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Friday, October 9, 2020

# Hall looks forward to rematch with Gobi

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STAFF WRITER

REGION – It's only been two years since Steven Hall came up short in his bid to unseat Sen. Anne Gobi, but the landscape is vastly different in 2020. With a rematch looming, Hall is hopeful to reverse the results on Nov. 3.

Hall, a Republican from Sturbridge, is confident in the momentum he gained since his 55-45 defeat two years ago. He took the lessons learned from 2018 and is using them to fuel his second quest for the Senate district serving Worcester,

Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex Counties.

"Last election cycle, I lost by a narrow margin. In the interim, the Commonwealth has continued to deteriorate at the hands of the Democrats," Hall said. "The people need a choice, and I am the right choice."

Despite the countless challenges thrown into the campaign process by COVID-19, Hall has found creative ways to connect with voters and share his message.

"Campaigning has changed dramatically as a result of COVID-19," Hall said. "The

most valuable and inspiring part of campaigning in 2018 was the one-on-one interaction with people through door-knocking. Meeting each voter and listening to their concerns validated my need to run for office. This year, with the addition of mail-in ballots, my campaign has developed a new campaign strategy. It involves not only more and earlier mailings, but additional digital advertising and phone outreach to touch all of the voters."

As a small business owner, author, nursing home administrator, and truck operator, Hall

has a unique understanding of the interfaces between many economic sectors. For several months since COVID-19 struck, he drove tractor-trailer trucks to help deliver supplies and keep transport schedules running smoothly. His full-time career is a licensed nursing home administrator and consultant, and he also runs his own business, 15 Rules Publishing.

But in addition to his career successes, Hall continues to be inspired to serve and help make a difference in residents' lives. He is unhappy with the current legislative composi-



Steven Hall

tion in the Commonwealth, and he hopes to be part of a changing trend.

Turn To **HALL** page **A7**



Photo Courtesy

Local donations paved the way for several projects at the Spencer Senior Center.

## Donations pave the way for Senior Center improvements

SPENCER – Thanks to the generosity of local organizations, several projects have taken place to upgrade the Senior Center.

In the summer of 2018, the Senior Center was presented with a donation from the Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation, Barnstorm Cycles, and the Cutler Family to assist with improving safety issues at the building. A damaged door at the front of the building was replaced by Doug Cutler, of Barnstorm Cycles, and the Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation provided funds to replace the front walkway and spruce up the landscaping.

The Senior Center is currently in the pro-

cess of having code compliance projects completed at the building. The combination of these projects and the COVID-19 crisis prevented the center from holding a ribbon cutting ceremony this year for the previously finished projects, but officials want to make sure the donors are properly thanked.

"I can never express the depth of my gratitude to Mr. Cutler and his family for taking such an interest in our Senior Center and the safety of our seniors," said Senior Center Director Pam Woodbury. "A Senior Center is vital to the wellbeing of a community's older population. This donation affirmed my belief that angels walk among us."

## COVID case forces restaurant to close temporarily

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – After an Eller's Restaurant kitchen employee tested positive for COVID-19, the owners decided to close the restaurant for a few days as a precaution.

The Cherry Valley restaurant was closed on Oct. 5, with a reopening date scheduled for Oct. 8. At the time of the closure, owners said the employee who tested positive was asymptomatic and feeling well. As of press time, no other employees had tested positive.

The restaurant also pledged to work with the Board of Health agent and fully disinfect the building prior to reopening.

"All safety measures have been and are being taken.

However, we would like to wait until all employees that worked with said employee have been tested and are negative before returning to work, for the safety of our team and our guests," read a statement released by the restaurant's owners.

Family-owned and operated since 2002, the Eller's team was commended by residents and officials for its transparency and commitment to guest safety. The restaurant will also feature several additional measures this month to enhance safety.

"The entire restaurant is being disinfected, and we will be taking temperature checks of all employees, every shift, upon reopening," the

Turn To **ELLER'S** page **A7**

## Vandalism against political signs prompts warning from police

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – In a clear sign of the escalating political acrimony leading up to the Nov. 3 election, police are issuing warnings after a rash of stolen and damaged signage.

Linette Powell, a Thompson Pond Road resident, has been the target of extensive verbal

abuse, vandalism, and thefts since 2016, when she displayed a Hillary Clinton sign at her home. The incidents have increased this fall, most recently when a six-foot sign supporting Congressman Jim McGovern was stolen from her property last month. The thieves eventually panicked after being spotted in a neigh-

bor's yard and dropped the sign.

Just days after the theft, a large sign Powell has displayed to honor COVID-19 victims and their families was heavily damaged. Also, Powell's hand-painted mailbox was smashed and several lights on

Turn To **VANDALS** page **A16**



Photo Courtesy

Multiple stolen signs and acts of vandalism have been reported throughout Spencer this election season.

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## LEICESTER POLICE GO PINK



*Photo Courtesy*

The Leicester Police Department is celebrating its annual Pink Patch Project. Residents stopped by the police station on Oct. 3 to purchase Pink Patch Project items, including sweatshirts, pins, patches, and key-chains, among others. All proceeds will be donated to a local charity. If you would like to place an order, send an email to [ParkinsonA@LeicesterPD.org](mailto:ParkinsonA@LeicesterPD.org).

## GIANT Yard Sale



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## YOUR TEETH MATTER

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH!

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# No need to fear root canals

Procrastinating in regard to maintaining teeth and gums can prove harmful. Regular dental checkups and cleanings can reduce discomfort and expose conditions before they become especially problematic.

Root canal is one treatment men and women fear when going to the dentist. But root canals are often less painful than the symptoms that require they be performed.

A root canal is an endodontic therapy that can treat and save teeth. The American Association of Endodontists says root canal treats inflammation or infection in the roots of a tooth. This procedure enables dentists to save a tooth rather than extract it.

WebMD explains that, during a root canal, the nerve and pulp of the tooth are removed from the inside. If the tooth's nerve or pulp chamber is damaged, it can

eventually break down and bacteria can begin to form within. The most common causes of pulp inflammation or infection are a cracked or chipped tooth, a deep cavity or filling, or another serious injury to the tooth. All of these can allow bacteria to enter the pulp. Debris and bacteria can lead to infection or an abscessed tooth. Abscesses can form at the ends of the tooth roots. Swelling, pain, bone loss, and drainage into the gums may occur if a root canal is not performed.

The AAE says that people may avoid root canal treatment because they fear it is too painful. However, with modern technology and anesthetic medications, the pain that results from root canal is on par with having a cavity filled. Damaged tissues in the tooth and the severe toothache that ensues if root canal is not performed is generally much more severe than anything that occurs during

the procedure.

Patients who are worried about discomfort can speak with their dentists about pain management. In addition to anesthetic injections, some dentists specialize in medical sedation that can further calm patients' nerves during procedures.

The American Dental Association says this is what people can expect during a root canal.

- The tooth is numbed for comfort.
- A thin sheet of latex rubber is placed over the tooth to keep it dry, and an

opening is made through the crown of the tooth.

- The nerve or pulp is removed. The excavated canal is then cleaned and shaped.
- Medicine may be placed in the pulp chamber to deter bacterial growth.
- The root canal is then filled with a rubber-like material to seal it. A metal or plastic rod or post may be placed in the canal to help retain the filling material so it can properly support the tooth.
- A temporary filling is placed in the tooth. During a subsequent treatment, the temporary filling will be replaced with a permanent crown or filling.

Root canals are nothing to fear. Such procedures are routine and generally produce little to no pain.

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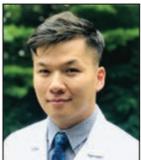
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# Zoning violation prompts cease & desist order

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – With frustration mounting for residents of Borkum Road, town officials continue to monitor an ongoing zoning violation.

Dozens of shipping containers were recently dropped off at 51 Borkum Rd., transported by a wave of commercial trucks. Approximately 60 to 100 containers have been stored on the property, drawing the ire of neighbors and town officials. Multiple sources confirmed that the trucks caused damage to the freshly paved road, and local drivers have been angered by the influx of commercial traffic in their neighborhood.

“It’s a residential, scenic road. These commercial trucks do not belong in this neighborhood,” said Select Board Chairman Ralph Hicks, who has received several complaints from residents.

The property is owned by Jonathan Gabriel, of Northborough. A cease and desist order was recently issued by

the building inspector regarding the transport of additional containers to the property. Officials hope the situation can be resolved without further actions being taken against the owner.

“We’ve been monitoring this situation for some time,” said Town Planner Paul Dell’Aquila. “The building inspector confirmed last week that the containers are being used to store materials and equipment related to solar developments, and now there are many more containers that have been delivered and offloaded on the site. Thus, the owner needs to apply for a special permit from the Planning Board for storage of construction materials.”

Officials said the road doesn’t currently have any weight restrictions in place, but they are concerned by the excess truck traffic. The commercial transport activities went largely unnoticed for weeks due to the location of the road, officials said.

“The neighbors on Borkum Road have been very helpful in keeping us

informed of the activity on the site, given its relatively remote location in town,” Dell’Aquila added. “The information they provided enabled the building inspector’s follow-up. I am expecting an application from the owner in time to be heard for the November Planning Board meeting, as the deadline for the October meeting has already passed.”

The 51 Borkum Rd. property, which previously served as a junkyard, is no stranger to controversy under its current ownership. In 2006, Gabriel was ordered to stop all unapproved activities related to ATV racing on the property after receiving multiple noise and environmental complaints. Gabriel unsuccessfully sought a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals for an ATV racetrack, and a judge later rejected Gabriel’s appeal of the cease and desist order.

Gabriel could not be reached for comment on the cease and desist order related to the storage containers.



## ACCURACY WATCH

The Spencer New Leader is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress. news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.

# Hofstra University welcomes Lyndsey Schimmelpenningh of North Brookfield

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University welcomes Lyndsey Schimmelpenningh, who has joined our dynamic community of more than 11,000 students from around the world who are dedicated to civic engagement, academic excellence, and becoming leaders in their communities and their careers. We can’t wait to see all the great things Lyndsey will do as a #HUWorldChanger!

Hofstra University is a nationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y. that is the only school to ever host three consecutive

presidential debates (2008, 2012 and 2016). Our campus is a leafy oasis just a quick train ride away from New York City and all its cultural, recreational and professional opportunities. We offer small classes and personal attention, with the resources, technology and facilities of a large university. Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate program options in the liberal arts and sciences, education, health professions and human services, the Peter S. Kalikow School of Government, Public Policy and International Affairs, the

Fred DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business, the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication, the Maurice A. Deane School of Law, the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Hofstra University is a dynamic community of 11,000 students from around the world who are dedicated to civic engagement, academic excellence and becoming leaders in their communities and their careers.

## FREE COMMUNITY COOKOUT

East Brookfield Baptist Church will hold an outdoor Community Cookout on **Saturday, October 10, from noon-3 p.m.** All are invited, and there is no cost. Hamburgers, hot dogs & beverages will be served, and social distancing will be in place.

## ATTENTION WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS Hydrant Flushing

The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants Oct. 19, 2020 thru Oct. 30, 2020 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate. Please plan water use accordingly.

## FCC Leicester to host drive-by food drive

LEICESTER — On Saturday, Oct. 10 from 1-5 p.m., the First Congregational Church of Leicester will be sponsoring its second Drive-By food drive to benefit the food pantry at St. Joseph’s Church. Donations of non-perishable food items, personal care and baby items are need-

ed. appreciated. “We expect the help desk to increase our capacity to help and support parents, and address their technology needs if and when they arise,” said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey.

The help desk is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on each school day. The service can be reached by email at technology@sebrsd.org, or by phone at 508-885-8509.

## School district launches help desk for remote learning

SPENCER – Committed to improving the remote learning experience for students and families, the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District recently announced new tools to help solve technical issues.

Last month, the district unveiled a help desk program that provides assistance with technology-related questions and issues. If students are having problems with their district-issued laptops and devices, a parent or guardian can simply call the help desk and receive guidance.

For school officials, it means a lot to offer a free service that will help alleviate the stress of online learning. At a time when parents and students are already feeling plenty of added pressures, every new resource is greatly

### NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING TOWN OF SPENCER

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the distribution system starting October 5 thru October 23, 2020. Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Water Department office at 508-885-7725. Thank you.

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## PERSON of the WEEK

**Cindy Thompson of Brookfield**

Our Person of the Week is Cindy Thompson who is the secretary of the Brookfield Highway Department. For years she’s written grant applications that have brought in literally thousands upon thousands of dollars of badly needed revenue for infrastructure repairs and projects in Brookfield. And she’s done all this while serving as secretary of the Highway Department without any extra pay. It’s about time she gets acknowledgment of her unique skills and willingness to put in that extra effort, to the benefit of the entire town, in addition to her duties with a very busy department.

– Submitted by Sharon Mahoney

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## Public Notification - Child Find

In keeping with the mission of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, and in alignment with the Massachusetts General Laws, this notice is provided as part of the outreach and ongoing liaison with resources within the SEBRSD community towns of Spencer and East Brookfield. This is to advise you of the availability of the referral process for Special Education evaluations for those children, ages three through twenty-two, who may be suspected to have a disability and may be determined eligible for specialized instruction and/or related services.

Special Education regulations require that principals, or other educational administrators, make specific efforts to first meet the student’s needs in the general education setting. Those efforts include promotion of instructional practices and provision of adequate instructional support for students and teachers (MGL, c. 71B, section 2). If any student has been unsuccessful in making progress within the general curriculum, despite documented instructional support and effort, and is suspected of having a disability, any parent, caregiver, or professional may refer the student for a Special Education evaluation.

If you suspect your child may have a disability interfering with his/her learning, please contact the Student Services Department at 508-885-8515.



