full of kind and decent people who do their best to lead the kind of useful

and productive lives which American-style freedom makes possible. You preached that it didn’t just fall into our laps, but was purchased by the blood, sweat, and tears of many generations of our forebears; it cannot be allowed to simply sink into some socialist slough of despond. And, finally, you taught your friends and admirers how to face the end with courage and dignity. You came to the Golden Mike as often as you could even though you knew the dance was about to end...forever. Never whined, never surrendered to the pain of treatment, never forced your disappointment onto the listeners. Winston Churchill would have been proud, Rush: “Never give in, never give in, in nothing great or small, never give in. Except for considerations of honor and good sense, never give in. Never, never, never!” You never surrendered, Professor Limbaugh—you are the man! I hope, no, expect, now that, like Tennyson, you have “...crossed the bar...” you have “seen your Pilot face to face” and that all is well with your soul.

JOHN MCRAE  
EAST BROOKFIELD



**Say it in living color!**

**The world isn't black and white.**

**So, why is your ad?**



# OBITUARIES

## James E. Jalbert, Sr., 8

SPENCER- James E. Jalbert, Sr., 82, of Spencer died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Saturday, February 13, 2021 following an illness.

James is predeceased by his wife Claire (Troy) Jalbert. He leaves 2 sons James E. Jalbert, Jr. & his wife Wilma of Matthews, NC and Jeffrey M. Jalbert & his wife Wendy Schlegel of Paxton; 2 daughters Lisa M. DiBonaventura and her husband Michael Sr. of Spencer and Laurie A. Phelan of Spencer; 7 grandchildren Jessica O'Day and her husband Patrick of Rutland, Sean Phelan and his wife Alexandra of NJ, Michael DiBonaventura Jr and his wife Elizabeth of Rutland, Sara Cornacchioli & her husband Domenic of Spencer, Jonathan DiBonaventura of Spencer, Anthony DiBonaventura & his wife Samantha of Spencer and Monique Jalbert of NC; 7 great grandchildren, with a great grandson due in



April. He also leaves a brother Joseph Jalbert of Charlton; several sister and brother in laws; many nieces and nephews.

James retired from L. Hardy Knife in 2000. He was also proud to tell everyone he helped construct many places in Worcester while working for Granite Research. He enjoyed working in his garden, taking care of his cats, feeding the birds and trips to Maine where they had a trailer for many years. He was a member of St. Johns Episcopal Church in Worcester.

Private graveside services will be held in Mary Queen of the Rosary Cemetery in Spencer. There are no calling hours as was his wish. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to Overlook Hospice, 88 Masonic Home Rd. Charlton, MA 01507 or the Second Chance Animal Shelter PO Box 136 E. Brookfield, MA, 01515. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer. For an online tribute and guestbook please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

## Father William Meninger, O.C.S.O.

SPENCER – Father William Meninger, O.C.S.O., a Trappist monk of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, died in the monastery's infirmary Sunday morning, February 14, 2021.

Born William Austin Meninger in Malden, Massachusetts on August 29, 1932 to John Joseph Meninger and Katherine T. Foley, he graduated from Everett High School in 1950 and St. John's Seminary in Brighton in 1958. He earned a master's degree in Sacred Scripture and continued postgraduate work at Seattle University, Harvard Divinity School and Boston University. He served as a secular priest of the Diocese of Yakima, in the State of Washington, where he worked on an Indian reservation and with migrant workers until he entered St. Joseph's Abbey in 1963. He made temporary profession as a monk in 1965 and pronounced his solemn vows in 1970. At St. Joseph's Abbey, Father William was the monastery's guestmaster and retreat master for 15 years. He also served as prior, dean of the junior professed monks and professor of scripture, liturgy and patristics.

In 1974 he initiated a program of studies based on The Cloud of Unknowing, the work of an anonymous 14th century English hermit. Fr William's efforts to promote the message of this book developed, with the cooperation of Fr. Thomas Keating and Fr. Basil Pennington, fellow monks of the abbey, into an international network of conferences augmented by scores of published books amplifying an approach to contemplative spirituality known



as Centering Prayer, with the purpose, in part, of proposing to Christian readers the centuries-long existence of an orthodox and venerable alternative to Eastern forms of meditation.

In 1982 Fr. William transferred his monastic stability to the Spencer abbey's daughter-house of St. Benedict in Snowmass, Colorado where he served as prior, novice master and vocations director as well as professor of theology and scripture. He spent three years in Israel continuing scripture studies at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem while living at the Trappist Abbey of Latroun. In 2020, with his health declining, he transferred back to St. Joseph's Abbey to live in its infirmary where, as his energy allowed, he continued engaging in regular Zoom conferences on contemplative prayer.

