

Murdock the site of a police training this week

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — School officials were satisfied after a long-planned Stay in Place exercise at Murdock Middle and High School Monday went flawlessly.

Police from Winchendon and five other area jurisdictions, including local K-9 Clyde and his Westminster counterpart as well as the Massachusetts State Police took part in the drill and while students had no interaction with police or the dogs, Superintendent Steve Haddad said he was “pleased with the efficiency” of the event.

“In this day and age, we need, God forbid, to be prepared for anything,”

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Courtesy photo
Officer Jim Wirnonen and his K9 partner Clyde do a sweep through the halls at Murdock.

Winchendon to research sharing fire department with Templeton

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The town has received a \$50,000 state grant to hire a consultant for a study to explore viable options of regionalization of both fire and ambulance services for the towns of Winchendon and Templeton. But Town Manager Keith Hickey is quick to point out it is a study only, and if it doesn't prove to be either cost effective or impacts services for Winchendon, regionalization would not go forward.

It was Templeton Interim Town Manager Carter Terenzini who approached Hickey about looking in to the possibility of sharing a fire chief. Terenzini, who is trying to balance the books and obtain a level funded budget for 2018, has already proposed consolidation of the Templeton Highway

Department with Cemetery and Parks, and also the possibility of the merger of both the police and fire departments in to a single Department of Public Safety. Terenzini has also proposed the possibility of eliminating the positions of fire chief and deputy fire chief in Templeton and making the police chief its manager.

If regionalization were in the future, agreed upon by the two communities, Winchendon would share its fire chief and his duties with Templeton.

Chief Tom Smith of Winchendon, said there are currently eight full time members, including both the chief and deputy chief; 30 to 35 on-call firefighter/EMTs, and six other full time employees working in three-two person groups on 24 hours shift rota-

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Smith recognized for renewable energy efforts



State Rep Jonathan Zlotnik & Senator Anne Gobi present David Smith with an official citation from the Massachusetts State Senate at Smith's Country Cheese.

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — After nearly five decades of dairy production and composting at Otter River Farm along with just over three decades of making fine quality artisan cheeses, David Smith was recently recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the Massachusetts Legislature for his application of multiple renewable green energy projects.

With some 25 in attendance at Smith's Country Cheese, a humble Smith who recently sold SCC and is retiring, was recognized by Gerry Palano of the MDAR for “Going far above and beyond by being a true leader and visionary in state agricultural green energy efforts.”

Other agencies attending were the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Columbia Gas, National Grid, Massachusetts Center for Eco Technology, and others.

Palano, who described himself as born and raised local-

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BONFIRE TOMORROW NIGHT

The fourth annual bonfire at the American Legion Post 193 kicks off at 6 p.m. Saturday night with the fireworks. The bonfire and fireworks are free, come on out and enjoy the evening.

Following the fireworks, at 7 p.m., there is a chicken barbecue planned, with only 200 tickets sold at \$12 a person. A few tickets may still be available, check by calling the American Legion to see if any are there.

A DJ and dancing will follow meal, and everyone is invited to stay for that.

So come join family and friends for an evening of winter socializing. There will be a few raffles and other fundraising events by the American Legion.

Planning Board wants buildings razed

WINCHENDON — The Planning Board at its meeting Jan. 3, gave the wife of the late Robert Van Dyke until the end of this year to complete the Millers Run housing development off Brown Street. While the vote to grant the extension was unanimous, some members expressed reluctance to support due to the failure of Van Dyke and, subsequently, his estate to begin demolition of several dilapidated buildings in town.

The buildings in question include a former warehouse at the corner of Pond and Linden streets, a partially collapsed mill building on Lincoln Street, and a structure known locally as the Castle or the Stone House, which stands near the exit of Millers Run.

Board member Burton Gould Jr. said he would “have a struggle” supporting the extension because the estate owns properties around Winchendon “that are in a horrible state.”

“Those buildings,” he said, “are a hazard to the public.”

Kathleen Van Dyke told the board she had talked to Winchendon Building Inspector Geoff Newton about demolishing the Pond Street building and the Stone House.

Newton said Van Dyke had stopped by his office last week to pick up several permit applications. When asked if she was seeking demolition permits, Newton said he wouldn't know for sure until she had returned the documents.

Van Dyke told the board she “definitely” wants to get the demolition process underway.

Board member Robert O'Keefe also voted for the Millers Run extension, but cautioned Van Dyke, “If there's no action taken on these (dilapidated) buildings, I'll be back here in six months seeking to revoke (the extension).”

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Hickey given good evaluation

WINCHENDON — Town Manager Keith Hickey was given high grades by the Board of Selectmen in his first annual job review. The results were released during the board's meeting Monday night. Selectmen rated Hickey on 10 criteria, with a perfect score in each area set at 25. In seven of the 10, Hickey received a grade between 24 and 25. On the three other criteria he was given a

grade of 23.8. Hickey's highest score came in the area of fiscal management, with each member of the board giving Hickey a perfect score of five.

In her comments on Hickey's review, board Chairman Barbara Anderson said the town manager was praised for his “professionalism and his ability to create and maintain a balanced budget.”

Board member Amy Salter praised Hickey for “his ‘get it done’ leadership, which has resulted in a complete financial turnaround for Winchendon,” adding the town manager “is the leading force behind the town's recovery.”

Board member Austin Cyganiewicz also praised Hickey in his narrative, say-

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New director on board at Monty Tech

FITCHBURG — Mary May-Lucchese of Shewsbury, Monty Tech's new director of postgraduate and continuing studies, brings to her new position a solid and impressive record of experience in the field.

An employee of Assabet Valley Vocational Technical School for the past five years, she spent the last two years as the operations coordinator for Assabet's After Dark adult education program.

"Assabet has a very successful adult education program, and I consider myself very fortunate to have had that experience. My involvement at Assabet has prepared me for my new role here at Monty Tech," May-Lucchese said.

She has a bachelor's in business administration from Becker College, and is pursuing a master's degree. She recently completed the licensure program with the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials and holds an initial license in school business administration.

May-Lucchese is looking forward to partnering with community members in an effort to provide the region with sustainable and relevant adult education programs.

"We are currently collaborating with small businesses and we are very proud of all the new course offerings they are

hosting for our spring session," she said.

She is particularly excited about a new course held this fall where Monty Tech information technology students taught area senior citizens how to use social media.

"This class provides our area seniors with a vehicle to stay connected with friends and relatives using social media. This is another great example of how we partner with our community," she added.

"I firmly believe that a successful adult education program is deeply rooted in the community. I'm fortunate to be able to interact with instructors, business owners and high school students who tell me 'they want to give back'...this positive impact is immeasurable."

In the short time May-Lucchese has been shepherding the program, she has established 20 new classes for the upcoming spring session.

"My goal for the spring session (which starts the end of February and beginning of March) is to develop our small business partnerships, and increase the personal enrichment classes, such as sewing, knitting, acrylic painting and sculpting, to name a few. I'm happy to report we have approximately 20 new courses offerings for the spring.

Additionally, we have almost doubled our catalog distribution from 80,000 to 155,000 copies. Increasing our distribution and modifying our saturation market will also provide us with additional exposure," she said.

A new software program, providing robust reporting features and a very intuitive student and instructor portal, has been installed.

"This web-base software enhancement system is critical to our program and was very high on our list of priorities. I'm confident this new registration feature will be received positively by our students and instructors," she explained.

In response to residents' ongoing requests, the program will be offering English as a second language courses starting in March.

"The ESL courses, fused with our career and certificate classes, speak directly to course combinations that provide our community members an opportunity to grow, evolve and take their new skill set to the workforce," she explained.

The goal for next year's fall session is to continue to increase courses focusing on career skills.

"We would like to offer cosmetology, pharmacy technician, medical billing and coding and auto-damage apprais-



Courtesy photo

Mary May-Lucchese of Shewsbury is Monty Tech's new director of postgraduate and continuing studies.

al," she said.

"The success and sustainability of an adult education program are based on hiring quality instructors and meeting the needs of the community. We are in line to accomplish both," she said.

Local students attend summit on opioid abuse

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

LOWELL — Nearly 40 Murdock students, including a handful of eighth

graders, joined more than 4,500 of their peers from across the state and New Hampshire last month for the first-ever Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness at

the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

Designed to help increase awareness of the burgeoning opioid crisis and encourage teens to make smart choices, the event was organized by James Wahlberg, brother of actor Mark Wahlberg.

James Wahlberg is executive director of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation which was founded in 2011.

"People always think 'it won't happen to me.' Parents all think 'it won't happen to us,'" said Wahlberg, who added during his travels to middle and high schools around the country, he estimates more than 80-percent of students raised their hand when asked if they knew someone who died of an overdose.

"It was very impactful," said Murdock guidance counselor Rachel Weinhold, who was joined by the school's police resource officer Tracy Flagg, Superintendent Steve Haddad and social worker Jane Greenfield on the trip.

Families who have lost members to the opioid epidemic were among the speakers. "He was in rehab multiple times. He was sectioned multiple times and it had such a grip on him he died in

a Dunkin Donuts bathroom," recalled Steve Goodell, whose son died of an overdose.

Troy Brown played on three New England Patriots Super Bowl teams so he was likely a familiar face to the youngsters in the building. "Back then, when I was younger, all we had was 'Just Say No'. Today, you can see just what can happen to you," he reminded.

Added Wahlberg, "we're trying to create an army of kids who are positive, who are prepared to pressure their friends in a positive way."

"I spent time in jail," said former Miami Marlins pitcher Jeff Allison, a Massachusetts (Peabody) native. "My rock bottom was pretty brutal. I finally made the choice to live and not die," he said.

The opioid epidemic has not bypassed Winchendon. Numerous local families have lost loved ones and school nurses and police cruisers are now equipped with Narcan to revive overdoses.

Weinhold noted the event was, "amazing. It was really important for our students to be there and hear those stories."



Courtesy photos

The auditorium at Lowell was packed with attendees.

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The Murdock contingency.



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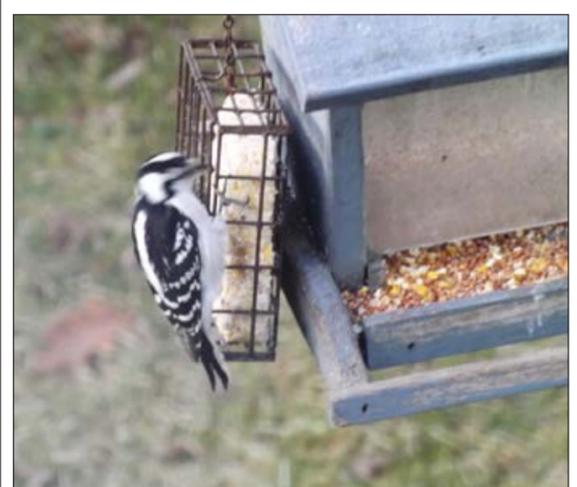
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Staff photo

BLACK AND WHITE VISITOR

This little fellow is a black and white warbler. Audubon says it was once known as the "Black-and-white Creeper," a name that describes its behavior quite well. Like a nut-hatch or creeper (and unlike other warblers), it climbs about on the trunks and major limbs of trees, seeking insects in the bark crevices. It often feeds low, and nests even lower, usually on the ground. It doesn't migrate, staying in the area all winter, and is a favorite for bird feeders.

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Faking it: presentation on fake news at Beals

WINCHENDON — Dr. Kyle Moody, assistant professor in communications media at Fitchburg State University, will be presenting a talk on the currently hot topic of “Fake News” at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19 in the auditorium of the Beals Memorial Library. A question and answer session will follow the lecture.

The presentation will focus on the social impact fake news can have on our democracy and political process. Fake news, mostly disseminated through social media, looks to deliberately mislead readers through fabricated news stories generally with the goal of profiting through “clickbait” or web content whose aim is generating online advertising revenue.

Moody is a former program director, radio station manager and social media consultant for several business-

es. He earned his PhD in journalism and mass communication from the University of Iowa. His research interests include social media and business integration, how video game fans and consumers are involved in the production and dissemination of fan and journalistic content. His research also includes online communities of users and players of video games, new media design, social media applications, ethnography, cultural studies, and media production.

The event is free and sponsored by the Friends of the Beals Memorial Library. Refreshments will be served. For more information call the library at (978) 297-0300 or go to the library’s website at www.townofwinchendon.com/beals-memorial-library. The library is located at 50 Pleasant St.



Dr. Kyle Moody

ACCURACY WATCH

The *Winchendon Courier* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page three in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (978) 297-0050 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call. Or contact the editor at the following email: ruth@stonebridgepress.com.



