

WFD delivers toys for families to CAC

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Members of the fire department delivered a trailer packed full of toys to the CAC for needy families Dec. 13 as five months planning combined with hard work guaranteed some 100 plus families will have something special under the tree for Christmas day.

The selection of toys was so diverse, that if you couldn't find it in the trailer the odds were it wasn't on the store shelf. From bicycles for children of varying ages to Star Wars, Hot Wheels, Barbie, games, and all things in between, you name it and the odds were good it could be seen. Charitable people from all over the Toy Town area and beyond extended both their arms and hearts with the gift of charity in what Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni described as the best and most productive effort yet in the toy drive fundraising program.

Locally, toy collection bins were placed at Smith's Country Cheese, CVS, Broadview Assisted Living Center, Not Just Produced, Family Dollar, and the WFD. A thanks to Performance Press

for donating the signs adorned by each helping those find them looking to drop off toys along their merry way.

Ruschioni explained, "We have been doing this with our motorcycle club, Fire & Iron Station 857 and the Winchendon Fire Fighters Relief Association for the last four to five years. We want to thank all the sites where they allowed us to have our collection boxes. We collected multiple boxes from all the sites. We also give a thanks to the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 907 from Gardner who also made a donation this year, along with Nancy Macomber for her donation. In addition, Walmart of Rindge gave us ten percent off all our purchases, which was awesome."

Comparing this year's drive to previous, Ruschioni added, "This year was just awesome. We did better than any of the previous years. The trailer is 6'x6'x12' and we filled it right up between the toys and items dropped off, and what we were able to purchase with the financial donations! Last year the weather was a little nicer and we delivered everything on a convoy of

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Keith Kent photos

Patrick Connors, Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni, Ashley Girouard, long time CAC volunteer Denise Lapierre, and Daniel Voutilja with part of the toys delivered to CAC.

Health concerns addressed at local stores

WINCHENDON — Health Agent Jim Abare says Family Dollar and Central Supermarket IGA are once again in good condition. He says the two stores, located in Central Plaza, have addressed concerns aired during a meeting of the Winchendon Board of Health last week.

In a statement posted on the town's website last Friday, Abare said, "Over one month ago the town's Health Officer was notified of a rodent problem in both businesses. Family Dollar and IGA hired an exterminator to address the problem. The exterminators have notified the town that there (has) been no sign of rodent activity in a month."

Abare added that neither he nor the staff of either store was able to track down the source of an unpleasant odor detected at both locations.

The health agent reported that Family Dollar voluntarily closed its doors last Thursday, Dec. 8, to "expedite their cleaning efforts." The store re-opened the following day.

Central Supermarket, according to Abare, remained open while staff cleaned up the store.

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Come cruisin' on 12 for a good meal

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — In the food business for more than two decades, Frank Lombardo is a nonetheless a new face in town as the owner of the Cruisin' 12 Diner Francesco's on School Street and a couple weeks into his tenure, he's excited to be here. "We've gotten a nice welcome," he



Morgan St. Pierre photo

Frank Lombardo is ready for customers

said.

"People are willing to give us a try," he added.

Lombardo's a new face ownership-wise but he's been here before, having won a couple of titles at the annual August chili cook off and so it goes without saying chili is his favorite food.

"Absolutely," he laughed, adding, "mine is delicious, I promise you."

"I'm not going to tell you my secret recipe," Lombardo chuckled, "but it works. Chicken chili. Veggie chili. Meat chili. It's all good."

Having been a chef to 20-plus years, Lombardo thinks he has a pretty good idea of what will and won't work at a restaurant currently open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Homestyle food. That's what people want and that's what we're serving," he said. "People will be able to tell it's homestyle. You always can and we have a good product."

Lombardo said he driving to Keene, NH when he noticed the Cruisin' property was for sale.

"It was empty and I immediately thought it was a good location for people driving along Route 12 to and from New Hampshire, Fitzwilliam and beyond that. I thought this was a great opportunity and so here we are," he noted.

Being open for breakfast means an early start to the day and Lombardo said he gets to work around 5 a.m. to start on muffins and getting coffee ready.

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Just how to decide to close schools

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — It's wintertime in New England. That means it snows and that in turn means school officials sometimes have to decide whether to open or close on any given day. As might be expected, that's frequently not a slam-dunk decision and can, in fact, be pretty complicated.

"Obviously our priority is the safety of our students and staff and sometimes whether we open or not depends on the timing of storms," said local Superintendent Steve Haddad, who this year heads a consortium of more than a dozen school districts which try to collaborate in making school-or-no-school decisions in the early-morning hours with a flurry of emails, phone calls and road evaluations. "No one else wanted to be the 'host'," he laughed.

But in a more serious vein he added, "they all told me it would be challenging to make the decisions. They were right."

Like everyone else, area superintendents watch the weather forecasts on television for days before potential storms approach. If snow starts falling in the evening or at night, said Haddad, Jim Murphy and Martin Johnson are likely out beginning to plow the school driveway and parking lots as early as 3 a.m.

"I'll call Jim or usually, he'll call me and tell me what it's like," Haddad noted.

By 4:15 or so, Haddad is on a conference call with other superintendents.

"We and Ash-West (Oakmont), Narragansett, Gardner and Monty Tech all try to reach the same decision since we're pretty close to each other geographically," he noted. "We try to make the decision by 5 a.m. after we've had a chance to talk to the roads people, in our case Al Gallant, or if he and his crew are all out plowing, we can talk to the police and get an assessment of

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Special holiday services planned

BY TARA VOCINO
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — With Christmas and more snow around the corner, churches in town are planning something special for this Sunday.

In addition, there are special programs planned at schools and events to get you into the holiday spirit.

Among these are Canatas by the United Parish presented twice: Saturday, Dec. 17 at Old Murdock Senior Center at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at the United Parish at 10 a.m.

Community caroling with United Parish will be Sunday, Dec. 18 beginning at 3 p.m.

Holiday concerts at the schools are Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Living Nativity presented by United Parish will be at the Clark YMCA on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy the season with family and friends.

Church of God
30 Beech St,
978-297-1723

Rev. Howard Underwood said many

families who moved away will come to the Sunday, Dec.18 service, as they are in the area visiting family.

The 11 a.m. Sunday service will recognize staff for service all year long.

"We'll have a Christmas message and a gift for them to recognize them for their time and show appreciation," Underwood said.

Underwood will draw his sermon from Luke 2:12 (KJV), which tells the birth of Christ.

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Heating up the courts

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Scout troop takes on late season challenge



Courtesy photos

Junior Girl Scout troop 11694 helped plant daffodil bulbs at Toy Town Elementary School.

At left: The young women were eager helpers to get the bulbs into the ground before the winter set in.

WINCHENDON — In the beginning of November, Project Playground partnered with the

Winchendon Enhancement committee to sell the remaining daffodil bulbs left over from the Fall Festival. In little over two weeks, more than 400 daffodil bulbs were sold, and some 150 of those were donated by our community members to be planted within the Toy Town Elementary playground garden areas.

On Nov. 19, the Winchendon Juniors Girl Scouts troop 11694 helped plant the donated daffodil bulbs in the garden areas at Toy Town Elementary school.

Leaders and parents: Jennifer Bourque, Michelle Michelson and Diana Drake asked if their troop could help since the troop was working on their Bronze award within Girl Scouts.

COURIER CAPSULES

SANTA PAWS DANCE
“Santa Paws” Dance for a Cause: Thursday, Dec. 22

Community support and outreach has been a part of East Dance Studios since its establishment in 1991. Each year we, as an organization, enjoy combining our love of dance and the performing arts with our love of giving back to the communities we so proudly serve. This holiday season our initiative is to support our furriest little friends with a series of “Santa Paws” dance parties on a bonus night of classes, Thursday, Dec. 22 at our Winchendon Studio location.

Parties are open to ALL of our students. We kindly ask that all party attendees bring a donation to help a shelter dog or cat (examples: canned food, a new toy, or any shelter-appropriate donation). All dancers who participate will receive a special little recognition memento along with the dance fun, learning, and camaraderie of the event.

HEALING FOR THE HOLIDAYS
POSTPONED Come ring in Holiday Spirit with some fun shopping and services provided by Holistic and Spiritual vendors at the Murdock-Whitney House, 151 Front St. from 1-5 p.m. postponed until Saturday, Jan. 7 because the weather is supposed to be foul.

Get some much needed grounding and stress relief right before the holiday and pick up some great gifts as well.

Presented by Lucky Belcamino co-owner of The Holistic Mystic on Central.

Treat yourself to chair massage, Reiki, psychic and Tarot readings along with vendors who will be offering crystals, stones, jewelry and natural herbs. Vendors will offer discounted fees and prices for their services and items for sale during this event. Indulge in the season for some pampering and holistic healing.

CONSIDERING CANDIDATES

GARDNER — The Mount Wachusett Community College Board of Trustees will meet Thursday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. at the Gardner Campus in the Murphy Conference Room to consider the five finalists for the presidency of the college. All of the finalists visited the campus last week for interviews and a series of forums with students, faculty, staff and community members. The visits followed a national search led by Search Committee Chair Richard Cella and a committee comprised of college and community representatives. The committee was assisted in the search by R.H. Perry and Associates, a presidential search firm.

Following the Board of Trustees action on recommendation of the next president, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education is expected to take up the matter at their Jan. 17 meeting.

President Daniel M. Asquino announced his retirement earlier this year after serving the college for over 30 years and Massachusetts Public Higher Education for 47 years. Asquino is expected to remain at the college through a transition period with the new president.

For more information on each of the finalists and the presidential

search process, visit: mwcc.edu/presidents-transition.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Gardner Area League of Artists is sponsoring a series of digital photography workshops with instructor Norm Eggert. GALA members: \$55 per person, non-members: \$75 per person (fee includes a one year GALA membership)

Part One
On Saturday, Feb. 4 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the GALA Arts Gallery, 135 Front St, Winchendon. You will meet with the instructor to discuss camera techniques and cover the basics. You will also cover how to make great photographic compositions. Homework will be given out for the next class.

Part Two
Saturday, March 4 10 a.m.-noon at the GALA Arts Gallery, 135 Front St, Winchendon. Critique: Photographers will show their work using a projector. Bring your photos on a USB device. You may bring one of your favorite prints for display.

Part Three
Planned for April, exact date TBA; opening reception: exact date TBA; location: TBA. Photographers will choose their best works to enter the GALA Spring Photography Exhibit. Exhibit will be at no additional cost since installation fees are already included in the workshop fee.

Norm Eggert has taught for many years at the Worcester Art Museum and Mount Wachusett Community College. Enroll and pay online with a credit/debit card or PayPal account;

or to enroll and pay by mailing a check to GALA, PO Box 664, Gardner, MA 01440.

CONCERT TOMORROW

The New England Symphony Orchestra announced bankHometown will continue as a sponsor of its Holiday Pops concert. bankHometown serves customers with a network of branches in Massachusetts and Connecticut, reaching much of the same population as the New England Symphony.

