

Brandywine Farms property has multiple serious concerns



Keith Kent photo

This recent photo taken from over 600 feet behind the Whites Mill Dam and not on the property, shows debris piling up against its base, along with extensive corrosion found to be located on the base of the steel beams in its rear.

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The former White's Mill property on Mill Circle, now owned by Brandywine Farms Inc. as purchased from Mylec have been found to be not only in violation of agreements with the town but pose

serious potential safety threats to residences downstream of the earthen dam on the property.

Owned by John Giovanoni of Royalston, the latest concerns stem from a July 2015 report from the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety classifying the dam as a class I, high hazard dam.

In addition, the corporation is in violation of the tax increment funding agreement with the town, owes significant back taxes, has four liens placed on the property by the town and a need arose to divert the water of the annual lowering

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Staff photo

FINDING THE PERFECT THING

Sue Polcari, the mother of several daughters, talks to Allysa Campbell, who specializes in hair and make up products at the Shop Local vendors fair last weekend. Perfect possible gift items! The winner of the gift basket was Keith Kent, who says while he appreciates it, he intends to re-gift it as fundraiser for another worthy cause, possibly the CAC or the K9 unit.

This weekend includes a variety of events from Breakfast with Santa at the Carriage House (8-11 a.m.), the Winterfest at the Old Murdock Senior Center (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) First Friday at town hall (5 p.m.), the Holly Bazaar at United Parish 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and topped off by the tree lighting on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. On Sunday two businesses have ribbon-cutting ceremonies beginning at 10 a.m. Busy indeed.

Solar array work slated for February

WINCHENDON — Work on the solar array to be built on the town's capped landfill should begin sometime in February, according to Town Manager Keith Hickey. Hickey and town development Director Tracy Murphy met Tuesday morning with representatives of Onyx Renewable Partners, the company that has taken over the project. The array will supply power

to Winchendon's municipal buildings.

Onyx told selectmen earlier this month the array should go online by May 8.

Hickey said their might be a slight delay in the start of work because Onyx plans to install solar panels that are smaller than those originally included in plans originally presented to the town.

"The new solar pan-

els are smaller," he said. "I guess, even though they're smaller, they are more efficient. They would still generate the same amount of power, but the overall array would cover a smaller area that originally anticipated. A smaller array could constitute a change in the site plan that has been approved by the Planning Board."

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Courtesy photo

Masonry juniors pose in front of Monty Tech's new veterinary science training center being built on school grounds. From left are, Kyle Cote of Ashburnham, Juan Donahoo of Fitchburg, Eli Aviles of Fitchburg, Wyatt Newcomb of Gardner and Trevor Kelly of Holden.

Building own classrooms benefits students

FITCHBURG — From all accounts, construction of Monty Tech's new veterinary science training center is progressing smoothly and on schedule, due mainly to cooperative weather and highly skilled work crews.

During a recent visit to the work site, students from the construction trades were busy erecting staging, hammering walls and installing underground pipes for drainage.

Students from the different trades can be identified by the color of their hardhats: carpenters are in green, plumbers in red, electrical in blue, HVAC in yellow, and masons in gray. Work crews

were busy and on task, with teachers guiding and overseeing their progress.

Since school started, trade construction crews have built the exterior and interior walls and installed the underground plumbing and wiring. The trusses are going up, and the roof installation will follow. The goal is to have the building buttoned up before the winter.

It is estimated that the school will save \$1,125,000 in labor costs by having students and teachers do the construction work.

Electrical crews will be wiring for power, Internet, fire alarms and the state-of-the-art HVAC system.

Plumbing students are installing underground pipes for drainage, waste and ventilation.

On the day of the visit, plumbing instructor Kevin Martin was assisting his seniors install underground pipes for drainage, waste and ventilation.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to gain experience in commercial construction. An area they haven't worked in before," he said.

Masonry students built the block foundations for the shear walls (interior bearing walls that will support the truss roof system), installed the hurricane

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Search for next MWCC president narrowed

GARDNER — The Mount Wachusett Community College Presidential Search Committee named five finalists to succeed MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino, who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to the college and more than 50 years of service to Massachusetts public higher education.

