



Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [News@StoneBridgePress.news](mailto:News@StoneBridgePress.news) Friday, December 18, 2020

## Stuff the Bus campaign celebrates success



Local youngsters give back as part of the Stuff the Bus project.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Even with multiple challenges conspiring against the season of giving, local residents overcame each obstacle last weekend to brighten the holidays for families in need.

Despite the pandemic and a winter storm postponement, the fifth annual Stuff the Bus campaign was still a major success. The event had to be rescheduled to Dec. 12 after a snowstorm struck on the originally scheduled date a week earlier. Local residents weren't discouraged by the postponement, arriving at three locations to support the program.

Run each year by AA Transportation, the Stuff the Bus campaign enables the community to donate toys for local youngsters.

Because of the large number of residents who lost jobs during the pandemic, community donations of toys are especially important in 2020.

"A lot of people are living through a really rough time, and I was worried that some children would not have a very good Christmas. But one thing that people are not lacking this year is Christmas spirit," said Melody Miller, who runs the East Brookfield division of AA Transportation.

Since multiple area fundraisers were canceled this year due to the pandemic, events like Stuff the Bus took on a far greater significance than usual. For many local families, the generosity of residents last weekend will help ensure that their children have at least a few gifts to unwrap this year.

Photo Courtesy

Please Read **STUFF**, page **A6**

## Baker orders rollback of COVID reopening process

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With COVID-19 numbers heading in the wrong direction, Gov. Charlie Baker announced last week a statewide reversion to a previous reopening threshold.

As of Dec. 13, all towns in Massachusetts were required to return to Phase 3: Step 1 of the Commonwealth's reopening plan. The mandate also reduces indoor capacities across a broad range of sectors of the economy.

Baker announced the rollback in response to a sharp increase in new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations since Thanksgiving. State officials are worried that a continued escalation of cases through the holiday season could cause many hospitals to reach capacity for ICU beds.

"More people are suffering from severe COVID-related illnesses and need urgent care. This sharp increase is putting a strain on our health system and healthcare workers," Baker said. "Hospitals are short on critical staff because many people are either in quarantine or they themselves have been infected with the virus."

The return to Step 1 requires the closure of certain businesses, including indoor performance venues and high-contact indoor recreational businesses. In addition, capacity limits will be reduced to 40 percent statewide for most industries, and the limit on outdoor gatherings will be reduced statewide from 100 persons to 50 persons.

The Baker Administration also announced additional guidance for certain sectors, including restaurants, office spaces, and gyms. Moving forward, all hosts of outdoor gatherings featuring more than 25 people will be required to provide advance notice of the gathering to their local board of health.

Meanwhile, indoor theaters and performance venues will be closed until further notice.

Restaurant-specific guidance includes the following:

- Patrons must wear masks at all times, except when eating and drinking
- Restaurants must seat no more than six patrons per table
- Restaurants must impose a 90-minute time limit on tables
- Musical performances at restaurants will no longer be permitted
- Food court seating must be closed in malls

Restaurant patrons are encouraged to dine only with members of the same household. As much as possible, utilize take-out or delivery services to help minimize risks.

"These new measures are designed to prevent infection and viral spread, especially in indoor settings," Baker said. "They will create stronger mask compliance, more social distancing, and limits to the time spent with people outside of your immediate household."

Please Read **ROLLBACK**, page **A6**

## Brookfield officials move closer to hiring town administrator

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD – Following a Special Town Meeting decision earlier this year, officials are taking steps toward hiring the community's first town administrator.

Selectmen are pleased with the decision and the added layers of assistance an administrator will provide. From coordinating with department heads, to serving as a liaison between residents and elected officials, town administrators have a role in all facets of leadership.

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

"This addition will provide more focused oversight to town business," said Select Board Chairman Clarence Snyder. "Municipal government is becoming complicated, and a lay board of selectmen is not equipped to go it alone."

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

The town recently started the process of drafting a job description and appointing a candidate search committee. Though it can be a challenge to draw highly experienced and skilled candidates to smaller towns, officials hope to hire an administrator who can hit the ground running.

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

Selectmen want to ensure that Brookfield chooses an experienced candidate who can handle the many challenges associated with the current climate. This will greatly alleviate the

Please Read **NEW TA**, page **A6**

## Online learning could eliminate need for snow days



BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Since local school districts now have the capability to instantly transition to remote learning, snow days could be a thing of the past.

The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District recently became the latest district to announce changes to its inclement weather policy.

"As noted in our 2020-2021 school calendar, we will not have traditional snow days this year within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District," said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey.

Unlike years past, when a forecast of heavy snow meant students could forget about homework and studying for a day, learning now has the opportunity to continue even as the snow flies. The district-wide foundation for remote learning allows increased flexibility for continuation of studies, officials said.

But even though the virtual education technology is now in place, school leaders understand that not every storm will necessitate a shift to remote learning. Parents still need to work, and school officials want to preserve in-person learning as much as possible.

On the most severe weather occasions, however, officials now have a fallback option that didn't previously exist.

"This winter, given our increased capacity with remote learning, we have a unique opportunity to evaluate conditions in real time, as well as consult with the National Weather Service, Department of Public Works, local emergency management officials, and neighboring towns. My decision regarding delaying, closing, or releasing schools early always has been – and always will be – based upon safety first for everyone within our learning community," Haughey added. "As a result, if you have not already done so, please make a plan for the safe care and or

Please Read **SNOW DAYS**, page **A6**



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# Cornerstone Bank gives back to the community this holiday season

REGION — Cornerstone Bank is giving back to the communities they serve by holding three separate drives to collect items for both people and pets this holiday season. They are hoping others in the community will want to assist in their mission by donating items as well. Below is information about each drive including donations accepted and drop-off information.

**Cops 'N' Kids Toy Drive- Southbridge**  
Southbridge Main Office, 253-275 Main St.

Branch is still open to the public  
Now through Dec. 16

Looking for new, unwrapped, non-violent toys or gift certificates

All toys will be given to Southbridge children through the Southbridge Police Department Cops 'N' Kids Program

**Hat & Mitten Tree- Spencer**  
Spencer Main Office, 176 Main St.

Branch is closed to the public, donations can be made by calling ahead at 508-885-5313 or ringing doorbell at the rear of the building upon arrival  
Now through Dec. 18  
Looking for hats and mittens

All donations will be given to the Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish who will distribute to needy individuals

**Pet Supply Drive- Spencer**  
Spencer Fair Plaza Branch, 72 West Main St., Route 9 West

Branch is closed to the public, donations can be made by calling ahead at 508-885-9707

Now through Dec. 18  
Looking for supplies including but not limited to

Pet food/treats  
Pet toys  
Leashes and collars  
Beds or cat towers  
Flea and tick treatment  
Medical supplies  
Cleaning supplies  
Office supplies  
Gift certificates

All donations will be given to the Second Chance Animal Shelter

"We are hoping to make a difference in the lives of people and their pets this holiday season, especially with how difficult 2020 has been for many," said Todd Tallman, President of Cornerstone

Bank. "It is important for us to give back to the communities that we serve and are proud of the commitment we have made locally to provide help to those who need it. These three drives are just part of our on-going mission to do our part in making the world a better place"

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017 and was built on the foundation of two local, mutual banks joining together. Prior to reforming to create Cornerstone Bank, SpencerBANK and Southbridge Savings Bank have proudly served their customers and communities in Central Massachusetts since 1871 and 1848, respectively. Our Company's customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. For all your banking needs, whether personal or business, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com).



## ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

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

## Brookfield looks to fill open positions

BROOKFIELD – Officials are seeking candidates and volunteers for several positions this winter.

The town is in need of experienced seasonal plow drivers. Interested candidates should contact Ryan or Cindy at the Highway Department (508-867-8357).

Also, the Council on Aging is seeking three volunteers to join their committee. If you are interested in joining, call Brenda Parish at 508-867-2930 (ext. 13).

# Town land transfer finalized in Leicester

LEICESTER – After Town Meeting voters approved the transfer of a town-owned parcel to the Common Ground Land Trust (CGLT), the transfer has now been finalized.

The parcel borders Greenville Pond and River Street. Looking ahead, the CGLT will seek to develop the land for public use and recreation purposes on Greenville Pond.

Anticipated uses include a picnic area; a small boat launch for canoeing and kayaking; fishing; and ice skating.

The CGLT will also work with town officials to apply for grants to clear the pond of invasive water chestnut.

The CGLT is seeking local volunteers to assist with various cleanup and maintenance projects on the property. The organization is also seeking donations from residents to help cover the cost of maintenance.

For more information about how you can join the cause and protect the environment, send an email to the

CGLT at [info@commonground.org](mailto:info@commonground.org).

The CGLT is a nonprofit, volunteer-run land trust dedicated to the preservation of open space. The organization also focuses on protecting agricultural, recreational, conservation, and historical locations for future generations in Spencer and Leicester.

To learn more about the organization, visit the CGLT Web site at [www.commongroundLt.org](http://www.commongroundLt.org).

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

### BROOKFIELD

\$500,000, 66 Fiskdale Rd, Whelan, Patricia A, and Jones, Kenneth A, to Mcgrath, John J, and Mcgrath, Mary A.

\$260,000, 4 Walnut St, Holdcraft, John D, to Murray, Amber, and Murray, Patrick J.

\$100,000, Mel Ln #7, Jefferson LT, and Jefferson, Robert T, to Allen, Cody R, and Allen, Shelby M.

### EAST BROOKFIELD

\$239,900, 291 E Main St, Dunlop Realty LLC, to Patchen, Shiloh, and Patchen, Catherine.

\$175,750, 394 Podunk Rd, FNMA, to Ritchotte, Andrew.

### LEICESTER

\$447,000, 99 Moose Hill Rd, Culross, Christopher R, and Culross, Andrea R, to Mcguire, John, and Nargiso, Elizabeth.

\$420,000, 10 Wasilla Dr, Simone, John, and Seifert, Michelle, to Sarimientto, Carlos, and Vera, Sonnia M.

\$398,000, 169 White Birch St, Daly, Kathy, to Moniak, Matthew J.

\$385,000, 38 Siani Rd, Sampson, Robert J, and Sampson, Charlene M, to Donofri, William, and Donofri, Paula.

\$350,000, 54 Rawson St, Mccarthy, Richard J, and Mccarthy, Lisa A, to Wadden, Joshua F, and Mulhearn, Shelby.

\$332,000, 163 White Birch St, Williams, Bryan, and Williams, Andrea, to Harlow, David S, and Harlow, Paula A.

\$330,700, 158 Willow Hill Rd, Gillaspie, Scott L, and Gillaspie, Tina L, to Bonina, Zachary J, and Bonina, Arianna R.

\$251,500, 100 Pine St, Dungca, Ariel,

and Dungca, Lily C, to Vo, Thong, and Dang, Lynn V.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$273,000, 44 Forest St, Picket Fence Prop Inc, to Lynds, Thomas G.

\$185,000, 37 Bigelow St, Wuelfing, Bethany E, to Larose, Erika K, and Larose, Rhiannon B.

\$156,000, 26 Ryan Rd #2, Cleary, Sean M, and Cleary, Jennifer M, to Canane, Kimberly E.

\$138,000, 103 Summer St, Owens, Ashley N, and Schwadel, Jamie B, to Marhefka, Walter F, and Marhefka, Elizabeth.

\$30,000, Shore Rd #3R, Toomey-Lovett Inc, to Judycki, Stephen.

\$30,000, Shore Rd #4, Toomey-Lovett Inc, to Judycki, Stephen.

### SPENCER

\$320,000, 23 Holmes St, PMZ Development LLC, to Kern, Kelsey L.

\$320,000, 245 Charlton Rd, Donald L Irish RET, and Irish, Donald L, to Wentworth, Taylor A, and Louis, Andrew M.

\$300,000, 15 Ashview Dr, Reis, Jody, and Reis, Kyle M, to Teman, Rebecca.

\$175,000, 150 Pleasant St, Ducharme, Susan P, to Brunell, Alesha M.

\$172,000, 4 Crestview Dr #60, French, Charles J, and French, Nancy E, to Daly, Kathleen.

### WARREN

\$283,000, 2282 Main St, Floria, Donna L, to Perez-Ruiz, Charitin, and Cruz-Perez, Jomsmel.

\$283,000, 276 Reed St, Floria, Donna L, to Perez-Ruiz, Charitin, and Cruz-Perez,

Jomsmel.

### WEST BROOKFIELD

\$299,900, 40 Clearview Dr, Green Richard R Est, and Potter, Kelly G, to Dekar, Kenza, and Raheb, Mohamed-Fouzi.

\$65,000, Kennedy Rd, Serwa, Edward L, and Serwa, Sarah J, to Bonner-McCaffrey, Edwin.