Tickets for the annual Holiday Pops Concert with the New England Symphony Orchestra can be purchased through the NESO's Web site at newenglandsymphony.org or (978) 466-1800. The concert will take place at the Stratos Dukakis Performing Arts Center at Montachusett Regional Technical High School, 1050 Westminster Street in Fitchburg, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Appearing with the orchestra will be the Quabbin Valley Pro Musica and baritone John Salvi. The program will include excerpts from Handel's “Messiah” and the “Fantasia on Christmas Carols” by Ralph Vaughan Williams, plus our traditional holiday sing-along. The orchestra will also perform music of John Williams, and the original score to the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

Ticket prices range from \$28 to \$35, discounted to \$25 to \$32 for seniors and \$12 for students. Bring your family, friends, or significant other to a memorable concert you won't want to miss.



TEA AT THE MANSION

The first floor of the Murdock-Whitney House was a vision.



Staff photos

The Winchendon Historic and Cultural Center held an open house and buffet tea at the Murdock-Whitney House, also opening the Isaac Morse House to visitors as well. The afternoon was very busy.

The holiday is in full swing and sparkling.



HOW TO USE: THE WINCHENDON COURIER

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Gardner brand going abroad



Courtesy photos

Owner Rick Walton and head brewer Ryan Daigle in the brew room.

The brewery at the Gardner Ale House is announcing plans to distribute beer outside the Ale House under the parent company's name, Moon Hill Brewing Co. Inc. Owner Rick Walton said that when he started Moon Hill Brewing Co. in 2005, it was intended to be the corporate umbrella for the Gardner Ale House and any other enterprises involving food and beverage that presented themselves.

"We now find ourselves able to dis-

tribute our beer and that will be our next enterprise," Walton said.

Moon Hill already has a tap dispensing its "Packie Run" Session IPA at The Columbia Tavern in Leominster. And now, as a grand opening event, Moon Hill Brewing took over all the taps at The Columbia Tavern Dec. 15 until closing.

Walton said that "A tap takeover is a traditional marketing activity in the craft brewing world. Basically, a venue,



Under Moon Hill Brewing Company, the Gardner brand is branching out.

like The Columbia Tavern, will agree to pour beers from only one brewery for a given amount of time."

Walton summed it up by saying "The tap takeover event is being used as our grand opening for Moon Hill Brewing Co.'s new effort at distribution. Right now there are only two places you can find Moon Hill beers: At the Gardner Ale House and now at The Columbia Tavern in Leominster.

ACCURACY WATCH

The *Winchendon Courier* 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 three in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (978) 297-0050 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 contact the editor at the following email: ruth@stonebridgepress.com.

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CLYDE'S CORNER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 SKATE CLUB

Winchendon Skate Club invites all ice skaters to join our club. We skate from 8-10 a.m. every Saturday at the Winchendon School on Ash Street. The 2016-17 season is right around the corner. The Winchendon Skate Club provides educational lessons that teach proper techniques. We offer learn to skate programs for beginners of ice skating and hockey. Find us on Facebook-Winchendon Skate Club or Winchendonskateclub@yahoo.com.

FREE GIFT WRAPPING: The Murdock High School cheerleaders are planning a community service project Saturday, Dec. 17. The community can bring in their holiday gifts and have them wrapped for free by the cheerleaders at the Crafty Cauldron classroom, 89 Central St. It will be all day, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The event will have its own entrance, so it's completely separate from the store. There will also be a small bake sale in which the proceeds will go towards buying new uniforms.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: presented

by the United Parish is scheduled at Old Murdock Senior Center at 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: at the United Parish, 35 Front St., followed by luncheon and a children's party beginning at 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY CAROLING: meet at the United Parish Church, 35 Front St. beginning at 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

COOKIE DECORATING: You are invited to the annual Winchendon SEPAC Holiday cookie swap and decorating party 6 p.m. at Ipswich Drive Community Center. Childcare is available for workshops but you must RSVP to sepac@winchendonk12.org or call the Special Ed office at (978) 297-1850.

LEARN: Computer classes for adults are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Beals Memorial Library and are open to adults ages 18 and older.

CRAFT FOR ADULTS: On Tuesday nights at 6:30 Beals Memorial Library has an adult craft hour providing a place to meet and do crafts. People

bring in things they are working on, and can get help on knitting, crocheting, quilting and discuss different ideas.

HOLIDAY CONCERT: Murdock Middle-High School winter choral concert at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

BINGO! Hyde Park residents hold bingo in the community hall every Wednesday night beginning at 6 p.m. It's inexpensive, just two cards for 5¢, and the community is invited! Anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to join in. We'd love to have more players.

HOLIDAY CONCERT: the Murdock Middle-High School winter band concert is at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

OUR NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN: Our Neighbor's Kitchen, Winchendon's Community Supper, is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. The December meals for Our Neighbor's Kitchen are:

Thursday, Dec. 22: Beef Burgundy Christmas dinner with sides and dessert

Our Neighbor's Kitchen meals are cooked homestyle from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door, contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations, and many hard-working volunteers.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
LIVING NATIVITY: at the Clark Memorial YMCA, presented by the United Parish beginning at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

ROCKING NEW YEAR'S EVE: the party is back at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 8 p.m. Sponsored by the Knights of the Inferno, the band Rock House will provide music as Toy Town rocks in the new year. Raffles and surprises too. Tickets are already on sale at the Legion and at To Each His Own Design.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

OUR NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN: Our

Neighbor's Kitchen, Winchendon's Community Supper, is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. The December meals for Our Neighbor's Kitchen are:

Our Neighbor's Kitchen meals are cooked homestyle from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door, contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations, and many hard-working volunteers.

BOOK DISCUSSION: Beals Memorial Library has a book club that meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Thursday each month, the next meeting is Thursday Dec. 8. Books are available at the library.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

ANNUAL BONFIRE: the American Legion will be the site of the bonfire of Christmas trees and wreaths beginning at 5 p.m. A chicken barbecue is planned as well. A drop off point for trees and decorations will be designated in the parking lot; leave yours after the holidays then come watch them go up in flames! More information will be forthcoming.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

OPEN MIC: at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Beginning at 9 p.m. Like to sing? Play an instrument? Willing to jam with a few other musicians? Then come on down and join us at the lower level. Always a good time. Open to everyone! Non-smoking venue.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

LIONS MEAT RAFFLE: the annual breakout bash is planned with meat galore! Come take a chance on winning a nice roast, pork loin or roasting chicken for a long winter's night. Fun starts at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Always other raffles and surprises too.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

GREASE IS THE WORD: Murdock High School presents the musical *Grease* beginning tonight at 7 p.m.



Keith Kent photos

The choice of trees is always amazing. The trees are raffled as a fundraiser. Who wouldn't want to win one of these beauties?

A FEAST OF TREES

At right: The annual Gardner Historical Society Festival of Trees is always a feast for the eyes. This one involved toys.



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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

'Tis the season

Last weekend the Winchendon firefighters had a toy drive and collected an enormous number of gifts to give the CAC to redistribute.

On Thanksgiving weekend the Unitarian Universalist Church held a toy drive and collected a number of toys to also gift through the CAC.

We are fortunate that people step up and realize Santa isn't always as generous to some as he is to others.

The dichotomy of explaining how an all powerful fairy tale figure can provide expensive toys to one household and barely fulfill a wish for crayons somewhere else is one of the paradoxes of childhood.

Some choose not to buy into Santa for just that reason; but it is hard to hold back a starry eyed child when all the friends around them are so excited.

And if by chance it is because of religious differences rather than just the fairy tale, life can be hardest of all.

So when we see the wrangling over whether to wish one another happy or merry, holidays or specific Christmas wishes, we can understand why some people are a bit reticent about wishing one another something that might bring up bad feelings about the whole thing.

Do we wish a good friend Merry Christmas, not knowing whether they might either not celebrate the holiday themselves or possibly be of another religion? What about Happy Hanukkah? Or the more recently minted Kwanzaa celebrations?

The idea behind giving one another good wishes for the season shouldn't be based on whether or not we agree on just which part of the religious background we are. Yes, Christmas itself is a celebration by Christians to celebrate the birth of a significant part of the pantheon; but it isn't the only holiday at this time of year. And the whole concept of the holidays, peace on earth and goodwill toward men...should be spread to all whether of the same religion or not.

So we are on board with wishing one another any of many good wishes during the next few weeks. We wish one another Happy Holidays. We wish one another Merry Christmas. We have friends we know well enough to confidently wish Happy Hanukkah. There are a few we are pleased to wish Good Solstice. And if we aren't certain, we simply say, please, have a good season, we wish you well.

If we offend because we didn't wish you your preference please understand we still we wish you the best and nothing but the best.

The season requires it.
And we wish it.

Automation and a higher minimum wage

As battle lines are being drawn in the financial sands between the corporate Goliaths and the nationwide effort to increase minimum wage to \$15 per hour fueled by the SEIU and others, many American owned or publicly traded businesses who also serve a global market are currently spending enormous sums of money experimenting with automation to save even more zeros and commas in future expenditures and labor costs.

A clear example of this is corporate behemoth McDonald's, the global leader of the fast food industry. Its golden arches reside over 34,000 restaurants in 118 countries and territories across the world, and serving almost 70 million people every day worldwide. Trading on the NASDAQ at just over \$120 per share with a market cap of nearly \$101 billion, you can bet your bottom dollar this company is working overtime to find ways to have to pay less people any time at all before a higher minimum wage eventually comes to fruition.

This past Nov. 17, good old Ronald and the golden arches announced it was expanding its self-serving digital ordering stations to all of its 14,000 restaurants located in the United States. As technology and its increased memory ability fully double at a rate of once every two years on a computer chip, many who have fought for a higher minimum wage have now just met their true golden arch enemy, the automated McCafé kiosk.

For the last year Southern California was the first to serve as the proverbial "McTesting Grounds" and quite honestly, for those who did not see this coming, they had to have had their blinders on in full denial mode. Now like the Los Angeles metro area Chicago, and many other large metropolises, have all tested successfully with fully automated ordering kiosks. How anybody didn't see this coming I will never know, as even locally all one has to do is look at BJ's Wholesale Club, Sam's Club, Stop



ANYTHING NEAR & FAR
.....
KEITH KENT

& Shop, and many others who now more often than not have more automated kiosks open than those operated by human beings at registers.

The message being sent is clearly not a good one to those other computers who are both bipedal and operate with electro-chemical CPUs, and yes my fellow people that means all of us!

As workers in the teenage group of 16-19 years old make up the largest population of unemployed workers nationally, at over three times the national average and 16.9 percent, many inner cities currently endure a jobless rate of over 28 percent will now have even less options available to find employment. One doesn't have to be rocket scientists at NASA and JPL to know where this is going to lead, more desperate people who are out of options and higher inner city crime.

As a friend recently pointed out to me, even though we may be a constitutional republic we have for some time functioned as a capitalistic republic. I must agree. It was estimated by the Congressional budget office in 2014, if and when this next round of new automation takes place, between another 500,000 to one million workers will lose their jobs.

In the end, I truly feel saddened for all these people who have not come to terms yet with the issue of many of them are about to lose their jobs. While I believe there are employment areas where unions do truly still have a place in professions of public service, in the end I honestly feel like fast food workers were used as pawns in a financial game of chess by the SEIU and others who were publicly warned by corporate American a higher minimum wage would be met with automation where ever possible.

