

## TM backs school override, sets election

**BY GREG VINE**  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

At Monday's annual town meeting, Winchendon voters decided to push ahead with a Proposition 2 ½ override that would provide additional funds to the town's school department. By a 68 percent to 32 percent margin, the plan to "raise and appropriate the sum of \$417,675" via ballot question was approved following a presentation from school department officials and a number of questions and statements from the audience.

Town Clerk Judy LaJoie said Tuesday morning that 387 voters were on hand for the meeting; 52 more than cast ballots in the May 1 annual election. School Committee Chairman Larry Murphy began the school department's appeal for support by stating that Winchendon founded the first high school in Worcester County in 1887. "Old Murdock was the very first high school (in the county)," he said. "There was a commitment to students here, and you guys have been great for

the last 130 years. But I would like to make it 131. We need your help." Superintendent Steven Haddad employed a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate to voters that failing to support the override would hinder the district's efforts to first lift itself from a Level 3 district to Level 2, and then to Level 1. School officials have set the goal of reaching Level 2 within three years. Haddad provided statistics illustrating that most district



Greg Vine photo  
Winchendon School Superintendent Steven Haddad confers with School Committee Chairman Larry Murphy and Vice Chairman Janet Corbosiero prior to the start of Monday's special and annual town meetings.

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## Historical Commission confirms CF grant

**BY GREG VINE**  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon Historical Commission Chairman Corey Bohan announced last week that a \$10,000 historic preservation mitigation grant from Cumberland Farms "is a go." "Cumberland Farms has requested that we send them a letter officially accepting the grant," Bohan told his fellow commission members. "This will allow us to do future preservation work," said Bohan. "This is a great thing for us."

Last year, the commission had talked about the possibility of using the cash to hire a consultant to lay out a downtown historic preservation district. At last week's meeting, however, Bohan discussed the possibility of trying to quadruple the \$10,000 Cumberland Farms and using the cash to expand the commission's efforts and

capabilities. "I would like to apply for an additional \$10,000 from the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation," Bohan told his fellow commission members. "The I'd like to see if would could double that \$20,000 with a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission." Bohan said, should the commission be successful in obtaining the total of \$40,000, "That would put us in a position where we could do more than just laying out the downtown historic district we were considering." "We could, for example, look at expanding the area we had originally envisioned for the historic district," he continued. "And we would also have the resources to perhaps hire a part-time employee. We could certainly use the help. There

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Courtesy of Marinelli family  
This photo, circa 1968, is a gathering of local police for an event, perhaps a dinner. Left to right: Fred Cloutier, Dick Diotolavi, Mando Manoni, Charles Keeney, Art Tatro, Sal Marinelli, Chief Robert Murphy, Charles Leavens, George Higgins, Charles Schreuder, James Lineen, and Paul LaBarge.



Corey Bohan, as chairman of the Historic Commission, accepted the Lois Greenwood Historic Volunteer award on behalf of that group.



Tina Leduc Santos was the recipient of the first Meg Urquhart Volunteer award presented by the Winchendon History and Cultural Center.

## New awards presented to prestigious volunteers

WINCHENDON — In an effort to bring attention to the many people who give to the town through unrewarded work, the History and Cultural Center Board of Directors has instituted a new program. Beginning this year, and in every year going forward, two new awards will be presented recognizing the hard work of local volunteers. The first, named for Lois Greenwood, who worked with the Winchendon Historical Society for many years and

was the author of a seminal history of the town, is awarded to a someone who has demonstrated a clear effort on behalf of historic effort, preservation or care in the town. The first recipients chosen for this award were the entire membership of the Historic Commission. The Commission was instrumental in preserving at least a modicum of memory of the Joseph Fruit Store in the new construction of the Cumberland Farms.

Current membership of the Commission includes Lois Abare, Chairman Corey Bohan, Peggy Corbosiero, Mary Harrington, Yvonne Harrington, James McCrohon and David Plummer. Bohan accepted the award on behalf of the commission, saying it was an honor to be recognized. He in turn gifted the History and Cultural Center with the dated plaque from the front of the Joseph's Store for preservation.

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## State grant helps transfer station customers

**BY KEITH KENT**  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Town of Winchendon residents who purchase a new transfer station sticker will each receive a 1.58 gallon kitchen food scrap composting bin provided by a state Recycling Dividend Grant program to help residents continue furthering the town's status as a green community. DPW Administrative Assistant Wendy Stevens worked diligently on the grant application process for nearly two years. Working with six potential suppliers to negotiate the best price possible, Stevens was not only able to lock in a price, but actually saved funds to assist other purchases. Stevens explained, "We did not follow through with the

grant the first year, because the town needed a 'Buy Recycle Policy' in place and there was none at that time, so we did not submit in 2015. As we had the policy in place in 2016, I submitted the application and we were awarded the grant for \$2,600 in September of 2016 from state DEP." Originally targeted for roughly 450 units, Stevens strong work seeking competitive bids quickly paid dividends for the community allowing the number to be gradually increased to 660 at a cost of \$1689.60 or \$2.56 each, including all shipping costs. Per grant guidelines Stevens said, "The DPW was able to order new signage required by DEP for the transfer station at

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Photo by Keith Kent  
DPW Administrative Assistant Wendy Stevens displays a kitchen food scrap composting bin which will be given to each person who purchases a Transfer Station usage sticker.

## Watching and warding in Winchendon: a history of policing

**BY JERRY CARTON**  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Writing about history can be a challenge. Confirming, verifying facts from centuries past tends to lead down a slew of winding roads and more than one stops at a dead-end. That's the nature of the beast, but if you ask them, every journalist will be happy to tell you how much they enjoy the chase. In that spirit, the Courier has been delving into a frequently murky past to try and tell at least part of the story of the history of policing in Winchendon, a narrative unfortunately marked by significant gaps simply because there was no information available. Historians will tell you sometimes it's just not there. So, we've reconstructed what we could through

research and interviews. For this story, we're particularly indebted to Don O'Neil at the Winchendon Historical Society and police Chief Dave Walsh for their enthusiastic support and cooperation. To be sure, this won't be the only story we write on the subject (a slew of personal recollections will be coming next week) but we believe it is the first the Courier has written in such depth and so we begin. "It can be assumed," wrote Lois Greenwood in 'Winchendon Years, 1764-1964', her epic 400-page plus book published more than a half century ago, "that in the earliest days of police protection, Winchendon had the unpaid 'watch and ward' system which the colonists brought to America." "Earliest days" meaning

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**WEEKLY QUOTE**

Whenever I think of the past, it brings back so many memories.

—Steven Wright

# Atter continues to be upbeat about local schools

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — If there's one thing about which Memorial School Interim Principal Michelle Atter is certain, it is this: her school is the one in the district which lays the foundation academically, socially and often emotionally for young children beginning their classroom careers.

"We're where it starts," she said. Being "where it starts" obviously has academic components but Atter noted there is "fun stuff" too.

"We need to have them want to be here," she stressed, pointing out the enjoyable activities are a path to getting youngsters to be invested in being in school.

As for the academic side of things, Atter cited numerous strategies which are being used to get kids off to a good start and they start early. "Incoming kindergarten students schedule appointments for screening...on speech/language skills, fine motor skills, letter, sound, shape, and color recognition and hearing and vision.

"This information helps with placement for the upcoming school year and

targets students who may need additional support. The earlier we identify possible issues, the faster we can take steps to help," said Atter.

Teachers also monitor academic progress so when decisions come for the next year's placement, "teachers look at reading levels, boy to girl ratio, personalities and behaviors to formulate class lists for the upcoming year," Atter remarked.

Behaviors are, in fact, watched as well. Enter the Tier 1 and 2 programs.

"We've fully implemented Tier 1, a system of behavioral management within the school for all students," Atter explained, adding, if a particular student receives more than five write-ups, they are referred to the Tier 2 team "for additional supports and interventions."

"We set expectations in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in the halls," reminded Atter, "and we have a successful RTI (Response to Intervention) model."

Atter's been in the education for 19 years, the last six in administration. She's proud, she said, of her staff which has had very little faculty turnover.

"That shows their commitment," she noted, adding, "teachers these days are

asked to do more than just teach. In many cases, they have to sometimes assume the role of surrogate parents or counselors. The reality is that not every student is getting the support at home he or she needs and that's when we have to do what we have to do to help. We know some are coming here with emotional burdens," she remarked.

Atter attended Gardner High before getting her undergraduate degree at Worcester State and Masters at Fitchburg State. She acknowledged that being the top administrator in the building carries a different set of challenges than did being a guidance counselor. To that end, she's partnered with Mary Aker at Toy Town to ensure a smooth transition and connection between the district's two elementary schools, including adding "consistency in ELA, math and science."

Memorial has a winter reading challenge before the holiday break for K-2 students and events such as the twice-yearly concert nights, Dr. Seuss Week, bus and fire safety weeks along with the "Wear Orange" Bully Prevention Week are all utilized to expose students to school life outside the classroom walls.



Michelle Atter

"You have to try and put the politics and the economics aside," Atter reflected.

"You're here, we're all here for a reason and that's helping our young students get a good start," she stressed.

## Murdock announces honor roll

WINCHENDON — Murdock High School has announced the following students have earned a place on the honor rolls for the third quarter.

**GRADE 9**  
Highest Honors: Hanna Demanche, and Timothy Jinn.

High Honors: Erica Lashua, Riya Patel, Courtney Post, and Cassandra Wightman.

Honors: Paige Demanche, Cassidy Stadfeld, Grade Sutherland, and Amber Wood.

**GRADE 10**  
Highest Honors: Sirena Caputi, Lindsey Gemme, Chloe Lawrence, Timmy Quinn, Ashley Signa, and Lindsey Smith.

High Honors: Lillian Dack, Britney Jackson, and Ryan Thira.

Honors: Elissa Boucher, Matthew Casavant, Yang Yi

Chen, Megan Houle, Lily Hunt, Lily LeBlanc, Maria Polcari, Phebe Shippy, and Emily Smith.

**GRADE 11**  
Highest Honors: Michaela Benedict, Alexander Marshall and Hannah Morse.

High Honors: Tiana Taylor.

Honors: Ariana Berman, Jacob Carter, Alia LeBlanc, and Brandon Peterson.

**GRADE 12**  
Highest Honors: Dakota Leslie and Hanna Seghir.

High Honors: Thomas Aho, Andrew Burns, Brooke Harris, Katie Heacox, Ryan Kaminsky, Alyssa LaBrack, Jasmine Leslie, Aidan Provost, Dalton Scott, and Tiffany Shammo-Sluder.

Honors: Kayla Bennett, Alyana Burgess, Dallas Hamel, Victoria Swanson and Brittany Williams.

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The 'Benches', a mental health project created by Murdock High School students Lily LeBlanc, Alec Hart and Cassidy Stadfeld was awarded \$700 in grant money last week by a panel representing the United Way/Youth Venture program run out of Mount Wachusett Community College.

"This is our baby," enthused LeBlanc, who said the idea has been in the works for some 18 months.

LeBlanc and Hart delivered a power-point presentation to the committee explaining their vision for the project.

"We want to put benches at specific places on each floor of the high school where kids who have been bullied, or kids who are going through anything really, can have a 'safe place' to sit and talk," with trained peer and adult mentors, adding that if privacy is needed, there will be places to hold those conversations as well.

"I was bullied. A lot of people are. A couple years ago, I thought about suicide. I want to give a lot of credit to Mr. Provost (Kris, who is MHS' 'champion' for Youth

Venture). He's made a big difference for me."

"We want the benches to be a place where people, students and administrators, kids and adults can go. Eventually we would like to expand it to the middle school, then to other schools in the district and then outside the district. Those are long-term goals, though" she said.