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## Friday's Child



Samantha  
Age 14

Hi! My name is Samantha  
and I want to be a singer  
when I grow up!

Samantha is a creative teenage girl of Caucasian descent who wants to be a singer when she grows up. Those who know Samantha say she is a smart, resilient, empathetic child who truly cares about the well-being of others. She is also athletic, very practical and a strong advocate for herself. She is able to express her needs without any prompting. Samantha has been very interested in trying out new hair styles and those who are close to her say she is extremely stylish. Samantha likes school, particularly writing

and recess. She is a great problem solver who works hard to achieve desired outcomes.

Legally free for adoption, Samantha would do best in a home with a single mom or a two-parent family. If there are other children in the home, they should not be close in age to Samantha. Samantha would thrive in a family that could give her a lot of attention and help her reach her fullest potential. A pre-adoptive family will need to maintain contact with Samantha's relatives and her visiting resource through phone and visitation. Samantha would like a family with pets (maybe a dog) and older siblings.

### 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.

**PERSON of the WEEK**

**Carol Parkin Perron of Spencer, MA**

Carol Parkin Perron is being recognized because in addition to her daily job, she and her husband, Jerry are always working hard to plan and support the various activities and the many members of the Gaudette-Kirk American Legion Post 138 of Spencer.

Thank you, Carol, for all that you do.

— Submitted by Lyn Stevens, Spencer, MA

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MOORE

I'm a lifestyle columnist that promotes optimism and positivity in our daily lives. I'm not a political pundit. Occasionally a subject arises that connects the two areas of positivity and politics and I feel it's important to address. We have a problem.

Depending on which poll you believe, almost 40 percent of all Americans believe our recent election was either dishonestly counted or was unfair,

while seventy-seven percent of Republican voters say their candidate was fraudulently defeated. There has never been so much distrust in our voting system.

Former US Congressman and retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Allen West is now floating the idea of secession for those states who feel election laws were broken to elect Joe Biden.

This was an unprecedented election, with new rules and extreme methods, designed to

accommodate voters due to our current Covid-19 pandemic. Former President Jimmy Carter, a long-time global advocate and judge for free elections, a Democrat, says that mail-in ballots are wrought with the opportunity for fraud. Never in our history have we had the massive number of vote-by-mail ballots as we did in this 2020 election.

The Beacon of Democracy? The Land of the Free and Home of (because) of the Brave now floating a break-up of our Union?

Yes. I believe our Union is at risk, but let me be clear. I do not advocate overturning the recent election. I accept the results based upon the election rules that were in place. The problem I see, and it should disturb both sides, is that the looseness of rules, methods, techniques, and monitoring of the last election places our democracy at risk. This isn't about Trump or Biden. This is about election security. We can and must do better.

You may say Allen West isn't representative of most voters on the right, but I'd say you may be wrong. This shouldn't be a left or right issue, it's an American issue. We should be united in preserving the integrity of our elections.

I'm born and raised in Illinois, and for as long as I can remember, there has been, and continues to be, a desire for the Illinois "outside of Chicago" to separate from the Windy City. The Chicago Machine rules Illinois with an iron fist and has for almost one-hundred years. Look no further than the 1960 presidential election if you want to understand the power of the machine and how a small dishonest group can impact an entire nation.

There has been a movement over the last few years for the vast expanses of red California to break away from the influence and control of blue Los Angeles and San Francisco. And red Western Washington and Oregon could not be more polarized from their fellow statesmen in Seattle and Portland. They

are now discussing breaking away and joining Idaho. Then back to Texas, there's been a group calling themselves the "Republic of Texas" that has been pushing secession from the U.S. for years. And now a former congressman, retired Lt. Colonel (Army) and head of the GOP in Texas, calling for a discussion of secession.

The secession movement is growing and gaining momentum. It's fueled by a large minority (upwards of forty percent) that believe their candidate was cheated and the rightful winner was denied. Yes, the country is divided almost perfectly down the middle by a different ideology but that alone isn't enough to fuel a dissolution of our Union that has lasted since 1776. A lack of trust in our elections ... just might be. If we believe our elections are not honest and fair ... how can we possibly be the Beacon of Democracy? Why should we vote if every legal vote isn't counted? It is a National dilemma.

To those calling for secession, let me remind you how well it worked for our nation last time this idea reared its ugly head. The southern states paid a devastating price, while the whole nation suffered the massive losses of our civil war. I cannot believe anyone would want to risk a second American Civil War, but there are those who do, and the numbers are growing. Ideology alone will not cause this break-up, but a lack of a reliable, honest, and trustworthy voting system can and maybe will.

If we want to secure our Union, we must secure our voting system.

How do we do it? We must show picture identification for many less important reasons in our states and our nation. What's more important than voting? Picture ID must be shown to vote. And no ... this is not voter suppression but reasonable election security.

Absentee ballots must be used for legitimate reasons for being absent on Election Day and should not be available to

the masses because they don't want to vote in person. If you care about the future of your nation, show up at the voting booth, show your ID and vote. How is this asking too much?

Counting of every single vote must be done with poll watchers from each party. Any vote that is illegally counted under the view of only one side must be either thrown out or counted again, with proper witnesses.

As for voting machines and the allegations they are easily open to fraud, I don't know enough to comment, but I've heard enough to believe they must be examined before they are used again.

Then you have our tech giants who I believe clearly favor one side over another and influence voters by their bias. Why is this allowed and how do we stop this?

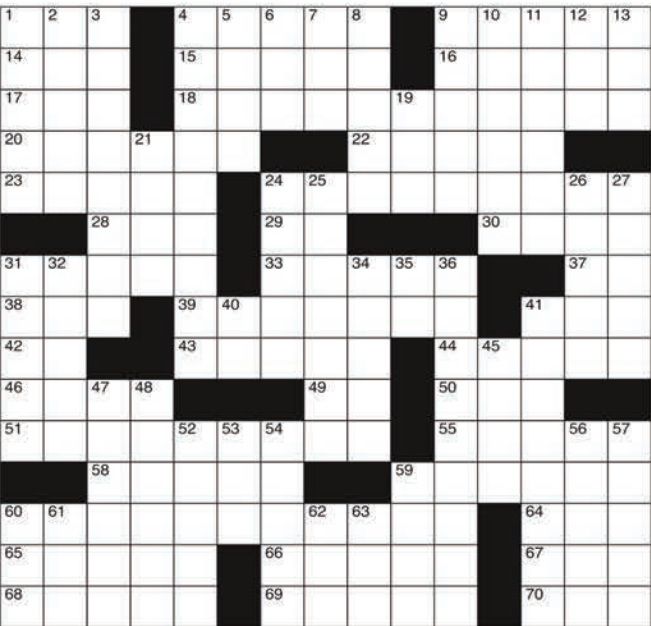
Want to preserve our Union? Secure our elections. Taking the steps to secure our elections is not voter suppression but election security. Without election security, everything we say we stand for is a lie.

I love my blue friends and love my red friends. If we love our Union, we must join hands and engage in election systems we can all trust. The risk of not doing so is unfathomable.

My prayer for our nation this Christmas is that we can come together and reflect the values that have held us together for almost 250 years. If we only agree upon one thing, let's agree that our United States of America is worth preserving and saving. Imagining the world without our influence creates a frightening picture. Let's set aside our political and ideological differences and preserve our nation.

God bless America, and may God save and preserve our troubled Union.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular pickup truck
- 4. Profoundly wise men
- 9. Camera company
- 14. Folk singer DiFranco
- 15. Passerine birds
- 16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- 17. Popular kids channel
- 18. Dodgers' skipper
- 20. Removes
- 22. The Atlantic is one
- 23. Badgerlike mammal
- 24. Foulness
- 28. Luke's mentor \_\_\_-Wan
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A type of gin
- 31. Temptress
- 33. Shuts in an enclosed space
- 37. Milligram
- 38. Actress Adams
- 39. Strive to equal or match
- 41. Health insurance
- 42. A detective's source
- 43. Small American rails
- 44. Alfred \_\_, Brit. poet
- 46. Crest of a hill
- 49. Atomic #52
- 50. \_\_ Caesar, comedian
- 51. Breaks apart
- 55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- 58. Worker
- 59. Chemical compound
- 60. Disgraced newsman
- 64. Born of
- 65. Chemical substance
- 66. Supernatural powers
- 67. Clothes
- 68. Indy footballers
- 69. Moves forward
- 70. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Driver
- 2. Bone cavities
- 3. Menacing
- 4. Where coaches patrol
- 5. Greek mythological figure
- 6. War-based board game
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. 18-year period in astronomy
- 9. Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
- 10. Large bodies of water
- 11. Eurasian ryegrass
- 12. Perform on stage
- 13. Greek island
- 19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- 21. One point east of southeast
- 24. Belgian city
- 25. Praise excessively
- 26. River in France
- 27. Edible lily bulbs
- 31. Quarterbacks take them
- 32. Organic compound
- 34. Tears down (Brit.)
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Unconscious
- 40. Missouri
- 41. Firemen use them
- 45. Pig noise
- 47. Greatly dismay
- 48. Imitator
- 52. Moves by turning over
- 53. Boxing's GOAT
- 54. Swarms with
- 56. Margarines
- 57. Feudal superior
- 59. As fast as can be done
- 60. Reciprocal of a sine
- 61. Chinese city
- 62. Tell on
- 63. United



Leicester police seek suspects in extortion scam

LEICESTER – Police are warning residents about a brazen pair of suspects after an elaborate incident last month.

A resident recently reported

the incident, which took place in late November. The suspects were described as white, middle-aged men, one dressed in a suit and the other in a police-style uniform. The suspects claimed to have a warrant for the victim's arrest, but they offered to not arrest her in exchange for money, police said.

The suspects then drove the victim to an ATM to withdraw cash. The suspects were operating a mustard-colored sedan, the

victim told police.

"This scam is often used to target elderly residents. If anyone experiences a similar incident, please call the police when it is safe to do so," read a statement issued by the police department.

If you have information on the incident, contact Detective Matthew Brady at 508-892-7010 (ext. 2017). You can also send an email to bradym@leicesterpd.org.

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# What makes estate personal property valuable?

There are many components of estate assets, with home and land typically being the most valuable. Stocks, bonds, or bank accounts may be worth more in certain situations. Personal property is typically the least valuable, but there are times when there are some very desirable items in the estate.

Being an antique estate auctioneer, I focus on antiques, collectibles and other estate personal property and will explain in this column what we look for in determining whether estate contents are potentially valuable.

One factor is how long the family has been in the country. We've handled at least one estate where the family came over on the Mayflower. There were books and documents dating back to the 18th century. In an estate where items have been passed down through generations, you can usually expect to find some valuable objects.

The family's wealth is another important factor. Some families have the financial means to buy Rolex instead of Timex watches and to buy large sterling silver flatware sets instead of silverplate or stainless steel. Even though formal dining isn't as popular today, sterling



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

items will benefit the collector or their heirs. Some common collectibles like coins, 1960s and earlier baseball and other trading cards, and comic books can be worth a considerable amount. We recently sold a collection of mainly gold and silver coins that brought nearly \$40,000 and sold a baseball card collection a few years ago that sold for over \$20,000.

The time period that the person collected their items also impacts the value of personal property. Over 20 years ago, we were contacted by a woman who had a large collection of Barbie dolls and other toys. She was at the age where she could've begun collecting when some of the first Barbies were manufactured and we had high

silver flatware can be worth thousands.

One of the rules that most collectors follow is to collect what you like. Collectors typically don't look at their collections as an investment. However, when the collection is auctioned and converted to cash, having collected popular

hopes for selling her items after our conversation with her. Unfortunately for her and us, she collected all of her toys later in her adult life and they had little value. When you've collected something in your youth, you don't have to worry about fakes and reproductions in your collection that have become more prevalent now.

Many people are uncomfortable when we first meet if the estate they are handling is packed with items. I assure them that there are never too many items as far as an auctioneer is concerned. Even if there aren't a lot of valuable objects, sometimes the sheer volume of items can make an auction or estate sale profitable. Around 15 years ago, we auctioned a collection of items from the 1920s through 1960s that a collector had acquired over many years. There was enough material to fill a box truck. Although there weren't any big-ticket items, 1950s hair dryers, 1940s household items and even circa 1930s rolls of toilet paper combined to bring in tens of thousands for the consignor.

We have a small online auction taking place with items from a Worcester estate. Included is a commercial tractor, dump truck, motorcycles, other vehicles, a large Coke sign and Ford Mustang pedal



car. The first session of the large toy collection from a West Boylston estate will soon be ready for online bidding. Session I will contain diecast toys. Antique and vintage toys will be in later sessions. You will also be able to bid online for equestrian and other paintings from artist Fay Moore's estate after the holidays.