Fr. William was one of nine siblings. He is survived by his sister Pat Apruzzese and her husband Vincent, his sister-in-law Carol Meninger and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his valued friend, Dan Dobbins of Tallahassee, Florida, who made possible and facilitated Fr. William's endeavors at outreach.

The monks wish to thank the brothers and lay staff at St. Joseph's Abbey Resident Healthcare Facility, the abbey's infirmary, for the compassionate care they afforded Father William in his final months. With gratitude for his venerable presence among us, the brothers commend Father William's soul to your prayers. There are no calling hours. Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 protocols, services and burial are strictly private. J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terrace, Spencer, 508-885-3992, is directing arrangements.

## Spencer man killed in snowmobile accident

SPENCER – A Spencer man was killed last week in a snowmobile accident in Maine.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 19. Ryan Ducharme, 34, of Spencer, was riding with a group in Madrid, Maine. His vehicle left the trail and crashed into trees, police said.

Ducharme was pronounced dead at the scene by authorities. He was wearing a helmet, police said, and alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

Investigators did not rule out speed as a possible factor. Maine law enforcement personnel and wildlife officials continue to probe the incident.

## Celluloid collectibles

Celluloid was considered the first semi-synthetic plastic. According to Britannica, "some historians trace the invention of celluloid to English chemist Alexander Parkes, who in 1856 was granted the first of several patents on a plastic material that he called Parkesine." The Atlantic magazine attributes development to the United States inventor John Wesley Hyatt who is said to have created celluloid in 1869. Celluloid was created to replace ivory billiard balls but proved to be unsuitable for that purpose. According to the Atlantic, "because celluloid could be made to imitate expensive or rare materials -- such as ivory, tortoiseshell, and mother-of-pearl -- it was soon employed in the manufacture of fancy goods affordable for the growing middle class." It increased in use during the 1880s and it was used to make postcards, game pieces, toys, advertising novelties and souvenirs, jewelry, knitting needles, straight razor handles, and imitation linen collars and cuffs.

"In 1882, John H. Stevens, a chemist at the Celluloid Manufacturing Company, discovered that amyl acetate was a suitable solvent for diluting celluloid," according to Britannica. The new clear celluloid was used to create flexible films. Celluloid was used in motion picture films into the 1930s.

Because celluloid was so widely used, we often find it in local estates. Dresser/vanity sets are some of the more common celluloid items we encounter. Years of heat exposure often affected the sets and they can become very brittle.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
• • • • •  
WAYNE TUISKULA

A typical set in good condition sells for around \$20. A vanity set in a color other than ivory can bring a little more.

Most celluloid is affordable to collect, but there are some celluloid collectibles that command strong auction prices. For example, cels (Merriam Webster: "a transparent sheet of celluloid on which objects are drawn or painted in the making of animated cartoons") from older cartoons can be quite valuable. In 2017 a cel from 1937 of the Evil Queen from Snow White sold for \$25,000 and a Charlie Brown Christmas cel sold for \$50,000.

Because celluloid deteriorates over time there aren't a large amount of advertising signs in pristine condition. Three nice examples sold very well at auction. A Chancellor Cigar sign depicting a 1910 woman went for \$12,000. An Ingram's Witch Hazel Salve sign sold for \$13,000 in 2012 and a 1902 hanging celluloid Coca Cola sign reached \$19,000 in 2011. Rare celluloid toys can also bring high auction prices. A 1930s waddling Donald Duck toy went for \$13,000 in 2014 and a celluloid Mickey Mouse on a metal scooter with the original box brought \$37,000 in 2008.

Older pinback buttons were also made of celluloid with metal backing. Some have brought astronomical prices. A rare "Buck Rogers 25th Century" celluloid pinback went for \$2,700 in 2019. A Franklin D. Roosevelt for Senate pinback brought \$3,750 in 2016. As you might expect, sports pinbacks are very popular. Few examples of a one and a half inch Mickey Mantle Fan club



button are known to exist. One sold for over \$23,000 last year. A pinback advertising a Detroit beer company is even more rare. The pinback is the only one known to exist depicting Babe Ruth and the 1916 World Champion Boston Red Sox. It sold for nearly \$63,000 last year. I'm sure celluloid manufacturers weren't expecting the objects they made inexpensively for the middle class to sell for five figure sums over a century later.