For now, the trio wants to sustain the whole project and are hoping to recruit between six and 15 volunteers to participate, all of whom will first be vetted by high school Assistant Principal Ralph Borseth ("he's been so supportive," noted Hart). Borseth isn't the only adult backer. LeBlanc said teacher Kelly Fitzpatrick and school counselor Jane Greenleaf are also advocates. She added they've even reached out to senior center director Sheila Bettro.

LeBlanc said the project is being marketed largely through the use of social media and fund-raising efforts will include the sale of homemade friendship bracelets, t-shirts and baked goods from the daily food cart.

As for the actual construction of the benches which the trio hope to have ready when school re-opens in the fall, Martin Johnson will be

the primary builder and LeBlanc pointed out all recyclable items will be used.

School committee member Larry Murphy, who joined district Superintendent Steve Haddad and Academy for Success educator Becky Benedict on the panel congratulated the trio for "taking on this delicate issue," and he spoke for the group when reminding that confidentiality will be an important issue to consider.

LeBlanc acknowledged the group will have to determine a formula for collecting and reviewing data to see if they're making a difference.

The idea was originally hers and when asked how he got involved a bemused Hart recalled, "She said, 'I have a meeting. You're going too'. It was kind of an order but I'm glad I did."

MWCC coordinator Evan Berry said, "We feel like projects such as this gives students a chance to reach out. They're starting these in school but they're really reaching out beyond the school campus as well which will benefit them as they get older. They're making a difference and they should be proud of themselves."

## TOWN

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that are funded at one percent above net school spending - the amount the state requires communities to spend on education - are mired at levels 3, 4, or 5. He said that, with the \$300,000 override passed by voters in 2014, Winchendon falls into the one percent above NSS category.

He then explained that, of the \$323,068 dollars the earlier override targets for the district in the next fiscal year, more than two-thirds is committed to helping retire the debt the town incurred in order to plug the more-than \$3.5 million deficit discovered by an audit in late 2014.

"We need this override desperately," he said.

Without it, said Haddad, the depart-

ment would lose several teachers and support staff.

Tina LeDuc Santos, who has children in the district, rose in support of the override, noting that improving local schools will also increase property values in town. It was a sentiment echoed by Maureen Provost, whose son Aiden graduates this year, who added "the children of this town, whether you still have any in school or not, are all our children. They're our future and they deserve our support."

Homeowner Rick Lucier stood to make a point about the increase in the salaries of teachers and support staff.

"So, this isn't all about the kids," he said, a statement that drew a vocal negative response from the audience.

With the approval of the article, the question now moves to the ballot. A special election is now scheduled for June 20.

Prior to the vote on the override, voters, by a margin of 81-19 percent, approved spending just over \$13 million on education. When funds from the 2014 override, state aid, and a 2 ½ percent escalator are folded in, the amount for net school spending tops the \$16.1 million mark.

In other action Monday, voters okayed a town government budget for FY18 of just over \$15 million.

Also approved was the expenditure of \$691,000 for the construction of a "sally port" to be added onto the rear of the new police station.

Town Manager Keith Hickey said the town had received a commitment of a \$500,00 grant from the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation to help cover the cost of the project. In addition, \$69,000 from a state 911 Support and Incentive Grant would be applied to the work. That leaves \$122,000 to be provid-

ed through taxation. That amount will be spread out in equal parts over the next three fiscal years.

Police Chief David Walsh said the new facility is needed to help protect public safety, as well as the safety of officers, and the safety and privacy of prisoners being brought into the station for booking. The sally port will also contain an additional holding cell, booking and processing rooms, rooms for fingerprinting and forensics processing, and a several storage areas.

Two other big-ticket items approved by voters were a lease-purchase agreement to obtain a new pumper tanker for the Fire Dept., at an estimated cost of \$450,000 over five years, and a three-year lease-purchase agreement to secure a new ten-wheel dump truck, plow and sander body for the public works department. The cost is estimated at around \$230,000.

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**We'd Love To Hear From You!**



# CLYDE'S CORNER

**MYSTERY MONTH:** May is "Mystery Month" at the Beals Memorial Library in Winchendon and the staff will be celebrating all month long with displays, raffles for newly released mystery novels, and an author's visit from acclaimed mystery writer, Archer Mayor. To participate, all patrons have to do is check out a mystery novel during the month. All mystery lovers should drop by or call the library at (978) 297-0300 for more information.

## Friday, May 19

**OPENING NIGHT: GALA 2017 annual spring Art Show** with live music opening reception and art awards 6-9 p.m. Show and reception at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Show runs May 19-21. More info and to enroll, [www.galagardner.org](http://www.galagardner.org).

## Saturday, May 20

**OPERATION WINCHENDON CARES:** Please join us at the American Legion Post 193 on School Street on Saturday, May 20 from 9-11 a.m. as we collect and package donations to send to our military members who have ties to the town of Winchendon. Please look on our Facebook page - Operation Winchendon Cares for more information or on our website - [www.winchendoncares.com](http://www.winchendoncares.com). We are always in need of monetary donations to help offset the costs of the cookies and postage.

Please remember that as the temperatures start to rise, do not drop off items that could melt, like chocolate.

**TOY TOWN OUTDOOR MARKET:** 126 Central St. on the lawn of the Unitarian Universalist Church, Winchendon Thursdays 4-7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Sunday, May 21

**INDIVISIBLE WINCHENDON:** The Indivisible Winchendon group meets every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. to discuss and organize creative, effective resistance to the Trump administration over the long term. We are liberal/

progressive but non-partisan. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/381174492262359/>

## Tuesday, May 23

**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.

## Wednesday, May 24

**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.

## Thursday, May 25

**TOY TOWN OUTDOOR MARKET:** 126 Central St. on the lawn of the Unitarian Universalist Church, Winchendon Thursdays 4-7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**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.

**OUR NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN:** On Thursday, May 25 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon for a hearty dinner. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. We can always use more volunteers! If you'd like to help with set-up, come to the church around 4 p.m. If you want to help with serving, come at around 5:15 p.m. so we can go over any special protocols for the night's menu. Clean-up starts around 6:15 p.m. and is usually done shortly after 7 p.m. Volunteers have a chance to sit down to socialize and enjoy the meal.



## MUSIC SCHEDULE

Winchendon American Legion,  
295 School Street (Route 12),  
Winchendon, MA

For more information:

[info@galagardner.org](mailto:info@galagardner.org)

[www.galagardner.org](http://www.galagardner.org)

[facebook.com/galagardner](https://www.facebook.com/galagardner)



This program is supported in part by grants from the Gardner Cultural Council, the Winchendon Cultural Council, and the Templeton Cultural Council, local agencies, which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. GALA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

This location is wheelchair accessible.

### FRIDAY, MAY 19TH

6:00 PM: James Clune  
7:00 PM: Awards & Announcements  
7:30 PM: Clayton Phelps  
8:00 PM: Eddy Troxler

### SATURDAY, MAY 20TH

11:00 AM: Garold Amadon  
12:00 PM: Linq  
1:00 PM: Michelle Marie & Jean Louis  
2:00 PM: Bob Schuchard  
3:00 PM: Surround Sound (acapella)  
4:00 PM: Tommy D

### SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

12:00 PM: Myra MacLeod  
1:00 PM: Winnie Jamleson  
2:00 PM: Gardner High School Youth  
3:00 PM: Brian Dickens  
3:30 PM: Raffle & Award Announcements

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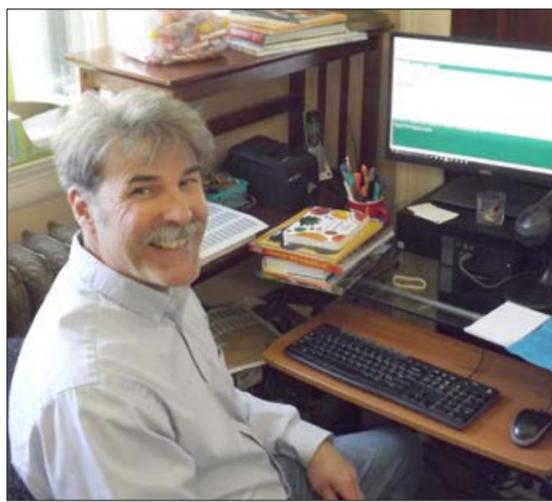
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## MAKING THE GRADE

Greg Vine photo

Beals Memorial Library Director Manuel King recently received his Master of Library and Information Sciences from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, GA. King and his wife Mary traveled to the Peach State, where he received his diploma in a graduation ceremony last Friday. The former head of adult library services at Wheeler Memorial Library in Orange, he has served as Beals' director since September of last year.

## COURIER CAPSULES

**PLANT SALE**  
The Winchendon Garden Club is having a Plant and Bake Sale at the Winchendon History Culture Center Toy Museum, 135 Front St., on June 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most plants \$5 or less. Local vendors selling outdoor decorative items. Proceeds fund our scholarship program and town plantings. Garden Club members will be on-site for free advice, tips and ideas.

**ALUMNI SOFTBALL**  
On Friday, June 2 6-9 p.m. at the American Legion Baseball Field, Murdock Alumni of all ages are encouraged to participate in a just for fun softball game. Former participation in athletics is NOT a requirement, and there is no cost to participate, though donations are appreciated. If you wish to order a shirt, the price is \$10 and must be ordered by May 22. Concessions will be available. All proceeds benefit Murdock Sports Boosters. TO register or for information contact Sue Polcari at (978) 257-5671 or [Rpwinma@verizon.net](mailto:Rpwinma@verizon.net). Once a Blue Devil, always a Blue Devil!

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**  
WORCESTER— Amber Angelos of Winchendon was recognized with the Criminal Justice award, Forensics/ Crime Scene Processing at the annual Academic Awards Ceremony at Becker College.

**WORCESTER** — Becker College announces its 2017 inductees into the Alpha Chi Honor Society, including Renee Rogers of Winchendon. Alpha Chi limits membership to the highest ten percent of full-time students in the junior and senior classes.

**IT'S ALIVE**  
Toy Town Live, the always popular talent show, is sched-

uled Tuesday, May 30 6-7:30 p.m.

**GALA ART SHOW**  
You are invited to enjoy wonderful art and fantastic live music at the Gardner Area League of Artists Spring Art Show! Friday Evening Opening Reception: Meet the artists and musicians and join us for the announcement of the judges' awards at 7 pm. Free refreshments (cash bar available). Admission is free, but donations are encouraged.

We have an exciting new event, The Off the Wall Art Sale,

offering framed 5x7 original artwork for just \$60 and framed photographs for only \$40!

GALA will also hold an artwork raffle and of course, you can purchase original art from the exhibit. The entire event, with live entertainment is at the American Legion, 295 School St.

**Show Hours**  
Opening Reception: Friday, May 19, 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, May 20, 11 am - 5 pm; Sunday, May 21, noon - 4 pm. Raffle & People's Choice Award winners announced on Sunday at 3:30 pm.

**Murdock Alumni Dinner**  
June 3 at 6 p.m., Join in a great Winchendon tradition. Come have dinner with fellow alumni and community members. Celebrate a special year reunion along with scholarship recipients. Event if free of charge for Murdock High seniors only - family members are invited with purchase of tickets. Tickets \$30 each. Contact Betty Blodgett to order tickets 978-297-2338 Proper dress required - dresses, dress pants, ties. Ceremony starts at 6pm - Seniors arrive at 5:30pm



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## WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI  
EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

# VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

## EDITORIAL

### Time to decide

On June 20 more people get a chance to weigh in on a decision to give more money for expenses for the school system in Winchendon.

There will be a bevy letters both pro and con we are certain, the first couple are already here this week.

And this is entirely in the hands of individual voters, who know their own family's circumstances and whether they can pony up more money in their taxes each year.