While minimum wage has clearly fallen behind the financial cost of living for years now, I can't help but personally feel a job which doesn't pay as much as one wants is better than no job at all.

Surety...and security

I am going to ask my readers to walk away from their feelings about the individuals in the recent presidential election in order to pragmatically consider what I will discuss in this column. I know it will be hard to do. I can see that every day in the papers and on television as supporters of either Trump or Clinton demonize the recount process, the investigation into possible Russian interference, the impact of Director Comey's two reports on Mrs. Clinton, and daily pros and cons as each cabinet pick is announced.

The topic of this column is the potential ability of foreign governments to access highly classified data belonging to the United States and the possibility that they can actually succeed in influencing both national elections and programs.

At the end of the day, the responsibility for safeguarding American information and processes rests with the sitting administration, whether Democrat or Republican. In this instance, the Obama administration has had eight years to guard against these threats. And before him,

George Bush had eight years.

If foreign governments can access confidential US information and/or influence US elections, there has been a serious failure in our government's ability to protect the nation. It has nothing to do with Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. No individual candidate is involved personally in this in any way, nor would any one individual be able to provide access to these capabilities. Certainly a Republican candidate running at a time of a Democrat administration would have no feasible way to provide access. That would be true of an individual Democrat candidate running during a time of a Republican administration.

Step back and remember when we were all reading about leaks of classified information. In one case, it was a low level employee who took thousands of pages home from work. I think if that was possible, at that level, almost anything related to accessing our data bases is possible.

Let us assume that Russia's Putin "preferred" the elec-



NOTES OF CONCERN
.....
JACK BLAIR

tion of Donald Trump. And he had methods to help sway American voters. First, if I were Putin, I would much more prefer the diplomatic-oriented Democrat administration to the more belligerent and robust Republican alternative. So on the face of it, it doesn't seem, in the absence of any evidence, to assume the Russians wanted a Trump victory and because of our nation's weak national security programs were able in some way to get you or me to vote the way they wanted. It is far more reasonable to assume that blaming the Russians for an election result the supporters of Secretary Clinton did not prefer is a stretch and a story that I believe investigations will show not to have "legs."

More importantly for us, as citizens, is to insist that these leaks and involvements be

carefully analyzed and that programs be designed and put into place that can guarantee that any loopholes are closed and that our nation is fully secure.

This type of analysis and response does not happen in weeks or months. If we dedicate the next four years to a full and complete investigation of these charges and the development of protections, we will make real progress against this sort of interference.

I am encouraged that both the Republicans and Democrats in Congress are agreed investigation of these allegations must take place, hearings must be held, and changes must be demanded and audited as we go along. I have every reason to believe these actions will take place.

It is disappointing to me that President-elect Trump has not backed this effort, yet, probably because his ego is still stinging that people will think his election is illegitimate because of interventions by Russia. In fairness, we have yet to be showed evidence of any meddling and, more importantly, how that meddling was

possible.

It is my hope the President-elect will understand that in January leaks and intervention capabilities related to foreign powers are his responsibility. It passes from Obama to Trump to make sure a full and complete investigation occurs, in a timely manner, and results in changes required to ensure charges like the ones being made now will not occur again.

If, as some believe, this is tilting at windmills and no effective intervention occurred, we still have the Wikileaks problems and other situations of missing classified information that need attention.

As a friend of mine, a solid liberal Democrat columnist, pointed out, we must be mindful that our own nation, the United States of America, is not blameless in interfering with elections in other countries. So as we consider this type of political intervention, let us remember it is not solely the practice of our enemies.

National Security. We clearly do not have it right.

Soon-to-be President Trump, make sure we get it right.

Farewell...and fear

Hero. Icon. Pioneer. Courageous. A lot of terms have been used in the week since he passed to describe John Glenn, whose beyond-remarkable life came to an end at 95 last Thursday. You can choose whichever one you prefer but on this we can all agree — Glenn and the other six original Mercury astronauts, all of whom are now gone, really



JOURNEY OF THE HEART
.....
JERRY CARTON

did represent what was widely seen at the time as American exceptionalism. That's probably not fair to the Soviet cosmonauts who themselves had to have a lot of guts to get on top of those rockets, but we were writing the narrative of the Cold War and so be it.

Glenn, who was in fact a genuine war hero, was the most famous of the seven. Alan Shepard and Gus Grissom had preceded him with sub-orbital flights but it was Glenn who in February 1962

became the first American to orbit the earth and returned home to a thunderous ticker-tape parade through the Canyon of Heroes in New York, delivered an address to Congress and remained the face of the space program. Neil Armstrong gained his own place in history when he became the first human to set foot on the moon in 1969 but for more than 50 years, Glenn's has been the name most closely associated with space.

I remember Glenn's flight. I was a third-grader at Campfield Elementary school in Baltimore County and our teacher wheeled in a black and white

television so we could watch the launch. This wasn't the first time, either. The drama surrounding going into space was all the rage in the early 1960s. A bit less than a year earlier, we second graders had watched Shepard's 15 minute flight, maybe on the same TV for all I know. Astronauts were the epitome of cool. No one was cooler except possibly the country's dashing movie-star handsome young President. We were an optimistic country that could do anything we wanted and what we wanted to do then was conquer outer space and beat the Russians to the moon. They'd



Keeping it all in line

I want to begin this week by thanking everyone who works in our school district, and I do mean everyone, for their efforts and energy and enthusiasm as we went through a district-wide self-evaluation and an ensuing visit from state education officials. I can't say enough good things about our people's professionalism, candor, cooperation and commitment to helping us grow as a school system. They should be proud of themselves for they did our schools and community proud and as superintendent, I'm surely proud of all of them.

I don't want to throw too many numbers out but there are a few to which attention should be paid. Winchendon's "percentage of teachers licensed in teaching assignments" is 100-percent. That's about three points higher than is true statewide.

Our "percentage of core academic classes taught by teach-

ers who are highly qualified?" 99.1-percent, again about three points above the rest of Massachusetts. In layman's terms that means our teachers are better qualified and prepared than any school district across the Commonwealth. That is of course, a testament to how seriously our faculty takes their job and their responsibility to our students.

MCAS scores? Our passage rate in math has jumped 10 points in three years. Math failure rates have dropped more than 50-percent. Our composite performance in ELA, biology and math have risen since just last year. Our advanced placement qualifying scores is up nine percent from last year.



FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT'S
OFFICE
.....
STEVE HADDAD

Statistics, of course, while they show we're moving in the right direction, don't tell the whole story, but they do offer a snapshot of where we're doing better and for that matter, where we need to continue to work on getting better. We know, for example, we need to do a better job on reading in the lower grades. That's why we've been working on creating an aligned curriculum which will make for a smoother transition from one grade to the next, from Pre-K right through 12th grade. When everyone is on the same page and sharing the same long-term objectives, everyone will benefit, most of all the students.

Arranging schedules so teachers in each department have common time to meet and discuss strategies might not seem like a big deal, but it is. That gives them the opportunity to collaborate and teach more effectively, which is something every family in our district wants for their kids.

During our recent self-evaluation I also heard honest appraisals regarding where we need to focus on improving and that's what I was hoping for. Being objective about yourself and your professional strengths and weaknesses isn't easy, but the people who work in our schools managed to do just that. Their candor and eagerness to work towards doing better every day is yet another reason I'm optimistic about the future of Winchendon's school system.

There are other positive signs as well. 83-percent of this year's senior class applied to college before Dec. 1, including real-

istic applications to some Ivy League and other elite schools. Again, while statistics aren't everything, this helps once more put a lie to the perception that Murdock is somehow a so-called lesser school. All of us in the school system are aware how entrenched this perception has become. We understand that columns like this and numbers like the ones I cited above aren't by themselves going to make that perception disappear. But they're a start.

Now we want to talk to families. We want to listen to their concerns. We want the opportunity to cut through the white noise and show you what we're doing. We're proud of the progress we're making and we're confident our schools should be a destination for families, not a system from which they should run. Come see us. We think you'll like what you see. Happy Holidays.

Finding a new role at Murdock



BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER
CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Patty Jackson has been working in Winchendon's public school system for more than two decades, 23 years to be exact and a month ago, she began a new role — as a paraprofessional with the Murdock Academy.

"It's hard to believe it's been that long. I started in the kitchen when my kids were little," she laughed.

"I needed a change" from a whole lot of years at Toy Town Elementary school,

Patty Jackson is the newest member of the staff at the Murdock Academy for Success

where she'd been since 2000, she said, "so when this position opened up after Danelle (Mallard) went over to the central office, I jumped at the chance."

Working in academic environments like the Academy isn't anything new for Jackson since she's been doing that since high school in Assabet Valley.

"I think I was always drawn to wanting to help," she reflected. "I worked with special needs kids when I was in high school myself. I've worked with non-verbal students, with an autistic kid. I've worked in this system as a one-on-one, which was awesome. I love working with this population."

"I think it's what I should be doing right now. Kris (Provost, the Academy director) and Becky (Benedict, who will be the subject of a future Courier profile) have been great. It was daunting at first. It really was. Coming from an elementary school — it's a whole different thing. Getting kids to focus on this level requires a completely different approach. Now though, I feel like I'm finally fitting in and that's a good feeling," said Jackson.

"It's been a challenge," she acknowledged. "It's been a challenge for me because there's a whole different dynamic on the elementary school level from what there is here. You have to learn different kinds of strategies to see what will work but it's rewarding at the same time."

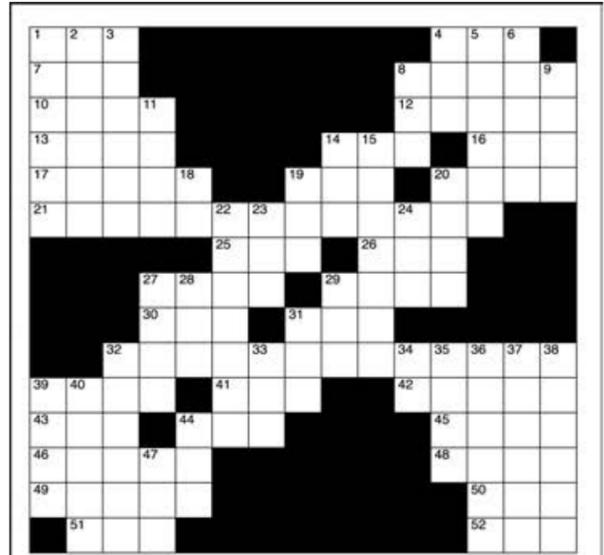
She added she's glad the Academy is on the main campus at Murdock.

"I think that's really important," said Jackson. "I didn't work there when the Academy was down there (on Ash Street) but I think being in the same building means a lot. We have access to a lot of resources here that wasn't the case there. That makes a difference too."

Provost said Jackson is making a difference

herself.

"Patty's been a great addition to our team," he remarked. "Her background in working with kids gave her the right credentials on paper and she's worked out that way, too. She brings us a perspective we hadn't had before and she's working out well," observed Provost, adding, "this is a unique situation but she wasn't fazed by it."