We will have some celluloid objects from the estate of a long-time collector in our May multi-estate auction. We are still accepting quality items such as antique paintings, gold jewelry, sterling

silver and older collectibles such as coins, sports memorabilia, advertising signs, and comic books for the May auction. We are also currently running an online auction of model railroad trains, die-cast cars, pressed steel trucks, and models that ends on March 10th. See our Web site for details: <https://centralmassauctions.com>.

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

## An Array of Handy Tips

This week's column will feature a potpourri of assorted tricks and tips to make everyday life a little easier. From

fix-it hints to painting pointers, read on for an array of tried and true strategies:

During the long, cold winter creativity often results in a room redo! Here's a tip from pro painters: If you are painting a baseboard or old fashioned radiator with enamel paint (made for this purpose) the finish will last longer if the surface is warm. The enamel will "bake" on the metal for a chip-proof finish.

One more another painting tip: Here's the best way to quickly and easily remove latex paint from your brush. Immediately after use, swish brush vigorously in a pail filled with a quarter cup liquid fabric softener to a half gallon of water and watch paint disappear! As a bonus, the fabric softener makes bristles silky again!

Salt has many virtues way beyond seasoning! New toothbrushes soaked in salt water don't need to be replaced as often. Did you know if you marinate fish in salt water the scales will come off easier?

And, to extend the life of flower blooms, simply add a little

salt to your fresh flower vase.

Attention Do it Yourselfers: Did you know nonstick vegetable spray such as Pam can be used to lubricate sticky locks, metal gears, and even bicycle chains? And never use oil for squeaky door hinges, use a dab of Vaseline - for a dripless job well done!

And don't toss out those rusty tools. Soak them in hot vinegar for a quick fix.

Gofor Garlic: Garlic is praised as an antibacterial, anti-viral and anti-fungal remedy but before you gorge on garlic, take note: Garlic must be fresh for optimal benefits. Garlic's active ingredient is destroyed within an hour of smashing the clove. So eat fresh garlic, or run it through a juicer in a vegetable drink for best results.

Is that squeaky floor board are driving you crazy? You can tighten loose boards by using 50 mm screws instead of nails. Just Pre-drill the boards to stop the wood splitting.



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

Frosting a cake can be "a piece of cake" with this top tip from bakers! If you're frosting and the tiers of your layer cake lean like the Tower of Pisa, prop them back up by inserting strands of uncooked spaghetti through the cake for support. Just be sure to pull them out after the frosting has set.

Cut cleaning time in half with these tips: After washing grout and tile, rub liquid turtle wax car wax on, and polish when dry. It makes the tiles twice as easy to clean next time.

When you clean your refrigerator or freezer, wipe the inside down with straight white vinegar and allow it to air dry. It will discourage future growth of mold and mildew and instantly deodorize your refrigerator.

Win Dinner for Two at the

### In Remembrance

Corinne (Bourgault) Macie 84, died January 27 in Keene, N.H. Her husband, Robert died in 2013. She graduated from Warren High School and the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. She leaves her son, Kenneth and his wife in London, England and her sister, Louise Irwin, Ware, Mass.



# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
12:20-12:25 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Elm, Church streets), tickets issued; 2:11 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:36 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), info taken; 6:46 a.m.: disabled mv (South Spencer Road), assisted; 7:14 a.m.: medical/general (Chickering Road); 8:05 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 8:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 9:44 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 9:57 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 10:52 a.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), loose dog; 12:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Sullivan Street), welfare check; 12:31 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 12:41 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 12:43 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:15 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv in hdcp spot; 1:38 p.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 3:38 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 4:08 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 5:23 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), accidental; 5:40 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 7:09 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 7:10 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chestnut Street), no contact; 10:06 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:24 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), accidental; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
1:12 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 1:23 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 1:48 a.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), mvs impeding snow removal; 4:26 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 7:17 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 8:52 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 9:17 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:49 a.m.: parking complaint (West Main Street), mvs impeding snow removal; 10:08 a.m.: residential fire (Pleasant Street), referred; 10:39 a.m.: fraud (Hastings Road), Amazon scam; 10:48 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 11:45 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:07 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 12:16 p.m.: medical/general (School Street); 12:18 p.m.: disabled mv (Cherry Street), assisted; 12:26 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:46 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 1:07 p.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), lg. pothole; 1:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Fourth Avenue), rep. harassment; 1:59 p.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), split utility pole; 2:06 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:14 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accident/East Brookfield; 3:02 p.m.: medical/general (Wilson Street); 4:44 p.m.: medical/general (Grant Street); 5:27 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:36 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:27 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (Bixby Road), info taken; 10:24 p.m.: disabled mv (Cranberry Meadow Road), trailer blocking road; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
12:15 a.m.: suspicious mv (Chestnut Street), investigated; 7:37 a.m.: residential alarm (Valley View Drive), services rendered; 10:16 a.m.: fraud (Cherry Street), identity theft; 11:35 a.m.: restraining order service (Adams Street); 12:05 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 12:07 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:09 p.m.: animal complaint (Bixby Road), loose dog; 12:14 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 12:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. account hacked; 1:16 p.m.: accident