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# Grow garlic this fall for flavorful meals and health benefits



**GARDEN MOMENTS**  
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Add a bit of flavor and health benefits to your main course with some homegrown garlic. This vegetable has been used for thousands of years as both food and medicine. Today it is credited with fighting heart disease, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, and boosting the immune system

while fighting cancer. Grow garlic in a well-drained soil and full sun. Plant cloves in fall about six weeks before the ground freezes in cold climates and early winter in warmer regions. Garlic needs 6 to 8 weeks of cool temperatures below 40 degrees for the shoot and bulb to develop. The leaves will form during cool, short days then slows as bulb growth begins when the days are warmer and longer.

Plant individual cloves with the pointed side up and the base of the clove 2 to 3 inches below the soil surface. Space cloves 6 inches apart in rows 12 to 14 inches apart or more depending on the variety.

Mulch the soil with weed-free straw after the ground freezes in regions with cold winters. This provides added insulation and helps prevent frost heaving that occurs when temperatures fluctuate, causing soil to alternately freeze, thaw and shift throughout the winter.

Water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil even-

ly moist during active growth. Inconsistent moisture during the growing season results in misshapen bulbs. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it decomposes.

Double your garlic harvest by using the curly Q stems, called scapes, in cooking and flower arrangements. Watch for these curled stems about a month after the spring leaves appear.

Remove the scape soon after the swollen part appears at the tip of the stem. Cut or break the scape off just below the swollen area. All parts are edible and can be used fresh or cooked just like garlic. You will not only enjoy the mild flavor but removing the scapes helps increase the size of the garlic bulbs.

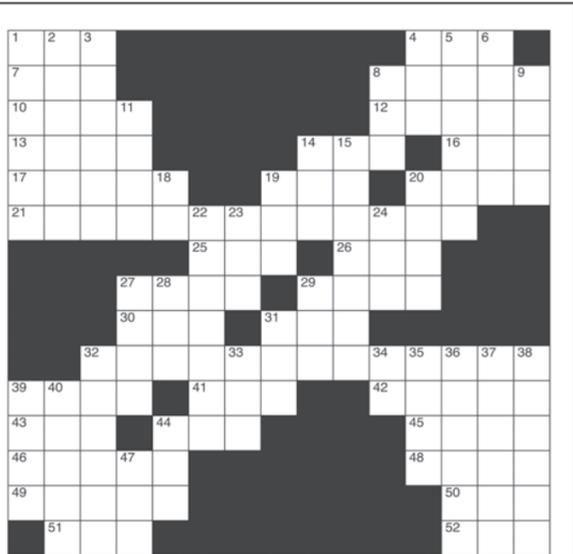
Harvest garlic when about one third, but less than one half of the leaves turn brown. Start by digging one plant and checking the garlic for maturity. Cloves should be plump

and fill the skin. Immature garlic does not store well while over-mature bulbs are subject to disease.

Cure garlic for 3 to 4 weeks in a warm, well-ventilated location. Once dried, remove the tops and store in a cool, moderately humid location with good air circulation and out of direct sunlight. Properly harvested and cured garlic will last for up to 8 months.

So, plant some garlic this fall and add flavor and health benefits to your meals.

*Gardening expert Melinda Myers has 30 years of horticulture experience and written over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. Myers is the host of The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.*



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. They look out for kids
- 4. Play
- 7. Water (French)
- 8. Prayer leader
- 10. Small constellation
- 12. \_\_\_ Carta: influential royal charter
- 13. Pressure unit
- 14. Extrasensory perception
- 16. A symbol of "Aloha"
- 17. Portion of the small intestine
- 19. Psychedelic amphetamine
- 20. Very long period of time
- 21. British overseas territory
- 25. Cereal grain
- 26. Car mechanics group
- 27. Wish harm upon
- 29. At a specific prior time
- 30. Peyton's younger brother
- 31. UK firefighters' union
- 32. Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
- 39. Popular show honoring musicians
- 41. Basics
- 42. Honk
- 43. Trent Reznor's band
- 44. Patti Hearst's captors
- 45. Long-legged wading bird
- 46. Specialized biological grouping
- 48. A coin goes in it
- 49. Of the wind
- 50. One-time measure of length
- 51. A very large body of water
- 52. River in NE Scotland

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Boston hoopster
- 2. A type of bribe
- 3. SE England county
- 4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 5. "Hotel California" rockers
- 6. Italian province
- 8. Mischievous child
- 9. Popular street name
- 11. Boxing promoter Bob
- 14. Snakelike fish
- 15. Break into pieces
- 18. The Bay State
- 19. Time zone
- 20. Port city in Yemen
- 22. In name only
- 23. 007's creator
- 24. No (Scottish)
- 27. Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
- 28. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 29. Don't know when yet
- 31. Supervises interstate commerce
- 32. Make a ringing metallic sound
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Pound
- 35. Lilly and Manning are two
- 36. Put on the back burner
- 37. Baltimore ballplayer
- 38. Cuddle
- 39. Poker stake
- 40. Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Not around



Photo Melinda Myers

Plant garlic cloves in fall about six weeks before the ground freezes in cold climates and early winter in warmer regions.

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ANTIQUES,  
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WAYNE TUISKULA

# Adjusting to the times: Get your antique and collectibles appraised without leaving home

The pandemic has affected all of us in some way, and non-profits are no exception. The Worcester Historical Museum recently reopened with social distancing guidelines in place. The Worcester Art Museum is scheduled to reopen this week. Cancelled events due to COVID-19 decreased revenue at these larger non-profits. Smaller non-profits typically have fewer grants and have likely suffered larger setbacks due to COVID-19. With the inability to conduct in-person meetings, members of smaller non-profits have not been able to share the camaraderie with those who hold similar interests.

One local non-profit group is learning how to adapt during these unprecedented times. The Townsend Historical Society recently approached me about appraising items vir-

tually. I had appraised items at a live appraisal event for them in Townsend in 2017. I enjoy the interaction with the public at these events and look forward to having that interaction soon, even if it's through a screen.

The event will take place via Zoom during the Townsend Historical Society's "Virtually Vintage: A Live, Online Antique Appraisal Event" on Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can buy tickets to get your items appraised on their website: townsendhistoricalsociety.org. Appraisals are \$10 each or 3 items for \$25. After you purchase your ticket(s), you can either send photos of your items and any history that you have or bring them in person to Townsend on the day of the event. Ticket holders will be able to watch the entire event or just sign in when it is time to have their items appraised.

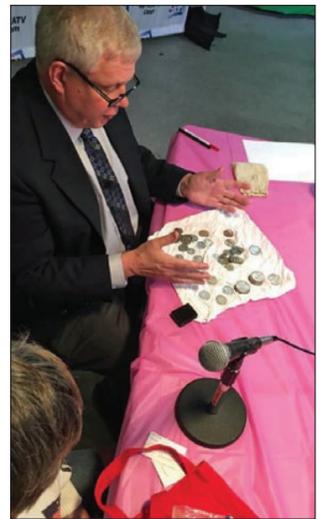
I have been working closely with Taber Morrell, the Site Administrator for the Townsend Historical Society,

to prepare for the event. In an email interview, he said that the Site Administrator is responsible for the "Reed Homestead where [they] do most of [their] tours and programs, and where [their] records and artifact collections are stored." Morrell also said: "the position extends to other historic buildings we care for as well, a 19th century grist mill, cooperage, church, and some monuments throughout town."

Mr. Morrell provided me with some additional information on the organization and event. The group has close to 300 members who are "really active with the Historical Society and its programs." He informed me that the "appraisal held in 2017 along with our Arts and Crafts Fair are absolutely the most talked about events." Unfortunately, the fair had to be canceled this year, but the organization has been working hard to make many other events accessible virtually. Mr. Morrell said that the Townsend Historical Society has run a "virtual open

house, an online presentation about the history of tourism in New England, and [they are] even working on a web-based cemetery tour for October." He informed me that "members have been craving another edition of the antique appraisal [held with me] in 2017" and they hoped to "create a virtual version we could make a lot of people really happy." I look forward to utilizing modern technology to help online attendees learn more about their historical artifacts. I hope to see some regular readers of this column through my screen.

In addition to the virtual appraisal with the Townsend Historical Society, we also have other exciting events coming up this month. We will be holding an estate sale in Stoneham, Mass. on Oct. 17, following COVID-19 safety guidelines. Bidding will end on October 28th for our online coin auction. We are still accepting quality consignments for our multi-estate online antiques and collectibles auction ending on Nov. 11.



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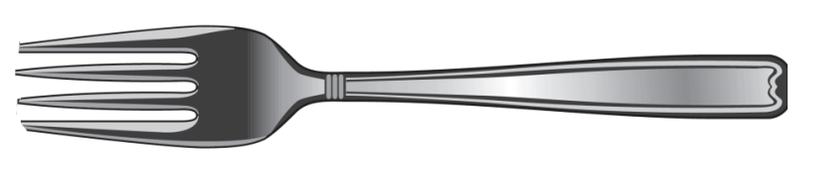
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# Tips to Carve a Full Fall Display

No traditional New England harvest display would be complete without a parade of fat pumpkins and a sprinkling of assorted gourds. The simple pumpkin, rich in both nutrition and heritage, has long served as an object of intrigue and even today, generations of Native Americans hail the pumpkin's healing seeds as a medicinal sedative. Add in the mystique of the annual Halloween Jack-O-Lantern, and its no wonder both pumpkins and gourds remain an autumn wonder, touted for both their culinary and decorative virtues. Here are some tips to "carve out" a fun fall display! \*\*\*

For carving, choose pumpkins with a sturdy stem, as this is the sign of a healthy pumpkin. Never lift a pumpkin by its stem, not only do you risk it breaking off, a stemless pumpkin ages faster. \*\*\*

If you are tracing a design to carve from a pumpkin or gourd, use a chopstick or nut spear to press into the gourd for a foolproof guideline. \*\*\*

To cut out a top lid that won't fall inside the pumpkin, carve a hexagon shape to keep it sitting pretty throughout the night.

Better yet, cut off the bottom of the pumpkin instead of the top. Place the carved pumpkin over a candle safely set on a plate, or for optimum safety, simply use a flashlight. \*\*\*

If you plan to place a pillar candle inside your Jack-Lantern, first cut a hole in the bottom of the pumpkin the same size as your candle to stabilize it. \*\*\*

For a festive twist on traditional Jack-O-Lantern lights or candles, stuff a string of small white Christmas lights inside the carved pumpkin. Make a hole out the back to feed plug through. \*\*\*

Carving a gourd? Here's a hint to halt the hassle. Simply place a towel inside a large bowl to hold the gourd steady. Place the gourd in the padded bowl to keep it from moving while you trace or cut. \*\*\*

Did you know? The Japanese considered the gourd a lucky token and believed a set of six gourds had the power to improve health and spiritual power. Plus they believed the set of gourds could produce six fortunes! \*\*\*



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

Want your Jack-O-Lantern or gourd sculpture to last longer? A spray of Lysol or other disinfectant will prolong life of pumpkins and gourds. \*\*\*

For long term storage, put a thin amount of petroleum jelly on the exposed, sawed edges. This prevents water from getting out. If water gets out, your pumpkin will shrivel. \*\*\*

Stretch the longevity of a Jack-O-Lantern by giving it a bath. Let the pumpkin float for a few hours, or even overnight, allowing the insides fill with water. Put a little bleach in the water if you wish to prevent mold. The pumpkin absorbs the water and become very firm. Anytime your pumpkin shrivels, soak it in a bath of cold water for one to eight hours to rejuvenate it. \*\*\*

Another way to extend a lighted Jack-O-Lantern's life is to

poke a vent hole or two in the top of the pumpkin to vent the heat and slow the rotting process. \*\*\*

Jack-O-Lantern Lore Legend has it the Jack-O-Lantern evolved from an Irish tale involving a drunkard named Jack. According to the longtime yarn, Jack was a trickster who playfully deceived family members. His fate was sealed the day he attempted to trick the devil into climbing an apple tree. Once Jack convinced the devil to climb the tree, he placed crosses around the tree trunk, trapping the devil. With the devil cornered, Jack refused let him down until he promised not to take Jack's soul when he died. The story goes that many years later when Jack died, he couldn't get into heaven, yet he was turned out of hell too, because of the devil's long ago promise. Jack found himself with nowhere to go. He asked the devil how to leave the gates of hell as there was no light to guide him. According to the tale, the devil threw him an ember from the flames of hell to help him light his way. Jack put the burning ember inside a hollowed out pumpkin. From that day on, it is said that Jack wandered the earth without a resting

place, lighting his way with his lantern, thus the legend of the "Jack-O-Lantern," was born. \*\*\*

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

## HALL

continued from page A1

"The Democrats far outnumber the Republicans at the State House. They have continually increased spending, increased government regulations, voted against transparency, and are looking to defund the police, while allowing our state to become a sanctuary state," Hall said. "We can do better. The Commonwealth doesn't have a revenue problem – we have a spending problem. As a leader in healthcare, I've demonstrated that improving quality of care, as well as patient, family, and employee satisfaction, are not always dependent upon increased spending. It's about spending wisely and efficiently."

One of Hall's major visions is to improve service to constituents through efficiency while avoiding overtaxing. He also hopes to use his experience as a small business owner to find ways to help entrepreneurs and local workers who have been devastated by the pandemic.

"The long-term economic, health, and educational impacts of the coronavirus pandemic continue to worsen," Hall said. "Balancing public health and economic impact, as well as people's mental and emotional wellbeing, is difficult. It's going to require leadership with real-world experience, a leader who has responded with solutions and knows first-hand the struggles of families, healthcare workers, and small businesses."

Hall also emphasizes the need to focus on such ramifications of the pandemic as increased substance abuse, domestic violence, and neglect of children and seniors. Additional tools must be utilized to focus on all aspects of the recovery effort, he said.

"The federal, state, and local governments are feeling the effects of budget shortages and supply chain problems. Local businesses have been forced to close their doors, employees have been sent home without pay, and the unemployment insurance system is overrun," Hall said. "Business owners throughout the district are watching their life's work being destroyed, and their business and personal finances are disappearing. Unemployed workers are cutting costs to reduce the long-

term financial impact of prolonged joblessness. Unfortunately, the Democrats have done nothing to reduce spending and redirect the resources where they need to be."