"Hiring a community college president is a tremendous responsibility, and I want to recognize the Search Committee members for the many hours they worked and the expertise they shared in order to locate and secure the third president in the history of Mount Wachusett Community College," said Attorney Richard A. Cella, chair of the MWCC Presidential Search Committee and a member of the MWCC Board of Trustees. "We are excited to recommend a new leader with expansive experience, a visionary who can continue to move MWCC forward and to serve the community and region. The finalists are all exceptional individuals with impressive credentials who can continue the college's philosophy

of providing quality and affordable education to the students in our service area."

The finalists for the presidency of the college, which annually serves approximately 14,816 credit and noncredit students, are: William D. Hart, J.D. LaRock, J.D., Ed.D, Maureen H. Powers, Ph.D, James Vander Hooven, Ed.D and Julie A. White, Ph.D.

Each candidate will participate in interviews and open meetings to be held from Dec. 5 through Dec. 13 on the MWCC Gardner campus. MWCC staff, faculty, students and community members are invited to attend the community and open sessions. The interviews with the Board of Trustees each day are open to the public. View a complete schedule of finalist visits at www.mwcc.edu/presidents-transition

Candidate evaluation forms will be available for all attendees and will be shared with the Board of Trustees. The MWCC Board of Trustees will announce their selection for the third president of Mount Wachusett Community College at the Dec. 15 meeting.

Their recommendation will then be presented to Massachusetts Board of Higher Education for final approval.

"Due to President Asquino's innovative leadership, Mount Wachusett Community College is well positioned for success," said MWCC Board of Trustees Chair Tina Sbrega. "We are fortunate to have such a talented pool of finalists and delighted that President Asquino will remain on campus during the transition period."

The five finalists:



William D. Hart

William D. Hart has more than 25 years of higher education experience and began his career as an adjunct fac-

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LOCAL

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SPORTS

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WEEKLY QUOTE

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."
Mahatma Gandhi

New members inducted into NHS at Monty Tech



Courtesy photo

Members of the Monty Tech chapter of the National Honor Society gather for a photo at the recent induction.

FITCHBURG — Monty Tech's chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony recently in the school's auditorium.

A total of 45 upperclassmen, one of the largest groups to date, qualified for induction.

The ceremony got underway with a welcome address by Eric Sanden, chapter co-advisor. Molly Boudreau of Fitchburg, NHS vice president, led the participants and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Olivia Houle of Leominster, chapter president, led the officers in reciting the five guiding principles of the organization and in lighting a candle for each tenet.

Other officers include Dominic Funa of Athol, secretary; Selena Santiago of Fitchburg, treasurer, and Henley Shipley of Fitchburg, historian.

Principal Thomas R. Browne joined Thomas Lamey, chapter co-advisor, in presenting certificates and pins to the new members, along with officer pins.

Browne congratulated the students on their accomplishment and thanked parents for their support and role in helping the students reach this level of achievement. He referred to the recent presidential election in stating that many of the traits people look for in a

national leader are the same traits the inductees possess.

"You already have achieved many of these traits of leadership, compassion, intelligence, confidence, trustworthiness. These traits show the type of people you are and how you live your lives. Retain that level and continue to make your families proud," he said.

New Members are:
 ASHBY: Madison Clark.
 ATHOL: Kayla Gerry and Briana Navrijo.
 BALDWINVILLE: Amanda Misner and Zachary Roy.
 FITCHBURG: Jonathan Carlson, Emily Colon, Shannon Cormier, Jessie Cote, Shanina Ferreira de los Santos,

Molly Garner, Kristyn Gordon, Megan Hofer, Kaylee O'Connell, Emma Ream, Sashealy Rivera, Madison Russo, Matthew Sadowski, Josefyne Santiago and Jessy Silvera. GARDNER: Alexander Commodore, Kaitlyn Commodore and Marcquise Pena. HUBBARDSTON: Jennifer Gosselin. LEOMINSTER: Christian Calderon Garcia. LUNENBURG: Bradford Rense, Greyson Suppa and Casey Szlosek. PAXTON: Weronika Baczek. STERLING: Casey Brown, David Hinckley, Alyssa Leonardi, and Taylor Moroney. TEMPLETON: Meghan Laperriere. WESTMINSTER: Hannah

Bedard, Sophia Chernoch, and Samantha Collette. WINCHENDON: Ashley Ellis, John Hancock, Bradley Parks, Emily Semenza, Cameron Sparks, and Rachel Spivey.