(Main Street), assisted; 1:41 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 2:10 p.m.: juvenile matter (Summit Street), re: custody issue; 2:44 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 2:56 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:13 p.m.: larceny (Duggan Street), pkg stolen; 4:21 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), cat in cellar; 4:54 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), road rage confrontation; 5:11 p.m.: mv complaint (Ash Street), speeding; 5:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), truck lost load/Rout 49; 6:04 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), investigated; 6:50 p.m.: medical/general (Gold Nugget Road); 9:02 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; (Total daily mv stops – 12).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
12:21 a.m.: parking violation (Pearl Street), ticket issued; 6:27 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:41 a.m.: 911 call (Grove Street), accidental; 10:26 a.m.: DPW call (Polar Spring Road), road needs more plowing; 11:00 a.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), domestic issue; 1:00 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: missing pkg; 1:33 p.m.: mv complaint (Ash Street), speeding; 1:38 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 2:04 p.m.: harassing phone calls (Charlton Road), harassed via phone/Facebook; 3:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Thompson Pond Road), fox under deck; 3:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), issue retrieving property; 4:53 p.m.: residential alarm (Washburn Street), services rendered; 5:10 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 5:45 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:13 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), gunshots heard; 7:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), re: poss. water main break; 8:23-10:03 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:06 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (Total daily mv stops – 6).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
12:29 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 12:58 a.m.: disturbance (Lyford Road), intoxicated male; 7:20 a.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found; 8:39 a.m.: mv lockout (Marble Road), assisted; 8:58 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator/Route 9; 9:51 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), speeding; 10:21 a.m.: medical/sudden death (North Spencer Road); 10:30 a.m.: 911 call (Duggan Street), misdial; 11:10 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 11:21 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 11:36 a.m.: 911 call (South Spencer Road), accidental; 12:54 p.m.: mv repossessed (High Street), info taken; 1:33 p.m.: medical/general (Borkum Road); 2:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), welfare check; 6:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), poss. OD/Route 49; 6:33 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), wrong way driver; 6:46 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 7:09 p.m.: accident (Cherry Street), report taken; 7:27 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv in hdcp spot; 7:30 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 7:59-8:11 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), poss. restraining order violation; 8:33 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), property left at car wash; 10:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), noise complaint; (Total daily mv stops -3).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
12:05 a.m.: fire alarm (Crestview Drive), referred; 12:58-1:04 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Elm, Main streets), tickets issued; 1:45 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:55 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 11:02 a.m.: accident (Main Street), mv vs deer; 11:03 a.m.: elderly matter (Mechanic Street), welfare check; 11:24 a.m.: embezzlement

(Northwest Road), mortgage unpaid/6 mos.; 11:32 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Condon Drive), child w/phone; 12:42 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), family issue; 12:44 p.m.: residential fire (Ash Street), referred; 12:45 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 2:00 p.m.: accident (Charlton Road), assisted; 2:47 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 3:27 p.m.: animal complaint (North Brookfield Road), loose dog detained; 3:52 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Linden Street); 3:56 p.m.: suspicious persons (North Brookfield Road), male w/out pants; 4:12 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 4:17 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), roads getting icy; 5:22 p.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), misdial; between 5:22-6:00 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 6:06 p.m.: fire alarm (South Spencer Road), referred; 7:29 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:54 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 8:03 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
12:28 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:36 a.m.: DPW call (Wilson Street), icy conditions; 6:48 a.m.: odor of gas (Wilson Street), referred; 7:18 a.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), road flooding; 8:03 a.m.: animal complaint (Valley Street), loose dog; 8:23 a.m.: elderly matter (Howe Village), welfare check; 10:07 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:43 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 11:10 a.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), TT unit blocking lane; 11:37 a.m.: fraud (North Spencer Road), drug bust scam; 11:50 a.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 12:44 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (East Charlton Road), accidental; 12:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), loose dogs; 1:22 p.m.: odor of gas (Main Street), referred; 1:25 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 1:43 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), fire engine/out of service; 1:46 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Whitemore Drive); 1:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), welfare check; 2:23 p.m.: bylaw violation (Maple Street), 4 unregistered mv on property; 2:43 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 3:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 4:09 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:19 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 4:31 p.m.: fraud (Temple Street), SS scam; 5:05 p.m.: medical/general (Town House Court); 5:41 p.m.: larceny (Chestnut Street), shoplifting; 6:03 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 7:18 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 8:30 a.m.: medical/general (Treadwell Drive), lift assist; 9:27 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), Thompson Pond Road icing up; 9:39 p.m.: accident (Prospect Street), services rendered; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