So, no matter how deeply you may feel one way or the other about the issue, remember you do not pay your neighbor's bills. You do not get to decide for them whether they can do it or not.

And they do not need to be shamed or ridiculed for the decisions they make.

We hope, on the other hand, they do weight the decision based on monetary concerns as well as their hearts, because it is very easy to get caught up in rhetoric and make hasty decisions based on likes and dislikes; either of circumstances or individuals; of others whose views you don't or do like; of fear even of being thought different than those around you who are either "for" or "against" something.

We have way too much of that in our polarized public arena already.

This decision is, yes, ultimately for the education and keeping educators in front of our classrooms and for teaching materials and for athletics and art pro-

grams and all the rest.

It may also boil down to keeping Murdock High School as its own individual and separate entity.

Because the reality is, the hard truth is, trying to keep such a small high school afloat is expensive. Perhaps TOO expensive for Winchendon by itself.

It is a time honored, tradition based school that still holds a true promenade each spring, that has one of the best alumni organizations we've ever seen, that has an amazing pride of place and exceptional alumni themselves who are eager to prove coming from a small town doesn't detract from being able to make it, and make it darn good, in the world.

It has its detractors too.

It is "MudRock" to many. It is dissed by those who have abandoned it to attend schools in other towns (most of which have their own bevy of problems and aren't one darn bit better, just different), and the ultimate downer, the home of WinchenTucky itself.

So let's NOT make this decision based on primal whines; let's think it through. Do we want to become part of a regional school district? We won't have as much control if we do.

Do we want to continue to struggle with state unfunded mandates to the detriment of the education of the kids?

Turn To **DECIDE** page **A5**

### Anderson: thank you voters

To the Editor:

I would like to personally thank the residents of Winchendon for taking the time to come to the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 15th. The Town Meeting is the last bastion of a Direct Democracy, where everyone is entitled to voice their opinion and know that when they cast their vote, it is counted and every vote matters. It is imperative that the residents take the time and make the effort to attend these meetings and contribute their ideas and opinions. I was also deeply disappointed with the behavior and lack of respect that was shown. Everyone is entitled to their opinion and should be able to question or advocate openly without fear of reprisal from an unruly forum. You don't have to agree with a speaker, but you must be respectful, listen and wait for your chance for a rebuttal. We call that civil discourse, and it is essential.

A resident requested that members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee explain why they did not support the override request of the School Department. Unfortunately, the audience became loud and disorderly and the moderator chose to end discussion, rather than inflame the situation. I would like to take this opportunity to explain my decision to not recommend this override.

When I was elected to the Board of Selectmen two years ago, the Town of Winchendon was experiencing an economic disaster that could have proven fatal to our community. A brand new Board of Selectmen was elected, a brand new School Committee was elected, and a new Town Manager and new School Superintendent was hired. This was our opportunity to correct some issues and start fresh. Public trust in our local government needed to be restored and we realized that was something that needed to be earned, and wouldn't be given freely. Everyone on the Board of Selectmen has worked incredibly hard scrutinizing numbers, questioning every department head that requested money or equipment. We have done our best to keep within or below the well-crafted budgets that Mr. Hickey and his staff had created.

Unfortunately, in order to succeed, the town needed to borrow money with the help of the Department of Revenue. That money must be paid back. It is irrelevant that we did not create the debt, but we are entrusted with the responsibility of paying it back. The town did not incur this debt on its own; the School Department also helped to create the financial set-back. The School Department is also charged with repaying its portion of this debt. I was astounded when the Superintendent stated that he wasn't aware that the schools would also be held responsible. Fortunately, Mr. Hickey has been able to work within his budget and negotiate town employees a small raise. Yes, it isn't nearly as much as we would have liked to have negotiated, because the town employees have pulled together and worked hard throughout our financial struggle. It was responsible and Mr. Hickey made sure that it was within his budget.

The School Department negotiated raises before anticipating their budget; I don't think that was responsible. We had to delay meetings because they did not complete their audit on time. We also scheduled tri-board meetings with the Finance Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen with the express purpose of going over budgets, yet the only budget prepared on time was the town budget. We had to re-schedule an additional meeting at a later date to accommodate the School Department. I resent that a member of the School Committee argued that the town is purchasing new equipment for the other departments, but seldom comes to the aid of the schools. The 3rd Article in the Town Warrant was to ask that the town pay \$55,000 in outstanding prior year bills incurred by the school. Mr. Hickey had to include that in his budget as well. Mr. Hickey was also able to locate funds and asked the Board of Selectmen if they would allocate those to the schools, who were struggling. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to allocate an additional \$57,000 to the schools that is over and above net school spending, override monies and the outstanding bill balance. The town has been more than willing to help whenever fiscally possible.

Furthermore, the residents of the Town of Winchendon have seen a 2 ½% increase in their tax rate, plus they also must pay for the \$300,000 override for the schools which passed in 2014, plus the debt exclusion debt for the Police Department and ladder truck for the Fire Department that continue to increase taxes even beyond the obligatory 2 ½%. The trivializing suggestion that a new override would be merely a cup of coffee does not account for the fact that residents are still paying on many additions to the tax levy that adds up to many cups of coffee. I do not feel that adding to that tax burden at this time is prudent. We are still trying to prove ourselves and trying to earn the public's trust. Even though I feel badly for the School Department, I also feel that this is somewhat of a self-inflicted wound. It irritates me that the answer to not getting an override is to threaten to kill the programs that kids look forward to the most and layoff the most popular teachers. This rips at the heart-strings of the very students they are trying to protect. It is ethically unwise for the school to use the all call system to alert residents to the override dilemma, it was unwise to use the school musical to push a political agenda.

The Finance Committee has articulated their feelings at every meeting. I usually watch from home, but I also like to attend when I am able. The Board of Selectmen has also allotted a significant amount of time to discussing the issue. I would encourage anyone who is interested in hearing what either board has to say to either tune in to channel 8 on Monday or Tuesday evening, or come down to Town Hall. We would welcome your company and your input.

BARBARA ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN  
WINCHENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Haddad: Override Vote Thank You

To the Editor:

Let me begin by thanking all of you who took the time and cared enough to show up at Monday's Town Meeting to demonstrate your support for this first step in the override process. More people showed up there than voted in the recent election. By coming Monday night, you gave your vote of confidence in our school system and in our goals. We are truly grateful.

The campaign is not over. In fact, it is just beginning. A larger effort lies ahead over the next month. We need you until Election Day on June 20th, to mobilize on behalf of our students and staff. It's a cliché perhaps, to say it's all about the kids, but clichés become clichés because they're true.

So we need you not only to vote yourself, but we need you to get your family and friends to the polls as well. Make no mistake - the people who oppose this effort, the people who think education is overrated, or at least not important enough to fund appropriately - they'll come out to vote. They always do. Always.

It's not an exaggeration to say we really are at a crossroads. In the last few years, we've lost business classes, math and literacy coaches, our TV studio, industrial arts, administrators, teachers, para-professionals, an electrician, plumber, carpenter and groundskeeper. It's hard to sustain those kinds of losses but we've persevered, students and staff alike.

We have students attending Harvard, Columbia, Smith, Tufts, Ohio State, Northeastern, as well as Fitchburg State, UMass, Franklin Pierce, and Mount Wachusett Community College. These students have gone on to careers or on their way to careers as doctors, lawyers, engineers, social workers, computer technicians and teachers, to say nothing of the very valuable building trades and serving our country in our all-volunteer military.

The Murdock Academy for Success is just that, a success. We have more Advanced Placement courses than our neighboring districts. Our student council has twice in a row been awarded the state's Gold Excellence Award. A middle school teacher was honored as the state's Student Council Advisor of

the Year. A high school science teacher was named an Advanced Placement Teacher of Excellence. An elementary school teacher was honored with the secretary of state's award of Excellence for Energy and Environmental Education.

Our extended day and after school programs, over the last 13 years, have averaged 120 students participating, and the best part is that it offers homework support. Sports? Seven years ago, 143 students were scattered across our teams. Now it's 225, and our kids are really competitive.

We have had great performances this year in our theater of "Grease", "Seussical Jr.", and "The Jungle Book". We have had great concerts performed by students at every grade level highlighted with our 2nd graders singing the Murdock School Song with fist pumps included.

So much of this and so much more, is at risk now. The truth is - our existence as an independent school district might well be jeopardized if this override fails. We can only absorb so many cuts before we are no longer able to provide our students with the kind of quality education they deserve and which we owe both them and our community. That's not an empty election time threat. That's economic reality.

When you look at what we've achieved, when you look at what our students are accomplishing, at what our faculty and support staff are doing, it's crystal clear that nay-sayers to the contrary, our school system is trending very much in the right direction. Together we're building and growing a system which is enabling our students to compete effectively with their peers from anywhere in an increasingly competitive environment.

This momentum needs to continue to accelerate. All of us are invested in our school system, as administrators, teachers, staff, neighbors and above all, as citizens who want to see our children succeed. Your vote will decide whether this will happen. I absolutely believe our kids have earned and deserve that vote. Please vote yes for the override on June 20th.

SUPERINTENDENT STEVE HADDAD  
WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Dickens: politics brings out best... and worst

To the editor:

I wear many hats here in town. I work on this committee, that committee, I book music, and I even used to substitute at the schools before I got my newest job. But sometimes, I approach the community asking it to ponder political questions. I believe what the late Howard Zinn often said: "you can't afford to be neutral on a moving train."

I like to drive people to the polls, talk up candidates for office, and hold up signs around elections. In 2017, however, my friends and I arranged a citizen's petition to go before the town at town meeting. This referendum is a non-binding resolution to ask our U.S. Representatives and Senators to support a congressional inquiry regarding the impeachment of our President, Donald Trump.

In order to talk to the public about this, I decided to get off Facebook! I painted a sign, bright red, with white letters reading, "ask me how to impeach Trump." I knew I might catch some flack for it, but I had a stronger feeling that I might make some friends — or at least have some interesting conversations. Unfortunately, on the day I stood downtown with the sign, the bulk of my interactions were shameful to the town of Winchendon. They were cruel, disgusting, and bordered on the violent.

I was given the middle finger by no less than a dozen passing motorists, some of whom I recognized. Someone drove by and yelled "hipster trash." Someone leaned out their window and yelled, and I'll have to doctor my language here, "hey, you effing snowflake, get a job." I work full time...but I get what the guy was saying. Who doesn't hate snowflakes here in New England, especially after this past winter?

To top it off, a young adult came up to me within my arm's length, and told me that if I knew what was good for me, that I would leave. He began to swear at me and call me names. He said "if I were you, I would get moving, right now."

I replied, "I bet you would, because you don't seem like the kind of person that can actually talk to someone that you disagree with without swearing at them and trying to intimidate them. If you were me, you wouldn't even be out here in the first place. If I were you, I would get moving, since I'm not afraid of you whatsoever."

I didn't think that up in the shower after, that is what I said! He threw more slurs and pejoratives at me and went on his way. I shouted across the parking lot, "it's easier to be awful than it is to be kind."

As I mentioned at the beginning of this writing, I knew that I would have people give me the business. I caught middle fingers while campaigning for Bernie Sanders during the primary season in the spring of 2016. But never did someone swear at me loudly, and never did someone come up and try to physically intimidate me because of a sign I was holding.

Donald Trump has identified himself as the "law and order" President. I would like to see his followers whom I met begin to better exemplify those ideals in the way they treat their fellow townspeople. It's not very orderly to shout swears and obscene language out of your car's window, and it certainly isn't lawful to use your body to intimidate people holding signs.

I would like to call on the Courier's readers to condemn and repudiate these types of actions. I know that tempers are high these days, and that protestors of all political affiliations have been acting poorly here in the U.S. But, I refuse to let it occur in my hometown without speaking up. The only bright side to this whole ordeal is that I did indeed make friends, just as I thought I would, and they're going to go vote for the referendum.