CLYDE’S CORNER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

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

SKATE CLUB

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

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, JANUARY 18

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.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

FREE THROW CONTEST: a free, local level competition for the 2017 Knights of Columbus free throw contest is scheduled at Murdock High School gym beginning with registration at 10:30 a.m., play at 11 a.m. This is open to all boys and girls age 9-14, you will compete against others of your age.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

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: Our Neighbor’s Kitchen, Winchendon’s Community Supper, is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. The January meals for Our Neighbor’s Kitchen are: Jan. 26: Shepherd’s pie with sides and dessert.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

PAINT NIGHT: gather your friends and make it a date as the Winchendon Kiwanis and Crafty Cauldron again sponsor a paint night to benefit the backpack program. Show your artsy side by creating unique glassware. Go online to sign up at www.thecraftycauldron.net/events.html. Hurry, space is limited and the last one sold out.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

LIONS MEAT RAFFLE: the annual breakout bash is planned with meat

galore! Come take a chance on winning a nice roast, pork loin or roasting chicken for a long winter’s night. Fun starts at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Always other raffles and surprises too.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

OWC: “Send a little love to our troops!” On Saturday, Feb. 4 at the American Legion Post 193 on School Street from 9-11 a.m. Monetary donations for postage is always welcome. Check out our Facebook page or website for a list of items to be donated- www.winchendon-cares.com. Stop by to lend a hand sorting and packing the items!

BACK TO THE ‘80s: the Snowbound Club on Baldwinville Road hosts a throwback party 8 p.m.-1 a.m. This is a charity event and the public is invited to attend. For more information contact Rick Moulton at rickmoulton73@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

BOOK DISCUSSION: Beals Memorial Library has a book club that meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Thursday each month, the next meeting is Thursday Feb. 9. Books are available at the library.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

ZOOM, ZOOM: the annual Pinewood Derby goes flags down at 11 a.m. at the American Legion

Post 193, 295 School St. Come watch local Boy Scouts and Cubs with their hand made cars vying for the trophies.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

BLUE & GOLD BANQUET: the Winchendon area Boy Scouts celebrate their year with the annual Blue & Gold banquet at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

ANNIVERSARY BLOW OUT: the 10th anniversary of Fire & Iron will be celebrated with the annual spring blow out at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 7 p.m. Come help us celebrate!

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Staff photo

WHITE ON WHITE

The recent storm lends an air of fantasy to the Old Centre and its historic church.

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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

How does it benefit Winchendon?

We understand why the town chose to go for a state grant to look into regionalization of fire safety services. The state is BIG into regionalization; schools, public safety, housing authorities; any place they think they might be able to consolidate in a way that they might be able to save a dime or two on the state side.

Or at least they think they might.

It doesn't usually work that way, and in the long run, it does a big disservice to the local towns and cities who buy into it. Local control and local attention often suffer.

So at the moment, there will be an RFP out there soon requesting a study be done to combine public safety services for fire departments and EMT services for Winchendon and Templeton.

Winchendon has a great service in place. With a number of ALS workers, a couple of newer pieces of equipment including the tower truck and a new ambulance, several well trained full time and on call people, and they presently answer more than 2,000 calls a year just within the confines of our own town.

Templeton does about half the number of calls. Has one full time person. And does its work with on-call and per diem workers. Its equipment is old, and needs replacement badly.

It sounds like a great move for Templeton...not so beneficial for Winchendon.

Our staff would need to be dashing to the other town for an additional 1,000 calls per year with our equipment and our personnel.

Oversight would fall perhaps to a

combined administration, but with the only one paid full time person at Templeton being an interim fire chief, it looks dubious that anyone from Templeton would be willing to be on an administrative team.

What about billing?

What about insurance?

Depreciation of equipment?

Workers compensation?

The additional work load on our firefighters and EMTs? Will they be given further compensation for working in two towns?

The questions raised are many, and unless the state is providing huge chunks of cash with the concept, we don't see any benefits to it at all. We see nothing but headaches on our side of the fence.

Templeton is unfortunately having its own fiscal problems right now, and this kind of rescue of its fire protection services would be a real boon to them. And kindness to your neighbor is a good thing. But not at the cost of our own safety for our citizens, or the costs to our own workers, our equipment, and even the availability of the services. Even now there are times when ambulance calls require supplemental help from Woods because everyone is on call already...it could be worse trying to cover such a large territory. Just how much equipment would we need to oversee?

No, this regionalization is not in our best interest. If this comes before a town meeting, you can be certain this newspaper will once again be urging the town to think long and hard about supporting it.

2016: the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad year

"What's past is prologue."

William Shakespeare, The Tempest



FREEDOM WATCH

JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

What a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad year this has been. Endless wars. Toxic politics. Violence.

Hunger. Police shootings. Mass shootings. Economic downturns. Political circuses. Senseless tragedies. Loss. Heartache. Intolerance. Prejudice. Hatred. Apathy. Meanness. Cruelty. Poverty. Inhumanity. Greed.

Here's just a small sampling of what we've suffered through in 2016.

After three years of increasingly toxic politics, the ruling oligarchy won and "we the people" lost. The FBI's investigation of Hillary's emails ended with a whimper, rather than a bang. FBI director James Comey declared Clinton's use of a private email server to be careless rather than criminal. Bernie Sanders sparked a movement only to turn into a cheerleader for Hillary Clinton. Clinton won the popular vote but lost the election. Donald Trump won the White House while the American people lost any hope of ending the corporate elite's grip on the government.

The government declared war on so-called "fake news" while continuing to peddle its own brand of propaganda. President Obama quietly re-upped the National Defense Authorization Act, including a provision that establishes a government agency to purportedly counter propaganda and disinformation.

More people died at the hands of the police. Shootings of unarmed citizens (especially African-Americans) by police claimed more lives than previously estimated, reinforcing concerns about police misconduct and the use of excessive force. Police in Baton Rouge shot Alton Sterling. Police in St. Paul shot Philando Castile during a traffic stop. Ohio police shot 13-year-old Tyre King after the boy pulls out a BB gun. Wisconsin was locked down after protests erupt over a police shooting of a fleeing man. Oklahoma police shot and killed Terence Crutcher during a traffic stop while the man's hands were raised in the air. North Carolina police killed Keith Lamont Scott, spurring two nights of violent protests. San Diego police killed Alfred Olango after he removed a vape smoking device from his pocket. Los Angeles police shot Carnell Snell Jr. after he fled a vehicle with a paper license plate.

We lost some bright stars this year. Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia's death left the court deadlocked and his successor up for grabs. Joining the ranks of the notable deceased were Muhammad Ali, David Bowie, Fidel Castro, Leonard Cohen, Carrie Fisher, John Glenn, Merle Haggard, Harper Lee, George Michael, Prince, Nancy Reagan, Janet Reno, Elie Wiesel, Gene Wilder and George Michael.

Diseases claimed more lives. The deadly Zika virus spread outwards from Latin America and into the U.S.

The rich got richer. The Panama Papers leak pulled back the curtain on schemes by the wealthy to hide their funds in shell companies.

Free speech was dealt one knock-out punch after another. First Amendment activities were pummeled, punched, kicked, choked, chained and generally gagged all across the country. The reasons for such censorship varied widely from political correctness, safety concerns and bullying to national security and hate crimes, but the end result remained the same: the complete eradication of what Benjamin Franklin referred to as the "principal pillar of a free government."

The debate over equality took many forms. African-Americans boycotted the Oscars over the absence of nominations for people of color, while the Treasury Department announced its decision to replace Andrew Jackson with Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill. North Carolina's debate over transgender bathrooms ignited a nationwide fury. Meanwhile, the U.S. military opened its doors to transgender individuals. A unanimous Supreme Court affirmed a Texas law that counts everyone, not just eligible voters, in determining legislative districts. The nation's highest court also upheld affirmative action, while declaring a Texas law on abortion clinics to be an unnecessary burden on women.

Environmental concerns were downplayed in favor of corporate interests. Flint, Michigan's contaminated water was declared a state and federal emergency, while thousands protested the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline and its impact on water sources.

Technology rendered Americans vulnerable to threats from government spies, police, hackers and power failures.

The Justice Department battled Apple in court over access to its customers' locked, encrypted iPhones. Microsoft sued the U.S. government over its access to customers' emails and files without their knowledge. Yahoo confirmed that over half a billion user accounts had been hacked. Police departments across the country continued to use Stingray devices to collect cellphone data in real time, often without a warrant. A six-hour system shutdown resulted in hundreds of Delta flights being cancelled and thousands of people stranded.

Police became even more militarized and weaponized. Despite concerns about the government's steady transformation of local police into a standing military army, local police agencies continued to acquire weaponry, training and equipment suited for the battlefield. In North Dakota, for instance, police were authorized to acquire and use armed drones. Likewise, the use of SWAT teams for routine policing tasks has increased the danger for police and citizens alike.

Children were hurt. A 17-year-old endangered silverback gorilla was shot preemptively after a 3-year-old child climbed into its zoo enclosure. In Disney World, an alligator snatched a 2-year-old boy off one of the resort's man-made beaches. A school bus crash in Tennessee killed five children. And police resource officers made schools less safe, with students being arrested, tasered and severely disciplined for minor infractions.

Computers asserted their superiority over their human counterparts, who were easily controlled by bread and circuses. Google's artificial intelligence program, AlphaGo, defeated its human opponent in a DeepMind Challenge Match. Pokemon Go took the world by storm and turned users into mindless entertainment zombies.

Terrorism took many forms. Brussels was locked down in the wake of terrorist attacks that killed dozens and wounded hundreds. A shootout between a gunman and police wrought havoc on a gay nightclub in Orlando. Terrorists armed with explosives and guns opened fire in Istanbul Airport. A trucker drives into a crowd of revelers on Bastille Day in France. Acts of suspected terrorism take place throughout Germany, including attacks using axes, knives and machetes. Japan undergoes a mass killing when a man armed with a knife targets disabled patients at a care facility. Syria continued to be ravaged by bomb strikes, terrorism and international conflict.

Science crossed into new frontiers. Doctors announced the birth of the first healthy three-parent baby created with DNA from three separate people. Elon Musk outlined his plan to populate Mars.

Tragedies abounded. An Amtrak train derailed outside of Philadelphia. A commuter train crashed through a barrier in New Jersey. Floods in Texas killed nine soldiers stationed at Fort Hood. Heatwaves swept the southwest, fueling wildfires. Flash floods and heavy rain devastated parts of Maryland and Louisiana.

The nanny state went into overdrive. Philadelphia gave the green light to a tax on sugary drinks. The FDA issued guidelines to urge food manufacturers and chain restaurants to reduce salt use.

The government waged a war on cash. Not content to swindle, cheat, scam, and generally defraud Americans by way of wasteful pork barrel legislation, asset forfeiture schemes, and costly stimulus packages, the government and its corporate partners in crime came up with a new scheme to not only scam taxpayers out of what's left of their paychecks but also make us foot the bill. The government's war on cash is a concerted campaign to do away with large bills such as \$20s, \$50s, \$100s and shift consumers towards a digital mode of commerce that can easily be monitored, tracked, tabulated, mined for data, hacked, hijacked and confiscated when convenient.

The Deep State reared its ugly head. Comprised of unelected government bureaucrats, corporations, contractors, paper-pushers, and button-pushers who are actually calling the shots behind the scenes, this government within a government is the real reason "we the people" have no real control over our so-called representatives. It's every facet of a government that is no longer friendly to freedom and is working overtime to trample the Constitution underfoot and render the citizenry powerless in the face of the government's power grabs, corruption and abusive tactics. These are the key players that drive

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The differences compared

There they are, and while they're everywhere, we all know where to look for most of them — the people who never learn, never stop being bigots, and who insist on remaining cocooned in their hateful neanderthal world. This time I'm writing specifically about those something-less-than enlightened state legislators in Texas who, supported by the state Attorney General and lieutenant governor, the latter an important post down there, believe North Carolina's "bathroom bill" is something to be admired and emulated. Big surprise, right? Never mind that the restrictive legislation, aside from being breath-takingly judgmental and discriminatory, has also cost the Tar Heel state untold millions of dollars in revenue as conventions and sports championships have bolted to more humane locales.