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## Leicester Police

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
1:22 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), Christian Daniel Belliveau, 26, 403 Oak Street, Shrewsbury, op w/suspended license, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, no inspection sticker, arrest; 10:26 a.m.: assist other agency (Tanglewood Road), message delivered; 2:45 p.m.: assist other agency (Winslow Avenue), investigated; 8:24 p.m.: fraud (Ferncroft Road), report taken.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
12:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:19 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unable to locate; 10:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:17 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), report taken; 1:46

p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, no inspection sticker, mv towed; 4:17 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 5:08 p.m.: disabled mv (Victoria Drive), no action required; 6:29 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 7:27 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Auburn Street), spoken to; 7:58 p.m.: restraining order service (Shelter Ridge Road), served; 8:23 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 8:53 p.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), spoken to.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
7:49 a.m.: assist other PD (Marshall Street), message delivered; 12:35 p.m.: assist other PD (Huntoon Memorial Highway), message delivered; 4:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, no inspection sticker, mv towed; 7:12 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 8:02 p.m.: assist citizen (Henshaw Street), report taken; 8:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:03 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
10:27 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:30 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), spoken to; 2:11 p.m.: disabled mv (Mulberry Street), no action required; 3:35 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital; 5:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 5:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:07 p.m.: mutual aid (Jacques Avenue, Worcester), transported to hospital; 6:16 p.m.: investigation (Warren Avenue), services rendered; 6:38 p.m.: investigation (King Street), services rendered.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
10:08 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), no action required; 10:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:31 a.m.: fraud (Auburn Street), report taken; 11:48 a.m.: disturbance (Lake Drive), peace restored; 1:39 p.m.: suspicious activity (Peter Salem Road), assisted; 3:16 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 5:40 p.m.: summons service (Henshaw Street), served; 6:13 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 7:42 p.m.: disabled mv (Mannville Street), assisted; 8:01 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 11:55 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
9:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:06 p.m.: suspicious person (Grove Street), spoken to; 3:17 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 4:33 p.m.: soliciting (Wesley Drive), report taken; 4:47 p.m.: warrant service (Pleasant Street), Richard Sterner Hokanson, 36, 669 Pleasant Street, #1, Leicester, arrest.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17  
12:18 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 8:10 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), no action required; 8:25 a.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), written warning; 8:40 a.m.: disabled mv (Henshaw Street), assisted; 11:54a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:22 p.m.: debris in road (Whitemore Street), no action required; 2:40 p.m.: suspicious person (Gleason Way), gone on arrival; 3:58 p.m.: assist other PD (Lincoln Square, Worcester), unable to locate; 5:08 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), no action required; 5:29 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 6:05 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street, Oxford), investigated; 6:48 p.m.: assist citizen (Newfield Street); 7:35 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered.

ple than the City of Boston. While we are looking at 500k officially or 720,000 (mathematically derived)... Don't forget former President Trump said in February 2020 it would be "close to zero" within days. In April he said the total death toll would be 50,000 to 60,000. It was 400k on the last day of his Presidency and exactly 1 month later it is 500,000. COVID is a slow killer so these are "old" infections being buried now.

Total confirmed cases in the U.S. is just north of 28 million. Only 468,874 new people fell ill, got tested, and were confirmed to have it which honestly is a huge improvement. Our worst week in January had 1,738,863 Americans test positive.

It is starting to look like we are coming out of this crisis, not because it was managed well, but because we've passed peak carnage. The 1918 flu hit in three waves, with the most deadly being the second. It looks like we are winding down the 2nd wave of this with a 3rd wave to come next fall...Unless of course these new variants evade natural and vaccinated immunity and start sweeping back through again.

Imagine if we acted responsibly like Australia and New Zealand did, squashed this, and got back to normal mid-2020... They must hate freedom over there.

OMAR HAR-YAROK  
EAST BROOKFIELD

## HAR-YAROK

continued from page A9

warmest years on record globally all occurred 2005-2020. Remember when the '90's was the warmest decade on record? Not anymore...