BRIAN DICKENS  
WINCHENDON

www.TheHeartOfMassachusetts.com



# How did we get here anyway?

Let me pose the obvious question — how the hell did we get here anyway? I'm still stunned by Donald Trump's victory last fall but then again, I'm still stunned that Richard Nixon carried 49 states in 1972. I'm still stunned that a guy most of you have never



**JOURNEY OF THE HEART**  
.....  
**JERRY CARTON**

heard of was the Democratic nominee for governor of Maryland in 1966 and that matters because it was about then when we started the descent into the proverbial contemporary briar patch.

By 1966, we'd done nowhere near enough to honestly address the Original Sin which had by that time divided us for some 300 or so years. The frequently brilliant Founders, in the long run, did their descendants no favors with the 3/5th Compromise, but in the context of the times that was the only route to ratification of the Constitution. The Missouri Compromise and Compromise of 1850 did nothing but further inflame passions. And then, of course came war and Reconstruction and Jim Crow laws and the KKK and all the rest.

Sitting on the edge of the Mason-Dixon Line, Maryland's political loyalties were often divided and segregationists roamed freely. There were riots in Cambridge. Then came 1966.

One of those ardent, and frankly not

very bright, segregationists named George Mahoney managed to win the Democratic primary with all of 34-percent of the vote, the remaining 66-percent being split exactly evenly between two rational humans named Tom Finan, the state's Attorney General and Carlton Sickles, a congressman. Non racist Democrats, my parents among them, were horrified. Luckily, there was an alternative.

Enter the Republican nominee, Baltimore County Executive Spiro Theodore Agnew and liberal and moderate voters swung to him in droves. In 1966, Agnew wasn't the fire-breathing anti-intellectual wordsmith he would become as Richard Nixon's Vice-President. Before 1968, which was when Agnew was stung by the Baltimore riots in the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination and left at the altar by Nelson Rockefeller after inviting reporters in to watch Rocky announce for President except Rockefeller declared himself out, before all that Agnew was a genuine progressive. He convinced the overwhelmingly Democratic and in 1967 none too liberal state legislature to pass Maryland's first-ever open housing law.

But 1968 did happen. Class and race warfare were out in the open. Everyone

had seen the riots in the South. And North. Vietnam had divided the country. The previously solid Democratic South had massively gone for Goldwater in 1964 and that was just the start.

Nixon saw an opening that year and not all that subtly appealed to white anger and yes white racism and when he squeaked out a win, that opened the floodgates. Since then, almost every Republican presidential candidate has, sometimes subtly and sometimes not, appealed to that same base and last year Trump was able to add pissed off blue-collar white workers and there you have it in a nutshell.

In the meantime, when cable television came around, the now ubiquitous 24/7 scream-fests began to take hold. When dark money began to pour into campaign coffers, members of Congress began spending so much time dialing for dollars they became personally estranged from one another. It's harder to demonize someone when your kids go to school with theirs. And then arrived social media and the dam of civility burst and so here we are.

All that said, by no means are all politicians rascals nor is every white Republican racist. Both those points should be obvious but in our rush to lazily categorize people, both those sentiments often seem to dominate what passes for debate and discussion and saner, rational voices too often get lost in the shouting matches which in turn

helps fuel the cynicism. I've known plenty of pols on both sides of the aisle and almost all of them are deeply patriotic, open to compromise, and don't see the other side as the enemy as opposed to the opponent. Sadly, that ilk is getting swallowed up by crazy primaries funded by who-knows-who.

I've written before there is a segment of the populace you can't reason with. We have to isolate them in their extremist shrillness and figure out a way to communicate among the rest of us. Local and state elections seem like the logical places to start where partisanship is real but not as frenzied as it is on the federal level. Maybe if we can start there, maybe someday we'll live to see that gradually rise to include federal elections. Maybe even next year. After all, when people's lives might literally be at stake, they just might be willing to take up electoral arms against the people who promised them paradise and delivered nothing of the sort. Maybe, just maybe, enough voters will stand up for themselves and even if that doesn't happen in enough congressional races, perhaps it will at home where the stakes are tangible?

At least we can hope. Otherwise, the very future of the Republic is quite tenuous. No joke. See you next week.

## More than an historical footnote



...AND ONE MORE THING...  
.....  
**GREG VINE**

The vast majority of Americans have never heard the name Raymond Kaplan. In fact, only historians whose field of study covers a very specific era in U.S. history are likely to recognize the name of this man, who passed from this earth on March 6, 1953. He was one of the most tragic victims of one of the most disgraceful periods in our nation has ever lived through.

In 1950, the main propaganda arm of the United States government, the Voice of America, was the third largest communications network on the globe, behind only Radio Moscow and the BBC. It had been established by executive order in 1942 to counter Nazi propaganda during World War II and was greatly expanded as the Cold War heated up during the administration of Pres. Harry Truman. By 1953, it had 75 transmitting stations spread across four continents. With programs broadcast in 46 languages and dialects, it reached an estimated 300 million people worldwide.

On Feb. 16, 1953, the infamous communist-hunter (he never found any), Sen. Joe McCarthy, launched an investigation into alleged communist infiltration of the VOA. The Wisconsin Republican, who had seized upon the "communists -in-gov-

ernment" issue in a desperate — and successful — effort to win re-election in 1952, had doubts about the advisability of locating two powerful transmitters (known as Baker One and Baker Two) on either coast of the U.S.; one in Seattle, the other on the coast of North Carolina.

As it turned out, however, it appeared the transmitters as designed would not generate the power needed to beam America's version of the truth into the Soviet Union, as they were meant to. But instead of chalking up the problem to errors in engineering and mathematical calculation, McCarthy and his trusted aide, New York attorney Roy Cohn, decided the flaw was anything but accidental. It must have been, they posited, the work of communists and "pink" employees working in and for the VOA.

Because McCarthy had gained a reputation for employing intimidation, innuendo, outright threats, and for playing fast and loose with his version of "the truth," the State Dept. suspended work on the Baker project the day after the hearings had begun.

"In the end" — writes David Oshinsky in his book "A Conspiracy So Immense: The World of Joe McCarthy," — "the Battle of the Bakers cost some men their jobs and one man his life."

Raymond Kaplan, a liaison between the Research Electronics Laboratory and VOA, had played a role in the development of the Baker transmitters. Afraid he would

be called to testify before McCarthy's committee, Kaplan threw himself in front of a fast-moving truck in Cambridge, Mass. The news surprised McCarthy, who said Kaplan had been cooperative, adding that he "had expressed the desire to appear and testify."

In a note left for his wife, Kaplan implored, "I have not done anything in my job which I did not think was in the best interest of my country....When the dogs are set on you, everything you have done since the beginning of time is suspect....I have never done anything that I consider wrong but I can't take the pressure on my shoulders any longer....I love you and David beyond life itself. You are innocent victims of unfortunate circumstances....I can say no more now."

Raymond Kaplan deserves to be remembered. He is a reminder, if we care to pay attention, that the blind pursuit of power, influence, and attention — especially when carried out by someone already in a position of great power (the greatest, perhaps) — can have tragic unintended consequences; even fatal consequences. We must guard against the powerful setting their dogs on anyone, particularly those with very little or no power; religious minorities, members of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and ethnic minorities are just a few who come to mind.

The difficulty is getting those — or the one — in power to give a damn.

store, the commission imposed a one-year moratorium on the project; a move allowed under state law. The panel not only wanted time to explore the feasibility of saving the historic structures, it also wanted the convenience store chain to design a new store which would be compatible with the historic aesthetic of the town's retail core. In addition, the commission sought the \$10,000 grant to help preserve the traditional look of downtown Winchendon as economic development efforts kicked into high gear.

In the end, Cumberland Farms redesigned the new store to mimic the appearance of the Joseph building. Other appointments in and around the building were also designed to give a

more historic look to the development, including lighting similar to that now in front of town hall and fencing that fits better with the town's appearance, rather than the plain, utilitarian look of hurricane fencing, for example. The interior of the store will also include enlarged copies of historical photographs of Winchendon.

In response to a question, Bohan said he had been told by representatives of Cumberland Farms that it was not unusual for the company to provide historic preservation grants to communities where new stores or store upgrades had been undertaken.

It is expected that the new Cumberland Farms will be opening its doors by Labor Day.

### GRANT

continued from page A1

could certainly use the help. There are files to be updated and organized, and plenty of other work that could be done in the office."

Bohan explained that anyone hired by the commission would be limited to working 19 to 19 1/2 hours per week.

"If we gave them 20 hours, we'd also have to provide them with benefits — and we certainly wouldn't have the funds to do that.

When Cumberland Farms first proposed demolishing the old Joseph's variety store building and the adjacent Fairbank House to make way for its new

### DECIDE

continued from page A1

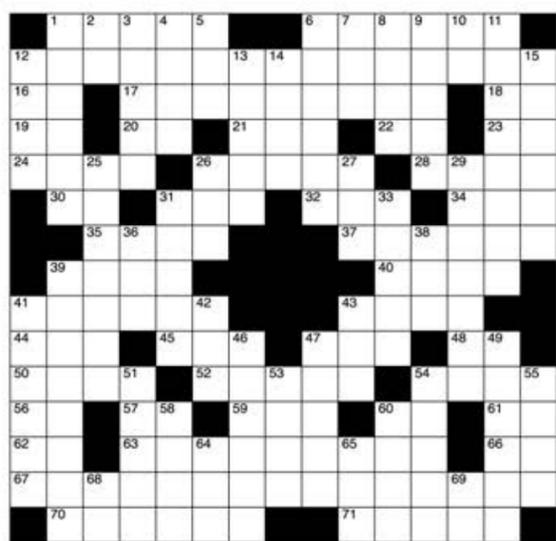
We know we HAVE to do these things, and they all cost, and the money must be provided from somewhere.

Just as at home, costs do spiral, do we want to continue to cut, and cut, and cut until there is nothing left? Or do we really look at the programs that will best benefit the KIDS themselves and see if we can't fund them to the best of our ability.

We do need to pay the teachers, we do need custodians, we do need people in the classrooms in order to TEACH. That is part of the cost of schooling.

We are now talking about how much, and who is going to control it, ultimately.

And it is up to each of you to decide.