Current members are:
 ASHBY: Cameron Moylan. ATHOL: Dominic Funa. FITCHBURG: Molly Boudreau, Sophia Ciampaglia, Selena Santiago, Henley Shipley and Wendy Soto. GARDNER: Devan Kumar. LEOMINSTER: Olivia Houle. LUNENBURG: David Fors. ROYALSTON: Marnie Anair, STERLING: William Roseberry. WINCHENDON: Paige Masci, Colby Sinclair and Stephanie Wazal.

Ellis named to scholars program



CLYDE'S CORNER

FITCHBURG — Ashley S. Ellis of Winchendon, a senior in the health occupations program at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, has been named to the 2016-17 Scholar Program sponsored by the Worcester County Superintendents' Association.

She will be honored, along with other scholars from throughout Worcester County, at the annual Scholars' Luncheon Jan. 10 at Clark University, Worcester.



Courtesy photo

Ashley Ellis of Winchendon is among those honored

A senior in the health occupations program, Ashley is currently ranked first in her class of 367 students. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Presidential Scholars' program. She has consistently been named to the Principal's List and the High Honor Roll. She was recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award from the Special Olympics program for her service to the organization. She is a member of the varsity soccer team and served as captain for the JV team.

She is part of a group of Monty Tech students who will be traveling to Les Cayes, Haiti, next spring with the group, Forward In Health, a non-profit organization based in Gardner.

She is employed at the Baldwinville Nursing Home through Monty Tech's cooperative education program. She also works at The Highlands in Fitchburg. She plans to continue her studies in the health field, with the goal of becoming a forensic nurse.

She is the daughter of Denise Lore and Glenn Ellis.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

PAINT NIGHT! Kiwanis of Winchendon and the Crafty Cauldron unite to bring the community an evening of fun with its first creative night for a great cause. From 6-9 p.m. at the Crafty Cauldron, 91 Central St., bring your friends and join us to paint a pair of wine glasses for yourself or a gift this holiday season. \$40 per person; register on line at www.thecrafty-cauldron.net/events or stop in during business hours. Proceeds benefit the Kiwanis backpack program at Toy Town Elementary School.

FIRST FRIDAY: the last edition of this year's First Friday events is scheduled at the Winchendon Town Hall auditorium beginning at 6 p.m. Open mic, poetry, art, discussion, and more. Free and open to the public. Come be part of the program! Sponsored by the Winchendon Parks & Rec Commission.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: will be held at Carriage House restaurant 8-11 a.m. Hosted by the Kiwanis of Winchendon, the jolly elf and his Key Club helpers make this annual visit and gift every child with toy. Breakfast buffet at a nominal price; gifts donated by Kiwanis.

WINTERFEST: the annual table setting displays and wreath auction by the Friends of Old Murdock Senior Center will take place. This free of charge event is not to be missed as the tables dressed in holiday finery are amazing. Basket auction as well as a bake sale and lunch available. Hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR: Broadview is hosting its annual craft fair on Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tons of local artisans bringing hand crafted gifts displayed for purchase. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about this event, or just come up and stop by.

TOWN TREE LIGHTING: The tree in the Veterans' Park on Pleasant Street will be lit at 4:30 p.m. A hayride will leave the Fire Department at approximately 4 p.m., space is limited so if you want to be part of it, be at the station on Central Street early to ride with Santa! There will be caroling and hot chocolate at the tree. Make an ornament to add to the tree!

HOLLY BAZAAR: The United Parish annual Holly Bazaar is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 3 at the

church, 39 Front St. from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Luncheon will be available 11:30-1:30. Attic treasures, Christmas & Crafts, Nana's Pantry, raffles, and more. Always unique items for gifts!