The polar vortex is weakening leading to occasional excursions of cold air down from the arctic circle. Normally there is a jet stream wrapping around the earth blowing at 100mph keeping the coldest air in the arctic. Lately, it has been weakening. Last week while Texas was freezing and Moscow was buried in record snow, the Canadian arctic and Siberia where 40 degree above normal (their air escaped).

Windmills froze, solar panels were covered in snow, but most seriously fossil fuel plants went offline due to frozen pipes, frozen coal augers, and a host of reasons because the plants weren't built to withstand freezing temperatures. Texas Gov. Abbott of course lied by blaming renewable energy and the Green New Deal which was just comical... It was comical because Texas primarily relies on fossil fuels and hasn't invested in its electric grid since deregulation and the fossil fuel plants going offline due to gas pipelines, frozen water pipes in steam turbines, Diesel generators refusing to start, and even a nuclear plan went down due to frozen temperatures. Sweden uses wind-mills, why did Texas' freeze? Because

they didn't winterize them because that costs money.

One fact I didn't know until now is that the continental U.S. has 3 electric grids... An eastern grid, a western grid, and Texas. Texas didn't want to comply with federal regulations, so they separated their grid. Experts say if Texas was tied into the national system it wouldn't have been as bad. Texas operates an electric grid like an island even though islands are unreliable and there is no need to do that. Texas, in their true capitalist ethos, even has "real-time supply & demand pricing". Those lucky homeowners who didn't lose power have been slapped with bills as high as \$17,000 for last week because demand soared, supply plummeted, so the price rocketed 5,000 percent. Freedom!

Where was Ted Cruz in all of this? Well, his house was cold, snowy, and icy so he flew his family to Cancun, Mexico to hang out on the beach and didn't think he would be seen in the airport. It was just tone deaf... For all that he has said about Mexico and Mexicans it is curious that he would vacation down there... It is almost like he endorses a global caste system – there are the elite overlords who leave when there is a crisis, then the regular Americans who deal with the natural disaster, then the Mexicans... The Mexicans are cool as long as they are waiting on the families of elite Americans. Of course, after he got caught he bought a flight home at 6am, claimed it was the plan all along,

and it appeared as though he planned on sending his kids to their private school this week without quarantine... Until that was debated in the media.

My time you read this, the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the USA will be over 500,000. As of this writing the confirmed death toll is 498,003. As crazy as that sounds, the "excess deaths" are even higher. In 2020, 487,000 more people died than in a normal year, yet we only recorded 340,000 COVID deaths. Presumably, either COVID corpses aren't always being tested or the pandemic has created other hazards such as full hospitals, leading to rationed care in certain places for other ailments. As our official death toll hits 500k, the excess deaths over normal are 44 percent elevated meaning we are looking at 720,000 and counting. We are past the peak, but we are still registering 2,500 deaths/day that wouldn't normally occur. At the beginning of this I predicted the U.S. would see 1 million deaths before it was over and we're on our way...

Life expectancy dropped by a full year in America last year. Of course, it only dropped 0.8 years for white people, 1.9 years for Hispanics, and 2.7 years for black people. Perhaps the fact it is killing more minorities than whites is why people don't care?

The scope is simply astounding. Looking at the excess deaths, that is more people than Wyoming, Vermont, or Washington, D.C. That is more peo-



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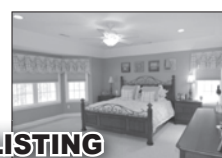
### Listings Always Needed – We're Always Busy Selling!



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/wooded door access into the house, stairway to the lower level In-law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Applianced Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frp'd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrn & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs to the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrn w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrn! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**

**WEBSTER** – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplace Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12x17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 A/C, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 124-2 Gore Road! 1.68 Acres! Private Retreat Lot with 320' of Road Frontage and 200' of Waterfront! Located in North Pond! Beautiful Panoramic Views! Sucker Brook Cove! Lot has been split from a larger parcel! Survey, Home Rendering and Conservation Items Addressed - Order of Conditions Pending! This is the Opportunity to Build a Unique Home with Spectacular Views! Direct Lake/Boat Access! Water and Sewer in the Road! Walk to Restaurants! Surrounded by Wildlife, including Swans and Eagles! **\$175,000.00**



**WEBSTER** – 60 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/Hrwd Flrs & Slider to the Deck Overlooking the Private Backyard! Frp'd Liv Rm w/Hrwd Flr! Ideal for Entertaining! Down the Hrwd Hall find a Full Bath w/Tile Flr & 3 Bdrms w/ Wall to Wall Carpeting! Master Bdrn w/2 Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/ Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fam Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! She'll Won't Last!! **\$349,900.00**

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

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



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##### WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