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

## DA delivers virtual anti-drug message



### STUFF

continued from page A1

In Spencer, AA Transportation employees brought a bus to David Prouty High School. The North Brookfield event once again saw AA Transportation team up with the police department and Hannaford Supermarket. The bus was parked at the North Brookfield Hannaford Supermarket for collections.

Meanwhile, the Leicester program involved assistance from the police department, fire

### SNOW DAYS

continued from page A1

receipt of your child in the event that a weather-related delay, closing, or release is necessary."

School officials also recognize that remote learning days might be required this year due to COVID-19 conditions. A "remote day" can be called for one school, multiple schools, or the entire district, officials said.

Parents are urged to have contingency childcare plans in place. If COVID-19 conditions continue to decline through the holiday season, local schools could be closed for days or even

department, Leicester Teachers Association, and Walmart. The AA Transportation bus was parked at the Walmart Supercenter.

In all three towns, residents arrived eager to support those in need.

"Some people drove through and handed us a game or two, and some people came with trunk loads of toys," Miller added. "Whether the donations were large or small, people really pulled together. I think we had the very best toy drive ever, in all locations."

AA Transportation officials

weeks. State guidance will continue to help steer local districts through the crisis.

"Remote learning days will be used if we do not have adequate faculty/staff coverage to ensure student safety," Haughey said. "In addition, if there is concern regarding COVID transmission in school, or if some other event jeopardizes students attending school safely, we will also enact a remote learning day."

In terms of informing parents of remote learning days, the SEBRSD has transitioned to a new phone app that will deliver up-to-date information. To get the app, visit the Apple Store or

LEICESTER - Even though Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early hasn't been able to visit local schools in person this year, he has still found ways to share important messages with students. Last week, Early went virtual with his drug awareness pre-

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER  
  
Photo Courtesy  
  
Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early takes part in a virtual program with Leicester Middle School students.

thank all donors for their continued support each year. As several families throughout the area struggle to figure out how to pay for gifts, the holiday spirit of local residents will help provide some relief this Christmas season.

Gifts were delivered to each site for children of all ages. All gifts will now be distributed by teams of volunteers.

Several donations were also made in advance this year, as residents dropped off toys with their AA Transportation bus drivers.

Google Play Store and search for "SEBRSD," then download the app to your phone.

Notifications will also be posted on the school website, as well as the district's OneCall system, Facebook page, and Twitter account.

All parents, students, and staff members are thanked for their patience and cooperation throughout this challenging time in education.

"Thank you again for your support and partnership with the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District as we navigate this academic year," Haughey said.

sentation for Leicester Middle School students. Titled "This Is Not About Drugs," the week-long program helps introduce seventh graders to the dangers of drugs and peer pressure they will face in the coming years.

"We were originally able to purchase this program from Overdose Lifeline as a result of obtaining a grant with the Leicester Public Schools and the Leicester Police Department," read a statement released by DA Early's office. "We are happy to continue our work with Leicester virtually during this pandemic."

The DA's team frequently attends schools and community forums throughout the county each year for outreach programs. Topics include anti-bullying strat-

egies; drug and alcohol prevention; teen dating safety; the dangers of distracted driving; internet and cyber safety; and domestic violence, among others.

But with many schools, libraries, and senior centers either closed or operating remotely this winter due to COVID-19, District Attorney Early's team has taken its messages virtual across the county. Local officials appreciate the team's commitment to maintaining vital outreach and awareness efforts during the pandemic. Even though many students are away from school this year, the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and distracted driving aren't going anywhere.

Local police officials have

### NEW TA

continued from page A1

burdens placed on selectmen and other elected officials.

"The ability of nonprofessional boards of selectmen to cope with the ever-growing complexities of town government is at best challenging," Snyder said.

Officials commend town departments and elected leaders for steering Brookfield through the COVID-19 crisis while maintaining strong financial standing. The town recently announced that its tax rate will drop for the fourth straight year; also, for first time since 2013, the tax rate will be below \$18.

The new town administrator will help continue the fiscal momentum and identify additional areas of improvement, officials said.

"Through the efforts of talented town employees and contracted resources, both the stabilization and free cash accounts are in good

shape," Snyder added.

In other town news, officials remind residents that Town Hall is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Monday through Thursday). Patrons should call departments ahead of time to make appointments to do business (508-867-2930).

All visitors must wear masks and practice social distancing. Only ten people are allowed inside Town Hall at a time (excluding employees).

A sign-in station is set up in the Town Hall foyer. Patrons must sign a self-assessment sheet and time log to adhere to COVID-19 tracing guidelines.

Town Hall business will be conducted in the banquet room using social distancing guidelines and plexiglass shielding.

If you have questions about the process, contact the Board of Selectmen's office at 508-867-2930 (ext. 10).

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### ROLLBACK

continued from page A1

The Baker Administration also announced new guidelines for workplaces and gyms. In offices, employees must wear masks at their place of work when not in their own workspace. Employers are encouraged to close down or limit the use of break rooms.

"We continue to encourage all employees to offer teleworking to their employees when possible," Baker said.

Patrons must wear masks at all times in gyms.

During the latest weekly state report, Leicester, Spencer, North Brookfield, and several other area communities were listed in the state's "red zone" for COVID-19 transmission risk.

Local officials remind residents to wear masks in public at all times and avoid large private gatherings.

The Worcester field hospital at the DCU Center has already begun accepting patients. A second field hospital was set up in Lowell.

For more information on statewide efforts to combat COVID-19, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

We all share responsibility for protecting the vulnerable

Something we’ve been hearing over the past few months with regard to COVID-19 deaths is the downplaying of elderly victims succumbing to the virus. When we look at the data and have conversations about the infection rate, and the numbers of those who actually pass away as a result, it seems to be dismissed in cases where the person is over the age of 65. “Well, they are old anyway, and in that age bracket” is often overheard.

What an awful world view. True, when we hear about an older person passing, we can find some sort of solace knowing that they were able to live for a fairly long time and enjoy life as such. However, isn’t the point to try to live as long and healthy as possible? Many of these elderly individuals who have fallen victim to this virus, would still be alive today, had COVID not come into all of our lives.

This outlook is a dangerous viewpoint to have, especially amidst a pandemic. Of course the younger, healthier population is less at risk; however the responsibility falls on all of us to protect the vulnerable, regardless of our odds of contracting a severe case ourselves. We may be fine if we catch it, and may decide not to take precautions, telling ourselves “I’ll be fine.” However, walking around asymptotically may infect someone who might not be OK. As a society of neighbors, co-workers, family and friends, it should always be our job to look out for each other. Despite our differences, we must always put humanity first and take care of one another. Whether that looks like helping someone with a flat tire, pulling someone out of a ditch who’s car slid off the road, helping someone in need with groceries, or taking precautions during a pandemic to keep each other safe, it’s our duty as decent human beings to do the right thing, not for ourselves but for each other.

In overhearing such statements regarding the elderly, we want to remind those that need to hear it, that these long lived lives are just as important as they always have been. Being elderly shouldn’t mean we are automatically dismissed as a member of society. The golden years should be protected as best they can as we all age, and we all will.

Our elderly community are just as valuable now as they were when they were in their twenties. Remember that senior citizens still pay taxes, grocery shop, take care of family members including grandchildren. It is our grandparents that make up the highest number of child care providers, allowing their own children to continue to work, which in turn boosts the economy.

Our elderly population provides friendship and support to everyone around them. In addition, the highest number of volunteers come from the senior citizen population. Again, this in turn helps to contribute to our economy. It doesn’t seem like any of this hits home for some individuals, until they are affected personally. If you are not close with someone who is elderly, remember that many of us are. It is important to continue to value and protect the most vulnerable among us.

In an attempt to bridge recent political division, we want to remind everyone to look out for each other, despite your differences. What matters in the end is community and how we operate in our own small circles.

We have seen refreshing occurrences of both Republicans and Democrats, locally, who have joined forces to make our communities a better place...individuals who have not lost sight of what really matters in life.



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VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop the attempted steal

To the Editor:  
The U.S. Constitution, signed in 1787, is considered the world’s oldest written national constitution still in use. Its main function is to control executive power. It was written in a time of kings, whose rule was complete and without question. The Constitution sought to protect the new Republic from having a tyrant, so it would not fail like other republics, such as the Roman Republic. Our constitutional system of checks and balances, engineered largely by James Madison, was meant to protect us from the tyranny of a despot.

But the presidency of Donald Trump, with his dictatorial impulses, shows that the check and balance system can be gamed by party loyalists who would support Mr. Trump in his desire for unlimited power. The plan works; pack the courts with loyalists and keep the Senate in line, and it will be a ‘done deal,’ a fait accompli.

But there are people who have a higher loyalty, people like General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation’s highest-ranking military officer. In a speech on Nov. 12, he declared where loyalty ultimately resides. He said “We are unique among armies, we are unique among militaries. We do not take an oath to a king or queen,

or tyrant or dictator, we do not take an oath to an individual. No, we do not take an oath to a country, a tribe or a religion. We take an oath to the Constitution, and every soldier ... every sailor, airman, marine, coastguard—each of us protects and defends that document, regardless of personal price.”

Or people like Gabriel Sterling, Voting Systems Manager for the Georgia Secretary of State’s office who stood up to say “It has to stop...Mr. President, you have not condemned this language or these actions. We need you to step up, and if you’re going to take a position of leadership, show some.” Mr. Sterling, a Republican, warned “Someone’s going to get hurt, someone’s going to get shot, someone’s going to get killed. And it’s not right. I’m doing my best to keep it together. All of this is wrong,” Mr. Sterling is referring to the death threats and threats of sexual violence against people and their families who were working during the Georgia election. People like you and I who work honestly and earnestly doing our jobs without prejudice.

The man currently residing in the White House continues his drum beat of lies and his own brand of person-

Turn To **TAME** page **A14**

Social media pontification

To the Editor:  
Last week, over a month after the election, YouTube decided that it would no longer host videos with misleading claims of election fraud. I first saw this on social media as a friend commented on the story, “Silence them! Silence them all! Communism is way better.” Then another friend responded, “Hitler would be so proud.”

Whoa... Ignoring for a moment that Fascism and Communism were opposed and hostile to each other... The Hitler comment and Communist comment is more accurately a generalized “Anti-American” from people who don’t understand what the terms they use mean.

In the United States, our freedom of expression, enshrined in the First

Amendment, is pretty absolute. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees free speech and makes no requirement that the speech be accurate or truthful. It has been ruled on that we have a Constitutional right to lie if not under oath. This is important because it prevents the government from becoming the arbiter of truth, and the only way to allow controversial topics to be published without fear of legal consequences is to make lying legal lest the truth be decided by a jury. The fact that lying is protected speech has allowed Donald Trump to stay out of jail all these years... So if lying is legal, why are lies about the 2020 election being

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

Thank you to a wonderful community

To the Editor:  
The Spencer Toys for Kids program is wrapping up another year, and we are blessed...that is for sure!

We were so worried about this year after a rough year in 2019...Covid guidelines put us all outdoors and we decided this worked really well. So we are sticking with this.... The sponsors were coming forward way more than ever for these families and monetary donations were steady.

Bring on the clowns

To the Editor:  
It’s almost time for the circus to take over. Instead of the Obama/Biden Bungling Bros. Show of the past, it’s now going to Bozo Biden and the Circus of Swamp Clowns.

The star of the show, Bozo Biden, is already up to his slap stick antics with his falling in the shower and breaking his foot. Frequently appearing with him is the comical Yak Woman, Hamala Harris. Her long dog face with her cackling voice is sure to keep us entertained. In the State Department tent is the Elephant man, John Kerry. His vanity has disfigured his face from all the plastic surgery and Botox, He is the real life Joker. When he meets with other countries diplomats, they ask him “Whats wrong John, why such the long

The outpouring in these uncertain times was more than we could have ever expected, and we were beyond thrilled...Our major distribution to the families is now passed but we will continue to fill requests right until Christmas. When my cousin Susan was ready to pass the family torch for this program many years ago, I was happy but nervous to accept it...It has

Turn To **FLANNERY** page **A13**

face?” He then throws buckets of cash on them. In another tent the bearded lady, Janet Yellen. What a beauty! His choice for Secretary of Defense is Lloyd Austin, a double chinmed incarnation of Jabba Binks. This clown will happily load your children in his cannon and fire them into Afghanistan and Iraq. Never ending wars supported by big tech to bring our I-phones and social media to those 3rd world economies. Our soldiers are just salesmen being used to open up these markets for these hi tech goods. It’s obvious it sure isn’t to bring peace and security. The commissions our children reap from this are blown off arms and legs. All the while, the clown’s sons like Hunter reap mil-

Turn To **XXX** page **ROBILLARD**

Return to the Twilight Zone

To the Editor:  
I don’t think it is just me, who thinks that the writers of “Dallas” or other series that included villains you loved to hate, and scenarios that you thought were barely plausible, could not even imagine the reality of the adventures of Trump Many of us thought that the long established convention of the job itself, would promote at least some semblance of rational behavior, and that the non-partisan infrastructure would temper and emergence of radicalism that might emerge. Boy, were we wrong.