What the hell is wrong with these people, especially those legislators who gain office touting their so-called Christian values? The same question can be asked about those geniuses in Washington who want to defund Planned Parenthood even though the organization already is barred from using federal funds for abortion services but does promote programs like breast cancer and STD screenings. What is wrong with the intellectual giants who want to repeal the ACA with utterly no coherent replacement program, or the people who voted for Donald Trump because they believed he's going to build a wall and make Mexico pay for it among other fantasies. As an aside, maybe you noticed Donald's tweet the other



JOURNEY OF THE HEART
JERRY CARTON

day in which he acknowledged Mexico in fact isn't going to pay for the wall "for now," that the initial burden will fall to guess who? Yes, You. And me. I digress.

Many of these aforementioned people are unquestionably bigots — bigots on race, bigots on gender identification, bigots on religion, bigots on education, bigots on immigration, bigots on you-name-it. It's that mindset which brings about laws like the bathroom bill in North Carolina and the relentless opposition to an African-American President and it's that mindset which is continually widening the cultural and values gap in this country. Make no mistake — we are very far from being the "United" states of much of anything and nor are we going to be the "United" states of much of anything anytime soon. Forget values. We can't even agree on facts anymore. We have a President-elect who encourages pretending facts are merely observations and millions of people lap that up while sneering at what they like to call "lame-stream media." Wait 'til they find out those most hurt by potential cuts in Medicaid and the ACA are going to be, well, them. What's scary is that regardless of what he says, a lot of them will buy it. When they're the ones who get screwed by

legislation that favors the ultra-wealthy, too many of them will still shrug it off, having somehow convinced themselves that at least they aren't godless losers and un-American welfare kings and queens. Compassion for others who are also struggling in an economy whose recovery never quite reached them? Not a chance. If anything, their antipathy has hardened. This, my friends, is where we are. We're at war with one another in ways that are insane and I don't see this changing.

And the inauguration is still a week away. God only knows what will happen afterward. In his New Year's "greeting," the President-elect issued a tweet in which he was still belittling those who didn't vote for him. No magnanimous gesture. No reaching out. Rather, 140 characters which sounded positively Nixonian and which were mindlessly and reflexively cheered by the sheep.

So yes there's a war. The truly sad thing is so many of its casualties don't have the slightest clue they are in fact victims of the harsh and soulless ideology of the conservative elite. Good thing for them there are those ready to take up political, legal and economic arms in their defense even though I have days when I'm starting to wonder whether they deserve it. Ironic, isn't it, that the fight for economic justice is being fought on their behalf by those whom they seem to despise? What a country. Geez. On that note, see you next Friday, which will be arguably the darkest Friday in America since Nov. 22, 1963. Sigh.



Zlotnik begins third term

BOSTON — Representative Jonathan D. Zlotnik (D-Gardner) was sworn in Jan. 4 with the incoming class of legislators to his third term on Beacon Hill. Beginning this new session with the Representative is a new legislative aide, Nicolas Magalhaes, who previously worked in marketing for a technology start-up in Silicon Valley.

Zlotnik intends to maintain one of the most independent voting records of any House

member and to serve his constituents faithfully. He will focus on economic development in the district and work with state and local officials to meet the unique needs of the area. To kick off the year, the representative will hold open office hours for any constituent to bring questions or concerns about the coming year. Should these scheduled office hours be inconvenient, the representative is always available for individual meetings and

appointments by request.

The hours and locations will be:

GARDNER
Jan. 17, 8-10 a.m. at City Hall; Jan. 23, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Police Station and Feb. 18, 10 a.m.-noon at the Police Station.

WINCHENDON
Jan. 21, 11 a.m.-noon at Beals Memorial Library and Feb 7, 6-7 p.m. at Beals Memorial Library.

ASHBURNHAM
Jan. 21, 1-2 p.m. at Stevens

Memorial Library and Feb 7, 1-2 p.m. at Stevens Memorial Library.

WESTMINSTER
Jan. 23, 5-6 p.m. at Westminster Town Hall room 112 with Rep. Kimberly Ferguson.

To contact Rep. Zlotnik, his Boston phone is (617) 722-2080, district office is (978) 410-9559, and email is Jon.Zlotnik@mahouse.gov.



Miettinen named medical director

GARDNER — Heywood Medical Group has appointed pediatrician, Sari Miettinen MD as its medical director effective Jan. 1.

With more than a decade of experience providing high level pediatric care, Miettinen joined the Heywood Healthcare family in 2015. In addition to her clinical expertise, Miettinen brings a strong managerial background to the medical director role, focusing on the operational aspects of the growing multi-specialty physician practices and urgent care centers. Additionally, she serves as a liaison to the physicians and advanced practice providers and a member of Heywood Healthcare's senior leadership team.

Prior to joining the Heywood team, Miettinen served as the physician site leader at Texas Children's Pediatrics and provided well-child and acute care for Navajo children at the Northern Navajo Medical Center, Shiprock, NM.

Miettinen is also the found-

er of Optimum Practice Management, which assists with the development of clinical processes and procedures for new and established medical practices. OPM also assists primary care and specialty practices with transformation into patient-centered medical-specialty homes-practices. OPM has successfully navigated both multi-specialty and primary care groups through practice transformation and National Committee for Quality Assurance recognition.

Miettinen received her undergraduate degree from Rice University and her medical degree from the Baylor College of Medicine, where she also completed her residency. She is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and is Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and active in its member section on Administration and Practice Management.

A member of the Heywood Healthcare system, Athol

Hospital is a 25-bed non-profit, acute care and outpatient facility serving the communities of the North Quabbin region of Massachusetts. Athol Hospital's services include 24/7 emergency care, oncology, radiology and laboratory, Diabetes Center and Center for Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation. It is designated as a critical access hospital and primary stroke center, licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and accredited by the Joint Commission.

A member of the Heywood Healthcare system, Heywood Hospital is a 134-bed acute care hospital in Gardner, which provides a broad range of high quality medical, surgical, obstetrical, pediatric and behavioral health services on an inpatient and outpatient basis. The hospital's Centers of Excellence include the Watkins Center for Emergency and Acute Care; the LaChance Maternity Center; the Diabetes Center; and the Heywood Heart

and Vascular Center, an affiliate of the Heart and Vascular Center of Excellence at UMass Memorial Health Care.

Heywood Healthcare is an independent, community-owned healthcare system serving north central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. It is comprised of Heywood Hospital, Athol Hospital, and Heywood Medical Group with primary care physicians and specialists located throughout the region. The organization includes six satellite facilities in Massachusetts: Heywood Rehabilitation Center and Heywood Urgent Care in Gardner; West River Health Center in Orange; Winchendon Health Center and Murdock school-based health center in Winchendon; Heywood



Dr. Sari Miettinen

Charitable Foundation; the North Quabbin Community Coalition, an affiliate organization; and upcoming in 2017, the Quabbin Retreat in Petersham.

Nominations sought

REGION — The Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the Chamber's annual Community Awards.

The categories include: Community Improvement, Sybil Arguijo Community Service, Business Person or Business of the Year, and Citizen of the Year.

"The Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce recognizes that a strong and vibrant business environment is essential to the stability and growth of the communities we serve. It is our privilege to recognize those busi-

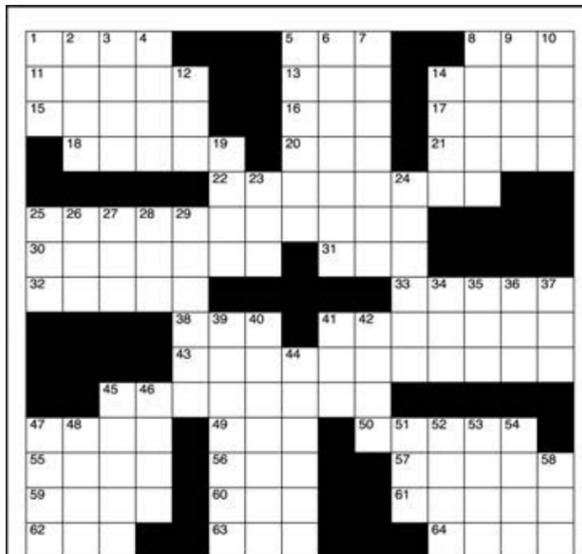
nesses and individuals whose leadership, commitment and examples have paved the way for such an environment," noted Chamber President Jim Bellina.

Nominations of businesses or individuals within or serving the Ashburnham, Barre, Gardner, Hubbardston, Templeton, Westminster, and Winchendon area(s) may be presented by submitting a nomination form. Criteria for each award and nomination forms are available online at www.gardnerma.com or at the Chamber office, 29 Parker St. second floor,

Gardner. Nomination letters are also acceptable.

A panel of judges comprised of past Citizen of the Year recipients and chairpersons of the board will review the nominations and select those to be honored at the Chamber's annual meeting and awards recognition dinner May 3.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Feb. 17. For more information, contact the Chamber at (978) 632-1780 or email info@gardnerma.com.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Pain
5. Near the stern of a ship
8. Certified public accountant
11. External appearance
13. Neither
14. He played with Peter & Mary
15. Maximum
16. Irish republican organization
17. Swedish rock group
18. Source of chocolate
20. Counterparts to women
21. Type of levy
22. More tasteless
25. "Use Somebody" rockers
30. Burst
31. Flightless, fast bird
32. Type of salami
33. Charges to live somewhere
38. Ji dynasty's ancestral home
41. They play music
43. One who cancels
45. Resin from an African tree
47. Shellfish
49. Notre Dame coach Parseghian
50. Thoroughbred horse race: ___ Stakes
55. Empire in pre-colonial C. Africa
56. Small piece of caramel
57. Hillside
59. Does great
60. Israeli city ___ Aviv
61. Brief appearance
62. Danish krone (abbr.)
63. Midway between east and southeast
64. Database mgmt. system

CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language
2. In style
3. Syrian city
4. A long narrative poem
5. Living thing
6. Envision
7. Flat surface on a vessel's stern
8. Scottish sport
9. They serve beer
10. Expression of sorrow or pity
12. When you expect to get there
14. Bullfighting maneuver
19. Double-reed instrument
23. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
24. Hardened
25. Small cask or barrel
26. Anger
27. Female religious figure
28. Central mail bureau
29. Ruled Russia
34. Geological time
35. Catches fish
36. As well
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. A moderately slow tempo
40. Female reproductive organs
41. Patti Hearst's captors
42. Twitchings
44. Suitable for crops
45. Cavalry-sword
46. Greek sophist
47. Dressed
48. Tight crowd of people
51. Basics
52. "Raymond" actor Garrett
53. Unstressed-stressed
54. Old World tree
58. Distress signal

COURIER CAPSULES

BOARD MEETINGS BROADCAST

Residents of Winchendon now have a chance to view the meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, School Committee, Finance Committee, Conservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals at their convenience. The regularly scheduled meetings of these boards and committees will continue to be broadcast live via Winchendon Community Access Television, Comcast Channel 8, but they will also be re-broadcast on a regular schedule. The schedule is available via the town's new website.

The current schedule includes the following re-broadcasts: School Committee: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Board of Selectmen: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and Fridays at 6 p.m.; Planning Board: Thursdays at 10 a.m.; Finance Committee: Thursday at 2 p.m., and Zoning Board of Appeals: Fridays at 11 a.m.

January's meeting of the Conservation Commission will be re-broadcast on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 2 p.m.

The United Parish church services will continue to be re-broadcast twice a week, on Fridays and Saturdays at 9 a.m.

TIME TO TAKE OUT PAPERS

Town Clerk Judy LaJoie has announced nomination papers are now available at the office for the May 1 local town election. Papers must be turned in on or before Thursday, March 16. Openings include: one 3-year seat for Board

of Selectmen (Amy Salter); two 3-year seats for School Committee (Lawrence Murphy, Janet Corbosiero); one 1-year seat for School Committee (Felicia Nurmsen, appointed to fill term); two 3-year seats for Board of Health (Diane Cosentino, Jason Moury) and one 5-year seat for the Housing Authority (Leston Goodrich).

CLOSINGS AT IHM
Calvary Cemetery is now closed until mid-April. The Immaculate Heart of Mary maintenance crews do not plow the cemetery during the winter months and as snow accumulates, the main gates will be closed to prevent vehicles from entering, getting stuck and perhaps damaging headstones and cemetery grounds.

In addition, weather policies for the church are as follows: if Winchendon schools are canceled, all parish activities are also canceled including Mass, religious education classes, adult faith sessions and meetings. The office is also closed. Should there be a delay of school, Mass will be served, but please use good judgement in making a decision to travel in bad weather. Weekend Masses are generally not canceled, this applied to weekday intentions.