#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Member of Jamaican religion
- 6. Explodes
- 12. "Walter White" produced this
- 16. Promo
- 17. In a harmful way
- 18. Aluminium
- 19. Cerium
- 20. Female title
- 21. Singer DiFranco
- 22. Beloved alien
- 23. Free agent
- 24. Tax
- 26. Change
- 28. Heaviness
- 30. Third note of the solfège
- 31. Printing speed measurement
- 32. Pouch
- 34. Brew
- 35. Female of a horse
- 37. Platforms
- 39. Type of hemline
- 40. "Traffic" actor Guzman
- 41. Counts on
- 43. Inhabitant of Media
- 44. Pitcher's statistic
- 45. Beloved dish \_\_\_ and cheese
- 47. An association of criminals
- 48. Samarium
- 50. Describes an action
- 52. About oviduct
- 54. Holy fire
- 56. Audio frequency
- 57. Stephen King novel
- 59. Rocky peak
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Gallium
- 62. Larry and Curly's buddy
- 63. One-dimensionality
- 66. Soldier
- 67. Act of foretelling future events
- 70. Envisaged
- 71. Establish by law

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Regain possession of
- 2. Indicates position
- 3. Con games
- 4. Checks
- 5. Atomic mass unit
- 6. Large groups
- 7. Utah athlete
- 8. Abnormal sound
- 9. Scandal vocalist Patty
- 10. Atlanta rapper
- 11. Takes without permission
- 12. Apple computers
- 13. Hymn
- 14. Clue
- 15. Makes happy
- 25. Close to
- 26. Mimic
- 27. Cool!
- 29. Simplest
- 31. Preface
- 33. Represents the Tribe of Judah
- 36. Boxing great
- 38. Birth control means
- 39. English cathedral city
- 41. Refurbish
- 42. Test for high schoolers
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Most adorable
- 47. Large Pakistani tribe
- 49. Enemy to grass
- 51. Along the outer surface of a hull
- 53. Travels on water
- 54. Innermost Greek temple sanctuaries
- 55. Fire and \_\_\_
- 58. Singer Turner
- 60. "\_\_\_ the Man" Musial
- 64. \_\_\_ de plume
- 65. Frozen water
- 68. An alternative
- 69. Intensive care



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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.*

TUESDAY, MAY 9

12:22 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:23 a.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Rd.), transported; 12:41-2:12 a.m.: building checks, secure; 2:14 a.m.: assist citizen (River St.); 2:32 a.m.: mv stop (Central St.), spoken to; 6:04 a.m.: warrant arrest (Otter River Rd.), unable to locate; 7:54 a.m.: ambulance (Central St.); transported; 8:16 a.m.: warrant check (Central St.), Lawrence Doucette, 43, 306 Central St., #6, Winchendon, warrant arrest; 9:12 a.m.: sex offender registration (Teel Rd.), spoken to; 9:18 a.m.: 911 hang up (Central St.), unfounded; 9:42 a.m.: burglar alarm (Maple St.), canceled; 10:49 a.m.: summons service (Robbins Rd.), unable to serve; 11:01 a.m.: summons service (Hale St.), unable to serve; 11:07 a.m.: court (Matthews St., Gardner), info taken; 11:29 a.m.: juvenile/general (Oakland St.), report taken; 12:50 p.m.: animal complaint (Cummings Rd.), referred to ACO; 3:26 p.m.: suspicious person (Spring St.), spoken to; 3:29 p.m.: assist citizen (Spruce St.); 3:32 p.m.: wires down (Spruce St.), services rendered; 4:07 p.m.: assist citizen (Central St.); 4:15 p.m.: summons service (Hale St.), served; 5:21 p.m.: property found (Central St.), returned to owner; 5:52 p.m.: mv stop (Central St.), spoken to; 6:20 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring St.), services rendered; 6:28 p.m.: burglary/b&e (Spruce St.), report taken; 6:49 p.m.: investigation (Mellen Rd.), services rendered; 8:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Prospect St.), referred to ACO; 8:20 p.m.: annoying phone calls (Baldwinville State Rd.), spoken to; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), spoken to; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), citation issued; 10:53 p.m.: missing person (Lake Dennison), unable to locate.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

12:26 a.m.: traffic hazard (Gardner Rd.), removed; 12:41-12:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), secure; 12:57-1:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:37 a.m.: harassment (Bluebird Rd.), report taken; 5:18 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), citation issued; 5:29 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), citation issued; 7:33 a.m.: info/general (Spruce St.), assisted; 8:20 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash St.), referred to ACO; 8:34 a.m.: welfare check (Bluebird Rd.), spoken to; 9:07 a.m.: investigation (Spring St.), spoken to; 9:13 a.m.: traffic hazard (Central St.), referred; 9:24 a.m.: custody dispute (Bayberry Cir.), spoken to; 10:46 a.m.: assist citizen (Mill Cir.), gone on arrival; 11:40 a.m.: unattended death (Jackson Ave.), services rendered; 11:43 a.m.: info/general (Central St.), spoken to; 11:50 a.m.: sex offender registration (Central St.), info taken; 12:00 p.m.: summons service (Pine St.), served; 12:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln Ave.), referred to ACO; 12:28 p.m.: traffic hazard (Spring & Ash) gone on arrival; 12:38 p.m.: suspicious person (Congress Rd.), gone on arrival; 1:04 p.m.: suspicious person (Central St.), spoken to; 1:17 p.m.: ambulance (Webster St.), transported; 3:41 p.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), verbal warning; 4:37 p.m.: accident (Old Winchendon Rd.), info taken; 4:47 p.m.: mv stop (Central St.), citation issued; 5:00 p.m.: animal call (River St.), info given; 5:18 p.m.: ambulance (Main St.), transported; 5:37 p.m.: investigation (Maynard St.), services rendered; 5:41 p.m.: suspicious person (Lake Dennison), unable to locate; 6:06 p.m.: assault (Glenallan St.), report taken; 6:38 p.m.: ambulance (Rte. 202, Rindge), transported; 7:24 p.m.: ambulance (Laurel St.), transported; 7:50 p.m.: registration check (Central St.), verbal warning; 8:04 p.m.: ambulance (E. Monomac Rd.),

## Motor vehicle stop leads to arrest

BY GREG VINE  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

A motor vehicle stop early Monday morning led to the arrest of a Winchendon man on drug and weapons charges.

Shortly before 2 a.m., Winchendon Officer Caleb Similia reportedly had to pull his cruiser far to the right in order to avoid a vehicle driving toward him down the center of Goodrich Street. The officer turned his vehicle around and followed the other car onto Jackson Avenue, where he turned on his blue lights in an attempt to stop the vehicle. According to Similia's report, however, the driver didn't pull over until turning onto Juniper Street. The report further states that Similia observed the passenger throw something out of the window.

After the two occupants exited the 2011 Nissan Rogue, upon the officer's instructions, the passenger asked why they had been stopped. Similia explained that it was for failing to stay to the right on Goodrich Street.

Similia reports that as he approached the passenger side of the car, he observed a plastic bag containing a small amount of "a white substance" on the ground. When he asked, both people denied any

knowledge of the bag and its contents, which Similia suspected to be crack cocaine.

The passenger — identified as Emanuel Biaggi, age 31, of 712 River St., Winchendon — was then placed in the back of Similia's cruiser. According to the police report, it was at that time that Biaggi admitted the bag was his.

The driver, Dawn Bednarczyk of the same address, reportedly told the officer she had taken Biaggi to see one of his friends, who lived on Goodrich Street. She denied knowing anything about the suspected drugs.

The police report further states that, during a search of the vehicle, Sgt. Daniel Wolski found a pair of brass knuckles. Bednarczyk allegedly told the officers they belonged to Biaggi.

After determining the woman was not impaired, he allowed Bednarczyk to drive home.

Biaggi was held and charged with possession of a Class B drug (crack cocaine) and possession of a dangerous weapon. He was arraigned Monday in Winchendon District Court in Gardner and released on personal recognizance. A pretrial conference was scheduled for June 28.

transported; 8:18 p.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), verbal warning; 9:03 p.m.: mv stop (Central St.), citation issued; 9:34 p.m.: lift assist (Front St.), services rendered; 10:32 p.m.: threats (Juniper St.), report taken; 11:08 p.m.: threats (Juniper St.), spoken to.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

12:08-12:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:58 a.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), spoken to; 2:18-2:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:28 a.m.: investigation (School St.), secure; 2:38 a.m.: investigation (Beech St.), spoken to; 2:46 a.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), citation issued; 6:01 a.m.: b&e mv (Monadnock Ave.), report taken; 8:14 a.m.: investigation (Central St.), info taken; 9:14 a.m.: fraud (Lakeview Dr.), report taken; 10:13 a.m.: fraud (West St.), report taken; 11:21 a.m.: investigation (Oakland St.), report taken; 11:25 a.m.: property found (Central St.), returned to owner; 2:02 p.m.: mv stop (Elm & Maple), citation issued; 3:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Franklin St.), spoken to; 4:04 p.m.: b&e mv (Tucker St.), report taken; 4:43 p.m.: property found (Linden St.), returned to owner; 5:58 p.m.: welfare check (Hale St.), spoken to; 6:42 p.m.: ambulance (Central St.), transported; 6:51 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Dr.), transported; 6:53 p.m.: assist other PD (Pearl Dr.); 8:55 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ipswich Dr.), Stephanie Mattson, 34, 6 Goodrich Dr., Winchendon, trespassing; 10:00 p.m.: accident (River St.), report taken; 11:56-11:58 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

1:09-3:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:28 a.m.: property damage (Elmwood Rd.), report taken; 9:39 a.m.: mv stop (Central St.), verbal warning; 9:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Front St.), spoken to; 9:51 a.m.: illegal dumping (Glenallan St.), spoken to; 10:16 a.m.: assist other agency (Spruce St.); 10:38 a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Dr.), transported; 10:52 a.m.: mv stop (School St.), written warning; 11:06 a.m.: animal complaint (Bayberry Cir.), referred to ACO; 11:24 a.m.: investigation (Central St.), citation issued; 11:57 a.m.: mv

stop (Front & Lincoln), citation issued; 12:22 p.m.: property found (River & Brooks), returned; 12:37 p.m.: ambulance (Brown St.), transported; 12:54 p.m.: summons service (Lincoln Ave.), unable to serve; 12:58 p.m.: summons service (River St.), served; 1:03 p.m.: summons service (Spruce St.), unable to serve; 1:04 p.m.: summons service (Pearl St.), unable to serve; 1:34 p.m.: summons service (Mill St.), unable to serve; 1:46 p.m.: summons service (Maple St.), served; 2:08 p.m.: abandoned auto (Mellen Rd.), info taken; 3:09 p.m.: suspicious person (Lincoln Ave. Ext.), unable to locate; 3:35 p.m.: assist other agency (Grove St.), transport; 4:53 p.m.: erratic operation (W. Monomac Rd.), unable to locate; 5:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Oak St.), assisted; 6:54 p.m.: larceny (Mechanic St.), report taken; 6:58 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), written warning; 7:56 p.m.: ambulance (Alger St.), transported; 8:56 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), verbal warning; 9:01 p.m.: disable auto (Gardner Rd.), spoken to; 9:15 p.m.: unattended death (Spruce St.), report taken; 9:21 p.m.: illegal burn (Maynard St.), no service necessary; 10:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring St.), spoken to; 11:09 p.m.: erratic operation (Mechanic St.), report taken; 11:50 p.m.: burglar alarm (Central St.), secure.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

1:29 a.m.: welfare check (Spring St.), secure; 1:39-3:24 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:25 a.m.: mental health issue (Ash St.), section 12; 6:24 a.m.: domestic (Glenallan St.), report taken; 9:12 a.m.: road rage (Gardner Rd.), spoken to; 9:50 a.m.: ambulance (Main St.), transported; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (School St.), spoken to; 11:03 a.m.: erratic operation (Glenallan St.), spoken to; 11:14 a.m.: animal complaint (Juniper St.), referred to ACO; 11:23 a.m.: property found (Central St.), report taken; 11:33 a.m.: larceny (Pearl St.), report taken; 11:40 a.m.: custody dispute (Bayberry Cir.), spoken to; 12:12 p.m.: mv stop (Forristall Rd.), spoken to; 12:15 p.m.: suspicious person (Elmwood Rd.), unable to locate; 12:20 p.m.: mv stop (Elmwood Rd.),

spoken to; 12:23 p.m.: accident (Brown & River), report taken; 12:33 p.m.: info/general (Mill Glen Rd.), advised officer; 12:53 p.m.: ambulance (Royalston Rd. No.), services rendered; 1:58 p.m.: animal complaint (Goodrich & Central), search negative; 2:42 p.m.: threats (Spring St.), spoken to; 3:29 p.m.: investigation (Pearl St.), info given; 5:43 p.m.: domestic (Linden St.), report taken; 5:59 p.m.: ambulance (Spring St.), transported; 5:59 p.m.: erratic operation (Alger & Baldwinville State Rd.), advised officer; 6:05 p.m.: info/general (Central St.), report taken; 6:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Doyle Ave.), no cause; 6:33 p.m.: ambulance (Stoddard Rd.), transported; 8:44 p.m.: ambulance (Central St.), transported; 9:21 p.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), citation issued; 9:49 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), written warning; 10:01 p.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), citation issued; 11:36 p.m.: noise complaint (Pearl Dr.), spoken to; 11:46 p.m.: assist citizen (Pearl Dr.), spoke to.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