ON DEPOSIT

Large 3 Family a rare find! Occupied by the owner for many decades. Entire 1st floor is one spacious apartment with 2 bedrooms. 2 - 2nd floor apartments have 3 bedrooms each. 30' x 44' beautiful Fieldstone Foundation, with walkout basement to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

##### OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home - Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character! **\$281,000.**

June Cazeault • Laurie Sullivan • Matthew Ross • Lori Johnson-Chausse • William Gilmore II • Brian Bohenko

##### THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



ON DEPOSIT

**5+ Acre Waterfront Land** - on "Little Pond". Also known as Schoolhouse Pond. Private, pastoral setting. Open Field surrounded by tree line. 250+ feet waterfront-age. At the end of a Dead end road! **\$179,900**

##### THOMPSON - 25 TERRACE DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Off Thompson Hill! At the end of a Dead end road, well maintained & loved! Kitchen with double wall ovens, gas cook-top, granite countertops. Formal dining room, Fireplace Living room! master, on the first floor. 4 bedrooms total! 2nd full bath - second level. 2 car garage! assisted sale **\$325,000.**

##### WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home - Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$319,000.**

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**Oxford** - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**  
**Webster** - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**  
**Webster** - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**  
**Douglas-Mount Daniels** 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

##### WEBSTER - 29 WEST AVE.



SORRY, SOLD!

Cool 2 Story House with 3 BIG Bonuses! #1. Land almost 1 ACRE! #2. Zoning is MR-12 - Possible Multi Family Use - Investment Opportunity! #3. Large Over-sized 2+ Car Garage, Work Bench, Power & 2nd Floor! Great Space for the Hobbyist, DIY or Contractor! 1ST Floor - Living rm, Bedroom, Large Kitchen/Dining Area with Galley Pantry & Full Bath! 2nd Flr, 2 Bedrooms! All New Carpets - Recent Paint! Multi Level Back Deck with Jacuzzi! **\$255,000.**

##### WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful 2,422 Sq Ft Colonial! 4 Bedroom! 3 Bath! Fireplace, 2 Car garage! So much more! assisted sale **\$415,000**

##### DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplace Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**

##### WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



SORRY, SOLD!

**NEW TO THE MARKET!** Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

##### WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

### On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

#### Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

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

#### Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

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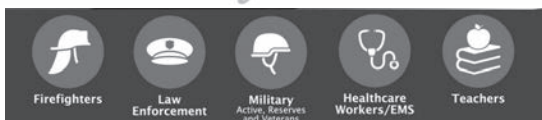
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**TRAINOR**

continued from page A14

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some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

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## MOORE

continued from page A6

cook or work in a kitchen? Do you know how to repair cars? Are you a computer coder or hardware tech? We all know something that will benefit others.

What I've learned most of all about mentoring, is what young people want and appreciate most is your time. They may not express it in words, but when you connect with a young person, they benefit from the experience and are grateful whether they express it in words or not.

Where can you go for mentoring opportunities?

Your church, service club or fraternal organizations often have opportunities. I know most, if not all school districts, need substitute teachers. Organized sporting activities or community dance, theater, or musical organizations ... the list is endless. All that is required of you is to take the step to let them know you are available ... and be available to spend time. I know of no studies to verify this, but I believe those who volunteer find happiness and joy in the experience.

Once I'm a little further along in my healing process, I'd enjoy starting a young writer's group to provide mentoring and encouragement to those interested in the craft as a hobby and/or career. I don't want my library to burn to the ground without sharing the information and experience in my head and heart. When we do so, we live on through the lives of others.

What about you? Are you a "Hey you kids! Get off my lawn!" kind of person or would you like to make a positive difference in the lives of the next generation? That's a serious question and I'd like you to answer. If you are willing to share your experience and time with others, jump in.

There's never been a time when optimists are needed more to provide positive mentoring to the next generation. Will you answer the call? Will you share what you know?

Will you join me?

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

# Students named to Dean's List at RIT

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The following local residents made the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 Fall Semester. Undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.40 for nine credit hours of traditionally graded coursework; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," NE, D, or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Michael Reniere of Spencer, who is in the computing and infor-

mation technologies program.