LINE DANCING LESSONS
Beginning with the first class Wednesday, Jan. 25 line dancing lessons by Sally & Sue's Sidekick will be held at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. from 7-9 p.m. This is a series of six weeks of lessons, learn two dances each week with one week of review, and

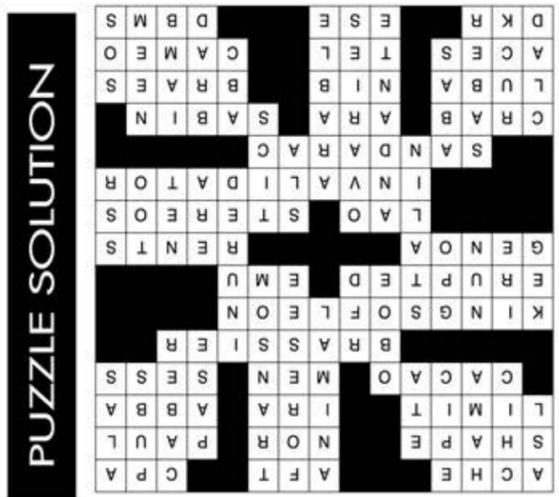
culminates with a dance the last week when students may bring a guest.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
NEWTON — Lasell College has announced the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the Fall semester of the 2016-17 academic year. A student must earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher to receive Dean's List recognition. Among the students named to the Dean's List is Brianna Dellechiaie of Winchendon.

ROME, GA — Cassandra Betourney of Winchendon was named to the Fall 2016 Dean's List at Berry College. The Dean's List honors students who posted an academic average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale while carrying a class load of at least 12 hours during the semester.

CANTON, NY — Stephanie A. Johnson of Rindge has been selected for membership into Chymist, the chemistry honorary society at St. Lawrence University. Johnson is a member of the Class of 2017 and is majoring in English. Johnson graduated from Conant High School.

This organization derives its name from Robert Boyle's The Sceptical Chymist, a volume which solidifies Boyle as the founder of modern chemistry. To be eligible for membership, St. Lawrence students must have taken at least six courses of chemistry with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 and an overall GPA of at least 3.2.



POLICE LOG

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 2
 1:44 a.m.: disturbance (Spruce Street) spoken to; 2:54 a.m.: assist other PD (Elmwood Road) transport; 3:25-4:19 a.m.: building checks & extra patrols, secure; 7:58 a.m.: larceny (Linden Street) report taken; 10:45 a.m.: MV stop (Weller Street) summons: Tyler M. O'Malley, age 23 of 13 Cedar Terrace, Winchendon: operating MV with license suspended; 11:09 a.m.: general info (Spring Street) info taken; 1:21 p.m.: accident (Mellen Road) report taken; 1:55 p.m.: ATV complaint (North Ashburnham Road) advised officer; 2:26 p.m.: road rage (Central Street) info taken; 2:46 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street) transport; 3:05 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 3:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Dunkin Donuts) gone on arrival; 4:07 p.m.: FD call (Turner Lane, Royalston) call canceled; 4:35 p.m.: investigation (Krantz Road) spoken to; 5:27 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street) traffic citation; 5:59 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 6:43 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 7:09 p.m.: fire alarm (Baldwinville State Road) call canceled; 7:57 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 8:11 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 8:28 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) written warning; 8:44 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) written warning; 9:08 p.m.: MV stop (River Street) verbal warning; 9:50 p.m.: ambulance (Gardner Road) arrest: George E. Crosby IV, age 65 of 52 Old Turnpike Road, Fitzwilliam: OUI-liquor and negligent operation of MV.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3
 12:42-3:39 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 1:33 a.m.: suspicious person (Lincoln Avenue) spoken to; 1:38 a.m.: suspicious MV (Spring Street) info taken; 5:05 a.m.: traffic hazard (Forristall Road) removed; 5:33 a.m.: ambulance (Mechanic Street) transport; 5:37 a.m.: open door (Clark YMCA) secure; 6:12 a.m.: DPW call (River Street) referred; 7:01 a.m.: lift assist (Monomonac Road West) services rendered; 7:30 a.m.: DPW call (Russell Farm Road) referred; 7:30 a.m.: DPW call (Russell Farm Road) referred; 8:09 a.m.: MV operating erratically (Maple Street) unable to locate; 8:34 a.m.: elderly welfare check (address not printed) services rendered; 8:44

a.m.: extra patrols, secure; 8:51 a.m.: FD call (Goodrich Drive) services rendered; 10:29 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (River Street) accidental; 12 p.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street) info taken; 12:11 p.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive) transport; 1:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Juniper Street) report taken; 1:55 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 2:13 p.m.: larceny (Royalston Road North) unfounded; 2:22 p.m.: wires down (Spruce Street) refer to other agency; 2:28 p.m.: assist citizen (North Ashburnham Road) assisted; 2:43 p.m.: burglar alarm (Rivers Edge) accidental; 3:44 p.m.: MV stop (Maple Street) traffic citation; 4:40 p.m.: noise complaint (Central Street) spoken to; 5:17 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 6:30 p.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) written warning; 6:49 p.m.: disabled MV (Grove Street) assisted; 11:23 p.m.: noise complaint (Cedar Street) unfounded.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4
 12:41-1:50 a.m.: building checks, secure; 7:41 a.m.: suspicious MV (Old Murdock) spoken to; 9:19 a.m.: 12:16 p.m.: suspicious MV (Hyde Park Drive) spoken to; 1:26 p.m.: ambulance (Mellen Road) transport; 2:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Baldwinville Road) report taken; 3:24 p.m.: ambulance (Ash Street) transport; 3:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Mellen Road) refer to ACO; 4:24 p.m.: MV stop (River Street) traffic citation; 4:34 p.m.: ambulance (Hospital Drive) transport; 5:13 p.m.: MV stop (Front Street) written warning; 5:26 p.m.: suspicious other (Gardner Road) spoken to; 5:35 p.m.: traffic hazard (Spring Street) removed; 5:39 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) written warning; 5:50 p.m.: MV stop (Railroad Street) verbal warning; 6:16 p.m.: ambulance (Brown Street) transport; 6:50 p.m.: MV stop (Main Street) verbal warning; 8 p.m.: general info (River Street) report taken; 8:09 p.m.: FD call (Pearl Street) fire extinguished; 8:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street) report taken; 9:21 p.m.: MV operating erratically (School Street) unable to locate; 9:52 p.m.: ambulance (Sibley Road) transport; 11:49-11:58 p.m.: building checks, secure.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5
 12:22-1:56 a.m.: building checks, secure; 12:47 a.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street) transport; 12:59 a.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) services rendered; 1:05 a.m.: animal complaint (Spring Street) unable to locate; 1:33 a.m.: transport (Cornerstone Church); 5:09 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Street) services rendered; 6:41 a.m.: ambulance (Converse Drive) transport; 6:48 a.m.: animal complaint (Winchendon

School) refer to ACO; 8:01 a.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive) services rendered; 8:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Mellen Road) refer to ACO; 8:45 a.m.: disable MV (Baldwinville State Road) assisted; 9:11 a.m.: lift assist (Elmwood Road) services rendered; 10:25 a.m.: officer wanted (Kwikstop) no PD service required; 10:57 a.m.: registration check (East Street) traffic citation; 11:04 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road) no PD service required; 12:03 p.m.: general info (Old Murdock) info taken; 2:12 p.m.: accident (Central Street) report taken; 2:21 p.m.: ambulance (Linden Street) services rendered; 3:05 p.m.: fire unknown type (Elmwood Road) services rendered; 5:29 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Drive) transport; 5:48 p.m.: ambulance (Forristall Road) transport; 6:22 p.m.: stolen MV (Irwin Court) spoken to; 9:04 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive) assisted; 9:06 p.m.: fire alarm (Spring Street) accidental.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
 1:30-7:50 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 5:37 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 10:33 a.m.: open door (Maple Street) secured building; 11:37 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 11:47 a.m.: fire alarm (Harrisville Circle) services rendered; 12 p.m.: DPW call (Western Avenue) referred; 12:21 p.m.: MV stop (Elmwood Road) verbal warning; 12:42 p.m.: investigation (Locust Street) spoken to; 1:25 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street) info taken; 2:36 p.m.: MV stop (Summer Street) verbal warning; 3:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Oakland Street) spoken to; 4:56 p.m.: FD call (IGA) services rendered; 5:04 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 6:06 p.m.: accident (High Street) arrest: Ryan P. Smialek, age 28 of 75 Royalston Road, Phillipston: OUI-liquor and negligent operation of MV; 7:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Pine Street) assisted; 7:49 p.m.: ambulance (Snowbound Club) services rendered; 7:55 p.m.: ambulance (Elm Street) transport; 8:33 p.m.: drug, narcotic violation (Brown Street) spoken to; 10:34 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Glenallan Street) unable to locate; 10:50 p.m.: officer wanted (CVS) gone on arrival.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
 12:10 a.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) secure; 12:34 a.m.: ambulance (Benjamin Street) transport; 1:02 a.m.: burglary B&E (Royalston Road South) arrest: Jacob Tambollee, age 26 of 8 Pond Road, Bellows Falls VT: vandalize property; 5:10 a.m.: burglar alarm (One Stop) accidental; 7:42 a.m.: suspicious MV (Athol Savings

Bank) spoken to; 8:26 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street) referred; 9:29 a.m.: MV stop (Maple Street) spoken to; 12:54 p.m.: ambulance (Juniper Street) transport; 1:22 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) transport; 3:54 p.m.: DPW call (Western Avenue) referred; 4:44 p.m.: be on the lookout (Front Street) refer to other PD; 5:05 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street) transport; 5:44 p.m.: ambulance (Front Street) transport; 6:39 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) spoken to; 9:13 p.m.: lift assist (Hyde Park Drive) services rendered; 9:20 p.m.: traffic hazard (Hapgood Road) assisted; 9:29 p.m.: ambulance (Spring Street) transport; 10:03 p.m.: missing person (Maple Street) no cause for complaint; 10:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Glenallan Street) no PD service required; 11:01 p.m.: lift assist (Hyde Park Drive) services rendered; 11:15 p.m.: noise complaint (Ash Street) unable to locate; 11:18 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive) transport.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
 12:04 a.m.: traffic hazard (Baldwinville Road) report taken; 3:48 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 7:33 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 11:16 a.m.: fire alarm (Ready Drive) false alarm; 11:38 a.m.: burglar alarm (Murdock High School) false alarm; 11:58 a.m.: 911 call non-emergency (Mill Street) child playing with phone; 12:03 p.m.: burglar alarm (River Street) call canceled; 12:28 p.m.: disabled MV (Elmwood Road) report taken; 2:22 p.m.: accident (Otter River Road) report taken; 3:29 p.m.: ATV complaint (Teel Road) unable to locate; 4:07 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Walnut Street) report taken; 4:45 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 5:09 p.m.: investigation (phone) spoken to; 5:26 p.m.: keep the peace (Glenallan Street) assisted; 5:37 p.m.: suspicious MV (Teel Road) gone on arrival; 6 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring Street) report taken; 6:41 p.m.: transport (Lincoln Avenue); 7:31 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) verbal warning; 7:51 p.m.: registration check (Lake Denison) dispersed gathering; 8:07 p.m.: investigation (Walnut Street) spoken to; 8:20 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) written warning; 8:43 p.m.: MV stop (Grove Street) verbal warning; 9:04 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) traffic citation; 9:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street) report taken; 9:39 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 9:48 p.m.: carbon monoxide incident (Bayberry Circle) services rendered; 9:50 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning.

POLICE BLOTTER

Ryan Smialek, age 28, of 75 Royalston Road, Phillipston, was arrested following an accident on High Street at around 6 p.m. last Friday, Jan. 6.
 The police report indicates Smialek was behind the wheel of Mitsubishi FE639 that slammed into the back of a Chevrolet Silverado that had pulled part-way off the road at 118 High St. A woman and her two children were in the Silverado at the time of the accident. All three refused medical attention.