Hall is particularly concerned about small businesses (500 employees or fewer) and micro-businesses, which don't exceed 25 employees. Many local businesses have already had to close, and several others are on the brink. Hall joins a growing list of area leaders, business owners, and residents who have expressed their frustrations with the state's reopening regulations.

"The Massachusetts government has shown its disregard for the livelihood of its people during this crisis, while it continues to advocate for supporting illegal immigrants," Hall said. "Moreover, our citizens are facing government fines for celebrating a wedding, and restaurants are facing fines for serving potato chips with a glass of wine or beer. Simultaneously, protesters have been allowed to loot, and convicted criminals have been released from prisons. Unfortunately, most of our current elected officials have been silent on this hypocrisy and are more concerned with solidifying their reelection than they are with actually finding solutions."

Hall is also worried about the confusion and inconsistencies surrounding the reopening of schools statewide. Most districts are employing a hybrid model of in-person and remote learning at the elementary school level, but thousands of middle and high schoolers across the state are learning at home. Many education leaders and legislators fear that prolonged remote learning could have harmful effects.

"I am seriously concerned about the wellbeing of the children of Massachusetts," Hall said. "I am concerned that these kids are missing out on a learning opportunity that many may never recover from. Besides the discrepancies in educational opportunities, they are not interacting with their peers in person. This interaction is vital to continue building and maintaining a productive and homogeneous society. In addition to the educational impact on our youth, their physical wellbeing and mental stability are suffering."

During his talks with voters this campaign season, Hall has discussed

"We applaud Mr. Eller's efforts in taking proactive steps in light of his employee's positive test," said Town Administrator David Genereux. "Eller's is a fixture in the Leicester community, and it comes as no surprise that he's going above and beyond local requirements to ensure that his restaurant will be safe for employees and patrons when he reopens later in the week."

Over the past two weeks, COVID-19 cases have been rising statewide. For five days in a row, Oct. 1-5, new cases topped 500 across the state. On two days, the state saw over 700 new cases.

Residents are urged to continue wearing masks in public, social distancing, and avoiding large indoor gatherings. With winter approaching and flu season starting, it's especially important to follow COVID-19 regulations, state leaders said.

his comprehensive COVID-19 recovery plan. It focuses on several topics, including increased small business assistance; developing tools to quickly return unemployed residents to work; providing incentives to shop local; and ensuring that unemployment benefits do not deter employees from returning to work.

Hall began his career as a machinist and toolmaker after graduating from Pathfinder Voc.Tech. High School in

Palmer. After 25 years in the machine trade – and ultimately owning a machine shop – he received a bachelor's degree in long-term care administration from St. Joseph's College of Maine.

Years later, Hall received two United States patents for medical devices. He also served as a volunteer firefighter and as the Town of Wales recreation director.

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

## Friday's Child



**Aleenah**  
Age 13

Hi! My name is Aleenah and I have a great sense of humor! Aleenah is a fun, outgoing girl with an enormous amount of charisma and great sense of humor. Some of Aleenah's favorite activities include bowling, roller skating, going to the movies, drawing, and singing along to the songs on the radio. Aleenah does especially well with younger children; she is always willing to help out in other classrooms, read to younger kids, and/or mentor them. Aleenah feels important and takes great pride in building these relationships.

Legally free for adoption, Aleenah is in need of a family that can provide a structured, loving home. She would do best with a single mother or a two-parent family with or without other children. Interested families should be comfortable maintaining contact with Aleenah's siblings and her birth mother, who she visits with twice per year.

**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 617-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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## ELLER'S

continued from page A1

restaurant's statement read. "We have also asked the Board of Health for a full inspection before we reopen."

The restaurant's owners were not asked or required to close by the Board of Health. They made the decision as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of staff and guests.

"We thank you for your understanding and continued support," the statement read. "We look forward to serving you Thursday night at 4, when we reopen, confident that we have provided a safe atmosphere for all."

At a time when many local restaurants are struggling to bring in new customers and maintain the trust of existing patrons, Eller's Restaurant was praised for its quick decision in the interest of safety.

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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# The need to unplug

Oftentimes, our ideas for editorials arise when something close to us personally surfaces that hits home, or when we hear a significant amount of chatter about a specific topic. This week, the chatter has been about national news overload.

We love the news — after all, it's what we do. Sharing information with our readers on the local level is both an honor and a necessity. This week, however, we have heard many people say they just can't listen to the national news anymore. They feel bombarded, often times leaving them feeling depressed and overwhelmed. News junkies watch the news every morning and night, check their Twitter feeds, listen to talk radio on their commutes and are constantly in the know. It's important and responsible to be aware of what's happening around you, however finding a balance is key, even for those of us in the businesses.

It seems as though the national news cycle has been nothing but chaos over the past several years, especially with regard to the current presidential election. Relentless statistics about the COVID-19 pandemic and negative commentary trying to pass itself off as analysis of the candidates and their platforms seems to ping our phones almost on the minute. This can be exhausting.

As a way to catch your breath, pick one day of the week as a 'no news' day, sort of like a news siesta. Get outside, unplug, read a book, listen to some vinyl or watch Cobra Kai (we do recommend for a splash of nostalgia). Attempt to shut off the little magic box we all stare at way too much on the daily. Could landlines actually still serve a purpose?

If you feel like you can't make a difference, realize that you can. First, it goes without saying, get out and vote. Second, do something every day to make the world a better place, even if that means your own little world. Such actions result in the domino effect.

Take some time to count the blessings in your life. Positivity still surrounds us in bulk if you look for it. Family, friends, dogs, crisp fall leaves, apple crisp, bacon, a friendly wave from a neighbor, morning coffee, a cold drink, a beautiful hike or walk, a good novel and a nice music blasting session are just a few things we can lean on to always lift us back up.

## LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.com.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

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

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

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

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!



# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Partisan advantage

To the Editor:  
 We hear a lot about "liberal media bias," the "mainstream media," and whatnot. Approximately half of all mainstream journalists identify as independents; however, it is true that they identify as Democrats over Republicans in a ratio of 4:1 (28 percent vs. 7 percent). Before citing that as evidence of media bias, perhaps we should consider that it might be a consequence of journalists being highly informed and highly educated people. During Trump's first 60 days in office, 62 percent of the news stories involving him were negative, whereas only 20 percent of news stories during Obama's first 60 days were negative. As much as that might seem like evidence of bias - isn't it entirely possible that Barack Obama was just a better president compared to Donald Trump? It isn't like the media fawned over him like Kim Jong Un or Xi Jinping like Trump seems to expect out of Fox News.

Maybe, just maybe, reporting on the news is not a "liberal bias," but accurate and fair reporting on politicians and world events would lead one to fall

more on the side of Democrats? Could that be it?

More votes were cast for Democratic presidential candidates in six of the last seven elections. Since 1988, only 2004 had more votes for a Republican. If we average all presidential elections since 1992, 9.4 percent more ballots were cast for Democrats compared to Republicans. If we average all Senatorial elections since 1990 to date, Democrats on average have earned 11 percent more ballots cast. If we average all House races since 1990 to date, Democrats have earned 3 percent more votes. This country has had a clear majority in favor of Democrats for a generation.

In reality, we know that the Republicans are electorally competitive despite the fact that when we count ballots it seems as though they shouldn't be... How is this? For years they had been the beneficiaries of our political system which unwittingly benefits empty land and rural areas and the Republican party has turned into the party of rural white interests. For example, Wyoming gets two

Turn To **BAGG** page **A10**

### Unhinged irony

To the Editor:  
 To the middle-aged white woman in the expensive white Mercedes:

Why were you so unhinged? You could not stop screaming that we are "racists" and "rednecks!" Clearly, you have no clue...because we are neither!

Your face was as steaming red as the light when you sped off!

One can only presume that you are a Democrat...a card-carrying member of the party of hate!

You despise anyone who chooses individual freedom over government regulation! Irony...The First Amendment allows you to spew your demented and dopey accusations!

Your virtue signaling is unbecoming! Irony...your moral superiority and abhorrence of those who disagree with you is socially unjust!

You loath anyone who chooses capitalism over socialism. Irony...You drive a high end Mercedes that you acquired by working hard, succeeding, prospering and achieving wealth! President Trump is going to be reelected by a landslide, so let's hope your lunatic animosity subsides, so you and your ilk don't overwhelm our mental health facilities!

Sincere sympathies,

JEN GAUCHER  
 SPENCER

### Ignoramus-in-Chief has COVID

To the Editor:  
 What a week! I thought we'd all still be talking about the lie-filled interrupting-fest known as the debate, but then Donald Trump contracted COVID-19 and is now in the hospital and there are reports he was put on oxygen. Before we analyze that situation there are a few people I would like to respond to and several not worthy of a response.

I want to thank again our local contingent of conservative letter writers for making my point about you guys better than I ever could. In case anyone missed it, Mark Robillard has a "Your Turn" column titled "You ain't black" on page 4 last week. Most of the topics in that column have been hashed and re-hashed to death but there was his first foray into the Breonna Taylor

case which totally mischaracterized it. Rather than me wasting the ink, please Google "Breonna Taylor" and read about it yourself. In fairness, the Breonna Taylor case, tragic as it is, has little to do with race and everything to do with an over-zealous criminal justice system and a police force out of control.

Mr. McRae obviously never cared for Ruth Bader Ginsburg. RBG joined the high court in 1993; her opinion on the true motives behind the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973 in no way represents her view on the matter. RBG was a fierce defender of Roe v. Wade but she is allowed to have different reasons (real or imagined)

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A11**

### Calling it what it is

To the Editor:  
 And I quote... "We call it the Chinese Virus, because it came from China." - Hodge Twins, Kevin and Keith, former liberals who woke up.

The left seems to have a knack for corrupting just about everything they come into contact with. From what were supposed to be groups that were going to change people's perspectives and open minds to the words we use every day. If I were to point out everything it would quite possibly monopolize the section dedicated to the Letters to the Editor, if not the entire New Leader. So, in the interest of saving a few trees, let me boil it down to maybe two or three words the left have redefined for the purpose of their own agenda.

Racism/Racist. A word often heard

when a liberals' argument is paper thin and in jeopardy of, once again, ending with their foot firmly embedded in their mouth.

Taken from the Merriam-Webster dictionary, here is how they define racism: 1. "a belief that race is a fundamental determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race." 2a. "the systemic oppression of a racial group to the social, economic, and political advantage of another." 2b. "a political or social system founded on racism and designed to execute its principles."

Liberals definition: Anything President Trump says, his followers,

Turn To **HERHOLZ** page **A13**

### The truth about Breonna Taylor

To the Editor:  
 It seems as though Mr. Robillard considers there to be no greater threat to the United States of America than Black Lives Matter. For those that missed it, his weekly vitriolic screed was on page 4 last week as a "Your Turn" column separated from the rest of the letters to the editor.

First of all, what is BLM? BLM is a decentralized political and social movement advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality and all racially motivated violence against black people. The movement began with the use of the hashtag #blacklivesmatter following the acquittal of George Zimmerman for Trayvon Martin's death. BLM is not an organization, it is not a party, it doesn't have a

leader. It is an idea, a social movement.

Many white people find that the very phrase "Black Lives Matter" somehow in opposition to their interests and have responded with "All Lives Matter!" First of all, BLM might more appropriately be called "Black Lives Matter, Too". White lives always mattered. Black people have been in the USA for 400 years and were slaves for 250, then under institutionalized Jim Crow racism for 100 years, and have only been equal on paper for 50 years but of course we all know there is an unofficial porous caste system in place to the present day. It is obvious American society continues to view black lives with more suspicion, to be of less value, disposable, and there is a lower bar

Turn To **WASHINGTON** page **A13**

## Can you influence your financial aid award?



FINANCIAL FOCUS  
**JEFF BURDICK**

Right now, the pandemic is causing chaos and uncertainty for colleges and students. But it won't always be that way. And if you have children who will be heading off to school in the next few years, you're probably thinking about more typical concerns - such as expenses. How will you pay for the high costs of higher education?

Most colleges do offer financial aid packages that can greatly help with these expenses. But it pays to know, well in advance, how financial aid works. And the key platform for determining much of your child's financial aid is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In fact, if you have children starting college next year, now is the time to get going on the FAFSA, which became available Oct. 1 for the 2021-22 award year.

Filling out your FAFSA will provide you with what's known as your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC calculation takes into account four separate areas: parent income, parent assets (excluding retirement funds, such as 401(k) plans and IRAs, home equity and small family businesses), student income and student assets. The EFC does not calculate the exact amount you must pay for college - rather, it's an estimate, and the amount you pay can be below or above this number.

Nonetheless, the EFC is important in determining your financial aid package, and your actions can influence the results. Here are a few suggestions for future years:

Save money in your name - not your child's. FAFSA will just consider up to 5.64 percent of a parent's assets, compared to 20 percent of a student's assets.

Be aware of how retirement plan contributions can affect aid. Many of your current assets, such as your retirement accounts, may be excluded from the EFC calculation. However, any voluntary contributions you make to your 401(k) or traditional IRA during the "base" year (the prior tax year) generally must be reported on the FAFSA and are counted as untaxed income; consequently, these contributions may have a similar effect on aid eligibility as taxable income. Mandatory contributions, such as those made by teachers to a state retirement system, are generally not reported on the FAFSA.

Avoid withdrawals from your 401(k) or traditional IRA. The money you take out from these accounts in the years you fill out the FAFSA, and the prior tax year, may count as taxable income in the financial aid calculations. If you really need the money, you may want to consult with your financial professional for alternatives.

Consider having children put earnings into a Roth IRA. Money from after-school or summer jobs your children put in a Roth IRA may not be included in EFC - plus, your kids will get a head start on a tax-advantaged retirement account. Keep in mind, though, that Roth IRA withdrawals could be considered as taxable income on the FAFSA if the account owner is younger than 59 1/2, which will be the case for your children, or the account is less than five years old.