It is hard to even know where to start to address how outrageous the behavior of this President is. Even if you are willing to set aside the 20,000 plus lies, the fact that you have chosen

a man who has paid over ten times as much for sex than in taxes over the last ten years, as your moral leader, or even buy into his having kept his campaign promises, because he says so. Perhaps you have forgotten what those promises were, but I wrote them down. 1) Everyone will have better cheaper healthcare, 2) Mexico will pay for the wall (the contractor did use some illegals as security, while building 50 miles of new wall, paid for my seizing funds for military base schools), 3) US Steel will build 6 new plants and COAL will have a major comeback, 4) the nuclear threat from North Korea will end, 5) a tariff wars are easy to win, 6) the national debt

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A16**

Are you still planning to retire early?

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company. Nearly 40 percent of those planning to retire say the pandemic has disrupted their intentions, according to the Edward Jones/ Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?



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Even without a crisis, it’s not a bad idea to review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

Your retirement lifestyle – Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you’re anticipating during your retirement years. If you think you’ll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there’s no “right” or “wrong” way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

Sources of retirement income – Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you’ll have to assess all your sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will “top out” when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you’ll need to establish a withdrawal rate that’s appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

Your feelings about work – Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we’ve gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you’d likely gain some financial advantages. You’d make more money, for starters, but you’d also keep building your 401(k) and IRA, and you could even possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that’s right for you.

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

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In Print and Online





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### We shall see

To the Editor:  
It seems as though the fat lady has sung. Trump's last legal gasp came this past Friday, when the Supreme Court declined to hear the Texas lawsuit seeking to overturn the election results in Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. What was most notable is that this last and (hopefully) final legal challenge did not allege fraud in any way but instead claimed that those states didn't follow the right process for making it easier for folks to vote and as such those votes should be thrown out. As was predicted, the Court cited Texas' lack of legal standing to challenge how another state manages its election.  
We can't forget all of the accomplices in this act of sedition. In addition to

Texas, we saw the Attorneys General of 18 other states sign. In addition to 19 states attempting to overturn an election, we saw 126 members of the House of Representatives, 66 percent of the Republican caucus signing on (they didn't have legal standing either). In addition to real states and real members of congress, the lawsuit was also joined by two fake states – "New California" and "New Nevada" in a joint Amicus brief. The attorney who filed that claim seems to have started a non-profit organization based out of a strip mall next to a payday loan place and a tanning salon.  
There are no two ways about it – these people are traitors and enemies

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A14**

### "Not dead" doesn't mean "good"

To the Editor:  
There are a lot of racist, bigoted, and otherwise socially unacceptable things that are said and ideas promulgated in the Spencer New Leader. I often call them out and do my best to provide context. I do not use the terms bigot and racist lightly or in response to "those I cannot refute." I call racist and bigoted statements for what they are, explain why, and move on. If people continue making bigoted and racist statements I will continue to call them out and then go on to address their other points. Luckily, this past week, there wasn't anything of that nature worth calling out – just the dull roar of the undertone...  
In response to Mr. Robillard's letter last week, which was entirely focused

on COVID, it seems that he still doesn't understand the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigation strategies, or even what is being asked of him as a citizen and fellow human. I am going to try and explain it clearly...  
We were never faced with the question of whether to live a full life or "just exist." Nobody ever asked anybody to quarantine themselves for the next 13 years. Nobody ever asked anybody to quarantine themselves for the rest of their lives (except for the unfortunate few who were in their last weeks for unrelated reasons). This is false. Stop saying it. We were asked to quarantine for six weeks or so to suppress the virus to a "management

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A13**

### Will we choose problem solvers or haters?

To the Editor:  
Scotland born Nobel Prize winner/ Princeton Eisenhower Professor of Economics, Sir Angus Deaton and his wife Ann Casey (D&C) have long studied economics, health and people's well-being.  
For the last few years, they have tracked a frightening trend taking place in less well-off American communities. (Deaton grew up a coal miner's son.) Until a few years ago, life expectancy these communities had risen- people lived longer. Then in the last few years (before Covid-19) life expectancy had fallen – people, particularly white men without a college level education-died sooner. D&C called these "Deaths of Despair" or

"Slow Motion Suicide." They indicated the primary causes of these early deaths were alcohol, various drugs, and opioids "pushed" for profit.  
They concluded that those who died "young" had given up on life because of lost jobs, no good job opportunities, broken families, and lack of community support. D&C understood that the communities and local organizations did not have the funding or staff to; help residents in distress, provide the needed education, or help develop new jobs and business opportunities.  
They believe one reason is, for many years, the benefits and resources of America- including the chance to be

Turn To **KANE** page **A16**

### Christmas break reflections and reading

To the Editor:  
Christmas is a time when we gather our families far and near to be together and celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's only son. We thank the Lord for all he has given us, the love, the guidance, and the sense of community the greatest Christian nation that ever existed. As we say "Merry Christmas," we can know that the Kingdom of God has triumphed over the "Happy Holidays" secularists. Christmas is the time of year and day specifically when we can feel most American because Americans celebrate Christmas. This is the day when the outsiders among us have it hammered home that they are not "one of us" while they eat Chinese food and go to the movies.

This Christmastime, we must understand that our nation is under attack. We need to stop the steal. The Democrats, the media, the liberal judges, and the deep state swamp is trying to steal the 2020 election from our eternal President, Donald J. Trump. President Trump has triumphed through so much – from the relentless attacks from the media in 2015, to everything Hillary could throw at him, to the Russian hoax where he was accused of being a foreign agent while Hillary was receiving help from foreign powers, to the Stormy Daniels pornographic star he paid to be a prostitute while Melania was pregnant, to the

Turn To **GRAHAM** page **A10**

### A Christmas story

To the Editor:  
For Trump-supporting patriots reeling from the blatantly stolen re-election of the most successful president of our lifetime, this is truly "The Winter of Our Discontent" (see Shakespeare, William and his "Richard III," 1594, or Steinbeck, John, 366 years later--either title applies).

As angry, heartbroken, and filled with despair as I am for the bleak future my three beloved children face in this once-fantastic country for those willing to work and play fair (unlike Democrats), I am resolved for this one time to restrain my natural-born fighting instinct to lash out at those I view as enemies of my country and of all I hold

dear. It is, after all, the Christmas season, and I have to respect the cultural imperative to tamp down the rhetoric and to check the inflammatory commentary at such a time as this when peace is urged "...upon all men of good will..." (Luke 2:14).  
But, before my Wassail tale, I wish to inform long-time readers of these pages

of the passing of Mr. Robert Emerson (that is, if my sources are correct). Mr. Emerson made many contributions to the "Letters" section over the years, and, although he virtually never staked out a political or moral position on contemporary issues with which I could

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A14**



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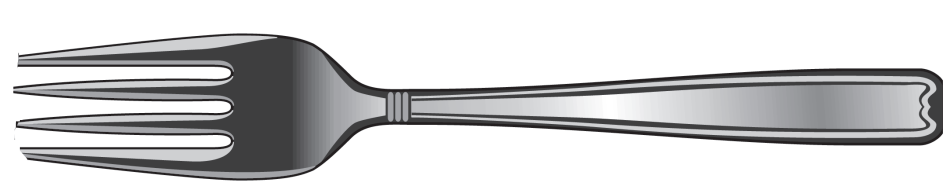
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GRAHAM  
continued from page A9

Ukraine affair where he used his power as president to promote justice abroad, to the baseless impeachment, and then to COVID-hysteria.

This President has emerged victorious through all of this. He has been unabashed in his America first ideology. He supports American interests every day regardless of who else might happen to support our position. Politics makes odd bed fellows and it just so happens that Russia is our ally in the world while China wants to take our place and eat our lunch. We should always want our public officials held to account for their crimes and the president was merely doing his job to ensure that Hunter Biden didn't get a pass as the son of a former Vice-President. It should be noted that Hunter Biden is now under federal investigation for his crimes in the United States and his father, former Vice-President Biden and the current subversive staging a coup d'état wants his son shielded from investigation and prosecution.

Finally, the COVID-hysteria. President Trump protected this country by banning flights from China, and then later banning flights from Europe because they were too late to ban flights from China. The President spearheaded the hydroxychloroquine therapeutic to save lives while Operation Warp Speed developed the fastest vaccine in Western history. President Trump is personally responsible for the new vaccine developed in only 10 months that is 94 percent effective, in record time, and record efficacy. President Trump also made sure the we follow an America First policy of only vaccinating Americans, and that we should order the priority by patriotism, by county. The counties that had the largest margin of victory for Trump should be vaccinated first. We need to use our military to make sure our country gets fully vaccinated first, then we need to demand other nations repay the cost of Operation Warp Speed before they receive vaccine deliveries.

We, as Americans, as patriots need to do whatever is necessary to keep

President Trump in power. We need to stop the steal. We need to understand that President Trump belongs in the Oval Office.

Once Christmas is over, the country is functionally shut down for at least a week. This year, we get about two weeks of shutdown because Christmas and New Year's will both be on Wednesdays. Personally, I like to use this time to catch up on my reading, and so should you. Nothing is better than the white snow slowly falling on the nation, with my feet on the hearth of the wood stove which is supposedly destroying the planet, while I read.

The first book on any patriot's list should be "The Camp of the Saints." This book has been recommended by Stephen Miller, senior advisor to the President. It depicts a dystopian world where Western civilization is destroyed through unbridled mass migration. While originally published in the 1970's it has recently become a best seller again and is available from Amazon both as a paperback and Kindle edition.

Another great read is the 1978 novel, "The Turner Diaries." This book is set in the year 1999, but begins with a foreword set in the year 2099 describing a revolution in the United States which leads to the overthrow of the federal government. The story starts soon after the federal government confiscated all civilian firearms in the United States, and I'm sure you can figure out the rest.

If there's still time, I would suggest "Paved With Good Intentions," "The Bell Curve" and "Mississippi in Africa," which explains the trials and tribulations of post-civil freedmen establishing a colony and building a future. All of these titles are on Amazon. I firmly believe our path to a more cohesive nation is through education and reading. If you have time take a look at some of the titles that Amazon recommends after reading those.

Since the enemies of the state, Joe Biden and the criminal Democrats and their subversive media accomplices are trying to stage a coup, perhaps a few books about that are in order. "Fujimori's Coup and the Breakdown of Democracy in Latin America" is a good read. Devin Nunes' new book, "Countdown to Socialism" is good... as

is "The Permanent Coup: How Enemies Foreign and Domestic Targets the American President."

The Christmas-New Year's national shutdown is a time to spend with friends and family but also a time to reflect on who we are. We are a Christian nation that established a calendar that elevates Christmas to its righteous centrality. We are a nation with a history, language, religion, and culture. As any nation must, we must protect ourselves both from invasion and dilution. We are one people, indivisible, and under God.

We need two million-MAGA marches in January. One in Washington, D.C. making sure President Trump stays in power, and one in Delaware making sure Sleepy-Joe continues to snooze in his basement. We the people need to show up and we need to make sure our voices are heard! The 2020 election was a fraud in Atlanta, Las Vegas, Milwaukee, Detroit, and Philadelphia. We need to throw out all questionable mail-in ballots and re-vote in those counties only, with armed fed-

eral agents not only checking ID's, but making sure each person is a citizen of the United States. No votes should be cast without a birth certificate or naturalization certificate, and photo ID. All voting needs to be done in-person. Only U.S. Citizens should be voting. Those that care enough will show up and vote. I am confident that a true free and fair election in those un-American cities will yield the winner to be Donald Trump.

Until we have an actually free and fair election, one that is accepted by both parties, Donald Trump must remain president.

Four More Years! Four More Years! Four More Years! Ivanka 2024! Ivanka 2028! Don Jr. 2032! Don Jr. 2036! Then Tiffany! Barron Trump 2048! Trump 4-Eva!

Merry Christmas!  
God Bless America, and no place else!

GEORGE GRAHAM  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

ROBILLARD  
continued from page A8

lions in cash from our adversaries. Yep, Biden's miniature clown car is being packed with all the old clowns from the global elitist swamp.