An off-duty State Police trooper happened to be driving by at the time of the accident and was on the scene when Winchendon Officer Brian Wightman arrived. The trooper reportedly told Wightman that it appeared Smialek was under the influence of alcohol. When asked by the officer if he was drunk, Smialek said "no."
 While Wightman was speaking with the woman in the Chevrolet, Winchendon Police Sgt. Gerald Gagne arrived and conducted a search of Smialek's vehicle. The police report indicates Gagne found several unopened bottles of

beer and alcohol, including tequila, whiskey, and root beer flavored vodka, as well as an open container of beer and several open alcohol nip bottles.
 The report also states that Smialek failed a field sobriety test.
 He was arraigned Monday in Winchendon District Court in Gardner on charges of operating under the influence and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. He was released on personal recognizance and told return to court on Feb. 10 for a pretrial hearing.
 On Saturday, Jan. 7, Winchendon police were called

to 14 Royalston Road South by a woman stating her ex-boyfriend was trying to break into her home.
 When Sgt. Gagne arrived at the home, he found the passenger side of the woman's car had apparently been kicked in. The mirror on the driver's side had also been "freshly broken," the police report states, and was hanging from the vehicle.
 After the sergeant left to search for the woman's boyfriend, she called the police station to report he may be at the Thirsty Turtle Pub in Baldwinville. As Gagne was entering the pub, he spotted a

man exiting the premises who fit the man's description.
 He approached the man and informed him that he was under arrest. The police report states the man initially resisted but, upon the advice of a friend, ultimately complied with Gagne's orders.
 Jacob Tambollee, age 26, of 8 Pond Street, Bellows Falls, VT, was arraigned Monday in Winchendon District Court in Winchendon on a charge of vandalism and released on \$200 bail. He'll be back in court Feb. 10 for a pretrial hearing.

Winchendon Courier
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Fire Department announces info

DIAL 911 for any fire or ambulance requests
 Over the past few months the Winchendon Fire Department has been receiving more and more calls for fire and ambulances to the fire department's non-emergency phone numbers (297-2323 & 297-2324).
 ONLY 911 should be called for requests for fire or ambulance requests for assistance or transport. Why?
 Each and every FIRE or EMS request needs to be properly documented and dispatched by our 911 dispatchers who are ALWAYS there to answer your calls. The WFD has become a very busy fire department. There will be times when no one will answer these non-emergency lines because we are out on calls. Your unanswered call will delay response time. Our non-emergency numbers are for regular station business, such as brush burning season which begins January 15th.
 PLEASE use 911 for ALL requests for fire department assistance or for an ambulance - even if you don't think it's a technically an "emergency."
 It is the goal of the Winchendon fire department to provide each and every Winchendon resident the quickest and most efficient

response possible.
 Thank you for your cooperation.
 *** CodeRED COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM ***
 CodeRED is community notification system Winchendon utilizes for fast distribution of information. Emergencies, weather alerts, and other important town alerts can be sent town-wide to land-line telephones, cell phones, and email addresses.
 To sign up, go to: <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BFB7CC4C6C0A> or <http://winchendonfire.org/> and click on Links Gallery on the left side of this page and click CodeRED Community Notification System
VACANT & ABANDONED BUILDINGS
 The Winchendon Fire Department is looking for assistance in identifying vacant or abandoned buildings throughout the town of Winchendon.
 If you know of an abandoned or vacant building in your neighborhood or elsewhere in town, please email the building street address to vacantbuildings@townofwinchendon.com so we can proceed with enforcing the abandoned/vacant building regulation.
 Thank you for helping us protect the community.

OBITUARIES

Gale S. Bailey, 63

FITZWILLIAM — Gale S. Bailey, age 63, of Fitzwilliam died peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017 at her home after a period of failing health.



Gale was born in Peterborough during a blizzard on Dec. 21, 1953. She was the daughter of the late Andre and Betty (Burnham) Gagnon. She was a 1971 graduate of Conant High School in Jaffrey and had lived in the Monadnock Region her entire life.

She had worked administratively at New Hampshire Ball Bearing in Peterborough before working at Stan's in Troy and had retired after helping as a bookkeeper at Bottoms Up in Fitzwilliam.

Gale was very creative and enjoyed quilting and coloring the more intricate

designs in the newer coloring books. She always loved traveling with her husband to their winter vacation home in Florida and feasting on lobster.

Gale is survived by her loving husband of almost 30 years, Donald M. Bailey of Fitzwilliam, and by her two stepdaughters, Lori A. Wells of Douds, IA and Lindsay Andrews of Boston, and by her stepson Corey Bailey of Douds, IA as well as her grandchildren, Audrey, Haley, Benjamin, Sarah and Hannah. She is also survived by her sister, Janet Wilkinson of Fitzwilliam, and by her two brothers, Andre Gagnon of Rindge and Lance Gagnon of Jaffrey, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.

At Gale's request there will be no calling hours or funeral services at this time.

To share photographs, memories and condolences with Gale's family, please visit www.cournoyerfh.com.

Donald A. DeVarney Sr., 59

GARDNER — Donald A. DeVarney Sr., age 59, of Gardner, passed away on Dec. 31, 2016, at home with his family by his side, after a two-month battle with cancer.



Born Nov. 20, 1957 in Leominster son of the late Thomas DeVarney and Dorothy Groschupf. He attended Leominster and Fitchburg schools before working as an auto mechanic.

Donald is survived by his wife of 32 years, Tammy (Germain) DeVarney of Gardner; one son, Donald DeVarney Jr. and his fiancée, Ashley St. Pierre of Winchendon; one stepdaughter, Michelle and her husband, Chad Berthiaume of Gardner; three stepsons, Steven, Michael, and Scott Drooker of Fitchburg; 18 Grandchildren and three

great-granddaughters. He is further survived by four sisters, Karen Lariviere of Derry NH, Lynn Brooks of Amherst, and Gail Guidry and Lori Gros, both of Thibodaux LA; three brothers: Roland DeVarney and his wife Kathleen of Jaffrey, Kenneth and Philip Hirtle of Houma LA.

Along with many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He will be missed dearly by his best buddy (dog) Chopper.

Donald enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson, fishing, camping, trips to the flea market, but most of all, he loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, Jan. 9, 2017 at St. Joseph Church, 49 Woodland St., Fitchburg. Burial followed at St. Joseph Cemetery, Fitchburg.

Aubuchon Moorcroft Funeral Home, 132 Woodland St., Fitchburg was entrusted with arrangements.

Joseph Kukta, 86

WESTMINSTER — Joseph Kukta, age 86, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, at HealthAlliance Leominster Hospital, after an illness.



His wife, Jane R. (Lemieux) Kukta died in 1996. Joseph leaves a sister, Barbara Guy of Winchendon; two brothers, Donald "Skip" Kukta of Westminister, and Charles Kukta of Florida; as well as several nieces, nephews,

and cousins.

He is predeceased by two brothers, Stanley Kukta and Francis "Snoozy" Kukta.

Joseph was born on Feb. 11, 1930, in Fitchburg, a son of the late Joseph and Magdalene R. (Leahy) Kukta. He attended Fitchburg High School prior

to entering the US Army, where he served in World War II. After returning to Fitchburg, Joseph worked as an auto mechanic for City Cab for many years. He also lived in California and Las Vegas, where he continued to work as an auto mechanic, and also enjoyed racing cars and motorcycles. Woodworking and wood carving were his life-long hobbies. He is known among family and friends for his great sense of humor, and for stories of his travels and experiences repairing cars on the west coast.

Joseph's funeral was held on Friday, Jan. 6, 2017 in St. Bernard's Parish at St. Camillus Church, 333 Mechanic Street, Fitchburg. Burial followed at St. Bernard Cemetery, off St. Bernard Street, Fitchburg. The Fitchburg Chapel of the Sawyer-Miller-Masciarelli Family Funeral Homes, 243 Water Street, Fitchburg was entrusted with arrangements. P

John E. Tamulen, 58

GARDNER — John E. Tamulen, 58 of 150 Lovewell Street, Gardner, died peacefully in his sleep, at his residence, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2016. He was born in Gardner on Oct. 19, 1958, the son of the late Edward W. and Ruth S. Tamulen. John



was a 1976 graduate of Gardner High School. He later received an Associate's degree in human services in 2004 from Mount Wachusett Community College and added several courses since then. John was a professional photographer for 20 years before becoming a para-educator at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. In between, he worked in human services for three years and taught photography to students and senior citizens through the LIFE courses at Mount Wachusett Community College. John was a member of the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church and a member of the Greater Gardner Community Choir in Gardner and was a long time member of the Class of GHS 1976 reunion committee. His love for nature, music, and gardening brought him much happiness throughout his life. He was an avid hiker at Mount Watatic, Mount Wachusett, Mount Monadnock

and many area trails. Fall was his favorite time of the year. John had a passion for splitting cordwood, walking the trails and beaches of Southern Maine, and collecting unique glassware. His favorite book was "The Fall of Freddie the Leaf" by Leo Buscaglia and enjoyed literature, movies, and poetry. He shared stages including Theater at the Mount in Gardner and The Stratton Players in Fitchburg. Food was another passion to prepare at home with onions, horseradish and most favorite, garlic. He leaves two daughters, April Joy Tamulen, of Pontiac, IL; Karin Ann Hart and her husband Brian and granddaughter, Adalyn Ekorre of Templeton; one sister, Nancy Morgan and husband, James of Wells, ME; one brother, James Tamulen and wife Dolores of Gardner; and nephews. He also leaves several cousins and many long-time dear friends and neighbors. An aunt, Lillian Stacy of Niskayuna, NY, predeceased him. A memorial service was held Monday, Jan. 9, 2017 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon. The Rev. Nancy Allen officiated. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Chestnut Street United Methodist Church, 161 Chestnut St., Gardner, MA 01440 or Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center, 268 Central St. Suite A, Gardner, MA 01440.

John D. Dufresne, 74

WINCHENDON — John D. Dufresne, 74, of 274 Forristall Road, died peacefully Saturday evening, Jan. 7, 2017 in Heywood Hospital, Gardner, with his family at his side.



He was born in Warren, PA on Nov. 9, 1942, son of the late Francis and Elizabeth Dufresne and had been a resident of Winchendon since 1978.

John worked as a machinist at Wyman-Gordon Company in North Grafton for 35 years until his retirement in 2012. He proudly served in the United States Air Force for four years during the Vietnam War. John was a graduate of Eisenhower High School in Russell, PA. He was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and Eugene M. Connor Post #193 American Legion. He was also a member of Proud and Country Band. His hobbies included fishing, camping, photography, boating and working around the yard. John

enjoyed family trips and vacations and especially enjoyed spending time with his family and grandsons.

He leaves his wife of 42 years, Jane G. (Hunt) Dufresne; two sons, Adam Dufresne and his wife Shannon of Westminister and Joshua Dufresne of Winchendon; three brothers, James of New York, Norman of New York, and Richard of Arizona; two sisters, Frances of New Mexico and Kathleen of Pennsylvania; four grandsons, Jaykob, Jayden, John "Jed" and Conor and many nieces and nephews. A sister Laura preceded him in death.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce St., Winchendon.

Members of Eugene M. Connor Post #193 conducted a Legion Ceremony during calling hours.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in the spring.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon was entrusted with arrangements.

Regina (Wroblewski) Szwarc, 92

LEOMINSTER — Regina (Wroblewski) Szwarc, age 92, died peacefully at her home on Jan. 1, 2017, after an illness.

Her husband, Paul L. Szwarc, died in 2007.

She leaves two sons, Adam Szwarc of Nevada City, CA and Peter Szwarc of Saugus; one daughter, Ann E. Chlebeczek of Winchendon; and 12 grandchildren, Ann Marie, Jason, Erica, Nicholas, Paul, Steven, Veronica, Tomas, Peter, Juliann, Caroline and Olivia; and nine great-grandchildren, Sarah, Sofia, Matthew, Sammy, Natalie, Madeline, Scarlett, Naomi, and Henry.

Regina was born in Poland on Dec. 30, 1924, a daughter of the late Brunon and

Anna (Flisikowska) Wroblewski. She came to the United States in 1963 with her family. She worked for American Optical for many years, and was a long-time member of Our Lady of the Lake Church.

Regina's funeral was held on Thursday, January 5, 2017 with a Mass in Our Lady of the Lake Church, 1400 Main St., Leominster. Burial will be in the spring in the South Cemetery, Page Street, Lunenburg, MA 01462.

The Lunenburg Chapel of the Sawyer-Miller-Masciarelli Funeral Homes, 763 Mass. Ave., Lunenburg, MA 01462 has been entrusted with Regina's funeral services.

L. Myrtle (Whitney) Zablonksi, 90

TEMPLETON — L. Myrtle (Whitney) Zablonksi, age 90, of 56 Elm St., Baldwinville, died Friday evening, Jan. 6, 2017 at her residence.



She was born in Hollis, NH on Oct. 7, 1926, daughter of the late Everett and Lennie (Harris) Whitney and lived in Baldwinville for most of her life.