Patrick Kenyon of Brookfield, who is in the mechanical engineering program.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 18,600 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

The university is internationally recognized and ranked for aca-

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

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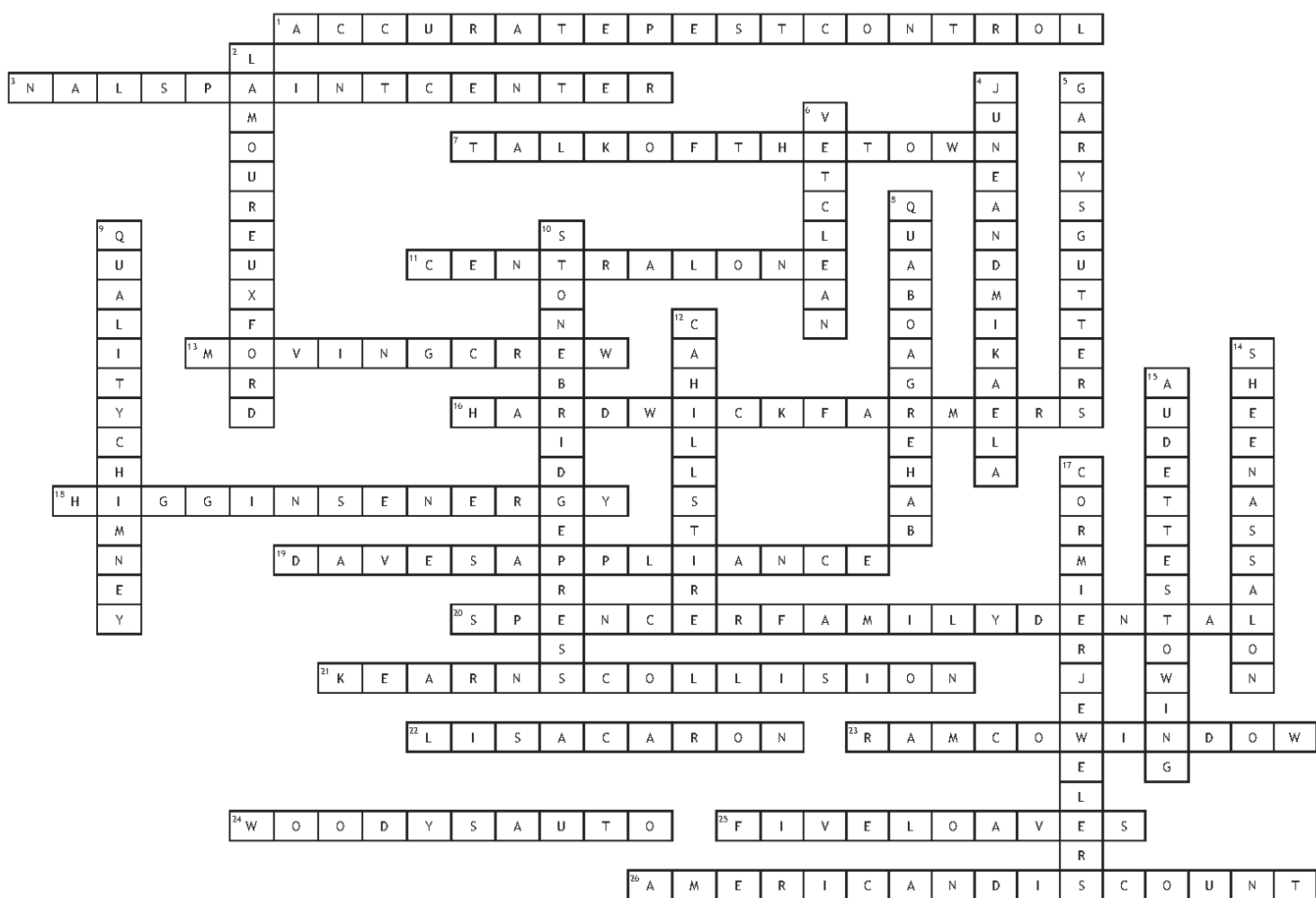
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## 3RD ANNUAL ABC's of the Seasons ~ WINTER EDITION ANSWERS ~



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Please continue to support these and all of your local businesses. Our next ABC's of the Seasons will be our Spring Edition, coming out on April 30 and May 7.

Thank you to all the ABC businesses and to those who completed our puzzle!

If you would like a letter for spring, please contact your sales representative to see what is available.

June

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Auburn News  
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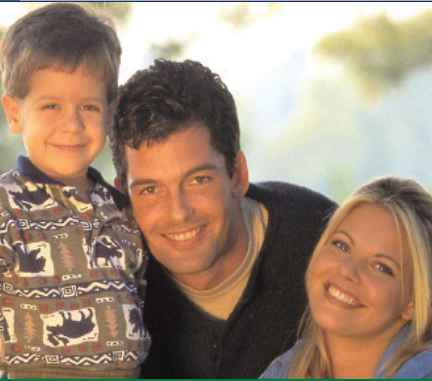
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