He has kept on little Mousy Fauci. This guy is supposed to be our premier medical expert? The only thing that comes out of his mouth is "Wear a mask and stay home." Is this all he learned in 12 years of going to medical school? Anybody can tell you that if you don't ever want to get sick. I can see why Trump got sick of the guy. When it started Trump pulls in the so-called expert for advice. Fauci's answer: "Wear a mask and stay home." Trump says "Is

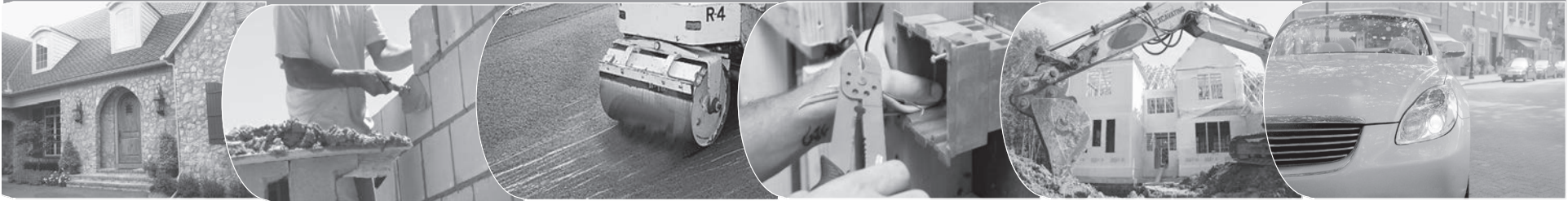
that all you got?" Any therapeutics or medicine? Fauci says "Wear a mask and stay home." Trump says "What about developing a vaccine?" Fauci's answer "Takes too long, so wear a mask and stay home". Finally, Trump says to Pence, "Get rid of this loser and get the pharma companies on the horn. We'll get a vaccine made in record time." In the meantime, this miniature clown Mousy Fauci has agreed to be in the Biden Circus of Swamp Clowns. There's an old saying "Those that do, do it. Those that can't, become teachers." It needs to be amended to add "teachers or join the government." Because the clown Mousy Fauci obviously can't solve anything and can only

continue saying "Wear a mask and stay home."

The good thing about all this is you will see a comparison between a real leader like Trump and a clown like Biden. After four years of the Biden Circus of Clowns, America will be clamoring to bring this pathetic show to end and put a real leader that knows how to operate a country back at the helm. Trump will be back in a landslide for a second term and we will not have to hear from the liberal media, because I think they too will be ready to close the circus down. Biden's legacy will be just below that of Jimmy Carter.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

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TAYLOR  
continued from page A8

removed from YouTube?  
YouTube is a division of Google, which is owned by Alphabet, Inc. Alphabet, as a private company, is free to decide what legal content they would like to host. They can choose to host false information or they can make a business decision not to allow it and neither of those positions involve the government or the constitution in any way. Private companies actually “censor” legal material all the time – for

example, YouTube doesn’t allow the type of content Pornhub allows.  
Comparing a private company removing material it finds objectionable (in this case, false information) to communism is especially laughable. Communism, as a system, is about eliminating private ownership and control... YouTube deciding what content to host and what content not to host is very capitalistic... YouTube has plenty of competitors which I am sure will gladly host propaganda promulgating falsehoods.  
Of course, YouTube is very widespread and access universal so this

puts Google in the unenviable position of being an “arbiter of truth” but the broader situation, we are facing a very dangerous situation with roughly 40 percent of the country isn’t accepting reality and the threat of civil unrest is real. Google is making a business decision. YouTube does have competitors such as Vimeo, Dailymotion, Liveleak, Dtube, Pornhub, etc., which may approach video sharing standards according to a different business model.  
The same holds true for Facebook and Twitter censoring content or slapping content with “false information” banners. Those companies feel they

have a moral obligation to society from provably false information, they have robust independent checkers, and they have competitors. If you aren’t happy with their moderation and warning labels on information they deem to be false you are free to use Parler or Vkontakte instead.  
I don’t think for a minute that Google, Facebook, Twitter, or any private company wants to be the arbiter of truth, but the delusions of the current political state we’re in has forced them to be.  
RICHARD TAYLOR  
SPENCER



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# LEGALS

**Attention Spencer Residents**  
A public hearing with the Sewer Commissioners will be held to discuss septage & tight tank fees Tuesday, December 29, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Broadcast live from McCourt Social Hall  
By Spencer Cable Access  
**Remote meeting only**  
December 11, 2020  
December 18, 2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Division  
Docket No. WO20P3365EA  
Estate of:**  
Genevieve A. Kowalski  
**Date Of Death: August 24, 2020  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE  
G.L. C. 1908, § 3-306**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Anthony R. Kowalski of Ware MA**  
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Anthony R. Kowalski of Ware MA**  
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.  
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the

Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
December 18, 2020

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue and in execution of the POWER OF SALE contained in a certain Mortgage given by Harold Rondeau and Kristian Rondeau to Jeffrey S. Rodman, Trustee of Plan Investment Trust dated December 8, 2017 and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 58162, Page 1 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on the 25th day of January, 2021 upon the mortgage premises at 108 Paxton Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:  
The land in said Spencer, with buildings thereon, known as Dwelling No. 12, situated in the southerly part of Upper Wire Village, on the easterly side of Upper Wire Village Road, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner thereof, on the easterly side of said road at a point 546.3 feet northerly of land now or formerly of Ellen St. Germain;  
Thence S. 87 degrees 48’ E. by land now or formerly of Walter J. Kane, Tr., 193.3 feet, said line being parallel to and 19 feet distant from the south line of the dwelling on granted premises;  
Thence N. 4 degrees 29’ E. by land now or formerly of Walter J. Kane, Tr.

65 feet to a corner;  
Thence N. 87 degrees 36’ W. by land now or formerly of Walter J. Kane, Tr. 193.3 feet to the easterly line of the aforesaid road;  
Thence southerly by the easterly line of said road 65.6 feet to the place of beginning.  
Containing about 0.41 acre of land.  
For Mortgagor’s title, see Deed recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 58161, Page 399 and Book 58218, Page 260.  
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

**TERMS OF SALE:** The highest bidder shall be required to deposit Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) in cash, certified check or bank check at the time and place of the sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be due within thirty (30) days, at the offices of Dunning, Kirrane, McNichols & Garner, L.L.P., 133 Route 28, Mashpee, MA 02649, Attorney for the Mortgagee.  
Others terms to be announced at the sale.  
Jeffrey S. Rodman, Trustee of Plan Investment Trust,  
Present Holder of said Mortgage,  
By Its Attorney,  
Christopher J. Kirrane, Esq.

Dunning, Kirrane,  
McNichols & Garner, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 560  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
(508) 477-6500  
BBO# 660542  
ckirrane@dunningkirrane.com  
December 18, 2020  
December 25, 2020  
January 1, 2021

**Brookfield Planning Board  
Notice of Public Hearing  
Amendment to Special Permit**  
In accordance with M. G. L., Chapter 40A, and the provisions of the Brookfield Zoning Bylaws Section 4, Use Regulation Table, §7a; Section 8.C., Site Plan Approval; and Section 12.C., Special Permits; the Brookfield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on an application for a Substantive Amendment to a Special Permit recorded on September 28, 2018 in Book #88 and Page 172 at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds for the construction and operation of a commercial Solar Power Generation Array on property owned by Polly A. Teixeira Revocable Trust, Polly A. Teixeira, Trustee, and located at 8 Mitchell Hill Road.  
The hearing will take place on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 virtually by teleconference and at the Town Hall, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, starting at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard. For remote meeting access go to <http://www.mytowngovernment.org/01506>.  
A copy of the application may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk at Brookfield Town Hall during normal business hours.  
Sharon Mahoney, Chair  
Brookfield Planning Board  
December 18, 2020  
December 25, 2020

## HAR-YAROK

continued from page A9

phase” while we waited for a vaccine which would roll out about a year later, and then we would truly return to normal. The question was never public health vs. the economy – the economy suffers and responds to the virus, not the other way around. This was never about living a full life vs. merely existing – this was about making a six-week national investment in squashing this.  
The United States never accepted the basic premise that a little pain early could save us from a huge problem later. America failed bigly. Our President failed bigly. Our culture failed. We now see the worst of every angle – our economy is in shambles anyway, accelerating hospitalizations, Army field hospitals in convention centers, ICU’s threatening to overrun next month, and worst of all we are fighting with ourselves and pointing fingers. American culture is fundamentally incompatible with pandemic management and although I believe this virus is of natural origin, I am now convinced that an infectious virus is the most effective way to take America down. Who needs nukes? Who needs planes flying into buildings? A virus makes us fight ourselves with a 9/11 death toll every day, day after day.  
Case study: New Zealand. They locked down “early and hard.” They locked down “for real” in March. No passengers in cars, hospital and food production staff only was allowed to drive between municipalities, Army in the streets enforcing it. Cases continued to rise for two weeks until they started to collapse 75 percent week-over-week. By May, the virus had been eradicated and they re-opened with no masks, no social distancing, no restrictions... Businesses re-opened at full capacity. The national nightmare was over. New Zealand had just over 1,500 cases and 25 deaths. Now it is just a vague memory except for the news reports from elsewhere in the world...  
New Zealand isn’t even making a vaccine schedule yet; they want to see how the vaccine works in the rest of the world, first.

Case study: Australia. They locked down pretty severely and got the virus to the tune of 15 cases/day and re-opened with few restrictions. They had a surge in the Austral winter (July and August) as high as 700 cases/day, they did localized targeted lockdowns and by September, it was crushed to a maintenance mode (10 cases/day). Australia is mostly restriction-free right now, with some people-per-square meter density limits and requirements that businesses keep records of patrons for potential contact-tracing. Australia has had just over 28,000 cases with 908 deaths.  
Australia isn’t planning on starting vaccinations until March because they are barely affected by the virus right now, and would rather see more safety and efficacy data out of countries such as ours.  
The United States, on the other hand, has seen over 16 million cases, 297,000 deaths, and both numbers are accelerating exponentially. Imagine if our country had done a psychotic shutdown early, squashed the virus, and by now it was just a distant memory and we had been living normal lives since May, with all the restaurants and other venues running near full capacity, hospitals at normal occupancy numbers, and

no need to rush a vaccine? Asking you to quarantine for 13 years is unreasonable, but was 6 weeks so unreasonable in retrospect?  
To the “99 percent survivable” comment – there is missing context. To date, it seems that 1 percent of COVID patients die, leaving 99 percent surviving, so at first glance that doesn’t seem so bad... Let’s take a stroll down context lane...  
COVID naturally spreads with an R0=6. A disease with an R0=6 requires 83 percent of the population being immune before the pandemic is over. Going for natural immunity in a short amount of time, with infinite hospital resources, would leave 2.7 million Americans dead... But most were old and weak, so who cares, right? Let’s take a look at the survivors...  
For every one person that dies, 13 more require hospitalization. Half of those hospitalized will have long term organ damage of either the heart or lungs. Fifteen percent of those hospitalized will have a stroke. Ten percent of those hospitalized will have long term neurological problems such as weakness, trouble focusing, or loss of cognitive function...  
All of a sudden, the 1 percent fatal/99 percent survivable argument becomes: 2.7 million dead, 34.5 million hospitalized, 18 million with some sort of long-term organ injury, 5.5 million strokes, and 3.6 million with long-term or permanent neurological problems. But hey, let’s look at the bright side... A full 110 million Americans will be totally asymptomatic, and 130 million Americans will be sick for one or two weeks and recover nicely.