12:35-2:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:07 a.m.: info/general (Central St.), info taken; 3:09 a.m.: registration check (Benjamin St.), spoken to; 3:36 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:03 a.m.: ambulance (Vaine St.), transported; 9:37 a.m.: erratic operation (Glenallan St.), info taken; 10:11 a.m.: info general (Central St.), info taken; 1:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Central St.), referred to ACO; 2:18 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), Joshua Hawkins, 39, 5 Bemis Rd., Winchendon, OUI liquor, negligent operation; 3:16 p.m.: warrant check (Happy Hollow Rd.), info taken; 3:53 p.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Dr.), transported; 4:06 p.m.: erratic operation (Central St.), unable to locate; 4:15 p.m.: harassment (Spruce St.), report taken; 5:13 p.m.: burglar alarm (Front St.), no service necessary; 5:50 p.m.: assist citizen (Juniper St.), report taken; 6:00 p.m.: mv stop (Pearl Dr.), spoken to; 7:27 p.m.: domestic (Baldwinville Rd.), services rendered; 8:16 p.m.: suspicious auto (Railroad St.), report taken; 8:22 p.m.: disabled auto (Front & School), services rendered; 8:32 p.m.: assist citizen (Central St.); 9:21 p.m.: mv stop (Spring St.), services rendered; 9:37 p.m.: suspicious (other) (Mechanic St.), report taken; 9:52 p.m.: welfare check/child (Mill Glen Rd.), report taken; 10:24 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant St.); 11:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Oak St.), services rendered; 11:42 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Rd.), citation issued.

MONDAY, MAY 15

12:16-12:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:49 a.m.: mv stop (Juniper St.), Emanuel Biaggi, 31, 712 River St., Winchendon, carrying a dangerous weapon, possession Class B drug; 4:34 a.m.: traffic hazard (Baldwinville Rd.), services rendered; 6:49 a.m.: unwanted party (School St.), advised civil action; 10:23 a.m.: disturbance (Mill St.), report taken; 11:04 a.m.: property lost (Central St.), report taken; 11:25 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (North St.), secure; 12:16 p.m.: larceny (Main St.), report taken; 12:31 p.m.: assist citizen (Baldwinville State Rd.); 1:03 p.m.: unwanted party (Juniper St.), spoken to; 1:07 p.m.: ambulance (Monadnock Ave.), transported; 1:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Fourth St.), spoken to; 1:38 p.m.: ambulance (Mill St.), transported; 2:59 p.m.: assist citizen (Pearl Dr.); 3:19 p.m.: DPW call (Hyde Park St.), referred; 3:39 p.m.: 911 hang up (Central St.), transported; 5:28 p.m.: larceny (Central St.), report taken; 5:32 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring St.), secured building; 5:53 p.m.: info/general (Central St.), spoken to; 6:56 p.m.: animal complaint (Mill Glen Rd.), services rendered; 9:01 p.m.: accident (Rte. 12), report taken; 9:48 p.m.: info/general (Central St.), info taken; 9:56 p.m.: info/general (Central St.), info taken; 10:12 p.m.: info/general (Main St.), info taken; 10:19 p.m.: threats (Phyllis Rd.), report taken.



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# OBITUARIES

## Elizabeth 'Betty' R. (Bourgette) Needham, 84

GARDNER — Elizabeth "Betty" R. (Bourgette) Needham, age 84 of Gardner passed away on Monday, May 8, 2017 in UMass Medical Center, University Campus, Worcester surrounded by her children and their spouses.

Elizabeth was born on Dec. 28, 1932 in Nashua, NH, the daughter of the late Henry Bourgette and the late Rosina (McLellan) Bourgette.

She attended Fitchburg High School. She was a volunteer with Cub Scout Pack 28, Little League, Heywood Hospital and the Gardner Senior Center.

She was predeceased by her husband Leslie E. Needham in 2009, her step

son Leslie E. Needham Jr; brothers: Raymond, George, Bill; sisters: Rita, Lorraine, Elsie and Dorothy.

She is survived by her children: Richard Needham of Westborough, Michael Needham of Gardner, Diane Caisse of Holden, Kelly Ouellet of Gardner, Dale Despres of Westminster; step-daughter: Jean Needham of Winchendon; one brother, John Morin; seventeen grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday, May 19, 2017 at 1 p.m. in the Lamoureux-Fletcher & Smith Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallan St., Winchendon.

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

WINCHENDON — Darlene Ruth (Cross) Rocheleau, age 60 of 21 Jackson Ave, Winchendon, died Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at home.

She was born in Athol on Nov. 22, 1956, the daughter of the late Edward and the late Lois (Needham) Cross.

Darlene grew up and spent most of her life in Winchendon.

At the time of her death she was employed as a deli manager at Ashburnham Market Place, prior to that, she was employed at IGA Supermarket for 17 years.

An avid New England sports fan,

Darlene especially liked the Red Sox and Pawsox.

She leaves one daughter: Cherie Hart & her significant other, Neil Smith of Athol, and three sons: Shawn Cross & his wife, Holly, of Leominster, Garrett Cross of Winchendon, Cory Rocheleau of Winchendon; brothers: Larry Cross and Edward "Eagle" Cross, both of Winchendon; two grandchildren: Caitlin Hart and Owen Cross, and a great-granddaughter, Aurielle Johnson. Darlene was also close with her neighbors, Omer and Francis who were always very good to her. She also leaves her cat, Kiki, who she loved very much.

A funeral was held Tuesday, May 16 in the Lamoureux-Fletcher & Smith Funeral Home 105 Central St. Gardner.



## New behavioral services use video conferencing to reach isolated areas

Representatives from the Health Policy Commission presented \$425,000 in funding for Heywood Healthcare to implement new school based TeleBehavioral health services to address the existing behavioral health needs and the gaps in care for the north central and North Quabbin region, in particular for youth and children.

This collaborative model will leverage interactive video conferencing technology to increase access to behavioral health services for school aged children and their families in a convenient and non-threatening setting. The project is a partnership between Heywood Healthcare, Narragansett Regional and Ralph C. Mahar Regional school districts in partnership with clinical

support options, Northeast Telehealth Resource Center and Mclean Hospital.

Heywood Healthcare's new TeleBehavioral health model shifts the traditional model of behavioral health treatment from being isolated in clinical settings to the community, reaching children in a familiar setting where there is a support system. Behavioral health services will now be directly accessed in the school, breaking down barriers by offering timely access, lower costs, and reduced time constraints, while filling service gaps inherent in rural areas.

This collaborative venture has gained support at the State House, as well. Senator Anne Gobi sees this new venture of positively impacting area youth.

"Having the ability to make sure people in our more rural areas are able to access health care is a necessity," she stated. "This grant is critical piece in providing services. I appreciate all that Heywood Healthcare has done and continues to do for our region"

Additionally, Representative Susannah Whipps agrees the implementation of tele-health services can enhance the health and wellbeing of the entire region. "This grant will help allow local residents, who choose to live in our beautiful rural region, to access behavioral health services around the world to get the care they need and deserve."

Representative Whipps thanks the Health Policy Commission for recognizing the need for these import-

ant services and Heywood Healthcare for being a leader in providing quality services to our region.

"Massachusetts is home to some of the most creative, forward-thinking health care leaders in the world. This unique initiative from Heywood Healthcare will increase access to behavioral health services by integrating telemedicine technology directly into schools to address a current unmet need," said David Seltz, HPC executive director. "This award promotes the HPC's commitment to transformation and innovation in our health care system. We look forward to continuing to partner with Heywood Healthcare and the communities it serves to build a more coordinated and affordable health care system."

"Heywood Healthcare is steadfast in our commitment to improving access to healthcare services," shared Dawn Casavant, vice president of philanthropy and external affairs for Heywood Healthcare. Early identification and access to behavioral health services are pivotal to the health and well-being of our region's youth, and we are grateful for the support of the Health Policy Commission, and the willingness of our local school districts to work in partnership to bridge existing gaps in care."

For more information on the TeleBehavioral health grant and the programs it supports, please contact Maureen Donovan, project manager, at (978) 249-3703.

## Event not dampened by weather

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Rain forced the event indoors but the weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who showed up for Alternatives' annual party hosted by Gardner-based Crystal House Clubhouse.

Alternatives "is a non-profit human services agency currently serving over 2,000 adults with developmental and psychiatric disabilities in 55 residential, employ-

ment and day programs" throughout central Massachusetts including Winchendon.

Normally held in Monument Park, last Friday's celebration nonetheless attracted nine vendors and a band. Tune Foolery, a band comprised of people who have experience with mental health issues, is on hand every year.

"It's the first time we've been rained out" in 10 years, lamented Tammy Deveikis, program director at Crystal House, add-

ing, "this event is meant to raise awareness in the community of all the mental health resources in the local towns."

"That includes Winchendon, of course and we do have people from Winchendon, though we're always trying to reach out to that community to get more of them to come join us. I understand, though, transportation can be an issue," acknowledged Deveikis.

In addition to Crystal Clubhouse and

Alternatives, vendors included The Bridge of Central Mass, Mount Wachusett Community College, IPPI, Seven Hills, LUK, Gardner Police, and Gardner Community Action.

"It's no secret these are difficult times for a lot of people," noted Deveikis. "That makes what we do, what all the Alternatives agencies do, that much more essential. That's also why we want to reach out to all the towns around Gardner. Winchendon's important

to us. We know the numbers. We understand the mental health issues in a lot of communities."

Deveikis pointed out that at Crystal House, members don't just have a place to hang out.

"We're bridging people back into the community," she said, noting members are directly involved in the day-to-day operation of the facility, answering phones, planning and preparing up to 40 meals every day, and all the while following action plans designed

to help them reintegrate, including holding part-time jobs.

Rep. Jon Zlotnik (D-Gardner) called Crystal Clubhouse "a success story."

Deveikis hopes so. "When I see people making progress in their lives, going back to school, getting jobs, using things they learned or developed here, that's really rewarding," she said.

## POLICING

continued from page A1

exactly when? Who knows? Winchendon celebrated its 250th birthday three years ago. Are we talking the 1700s, early 1800s? Greenwood's book, which appears to be as close as can be found to being the town's defining history, doesn't say. For that matter, law enforcement didn't appear to be strictly secular, either. Greenwood's work suggests ministers played a role in meting out punishments as well.

By the 1880s something resembling what would become a contemporary police force was taking shape and Robert Callahan was serving as what was known as a "constable," a term possibly brought from Europe. Callahan, a legendary figure in town history, was appointed chief of the three man force in 1890 and served until his mandatory age-70 retirement in 1937. It was during his tenure the size of the force tripled to nine officers who covered the town strictly on foot patrol since the department wouldn't acquire its first car until the year Callahan stepped down. It's believed the first jails were portable lockups, used until an actual building was constructed. A garage at 202 Pleasant St. was rented for five years at the cost of \$300 annually, a not-so-modest sum for the era, and it was 1926 before the police found a home on Front Street "with a lockup in the basement of the building," wrote Greenwood. The department stayed there until the 1980s when it moved into the facility adjacent to town hall on Pleasant Street.

A succession of chiefs have followed Callahan, incumbent Walsh being the tenth serving full-time. Joseph Reagan from Malden became the second chief in 1937, staying for four years before taking the same position in Keene, NH. He was followed by Robert Hildreth who had a more than 20-year run until 1962 when Robert Murphy took the reins. Sal Marinelli was chief from 1970-1984 and Charles Leavens, Steve Thompson,

Robert Harrington and Scott Livingston (2006-16) also preceded Walsh, who ruminated on the ones with whom he was familiar.