Not all these suggestions will be appropriate for everyone, but they're worth thinking about. You might also want to consult with a college's financial aid officer before you complete the FAFSA, as aid calculations can be complex. An investment of your time and effort early in the process may pay off when the aid packages are finally delivered.

*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.*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Principles

To the Editor:

I never understand why people do not recognize what makes America so successful. Why don't people recognize it's the private sector business and not the government that creates our prosperity? The brilliance of our government is that it recognizes that the greatest brilliance lies with the people. It should be so clear when you look around the world that the countries whose economy is based on free markets, free enterprise, and competition in the private sector are prosperous and those in which the government manages everything don't do well. The reason is obvious; it's the opportunity to reap some personal benefit that is the incentive and the competition that demands efficiency that in turn creates excellence. If there is no reward for your efforts why would you make an effort? If you don't benefit from doing a better job than others why would you try? If we all earn the same no matter what we do or how we do it there's no incentive. Equal opportunity is freedom while equal outcome requires your being managed. I chose freedom and accept the responsibilities necessary if I am to be free. Perhaps if these principals were taught in our schools there would be a better understanding of our country.

Having that opinion, I can tell you what I'm voting for; you can figure out who I'm voting for. I'm voting for lower taxes not higher taxes, fewer

regulations not more regulations, controlled borders not open borders, strong defense not defense cuts, energy independence not energy dependence, competitive health care not government health care, more jobs not more welfare, law & order not mob violence, more freedom not more government. The following poem of mine may help you decide what to vote for.

The Government's  
Plantation

To sell your vote  
for promises made  
to keep you fed  
and keep you paid  
makes you dependent.

When you're dependent  
you're a slave  
to the man  
your vote you gave.

If independent you're a threat  
you must remain in his debt.  
Poverty he'll subsidize  
telling you he's on your side.

He can't afford to set you free  
he would lose his dynasty.  
Independence is the key  
for a man to be free

LEONARD IVEL  
LEICESTER

## Analyzing last week's "You ain't black" article

To the Editor:

Let us fully agree with this article opening statement that drug dealers are cruel, wicked people, and so are people that violently impact the lives of ordinary people.

Let us also agree that some of the worst "drug dealers" of the 21st century are white people. In this include the Sackler family and other rich drug company owners, managers etc. who were involved in Opioid marketing, production, distribution, over-prescription, and sales. Some of these white people exist in our local communities.

Likewise, many wicked, cruel white people exist in a number of major industries, particularly that those that pollute the air we breathe, the water we drink, and cause climate change and environmental degradation that increasingly affect us and our children.

Let us also agree with the article that, for all people, the environment they grew up and live in greatly influences character.

For example, many Native Americans grow up and/or live in "Reservations." This is often a result of land being unfairly- from them - often, as in the "Trail of Tears," cruelly, and wickedly.

Today, life on Native American

Reservations is desolate and soul destroying. An environment for character developing it is not.

African Americans, unfairly, wickedly, and cruelly came and lived here as slaves. The gains they made after the Emancipation Act, were soon drained away. Within 40 years they mostly lost the right to vote, quality public services including education and were cruelly and violently oppressed, including lynching after lynching. It was not until the Freedom /Civil Rights Movement - not so different than Black Lives Matter and related Civil Rights Acts that they with blood, guts and integrity that many African Americans regained some environmental conditions for development. Now once again in the time of Trump, this "environment" is under great threat.

Logic is a proven way of thinking based on valid statements. In it what one writes must be based on proven and relevant truths. What you write must be correct. This article, when discussing Black Lives Matter, breaks two rules of basic logic.

First it builds its' general arguments on some selected specific examples; "Breonna Taylor," "Rayshard Brooks,"

Turn To **KANE** page **A10**

## The revolt of the normal

To the Editor:

Last Friday afternoon, as I arrived at the location of our Trump stand-out in Auburn, I noticed a couple waiting in their parked car for, I surmised, the rally to get started. They were new to our events, so I welcomed them and said I hoped they enjoyed the experience.

They were, to say the least, noticeably elderly and frail, and both very diminutive in stature--tiny, in fact. But, the old man had a sparkle in his eye, and I could see the woman, even though her face was covered by a Trump 2020 mask, smiled almost continually. These, I thought, are exceptionally nice people; I like them already. Plus, I will no longer be the oldest codger at the site, nor the weakest. Welcome aboard!

Decked out in their Trump sweat-shirts, Trump M.A.G.A. hats, and carrying their Trump flags to wave, the Mayor of Tiny Town and his missus headed immediately for the highest visibility spot of the intersection: the point where the traffic had to stop and wait for a signal change. They wanted their message to not be wasted on traffic that couldn't see them. They were, in the great American tradition, here to promote their candidate. But, it was also the point at which the idiot brigade, the mind-numbed, middle-finger, Trump-haters would have the greatest opportu-

nity to verbally assault them.

And, they did. If you want to see what a generation of indoctrinating American youth to detest and fear that which conflicts with what they've been taught by their Marxist-stooge teachers (from K-college), you would have had to witness this shameful display of colossal ignorance, cruelty, and a total lack of common decency on the part of the usual suspects: young--and not so young--white females travelling in groups of three or four to a vehicle.

While the vast majority of the passers-by were either supportive or non-committal, there were the too frequent displays of a savage boorishness directed at this, I would say, sweet old couple, who bore the brunt of the filthy language and gestures and never backed down. Sadly, the aggressors were, as I said, in most cases, groups of girls or young women who would put down the window and, from a distance of less than ten feet, scream "You old bleeping bleeps, I hope you die, you racist bleeps...etc., etc." These maladjusted, maleducated, malfunctioning mulibral morons, could see that these two individuals--brave as paratroopers, as far as I'm concerned--had to be between 85 and 90 and barely able to walk to their car, but that didn't matter. The old

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A10**

## So sad

To the Editor:

The news just keeps accelerating and accelerating... RBG died two weeks ago, we had a disaster of a "debate," the President has tested positive for COVID, he's been brought to the hospital, and it appears that his Rose Garden announcement of Amy Coney Barret to replace RBG was a super-spreader event as more and more people in the president's inner circle test positive for COVID.

The President went to Walter Reed Hospital while he still had his faculties, presumably to avoid the media seeing him brought out of the Whitehouse in a wheelchair or on a stretcher. Reports are in that he was put on oxygen for some time, he has been experiencing fatigue and has been running a temperature among other symptoms. The President is receiving a cocktail of antibodies not available to most and is receiving an experimental treatment that is not available to the general public yet. It seems now that Trump has COVID himself talks of hydroxychloroquine and bleach have given way for real treatments that aren't yet released to the public.

While Donald Trump is still human and we shouldn't wish death or suffering on anybody, we shouldn't forget that Trump-world delighted in cruelty. Now that Trump has COVID, it demands empathy. Trump supporters love how he "owns the libs" including when he mocked Hillary Clinton's bout with pneumonia in 2016, yet Trump supporters seem SHOCKED that some of his critics are mean to him. We are expected to give Trump sympathy despite the fact he is an amoral bully that has made the COVID-19 crisis easily 10x worse than it had to be and has killed 210,000 Americans and counting. We are expected to feel sorry for the man who, beyond bungling the countries response for all of us for his perceived political expediency, personally mocked all public health measures including masks, crowd sizes, social distancing, etc. Donald Trump is the single most careless public figure I can think of and whaddya know, he got COVID...Yet we are supposed to feel bad for him.

It isn't clear how this will play out in the polls and the election, we simply have no precedent. There might be some sympathy with people rallying around him. Joe Biden has stopped all negative ads. On the other hand, everyone knows that Trump is suffering the consequences of risky and cavalier behavior and his own diagnosis is a giant symbol of poor leadership. If Trump turns out to not have a terribly severe case and two weeks from now is up to barnstorming the country to declare COVID-19 no big deal, who knows how that plays out.

While they surely have a treasure trove of ads, there is currently no Trump campaign. The Trump campaign was a personal performance by Donald Trump and nobody else can take the torch. The campaign is his

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

To the Editor:

I have talked with a lot of voters who believe that voting for Sleepy Joe will bring peace and calm to our country. These are mostly liberal snowflakes. I asked one why she thought America was racist. She told me she heard it on CNN and MSNBC so it must be true. I asked another one has she had ever seen racism in her life. Her answer was "Didn't you see the video on Reddit?"

Really, are these people the future of our country? Sheep who are controlled by the media. They are in for a big surprise if they think Joe Biden is going to solve their perceived issues. They're going to get a big awaking to reality. If Joe Biden is elected, he would be the new Appeaser in Chief. In dealing with radical groups and hostile forces, appeasement is a sure way to provoke them into continuing the same pattern of violence and hostility. And they are correct in this thinking. If you bow to their pressure, they will take it as sign of weakness, and it will validate their process. This is exactly how Obama proceeded when he became president. His World Apology Tour created the ISIS caliphate and his payoffs to Iran escalated the terrorist attacks in the middle east. Remember his "Red Line" in Syria. This turned out to be the enemies starting line! The weak nuke deal allowed Iran to build up their nuclear program. Hillary Clintons promises of money to Kim in North Korea emboldened him to build his missile system and threaten his neighbors. BLM and Antifa were both formed during his presidency. The Paris Climate accord, which was never voted in by congress, is basically a financial shake down of the US. It required the US to pay other countries to limit their energy use. What a deal for us! Obama has us all signed up for this shakedown. Then President Trump came in and with his brash and stern demeanor he destroyed ISIS, bottled up Iran and Korea, brought peace to the middle east, and got us out of deals where countries were ripping us off.

A vote for Joe will quickly change all the great work Trump as done. All these groups and countries will be

celebrating like its a holiday. Their nemeisis is gone and the good days of looting the US is back. The leftist radical groups, BLM and Antifa, who have seen their stock rise with the demonstrations and looting will be making even bigger demands. They have tasted power and will now flex their muscle.. Biden will roll over like a wet noodle. Any resistance will mean more demonstrations and violence until they achieve their goals and demands. Statues and monuments will topple. Biden's foreign policy will follow the same path as Obama's. Biden's will do the World Apology Tour 2021. He will visit all those countries that Trump forced to pay their fair share and ask for their forgiveness. Our military will be put back into "Limited Engagement Mode". This means they can attack our soldiers at will, but we can only fight back if we authorized by Biden's weak commanders. ISIS will sprout up again and grow strong exactly as under Obama. Iran and North Korea will smell blood and go in for the kill. They will issue threats that Biden will be diplomatically resolve with huge payoffs from the US. Where Trump gave them a Predator missile for threats, Biden will give them billions of our tax dollars in blackmail instead. He will put us back in the Paris Climate Accord. Expect at least a \$20 a month fee added to your electric bill with a line next to it saying, "Climate Fee Assessment."

If you want to keep your country strong, and you want to push these radical groups back into their holes, then we need to elect Trump We are respected and admired around the world. They know to screw around with America with Trump at the helm is taking your chances. There is nothing they would love more than to shake hands with smiling Joe while picking his pocket. All Joe would think is he had a bowel movement. Trump may seem rough and brash, but that's what a brawler and fighter does. He is the fire that keeps the wolves at bay so we can all work, sleep, and live in peace.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

## We provide our own "resources"

To the Editor:

Mr. Kane stated that Sen. Gobi "wants more state resources for us."

The Commonwealth has no resources of its own. Whatever it distributes

came from taxes, fees, fines and tariffs.

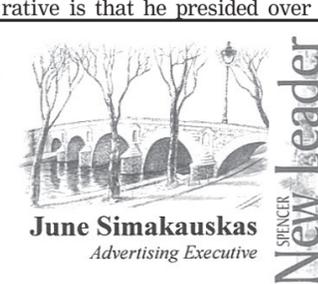
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## ATTORNEY

### Law Office of Michelle M. Murray

Our office is now open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We are fully functional and are accepting new clients. New client appointments are in-person, or via telephone or Zoom, depending on your preference. Proper protective measures are in place. Masks are required and we are conducting sanitization of surfaces daily. Call or email for an appointment.

188 Main Street, Spencer • [Michelle@AttorneyMichelleMurray.com](mailto:Michelle@AttorneyMichelleMurray.com)  
508.885.4405 • [AttorneyMichelleMurray.com](http://AttorneyMichelleMurray.com)

**BAGG**  
continued from page A8

Senators and California gets two Senators with 68 times the population. Democrats tend to live in dense clusters (cities) and mathematically clusters are easier than rural areas to gerrymander (packing and cracking). Furthermore, in presidential politics, the state elections are mostly winner-take-all and in some states the Republicans have comically low support but in cities with mixed rural and urban populations they can win by narrow margins allowing them to win the electoral college with a clear minority of votes.

Some will argue that the system is working exactly as the founders had intended. This couldn't be further from the truth. First of all, the founders expected black people (slaves) to count as three fifths of a person, so I would think right there we wouldn't care what they had intended. Next, the 68:1 ratio seen between California and Wyoming is grotesque. In 1790, the ratio between Virginia and Delaware (then the smallest states) was 12.5:1. If we only looked at free white adult males (voters) the ratio was closer to 9:1.

The founders had not intended for the president to be elected by the people. They intended for the president to be chosen by electors, people selected by state legislators to go to Washington and deliberate in a college of electors and determine the best path forward for the country. The Electoral College was the very definition of a "deep state," if

you will. Furthermore, the founders had intended U.S. Senators not to be elected but to be chosen by state legislatures and that didn't change until 1914. Therefore, the only say "the people" had was in their state legislature and of course blacks, women, and non-land white owning males weren't exactly people... Before using "but the founders" argument think about what they really intended.

The system in its current incarnation clearly favors Republicans, but there is a demographic slow-moving time-bomb. States like Arizona, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida are getting browner and younger every cycle. As the proportion of white people drop in those states elections are quickly becoming unwinnable for Republicans. They have a built-in-advantage of, say, five points right now, and that isn't enough... So they bring out the big guns - cheating.