But wait, there’s more! We don’t have the hospital or ICU capacity for everybody to get it at once. In order for the 1 percent fatality rate to even hold true, we need medical services available for the 10 percent of our population that will need them. Based on our medical capacity, if everyone were to get COVID, it would take three years to run through the population without overrunning the hospitals. If the hospitals overrun, care will be rationed, and the fatality rate will skyrocket. COVID-19, naturally, would blow through the population in about 6 months. That would have meant medical services would only be available for roughly 25 percent of those who needed it so it is safe to say that our fatality rate could easily be 5 percent with the rate of complications skyrocketing also... Is 16.5 million dead Americans OK? I don’t think so...  
True, most of the deaths are in people over 50. Young people are not spared from the non-death calamities outlined above, though. I also find it interesting that now 50 is the cutoff for “old, decrepit, and disposable”. An average 50-year-old male can expect to live 32 more years until 82. I typed my own personal information in to an online calculator and based on my stats I have a life expectancy of 92. If COVID shortens somebody’s life by 10 or 20 years, is it not a “COVID death?” Don’t we charge people with ‘murder’ when they shoot a 75-year old in the head? Is 20 percent of a person’s remaining life and their entire retirement “nothing?”  
Please, leave it to the smart people. All we ever asked of you as a citizen and decent human being was six weeks of true total lockdown, like other countries did that got this under control, and the deplorables threatened mutiny, insurrection, domestic terrorism, and put the fear of elections in our elected

officials. We now have the worst of all angles – the virus is out of control, the death rate is climbing, the economy is in shambles anyway, and Massachusetts is on track to run out of ICU space in January entirely unless Gov. Baker changes course. Worse still, Americans are still fighting with each other. This pandemic response has been a test of our culture and a statement of national values and the verdict is: pathetic.  
As for my sources being “fished out of a cesspool called the Internet...” I have paid subscriptions to The Atlantic, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. I watch the PBS Newshour, listen to NPR, and often read other free sources such as Vox. When something big/interesting happens I go on Foxnews.com out of curiosity to see how it is spun. Lately I have been watching Newsmax because I am deeply curious. I look at the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus tracker, the CDC, and MA Dept. of Public Health’s websites. I keep many of my own spreadsheets and do my own data analysis on publicly available information. My weekly column is not an academic paper with sources cited but if citing my sources would convince Mr. Robillard and the balance of the conservative readers, I’d gladly do it.  
This country was built by people taking smart risks. Bad risk takers ended up dead, like the lost colony of Roanoke.  
Mr. McRae... Aside from his unrequited love of the “bear of a man...” and his obsession with masculinity and the ‘effeminized culture’... something finally did bring down Trump – the 2020 election. We the people. We the 81,282,896 representing 306 electoral votes defeated 74,222,484 deplorables representing 232 electoral votes. It’s over. You are right though – any other person we could even fathom occupying the Oval Office would concede defeat and be a responsible steward of the nation until Jan. 21 – only Trump would refuse to

## FLANNERY

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evolved into something I am proud of. There has been tremendous support from everyone in our wonderful community.  
I know this program has been here in our town for more than 50 years...I can remember the Halsted ran it for many years...then the Cournoyers....All a family thing...Now my family and all of our extensions make it roll...Kayleen, Jay, Alivia & Kinley are there every single year to help us...We have made a lot of changes and they have been good for the program and our community. We are proud of this program. We are not alone in our efforts...that’s for sure. We have that village...A community that truly cares about it’s people. All the beautiful handmade hats, mittens, craft boxes and the tender loving care that goes into choosing the right gifts for the families that are sponsored blows

us away. And we have the luxury to see it all... and it is a luxury I can tell you first hand...  
My office at ERA Key Realty has been on board since day one and we needed it...They allowed us to take the office over with toys, use the admins and supplies, etc. to keep us going...There has never been any fees from them to our program. The Spencer Exchange Club has kept us steady for many years with their very generous donations of toys, money, sponsors within the club, 501(c)3 status. You name it and they have been there...I am forever grateful to be a member for more than 22 years....No better group anywhere...While we lost our right and left hand last year, Lisa Devries, her family continues to be there to help and Katie May Harris is still with me...and she steps up to the plate like nobody I know...Last year with a back injury (crawling around on the floor bagging toys) and losing our girl and this

year with a baby strapped to her body...this kid gets it and I am so proud to have her still with me... She is a force! She brings her family and friends in every year to assist and they are amazing... Ana Harris, you rule! AA Transportation and the stuff a bus this year was beyond wild...it was stuffed with some really cool toys! I’ve learned all you have to do is ask... and I am not afraid to ask when it comes to kids...I’ve never been disappointed either...We could not run this program without all of you!  
I have lived in Spencer my entire life...generations of my family comes from here also...I love this town, and could never live anywhere else. Thank you all so much. All you have done truly matters! Merry Christmas!

DONNA MORIN  
FLANNERY  
SPENCER TOYS  
FOR KIDS



# OBITUARIES

## Eugene M. Parker,62

EAST BROOKFIELD- Eugene M. Parker,62, died on Sunday, December 6,2020 at home.

He was born in Boston,MA. on June 25,1958 the son of the late Kenneth and Marjorie Parker. He leaves his loving husband Paul Holmgren; a sister in law Stacey Parker of St. Louis,MO; niece

Chelsea Parker of Los Angeles,,CA and a nephew Kenny Parker of Kissimmee,FL. He was predeceased by 2 brothers John and Fred Parker.

A celebration of Eugene's Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

## Richard W. Thunberg, Sr. “Pep”, 82

EAST BROOKFIELD/PAXTON- Richard W. Thunberg, Sr. “Pep”, 82 of Paxton formerly of East Brookfield passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at Care One at Millbury.

He leaves three sons Richard W. Jr, of North Grovendsdale, Ct, David C. of Wilmington, NC, Gary P, and his wife Karen of Spencer; a daughter, with whom he lived , Karin M. and her husband Bill Richard of Paxton; a sister Phyllis I. Thunberg of Worcester; three grandchildren Katelyn and Cody Thunberg and Tyler Richard; two great grandchildren Weston and Amelia Thunberg. He was predeceased by his former wife Joyce A. Brown/Thunberg

and a brother Paul E. Thunberg.

He was born in Worcester the son of the late Charles and Irene Thunberg and graduated from South High School in Worcester. Prior to his disability and health issues Richard was employed by Flexcon Company; he also was a former lifetime member of the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club. He loved to dance, fish and hunt.

The family extends a special “Thank You” to the entire staff at Care One at Millbury for their amazing care and service

Funeral service are private for the family. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

## Carole Louise “Jesse” Stone (1932–2020)

Jesse lived an exuberant life, loved by family, friends, and animals. Jesse was a beloved member of Leicester Unitarian Church.



She played the trumpet in high school and was a member of the Leicester Marching Band. In high school, a dear friend died. Jesse brought her trumpet to school and, unexpected to the teachers, stood in class and played Taps in her honor. Her trumpet playing was so good she was invited to go on a national tour with a band, but because she was still a teenager, her father refused.

Jesse possessed an extraordinary beauty that made people literally stop and stare. She was married for 20 years to Charlie Entwistle, with whom she co-founded Entwistle's Garage in Leicester and had four children. She cared for their three racehorses and learned to fly and navigate a plane.

In 1960, she began a six-decade friendship with her best friend, Kay Gleason, with whom she shared many laughs and joyful days seeking furniture to restore. In 1973, Jesse opened “Cobblestones Antiques” in Nantucket, before returning home to care for her parents.

In 1979, Jesse visited her daughter Jenna in California and decided to stay... and take up roller skating! Later, daughter Darlene needed help

with Jesse's granddaughter, Sadie Jade, so Jesse stepped in and raised Jade.

In 2001, she was diagnosed with late-stage cancer with a 3% survival rate. When asked how she survived, she said, “Someone has to be in that 3%.” In 2003, she stayed at her daughter and son-in-law's (Jacqueline and Joseph's) organic farm, before moving in with her son and daughter-in-law, Charlie and Deborah. Jade, Charlie, and Deb cared for Jesse until she retired to St Francis in Worcester, where she's remembered for her kindness. Jesse always loved her family and maintained a ready smile, a delightful laugh, and her true beauty, inside and out.

Jesse was predeceased by her parents, Forrest and Evelyn (Darling) Stone, her brother, Forrest Jr. (Burlingame, CA), and her two daughters, Jenna and Darlene Entwistle (both of CA). She leaves her sister, Barbara Hoff (Shillington, PA); her daughter, Jacqueline (and Joseph) Freeman (Battle Ground, WA), and son, Charles (and Deborah) Entwistle (Leicester, MA); her grandchildren Jade (and Jim) Field and Charles (and Krystal) Entwistle Jr. (Leicester, MA), Dakota Grecco (Santa Monica, CA), and Elizabeth Entwistle (and Michael Gray) (Birmingham, AL); and great-grandchildren Faith Stone, Ethan and Lilith Field, and Stella and Scarlett Entwistle (Leicester, MA).

Due to COVID, services will be held over Zoom on Sunday, December 20 at 3pm EST in room #3606-878-384.



If it's important to you,  
It's important to us.

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### McRAE

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even grudgingly concur, I did, nonetheless, respect Mr. Emerson for his willingness to state his opinions up front and claim ownership by signing his own name. That cannot be said for a number of contributors of late who may share his left-leaning views, but not his courage. His letters were always superbly crafted, and revealed a high degree of authentic erudition and academic accomplishment. I could wish to be so excellent a writer. I've wondered where he has been for some time; now I know, and I wish to express my condolences to his family and friends. This holiday season is a hard time to lose someone, and especially in this most difficult year. Rest in peace, Mr. Emerson.

Now, gentle reader, intoxicated as you are with the joy of the season, fix a large cup of hot chocolate, plunge a peppermint candy cane into it-like a “sprig of holly stuck in a plum pudding” (“A Christmas Carol”)-and take your seat beside the roaring hearth as the snow piles up heavily against your window and the wind howls around the corners. I have a story to tell.

Christmas for the family in which I grew up was always the biggest event of the year, and one in which all the traditions of the day were honored and indulged. You will understand, then, that as a completely broke college student in Texas in 1962, I was determined to get “home for the holiday” no matter what it took. Forget a plane ticket, even a Greyhound bus was out of the question.

So, what to do? On a cold, grey day after my last class had ended, I began my 1,900 mile hitchhiking trek from deep in the heart of Texas to the “Shoe City of America,” Brockton, Massachusetts. For those of you too young to understand, that was when America was America and young men could with hardly a thought get out on the highway with a cardboard sign and a few dollars, and, in a few short days, be clear across the country. We were free...once.

By the time I had reached Rolla, Missouri on Route 66, I knew I was in trouble. Not in any way dressed appropriately to be trying to cross the freezing cold heartland of America in the dead of winter, and having to parcel out my dwindling funds for snack food as I couldn't afford a real meal, it began to dawn on me that perhaps I should've stayed in the dorm where the international students

were housed for the Christmas break. I was getting seriously cold, the rides were short hops with nothing of a long enough duration to eat up the miles.

After a sleepless and interminable 40 hours or so, I reached the nadir of my “adventure” at two o'clock in the morning when I found myself standing on a frozen, wind-swept, darkened and deserted Route 40 (The old National Road) in Columbus, Ohio. I was too cold, too hungry, and too exhausted to find anything romantic about my situation. This wasn't quite as glamorous as Jack Kerouac's “On the Road” had once made hitchhiking seem to me. This was serious trouble, and my plight wasn't eased by knowing my university's basketball team had played Ohio State in Columbus that night, and the boys, all of whom I knew as I was a walk-on member of the freshman team,

were now doubtless sound asleep in warm, comfortable beds after a big post-game feed at some restaurant. I tortured myself by asking “What massive failures on your part (me) have led you to this preposterous situation?” I'd like to be able to say I was stoically brave and had convinced myself, like Nietzsche, that “That which does not kill me, strengthens me.” But I can't. Instead, I prayed.

Who says prayer doesn't work? After what seemed an eternity, a Volkswagen pulled over and the driver signaled for me to get in. Only those who have ever nearly frozen to death on a deserted, Arctic-like road in Ohio in the middle of the night can possibly appreciate the genius of the automotive engineer who invented the car heater. “Please, sir, turn it up!” I wasn't worried about niceties, I was dying. But, nothing would ease the pain I felt in my hands and feet.

Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the driver said, “I'm leaving Route (they say “rowt”) 40 up here to go on down to my town. Do you want to get out here or stay in?” Unwilling to face the cold and dark roadway again, I opted to stay warm, at least for a few more minutes. Before long, I found myself, at 4:30 a.m., in a combination coffee shop/ Greyhound Bus Station in the Town of North Coshocton, Ohio. I had no idea where I was, or what I was going to do.

Except for the town cop and a couple waitresses, the place was empty....but warm. I had a couple dollars left, got a cup of coffee and sat in a booth to try to collect my thoughts. The waitress asked, “So, where you coming from and where you going, son?” I told her I was hitchhiking home to New England, had gotten

off the highway, had no idea where I was, had run out of money, and, could I put my head down when I finish this coffee and sleep for a few minutes? “Sure, honey, you go right ahead.” That's the way waitresses who have knucklehead sons of their own talk to lost boys.

I don't know how long I slept with my head on my arms on the table, but at some point I was awakened by my newfound confidante, the waitress, who was shaking my shoulder to bring me to my senses. “Listen here, young man, there's a bus outside loading up for Pittsburgh. I spoke to the driver, and he said he'd carry you to there, then he'll speak to the next driver to see if he can get you to Philadelphia. Here's a ticket, now get going!”

“Oh,” I said, “You are my Christmas angel! What's your name?” “Helen,” she answered. “Get going, and take this!” as she handed me a couple sandwiches in a paper bag.