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
RIBBON CUTTING: not one, but two new downtown businesses will be recognized with a red ribbon cutting, the first at Not Just Produced at 10 a.m. followed immediately at 10:30 a.m. at Holistic Mystic on Central. Both are being recognized by the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee for bringing new energy to Central Street.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: the annual Golden Agers holiday party is scheduled at 1 p.m. at the Hyde Park community building. The event includes a great meal and entertainment. To reserve your place or for more information, contact Gloria LaBrack at (978) 297-4525

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6
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, DECEMBER 7
BINGO! Hyde Park residents hold bingo in the community hall every Wednesday night beginning at 6 p.m. It's inexpensive, just two cards for 5¢, and the community is invited! Anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to join in. We'd love to have more players.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
OUR NEIGHBOR'S

KITTY KORNER

Kringle and Belle are four year old siblings. Sadly, they have been waiting over nine months at the shelter. They are often overlooked by adopters because they can be a little shy and don't show their true personalities. Volunteers that know and love them, will tell you that both are very friendly, playful and engaging once they learn to trust you. This pair was originally adopted from the shelter as kittens and surrendered back to us after three years. Belle experienced some trauma to her head, after being hit by a car, when the adopters disregarded the adoption contract and let her go outside. She has subsequently had corrective surgery through the shelter for her eye and teeth. She is much happier now it seems. They are looking for a family that would like to be adopted together. They would do best in a quiet home. Both cats are up to date on their vaccines, spayed & neutered, tested for FIV/Felv, and microchipped.

If you would like to meet them, A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats, 202 Central St., is open Wednesday 6-8 p.m., Saturday noon-2 p.m., and by appointment. For an adoption application, please visit www.shelterforcats.org or call (774) 641-1271.



HOW TO USE: THE WINCHENDON COURIER

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Firefighters gain experience with mobile training unit



Massachusetts Department of Fire Safety file photos

The inside of the Maze Training trailer is truly that, a maze with different levels, 'rooms' and paths. Once the inside fills with smoke, it is a difficult obstacle course, especially wearing an SCBA.



The mobile training unit can be hauled to any location.

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Searching through smoke-filled rooms in heat and confusion can spell disaster for any fire-fighting unit. But thanks in part to the Massachusetts Firefighters Training Academy and its mobile training unit, the town's local department has had some crucial practice and experience in a dark, smoke-filled environment simulating search and rescue operations. The training apparatus books as much as four to five months out on a waiting list it is so popular. At last, said Chief Tom Smith, it became Winchendon's turn.

According to descriptions from the official website, the trailer is a self-contained maze, with three levels, tubes and ascension and descents through

ceiling and floor hatches with the ability to navigate low profile openings, and more.

Training is conducted in a dark, smoke-filled environment. The Maze is both a maintenance training tool and a valuable training tool for departments who are upgrading or replacing self contained breathing apparatus.

Smith explained, "We had 21 fire fighters here of various stages of experience from brand new recruits all the way to 30 year veterans. It is a great tool at our disposal and provides a wonderful training experience. We had three instructors here from the Academy, and in addition one of our own captains, Bill Brown, who works at the academy. We also have other members on the department who have also taken instructor training classes."

Smith went on to say, "The rookies were a little nervous at first, but once they got going, they realized that they could move through the sections of the smoke filled environment and do quite well going through it a few times. I was able to monitor them on closed circuit television with cameras, which pick up infrared and some reflections off the gear, so that was also a big benefit for me along with the ability to also communicate with them in training if we need to so if anyone is having difficulties we can talk them through it. It's a great confidence building experience for both rookies and experienced fire fighters because it's not something we do every day."

"It's good for community to know how much the fire fighters are investing in them, because we are always ask-

ing the community to invest in us. We are returning the favor so to speak, we are returning the amount of dedication Winchendon has for their fire fighters, and we are showing the same amount of respect for the community because we are constantly training as we should," said Smith.

Smith has arranged for other such trainings, including a "live fire prop unit" earlier this year. The intention is to do something similar right away in 2017.

A "live fire building", actually an old box trailer used by local fire departments for practice, is located behind the Templeton sewage treatment plant. Smith hopes to join Templeton in training there, or at least ask Templeton Chief Ares for permission to do training to familiarize his rookies and recruits with heat and live fire.

Smith added, "I think it's always important for the community to know they are safe, and public safety is taken very seriously and it doesn't just happen. It has to be constantly worked on, and have training to be as prepared as much as humanly possible."