In 2016, the Republicans decided to roll a vacant Supreme Court seat from Obama's term for "the next president" because it was too close to an election at 9 months but offer no such courtesy for a 2020 vacancy within 6 weeks of an election. We now realize that Mitch McConnell had intended to deny Barack Obama the right to seat any federal judges from 2014 on so new rule - judicial appointments can only happen when the presidency and Senate are held by the same party... genius! The Senate is far better stacked in Republicans' favor compared to the presidency. The founders never intended for there to be parties and had

intended the Senate to be a great deliberative body, by the way.

In 2020, we are seeing cheating in various forms. We have an unprecedented size and scope of mail-in voting with mail-in ballots being overwhelmingly Democratic so a party donor crony gets installed at the USPS, he takes sorting machines offline, he removed blue boxes, and slows the mail down. They can't vote Dem if the ballots never get there! The president is encouraging armed militias to act as election monitors in places like Philadelphia to intimidate in ways seen in third world countries and not seen here since before the Voting Rights Act. Who knows what else they have up their sleeves.

If the Dems win everything, there is a lot of talk about "packing" the court to steal to break even, make up for the giant hypocrisy of rolling Scalia's seat into the next term but not doing the same for RBG. The concept of packing is increasing the court's size to, say, 13 justices so that Biden can appoint four. The problem with this is that eventually, it will swing back to Republicans and they will pack it further until one day we wonder how we ever got to a 117-member Supreme Court.

We certainly need to pack the court, but we need to address the fundamental inequity - the Senate. We need to pack the Senate and reduce the grotesque 68:1 ratio of representation. The Dems did not start the war of fighting dirty but should not be afraid to finish it. If they win everything, in addition to packing the court, we need to address the Senate. The Dems should admit Puerto

Rico, D.C., Guam, and USVI as states. There's 8 more Senators and 15 more electoral votes. Then for good measure we should probably break California into Northern California and Southern California for two more Senators and Electoral Votes. We could break Long Island off of New York into a new state with Brooklyn and Queens, leave Manhattan and the Bronx with NY, and give Staten Island to New Jersey. That would be two more Senators and Electoral votes. The Republicans may think they're good at gerrymandering, but we can take it to a whole new level!

There is no justification whatsoever for five million American citizens to be denied voting rights and representation in the House and Senate. There is no justification whatsoever for us to rule over non-governing territories - it is too bad that the Republicans needed to cheat before we decided to make it more fair. As for splitting New York and California up - there is no justification for the grotesque increased clout that our small states get over our larger states and we can level the playing field by making our states smaller but more numerous.

I think 12 more Senators and 19 more electoral votes from blue areas might return us to the place where Republicans only have a slight advantage based on the math, but still not enough to steamroll a clear majority.

FRED BAGG  
SPENCER

**MCRAE**  
continued from page A9

folks must be humiliated, shamed and terrorized for their temerity in publicly supporting the President of the United States. What kind of education system produces such bottom-feeding low-lives as these unconscionable children?

When it was over, I went to thank them for coming, and I commiserated with them for having to be exposed to such hateful filth as they had just endured. The woman responded that they were from Grafton Hill and were not unfamiliar with the language. She said they had been involved in political events over the course of their married life, but that this experience was something new... this was not normal. Well, I assured her, the normal people in this country, those who do or did all the work, fight the wars, pay the taxes, who try to be good citizens, and who are grateful for the blessing of being a citizen of this country, etc., are standing up and refusing to take it any longer. We, the normals, know the hour is late, and that we have a true fighter and patriot to lead us in the battles still to come. The revolt of the normals began in 2016, and will continue in 2020 whether the ruling class elites like it or not. All we wanted was to be left alone, but they wouldn't

allow it, so we found a fighter to wage war on our behalf.

She's right, these pathetic people, whether 13 or 30, whose faces are so contorted with rage and whose mouths spew such a torrent of verbal vomit, have never progressed emotionally, intellectually, or morally from their days in junior high or middle school, and are most definitely not...normal. We're no longer permitted to use the term "retarded", but, folks, if it ever applied, it does to these cretins. Some payoff for all your exorbitant school taxes, huh, Mr. and Mrs. Citizen? God help whoever has to deal with these zombies in the years to come.

I told them they were very brave, that I admired their dedication to the cause, and that they might want to drive to Leicester Center this coming Friday, October 9th at 4:00 P.M., for our stand-out which promises to be a rockin' affair. And that applies to you, too, reader. If you love America and Trump, come on by and join the fun; park at the Town Hall, and bring a flag or a sign. You won't be sorry. President Trump fought for us, now we will fight for him.

JOHN MCRAE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

**KANE**  
continued from page A9

"Jacob Blake," etc. (In fact, these BLM protests were really about visible police brutality). Logical thinking says it is only valid or truthful to go from general to particular (as in only apples grow in this orchard; therefor the fruit growing on the tree is an apple). It is not valid to go from particular to general (as in an apple on this tree is rotten, therefor all apples on this tree is rotten). Black Lives Matter is a general racial and social justice movement, not one focused on particular events as cruel and wicked as they might be.

Second, the article about whether the Black Lives Matter Movement is filled with irrelevant (and often inaccurate) information - descriptions of only a few events., criticisms of CNN, liberals and democrats, growing up in Worcester, demeaned suburban women, the mostly non-existent Antifa (abut not real White-Right vigilantes), and so on.

**ROSENBERG**  
continued from page A9

much people like me do. At the debate on Tuesday, the American people got to see in real time the way one man destroyed an American political institution, the presidential debate. It was a clear example in the centrality of character, the centrality of decency, and when you have a bad indecent character it just breaks things and corrodes everything.

Presidential debates used to be a moment where candidates spent 90 minutes defending their vision for America and were held accountable

Finally, the article offers no fact-based evidence. It would apparently have you believe that the American "environment" essentially contains an equal playing field. The very unequal expenditure per student between our towns and Boston suburbs show this as not true.

This same unfair, across the board inequality, similarly exists between rich White and the "other" American communities. For African -American communities and individuals the Wilson's "The Cost of Growing Up in the Ghetto" (which can be Googled well describes this environment. A great, general body of fact checked reports, fully reviewed studies, official statistics etc. validate this cruel inequality.

In contrast, this article bases its vehement views one person's angry particular experience and thinking, enhanced perhaps by Cable TV news and opinions.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

to explain their positions and answer questions. Instead, it was a moment where President Trump brought all the attention back to himself. He mocked Joe Biden wearing a mask which is oddly ironic and poignant now that Trump has COVID himself and shocking that he had COVID and didn't know it yet while mocking masks to a national audience.

This past week was just so sad on many levels. But again, I predict, not one point will change in the polls.

DAVID ROSENBERG  
SPENCER

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**READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER**

**LEGALS**

**Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**  
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Signarama to install a new, moveable flashing message sign at Quirk Wire 146 East Main Street, West Brookfield. In Rural Residential District requires a Variance as per section, -5 Special Requirements: -5.3 Signs (B6) (a) (et al) The public is invited to attend.  
Renee Adams White  
Clerk  
October 2, 2020

**Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**  
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Sherry B. Lynch 18 Beach Drive, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to demolish the existing dwelling and build a new larger structure on the property. In Neighborhood Residential District requires a special permit as per section, -1.52 Nonconformity: 1.52 Nonconforming Structures (a) (et al) The public is invited to attend.  
Renee Adams White  
Clerk  
October 2, 2020  
October 9, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street**

**Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO20P2627EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Helen Evelyn Magee Date of Death: 05/05/2020**  
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Audrey J. Parsons of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Audrey J. Parsons of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/27/2020.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed

under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: September 24, 2020  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 9, 2020

**Town of Spencer Office Of The Sewer Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Attention Spencer Residents**  
A public hearing with the sewer commissioners will be held to discuss sewer rate fees Wednesday, October 21, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. Broadcast live from Mccourt Social Hall By Spencer Cable Access Remote meeting only  
October 9, 2020  
October 16, 2020

**Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**  
The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 6:30pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Ann Ramsey of 34 Oakham Rd for a Special Permit to Zoning Bylaw, VI,B,4: to construct an addition outside the front/rear setback. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St. Respectfully,  
Tara M Hayes, Clerk  
October 9, 2020

**Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**  
The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 6:45pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Donald Gillette & Tracey Davenport of 12 Chase Rd for a Special Permit to Zoning Bylaw, VI,B,4: to construct a garage outside the rear setback. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St. Respectfully,  
Tara M Hayes, Clerk  
October 9, 2020

**Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**  
The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing & meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 6:45pm in the North Brookfield Police Department Training Room, 55 School St on the application of Jamie & Michael Cook, 7 Point Rd for a Special Permit to Zoning Bylaw, VI,B,4: to construct an attached garage within the

front setback. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk's Office at 215 North Main St. Respectfully,  
Tara M Hayes, Clerk  
October 9, 2020

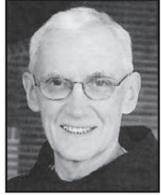
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October 9, 2020

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Tara M Hayes, Clerk  
October 9, 2020

# OBITUARIES

## Br. Bernard Matthews, O.C.S.O.

SPENCER – Br. Bernard Matthews, O.C.S.O. of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer died following a very brief illness Saturday, September 26 at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester.



Born John Michael Matthews on February 5, 1926 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to William Matthews and Mary Mahoney, he graduated from Northeast Catholic High School and St. Joseph College, both in Philadelphia. He was a boatswain in the U.S. Navy initially in the Pacific theater, but after two of

his brothers were killed in operations there, he was recommissioned back to the U.S. where he was assigned to naval maneuvers plying the Delaware River.

In 1949 he entered the Trappist order as a Lay Brother postulant at the Abbey of Our Lady of the Valley in Rhode Island, receiving the name Bernard. Early the next year that monastery was destroyed by fire and the monastic community moved to a temporary residence at the CCC Camp at Chepachet, Rhode Island while preparing its permanent home at Saint Joseph's Abbey in Spencer. It was at Spencer that Bernard pronounced his solemn vows as a Lay Brother in 1955.

Over the years Brother Bernard

set the gold standard for the dedicated Trappist Lay Brother, daily to be found working at clearing dried leaves on the abbey grounds and sweeping the cloisters up to the week before his death. In earlier times he had been the director of Trappist Preserves, the abbey's jams and jelly industry as well as the cellarer, the official in charge of the property and material structure of the monastery. Fondly remembered for his soft-spoken, old-style gentlemanly manner of communication, for the bulk of his 71 years at the abbey, he kept a meticulous chronicle of day to day events and happenings, handwritten in pencil, a treasury of data notable for its clarity and the wealth of information preserved.

Brother Bernard was pre-deceased by his parents William and Mary and his siblings Anthony, William, Virginia DiGiulio, Dolores Orth and June Boyle. In addition to his religious brothers at the abbey, he leaves his brother Joseph and his sister Geraldine Celic as well as numerous nieces and nephews, especially the twins, Mary and Ernest DiGiulio. With gratitude for the gift of his presence among us, the brothers commend Brother Bernard's soul to your prayers. There are no calling hours. Due to restrictions concerning 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.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

## Rhoda May (Fales) (Cooper) Josephson

Rhoda Josephson went to be with her Lord September 26, 2020 – just two months shy of 104. She was born in Worcester, MA November 30, 1916, the only daughter of John P. Fales and Mary E. (Whitman) Fales.



While living in St. Augustine, Florida for 25 years she belonged to the Moultrie Baptist Church and the local Audubon Club.

After moving to Brookfield in 2001 she maintained her own home until after her 100th birthday attending both the Brookfield Congregational and Quaboag Valley Baptist Churches. Her final months were at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in West Brookfield.

At age 10, Rhoda moved to Charlton with her parents and her two younger brothers. She rode the trolley to school, graduated Charlton High School and was a telephone operator with a 6-line switchboard.

When attending church at the Dodge Chapel in Charlton, she shared a hymn book with Alfred Cooper, Jr. from Rochdale; eventually they married. She and "Al" had one daughter and five sons. She waitressed part-time at the Little Valley Farm, then a restaurant on Northside Road in Charlton.

Rhoda was a member of the Federated Church and the Helping Hands Society of Charlton. She grew a garden, canned

the produce and made her own butter and jellies, raised German Shepherds, rode her horse, mended the boys' jeans, made rugs for the family home, played her organ and even did some oil painting!

Survivors are her daughter Jean Clarkson of St. Augustine, Florida; and four of her five sons Thomas (Donna Neylon) of Charlton; John (Carol) of Brimfield; Alfred III (Suzan) of Millinocket, ME; Stephen (Dimitry) of Brookfield, MA and daughter-in-law Cindy of Charlton, at least 20 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren, 10 great-great grandchildren, several nieces, a nephew, her stepson Don Josephson and his extended family.

Rhoda's first husband, Al, died in 1972. Her second husband, Einar Josephson (North Brookfield, MA), died in 1995. Her youngest son, Peter, son-in-law Ralph Clarkson, two brothers Philip and Sidney Fales, their wives (Cynthia & Dorothy), two granddaughters (Debra Clarkson Maguire and Virginia Cooper), a niece (Caroline), a daughter-in-law (Janice) and dear cousin Marjorie all pre-deceased her.

Arrangements by Pillsbury Funeral Home, North Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, family suggests donations be made to Spirit Lifter's Fund, in care of Brookfield Congregational Church, 2 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506, or Brookfield Emergency Squad, 4 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 or the charity of your choice.

## Marilyn Carlson, 77

NORTH BROOKFIELD - A beautiful soul left this earth on September 30, 2020. Marilyn (Mackenzie) Carlson, 77 passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family after losing her battle with cancer.