Myrtle owned for many years The Elms Gift Shop in Baldwinville and also assisted her late husband at The Elms Bait and Tackle. She taught ceramic classes for over 20 years at her residence. Myrtle was a longtime member, former Sunday School superintendent, clerk and member of the executive board and church choir of the former First Baptist Church in Baldwinville. She was also a past president of Wachusett Violet Society and a former member of American Legion Auxiliary in Baldwinville. Myrtle was a current member of Bethany Bible Chapel in Winchendon. Her hobbies were gardening, knitting, crocheting and quilting. Myrtle generously gave many of her crafts to Templeton Food Pantry, Templeton Council on Aging and the Oncology Department at Heywood Hospital.

Her husband of 63 years, Walter A. "Slay" Zablonksi, died in 2011. She

leaves four children, Walter A. Zablonksi Jr. of Alburg, VT, Alan M. Zablonksi and his wife Joyce of Sheffield, Marc J Zablonksi and his wife Nancy of Estero, FL and Alyce F. LaDeau and her fiancée Michael Bouthot of Templeton; her grandchildren, Wendy Sawyer and her husband Scott of Baldwinville, Daniel Zablonksi and his girlfriend Bethany Strothers of Templeton, Kevin Zablonksi and his wife Sherlly of Medford, Kelly Gelinis and her husband Adam Gelinis of Leominster, Laurie Novoa and her husband Victor of Leominster and Shane "Rowdy" LaDeau and his girlfriend Tammy Bronson of Templeton; her brothers, Raymond Whitney of Kentucky and Quimby Whitney of Gardner; her sister, Marilyn Bell of Mars Hill, ME; seven great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings, Thelma Trombley, Shirley Everett Whitney, Delia Salisbury, Wayne Whitney and Hazel Hagggett.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 at 10 a.m. in Bethany Bible Chapel, 727 Spring St., Winchendon. Burial will follow in Greenlawn Cemetery, Baldwinville.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon are Friday, Jan. 13, 2017 from 5 to 7 p.m.

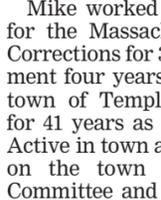
Memorial donations may be made to Bethany Bible Chapel, 727 Spring St., Winchendon, MA 01475.

Michael R. Watt, 59

BALDWINVILLE — Michael R. Watt, age 59, Baldwinville, died unexpectedly at home Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.

He was born in Boston on Sept. 26, 1957, son of Raymond E. Watt of Templeton and the late Phyllis L. (Hackett) Watt and was a lifelong resident of Templeton. Mike graduated from the Narragansett Regional High School class of 1975, and Worcester Trade School class of 1977 in welding.

Mike worked as a correction officer for the Massachusetts Department of Corrections for 33 years until his retirement four years ago. He served on the town of Templeton Fire Department for 41 years as a firefighter and EMT. Active in town affairs, Mike had served on the town of Templeton School Committee and Templeton Emergency Management. He was former president of Narragansett Historical Society and was a former Girl Scout leader and trainer.



Mike was a proud member of the Abenaki Nation and was proud of his native American heritage going by the name "Running Elk." He had a love for music and had a passion for guitars. Mike also loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and hiking. He was a member of Otter River Sportsman's Club for many years.

In addition to his father, he leaves his wife of 35 years, Kathleen (Barker) Watt; a daughter, Hollice D. Watt of Freedom, NH; a brother, Gary Watt of Westminister, several nieces and nephews, and his three beloved cats.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the First Church of Templeton, Templeton Common. The Rev. William Ault will officiate. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon are Friday, January 20, 2017 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to The Narragansett Historical Society, PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.





STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME

STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME

343 Central Street
Winchendon, MA 01475

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

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

SPORTS

End of month gets you ready for summer

MARLBOROUGH — Lured in part by more than \$60,000 in door prizes, New England and northeastern area anglers have their eyes on the annual Fly Fishing Show™, Jan. 20-22 at the Royal Plaza Trade Center.

The facility, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, will play host to a three day weekend bubbling chowder of all-things-fly-fishing with hourly seminars, casting demonstrations, fly-tying, destination films, and the newest tackle on display in a sold-out exhibition hall.

Fly Fishing Show hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sunday. Parking is free.

Exhibitor booths include both foreign and domestic tackle manufacturers, retailers, lodges, resorts, guide services and conservation organizations — many offering sales incentives and “show specials.”

Among the \$60,000 in national door prizes are trips to Tsimane Lodge, Bolivia, \$7,600; Pesca Maya, Ascension Bay Quintana Roo, Mexico, \$5,692;

Alaska Peninsula with Epic Angling Adventures, \$5,350; Cooper's Minipi Lodge, Labrador, for large brook trout, \$5,295; and salmon fishing at Restigouch River Lodge, New Brunswick, Canada, \$5,000. Local and regional door prizes will also be awarded.

Fly casting demonstrations are scheduled by Gary Borger, Jeff Currier, Sheila Hassan, Topher Brown, and Ed Lombardo.

Featured fly tying instructors include Ed Engle, Alan Caolo, Borger, Joe Cordiero, Clouser, and Bob Popovics.

Eight classes with fly-tying and casting experts are open for advance registration. Class fees are \$85 and include admission to the show for that day. Classes are Fly Tying with Clouser, Fly Tying with Cordiero, Practical Nymphing with Engle, Advanced Nymph Fishing with Jason Randall, Wet Flies — How to Tie and Fish Them with Randall and Fly Tying with Caolo.

The International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) will host a free learning center with both casting and fly-tying

instructions.

Among the nearly 50 Destination Theater presentations per day are programs on the Greater Yellowstone Area, the Bristol Bay Region of Alaska, Belize - North to South, Tips and Tactics for Fishing the Delaware, Techniques to Catch More Atlantic Salmon, Wading for Permit, The Minipi: Where Giants Swim, Fly Fishing the Rangeley Lakes Region of Western Maine, Spring Tarpon Fishing in the Florida Keys and Baja Mexico Fly-Fishing for Roosterfish.

Seminars include Where Trout Are, Wet Flies 101, Best Practices for Selective Feeding Trout in New England, 25 Ways to Elevate Your Trout Game, Streamer Tactics and Tricks to Catch Bigger Trout, Maine Brook Trout Lakes and Ponds and What Trout See. There are nine 60-minute seminars scheduled each day.

The world premier of the 2017 International Fly Fishing Film Festival is scheduled for Jan. 20 at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Film Festival presentations

include: Surface, large rainbows in remote British Columbia; Pure New Zealand, stunning South Island trout; The Legend of Neck Beard, Henry's Fork and the Yellowstone area; Laplanders, Baltic Salmon in Northern Sweden; The Hidden, brown trout amidst Iceland's volcanic landscape; The Jungle's Edge, Costa Rica's first Grand Slam; The Dorado, April Vokey heads into the jungles of Bolivia; and Pescadora, redbfish on poppers in a Louisiana marsh.

An Author's Booth offers the opportunity to have books inscribed and “talk fly-fishing” with the nation's best anglers.

For class registration or a complete list of Destination Theater presentations, seminars, fly tyers and casting demonstrations, visit flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/

Fly-fishing Show admission is \$15 for one day, \$25 for two days and \$35 for three days. Children under age five are free as are Scouts under 16 in uniform. Active military with an ID are \$10.

Abare staying the course, seeing the future



Morgan St. Pierre photos

Gloryanna Andino goes up for a jumper during the game against Maynard.

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — When Murdock girls basketball Coach Jim Abare looks at his young roster, one peppered with lots of middle schoolers, he assures he sees things “you don't see sitting in the 15th row” of the bleachers.

“You don't get good just by pushing a button,” reminded Abare. “It takes work. It takes being committed to the sport, whatever the sport is.

It takes playing, in our case, in summer league or in travel leagues in spring and summer. We have some talent here, but some of them are just learning how to play the game and so it will take time but if they stay with the game, and if they stay here (at Murdock) they've got a chance to be pretty good in a few years.”

“Of course I might be in a nursing home,” he deadpanned, “but at least we're laying the foundation.”

His standard self-deprecation aside, Abare turned serious describing the trials and tribulations of eighth graders facing seniors many nights.

“There are times when we've gotten physically beaten up. No way around that on a team with one senior and one junior (Gloryanne Andino and Molly Murphy respectively), but we're competing hard,” he praised his youngsters.

“The other night (against West Boylston), they had kids who were 6-1, 5-11 or so. But we were able to move the ball around and we got some shots and they didn't seem to be as terrified as I thought they might be.”

“What I'd really like to do, but I need all of them to show up to do it, is to play a couple JV games, get them a lot of minutes and then let them come play a few minutes in varsity games. Trying to learn the game playing varsity doesn't normally work out. They're just too young to get the concept of what it takes to be successful on the varsity level. That's not a criticism. You can't expect them to as eighth graders. It's unrealistic,” he reflected.

But Abare likes the potential he sees, noting some of the inexperienced players, even the high school-grade newcomers are beginning to make their

presence felt.

“Jaelynn” (Stetson) — she's pretty new to basketball, but she's going to be one of those who will make more and more of a contribution as she gets to play more. Kaliegh (Lauziere) has scored some points. She's going to be good. Doesn't have the in-game instincts yet, but she will. Jasmine (Larosa) was the leading scorer the other night. Becca (Graves) is strong and when she's here, she helps us be better,” he said.

Abare waved off a recent incident which resulted in brief suspensions for a couple players.

“That wasn't a basketball thing. It had nothing to do with basketball,” he pointed out.

More important to the coach is a willingness to put in the work needed to succeed.

“We need kids to commit,” he stressed, noting that in the four years since he returned to coach his alma mater, he's only had two players (current junior and leading scorer Murphy and Morgan St. Pierre, class of 2014) who played AAU ball in the off-season.

“We could use more of that,” he acknowledged. “You can't put the basketball down in March, pick it up after Thanksgiving and think it's going to be fine,” said Abare, who also had words of appreciation for former players Tatum



Kaliegh Luziere drives to the basket.

Mahoney and Haley Jandris (both class of 2016) who helped out during their recent college holiday breaks.

“Sometimes it's good to hear other voices. I can't say enough how much I appreciated them being here.”

Day-to-day, though, he's seeing improvement, incremental though it may be. “We're a work in progress and we're still working,” he said.

The Lady Devils visit Narragansett this afternoon (5:30 p.m.) and visit Ayer Tuesday before hosting Sabis next Thursday at 7 p.m.

Making the contrast...



TALKING
SPORTS

JERRY
CARTON

Perhaps you noticed the contrast between last weekend's entirely predictable NFL playoff

snooze-fest and the dramatic college national championship game won by Clemson over Alabama with two seconds left. All of it was a microcosm of the last four months where the NFL has generally bordered on the unwatchable while all those kids, exploited or not, actual

students or not, play exciting action-filled contests. Will this weekend's divisional round be any better? Can't be any worse. When do pitchers and catchers report anyway? And where's Jose Bautista going to land?

This weekend also marks 50 years since Super Bowl 1. The game

wasn't known by that title yet; rather it went by the cumbersome name of the “AFL-NFL World Championship Game.” Most of us know the story. The Los Angeles Coliseum was maybe three-quarters full. That's a far cry from the over-priced sellouts of today. Personally, I

think the game shouldn't be played at a neutral site anyway. At its core, it's still the league championship game and home fans deserve to see it in their stadium, alternating conferences. As for the first one? The game turned into a second-half blow-out when the Packers steamrolled the Chiefs,

thus cementing the consensus of the time that the NFL was far superior to the younger league. The truth, of course, was that it was the Packers who were far superior, period. A couple years later when the Jets and Chiefs beat the Colts and Vikings respectively, Turn To **CONTRAST** page **A9**

Blue Devils make it five, then lose to Maynard

BY CHRIS MARTIN
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — It was a win against the West Boylston Lions at home last Friday 54-34 to keep the streak going. But the trip to Maynard on Tuesday snapped the run with a 79-47 loss.

LJ Hicks got Murdock's offense going in the opening seconds with a basket and a free throw for a quick three-point play. The Blue Devils would have a commanding 16-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Jared Nelson would put his team up 23-10 in the second quarter and be up to 27-19 by the half.

Ryan Kaminsky would push the lead back to double digits sinking a free throw after a run by the Lions in the third quarter; making it a 29-19 lead with 6:04 left in the third. Later in that quarter Tyler Cota would widen the lead to 33-25.

The Blue Devils would have a 41-21 lead heading into the fourth. Murdock kept its foot on the gas pedal in the fourth and cruise to the 54-34 victory.

Coach Matt O'Malley said, “It was a physical, grind out it out type of game. We kind of fell asleep there in the second

quarter but we woke up and did we had to do.”

“You know, five in a row is kind of a big deal. We just have to be ready for Maynard on Tuesday.”