I found a seat, and to my very great surprise and pleasure saw that the bus was nearly full of college students heading home for Christmas. As we rolled on across the Buckeye State, we were singing Christmas Carols and sharing cookies and other treats. As I watched the snow falling on the farmlands of Ohio as we rolled on, I wondered, “Does it get any better, any more quintessentially American than this?” How my fortunes had changed course literally overnight.

In Pittsburgh (which was always dirty in snowy winter because of the steel mills ), the next driver was amenable to “carrying” me (as they said) across the state to “Philthydelphia” (also dirty in the winter), and, as in those days there were only a few Interstate highways, I got to see the entire length of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, the first such major road project in American history.

My luck held in Philly, and soon we were roaring up the New Jersey Turnpike to the Port Authority Bus Terminal where I thought the free ride surely would come to an end. After all, this was New York, the “City that Never Sleeps”, and where no one cares for anyone else. The next driver for the leg to Boston must not have been a New Yorker because he apparently agreed to bring me to Park Square in Boston--”no problem, kid, Merry Christmas.”

I made it home with a couple dollars in my pocket, still exhausted and hungry, but not freezing to death. I told my mother about Helen in Ohio, and she said “Before you do anything else-like sleep for the next 24 hours--here's a Christmas

card. Write her a thank you note and we'll send it right away so she gets it before Christmas.” I did, and then fell into a deep sleep, thankful for my great and good fortune.

People on these pages sometimes mock me for my--in their opinion--”super patriotism.” I don't know that they would if they had had the life experiences I was fortunate enough to have had. Because of my many experiences as a young man hitchhiking across major portions of America-and sometimes the entire country-I can say I have really seen America and Americans, the best and the worst of it and them. The best far outweighs the worst. Helen from Ohio, and the bus drivers, and my fellow bus passengers are only a tiny fraction of those of my countrymen and women who were kind and generous to a “Knight of the Road” just trying to get somewhere for some reason.

These people and places are in “Flyover Country”, that part of America the “better” people never see except when looking down from 35,000 feet. They will never understand the affection people like myself feel for my fellow Americans and their towns, farms, roads, churches, and history. These are the “Deplorables”, as one of the “better” people describes them with acid

dripping from her tongue. Without these people and their work on farms, in energy, and industries...America falls apart. Although their ways of life are mocked as “Heartland Values”, they were what once made America a place of neighborly kindness, where the “Golden Rule” ruled.

I don't remember how Christmas went for us that year-I'm sure it was great, they all were-but, I will never forget Helen from North Coshocton, one of countless folks like her I have encountered during my travels and experiences out there in the “Big Country” who have made me believe there is just something very special about “real” Americans.

Rather than wring our hands and despair over present circumstances facing us, I propose we take some time and think back on those Christmases of the past and the people who made them so great for us all. I will not wish you the bland, antiseptic, formulaic “Happy Holidays”, but, rather, I wish for you and yours-even you liberals-a very Merry Christmas, and, as Tiny Tim so famously said, “May God bless us every one!”

JOHN McRAE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

### TAME

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al intimidation against anyone who dares to disagree with him, whether they are Democrat or Republican. He demands loyalty to himself, not to the Constitution, or the principles that we aspire to. By attacking our election system he has created doubt that our Republic can remain an elected democracy. He seeks to make the U.S. like Russia, China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and North Korea, and all the other dictatorships that Mr. Trump admires because in those dictatorships a vote only counts if it's for the leader, or one of his loyalists. My dear friends and neighbors consider that now a group of attorneys led by AG Ken Paxton, himself under a securities fraud indictment, can win an appeal to the Supreme Court to throw out 10 million votes, then we are truly lost, no longer a Republic. We will have become a dictatorship.

NANCY TAME  
SPENCER

### ROSENBERG

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of the United States. They know Joe Biden won the election and they are attempting to administratively overthrow his administration before it even starts.

Luckily, the Supreme Court has thrown it out. Furthermore, all three of President Trump's appointees sided with the majority. Our judicial system has hung in. Unlike the legislative branch, the judicial branch has remained true to the obvious meaning of our constitution. The constitution is clear that state legislatures get to control their own elections and the state of Texas doesn't get to tell Pennsylvania, Michigan, or anyone else how they should run their elections. The GOP has become a party that has lost touch any touch with democracy given that such a large percentage of its elected officials and voters seemingly agree with this madness.

These Republican House members are terrified of being primaried by a Trump supporter who accuses them of not doing enough to stand with the

president. They desperately want the votes of the various people Donald Trump brought into the voting ranks and they don't want to incur his wrath and see the same fate as the long list of Republicans that lost their primaries to people who more blindly support Trump.

We are seeing immense damage to our democracy. They're calling for an election for millions and millions of people in question for no better reason than they lost. Seventy-seven percent of Trump supporters believe this election was fraudulent, 82% of Trump supporters think he won, and no amount of data, evidence, or lack thereof seems to change any minds. Where do we go from here? How do we move forward? The positions being taken by these traitor-politicians is undemocratic, hypocritical, and it's indefensible.

What is especially interesting is that all the Republican members of congress from Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, that signed onto this lawsuit are basically saying that they were elected in a criminal election. They are calling into question the election that re-elected them... One

would think that if there was widespread fraud in those states it wouldn't be limited to just the presidential election but would extend to those congressional elections as well.

The election challenges appear to be over. The Supreme Court has rejected seemingly anything that one could think up. President Trump though has said that his legal team will continue to pursue challenges and that “it's not over.” Steve Scalise said, “Let the legal process play out” on Sunday. It seems to me that the legal process is over and the oft-repeated statement of Trump supporters, “we shall see” has come to its conclusion. We have seen. There is no evidence or any type of legal theory that makes sense to overturn this election. Joe Biden won. It's over.

While the election is over, President-Elect Biden has clearly and unambiguously won, and legal challenges have concluded that may not stop Trump from inciting civil unrest to retain power.

On that topic, we shall see.

DAVID ROSENBERG  
SPENCER



# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

12:04-12:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Irving Street), barking dog/in distress; 1:01 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:37 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), flyer issued; 1:52 a.m.: disturbance (Casey Street), noise complaint; 3:11 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:00 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), dead deer/Route 9; 6:40 a.m.; disturbance (Main Street), loud dispute; 8:17 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 8:28 a.m.: parking complaint (Cherry Street), illegal parking; 8:36 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:12 a.m.: disabled mv (Bixby Road), blocking d/way; 10:59 a.m.: medical/general (Candlewood Drive); 11:51 a.m.: vandalism (Valley Street), snack shack broken into; 11:51 a.m.: animal complaint (Woodside Road), injury/unknown origin; 1:18 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 1:48 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road), Kayla Trotta, 22, 489 Main Street, Sturbridge, warrant, arrest; 3:32 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 4:02 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 4:03 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), insurance scam; 4:48 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), unemployment scam; 5:39 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), mv/no plates; 5:44 p.m.: officer wanted (R. Jones Road), rec'd item for daughter/concerned; 5:58 p.m.: entire incident redacted from police log; 6:52 p.m.: accident (Brooks Pond Road), report taken; 7:28 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 7:57 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (Total daily mv stops – 7).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

12:01 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:04-2:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:30 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), welfare check; 2:37 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 2:57 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:32 a.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 5:00 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 7:58 a.m.: mv lockout (Lloyd Dyer Drive), assisted; 8:47 a.m.: fire alarm (Meadow Road), referred; 11:35 a.m.: lost/found (Main Street), found property; 11:52 a.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 12:07 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 12:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), disabled mv; 12:46 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet recovered; 12:51 p.m.: trespassing (Ash Street), hunters on property; 1:03 p.m.: 911 call (Langevin Street), accidental; 1:18-1:26 p.m.: parking violations (Mechanic, Church streets), tickets issued; 1:33 p.m.: suspicious persons (Woodland Lane), info taken; 1:37 p.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 1:50 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), loose/sickly dog; 1:51 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), speeding; 1:52 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), confrontation; 1:57 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 2:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), welfare check; 2:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: stolen gun; 3:16 p.m.: suspicious mv (Woodside Road), investigated; 3:32 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:53 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 4:53 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no emergency; 5:03 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Sunset Lane), welfare check; 6:25 p.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 8:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Wire Village Road), debris in road; 9:25 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:34 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), noise complaint; 9:54-11:52 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

12:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:20-12:29 a.m.: parking violations (Chestnut, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 12:48-1:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:03 a.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 1:40 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), welfare check; 7:51 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 8:00 a.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 9:08 a.m.: fraud (Sherman Grove), unemployment scam; 9:10 a.m.: fraud (Lakeshore Drive), unemployment scam; 10:19 a.m.: fraud (Church Street), SS scam; 10:52 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), found cat; 12:08 p.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), illegal parking; 1:18 p.m.: fraud (Briarwood Lane), unemployment scam; 2:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:10 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:21 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:45 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:05 p.m.: harassment prevention violation (Main Street), services rendered; 4:16 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:26 p.m.: parking violation (Adams Street), ticket issued; 4:26 p.m.: burglary (Main Street), storage bldg./items taken; 4:35 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 4:51 p.m.: citizen complaint (Chestnut Street), spoken to; 5:04 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 5:30 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Bixby Road); 5:38 p.m.: accident (High Street), report taken; between 5:38-6:03 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 6:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), welfare check; 6:41 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), misdial; 8:12 p.m.: medical/gen-

eral (Howe Village), lift assist; 8:26 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 9:33 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:12 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:26 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), noise complaint; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

12:09-12:15 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:26 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:30-12:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), flyer issued; 12:50 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 1:04-1:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:13 a.m.: parking violation (Pope Street), ticket issued; 1:28 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:32 a.m.: parking violation (South Street), ticket issued; 1:39-1:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), info taken; 2:18-2:24 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:43 a.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 7:37 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), 3-legged coyote behind house; 10:59 a.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), assisted; 11:22 a.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), icy conditions; 11:25 a.m.: accident (Main Street), info taken; 11:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), investigated; 11:31 a.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), trees in road; 11:38 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 11:55 a.m.: officer wanted (Cranberry Meadow Road), mv off road; 1:04 p.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 1:20 p.m.: mv repossessed (Woodside Road), info taken; 1:22 p.m.: DPW call (East Charlton Road), tree on wires; 1:45 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), spoken to; 1:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), stray cat; 2:21 p.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), wire down; 2:40 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), wire across Rte. 9; 2:50 p.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; 2:59 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 3:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), branch in road; 3:17 p.m.: parking complaint (Crown Street), info taken; 3:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), low-hanging wire; 3:28 p.m.: DPW call (School Street), van stuck; 3:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Garrette Lane), tree in road; 3:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), cable down; 3:51 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Bixby Road), wire sparking; 4:01 p.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), wires down; 4:09 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), lg. branch in road; 4:31 p.m.: officer wanted (East Charlton Road), plow took down phone line; 4:39 p.m.: DPW call (Gold Nugget Road), tree in road; 4:40 p.m.: juvenile matter (Buteau Road), family issue; 4:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), box truck off road; 4:47 p.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), icy conditions; 5:10 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 5:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), lines down; 5:30 p.m.: DPW call (McCormick Road), truck stuck; 5:46 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:51 p.m.: DPW call (Grove Street); 6:02 p.m.: DPW call (Jolicoeur Avenue), low-hanging wire; 6:04 p.m.: accident (Donnelly Road), mv off road; 6:26 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 6:45 p.m.: DPW call (G.H. Wilson Road), tree on wires; 7:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), low-hanging wire; 7:18 p.m.: accident (Vista Lane), plow struck mv; 7:47 p.m.: DPW call (Bacon Hill Road), tree down; 7:48 p.m.: DPW call (Woodside Road), tree down; 7:51 p.m.: DPW call (Donnelly Cross Road), wires down; 7:59 p.m.: medical/general (Norcross Road), lift assist; 8:06 p.m.: DPW call (Charlton Road), transformer blew; 8:12 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:15 p.m.: DPW call (Lake Whittemore Drive), cable down; 8:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Walnut Street), cable down; 8:29 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:08 p.m.: DPW call (Sherwood Drive), low-hanging wires; 9:51 p.m.: DPW call (Browning Pond Road), tree down; 9:54 p.m.: medical/general (Wilson Street); (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