"I was hired in July, 1989 by chief Leavens but he retired shortly after that so the first chief I worked under was... Thompson. Chief Thompson was very consistent and very patient. I never saw him upset," Walsh recalled, adding, "I feel those qualities are essential for a chief to be successful."

"Chief Harrington fully embraced the community policing philosophy. He instituted and supported a number of initiatives including bike patrols, ATV patrols and boat patrols. He understood the importance of community and support from the community as it relates to policing," said Walsh.

Before Livingston came on board in 2006, a number of interim chiefs led the department including Marcel Rougier, Fred Cloutier, James Dufort and Jack Murray. It was Livingston whom Walsh credits with bringing about major change.

"Much as I would credit Chief Harrington with transitioning the department to a more community oriented philosophy, it is chief Livingston who I would credit with modernizing the department and bringing it into the 21st century. He was instrumental in the implementation of policies, proper supervision and training. He was also able to update much of the department's equipment, specifically technology including an expansion of computer systems, radios, telephones and software in an age where information sharing among police agencies is of paramount importance," he stressed.

Women on the force? Records suggest there was a Josephine Martin employed as a 'special officer' during the 1960s but exactly what that meant is unclear. What is clear is that Tracy Flagg began her career as a dispatcher in 1996 and graduated from the Academy two years later, becoming the first full-time female

officer in Winchendon history.

Winchendon acquired its first canine officer in 2015 when Clyde ("the celebrity of the department" laughed Walsh) arrived that fall. Clyde may be the star celebrity, but the chief pointed out having the K-9 is like having multiple officers on any given scene, a benefit for a small force. The department acquired him through a grant from the Stanton Foundation, but before he and human officer partner Jim Wironen could hit the streets, Clyde had to pass the state's training program. Wironen did the frequently tedious legwork which secured the grant in the first place.

"It was a process," Wironen acknowledged.

Westminster is the only other town in the region with a K-9.

For years, Animal Control was also folded into the police department. The town's longest serving ACO, Anne Eddy, recalls starting with the police department around the turn of the century.

"They gave me a cruiser and I asked that paw prints be painted on it," laughed Eddy. "I did some of my paperwork upstairs at the PD. They were easy to work with. The dispatchers were great."

Equipment? You've likely never heard of the Baldwin chain nipper. Used from the 1870s until the 1930s, an officer would wrap the chain around a suspect's wrist, twist and hold a T-shaped handle in order to secure said suspect. In the '30s that contraption was replaced by a mechanical version known as the Argus Iron Claw, which was used by most police departments for nearly 50 years.

Even the new Central Street headquarters has a history. The opening last fall closed the book on

a long and winding journey six years in the making. That's how long it took for the department to be able to move from its increasingly outgrown and musty headquarters on Pleasant Street to the renovated former district courthouse on Central Street. The saga began in 2010 when local voters originally green-lighted the purchase of the courthouse, a plan which dissolved when the state Supreme Judicial Court ruled such "turn-key" transactions weren't legal because they bypassed open bid rules. Two years later, voters okayed spending \$2.75 million for a new station and the subsequent search committee chose the Central Street site.

The building had housed a variety of businesses over the last century, including a clothing store and several pharmacies and even dental offices, the latter located in what is now Walsh's office. Additionally, the current headquarters was once home to the Winchendon Light and Power company which took up residence nearly a century ago. By the 1970s, the Winchendon court took over the second floor, eventually occupying the entire building until the court moved to Gardner in 2009. Seven years later, the building re-opened as the new police headquarters with a day for the public to tour the facility.

Next in the series: personal recollections.



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# SPORTS

## Hurry up and leave



### TALKING SPORTS

JERRY CARTON

Early tomorrow evening, old Pimlico, genuinely old Pimlico, the facility having been opened in 1875 or thereabouts, will host the 142nd edition of the Preakness, middle jewel of racing's Triple Crown, and managing general partner Tim Ritvo has one desire above all others: he wants to get the 100,000-plus revelers the hell off the grounds before it gets dark. What else would you like to know about that particular northwest Baltimore neighborhood? Do you think that's what Cubbies management said in the days before Wrigley had lights installed? Doubtful. Does Yankees management insist on only day games in the South Bronx?

It wasn't always thus. My

father, who's now 90, grew up in that very neighborhood. Before we could drive, my friends and I used to hop a city transit bus after school to get to the track for the last few races. It was completely safe to stroll around the neighborhood. That was then. 17 years ago, trainer Neil Drysdale arrived at Pimlico with Derby winner Fusiachi Pegasus and considered, well, leaving. FuPeg, who'd been born in the gentle rolling hills of Lexington, Kentucky and raced primarily in Southern California, was clearly slumping and Drysdale was nearly apoplectic when he thought he heard gunshots outside the gates. Thought? That's exactly what he was hearing in the drug-infested neighborhood. Every year around this time, the Baltimore Sun runs the same story—the one which highlights the “plan” to revitalize the surrounding streets. Problem is, the “plan” never comes to fruition. Doesn't really even get started. Will it ever?

Whatever. Regardless of the neighborhood, they'll show up

from all over tomorrow, nearly 60,000 in the stands and some 40,000, maybe 50,000 in the infield where the proper ladies and gentlemen in their corporate tents will be safely separated from the great unwashed riff-raff by a fence sturdier than The Donald will ever build, many of those urchins so far in the bag by 6:30 they won't even know there's a horse race going on.

It was several years ago when this unseemly behavior convinced the powers-that-be to construct the fancy tents in the first place. The infield, they decreed, had become entirely too slovenly. I don't know. I spent a number of Preakness Days in that infield and the debauchery we saw didn't seem like any big deal. Of course, we were in our early 20s. We presumably had a different perspective then.

But we changed our tune. We graduated college in the mid 1970s and within just a few years by 1978 had retreated to the saner confines of the grandstand and were already

dismissive of the mob mentality across the track. Of course, when the power went out in 1998 on a 95-degree day, and it was too dark to find the bathroom, the infield was the smarter place to be.

Nonetheless I look back with great fondness. In 1974 it rained. Okay, it showered. Still, it was wet nonetheless. There was no shelter in the infield. Who cared? In 1975, the year of the centennial Preakness, we had with us a classmate who had never been to a horse track and naturally he was the only one to bet the winner, Master Derby, who to this day remains the longest shot to win the race. This fellow needed to be taken down a peg and a week or so later we took him to old Bowie where he learned the game wasn't as easy as it had looked. I would be surprised if he's been to the races in the 42 years since. The infield, which had been open in the pre-war days was closed after it ended and stayed shut until 1971 when Canonero came from South America to

shock the Derby and became an instant cult hero. The Cohen family which owned Pimlico in the glory days of my youth, opened it and a few thousand of us spent the day there. In '71 there was plenty of room to roam. You could even see the horses. Word hadn't gotten out yet and the massive parties were a couple years away.

Those began two years later when Secretariat showed up. That was the spring the infield became the place to be. People lingered long after the race, and yes, even after darkness fell. That was okay in 1973. Not 2017. Management at Belmont Park will be rooting for Always Dreaming to win tomorrow and raise the spectre of a possible Triple Crown. There have, after all, been just a dozen of them and only one since 1978. Pimlico management? They just want to clear the joint by sunset. Hell of a place to host a sports event of this magnitude. See you next week.

## RECOGNIZING SENIORS



The track seniors were recognized for their multi-year contributions to the track program at the end of last Wednesday's meet against West Boylston — for their character,

leadership as well as athletic accomplishment. Shown in the picture (from left to right): Jordan Manuel, Thomas Aho, Victoria Swanson, Coach Anthony Findley, Alyssa

LaBrack, Coach Dick Karvonen, Hanna Seghir, Coach Eha Karvonen, JT Huff, and Andrew Burns.

Jeff Millman photo

## Track season continues winning ways

SUBMITTED BY COACH ANTHONY FINDLEY

As the track season is quickly nearing its completion Murdock track and field is just starting to get hot. Both team had victories against West Boylston.

On the girls' side, the team won 13 out of the 16 events and were led by Alexia Allard with wins in the 100, 200, long jump and triple jump, Lilly Digman in the 400m, 800m and Javelin, Alyssa LaBrack in the shot put and discus, Victoria Swanson in the 100 hurdles, Paige Demanche in the high jump, Briahna Bouchard in the 400 hurdles and the 4x100m relay team of Colby Gallant, Emily Roberts, Nobaleigh

Laraba and Hanna Seghir.

On the boys' side they also won 13 out of 16 events the boy were led by Adam Digman who won all four of his events 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles, discus and high jump. Richard Swanson who won the 400, 200 and shot put, Jordan Manuel in the 2 mile, 800M and long jump, Steven Ingman won the 1 mile and Javelin and the 4x100m team of Ryan Thira, Justin Thira, Logan Huff and Eric Hogan.

Finishing the week off Murdock competed in Districts. The boys scored 22 point and placed 11th place. Senior Jordan Manuel finished first in the 800 meters with a new school record of 1:58.55. While sophomore Richard Swanson placed fourth in the 400m. The sophomore heavy contingent in the 4x400m relay team consisting of Jordan Manuel, Richard Swanson, and sophomores Ryan Thira and Adam Digman finished second just narrowly missing the school record by 2 seconds.

The girls however posted their best finish ever at the districts meet finishing third overall with 51 points. Which in itself is impressive, however how they did it is even more impressively. While other team showed up with 20 to 30 athletes, Murdock showed up with just seven. The majority of the points earned by the Murdock girls track team came from just two athletes. Alexia Allard, an eighth grader, earned the majority

of the points with 26, stemming from her win in the triple jump and a pair of second places in the 100m and long jump. Senior Alyssa LaBrack contributed 18 points from her first place finish in the discus and a second place in the shot put. Lilly Digman, a seventh grader, placed third in the 400m and

freshman Paige Demanche placed sixth in the highly competitive high jump.

Great job to the Murdock track teams. Both teams continue their seasons on Tuesday at the league meet in Ayer.

Jeff Millman photos

## SPORTS BRIEF

### MHCC GOLF

On Monday, June 12 Montachusett Home Care Corporation of 680 Mechanic St. in Leominster will be hosting its 18th annual golf classic at the Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg.

All proceeds from the tournament will be earmarked for MHCC's volunteer programs, which include the nursing home ombudsman, money management, and medical escort and companion programs. This year's tournament live auction following a round of golf includes two sets of Red Sox tickets, a week's stay at a condo in Puerto Rico, and a week's stay at a three bedroom home on Cape Cod.

Montachusett Home Care Corporation is a non-profit organization, which helps elders and disabled persons in the 21 communities it serves to remain safely in their own homes by providing a comprehensive array of home care and other supportive services. For more information on MHCC, to register for the golf tournament, or become a sponsor for the tournament, please call (978) 537-7411 or (800) 734-7312.

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## FOOD

# Tips To Help Families Improve Health



You can spend less and still eat well.

## (NAPS)

Although March is officially National Nutrition Month, anytime is a good time to eat more nutritiously, points out the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). It offers 12 tips to help.

Go fresh. Choose fresh seafood, lean poultry, and beans as your protein source. If using ground meats, choose 93 percent lean ground turkey or ground sirloin beef for tacos, enchiladas or tostadas.

Make fresh salsa or black bean dip. Store-bought salsa is often loaded with sodium. If you plan to have more than a tablespoon or two, fresh salsa is a much better

option. Guacamole contains healthy fats, but it is high in fat and calories.

Measure out portions. It is easy to overeat on snacks like tortilla chips. Measure out just one serving (usually about 10) so you can save room for the main course.