She leaves her soul-mate and husband of 60 years, Rodney Carlson, her best friend and daughter, Michelle (Carlson) Peterson, and the apple of her eye, her granddaughter Madeline Peterson and her furbabies Bonnie and Diva. She also leaves her very special sister, Michelle Huntington of Monson, grandsons Todd and Derek Kiechle of New York, her loving nieces, nephews, cousins and her 4 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her daughter Brenda (Carlson) Miller of New York. She was the daughter of the late George W Mackenzie and Madeline (Jannard) Mackenzie of Monson. She was also predeceased by her brother George W Mackenzie II, her sister Jayne Nothe and her favorite brother in law James Huntington.

Marilyn attended Palmer High School and then went on to work various occupations. Her most recent position was a server at Cracker Barrel for 18 years where she worked until she was 75. She had many loyal regulars whom became friends and would call her at home to make sure she was working the next day.

She was a huge lover of animals and had many different ones throughout the years from dogs, cats to rats and monkeys and goats. If an animal didn't have a home it found one with her. She also loved the casino - especially the slots and visited Foxwoods and Mohegan weekly.

Marilyn loved to travel. Mexico and the Caribbean were her favorites. She traveled yearly with her daughters and granddaughter for a girl bonding trip. So many happy, crazy, fun memories were had on those trips.

She had a gift of gab. If you were blessed to be near her conversations would usually start with "where are you headed?" and would go on for quite some time. She made many new acquaintances in her life.

Of the many wonderful qualities the ones that come to mind most were her thoughtfulness and how she was so much fun to have around. She wouldn't forget a birthday, a celebration or to bring a souvenir to a friend. There was always some little trinket that she would give to someone to brighten their day. She loved to embarrass her daughters with her outgoingness and her joking ways.

The world got less bright for all that knew and loved her and she will be forever missed.

Due to COVID restrictions a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements were made by Varnum Funeral Home in West Brookfield.

## Elsie A. Casey, 88

WEST BROOKFIELD - - Elsie A. (Paquette) Casey, died peacefully at home on Friday, October 2, 2020 at the age of 88 after a long, valiant battle with Alzheimer's disease.



Born, December 16, 1931, the daughter of Andrew J. and Stella G. (Beauregard) Paquette, she was a third-generation lifelong resident of West Brookfield. Her life was dedicated to the service of others as a devoted wife, loving mother, ambitious teacher, faithful parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, and dedicated volunteer.

In 1953, she graduated from Boston University and then became a teacher at W.B. Elementary and later N.B. High School. She was infamous for her writing, math, and typing skills which led to a second career in the offices of Brookfield Machine, Warren Pumps, and others.

She enjoyed being healthy and active; riding horses, bowling, coaching, refereeing basketball, umpiring softball, climbing trees with her grandchildren, and walking around the lake at her winter home in Punta Gorda, FL. She volunteered for the DAV, American Legion, W.B. Senior Center, and AARP. She loved bowling, knitting, gardening, sewing, playing cards, and rooting for the Red Sox.

Elsie was predeceased by her hus-

band of 54 years, Donald F. Casey, her brother Alvin and his wife Janice. She is survived by her brother Lester and his wife Eleanore; children Gail Fortin, James Casey and his wife Jo-Anne, Alison Casey, and Moira Casey-Gavin; grandchildren Alyssa, Franklin, Jared, Jesse, Megan, Matthew, John, Casey, Jenna, Michael, Torey, and Liam; great-grandchildren Chase and Aubrey. Her family extends their deep appreciation to her caregivers; daughter Alison, Alicia Rivera, and grandson Jesse who provided loving care at her home for years.

A Funeral Mass for Elsie was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 11:00AM in the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, 22 West Main Street, West Brookfield. A calling hour was held prior to the mass from 9:30-10:30AM in Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main Street, West Brookfield. Burial was in Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery, West Brookfield, following mass. In accordance with current Massachusetts COVID regulations, masks must be worn and social distancing guidelines must be followed while in the funeral home and the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, 72 East Concord Street-Robinson 7800, Boston, MA 02118 or at [www.bu.edu/alzresearch/about-us/how-to-donate/](http://www.bu.edu/alzresearch/about-us/how-to-donate/)

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

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

## HAR-YAROK

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from the justices in 1973. It is naive to think that if only South Africa had the United States constitution it would be peaceful and prosperous. Perhaps South Africa's problems come from a legacy of Apartheid with its majority some of the poorest people in the world, it's minority nearly 1st world, and a brain drain that has caused its best and brightest to leave the untenable legacy of South Africa's history? Is it wrong to admire a non-U.S. Constitution as a better model for emerging countries or is the only acceptable answer, "Our constitution is the best. Always. In all cases. Our founding fathers were demigods who knew how to best write governing documents for 21st century challenges?"

The most interesting thing in Mr. McRae's letter, though, is that he seems to thank RBG for not retiring in 2013, guaranteeing that Obama couldn't replace her. Obama was president from Jan. 20, 2009 until Jan. 20, 2017. What is so special about 2013? In the 2014 mid-term elections the Republicans, with Mitch McConnell as their leader, regained control of the Senate. This is an admission that conservatives such as McRae fully expected Mitch McConnell to hold a seat open for several years "for the next president." Of course, he wants Amy Coney Barrett voted on before the election, no waiting for the next president. So, clearly, the founders must have wanted the new McConnell rule: "There will be no federal judicial appointments unless both the Senate and the Presidency are held by the same party." Of course, our founding fathers didn't intend for parties to exist at all, but that's other story.

Mr. Herholz COVID-19 the "China Virus" for the second week in a row but this time mocks those who use the only term that is used by world

governments, health organizations, corporations, basically anybody besides Trump's unprepared comments. It's unclear if racist Sinophobic statements make him feel better, or if he is just trying to support his Dear Leader and hope it catches on.

Mr. Herholz references a "99 percent survival rate." That would mean 3.28 million dead Americans, which nobody should think is OK. If we allowed the disease to spread too fast and overrun our hospitals we could easily be looking at 90 percent survival, or 32.8 million dead Americans... It ignores the suffering of having the disease even if you recover. It ignores the long-term injuries – COVID-19 causes organ damage. Twenty-five percent of young people who contract COVID-19 months later have persistent symptoms such as fatigue and headaches.

Mr. Reid – We have a secular government. Our first amendment prohibits the establishment of religion. Our rights are granted to us by documents and interpreted by courts – no God is above our government. Your conception of God is for your personal use and has no place in government which must serve all of us. The way you've laced Jesus, God, blessings, is disturbing for a letter commenting on American politics. I would also think it would be seen as offensive by some given RBG was Jewish and a staunch fighter for the separation of church and state.

The news has been moving so fast, it is hard to remember what even seemed important a week ago. Last week the New York Times leaked Trump's tax returns and it turns out he paid no federal income tax for 10 of the last 15 years and only paid \$750 to the U.S. government in 2017, his first year as president. Ironically in the same year he paid \$16,000 in taxes to Panama, \$145,000 to India, and \$156,000 to the Philippines. He wrote off "consulting fees" he paid his daughter, expenses from his var-

ious residences erroneously classified as business expenses, and he deducted \$70,000 in hair care. He seems a lot less rich and less successful than he claims to be.

How could this be? Easy – he paid little to no taxes because he sustained massive business losses. Either he is a criminal tax fraud or he's a terrible businessman. For a president who ran on his business reputation it seems he's a fraud. This really isn't news though, just confirmation of what we already knew.

Then came the joke of a "debate" where it was a game of how many lies and irrelevant conspiracy theories can Trump blurt out while talking over the moderator and Biden while then Biden has to talk over Trump to say "that's a lie." This was the same debate were Trump wouldn't condemn white supremacists and told them to standby. The same debate where Trump mocked Biden's use of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 WHILE the president himself was incubating COVID-19.

Trump continued his schedule of traveling the country to hold political rallies while first Hope Hicks comes down with COVID-19... Then the president himself tests positive for COVID-19. I know it's not nice to rejoice at another person's misfortune, but he really deserves it. If anybody ever deserved to catch this nasty virus, it is Donald J. Trump. The Woodward tapes proved he knew how dangerous and lethal COVID-19 was back in January but chose to downplay it. He has downplayed the virus all along, called it a hoax, blamed testing for making him look bad, mocked seemingly any and all public health measures. Under Trump's leadership COVID-19 is easily 10x worse per capita than in other developed countries. He not only deserves this, he deserves a severe case. He deserves to be on a ventilator. He deserves invasive procedures. He deserves a long and rocky recovery. I

hope he survives though so he can experience how much suffering COVID-19 can cause.

We often hear about R-naught, or R0 as the basic reproduction rate of the virus. R0 >1 grows exponentially, <1 decays exponentially until it's gone. COVID-19 unmitigated has an R0 ~2.3 but that is really an average. Some people transmit it to zero others, some several. I am going to guess that Trump is the single worst super-spreader in the history of this pandemic based on the sheer number of people he comes in contact with while being un-careful on purpose. I am guessing that 1 month from now we'll see a "Trump bump" – a clear 1-time bump in the pandemic's exponential growth directly attributed to Trump contracting it personally.

We now have 7,433,470 confirmed cases and 210,151 deaths, 4,836 new deaths and 300,220 people sick that weren't sick last week (including Trump). Canada is experiencing a 2nd wave as their entire country is getting chilly so this week the U.S. was only three times worse than Canada per capita. Our numbers are likely to get much worse. The national cases have shown a clear uptick since Labor Day. In Massachusetts our daily cases have doubled in 3 weeks since Labor Day. At this rate we will be back to peak-pandemic by Dec. 24 and in all likelihood it will accelerate faster than that as it gets colder. Despite this damning evidence, Gov. Baker relaxes restrictions on restaurants and other businesses, so here we go...

We can expect two million total deaths if we continue on this path. This is sad. It is pathetic. This is a total failure of government. There's nothing else to say about it.

OMAR HAR-YAROK  
EAST BROOKFIELD

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**WASHINGTON**

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to extinguish.

“All Lives Matter” is a slogan that didn’t exist before BLM but cropped up later to express criticism of BLM. “All Lives Matter” reflects a view of racial dismissal, ignoring, and denial. “All Lives Matter” is a disingenuous retort that misunderstands the problems raised by BLM activists.

Ignoring much of the meat of the underlying causes of the ongoing war on drugs we can jump straight to Breonna Taylor. Mr. Robillard seems to suggest that Breonna got what was coming to her (killed by 6 shots from the cops while she was in her bed). Mr. Robillard misrepresents the situation greatly. The city of Louisville settled with Breonna’s family for \$12 million and reformed its police practices so we can start with the assumption that this should never have happened and the city accepted responsibility.

Concerning the Breonna Taylor case, tragic as it is, it is really not a race issue. The officers responsible for her death didn’t necessarily even know her race ahead of time. This is a cop issue. This is a judge issue. This is a big problem.

The LMPD was investigating 2 men suspected of selling drugs from a house more than 10 miles away from Breonna’s apartment. One of them was Breonna’s EX-boyfriend who had used her address for various purposes such as bank statements. A no-knock search warrant was issued for Breonna’s residence because they thought her ex-boyfriend was receiving packages containing drugs since he was seen leaving her apartment with an unknown package. The U.S. Postal Inspector was asked to monitor packages going to Breonna’s residence but concluded “There’s no packages of interest going there”.

Before the raid the order had been changed to “knock and announce”. There

were 12 witnesses in the apartment building and all 12 of them said they heard no announcement although one of them changed his story 2 months later. One of the witnesses who said the cops didn’t announce themselves was outside smoking a cigarette at the time. The cops entered Breonna’s apartment at about 1:00am using a battering ram to look for drugs or money.

The cops were all wearing plainclothes. Kenneth Walker, Breonna’s boyfriend, was a lawful gun owner. After hearing a loud bang he yelled, “Who is it?” several times and after no answer he armed himself. When an intruder entered the apartment he fired his weapon and shot the intruder in the leg. After that 32 rounds were fired into the apartment from several officers including one who shot through a door covered by curtains so he couldn’t even see what he shooting. 6 shots went into Breonna killing her and none hit Kenneth.

Kenneth Walker, believing he had acted in self-defense, then called 911 to report “somebody kicked in the door and shot my girlfriend”. Of course, Kenneth was charged with attempted murder on a police officer (the plainclothes guy who kicked his door in at 1am) and thrown in jail. Of course there was nothing illic-it found in Breonna’s apartment – even Kenneth’s gun was legal. The cops later claimed that they never even searched Breonna’s apartment (what then was the point of busting in?)

The Breonna Taylor case intersects with race and with BLM, but it honestly is less a race issue than a cop and judge issue. Why was a search warrant ever granted if the postal service when asked to investigate saw nothing notable? How did even their suspicions rise to the level of no-knock plainclothes officers in the middle of the night? That is such a dangerous operation for everyone involved it indicates a total lack of understanding of the risk and lack of value on all lives – the Rambos in blue and the unsuspecting citi-

zens inside that apartment. So far though, this is just an over-zealous police force and criminal justice system and a young woman ended up dead from negligence.

Where it gets totally disgusting, of course, is Kenneth Walker was in jail for two months, charged with attempted murder on a police officer. They abused their power to ruin a young man’s life to cover up for their malfeasance. It was blatantly obvious Walker was acting in self-defense given his 1 shot and then his 911 call. What is he to think if in the middle of the night his door gets kicked in? Isn’t this exactly what Republicans/Conservatives/Trumpers think is an appropriate use of a gun? In my opinion everyone involved with incarcerating Kenneth Walker needs to spend two months in jail, in the general population.

Where it gets even more disgusting is that a month after the shooting, Breonna’s ex-boyfriend (the original suspect) was offered a plea deal if he would testify that Breonna (now deceased) was part of his drug dealing operation because implicating a dead woman would help cover up the cops’ malfeasance. He rejected the deal because at least that black drug dealer has some integrity.

We had all been waiting to see who was charged with what crimes. As it turns out, only the guy who fired a gun through a door he couldn’t see through got charged with wanton endangerment. The cops who battered the door in and aimed at Breonna, killing her, they’re good. Why are the protestors associated with BLM angry? Because this is such a miscarriage of justice. Breonna’s family received a civil settlement, but they want to see criminal charges – like the ones slapped on the man defending his home from a nighttime home invasion. They wanted to see murder charges.