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large primate
- 4. Annualized percentage rate
- 7. Frictional horsepower
- 8. Alternate name
- 10. Incursion
- 12. Metrical feet
- 13. Musician Ingram
- 14. Swiss river
- 16. Text speak for annoying
- 17. Squelch
- 19. Will Ferrell played one
- 20. Close violently
- 21. Arrogant
- 25. Goddess of the dawn
- 26. Today (Spanish)
- 27. Ethiopian town
- 29. Speed
- 30. Kids take it to school
- 31. Bowling ball's adversary
- 32. 1988 NFL MVP
- 39. Volcanic crater
- 41. Curved shape
- 42. Discover by investigation
- 43. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 44. A son who shares his dad's name
- 45. Assist in wrongdoing
- 46. Actress Lathan
- 48. Nonsense (slang)
- 49. Sharp and forthright
- 50. Midway between northeast and east
- 51. NAACP cofounder Wells
- 52. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Again
- 2. Erectile organs
- 3. Concluding speech
- 4. Pie __ mode
- 5. With pustules
- 6. Muslim calendar month
- 8. Need it to live
- 9. Thailand
- 11. Container to serve food
- 14. Boxing great
- 15. Woolen blankets
- 18. Expresses surprise
- 19. Emergency medical services
- 20. Inflamed swelling of the eyelid
- 22. Reporter
- 23. Arrived extinct
- 24. Ad __
- 27. Academic bill of rights
- 28. A pair
- 29. Pumpkin and apple are examples
- 31. China
- 32. Made illegal
- 33. Be mistaken
- 34. Stephen King's "Pennywise"
- 35. Semite
- 36. Martens with short tails
- 37. Large bodies of water
- 38. Lower in position
- 39. Dough used in Latin American cuisine
- 40. Calculating tools
- 44. Boxers do this
- 47. Macaw



Courtesy photo

In photo from left, Alyssa Leonardi of Sterling, Marnie Anair of Royalston, Adrianna Hartman of Gardner, Kanessa Raymond of Athol, Samantha Dodd of Gardner, Bria Arseneault of Fitchburg, teacher Karla Boudreau, Wendy Soto, Selena Sanchez and Katrina Reilly, all of Fitchburg, and Kelsey Dilling of Gardner.

DCF families benefit from student project

FITCHBURG — Seniors in the early childhood education class at Monty Tech recently held a baby shower for Department of Children and Families clients in the area. The students collected essential baby items such as clothing, toys, diapers, baby wipes and other essential items. They created gift baskets, decorations, invitations and games to play during the shower. They also supplied all the food.

Sophomores in the program assisted with the arrangements and donated gift items. Faculty and staff members also made donations.

Gift baskets, containing art supplies and hair and body-care items, were donated for a raffle, which raised additional funds for the agency.

A social worker from DCF attended the shower and gave the students an overview of how the organization supports area families in need. She thanked the students for their generosity and dedication. This is the second year the students sponsored the shower.

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POLICE LOG

Editor's Note: The information contained in this police log was obtained through public documents kept by the police department, and is considered to be the account of the police. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
 12:03-1:51 a.m.: building checks & extra patrols, secure; 5:39 a.m.: accident (Glenallan Street) report taken; 9:02 a.m.: ambulance (Monomonac Road East) transport; 10:54 a.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road) report taken; 10:59 a.m.: fire alarm (West Street) false alarm; 11:15 a.m.: MV stop (Webster Street) traffic citation; 11:51 a.m.: harassment (Webster Street) spoken to; 12 p.m.: assist other PD (Whitney Street) transport; 12:38 p.m.: harassment order service (Glenallan Street) served; 1:10 p.m.: child abuse (East Grove Street) report taken; 1:28 p.m.: general info (Webster Street) info given; 2:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street) assisted; 4:40 p.m.: property damage (Whitney Street) report taken; 5:29 p.m.: traffic hazard (Bayberry Circle) advised officer; 6:15 p.m.: property found (Front Street) returned to family; 8:24 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 8:40 p.m.: registration check (Spring Street) info given; 9 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 9:36 p.m.: ambulance (Bayberry Circle) transport; 11:30-11:51 p.m.: building checks, secure.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6
 12:16-2:37 a.m.: building checks & extra patrols, secure; 12:28 a.m.: suspicious MV (bike path) spoken to; 5:45 a.m.: MV stop (Baldwinville State Road) verbal warning; 6:23 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 10:13 a.m.: investigation (town hall) info taken; 11:21 a.m.: assist other PD (Brown Street) no PD service required; 11:33 a.m.: assist other PD (Front Street) no PD service required; 11:40 a.m.: accident (Spring Street) report taken; 11:55 a.m.: arrest (Monadnock Avenue) warrant arrest, no further info provided; 12:04 p.m.: assist other PD (Pearl Street) no PD service required; 12:39 p.m.: arrest (Murdock High School) warrant arrest, no further info provided; 12:55 p.m.: investigation (Vine Street) no PD service required; 3:56 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Baldwinville State Road) advised officer) 4:02 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Elmwood Road) child playing with phone; 4:18 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 4:24 p.m.: summons service (Joslin Road) unable to serve; 5:26 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) refer to other PD; 6:24 p.m.: automatic fire alarm (Hatch Lane) services rendered; 6:44 p.m.: officer wanted (walk in) spoken to; 7:35 p.m.: harassment (Glenallan Street) report taken; 9:20 p.m.: building check, secure; 10:17 p.m.: burglary, B&E (Hyde Park Drive) report taken; 11 p.m.: threats (Toy Town Pub) arrest: Joshua B. Eddy, age 28 of 86 Front St. #5, Winchendon: A&B on family or household member, two counts assault with deadly weapon and aggravated A&B.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
 1:03 a.m.: transport (Central Street); 6:08 a.m.: disabled MV (Central Street) spoken to; 7:27 a.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road) report taken; 7:36 a.m.: animal complaint (Central Street) refer to ACO; 8:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Mellen Road) refer to ACO; 10:24 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic

Winchendon man faces assault charges

WINCHENDON — Joshua Eddy, age 28, of 86 Front St. is due back in court Dec. 23 for a pretrial hearing on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault on a pregnant victim. Eddy is accused of assaulting his girlfriend and pulling a knife on two men during an incident last week.

Winchendon police received a call around 11 p.m. on Dec. 6 reporting that two men had been assaulted on Central Street. The two alleged victims told responding officers they witnessed Eddy giving his girlfriend "a hard time," and when they tried to intervene Eddy reportedly threatened them with a knife.

According to the police report, while searching for the girlfriend, Sgt. Raymond Anair and Officer Brian Wightman found Eddy and the woman at another location on Central Street. Police say they confiscated a knife from Eddy. He claimed he told the two men he was in possession of a knife, but never threatened them with it.

The girlfriend, who said she is three months pregnant, told Anair and Wightman that she and Eddy had been arguing over his alleged use of cocaine and an issue regarding the couple's laundry.

She also told Wightman that Eddy assaulted her outside the Toy Town Pub on Railroad Street prior to police arriving. According to the police report, the woman said Eddy punched her in the head after she arrived at the bar to speak with him. She also told Wightman that Eddy choked her outside the Cumberland Farms in Winchendon during an incident in mid-November.

The girlfriend was transported to a shelter after reportedly telling Wightman she was afraid to return to the residence of Eddy's uncle, where the couple had been staying. She claimed she had been threatened by Eddy's sister.

Eddy was ordered held on \$1,000 cash bail at his arraignment Dec. 7 in Winchendon District Court in Gardner. At last check, the defendant had still not posted bail.

Street) removed to hospital; 11:35 a.m.: ambulance (Spring Street) no FD service required; 11:53 a.m.: FD call (CVS) services rendered; 12:19 p.m.: investigation (Front Street) no PD service required; 12:40 p.m.: harassment (Ash Street) report taken; 12:45 p.m.: animal complaint (Teel Road) refer to ACO; 1:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Old Gardner Road) refer to ACO; 3:02 p.m.: unwanted party (Glenallan Street) spoken to; 3:28 p.m.: accident (Glenallan Street) services rendered; 3:33 p.m.: accident (River Street) report taken; 3:46 p.m.: larceny (Glenallan Street) report taken; 3:59 p.m.: harassment (Webster Street) report taken; 4:58 p.m.: harassment (Ash Street) report taken; 5:18 p.m.: investigation (Webster Street) spoken to; 5:32 p.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) transport; 6 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road) summons: Staphanie Cormier, age 37 of 37 Schoolhouse Road, Templeton: operating MV with license suspended; 11:55 p.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive) transport.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
 1:09 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) transport; 1:31-2:03 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:52 a.m.: ambulance (School Street) transport; 2:13 a.m.: accident (Monomonac Road East) summons: Jacob M. Shivo, age 30 of 315 Monomonac Road West, Winchendon: negligent operation of MV; 8:16 a.m.: suspicious other (Goodrich Street) no PD service required; 8:55 a.m.: elderly welfare check (address not printed) no cause for complaint; 9:08 a.m.: MV operating erratically (Baldwinville State Road) spoken to; 9:35 a.m.: illegal dumping (Whitney Street) info taken; 10:40 a.m.: ambulance (Juniper Street) transport; 12:47 p.m.: 911 hang up (Memorial Drive) non-emergency call; 12:49 p.m.: unwanted party (School Street) services rendered; 12:56 p.m.: fraud (Ipswich Drive) no cause for complaint; 1:29 p.m.: accident (Gardner Road) unfounded;

4:44 p.m.: 911 hang up (Memorial Drive) non-emergency call; 5:11 p.m.: registration check (Lake Denison) dispersed gathering; 5:50 p.m.: ambulance (School Street) transport; 6:23 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) written warning; 8:13 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 8:22 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 8:51 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) written warning; 8:52 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 8:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Avenue) report taken; 9 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 9:27 p.m.: investigation (Brown Avenue) no PD service required; 9:35 p.m.: MV stop (Front Street) verbal warning.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
 1:30 a.m.: general info (phone) advised officer; 1:32-3:18 a.m.: building checks, secure; 7:29 a.m.: sex offender registration (Main Street) info taken; 8:18 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street) assisted; 8:58 a.m.: general info (Central Street) spoken to; 10:45 a.m.: investigation (Hale Street) unable to locate; 10:51 a.m.: MV stop (Maple Street) spoken to; 11:10 a.m.: general info (phone) spoken to; 12:12 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 1:05 p.m.: threats (Murdock High School) report taken; 2:29 p.m.: fire alarm (Beachview Drive) false alarm; 2:33 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville State Road) report taken; 2:45 p.m.: investigation (Rice Road) report taken; 4:11 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 4:16 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 4:26 p.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive) services rendered; 5:35 p.m.: assist citizen (walk in) spoken to; 7:17 p.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) summons: Gwendolyn M. Thompson, age 32 of 99 Graham St., Gardner: operating MV with license suspended subsequent offense; 7:33 p.m.: ambulance (Bayberry Circle) transport; 7:38 p.m.: ambulance (Teel Road) transport; 8:16 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) area search negative; 8:25 p.m.: MV