O'Malley was looking forward to that match-up.

“It's going to be tough, a defending state finalist is no joke. They (Maynard) brought back two of their better players, and their a type of program we are trying to be. They are good year in and year out; competing for a league title. So we just want to down there and see if we can knock them off,” said O'Malley.

But it was not to be. Leading score makers for the West Boylston game were Nick Roy with 15 points; Hicks with 12 points; Nelson with nine points; Kaminsky with five points; Josh Smith, Cota, and Spencer Pelkey with three points; and John Murphy and Zach Richards with two points each.

The loss to Maynard put Murdock 5-3 on the season and 2-1 in league play.

The Blue Devils travel to Gansett tonight (Friday) for a 7 p.m. tip off.

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Every year the Knights of Columbus hold a national free throw championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 and the first step takes place next Saturday, Jan. 21, at Murdock high school. Free registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and participants go to the line starting at 11 a.m.

“We're glad to be doing this in Winchendon for the first time,” said KOC's Chip Downing.

“It was nice that Murdock athletic director Jenna Whitaker was able to have the gym available to us,” he added.

The event isn't just a local competition. In fact, it's technically the Greater Gardner Area

event and last year more than 120,000 youngsters showed up for over 3,600 nationwide competitions. The winners in each age category, 12 winners in all, here will advance to the Central Region contest on March 18 at Nichols College in Dudley. Those victors will also receive a certificate and plaque and everyone will get a participation certificate.

The state finals are slated for April 29 at Anna Maria College in Paxton.

Each contestant will shoot 25 free throws and if that's not enough to settle things, there will be a 5-shot tie-breaker.

“We want to be involved in events throughout the community,” noted Downing. “I've been involved in the Otter River group for 10 years

and anytime we can do a project which benefits the kids, that's what we want to be doing.”

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal organization with just under two million members scattered across some 15,000 local councils. Last year, KOC donated more than 70 million volunteer hours and \$170 million to charitable causes, sponsoring projects which benefited communities throughout the country.

“This event will be lots of fun,” assured Downing who added that anyone who wants more information can give him a call at (978) 855-4810 after 4 p.m. or at (978) 796-1128 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. “Remember, it's free,” Downing stressed.

FIRE

continued from page A1

tions at the WFD.

Smith explained, "I have spoken with the town manager, and he has explained to me that he is looking at the possibility of financial savings, but is also looking to maintain the same level of service for Winchendon. My goal is that I don't think that either town should have their level of service reduced by combining chiefs, or combining departments. I believe that is taking away from our concerns, and going back in history instead of moving forward. At the end of the day, I don't think that any of this should be done at the expense of public safety for the community."

WFD serves Winchendon and its roughly 10,300 residents and gives mutual aid to neighboring communities, received 2,059 calls for aid in 2016 at an average of six calls per day. The current fleet includes the new tower truck purchased in 2014, but also includes Engine 2 from 2002, and Engine 3 from 1996. Both are listed as only in fair condition.

Smith added, "The town

manager has been good here and very supportive of the fire department, so I can't knock him for doing his job which is the financial management of the town, and I don't think he will knock me for doing my job which is providing the best public safety that can be given to the community. I understand the theory of trying to watch the budget as every town has budget issues and that is just the way of the times. However I think we have gotten so busy here and we are steadily increasing every year that we are at a size where I don't think that we could effectively do it without reducing public safety. I don't think the merger of the departments or the positions would work well for either community due to the call volumes and equipment. If the study by example comes back and shows that by doing 'X' it will improve Winchendon's public safety, I would have to accept that and go with it as that is my responsibility. I would also offer that I believe that both me and the town manager are on the same page and would not want to see any services reduced to the community, and I think our final goal is the same, which is

to benefit the town."

"The ultimate goal for the Winchendon Fire Department is to provide the best public safety for the citizens of Winchendon," he finished.

Acting Chief Dennis Hamel of the Templeton Fire Department, confirmed that the TFD has only one full time employee, Hamel; with the rest of its department being serviced by nearly 50 on call personnel as both firefighters and EMTs.

Hamel said, "Full time is supposed to be the chief, the deputy, and what we call two full time equivalents. I currently fill in the shifts with what I can with what I call per diem."

The town of Templeton, which has a little over 8,000 residents and according to Hamel received between 800 and 1,000 calls for aid in 2016, is slightly less than half of Winchendon's total call volume.

While Templeton has 80 percent of Winchendon's population, has only 12 percent of the WFD's full time staff.

The TFD has an aging fleet. E-1 rescue engine pumper 1 is a 1999 model. Engine 3 is a 1987, tanker 1 is a 1989, and Engine 2 is a 1991. Newer equipment includes Ambulance A-1 being

a 2007, and A-2 being a 2014. Engine 1 is a 2003, Ladder 1 is a 2006, and a command vehicle is a 2007. Brush trucks include 1989 and 1977 utility trucks among other forestry vehicles.

Regarding the future study Hamel said, "I will help them, I will give them all the information they need, but I don't know if it would really work or not. Both towns are very busy on the EMS side of it, so I don't know if it would work."

Winchendon TM Keith Hickey confirmed he was contacted by Terenzini of Templeton regarding the possibility of potentially sharing the Fire Chief.

"My comment to them was I would like to further explore not just the possibility of sharing the chief, but the sharing of resources in the fire departments to see if there was a more economical way of providing the same or better level of service to both communities, and what the pros and cons of it would be if we were to consider doing so and does it make any sense, and if it does, then great; and if it doesn't then that's if fine too," said Hickey.

Hickey explained he also understands concerns about how much time potentially

Chief Smith could spend outside of town by saying, "The company which wins the bid to do the study would have to determine what the command staff would look like to ensure that Winchendon is not losing any service level by what would be proposed regarding regionalizing of the fire service. It has to work for both communities. If it doesn't, then it doesn't move forward. With the cost of service ever increasing, this is chance to see if there is an alternative way to provide fire service."

"Regionalization for police, fire, and more is done in other parts of the country on a pretty regular basis and many have had a lot of success with it. If there is a better way to do business, then we have to look into it for the tax payers. If it is not better for Winchendon, then it would simply not go forward and no harm done," Hickey said.

In closing Hickey explained, "Again I would like to say this is just a study. If it doesn't make sense for either one of the communities then it just doesn't happen."

2016

continued from page A4

the shadow government. They are the hidden face of the American police state that has continued past Election Day.

The U.S. military industrial complex — aided by the Obama administration — armed the world while padding its own pockets. According to the Center for International Policy, President

Obama has brokered more arms deals than any administration since World War II. For instance, the U.S. agreed to provide Israel with \$38 billion in military aid over the next ten years, in exchange for Israel committing to buy U.S. weapons.

Now that's not to say that 2016 didn't have its high points, as well, but it's awfully hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel right now.

Let's not take the mistakes of 2016 into

a new year with us. The election is over. The oligarchs remain in power. The police state is marching forward, more powerful than ever. All signs point to business as usual. The game continues to be rigged.

The lesson for those of us in the American police state is simply this: if there is to be any hope for freedom in 2017, it rests with "we the people" engaging in local, grassroots activism that transforms our communities and

our government from the ground up. Let's get started.

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. His new book Battlefield America: The War on the American People (SelectBooks, 2015) is available online at www.amazon.com. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

TRAINING

continued from page A1

reflected Haddad, "and this drill was designed to help enable police and the K-9 dogs to become familiar with the layout of the building. You never know."

There were a total of eight police dog teams sweeping the hallways.

In a letter to parents, MHS Principal Josh Romano wrote, "Stay in Place procedures are typically used in a medical emergency, hazardous material spill, or other event that requires the hallways to remain clear of staff or students."

Added Romano's letter, "Classes continued as normal during the Stay in Place. This was a scheduled exercise and was not in response to any specific incident."

According to the Winchendon police department, the dog units conducted a drug sweep of the premises; attempting to sniff out drugs in school lockers and student vehicles. The six teams from the state police, one from Lunenburg and one from Winchendon, swept from hallway to hallway, including both the high school and middle school side.

No drugs were found or confiscated.

"This what schools have to do now, every school," noted Haddad.

He said he had been approached by school resource Officer Tracy Flag and Chief David Walsh to take part in the exercise.

"They want to be familiar with our schools," Haddad explained. "It helps the dogs and they'll be familiar with the lay of the land."

Haddad said administration worked with the teams as they worked through the buildings.

It is expected this is the first of a series of such training exercises, to be held at various school systems throughout the region with a very real possibility of a return to Winchendon in the future.

Noted middle school Assistant Principal Jess Vezina, "I was extremely impressed with the efficiency in which the drill was conducted and there was little interruption in the students' learning."

The local school system is expected to spend around \$60,000 sometime in the spring to enhance the security cameras in the school buildings.

As for Monday's exercise, "we remain committed to ensuring that we provide a safe environment for our students," wrote Romano.

CONTRAST

continued from page A8

those were, from the perspective of nearly a half century later, more likely "upsets" only because long-time football writers from established NFL markets said so. Maybe we'll see the Chiefs and Packers get a rematch this year. I hope so if for no other reason to see the reaction in Philadelphia if Andy Reid reaches and wins the Super Bowl.

After this weekend, we'll be able to engage in the annual debate over baseball's Hall of Fame election. Results will be announced next Wednesday and I've read columns suggesting a younger, more forgiving electorate will look much more kindly on Messrs. Clemens, Bonds, et. al, than older voters. Maybe

so, but I see no way that duo or any of the other shady characters like Mark McGwire will collect anywhere near the necessary 75-percent. There's also been speculation that it might be time to revisit Pete Rose. Well, no. The rules are clear. If you get caught betting on baseball, you're done. Period. Besides, Rose's exclusion from Cooperstown doesn't change the fact he's the all-time hit leader and fans know that, just as we know Hank Aaron is the legitimate career home run king irrespective of Bonds' numbers and Roger Maris holds the legitimate single season home run record. Plaques, or the lack of one, in a museum don't change any of that, right?

Locally, Murdock's boys basketball team appears to be in a posi-

tion to make a run at the program's first post-season berth since 2011. This comes on the heels of the field hockey team qualifying for Districts for the first time in over a decade and come spring, the softball team will be aiming for a ninth playoff appearance in the last 10 years. These are impressive accomplishments and the kids deserve kudos. Rather than boast about how good they're going to be, or whining and pointing fingers when they're not like some teams, these squads, and their coaches too, have gone out and represented themselves and the school community with class. This hasn't been the case in every situation, so the ones who do things the right way and, as an added benefit, put wins on the board — they've earned respect and lots of it.

PLANNING BOARD

continued from page A1

Fellow board member Cailte Kelley said he wanted to give Van Dyke some time to get her demolition plans organized.

"I'm also trying to be respectful of the emotional piece of this," he said. Robert Van Dyke passed away in September, and his business and projects he had in the works have been taken over by his wife and children.

"I've never done this kind of work," said Kathleen Van Dyke. "I'm learning as quickly as I can."

Newton said the average demolition can cost somewhere in the range of \$100,000, depending on any asbestos mitigation that must first be addressed, along with any other environmental concerns.

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SMITH
continued from page A1

ly as a country boy in Barre, was please to say, "As we began our efforts with the MDAR and others on renewable energy 10 years ago, I started going through the list. I wanted to know who are the leaders in the state without even knowing about these programs, and right at the top of the list is Smith's Country Cheese, and I knew we had to go out and see Dave."

Under Smith's leadership, SCC first installed a large photo voltaic solar system on the building's roof. The system, which generates 20 kilowatts at full yield, cost \$250,000 and generates enough power to service up to five homes. In addition, 30 hi efficiency computer controlled cooling fans were installed in all the coolers housing the cheese. Shortly before the end of 2016, Smith had a complete solar hot water heating system installed.

These improvements not only reduced the company electric bill by over a third but also significantly reduced its total carbon footprint making SCC a true renewable and green energy business.

Palano who described Massachusetts as being a forerunner and number one in the nation for energy efficiency then invited Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik (D-Gardner) to the front to speak about Smith.

Gobi said, "This all comes back to what we can do for folks in our district, and we have people like David Smith who have set that bar for

others to follow. Working with people like Gerry Palano who has helped so many farms, it's really about what can we do in our legislature, as it all starts with the farmer. It's hard work. We truly have gems. Our farms are gems, and we can't afford to lose them. If you want to continue to keep the doors open of places like these, you must continue to support your local farmers!"

Gobi then joked, "We can't say this time that it is the fruits of your labor David, because it's the cheese of your labor!"

Smith then was invited forward.