Personally, I don’t think it is murder because the cops didn’t intend on killing Breonna. They all should have been charged with wanton endangerment. Cops need to go to jail and lose their

pensions for “just following orders” and risking lives for nothing. We didn’t accept “just following orders” from the Third Reich and we shouldn’t accept it from our boys in blue (who wear jeans and sweat-shirts when doing dangerous operations sometimes). We need future officers to look at a stupid plan and say, “I’m not doing that”. We need the cops who arrested Kenneth Walker charged with false arrest, kidnapping, abuse of power, or something of the sort. We need to send a message loud and clear that you will not charge innocent people with crimes to cover up your own crime.

We need to eliminate “qualified immunity” so that Kenneth Walker can see those officers personally for tossing him in jail to cover their own derriere.

Before you say “tragic accident” and “nothing to do with race” we should examine another case. In 2017 Justine Damond, a 40-year old white Australian woman, was shot by the Minneapolis police in an alleyway near her home. The officers said she approached the squad car and they “got spooked”, “feared an ambush”, and “feared for his life”. This time though the officer was black and the victim white. The officer was charged with third degree murder, convicted, sentenced to 12.5 years in prison, and in prison he remains to this day. During the trial the prosecutor asked the black former cop defendant, “The whole blonde hair, pink T-shirt, and all is a threat to you?” Don’t tell me that race doesn’t color how these things go...

As for Rayshard Brooks and Jacob Blake, referenced by Mr. Robillard... Nobody deserves to be shot in the back while running away. Never. Ever. There is no excuse. Those incidents were caught on camera. What did you expect would happen? Massive peaceful protests that become isolated riots when the sun goes down is what I would expect.

TERRANCE WASHINGTON  
SPENCER

**HERHOLZ**

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conservatives, and Fox News.

Here is a question for those of you who claim to be smarter than the rest of us, a little homework, if you will indulge me. Can the truth be racist? Say, for instance, one names a certain thing based on the region, or country, it came from. For example, is the term Chinese food racist? Why or why not? Some may be wondering why I ask, so allow me to explain. I was accused of being racist when I called Covid-19 the Chinese Virus. Unlike the Americanized version of what we call Chinese food, Covid-19 did, in fact, come from China. If calling it the Chinese Virus is racist, is the term, Spanish Flu also racist?

Fascism/Fascist. The left has fallen in love with their version of this word. Their definition: Anything President Trump does and all of his supporters. Merriam-Webster defines it as, “a political philosophy, movement, or regime (such as that of the Fascists) that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands

for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition.” So, by that definition, President Trump is the worst fascist in the history of fascism. Antifa, Americas own version of Isis, embodies it.

Discrimination. The left would have you to believe that this word is rooted in racism. But, in fact, everybody discriminates every day! One last time, from Merriam-Webster: “1a: prejudiced or prejudicial outlook, action, or treatment b: the act, practice, or an instance of discriminating categorically rather than individually

- 2: the quality or power of finely distinguishing
- 3a: the act of making or perceiving a difference : the act of discriminating
- b: psychology : the process by which two stimuli differing in some aspect are responded to differently.”

When you choose between having a baked potato rather than mashed, you just discriminated against the mashed. When you choose the well-lit alley rather than the dark alley, 2 percent milk over

whole milk, peanut butter and fluff over ham and cheese, you are discriminating. How about a black man in a business suit with a brief case or white guy in a flashy jogging suit, faux-gold necklace, and untied Nikes, both standing in front of the Worcester District Court House? With whom would you rather have a conversation? Discriminating does not automatically mean you are being a racist or bigot (another word widely used by liberals... correction, misused).

I have yet to find the racism and/or bigotry in anything President Trump has done up to this point. Before we all went on lockdown because of the virus that China gifted to not only us, but also the rest of world, the United States economy was booming. Unemployment was at a record low, especially for minorities, the average median income across this country was up \$5,000 and manufacturing jobs were (and still are) returning to the shores of America. So much for the ‘new norms’ of high unemployment, lower wages, and fewer jobs as it was proclaimed by the previous administration. It wasn’t a magic wand that brought the jobs back, it was President Trumps policies. But, if

you believe in magic... Abracadabra! Yet, all I hear is how much of a fascist he is, how much of a racist he is, how much of a bigot he is. However, when I ask for examples all I hear are crickets. After a few moments of deafening silence, when they come to the realization that they have nothing, that’s when the insults come out. Usually accusing me of being a Fox news stooge (nope).

This Friday, making a second appearance, the Trump Stand Out/Back the Blue rally will be back in the beautiful town of Leicester! Last time we had a huge turn-out and the Stand Outs haven’t slowed down since! Grab your flag or sign, and come down for a great time. We will be there from 4pm until 6pm at the intersection of Routes 9 and 56. Watch out for those that may be trolling the event and don’t take the bait! Hold you flag high and tell them you are gladly voting for Trump!

MATHEW HERHOLZ  
SPENCER



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# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

12:09-2:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:03 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 9:16 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), North Brookfield PD bolo; 9:53 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: missing package; 10:20 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. accident report; 10:41 a.m.: fraud (Marble Road), unemployment scam; 11:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), welfare check; 11:13 a.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 11:46 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 12:13 p.m.: commercial alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 12:15 p.m.: DPW call (Temple Street), cable down in road; 12:44 p.m.: residential alarm (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 12:48 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), lost wallet; 12:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: texts to grandson; 12:58 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), scam call; 1:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Salem Street), alleges neighbor stole phone; 3:12 p.m.: burglary (Lake Street), investigated; 3:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), spoken to; 3:25 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), unwanted party/spoken to; 3:46 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 3:59 p.m.: parking complaint (Charron Street), spoken to; 4:18 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:43 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 4:47 p.m.: vandalism (Valley Street), mvs vandalized; 4:51 p.m.: fire alarm (Duggan Street), referred; 4:51 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 5:00 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), debris in road/removed; 5:26 p.m.: disturbance (Salem Street), noise complaint; 5:28 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: restraining order info; 5:29 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 5:55 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 6:03 p.m.: 911 call (High Street), misdial; 6:49 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), m/f dispute; 6:57 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 7:27 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 7:28 p.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Salem Street), info taken; 9:57 p.m.: building checked (Smithville Road), security light out; 9:59 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); (Total daily mv stops - 18).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:08-1:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street), Joseph E. Madison, 53, 324 East Main Street, East Brookfield, OUI liquor, negligent operation, speeding, marked lanes violation, arrest; 5:18 a.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), debris in roadway; 6:32 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), dead coyote; 8:06 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), speak to ACO; 9:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), m/f property dispute; 10:46 a.m.: parking complaint (Salem Street), info taken; 11:44 a.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 12:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), welfare check; 12:58 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 1:12 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), loud verbal argument; 1:55 p.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 2:35 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:45 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), dead coyote; 3:51 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 4:11 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:35 p.m.: citizen complaint (Meadow Road), req. officer on scene; 5:12 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lloyd Dyer Drive), investigated; 7:05 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:15 p.m.: assault (Main Street), Michael G. Kostorzaba, 24, 16 Pioneer Valley Street, Spencer, assault & battery w/dangerous weapon X 2; assault w/dangerous weapon, assault & battery, threatening to commit a crime, arrest; 7:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), bike stolen in Phillipston; 10:29p.m.: disabled mv (Donnelly Cross Road), assisted; 11:43 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Sturbridge PD/Fisk Hill; (Total daily mv stops - 9).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

12:09-1:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), screams heard; 3:35 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 7:23 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:14 a.m.: mv lockout (Howe Village), assisted; 10:25 a.m.:

medical/mental health (Bixby Road); 11:30 a.m.: mv complaint (Thompson Pond Road), persistent speeding; 12:05 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:56 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv in hdcp spot; 2:11 p.m.: vandalism (Thompson Pond Road), mailbox smashed; 2:14 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), rock thrown thru windshield; 2:16 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), dog left in hot mv; 2:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 3:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), shards of glass in road; 3:28 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:35 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 4:42 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 4:53 p.m.: medical/general (Water Street); 4:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Vernon Street), injured squirrel; 5:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), loose goats; 5:30 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 6:47 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (Maple Street), info taken; 8:56-9:17 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:20 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 9:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), windshield broken; 9:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), coyote in area; 9:54 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:22 p.m.: DPW call (High Street), poss. water main break; 10:33 disturbance (Main Street), verbal argument; (Total daily mv stops - 18).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:26 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 12:46-1:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:49 a.m.: lost/found (Park Street), keys found; 10:25 a.m.: disturbance (Ash Street), m/f dispute; 10:42 a.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), speeding; 10:52 a.m.: mv complaint (South Spencer Road), speeding; 11:00 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. hit/run; 12:20 p.m.: town bylaw violation (Bond Street), re: wetlands disturbed; 12:32 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:47 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 2:44 p.m.: disturbance (Ash Street), neighbor issues; 3:25 p.m.: juvenile matters (Valley Street), minors drinking/smoking; 3:30 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 3:56 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), carpet blocking travel lane; 4:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), inquiry re: parking; 5:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), guns being fired; 5:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), Trump signs removed; 5:36 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 5:40 p.m.: residential alarm (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 6:58 p.m.: mv complaint (Brooks Pond Road), dangerous driving; 7:36 p.m.: RV complaint (Cranberry Meadow Road), three RZR in pit; 7:38 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Maple Street), illegal burn; 7:41 p.m.: accident (South Spencer Road), report taken; 8:00 p.m.: suspicious persons (Earley Street), caller being chased; 8:57 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), caller being followed; 9:39 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:40 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; (Total daily mv stop - 13).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

12:49-1:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:25 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD; 6:52 a.m.: fire alarm (McDonald Street), referred; 8:07 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: road rage incident; 10:01 a.m.: residential alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:40 a.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), info taken; 10:45 a.m.: vandalism (Thompson Pond Road), political signs torn down; 11:10 a.m.: town bylaw violation (Bond Street), logging in wetlands; 11:44 a.m.: vandalism (Adams Street), gas tank poss. vandalized; 12:12 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), info taken; 1:54 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), minor accident; 2:16 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 2:33 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 2:42 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 3:19 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 4:16 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:26 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Road), sick raccoon; 6:02 p.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), misdial; 6:32 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 6:36 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 6:46 p.m.: lost/found (Wilson Street), cell phone found; 8:53-9:13 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:17 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 9:35 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:03 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 10:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple

Street), welfare check; (Total daily mv stops - 3).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

12:25 a.m.: fire alarm (Pleasant Street), referred; 1:33-2:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:02 a.m.: illegal dumping (Ash Street), trash in woods; 9:35 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), dead skunk; 9:37 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 9:54 a.m.: 911 call (Jolicoeur Avenue), fraud/impersecution; 10:28 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 11:20 a.m.: accident (Main Street), info taken; 11:42 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:53 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:49 p.m.: mutual aid (Lloyd Dyer Drive), DCF req. welfare check; 1:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Wilson Street), inquiry re: speed bump; 1:33 p.m.: vandalism (Main Street), damage to light/gate; 1:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Sunset Lane), info taken; 1:55 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 3:13 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:50 p.m.: medical/general (Cranberry Lane); 4:04 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), ongoing issues; 4:17 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), parking issue; 5:10 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Sumner Street), loose dog; 6:37 p.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 6:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), re: domestic issue; 7:18 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lyford Road), investigated; 7:22 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 7:26 p.m.: fraud (Debbie Drive), unemployment scam; 8:10 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), spoken to; 8:17 p.m.: disturbance (Ash Street), Phillip John Baker, 37, 46 Cherry Street, Spencer, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, arrest; 9:26 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), SS scam call; 10:52 p.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 11:09 p.m.: medical/general (Lamb's Grove); 11:11 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), large fight; 11:38 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), screaming; 11:41 p.m.: mv complaint (Greenville Street), erratic operator; (Total daily mv stops - 24).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

1:29 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), re: calls from CO; 1:37-3:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:17 a.m.: medical/general (Lake Street); 9:07 a.m.: fire alarm (Grove Street), issue w/ alarm; 9:36 a.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), welfare check; 9:44 a.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), testing elevator; 10:04 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), assist DPW; 10:08 a.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), info taken; 10:37 a.m.: juvenile matter (High Street), altercation btw dad/son; 10:40 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), multiple issues; 11:01 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:02 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. incident in Sturbridge; 11:21 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: registration; 12:16 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 12:44 p.m.: multiple 911 calls (West Main Street), mv accident/Charlton; 12:57 p.m.: suspicious persons (Pleasant Street), info taken; 1:13 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Sullivan Street); 2:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), re: census taker; 2:44 p.m.: restraining order service (Chestnut Street); 3:00 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), camper left on property; 3:52 p.m.: fraud (Northwest Road), SS scam call; 3:58 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Drive); 4:00 p.m.: fraud (Prospect Street), unemployment scam; 4:13 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street), lift assist; 5:14 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lyford Road), spoken to; 6:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 6:10 p.m.: fraud (Howe Village), unauthorized charges; 7:17 p.m.: RV complaint (Valley Street), riding dirt bike in street; 7:49 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 11:46 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 11:51 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops - 11).