stop (Commercial Drive) report taken; 8:37 p.m.: threats (Central Street) summons: Richard A. Washer, age 25 of 37 Ash St., Winchendon: larceny over \$250 and larceny of drug; 8:49 p.m.: unwanted party (Spruce Street) no PD service required; 10:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Prospect Street) refer to ACO; 11:52 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Main Street) unable to locate.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
 12:56-4:20 a.m.: building checks, secure; 12:59 a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) transport; 2:32 a.m.: fire alarm (Front Street) services rendered; 8:30 a.m.: property found (Maple Street) message delivered; 8:39 a.m.: burglar alarm (Baldwinville State Road) call canceled; 10:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Drive) assisted; 10:22 a.m.: suspicious person (Baldwinville Road) info taken; 10:50 a.m.: general info (Brown Street) spoken to; 11:13 a.m.: general info (Brooks Road) info given; 11:40 a.m.: assist citizen (Central IGA) report taken; 12:25 p.m.: sex offender registration (Glenallan Street) assisted; 12:25 p.m.: private property tow (First Street) assisted; 12:53 p.m.: DPW call (Spring Street) refer to state DPW; 1:36 p.m.: mental health issue (Polly's Drive) assisted; 1:57 p.m.: suspicious MV (Old Gardner Road) removed to hospital; 2:29 p.m.: burglary B&E (Ash Street) report taken; 2:43 p.m.: assist citizen (Glenallan Street) assisted; 3:18 p.m.: sex offender registration (walk in) info given; 3:47 p.m.: panic alarm (Webster Street) spoken to; 4 p.m.: animal complaint (Teel Road) refer to ACO; 4:26 p.m.: investigation (Ash Street) spoken to; 4:29 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 5:25 p.m.: officer wanted (walk in) spoken to; 6:31 p.m.: assist other PD (State Road) assisted; 7:47 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 8:02 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 8:14 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 8:36 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 9:51 p.m.: FD call (Brown Street) services rendered.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
 12:07-1:09 a.m.: building checks, secure; 2:31-2:58 a.m.: parking violations, traffic citations issued; 7:28 a.m.: ambulance (Linden Street) transport; 9:24 a.m.: property damage (Monadnock Avenue) refer to other agency; 9:40 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 9:44 a.m.: investigation (Mill Street) report taken; 10:28 a.m.: animal complaint (Teel Road) refer to ACO; 11:13 a.m.: wires down (Mill Glen Road) info taken; 11:56 a.m.: ambulance (Maple Street) transport; 12:04 p.m.: officer wanted (walk in) spoken to; 1:01 p.m.: accident (Spring Street) report taken; 1:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Brown Street) refer to ACO; 2:29 p.m.: sex offender registration (walk in) assisted; 2:43 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Hyde Park Drive) spoken to; 3:12 p.m.: 911 hang up (Alger Street) accidental; 3:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Cedar Terrace) refer to court; 4:53 p.m.: harassment (Lincoln Avenue) advised officer; 5:16 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville State Road) report taken; 6:06 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 6:36 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 6:55 p.m.: noise complaint (Maynard Street) spoken to; 6:57 p.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) transport; 9:24 p.m.: accident (Central Street) report taken; 9:33 p.m.: suspicious person (Ipswich Drive) transport; 11:34-11:43 p.m.: building checks, secure.



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OBITUARIES

Fern L. (Hale) Cramm, 97



GARDNER — Fern L. (Hale) Cramm, age 97 of Gardner died Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 in the Wachusett Manor Nursing Home, Gardner.

She was the daughter of the late Allen A. Hale and Elsie

(Corning) Hale.

In 1941 she married Donald E. Cramm and they lived in Holmes Park Westminster for 55 years.

She leaves two children, Bruce L. Cramm of Winchendon; Jerrilynn L. Mitchener of Truro on the Cape; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, three great great grandchildren; two nephews, Elden Hale of Texas and Roger Hale of Texas.

She was predeceased by two great

grandchildren Nathaniel Cramm in 2001 and Katelyn Cramm in 1998.

Fern loved to garden flowers and vegetables. She kept busy by sewing, knitting and going to school to learn tailoring. She loved her cat and also being a member to the First Baptist Church.

A funeral service was held Friday, Dec. 9, 2016 at the First Baptist Church 14 High St., South Gardner. There are no calling hours. Burial followed in Greenbower Cemetery, Gardner.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest that memorial donations be made in her memory to The First Baptist Church, 14 High St. Gardner, MA 01440.

To send an online condolence please visit www.mackfamilyfh.com.

Lamoureux-Fletcher & Smith - A Mack Family Funeral Home 105 Central St., Gardner is directing arrangements.

Barbara R. (Mattison) Davis, 87



GREENVILLE, NH — Barbara R. (Mattison) Davis, age 87, of 3 Titan Lane, formerly of Acton, Concord and Winchester died peacefully Monday, Dec.

12, 2016 at UMass Memorial Medical Center, University Campus, Worcester, with her family at her side.

She was born in Cambridge on Nov. 21, 1929, daughter of the late Robert and Irene (Sears) Mattison. She lived for many years in Acton, Concord and Winchester until her retirement in 1994, when she and her husband moved to Greenville, NH.

Barbara had worked at Schrafft's Candy Factory in its assembly line and

later worked as a clerk for Woolworth's in Winchester. Barbara was an avid crocheter, enjoyed growing rose bushes and painting flowers on glass.

Her husband of 60 years, George H. Davis, died in 2013. She leaves four children, Karl Davis and his wife Susan, Earl Davis and his wife Sandy of Fayville, Katherine Collins and her husband Scott of Lunenburg and Jennifer Davis and her significant other, Paul Stockmaster of Gardner; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Private funeral services will be held in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon.

Burial will be in Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8517.

Edmund Arthur Rousseau, 75



PORT CHARLOTTE FL — Edmund Arthur Rousseau, age 75, of Port Charlotte, FL formerly of Gardner, died Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016 in Bayfront Hospital of Port Charlotte, FL following complications of multiple myeloma.

He was born in Gardner on March 28, 1941, the son of the late J. Arthur and Genevieve (Jamilowski) Rousseau.

He graduated from Notre Dame High School of Fitchburg with the Class of 1959; and earned his Bachelor's degree in accounting from Boston College in 1963.

Ed was owner/operator of Hubbardston Colonial Furniture in the early 1970s, and also worked in the Back Room Restaurant of Hubbardston for many years.

He was an avid sportsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved to garden and his great passion was working with wood, building small pieces of furniture. He was a very religious man who gave much of his time to Sacred Heart Church, serving

on the Liturgical Committee and as a Eucharistic Minister, and teaching CCD. In his later years he perfected the art of wine making.

Ed leaves his wife of 53 years, Kay Frances (Beaulac) Rousseau of Florida; three daughters, Melinda Tom of Jaffrey, Michelle Leblanc and her fiancé Lance Hatstat of Hubbardston, and Deborah Rousseau of Winchendon; one sister, Joanne Streeter of Winchendon; ten grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son, John Arthur Rousseau who died in 1992.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 26 in Holy Spirit Church, 50 Lovewell Street, Gardner. Burial was in Brookside Cemetery, Hubbardston.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Ed's name to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02215 or Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 USF Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 336120.

Boucher Funeral Home, Inc., 110 Nichols Street, Gardner is handling the arrangements.



GARDNER — David Alan Pickles, age 66, of Gardner died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016 at home, with his family. David was born Dec. 6, 1950 in Leominster and is the son of the late Frank E. and the late Dorothy (Maddocks)

Pickles.

He grew up in Clinton and graduated from Clinton High School. He served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

David was a member of the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club serving on the Board of Directors, and enjoyed cooking in the kitchen for several years.

He was an avid rider of his Harley Davidson bikes. He had a passion for music, had been a drummer for over 50 years, and loved listening to his favorite band, Rush.

He is survived by his loving wife of 17 years, (together for 23 years) Michelle J.(Comerford) Pickles, his children, Samantha L. Permenter,

Scott A. Permenter, David A. Pickles Jr. of Gardner, Sharon Besnia-VanNorman and Marc Besnia, and many grandchildren.

David loved his nieces, Wendy and Linda, and his nephews, Wayne and Keith, two great nieces, one great nephew and one great great nephew.

He is predeceased by his sister, Virginia Pickles-Rose.

Services are being held on Friday, Dec.16 at 2 p.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallan St., Winchendon. A celebration of his life will be held immediately after at the Winchendon Rod and Gun Club.

Funeral services are under the direction of Lamoureux-Fletcher Funeral Home, 105 Central St., Gardner.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.mackfamilyfh.com.

David Alan Pickles, 66

Bernard L. Lemere, 77

WINCHENDON — Bernard L. Lemere, age 77 of Winchendon died Dec. 4, 2016 in Health alliance/Leominster Hospital. Bernard was born Sept. 1, 1939 in Newport, VT son of Maynard and Bernice (Gilbert) Lemere. Bernard had been a machinist for Independent Lock Co.

He leaves his brothers Carl Lemere of Leominster, Donald Lemere of Winchendon and Butch Lemere of

Leominster and his companion Nancy Caron of Winchendon.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Pieta in St. Joseph Cemetery, 486 Clarendon St., Fitchburg.

Aubuchon-Moorcroft Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

SEND OBITUARIES at no charge to Editor Ruth DeAmicis, by faxing (978) 297-2177, or by e-mailing the editor at ruth@stonebridgepress.com.

We also invite funeral directors and families to e-mail us a JPEG photograph to print, at no cost, alongside the obituary.

Younger students get schooled in programming



BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — In the midst of National Computer Science Education week last Thursday, a group of Sheila Hunt's Murdock Middle School eighth graders found themselves spending time in the high school technology lab working alongside teacher Mike Fontaine's older students.

"We like getting them started in middle school and hopefully when they get to high school they'll be interested in this," said Fontaine.

It was the second time the schools have collaborated. Last year the high school students worked with the younger ones how to program a video game using Scratch software. This year was about using Photoshop, which is a graphics software.

That nearly \$87,000 grant the school received earlier this year has been paying dividends, but it's not just the equipment which can be inspiring. Senior Krista Boudreau said she didn't know much of

anything about computers, at least nothing a year or so ago when she first walked into Fontaine's classroom. Now?

"I want to go into cyber security after college and it's because of Mr. Fontaine. He's the one who really got me interested. This class is so cool," she enthused.

"Nice to hear," reflected Fontaine. "We think this whole department is helping to make this a school where kids want to be," pointing out he was recently told that roughly 17 jobs are available for any student who graduates college with a technology degree of some sort.

"That's enticing," said Fontaine.

That's for later. On Thursday high school students were demonstrating and discussing what they're currently doing — designing 3D video games using Unity software and programming mobile apps for smart phones.

"At first I was a little worried these projects would be too difficult for many of the students but they're picking up these skills faster than I could have imagined," enthused Fontaine.

His computer science principles class recently created a "Magic 8 Ball" app, similar to what oldsters might remember from their own childhoods.

"The difference," Fontaine

noted, "is the students ask their phone or tablet a question, shake it, and there will be a random response to the question. I was impressed with how quickly they were able to understand the coding that was involved with designing and creating the app."

"That was fun to do," enthused Boudreau as she showed the Courier how the program would work on her phone.

The photostopping is essentially a stepping stone to becoming comfortable with more advanced concepts.

"We want them to understand computer science is more than just 1's and 0's. There are many aspects to it including game-making, graphic design, web design and app making," he said.

"Their next project will be to design and create an app that will be beneficial to society and I can't wait to see those projects," Fontaine said.