CLYDE

continued from page A2

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

Thursday, Dec. 8: Lasagna, salad and dessert
Thursday, Dec. 22: Beef Burgundy Christmas Dinner with sides and dessert

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

NO TUMMY SHOULD BE EMPTY: Cub Scout Pack 193 will be hosting our fifth annual Community Movie Night at Memorial Elementary's cafeteria on Friday, Dec. 9 beginning at 6 p.m. We will be showing the classic Home Alone and refreshments will be available for purchase. Bring a blanket and wear your jammies to enjoy a fun filled Movie Night and get a chance to visit with Santa himself after the movie! In place of admission, we ask that each person bring a non-perishable food item. All donations will benefit the Winchendon CAC Food Pantry.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

TEA AT THE MURDOCK-WHITNEY HOUSE: take a break from the scurry of shopping for a bit of tea and nosh at the Winchendon History and Cultural Center's two museums from 1-4 p.m. The first floor of each house will be decorated, and tea will be served buffet style at the Murdock-Whitney House while the best of the best table settings from last weekend's Winterfest will be on display at the Isaac Morse House. Enjoy both, visit the gift shop and stop for a few moments of music by the Monadnock Flutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TOY DRIVE: the final day of the Winchendon Fire Department toy drive is today. Bring an unwrapped new toy to the station on Central Street at 1 p.m. Boxes have been around town for the collection since last month, today marks the end of the drive. All toys collected will be part of a better Christmas in cooperation with local churches and the CAC.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

GARDEN CLUB: The Winchendon Garden Club meetings are held at 1 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month from April to December at the Ipswich Drive community building. New members are always welcome. For more info please call Lorraine 978-297-1760.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

FREE GIFT WRAPPING: The Murdock High School cheer-

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

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

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

ANNUAL BONFIRE: the American Legion will be the site of the bonfire of Christmas trees and wreathes 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.

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.

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.

St. Martin's Church, Otter River

Holiday Fair

Saturday, Dec. 3 • 9 am - 3 pm
Sunday, Dec. 4 • 9 am - 1 pm

American Legion Hall • Baldwinville

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WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI
EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Busy week ahead

We try to put the good news of Winchendon in prominent places in the pages. Sometimes there is just too much to make it all onto page one of course, so we hope you take time to look completely and thoroughly at the inside pages too.

Topics like the firefighters training, the calendar of events, sports and recognizing student accomplishments are often on inside pages.

We have some good news in all those areas, so when something more difficult comes along, we have to do the proverbial "suck it up" and address it head on.

The dam out at the old Whites Mill is precarious. It has been for several years and with several owners. This isn't a new problem.

But it's getting worse.

And it is putting people in danger further downstream.

We have a different solution, one some people might not agree with, particularly those who have an affinity for wildlife.

Breach the dam responsibly and on purpose. Drain the existing pond and let it flow back into a river as it was 200 years ago before it became a mill site.

The need for the pond has long past. It is esthetically pleasing, does serve as habitat for a variety of wildlife, but those would move on and find sanctuary elsewhere.

It would not affect Lake Monomonac, the dams there hold that lake at its own levels.

What would happen is the danger of flooding further downstream would abate. The initial release would need to be controlled, but then the river would find its own level, and there would no longer be a danger.

Problem solved.

It would require the intervention of the Army Corps of Engineers, some permitting and planning, but would most likely be much, much less expensive than attempting to repair the dam.

On a happier note, do get out and enjoy all the town has to offer this weekend. Especially the events for children such as breakfast with Santa and the tree lighting. If you want to ride to the park from the fire station with Santa, be at the station on Central Street by 4 p.m.

The tree lighting itself is planned for 4:30 p.m. and includes caroling, hot chocolate provided by the high school cheerleaders and if you would like, the tree would look lovelier with the addition of ornaments made by you and your family.

As a final aside, those cheerleaders are planning a community service project later this month. On Dec. 17 they will be at the Crafty Cauldron hobby shop in the classroom to provide free gift wrapping. What a nice service for busy, busy people. They plan to be there from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., so if you are all thumbs, or just are short on time, take them up on this wonderful offer.