12:46-1:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:26 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), m/f confrontation; 1:38-1:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:33 a.m.: disturbance (South Spencer Road), assault/unwanted party; 3:54 a.m.: fire alarm (South Spencer Road), referred; 5:14 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), power out; 5:20 a.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), low-hanging wire; 5:47 a.m.: fire alarm (Paxton Road), referred; 5:53 a.m.: disturbance (Grove Street), verbal altercation; 6:13 a.m.: DPW call (Wilson Street), wires across road; 7:25 a.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), open line; 7:34 a.m.: DPW call (Hebert Road), tree down; 8:43 a.m.: DPW call (Sunset Lane), branch on wires; 9:02 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 9:20 a.m.: DPW call (Borkum Road), tree down; 10:15 a.m.: DPW call (Point Eastalee Drive), no power; 11:06 a.m.: DPW call (Cornfield Road), low-hanging wire; 11:51 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 11:52 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 11:57 a.m.: mv lockout (Lakeshore Drive), assisted; 12:15 p.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), d/way blocked; 12:39 p.m.: DPW call (Charron Street), icy conditions; 1:46 p.m.: parking complaint (Dale Street), roadway blocked; 2:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), re: package rec'd; 2:13 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 2:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), unwanted party; 2:35 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), re: bank

acct. issues; 2:59 p.m.: parking complaint (Dale Street), wrong-way parking; 3:11 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 4:46 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:08 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:04 p.m.: DPW call (Emmett Street), icy conditions; 7:17 p.m.: elderly matter (Paxton Road), welfare check; 7:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Valley Street), re: cat/kittens; 7:48-7:58 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; between 7:58-8:30 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 8:30 p.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 10:28 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 11:51 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

12:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Bay Path Road), wants d/way shoveled; 12:01-12:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:31 a.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), noise complaint; 12:54-1:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:11 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 7:14 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), icy conditions; 7:32 a.m.: medical/general (Spring Street); 8:36 a.m.: accident (Dustin Street), hit/run; 8:38 a.m.: vandalism (Howe Village), report taken; 8:42 a.m.: DPW call (McDonald Street), icy conditions; 8:49 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), debris in road; 9:12 a.m.: disabled mv (Adams Street), assisted; 9:31 a.m.: accident (South Spencer Road), report taken; 9:45 a.m.: 911 call (Lake Avenue), open line; 10:25 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 10:40 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Mercury Drive), hang-up; 10:56 a.m.: parking complaint (Adams Street), services rendered; 10:58 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 11:04 a.m.: warrant service (West Main Street), Olivia M. Rondeau, 22 Pleasant Street, Leicester, warrant, arrest; 11:29 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:54 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:07 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 1:30 p.m.: building checked, secure; 1:34 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 2:32 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:45 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), SS scam calls; 2:48 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), test; 3:02 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Road), domestic issue; 3:33 p.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 4:38 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:45 p.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), icy conditions; 5:24 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), loose dogs; 7:14 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:56 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 9:20 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 9:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), threatened by gf; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:35-1:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:17 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions/Rte. 9; 3:23 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions/main roads; 6:18 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), illegal parking; 6:23 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 7:45 a.m.: suspicious mv (McCormick Road), investigated; 7:58 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), missing dog; 8:18 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 8:30 a.m.: mv lockout (Jolicoeur Avenue), assisted; 9:05 a.m.: medical/general (Sunset Lane); 10:25 a.m.: fraud (G.H. Wilson Road), SS scam; 10:55 a.m.: parking complaint (Maple Street), truck blocking road; 11:27 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:37 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), elevator test; 1:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), harassing/threatening social media; 1:17-1:18 p.m.: parking violations (Mechanic Street), tickets issued; 1:40 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 2:05 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 2:08 p.m.: accident (Old East Charlton Road), report taken; 2:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street Terrace), parking issue; 2:43 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), family dispute; 4:18p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 5:00 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 6:12 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), tailgating; 6:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 6:39 p.m.: parking complaint (Lincoln Street), info taken; 6:42 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 8:46-11:38 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:52 p.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 11:54 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

## Leicester Police

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

11:07 a.m.: investigation (out of town, no destination specified in police log), services rendered; 1:54 p.m.: search warrant service (Stafford Street), investigated; 3:38 p.m.: investigation (Collier Avenue), services rendered; 5:13 a.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unable to locate; 5:25 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

10:34 a.m.: fraud (Whittemore Street), report taken; 11:10 a.m.: fraud (Sconset Avenue), report taken; 11:55 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), services rendered; 1:11 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve; 1:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street),

verbal warning; 3:47 p.m.: larceny (Baldwin Street), report taken; 5:22 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve; 5:44 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve; 9:49 p.m.: mutual aid (Mechanic Street, Spencer), transported to hospital; 11:19 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 11:44 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), services rendered.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

1:19 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), services rendered; 3:20 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), report taken; 10:37 a.m.: debris in road (Marshall Street), services rendered; 11:39 a.m.: accident (Main Street), no action required; 12:35 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 12:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Pine Ridge Drive), services rendered; 1:14 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:48 p.m.: disabled mv (River Street), services rendered; 1:54 p.m.: debris in road (Rawson Street), services rendered; 2:05 p.m.: disabled mv (Marshall Street), unfounded; 2:08 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), spoken to; 2:26 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), services rendered; 3:40 p.m.: hanging wires (West Street), no action required; 3:47 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), mv towed; 4:08p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), assisted; 4:31 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), no action required; 4:38 p.m.: hanging wires (Main Street), no action required; 5:08 p.m.: water/sewer problem (Boyd Street), no action required; 5:18 p.m.: accident (Mannville Street), no action required; 5:37 p.m.: disabled mv (Grove Street), no action required; 9:44 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Street), no action required.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:59 a.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 9:09 a.m.: assist citizen (Sunset Drive); 11:52 a.m.: assist citizen (Fairview Drive); 12:00 p.m.: runaway (Charlton Street), report taken; 4:28 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:47 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), assisted; 6:20 p.m.: family problem (Towtaid Street), peace restored; 7:55 p.m.: accident (Pine Street), report taken; 9:43 p.m.: missing person (Charlton Street), report taken.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

4:33 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:29 a.m.: accident (Mill Street), report taken; 6:32 a.m.: assist citizen (Tobin Road); 6:41 a.m.: accident (Main Street), mv towed; 6:57 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:03 a.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 9:50 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 11:59 a.m.: b&e/past (Pleasant Street), investigated; 1:05 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), unfounded; 1:44 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street, Spencer), transported to hospital; 5:07 p.m.: keep the peace (Pleasant Street), assisted; 5:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:45 p.m.: welfare check (Whittemore Street), transported to hospital.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

1:09 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:15 a.m.: mv off road (Mulberry Street), assisted; 7:17 a.m.: fraud (Pleasant Street), report taken; 10:31 a.m.: assist citizen (Virginia Drive), investigated; 11:58 a.m.: assist other PD (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered; 12:33 p.m.: lockout (Deer Pond Road), services rendered; 1:53 p.m.: investigation (Hope Avenue, Worcester), services rendered; 3:20 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 7:36 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), spoken to; 9:07 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:38 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pond Court), unfounded; 6:07 p.m.: parking complaint (Winslow Avenue), unfounded; 6:53 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:34 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), message delivered; 9:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:57 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), report taken.

## DA

continued from page A6

also received extensive training as part of the DA's "This Is Not About Drugs" program. They look forward to working with students each year, even if it is remotely.

"This Is Not About Drugs (TINAD) is a youth-focused educational program addressing the opioid health crisis," said Leicester Police Chief Ken Antanavica. "It addresses youth substance misuse with an emphasis on prescription opioids."

The TINAD program is engaging and interactive, featuring several educational scenarios and question-answer sessions. It also enables police leaders to work directly with students and present the dangers of addiction.

"Officer Murphy and myself are trained instructors in TINAD. The DA's office spearheaded the program, gave us the training, and now they just came up with a virtual version which works well with the hybrid learning that is taking place in schools," Antanavica added.

District Attorney Early and his team look forward to resuming in-person programming as soon as they are able. To learn more about ongoing community outreach efforts, visit [www.worcesterda.com](http://www.worcesterda.com).



KANE  
continued from page A9

“well educated” and have good jobs-have gone to the well off, especially those in our “Global Cities” and well-off suburbs. This means less and less has gone to communities like ours leading to “Deaths of Despair.”

D&C, being “Problem Solvers,” have improvement suggestions.

First, as health specialists, they recommend reducing our health costs, which can be 300 percent higher than countries like us.

D&C, also economists, say that our “public sector” should negotiate with the private sector on drug, hospital, insurance costs etc. This happens in countries like ours. They would also think underpaid, overworked, often at-risk nurses and other frontline medical workers should receive better salaries and job opportunities.

D&C also recommend that wealthy taxpayers and corporations contribute more to America’s well-being. This could equal to the levels they contributed in the 1950s-1970s growth years.

Another set of “Problem Solvers” currently attempts to secure funding needed by all American communities and states help us cope and recover from the brutally mis-managed ongoing Covid-19 disaster. Here the “Problem Solvers” exist as a bi-partisan or mixed group of Republican and Democratic congressional law makers. Here they have come together to address Covid-19 problems and solutions.

Their current focus involves getting approval for a new Covid-19 relief bill that includes;

Paying workers and providing unemployment and housing rental assistance

State, local and tribal government support,

Covid-19 vaccine development, distribution, transit and testing

Education, student loans, and childcare assistance, and

Healthcare provider, transportation, nutrition/agriculture, postal service, community lending, and opioid epidemic assistance

In Massachusetts and our local communities, we are lucky to be surrounded by “Problem Solvers” including;

Our Governor, Charley Baker, US Attorney, Andrew Lelling

Our Congressman and Chair of the important House Rules Committee, Jim McGovern, and

Our State Senator Ann Gobi who Chairs the Joint Committees of the Environment, and Higher Education and serves on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

While we may not always agree with them, we know from long experience that they approach their elected positions as “Problems Solvers”.

For the past four years, soon to be former President Trump and enablers, supporters, etc.-nationally and locally- have offered us a different approach – “Hate Thy Neighbor” especially if they disagree or are “different” from you. In other words, keep “our” White people angry at others, no matter how good they are. Then we, though a minority of Americans,

can stay in control. continue to “eat,” pay low taxes and ignore American problems.

Problems and disasters that have begun or grown during Trump’s Presidency include;

Assaults on our democracy, public institutions and honest, patriotic officials,

An out of control Covid-19 epidemic – the worst in the world – that no matter how good that vaccine or otherwise will kill more Americans than did the Second World War and damaged our economy and millions more

The rapidly worsening Climate Crisis and environmental deterioration killing thousands per year and more affect the lives of our children and grandchildren.

Deepening inequality with the rich-even in the time of Covid-19-getting more and more and the rest of us, less and less

The weakening of the public assets that once made us the envy of world; education, science, infrastructure, strong communities and other public services, and

The loss of global trade and military allies replaced by the likes of Russia’s Putin whose military have unleashed successful cyberattacks on American government departments.

What will it be?

Support of Problem Solvers “Red” and “Blue” and “colored” Black, Brown and White?

Or the “Haters” who seek to divide us and replace American democracy with control by a reactionary minority?

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

KIMBALL  
continued from page A8

will be reduced (his only legislative win was borrowing another two trillion dollars and giving 83 percent to millionaires) 7) Isis would be defeated in 30 days, and 8) he would release his taxes.

What we have instead, is a person who pledged to support and defend the constitution, convincing others who made the same pledge to sign onto the most convoluted series of claims that have ever been. Yesterday he claimed that he would never pack the court, just a few short weeks after doing just that. Today he claims his 6 to 3 packed court lacks courage and judgement. You can’t make these things up.

I had been concerned about just how many state secrets he would have to sell to service that \$400 million debt, that is about to come due, but the upside of his cult, is that they are sending him more money now than before the election. His faithful crew is kicking in big and pledging more because they don’t want him accepting the results of a free and fair election, they believed he could not lose.

He has said he would be really terrible if he could lose to Joe Biden. Well, he

did, but not because Biden was everyone’s first choice, but because he was last choice. For some, Biden was their guy, for some, him running on his record which included botching a pandemic response, climate change denial, and dumping on our allies, was their motivation For me, my disgust and embarrassment of having such a president, I would have voted for a toaster or hologram first.

I am not just saddened by seeing what partisanship is doing to my country. I am watching a party that [flushed] away \$25 million while Hillary Clinton was unable to get help, that Congress had refused funding for, to five Americans in Benghazi., but is sitting idly by while 3,000 Americans are dying of Covid daily, people are losing roofs over their heads and going hungry.

I hope you are gratified watching this happen as stocks perform well. If this is Making America Great, I don’t understand the word, and, I submit, neither do you.

Rosenberg says wearing masks and distancing is too great a sacrifice and loss of freedom. This is not the freedom our people have fought and died for, no matter what he thinks.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

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Peach	\$25.00
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Monetary Donations may be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562.

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept, Spencer Post Office, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St). If you would like to sponsor a child please contact Katie at [katrinah@erakey.com](mailto:katrinah@erakey.com) or call/text 508-419-3659 OR Donna at [donnaflannery@erakey.com](mailto:donnaflannery@erakey.com) or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.

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