Zlotnik, holding the citation while speaking of Smith, then added, "I think places like this such as Smith's Country Cheese are one of the true resources we have in our Commonwealth. Within 15 to a 30 minutes drive, you can get really just about anything you need to eat with fresh products and this truly is one of the things which truly makes this part of the state so special. With that, I would like to present David Smith with a citation from the Massachusetts State Legislature for your many great works here and your many great accomplishments."

The official citation reads, "Be it known, that the Massachusetts Senate hereby extends its congratulations to: in recognition of: 'your many years of service to the state's agricultural and renewable energy efforts,'" and was signed by Senate President Stan Rosenberg, Gobi, and Zlotnik.

Scott Soares of the USDA and director of the Rural Development Agency explained, "We

continue to emphasize our commitment to rural local businesses and obviously farms primarily because of their important existence in rural communities. We are a three state jurisdiction with Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Massachusetts is now number five in the country for direct sales from its farms. It really comes back to the farms themselves, and the courage to peruse programs and install energy efficient systems and especially to be early adopters like David Smith. We thank our state legislatures for their support, and we also want to thank Congressman James McGovern's office for their dedication and support as these kinds of supporting programs that assist projects like these could not be possible without their advocacy."

MDAR Commissioner John Labeaux added, "I am very happy to be here on behalf of Governor Baker and Lt. Gov Polito as we recognize all the wonderful things that have happened here at Smith's Country Cheese. Great cheese has been produced, great energy efficiency has been achieved, people are working, and this is exactly what we want to see in Massachusetts agriculture. Smith has been a champion of renewable energy in agriculture, and we thank you for all that you have done. It has not only helped your bottom line, but more importantly has helped the environment!"

Andy Belden of the Mass Clean Energy Center said, "I would like so much to thank Dave. You have been an



Gerry Palano of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resource talks about the multiple green energy projects David Smith has brought to life at Smith's Country Cheese.

absolute leader in clean energy. Everybody now knows Massachusetts farms cannot produce world class products. But what you have also shown is that our farms can produce the energy they need, right here in the state, and that is a powerful message!"

Belden added, "Thirty percent of greenhouse gassed created in Massachusetts are from heating and cooling, and projects like the new solar hot water system here at this farm, are going to become a really big thing over the next 15 to 20 years, and Mr. Smith was ahead of the curve. MCEC is making a \$40 Million dollar commitment over the next ten years to items such as heat pumps and much more to help reduce carbon footprints and the environment. It takes a team to bring together projects like this."

A continuing theme

echoed by the guest speakers was the need for collaboration of inter-agencies partnerships, state and federal legislative support, and a need for Massachusetts farmers to make a long term commitment to renewable energy to support both long term financial growth and reduce their carbon footprint.

Smith then spoke, saying, "I would really like to thank all the people and agencies that get involved in these kinds of projects and make everything happen. We have also discussed lighting and refrigeration projects with National Grid, which were a very quick payback for us. By switching over the old cooling fans to the computer controlled fans, which no longer run 24 hours a day, the project payback was 10 months and cut our electric bill by \$500 a month. We have also changed over the

refrigeration at the farm which is more efficient, and also have 'on demand hot water' which uses less energy. I encourage other businesses to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency as it really makes sense."

Smith continued, "We take energy efficiency really seriously. We just built our new retirement home. My wife and I have a net zero home, and it is all electric and solar, and has a Tier 3 rating. The difference we have already noticed is huge. I would like to thank everybody for coming by today, and I thank people like Gerry Palano because without people like him helping our farms and agriculture, it couldn't have all happened."

Plano said later, "My bottom line is, it's all about environmental. It triggers its way to renewable and energy efficiency, which I have been involved in my entire life. The passion is knowing we can make the world a better place for our kids and our future. Helping farms has been a truly rewarding experience and the more you can make the farms like this one here at Smith's be sustainable, they are going to reduce their cost and improve and stay in business. I really want to say, we can't live without farms. We couldn't be here and do anything without food. We really need to appreciate, and place the farms like Smith's Country Cheese that we do have in our state so they can increase everything they do for us and across the country. Farms are a necessary part of our lives."

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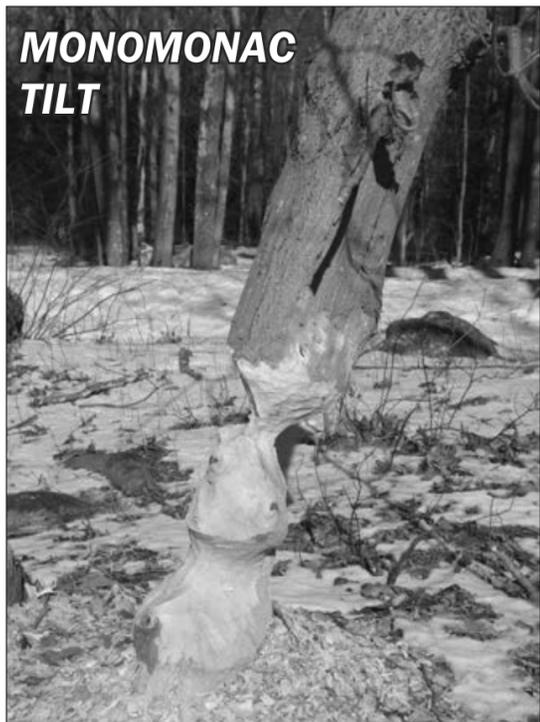
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MONOMONAC TILT



Staff photo

Beavers have been hard at work whittling away at this snack out near Lake Monomonac. It may be intended as part of a lodge, a dam or just a to sharpen the teeth.

HICKEY

continued from page A1

ing he had “tremendously managed the town’s fiscal situation, improving our free cash, reducing our deficit borrowing debt, and providing more towards our reserve funds.”

“He’s done a fantastic job, especially financially,” Cyganiewicz said in an interview.

Other areas where Hickey received grades between 24 and 25 included professional skills, reporting, staffing, supervision, community, and individual characteristics. The only grades below 24, all 23.8, were in the areas of relationships with elected governing bodies, policy execution, and citizen relations.

The toughest assessments came from Cyganiewicz, although none of his grades dropped below 4.2, which he gave the town manager for professional skills and citizen relations.

“Basically, I was going by my gut,” said Cyganiewicz. “I have had some complaints and I plan to look into the reason for those complaints.”

“But,” he told Hickey, “I think you’ve done a great job.”

After making note of the high grades

given Hickey by all board members, Anderson said, “I think that’s absolutely amazing considering what you walked into and the obstacles you had to overcome.”

Hickey took over the town manager’s office on the heels of revelations the town budget was some \$3.4 million in the red. Lawmakers on Beacon Hill then passed legislation allowing the town to borrow the funds necessary to stanch the fiscal bleeding.

He also assumed his new job in the wake of a contentious town election that saw the recall of two members of the Board of Selectmen, and the decision by two other members not to seek re-election. At the time he moved into town hall, he had to deal with a completely new board, as well as a school committee with just one holdover on the five-member panel.

Hickey thanked selectmen for their support.

“My year here has been fantastic,” he said. “I can’t do this by myself. I haven’t done this by myself. The people here care, they’ve been extremely supportive. The people want to see this community succeed, and so do I.”

LEGALS

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Hugh Williams to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Family Choice Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated April 27, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 41055, Page 47 subsequently assigned to Suntrust Mortgage, Inc. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 45368, Page 63 and subsequently assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association, its successors and/or assigns by Suntrust Mortgage, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 51733, Page 52; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 9:00 AM on January 20, 2017 at 66 Belmont Avenue, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land on the westerly side of Belmont Avenue and the southerly side of Goodrich Street in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being shown as Lots 31 and 35 on a plan entitled “Plan of Belmont Park, Winchendon, Mass. owned by P. B. Moore, Scale 1” = 60’, Geo N. Merrill & Co. Civ. Engrs., July 1903 Springfield, Mass.” which plan is recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 8 Plan 21, bounded and described as follows: Northerly by Goodrich Street, 58.07 feet, Easterly by Belmont Avenue, 186.53 feet, Southerly by Lot 29 on said plan, 160.62 feet, Westerly by Lot C on said plan, 50.10 feet, Northerly by Lots 33 and 34 on said plan, 106.03 feet, Westerly by Lot 34 on said plan, 142.72 feet. Deed Bk 41055 pg 45

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, building and zoning laws, liens, attorney’s fees and costs pursuant to M.G.L.Ch.183A, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee’s attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms if any, to be announced at the sale.

Federal National Mortgage Association

Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS MORAN PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 15-001624 December 30, 2016 January 6, 2017 January 13, 2017

LEGAL AUCTION PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS

By virtue of the right granted by the statute, the Massachusetts Code Section 105A, the enforcement of satisfying the lien of Winchendon Central Storage, for storage and expenses will be sold at public auction on January 30 2017 9am. All and singular, the furnishings, household furniture and equipment of Cynthia Grant storage bay #E and Casey Lucier storage bay #34

All items sold will be cash or certified check only. Auction to be held at Winchendon Central Storage 234 Lincoln Ave Winchendon Ma 01475 January 6, 2017 January 13, 2017

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 16SM011221 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Shannon L. Ford and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. 50 §3901 et seq.: Nationstar Mortgage LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 11 Sibley Road, given by Shannon L. Ford to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Bank of America, N.A., dated February 25, 2010, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 45499, Page 214, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 13, 2017 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of said Court on December 27, 2016.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 16-027342 January 13, 2017

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 16SM011301

ORDER OF NOTICE To: Maureen E. O’Toole; Ross M. O’Toole and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. 50 §3901 et seq.: HSBC Bank USA, N.A. claiming to have an interest in a

Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 705 Central Street a/k/a 705 North Central Street, given by Maureen E. O’Toole and Ross M. O’Toole to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Mortgage Network, Inc., DBA American Mortgage Network of MA, dated October 4, 2004, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34793, Page 323, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/ Defendants’ Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 13, 2017 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of said Court on December 28, 2016.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 201206-0229-PRP January 13, 2017 January 20, 2017 January 27, 2017

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Kenneth A. Smith, Jr. to Option One Mortgage Corporation, dated March 15, 2007 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40844, Page 383 of which mortgage Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the Certificateholders of Soundview Home Loan Trust 2007-OPT1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-OPT1 is the present holder by assignment from Option One Mortgage Corporation to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the Certificateholders of Soundview Home Loan Trust 2007-OPT1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-OPT1 dated April 21, 2008 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42762, Page 400, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 34-36 Glenallen Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00PM on February 7, 2017, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land situated in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, located on the northerly side of and numbered 34 & 36 Glenallen Street, being Lot #2 on a plan entitled “Plan #2, Subdivision of White Brothers, Inc. property, by J.E. Young, Surveyor, Winchendon, Massachusetts”, and recorded in Plan Book 208, Plan 6, Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Worcester, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the northerly line of Glenallen Street, said iron pin being the southeast corner of Lot #1; Thence North 55° East on the northerly line of said Glenallen Street, 69 feet to an iron pin; Thence North 35° West, 165 feet to an iron pin in the line of other land now or formerly owned by said White

Brothers, Inc.; Thence Westerly and bounding on said other land of White Brothers, Inc., 69 feet to an iron pin that marks the northeast corner of Lot #1; Thence South 35° East bounding on said Lot #1, 165 feet to the place of beginning.

Subject to rights of the Winchendon Electric Light and Power Company granted by deeds dated August 20, 1940, and recorded in Book 2793, Page 221 and Page 222, if they affect locus.

For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38039, Page 256.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cash, cashier’s or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable in cash or by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the Certificateholders of Soundview Home Loan Trust 2007-OPT1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-OPT1

Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Smith, Kenneth, 14-015766, January 13, 2017, January 20, 2017, January 27, 2017 January 13, 2017 January 20, 2017 January 27, 2017

LEGAL NOTICE

On January 17, 2016 the Draft No Smoking Plan for the Winchendon Housing Authority (WHA) will be available for a forty-five (45) day public review and comment period. This draft No Smoking Plan is available for inspection by the public at the office of the Winchendon Housing Authority, located at 108 Ipswich Drive Winchendon Ma, 01475. The office is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requesting assistance. Prior to this final submission, a Public Hearing for final comments of the Draft No Smoking Plan will be held on January 31, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Hyde Park Drive Community Building, 67 Hyde Park Drive Winchendon MA. Anyone wishing further information on the WHA No Smoking Plan may contact David P. Connor Executive Director of the Winchendon Housing Authority by telephone at (978)-297-2280 by Fax at (978)-297-0922 or via email at dconnor@winha.org. January 13, 2017



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