Charity and your own power of 10

It is that time of year again when temps have steadily dropped, and aid for those in need is truly on the rise. There are countless cheap and affordable ways to give back without cumbersome weight of burden, and help those who both financially and emotionally live in the dark, have a joyful Christmas!

We hear the bells ringing near store front doors and we see the red kettles with hopes of people stopping for a second to donate just a little bit more; so here are a few ideas of how to give back and how to make just a bit of difference.

Did you ever consider looking under the seat of your car on that little patch of carpeted floor?

There may be a few pennies, a dime, a quarter or even more, but how many who believe they can't afford to help make a difference for another in need, never thought to look down and check for more. Too small, you say, to make a difference, one might say, but the power of 10 can speak volumes galore, and all it takes is you looking under the seats; just inside the car doors.

What if 10 people found a near worthless simply little dime? Well, there you have it, another dollar for any charity which it wasn't going to see had you not simply taken a few seconds to just look. Consider how many people every day drop some loose change that rolls under their seat. There are now over 210,000,000 drivers in the USA, and Massachusetts alone ranks 13th in our nation with 4,600,000 drivers even though it holds a little over six million residents. What does this mean my friends? Well, if every person who is a licensed driver in our Commonwealth looked under their seat and found just one measly dime, we can raise \$460,000 for local charities with each of us taking only just a few seconds.

Now let's kick it up a very reasonable notch. If all Massachusetts licensed drivers found just 22¢ in our vehicles, well folks we just came up with one million dollars for charity. Just think about it. There is anywhere from a half million dollars for those in need. Most likely all the way up to \$1,000,000 just sitting in our daily drives, waiting for



ANYTHING
NEAR &
FAR
.....
KEITH
KENT

us to almost effortlessly pick up the tab. And that is if you only find just two dimes, and two pennies.

See how easy it is to donate at the holidays my good people? No need to dig a dollar bill out of your purse or wallet; however I do

encourage you to do so at least once. But if you can't afford a one spot, you may very likely be sitting on that donation every day without even having given it a second thought.

Think of how many people come and go between department stores, supermarkets, and more. Yes, many in the world of today usually pay with a debit or credit card, but there will always be those times when you paid with cash and got some change, and you put it in a change jar at home. Just take a simple dime or even a dollar out of it and help support Salvation Army Red Kettle drives, Food Banks, CAC, or countless others. Again, those pesky littletimes, or even ten of them or more, can and will make all the difference in the life of another who may not be as fortunate and you or I, and provide them with a brighter Christmas and good memories to long reflect back upon and adore.

There is power in numbers. Ten people, ten dimes, one dollar, ten dollars. Before you know it, ten meals or ten gifts under the trees for 10 children who needs to see something positive in their life. The power of ten cannot be denied, and there is no room in this conversation for strife.

Please, I implore you all to remember. No matter how small a donation you make, you are helping. Combining in large numbers to facilitate a greater good for the many who have so little. No matter if from your car or your change jar, you all have the power to move mountains with the combined strength of your many tiny shovels.

During these holidays, please be a silent every day hero for humanity and exercise your extraordinary combined efforts with your own personal power of ten. I promise you will feel better after doing it, and so will those who benefit from your simple random act of kindness.

Cost of protection...

I read something the other day on Facebook in which an individual was outraged at the cost to New York taxpayers for protecting Donald Trump and his family.

There is no question it is costly to protect any President of the United States. Good men and women seek the presidency to do so puts their lives, and the lives of those close to them, at great risk. Part of what we as a nation do, in addition to paying a salary and benefits, is provide protection.

Fortunately, throughout our history, this protection has usually proved adequate. Sadly, there have been times when it has not.

I cannot imagine why the

writer on Facebook felt New York was getting stuck with outrageous bills to protect President-elect Trump because before the election Secret Service protection was provided to candidates who were considered viable, as is customary, at the direction of the sitting President of the United States, in this instance, Barack Obama.

This would suggest that the Federal Government absorbs the costs of such protection. Certainly, after the election, the President-elect would continue to receive protection. Again, I assume at the cost of the federal government, not the state or city of New York.

These kinds of rumors are just a continuation of the canards put out there by people

unhappy with election results.