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## Leicester Police

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

2:02 a.m.: gunshots heard (Mannville Street), unable to locate; 5:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:20 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 9:50 a.m.: investigation (Siani Road), services rendered; 1:24 p.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 3:08 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 4:11 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 5:45 p.m.: family problem (Marshall Street), peace

restored; 6:53 p.m.: threats (Stafford Street), spoken to; 6:59 p.m.: suspicious mv (Laurelwood Avenue), message delivered; 8:22 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street, Charlton), message delivered; 8:33 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), unable to locate; 8:35 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:26 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, larceny over \$1200 by false pretense.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

1:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:57 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), peace restored; 2:48 p.m.: larceny (McCarthy Avenue), no action required; 2:54 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 3:56 p.m.: suspicious person (Ingram Road), services rendered; 4:25 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 5:02 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 5:13 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 8:41 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), spoken to.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 2:53 a.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 3:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:36 a.m.: lost/found (Chapel Street), services rendered; 11:48 a.m.: keep the peace (Woodland Road), services rendered; 1:48 p.m.: ambulance (Carleton Road), transported; 4:18 p.m.: suspicious person (Pine Ridge Drive), unable to locate; 6:00 p.m.: suspicious mv (Laurelwood Avenue), message delivered; 6:58 p.m.: welfare check (Collier Avenue), services rendered.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

12:39 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 2:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:06 a.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), gone on arrival; 8:30 a.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 9:55 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 12:50 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Reservoir Street), peace restored; 1:16 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), services rendered; 1:36 p.m.: suspicious activity (Stafford Street), investigated; 2:39 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken; 4:02 p.m.: residential alarm (Cricklewood Drive), false alarm; 5:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:40 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

6:49 a.m.: larceny (McCarthy Avenue), advised civil action; 11:51 a.m.: assist other PD (Merrick Street), services rendered; 12:10 p.m.: fraud (Deer Pond Road), report taken; 1:01 p.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), no action required; 1:06 p.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), services rendered; 2:35 p.m.: assist citizen (Pine Street); 4:52 p.m.: restraining order service (Pine Street), unable to serve; 5:50 p.m.: welfare check (Crestwood Road), transported to hospital; 6:26 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 11:57 p.m.: erratic operator (Greenville Street), unable to locate.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

3:23 a.m.: mv b&e (Siani Road), unable to locate; 5:34 a.m.: assault (Carleton Road), report taken; 9:03 a.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), verbal warning; 9:57 a.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), spoken to; 10:31 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, larceny over \$1200 by false pretense, services rendered; 3:06 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), services rendered; 3:07 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Stafford Street), spoken to; 4:35 p.m.: assist citizen (Hyland Avenue); 7:09 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:29 p.m.: stolen mv recovery (Soojians Drive), mv towed.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:12 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 10:18 a.m.: family problem (Siani Road), peace restored; 11:12 a.m.: hanging wires (Pine Street), referred; 11:20 a.m.: ambulance (Dale Street), transported; 1:41 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 3:03 p.m.: disturbance (Baldwin Street), spoken to; 4:51 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken; 6:24 p.m.: suspicious person (Rawson Street), unable to locate; 7:54 p.m.: suspicious activity (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 8:14 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 10:53 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Miguel A. Santiago, 37, 384 Main Street, #2, Cherry Valley, straight warrant, arrest.

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# Fishing with a friend

This past Friday, Matt Fontain and this writer decided to make a trip to Galilee, R.I. to do some fishing for seabass and tautog. After stopping at Quaker Lane Bait and Tackle shop to pick up some green crabs for bait, we headed for the boat ramp at Galilee. Upon arriving just after daybreak, we found ourselves in line at the ramp. "Fishing must be good, Matt" were the first words out of my mouth. After finally launching the boat, we managed to catch a few mummies for bait, but they were extremely scarce.

Matt went to park the car and trailer, which gave me some time to talk to a few anglers that had recently returned from Block Island. They had been fishing most of the night, and all managed to retain a keeper striper. I mentioned about all of the trailers in the parking lot and wondered if they were mostly fishing for stripers. "Heck, no," one guy replied, "they are out chasing Bonito or False Albacore." Matt was returning from parking the car and trailer, so it was time to go fishing.

We headed out through the East Breaker Wall, and planned to fish in front of the light house at Point Judith. We spotted a group of boats fishing in front of Scarborough Beach area, so I mentioned that they more than likely were catching tautog, as it is always a hot spot in the fall. As we arrived in the area, we soon realized that they were all chasing Bonito. After observing numerous bonito busting the water around us, I decided to give it



Matt Fontain with a few of the seabass and tautog we caught last week.

a try. After a few minutes of fishing Matt suggested that we go back to the area around the Lighthouse. "I just don't feel it," he stated, meaning that he felt we were in the wrong spot.

"Let's go," I stated. Arriving at a spot a mile off of the lighthouse I lowered my rig bated with green crab. "Wow, I got a fish on!" The rig had barely hit the bottom and I was hooked up to a good fish.

As the fish was reeled up to the surface, we realized I had a large seabass. It was lock and load action for the rest of the morning, catching seabass and tautog using crabs as bait. We left a bit early because of a squall with heavy winds coming into the area, but it calmed down as fast as it came in. We were already half way

back to the launch area, so we called it a day. We are heading back this week for some more action. Tautog fishing is heating up fast, so give it a try.

Two local youngsters harvested a deer this past Saturday in the valley area. It was an opportunity for them to hunt deer during the special one-day youth hunt that is an annual event. Because of the deadline of this column, I was not able to acquire the names of the two young hunters. Hopefully, there will be more information on the two successful hunters.

This past Saturday, the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club had their first Pheasant hunt under their Preserve hunting license. It sure was nice to get the dogs out hunting for the first time. Numerous breeds



A few of the club members ready to hunt pheasant this past weekend.

of bird dogs did their thing of pointing and flushing birds. Labrador Retrievers, Pointers, Springers, Brittney's, and a Griffon were some of the dogs hunting this past weekend. The smell of spent gun powder in the crisp morning air after downing our first pheasant of the year was a sure sign that fall was here. Dog owners that took the time to train their dogs during the off season were rewarded with some great dog work in the field. There is nothing more enjoyable than hunting over a well-trained dog. This week's picture shows a few hunters ready to enjoy a day in the field hunting pheasant, at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club.

Duck & Goose hunting opens on the 13th of October this year, in the Central District. Because of the low water in most ponds and rivers hunting ducks may

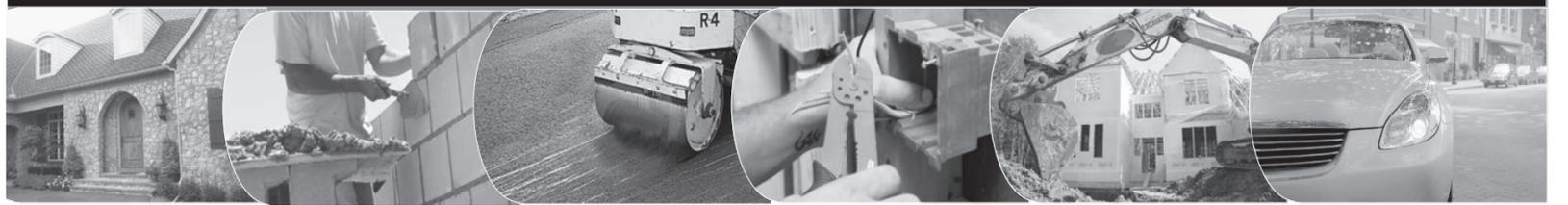
be a lot different than previous years. Locating areas of water along small streams, needs to be done prior to opening day. A good retrieving dog will save you a lot of otherwise lost birds. The wood duck population is high this year, as the birds had a good nesting season, as did the resident goose population.

Trout stocking by the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife has started and most ponds and lakes that normally receive a fall stocking should be completed by the end of this week. The recent cool nights helped cool the water, but we still need a few inches of rain. Hopefully, we will get a good soaking soon.

Stay safe and wear a mask when out in the public!

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**VANDALS**

continued from page A1

her property were destroyed. "We have been subjected to continued harassment, with people driving by and shouting, throwing things onto our yard, and swearing. We have had this going on every single day for the last four years," Powell told the New Leader. Powell and her family were especially saddened by the destruction of the COVID-19 sign and lack of respect for victims of the virus. Early on in the pandemic, a member of

Powell's family was lost to the virus, and she uses the sign as both a memorial and a reminder of the ongoing dangers. For police and town officials, it's a priority to stop the spate of thefts and damage. Three more thefts of political signs at properties across town were reported last week. "I think it's unfortunate that people would do this - it's a sad commentary," said Select Board Chairman Ralph Hicks. "You used to get one or two signs stolen here or there, but nothing like this, with people walking off with six-foot signs."

Moving forward, Powell and her family hope that all residents are allowed to live in peace - regardless of who they support politically. "This is rural central Massachusetts. One would think there would be a little bit more decorum, but these people have been emboldened to think they can bully and intimidate," said Powell, who has seen hundreds of dollars in damages caused by vandals. "It's very sad and disturbing that it has come to this. I am very scared, but we will stand up for our beliefs." Powell and her family plan

to acquire new signs and continue displaying them at their property. State and local police warn residents that officers will be on the lookout for acts of trespassing, theft, and destruction this election season. Spencer Police Chief David Darrin said he isn't surprised by the increase in stolen and vandalized political signs this year. With the vitriol and divisiveness playing out nationally, area police departments are prepared for a spillover to the local levels. "Political signs are to be treated like any other property, so damaging or stealing signs

can result in vandalism and or theft charges," read a statement from the Spencer Police Department. "You may not agree with your neighbor. You may not agree with another person's signs that they place in their yards with their political views. Everyone, however, is entitled to their own political view, so just respect that even if you disagree with it." Residents are asked to keep careful watch of their neighborhoods this month. If you see suspicious or criminal activity, call the Spencer Police at 508-885-6333.



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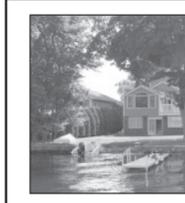
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Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! +/- Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE.  
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ON DEPOSIT

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**LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD**



SORRY, SOLD!

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## Debunking some myths about radon

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that forms when certain radioactive metals break down in rocks, soil and groundwater. Though radon is naturally occurring, when people are exposed to it at levels deemed to be excessive, the consequences can be dire. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Many people first learn of radon when buying a home. Home inspectors may ask prospective homeowners if they want radon tests conducted on a home they've made an offer on, leaving some to wonder what radon is and how, if it's naturally occurring, it can pose such a potentially significant threat? That unfamiliarity may lead some prospective home buyers to begin researching radon, which unfortunately is not always so easy. That's because there exists a host of misinformation about radon, so much so that the Environmental Protection Agency feels it necessary to debunk a host of

myths regarding radon.

**Myth:** Scientists are not sure radon is a legitimate problem.  
**Reality:** All major health organizations, including the CDC and the American Medical Association, agree that radon causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths every year.

**Myth:** Radon only affects certain types of homes.  
**Reality:** No home is immune to excessive radon levels. The way a home is constructed may affect its radon levels, but even homes constructed in ways to prevent radon levels from becoming excessive are not immune to high levels of radon.

**Myth:** My neighbor's home has low radon levels so mine must as well.  
**Reality:** Radon levels vary from home to home. A neighboring home that is mere feet away from your own may have low radon levels, but that does not mean the homes surrounding it do as well. The EPA notes that testing is the only way to determine if a home has a radon problem.



**Myth:** Homes with radon problems cannot be fixed.  
**Reality:** House hunters can breathe a sigh of relief if a home they like has been determined to have high levels of radon. The EPA notes that radon issues cannot just be addressed, but addressed in a way that should not bust homeowners' budgets. Prospective home buyers might even be able to negotiate radon remediation into the terms of their buying agreements.

**Myth:** Radon is geographically-specific.

**Reality:** High levels of radon have been discovered in every state of the United States, a country so geographically diverse that it's reasonable to conclude that no place on Earth is immune to radon.

Radon can be deadly, but thankfully it's often easily fixed and should not necessarily deter home buyers from making an offer on homes they like.

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# Unexpected twists and turns

Life is rarely as we plan it. What we expect often turns out differently and we are reluctantly forced to adjust accordingly. Riding the waves of life is what we make of it. It can be waves of frustration or we can allow those same waves to take us on a fascinating journey.

I didn't plan on spending the last few days in the hospital, yet here I am. So, I'm writing this column on my phone rather than my laptop. I'm doing so, the old-fashioned way, without the use of my usual editing program. I'm horrified how this may be received by your newspaper but hopefully we can take it all in stride.

If you are a regular reader of my column, you know I'm fighting Stage 4 Stomach Cancer. It's not what I expected. This isn't what I planned. Lying in this hospital bed using one finger to type my column on a phone certainly isn't what I anticipated happening ... but it did.

So, what do you do when life unexpectedly changes your plans? You can react to the problem or you can

respond. You can react with anger, sadness, frustration, or depression, or you can respond with courage to overcome the adversity. You can use your intuition to guide you. You can harness thoughtful and logical creativity and act to overcome the unexpected obstacle.

I've written about this before. There is a difference between reacting and responding. Reacting is usually a knee-jerk reaction that usually compounds the problem and makes it worse. Always try not to react.

Responding is different. When we respond, it's usually with calmness and courage to face the situation. Face the issue and always respond.

It also makes a difference in how we label things. We can call them problems or situations. Problems are nasty, headache causing circumstances that usually cause a reaction. A situation insinuates a circumstance that you can resolve. Label all your



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
GARY W. MOORE

obstacle and unexpired circumstance as situations and not problems.

So, I'm choosing tonight to respond to the situation of being in the hospital rather than reacting to a problem that's out of my control. I can make this a problem or situation. I choose it to be the latter, either one true. This newspaper may fire me over this problem if I can't resolve it. I instead choose to overcome this situation with courage, careful thought and logic and not disappoint the newspaper that relays on me.

Think about interchanging these words ... react vs respond and problem vs situation. We can look at the same event and react to a problem or respond to a situation. How we label it determines what we think I, and what we think determines how we view the obstacle. And again, how we view it determines if we react or respond.

I'll admit. The fact I'm being contained in a hospital without my com-

puter caused me to momentarily react and become frustrated, but I took a breath and said out loud, this is a situation to be solved and not a problem. Once I thought about my options, my phone was it, and I resolved my situation and began typing.

As I began this column saying, life is never perfect. There will always be unexpected events that change destroy our carefully laid plans. The only choice you have in those moments is to label it as a situation rather than a problem and respond rather than react.

I always choose to respond. Will you join me?

P.S.: I'm going to be fine. I had a bowel obstruction which is resolving itself. I hope to be released today.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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