Computer Science Education Week is dedicated to showing students of all ages the importance of computer science through fun, hands-on activities. Organized annually by Computing in Core Coalition and Code.org every December, the week is timed to celebrate the birthday of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, born Dec. 9, 1906.

Morgan St. Pierre photo

Krista Boudreau was among the students learning the new computer programming.

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SPORTS

Local swimmer competes at winter classic

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION VT — Toy Town's Timothy Jinn, a high honors freshman at Murdock High School, competed Dec. 9-11, at the USA sanctioned Upper Valley Aquatic Club's Winter Classic Specialty Meet, held at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Junction, VT. Jinn competed in seven events over the course of the three day meet, achieving personal best times in all his events and placing overall in the top six in all his events. Jinn, who has been training very hard this season is focusing on achieving qualifying times for the New England 11-14 age group championships to be held at Boston University in March.

Jinn achieved his first qualifying time in the 500 yard freestyle at the Greenwood Swimming Thanksgiving Specialty meet held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in November. Jinn raced to a ninth place overall performance, taking off 12.62 seconds, and finishing with a final time of 5:07.22. Quite an impressive start to which Jinn continues to have impressive races and adding more events to his resume of championship goals.

After attending school Friday, Jinn and his father, Charlie, headed straight to Vermont to compete in the distance session that evening. Jinn and his teammates were rested for this meet, and were ready to race in their competitive technical suits, with the emphasis of dominating their events. Jinn's first event was the men's 13/14 1000 yard freestyle, and to say he had an

impressive race would be an understatement. At the starter's electronic signal, Jinn burst off the blocks like a shot with a clean entry in the water, and from there, he took the lead of the heat with competitors trying their best to catch up to him. Jinn lead the 40 lap race without slowing down and took off 38 seconds, besting his performance earlier this season, and placed first overall with a final time of 10:21.84. This gold medal finish was Jinn's second championship qualifying time.

Top performances continued early Saturday morning for Jinn, as he achieved two more qualifying times for champs in the boys 13/14 200 yard and 50 yard freestyle. Jinn's 200 yard freestyle race placed him second overall with a personal best time of 1:54.00, and taking off -0.61 seconds. The 50 yard freestyle is one of Jinn's favorite events, as it is a sprint race, which means it's all out guts racing.

While Jinn is a strong contender in the freestyle distance events, he is also competitive in the sprint events. He proved that by taking off -0.36 seconds, placing 4th overall, with a finish time of 24.58.

Jinn raced a second place finish in the 100 yard backstroke, taking off -1.56 seconds and ending with a final time of 1:01.04. He just missed adding the 100 back to his championship goals by 0.65 seconds, which is so close, but one that he will achieve at his next meet in January.

On the last day of the meet, Jinn once again continued to have stellar performances in the pool. Jinn would achieve

his fifth championship cut time in the 100 yard freestyle, taking off -1.06 seconds with a final time of 52.81 placing second overall in the event. Adding to his top three finishes, Jinn achieved second place in the 200 yard backstroke, taking off -3.21 seconds and touching the finish pad with a time of 2:10.60. He just missed the champs qualifying time by only 1.01 seconds.

Jinn ended the meet with a sixth place finish in the men's 100 yard butterfly, and achieved a personal best time of 1:06.15, taking off -4.43 seconds, and placing sixth overall. Jinn's coach was very pleased with Tim's weekend performances, especially his 1000 yard freestyle.

"Tim's 1000 yard freestyle time was fast enough for him to qualify in the NE 15-18 age group championships, and he is only 12.55 seconds away from the New England seniors championship qualifying time, which is awesome," said Coach Diana Pimer enthusiastically.

"It was by far the most exciting race to watch and I am so excited for Tim, as he has trained so hard to finally reach the next level of champs. There is no doubt that he will be competing at New England seniors championships next year and in more than one event too," added Pimer.

Jinn trains at Keene State College six days a week for Greenwood Swimming, under the coaching staff of assistant Keene State College swim coach Pimer, and head coach of Keene State College swim and dive team, Chris Woolridge.



Courtesy photo

Timothy Jinn and teammate, Alex Minickiello, giving each other a congratulatory fist pump on their first and third place finishes in the men's 13/14 1000 yard freestyle at Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Junction, Vermont.



Morgan St. Pierre photo

HEATING UP THE COURTS

Action was hot as the Lady Devils lost a close 33-31 season opener to Sizer on Tuesday. Molly Murphy scored 23 points while Gloryanne Andino and Kaleigh Lauziere each added four.

"I'm really proud of our young (several 8th grade) players. They're newcomers and they really hustled," said coach Jim Abare."

Building year should include wins

BY CHRIS MARTIN
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Head coach for the Murdock Blue Devils Matt O'Malley is entering his third season with the advent of action this year.

"This is by far probably the most talented, deepest team we've had since I've been here; and I am so excited about that. The kids have been working hard. I think its going to translate into a lot of wins this year," he said.

Two seasons ago, the Blue Devils won eight games, but last season managed only one win. Getting into that win column this season is important to O'Malley.

"We're really going to work hard, we've got a couple of kids back from school choice; a lot of kids working very hard and I think this is by far the most talent since I've been here. So as long as these guys keep working and stick to our game plans, we're going to win games."

Defensively, O'Malley sees real improvements.

"This season we're going to be aggressive defensively, trying to speed teams up, try to use our defense and turn it into offense, get some turnovers."

And that idea of pushing the other team? That goes the other way too.

"Offensively, we're going to push a little bit, play a little faster than we have been so we can get some more points. We're pretty balanced, we can do it," he said.

"We got solid big guys and guards, so it's only going to make it easier on us both ways when our big guys are going or guards, and vice versa."

O'Malley said his leadership is solid as well, proudly pointing out several players.

"Ryan (Kaminsky) and Jared (Nelson) are heading into their fourth season of varsity basketball; Nick (Roy) is heading into his third year, so it's not really common to have that many guys with that many years of varsity experience. We'll be leaning on them for their leadership."

The program, said O'Malley, is "a

work in progress, numbers are a little low this year so we would like to get the numbers up a little bit. But all the the kids we have are working hard. They're good kids and we can't ask for more than that."

"This year we're looking to build a solid, winning culture as a foundation of what we're going to be going forward."

This year's varsity team includes Kaminsky, Nelson, Tyler Cota, John Murphy, Josh Smith, Roy, Spencer Pelkey, Zach Richards, Lamont Hicks, and Ross O'Toole.

The JV roster includes Scott Laverdure, Jeremy Bitter, Jessie Nolette, Dylan Lupien, Austin Fontaine, Keenan McKenney, Luke LaVoie and Mac Brimhall.

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'Emmanuel' brings Christmas message



Audience members appreciate the messages.



Mat Plamondon photos

Jonathan Cashman

BY TARA VOCINO
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Christian recording artists Britney and Jonathan Cashman returned to Cornerstone Church to minister through music and speaking to 126 guests on Sunday.

In the concert, 'Emmanuel,' music carried through the birth of Christ with original songs and traditional Christmas carols.

The Cashman's performed at the same time last year for the first time.

"It's good to be back," Jonathan Cashman said. "Our call is to go and make disciples. That takes commitment to people and the process."

The couple sold their City of God CD and their "Go" book in the lobby after the performance.

"We want you to be inspired," Jonathan Cashman told the audience.

They tour 23 states and 150 places in the United States annually with their dog, Roadie.

Guests seemed to get a lot out of the perfor-

mance.

Gardner resident Trisha Walker asked who would turn down a free concert, adding that the songs had a nice message.

In a separate interview, assistant Pastor Jay Lillie said the church brought in the Cashmans, because of their desire to get the message out.

"As Christians, we are called to make disciples," Lillie said. "We're supposed to be active in this world. Jonathan asked, 'Are you followable? If someone followed you around for a year, would

he be more like Christ at the end of the year?'"

Inside the concert, Pastor Barry Risto said it was a powerful message that home is in the will of God.

"At Christmas, we may visit families, but that's not home," Risto said. "We have to do what God asks, even though it's not always easy or comfortable. Surrender afresh and anew in the Christmas season to be more like Mary. If you're in the will of God, you're always home."

Gardner resident Jessica Walker called Britney Cashman's voice angelic.

"I love her voice," Walker said. "It's beautiful, and her songs are touching. Those are deep words."

Walker relates to their original song, "Surrender."

"It's a truth for all of us Christians that we have to surrender in order to live the life that God has planned for us," she said.

Within the song are the words, "In You, I have the victory. Take this heavy load from me."

Winchendon resident Rich Kaddy bought the CD and the novel.

"The songs have an

inspiring message," Kaddy said. "It's nice music, and they have wonderful voices."

Like Jessica Walker, Kaddy said "Surrender" made him think and met him where he is.

"It's what we should be doing," Kaddy said.

Winchendon resident Richard Murphy had been trying to get to the church for two years, but was not able to without a car.

Since Murphy just got one, he was able to attend the concert.

"It's beautiful," Murphy said. "I'm meant to be here for this. God's timing."

Ashburnham resident Barbara Hamilton said she feels blessed to have heard them.

"Being a woman, I especially like her voice," Hamilton said. "For her to sing the words she sang, that had to come from Christ."

Hamilton said she enjoyed Jonathan Cashman's preaching between sets.

Britney Cashman said God called them to love the church.

"He placed on us a burden for helping people and to see the need for discipleship," Britney

Cashman said. "By encouraging people in that way, we've seen a lot of good fruit."

Britney Cashman said although it is tiring always being on the road, that is a sacrifice they have to make. While they were not raised in Christian homes and came to Christ later in life, they had an inclination they wanted to pursue a career in music.

Jonathan Cashman earned degrees at Northpoint Bible College in Barrington, RI, where he majored in Biblical studies, and at Rhode Island College, where he focused on music. Britney Cashman studied at the former First Assembly Christian Academy in Worcester.

Risto said the concert explained the simple message that God so loved the world that He gave His only son and he invited guests to join him in that understanding that whoever receives His love will become children of God.

Cornerstone manages 300 weekly guests across two services with 30 ministries ranging from toddler and children's programs to evening adult classes.

The spectacle endures...

The single greatest spectacle in sports? That's easy. Year after year, whether in Pasadena (once), Philadelphia (almost all the time) or Baltimore (as was the case last week), Army-Navy rolls on as the best spectacle and the best one-day tradition in the world of fun and games. It's timeless — from the march of the Midshipmen and Cadets into the stadium to the singing of the alma maters post game (winner goes second), the ritual stretches back decade after decade. Many, many decades.

The game was also played in Baltimore 72 years ago. I know this because my father, who will turn 90 next month, sold programs at that long-ago contest in the midst of World War II. He was not quite 18 and would soon be in the Navy, as someday would also be his grandson (my middle kid) and because Annapolis isn't far from Baltimore, he rooted for the Middies as he did last Saturday. The traditions we saw last week were already well-established back then. Sports changes but Army-Navy is timeless. It's the coolest thing going. May it ever be thus.

Army won last week, snapping a 14-game losing streak. Navy was undermanned, their quarterback and other key players watching from the sideline after having been injured the previous week. Unlike Army, Navy plays in a conference and had met and lost to Temple just a week earlier in the league title game. Those injuries happened early in that contest so not only were the Middies behind the proverbial eight ball against the Owls, they were in likewise dire straits when they faced the Cadets. So be it. It's probably good Army finally won anyway. The spirit of the rivalry doesn't change but it's better when the games are competitive.