Favor whole grains. Brown rice is a whole grain and has more nutrients than white rice. Use corn and whole wheat tortillas instead of those made with flour. Buy or bake whole grain breads and baked goods.

Use the plate method. Fill half of your plate with non-starchy vegetables. Fill one quarter of your plate with a lean protein. Then fill one quarter of your plate with a starchy

food, such as beans or brown rice.

Use healthy cooking methods. Grill your chicken, fish or vegetables. You can also try baking, steaming or broiling. Small amounts of vegetable oil, olive oil or cooking spray are better options.

Beans make a great protein source. Use dried beans when you can. They are lower in sodium than canned varieties. Always drain and rinse canned beans to remove excess sodium. If you are buying canned refried beans, buy fat-free varieties. Or make your own by blending whole black or pinto beans in a food processor with spices.

Go easy on the cheese.

Cheese is high in saturated fat and in sodium. Queso fresco is a great choice if used in moderation. You can also try reduced-fat cheeses.

Substitute healthier options for sour cream. Non-fat Greek or plain yogurt and non-fat plain yogurt have a similar taste and texture to sour cream for much less calories and fat.

Cut your portion size when eating out. If you eat out, split the meal with someone else, eat half the meal and bring home leftovers, or order a kid-sized meal.

Snack on fruits and vegetables. Keep a bowl of fruit out on a table or counter to encourage healthy snacking. Pre-cut

veggies and make "grab and go" packets.

Pack your lunch. Skip eating out and bring your lunch.

"National Nutrition Month is an opportunity to learn more about nutrition and try new and healthy foods. Eating healthy foods can help weight management and lower risk for many chronic diseases including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer, which especially affect many Latino communities," said Elaine Auld, CEO of SOPHE.

Substituting foods and even small dietary changes can lead to positive results, notes Auld. Researchers report that more than 40 percent of

Latinos are obese. Auld is working with SOPHE members and other partners to decrease those numbers.

"We want to help Latino communities, families and individuals overcome the barriers to good health," Auld added. "We want to make healthy living easier where people live, learn, work, and play."

The Society for Public Health Education is partnering in a three-year nationwide project called the National Implementation and Dissemination for Chronic Disease Prevention, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There are 97 projects in communities across the nation assisting people and communities in living healthier lives. Learn more at #Partnering4Health and [www.partnering4health.org](http://www.partnering4health.org).

The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) is a nonprofit professional organization founded in 1950 to provide global leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion. SOPHE contributes to the health of all people and the elimination of health disparities through advances in health education theory and research; excellence in professional preparation and practice; and advocacy for public policies conducive to health. See [www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org).

## AWARDS

continued from page A1

The second award, named for local activist and volunteer Margaret 'Meg' Urquhart who gave both of herself and her property in support of the town was given to Tina Leduc Santos for her continuing work with the youth and schools. Santos has been involved with the PTO, Girl Scouts and school organizations and most recently has spearheaded the efforts to revitalize the Toy Town Elementary School playgrounds.

Santos, overwhelmed by the surprise award, admitted to being speechless, but thanked those present for their recognition of the hard work of volunteers.

The awards were given during the annual meeting of the Historic and Cultural Center at the Carriage House last week, which welcomed a record crowd of members to hear about the past year and the plans for the upcoming year. The new Morse House museum will include the opening of the ice cream parlor later this spring, the semi-annual Christmas tours, and several individual programs.β

## COMPOST

continued from page A1

a cost of \$370, which will soon be placed as needed around the facility. With both purchases combined equaling \$2,059 there is currently \$541 remaining which could be potentially rolled over and combined with the grant to be awarded in September 2017, subject to change depending on how many customers purchase a sticker."

Each municipality can earn a certain amount of points which contribute how the grant funds are determined, with each potential point yielding a cash value of \$350, based on a "Recycling & Waste Survey" filled

out by Stevens. Criteria such as households in the municipality, households served by the program, the 853 people who last year purchased stickers, municipal recycling program, types of municipal services, how many tons of rubbish and recycling were collected by the municipality, and much more contribute to the amount of the grant. Last year, Winchendon collected 508 tons of rubbish.

Stevens was pleased to say, "Winchendon based on the required criteria we have submitted for the town has earned 11 points valued at \$350 each, allowing the town earn a potential \$3,850 from the upcoming program, and \$1,250 more than last year."

As every person who purchases a transfer station sticker will now receive one kitchen composting bin, there is no rush to try to obtain one. Stickers will be available at either the DPW town hall office, or the transfer station starting June 1, for the July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 fiscal year. Sticker prices will remain the same at \$50 each.

Stevens closed with, "The bins which are on order are not in yet as they take 4 to 6 weeks to be delivered. If you purchase a sticker before they are delivered, we will make sure each and every customer receives one."

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<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER – Offer expires 6/3/2017. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio door, and get the next at 40% off, and pay no money down with 12 months no payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 5/14/2017 & 6/3/2017 with approved credit. The 40% off units must be less than or equal to lowest cost units in the project. Additional \$50 off each unit when you set your appointment by 5/29/2017 and purchase by 6/3/2017, no minimum purchase required. \$50 offer applied after initial discount. Savings comparison is based on the purchase of a single unit at regular list price. Available only at participating locations. APR of 16.68% as of 6/1/2015, subject to change. Other discounts and financing options available for other purchase levels. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License MN: BC130983/WI:266951. Excludes MN insurance work per MSA 325E.66. VA License #2705155684, DC License #42021500125, MHC #121441. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2017 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2017 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

# Education based on mutual respect

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

It's been 18 years since Peter Birney began teaching social studies at Murdock High School and he likes a lot of what he sees.

"We have good things going on here. You look at the electives in our curriculum and see things like comparative religions," adding the more students learn about a variety of subjects, the more well rounded they are likely to be as adults. Sociology and psychology are also included in the overall social studies curriculum.

Like other faculty and staff, Birney is upbeat about what's going on

inside the building even while acknowledging the community might not be as fully aware of the innovations as those inside, including a lot of students, would like, and though nearly two decades have passed since his career began, what was true then remains true for him now. One of his responsibilities, one shared by every educator and strongly emphasized at Murdock, is to help students prepare to become responsible citizens and productive members of the community.

To that end, even, and perhaps especially in these polarized times, while Birney strongly encourages debate in the

classroom, he insists on keeping it civil and on point.

"We stick to the topic and we don't make it personal," he stressed.

"Everyone's entitled to an opinion and everyone's entitled to express it and we want them to do that in the right way," he said.

Opinions are fine, but Birney has always demanded those opinions be supported.

"The truth matters. We want them to be scholars, to use facts from legitimate sources, other texts, documents."

Not Wikipedia, he was asked?

"Not Wikipedia," he laughed. "But using appropriate sources

is one of the ways they do learn to become that responsible citizen."

Birney now has an annual assignment for students early in the school year. He has them go out and interview people about their memories of 9/11.

"These kids, a lot of them, weren't even born," he noted of most contemporary high school students. "For one generation, September 11 is what Nov. 22, 1963 is to another's," referring to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

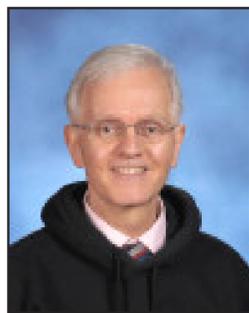
Talking to those who lived through that tragic September day, demanding the use of document-

debating civilly in class, all these bounce back to the goal of helping students grow into the aforementioned responsible and productive citizen.

There's this, too.

"See that white board back there," he asked, gesturing to a blank canvas in the back of the classroom. "That's a clean slate. We start with a clean slate here every day."

That goes for everyone — for the students who love history, who are intrigued and fascinated by, say Civil War weapons and for the students who are there because the rules say they have to take world history and a pair of units of US history. "Everyone is treat-



Peter Birney

ed the same. Everyone deserves the same respect," Birney said.

And so day by day the molding of young minds continues.

"I still love doing this," asserted the Connecticut native.

## Paint Your Plate Purple (With Produce)



The color purple can be your clue to heart-healthy, nutrient-rich vegetables, fruits and juices.

(NAPS)

Mealtime's about to get a lot more colorful. Registered dietitians and other health professionals recommend eating fruits and vegetables in a wide variety of colors. Why? It's not just to make your plate pop. A colorful diet helps ensure you're getting the broadest possible range of vitamins, minerals and beneficial plant nutrients, like polyphenols.

The more colorful your diet, the more nutritious it is.

Here's the challenge: Many Americans are confused about the benefits of incorporating colorful produce into their diet. According to a recent survey by Welch's, almost half of consumers (44 percent) don't know or aren't sure that specific colors of fruits and vegetables offer unique health benefits.1

And, though 63 percent of Americans know that they should eat colorful produce,

only 32 percent often make an effort to include it in their diet.

Refresh Your Grocery List

Think about your favorite fruits and vegetables. What colors are you missing? The next time you're at the grocery store, try to fill in the gaps.

Make sure you include purple fruits and vegetables in your cart, too. While 73 percent of Americans know they're an option, only 3 percent of our produce intake is from the purple and blue category.2

Fortunately, there are easy ways to infuse more purple into your day. For example, Welch's 100% Grape Juice is made with dark purple Concord grapes. You can enjoy a glass or use it in your favorite recipes for a boost of color, flavor and nutrition.

What benefits does this surprising purple powerhouse bring? Concord grapes provide polyphenols that give them their signature purple color

and help support a healthy heart. In fact, thanks to the Concord grape, 100% grape juice delivers many of the same polyphenols and heart-health benefits as red wine.

One way Concord grapes can help support a healthy heart is by promoting healthy circulation to help keep your blood pumping and energy flowing. They may even offer certain benefits for a healthy mind.

No wonder 67 percent of the Americans who drink red wine are willing to swap their wine glass for a glass of 100% grape juice every now and then.

Making Healthy Choices

You won't regret eating—or drinking—more purple produce. Concord grapes are harvested and in season during a few short weeks each fall. If you find them fresh, great—but since it can be hard to find these tiny, tender grapes in the grocery store, you can get the same benefits in a glass. To capture the Concord grape's big taste and natural polyphenol power, each glass of 100% grape juice is made by pressing whole grapes, which is why Welch's 100% Grape Juice is the best way to enjoy the Concord grape all year wherever you live.

Every 8-ounce glass of Welch's 100% Grape Juice is made with more than 40 Concord grapes and provides two servings (one cup) of fruit. In those eight ounces, you also

get natural grape polyphenols, the antioxidant vitamin C and no added sugar, flavors, colors or preservatives.

Of course, a colorful diet goes best with a heart-healthy dose of physical activity. The experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that adults get 21/2 hours of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or an hour and a quarter of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity each week.

You don't have to do it all at once. Work your way up to it if you're not physically active now, and start with 10 or 15 minutes at a time. Walking, biking, dancing, even housework and gardening all meet the criteria—and maybe your to-do list, as well. Be sure to talk with your doctor about the types and amounts of physical activity that are right for you.

Learn More  
For further grape facts, stats and recipes, go to [www.welchs.com](http://www.welchs.com).

1Produce For Better Health Foundation. State of the Plate Study on America's Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables. Wilmington, Delaware. 2003.

2Welch's Heart Health Survey, fielded December 19-21, 2016 by ORC International

Editor's Note: Although March is Nutrition Month, the information in this article can be good for your readers at any time.

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### CYBER-PATRIOTS

Members of Monty Tech's JROTC national winning CyberPatriot team include, (from left, Joshua (ok) Knapp of Princeton, Alex Commodore of Gardner, Brandon Trundy of Westminister, captain Leon Gaulin of Winchendon, Nicholas Sullivan of Fitchburg and Devin Normandin of Lunenburg.



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