For a couple decades there were no NFL games in Los Angeles but that changed this fall when the Rams returned after a 20-year stop-over in St. Louis and next fall they're likely to have company. Voters in San Diego emphatically told the Chargers what they could do with their plan to have the good folks in SoCal pay for a new playpen. The referendum required 2/3 approval but only got 43-percent and so the Bolts now have a month to exercise an option to join the Rams in LA. That would be a homecoming for the Chargers too because the franchise, one of the AFL originals, played its first season in Los Angeles. In 1960. At the Coliseum. Meanwhile the ever-nomadic Raiders are plotting a move to Las Vegas, an option made more likely because the NHL has broke the alleged taboo about no pro teams in Sin City by adding an expansion team.

Back to LA. Two weeks ago the Rams gave Jeff Fisher an extension and last week changed course and fired him. The rumor mill has the team trying to entice Pete Carroll to return to the city where he coached all those great but frequently underpaid (yes, that's sarcasm) USC teams. I would not be shocked.

The Rams generally lose. The Browns always lose. They're 0-13 and last week RG3 couldn't come close to completing a flea flicker. Villanova, conversely, always wins. The Wildcats have won 17 straight, are the defending champions and are sitting at the top of the polls. Obviously there are a slew of title contenders but Nova, fresh off a 16th consecutive win against Big Five opponents (watching games at the Palestra remains very cool) looks as good as any of them.

Finally, California Chrome makes the penultimate start of his career tomorrow in a specially designed race at Los Alamitos, a track more known for quarter-horses. It's Chrome's final prep for the Jan. 28 Pegasus and while he towers over the field on paper, races aren't run on the pages of the Daily Racing Form. I'm not a night person, but horses are always worth staying up for. See you next week.



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SNOW

continued from page A1

road conditions from them," Haddad explained, adding, "the bus companies need those couple hours lead time if school's open."

Haddad and the other superintendents are well aware that whatever they decide, there will be a lot of unhappy people.

"Most parents want school to be open for the obvious reasons. Rescheduling day care can be a real problem for people, and that's why the real nightmare is having to think about closing in the

middle of the school day. Even those two-hour delays can create logistical problems for a lot of parents and while safety is the definite first priority, we understand what working parents are worried about, and that's another reason we like to decide early if we can," he remarked.

"We prefer evening or night storms," said Haddad.

"There's a lot of communication,"

amongst the superintendents, he said and as well among officials in each town but sometimes the forecasts are wrong which brings a whole new set of problems.

"We've had times when the consensus forecast said the snow would stop by 8:00 and it was still snowing as late as noon or one. Sometimes you just don't know."

Haddad pointed out Winchendon has

staff members who live as far away as Keene and North Brookfield.

"Those can be tough drives," he acknowledged.

Bottom line?

"Safety. That's what matters," he stressed. "We do understand the day care issue but the safety of our kids and staff is paramount. That's what we keep in mind first and whatever decision we make is built around that."

CONCERNS

continued from page A1

Abare said no problems were found in the IGA's meat department.

He also said the owner of the building has committed to replacing missing and stained ceiling tiles in the grocery store.

Randy Guilert, a spokesman for Dollar Tree, the parent company of Family Dollar, said, "Please know the safety of our associates and customers is our first priority, and we take situations like this very seriously. We have been working with the owner of the property, the health inspector and pest control services to resolve the issue."

CRUISIN' 12

continued from page A1

"A few people have been here before we open and they want their coffee right away," he explained, "and even if they don't sit down for a full breakfast, and we have lots of breakfast options if they want to, people seem to want their coffee and a muffin if they don't have time for anything else."

"Getting here early is fine for me. I like mornings anyway," he said.

Come lunchtime, Lombardo says burgers are the most popular choice.

"Lots of different ways to make them, too. You know everyone likes different things on their burgers," he pointed out.

Cruisin's interior decor hasn't changed yet from previous ownership but that's one project on Lombardo's to-do list.

"We want to enlarge. We do want more seating but you can't do everything at once but we definitely have plans for that," he said.

Right now, it's pretty much a two-person operation as Lombardo and Janet Cassidy handle everything.

"I've been a manager," remarked Cassidy, "and this is exactly the kind of place I like."

Additionally, it's not a long commute to work since Lombardo and his family live in Ashburnham. "Winchendon's a



Morgan St. Pierre photo

Cruisin' 12 Diner Francesco's is open and ready for you.

nice community. These first few weeks people have given us a chance and that's all we can really ask for. We're not planning on being here just for a few months," he pointed out.

Located on the corner of Route 12 (School Street) and Pearl Street, Cruisin' is open daily from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. They have a Facebook page and can be reached at (978) 297-2001

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space, dumpster use, heat/HW included, electric included (except AC in summer). \$475 per month. References, income verification, first & last to move in. Applications available: Dick's Place Barbershop, 298 Central St. (978) 297-2281.

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Now taking applications. Call for guidelines. (978) 297-0231. TFN

PETS

FOUR LEGGED

COMPANION WANTED

Benjamin Street area - Sparky, a 58 pound Golden-doodle, seeks compatible playmate after loss of roommate in October. Let's walk first then play in large/fenced-in yard. Days/time TBD. 978-297-1057. TFN

SERVICES

All in One Painting: interior, exterior, power washing, decks. More than 25 years experience, fully insured, free estimates. (603) 305-4974 or leo@allinonepainting.net TFN

OUTSIDE BOAT STORAGE
Sunset Lake, \$400 for the winter; willing to barter. (978) 827-6645. 11/11

WANTED

WANTED

Motorcycles, ATVs, scooters. Cash paid for good deals. (978) 297-1800. 11.1.16

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Drum teacher Leon LaPlante seeks used instruments and drum stands to help out high school students. (978) 297-1250.

OUTSIDE ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Energetic salesperson needed to develop advertising prospects and sell newspaper advertising to local businesses. Responsible for meeting deadlines, and working to meet sales goals of territory. Must be driven with the desire to succeed, and possess self-motivation. Salary plus commissions. Previous sales experience is required. We are looking for a conscientious person with excellent customer service skills. Newspaper experience a plus.

Please send resume to:
Alberta Bell, Publisher
The Gardner News
 309 Central Street • P.O. Box 340, Gardner, MA 01440
albertabell@thegardnernews.com

Advertising Manager

The Gardner News is looking for an experienced advertising manager. Ideal candidates possess a bachelor's degree in advertising, marketing or journalism.

Successful candidates will possess excellent communication skills, with the ability to speak and listen, as well as clearly express their ideas, the ability to make swift decisions, work through stressful situations and solve problems quickly, have a friendly and creative personality and demonstrate effective management and supervising skills.

Responsibilities include media strategy, account services, advertising planning, creative strategy and ad design. The job of an advertising manager typically involves working under the pressure of deadlines and may include traveling to meet with clients and media representatives.

Interested parties can forward a resume and salary expectations to:

Alberta Bell
The Gardner News
 P.O. Box 340, Gardner, MA 01440
 or email to albertabell@thegardnernews.com

"Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper"

www.
 860Local.com

Winchendon Courier Classifieds

CLIP AND MAIL COUPON

Classified Ads...

4 WEEKS — \$20

- 30 words or less
- Additional words 50¢ per word

...FAX US
 978-297-2177

Deadline: Friday at Noon

SORRY, NO REFUND FOR EARLY CANCELLATION.

MAIL to: The Winchendon Courier
 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475

Fax Coupon: 978-297-2177
 For more info., call 978-297-0050

Write your ad here:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

TOYS
continued from page A1

motorcycles. This year we packed a trailer.”
There were plenty of helping hands according to Ruschioni. “There were easily several dozen who were heavily involved between the Fire Fighters Relief Fund, the public, the stores, and more. That number doesn’t even include all the great and giving people who donated to help support the program and its goals. We even had a sweet little old lady come in yesterday to the Fire Department and donate three Teddy bears for the toy drive. Just this past Saturday, we had four bicycles alone donated, can you imagine that!”
Watching the trailer of toys being off loaded was a special sight. Firemen, CAC volunteers like Darren Surette, Denise Lapiere, and even a few clients of the CAC all helped forming a human conveyor belt from the trailer to deep inside the building. There were no complaints about the cold, as warm hearts which were just happy to take part in something so special as this heated up the area around them with some even joking, “Oh my God this is great, does this trailer of toys even have an end?”
Reflecting on all the gener-

osity of the countless people who all helped and or donated in some way Ruschioni said, “I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to everybody! To see people give back to the community is just incredible, and one of the most important things a person can do with their life. It is so rewarding to me to just see how every year more and more people are taking part and the drive is growing. I also want to thank my Chief Tom Smith. He lets me do my thing on my shift, and it is really nice to have a chief that supports you and the community. It is also so rewarding for me to see so many people get involved in their community. We are truly blessed.”
Smith was very proud of his fellow members and all their hard work. He pleased to say, “I think this is such a fabulous thing for the community. Different organizations, local clubs, the Firefighters Relief Association, all pitching in at this time of year when the community needs them the most. What’s great is it all goes right back in to the community here, and it shows the level of dedication they all have to their community.”
Colleen Laperriere of the Community Action Committee was nearly speechless when viewing the overwhelming generosity of all the toys and



Keith Kent photos
WFD members Troy Ashmore, Patrick Connors, Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni, Ashley Girouard, and Daniel Voutila and the trailer full of toys.



A human conveyor belt offloaded the toys into the building, making short work of the process.



Some 430 cubic feet of toys filled the space, and more is still being collected. If you didn't get a chance to give, you can still drop things off to the fire station or directly to the CAC.

items donated.
Laperriere closed with, “The community steps up year after year. We are truly abundantly blessed! If I had to work anywhere doing this job, I am glad it is here in Winchendon. We are helping some 100 families during the holidays with this drive, however if somebody was to fall upon hard times even at the last minute, we would understand and help them and encourage them to reach out to us.”
The Winchendon CAC is located at 273 Central St. The pantry is open Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and office hours are Monday thru Thursdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The CAC can be reached by phone at (978) 297-0390 or emailed at director@winchendoncac.com.

SERVICES
continued from page A1

Later that day, children and adults will perform a concert at 6 p.m. Instruments will be played, and Christmas carols will be sung.
Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve service information will be provided at a later date.
Immaculate Heart of Mary
52 Spruce St.
978-297-0280
Secretary Renee Lupien said the Mass on Sunday will be a regular Mass.
Midnight Mass is planned Dec. 25 12 a.m.
Cornerstone Church
122 Gardner Road
978-297-3125
A Christmas Eve service is planned at 6 p.m.
United Parish
126 Central St.
978-297-0554
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

Children’s service at United Parish: 5 p.m.
Living Nativity at Clark Memorial YMCA: 6:30 p.m.
Carol and Candle Service at United Parish: 10 p.m.
Bethany Bible Chapel
727 Spring St.
978 297-1493
Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6 p.m.
Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church
126 Central St.
978 297-0554
Sunday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. Sunday Worship with Pastor Inanna Arthen, “Winter Solstice”
Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. a Christmas Eve candlelight service is planned: a celebration in song, story and light. No worship service on Dec. 25.

JOURNEY
continued from page A4

gotten a jump on us but we were catching up and when Glenn’s four hour journey was over, there was no looking back.
It’s impossible for people my kids’ ages, and they range from 23 to 31, to fully comprehend what a big deal all this was. John Glenn was what we believed at the time to be the quintessential American — ambitious yet modest, civil and principled, a symbol of the can-do spirit which infused the times. It was indeed a very long time ago, and space is no longer a big deal to most people but even now, John Glenn’s name resonates and that’s quite a legacy. Godspeed.
Glenn went on to serve three terms as a Senator from Ohio and I have to believe he’d be appalled by the Washington Post report on Friday which said the CIA is sure the Russians actively worked to help elect Donald Trump. Assuming you haven’t been living under a rock this year, this confirmation doesn’t come as much of a surprise, but as outrageous and frightening as this is, equally frightening is the extreme partisan reaction. The President-elect basically threw the CIA under the bus and Republican congressio-

nal leaders, who’d been briefed in September, evidently didn’t want the public to know the truth before Election Day. Of course they didn’t.
This partisanship isn’t like disagreeing on agriculture policy. This was a direct attack on our sovereignty and the sanctity of legitimate elections in a free society. Yes, it really IS that serious. I can’t imagine the Electoral College not ratifying Trump when it meets Monday but we’d sure better take steps to prevent such interference in the future. As for his reaction — what did you expect? This all just gets better and better, doesn’t it?

KITTY KORNER

Smokey is a beautiful gray and white girl. She was brought to the shelter after her pet parent passed away. She is an affectionate, gentle and sweet kitty that loves to be brushed. She is very laid back and enjoys being held.
Smokey is a healthy senior girl. She has been examined by a veterinarian, spayed, vaccinated and microchipped. She is looking to spend her golden years in a safe and loving home. She would prefer to be the only cat.
If you would like to meet her, A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats at 202 Central St. is open Wednesday 6-8 p.m., Saturday noon-2 p.m., and by appointment. For an adoption application, please visit www.shelterforcats.org or call (774) 641-1271.



LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
16 SM 010593
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Thomas S. Killmon
nd to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act., 50 U.S.C.c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Winchendon**, numbered **255R Main Street**, given by **Thomas S. Killmon** to **JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA**, dated **March 21, 2013**, and recorded with the **Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds** in Book **50761**, Page **39**, and now held by plaintiff by assignment has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the **active** military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property **on that basis**, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **January 16, 2017** or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, **JUDITH C. CUTLER** Chief Justice of this Court on December 2, 2016
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
(16-012724 OM)
December 16, 2016

LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE’S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Richard S. Baum and Debra E. Baum to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as nominee for Principal Residential Mortgage, Inc., dated January 27, 2004 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32866, Page 298 of which mortgage Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Principal Residential Mortgage, Inc. to CitiMortgage, Inc. dated March 6, 2012 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48661, Page 388; assignment from CitiMortgage, Inc. to Pretium Mortgage Credit Partners I Loan Acquisition, LP dated December 1, 2015 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54641, Page 320 and assignment from Pretium Mortgage Credit Partners I Loan Acquisition, LP to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust dated December 17, 2015 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54834, Page 70, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 296 Ash Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 will be sold at a Public Auction at 2:00PM on January 3, 2017, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land, with the buildings thereon situated on the northeasterly side of Ash Street in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts and being shown as Lot 6 containing 43,605 square feet on a plan entitled “Plan of Lots, prepared for D. M. Industries, Winchendon, MA., Scale 1 in = 60 ft., May 18, 1987” which plan is recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 578, Page 40 and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:
Beginning at the Northwesterly corner thereof at point in the easterly sideline of Ash Street and at the southwesterly corner of Lot 7 as shown on said plan hereinabove referred to;
Thence N. 74 Degrees 05’ 33” E. by Lot 7 as shown on said plan 291.30 feet to a point at land now or formerly of D. M. Industries, Inc.;
Thence S. 15 Degrees 54’ 27” E. by last named land 150 feet to a point;
Thence S. 74 Degrees 05’ 33” W. continuing by last named land, 291.30 feet to a point in the easterly sideline of Ash Street;
Thence N. 15 Degrees 54’ 27” W. by the easterly sideline of Ash Street 150 feet to the point of beginning.
For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 18178, Page 164.
The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.
Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier’s or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify

as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable in cash or by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Baum, Richard S. and Debra E., 14-018372, December 2, 2016, December 9, 2016, December 16, 2016
December 2, 2016
December 9, 2016
December 16, 2016



KIDS' CORNER

Necktie Word Find

Just in time for a cheese-filled meal, find the hidden words in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| APPAREL | CLOTHING | HANDSOME |
| ARRANGE | DRESS | MAN |
| BOWTIE | ETIQUETTE | NECKTIE |
| BUSINESS | FORMAL | SUIT |

G N I H T O L C S Z J E
 A Y G E B M L S Z M T L
 R B V M N I E A G S K D
 R E U O N R E C M C Z B
 A I B S D O T R O R U U
 N T A D N K I A M S O C
 G W E N G M Q G I A K F
 E O R A Y P U N G S N L
 T B D H C L E R A P P A
 I D G J Y S T G U H Q W
 R E O P S C T H L P O W
 N E C K T I E D S U I T

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- * 1778: BRITISH AND FRENCH FLEETS CLASH IN THE BATTLE OF ST. LUCIA DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.
- * 1939: "GONE WITH THE WIND" PREMIERES IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA.
- * 1967: THE SILVER BRIDGE CONNECTING WEST VIRGINIA AND OHIO COLLAPSES DURING RUSH HOUR.

New word

FORMAL

prim or stiff

GET THE PICTURE?



CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THE BIGGER PICTURE IS?

ANSWER: NECKTIE

Did you know?

THE RECOMMENDED SAFE WEIGHT A CHILD SHOULD CARRY IN A BACKPACK IS 10 PERCENT OF HIS/HER



BODY WEIGHT. STILL, MANY KIDS CARRY AROUND ROUGHLY 15 TO 20 PERCENT.

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase

N O H E T B O J

Answers: On the job

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Winter
- SPANISH:** Invierno
- ITALIAN:** Inverno
- FRENCH:** Hiver
- GERMAN:** Winter



These 15,143 local homeowners chose our windows.

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WINDOW REPLACEMENT
an Andersen Company

= Our MA and Southern NH customers



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No pressure. During your Free Window Diagnosis, we'll give you an exact, down-to-the-penny price that we'll honor for an entire year.

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No middleman to deal with. There's no runaround between the installer and the manufacturer because we handle it all, from custom-building to installing to warranting all our products.*

We won't sell you vinyl. We've replaced thousands of poor-quality vinyl windows and patio doors, so we made our windows with our Fibrex® composite material, which is two times stronger than vinyl.



Must call before December 31st!

SAVE 20% ON WINDOWS AND PATIO DOORS¹

plus

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Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full for 12 months. Minimum purchase required.

Make an appointment and get a price that's good for an entire year!

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1-800-209-2746

*DETAILS OF OFFER – Offer expires 12/31/2016. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. 20% off your entire purchase with no money down and 12 months no payments, no interest when you purchase 4 or more windows or patio doors between 6/1/16 & 12/31/16 with approved credit. APR of 16.84% as of 3/1/2015, subject to change. Repayment terms from 0 to 12 months. Interest accrues during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid in full within 12 months. Savings comparison is based on the purchase of a single unit at regular list price. Available only at participating locations. Other discounts and financing options available for other purchase levels. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License MN: BCI30983/WI:266951. Excludes MN insurance work per MSA 325E.66. VA License #2705155684, DC License #420215000125, MHC #121441. All other license numbers available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2016 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2016 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details.





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Be part of the Shop Local Initiative Call Today!

978-297-0050 or email
ruth@stonebridgepress.com



Great food, family atmosphere

The Carriage House Restaurant, 660 Spring St. in Winchendon, truly is a family operation. The popular eatery was purchased 11 years ago by Al LaFreniere and his son, Duane. Al's other son, John, manages the operation. Says Al, "We take pride in serving quality food at very reasonable prices. Our portions are second to none. People always talk about our portion sizes. It's pretty common for people to save their leftovers so they can enjoy them for lunch or dinner the following day."

He adds that it's the mission of everyone at the Carriage House to make sure the customers are happy and want to make a return visit in the near future.

"We're going to give you great food and great service in a pleasant environment," says Al. "In short, we want to make you feel special."

Al is particularly proud of the Carriage House's all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet.

"It's the first - and the largest - in the area."

The brunch - which features a wide variety of breakfast items, along with a fruit ball, salad bar, six to 10 entrees, carving station, and full dessert table - is still just \$12.99 per person.

Wednesday night is Italian Night at the Carriage House.

Diners begin their meal with special bread accompanied by a tasty dipping oil. The offering continues with salad and a choice of two entrees from the special Italian menu. Choose a bottle of wine to accompany your meal, and the price for two people is only \$25.

Thursday is "All for \$25 Night."

Choose anything from the Carriage House menu, including prime rib, seafood combos, or other items and, again, it costs just \$25 for two people.

Manager John LaFreniere says prime rib and baked haddock are among the restaurant's most popular items.

"The prime rib is slow-roasted," he says, "and the haddock comes in fresh."

"You can't find any better," says head chef Fred Hodgman.

John says the Carriage House also hosts small parties, rehearsal dinners, Christmas parties, and funerals.

"We do quite a bit with local groups," he adds. "We have the Kiwanis here every Wednesday. We host the Winchendon Historical Society luncheon. Earlier this month we put on the Breakfast with Santa, which is hosted by Kiwanis. And we catered the Festival of Trees at the Gardner Museum."

The Carriage House is open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

A great New Year's Eve is in the planning, with special meals and appetizers. Call soon to make reservations.

Clark Memorial YMCA
155 Central St.
Winchendon, MA
www.theclarkymca.org
978 297 9622

December FUN for the Kids

- December 21st ~ Santa Visits
- December 27-30th ~ Vacation Club

NEW ARRIVALS FOR THE HOLIDAYS
~ ART DECO STYLES ~

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Pay for 2017 now, play free the rest of 2016 golf season

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Fruit Stuffed Pancakes	Homemade Stuffing	Make-Your-Own
Eggs Benedict	Baked Haddock	Strawberry Shortcake
Omelet Of The Day	Seafood Pie	Assorted Pies
Home Fries	Complete Salad Bar	Doughnuts & Cakes
Cinnamon French Toast	Soup Of The Day	
Sausage & Bacon	Carving Station:	
Chef Chicken	Baked Ham	still only \$12.99!
Homemade Macaroni & Cheese	Slow Cooked Roast Beef	
	Roast Turkey	

Every Wednesday is ITALIAN NIGHT!

Start you off with a salad for two, a bottle of wine, and your choice of two Italian entrées! **only \$24.99**

EVERY THURSDAY

Any two dinners from our menu!

Includes Prime Rib, Seafood Combos, Steaks, Pasta Bowls, and Much More! **2 for \$25.00**

Carriage House Restaurant
Rt. 12 ~ Winchendon 987.297.1089
winchendoncarriagehouse.com

All-You-Can-Eat Served 9:00am -2:00pm