When John Kennedy was president, the Secret Service provided coverage of the Kennedy compound at Hyannisport, their outside DC estate in Glen Ora MD, the Palm Beach residence of the president's father Ambassador Kennedy (when the president was in residence), and at any location where the president and his family vacationed.

Under Richard Nixon, the Secret Service provided protection at the western White House, Casa Pacifica, as well as the home he had in Florida.

President Gerald Ford had a second home in Vail, CO that received protection.

President Clinton and Secretary Clinton maintained a townhouse in Washington

DC, and a home in Chappaqua NY, and vacationed often on Cape Cod.

Security was stepped up considerably after the assassination of President Kennedy and the assassination of his brother Robert, who was a candidate for president.

Americans should be happy to provide this kind of protection to our elected leaders. Some of those leaders have been poor and others rich, but the protection has been the same.

Many people do not know that the Trump organization has provided Donald Trump and his family serious protection for years before he became involved in politics. They did so because people of his great wealth are targets, especially



NOTES OF
CONCERN

.....
JACK
BLAIR

for kidnapping. So now the Secret Service will take over that protection, and because the president-elect is a wealthy man with many homes, it will certainly be more costly than coverage was for Gerald Ford.

A story of interest I would like to share with you relates to former President Truman. After the Kennedy assassination, Lyndon Johnson and the Congress agreed to step up protection for former presidents and their families.

I had an assignment to visit President Truman in his retirement home in Independence,

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JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART
.....
JERRY
CARTON

It is said of people like me who suffer from bi-polar disorder that we function best with structure and routine and I've found that to be true. There is however one routine I could gladly do without. November tends not to be kind.

I spent Thanksgiving 2009 nursing apple juice thanks to an untimely bout of diverticulitis. Nearly 20 people at the table stuffing themselves and then there was me. Fabulous.

I spent most of November 2010 slowly recuperating from a September cardiac event which had left me in a coma for two weeks, in ICU at UMass for another couple weeks (great nursing

from Heather) and as a parting gift was handed a seven-figure bill, yes, one-million-plus. I wrote extensively about that bill in this very space back then, though fortunately my actual co-pay was under \$300.

November 2012? I had a stroke. It wasn't terribly debilitating, maybe because it was restricted to my already largely ineffectual right side (that's the result of brain surgery) but I did have to pass speech and swallowing tests before being discharged. I still have some lingering after-effects with both and am seeing a neurologist.

November 2014? I still don't know exactly what triggered that event. What I do know is Ruth was still at the office and that probably saved my life, I was told because evidently I passed out, alone in a darkened house with just the sainted Riley with me. Ruth recognized

the address when I first called for help, and when they got to the darkened house they called dispatch questioning the address. Ruth, knowing my daughter was away alerted the EMTs to make an effort to get in, and they found me unresponsive and well, not all that far from being dead, not for the first time. Courtney and I shared adjacent ICU rooms that week. We vied for Carole's attention, or at least I did, ha ha. I remain indebted for that week to my pal John Ballou of the Gardner News and "old" pal Jack Blair for bringing me real food, though not bacon, if I recall.

When we flew to Baltimore last week, I was on a course of antibiotics for what was assumed to be a sinus infection, albeit a big-time one. I imagine some of you have flown with one of those and you know how miserable it can be. Airplane cabin pressure is not exactly

a remedy. I spent a significant part of those five days applying hot compresses and trying to sleep.

Should I have gone at all? Absolutely. I had to tough it out. My father will be 90 in January, my mother is 84. My sister lives there. My oldest son and daughter-in-law live in Maryland, too. Extended family came from New Jersey. There must be something about this extended family thing — after all it was on Hannah and Molly's Bat Mitzvah weekend in 2005 I had the heart attack which launched this series of essays in the first place. Kidding.

I wasn't going to miss the annual day-after-Thanksgiving-real-Jewish-deli lunch with Arthur, my oldest, or shall I say longest-running friend from college. We met at AU in the fall of 1972. He's certainly had his share of health

Turn To **JOURNEY** page **A12**

Treating others with dignity a goal

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

GARDNER — When you can come home from work and be able to sleep at night, you've done a good day's work, treated people fairly and with dignity.

That's the mantra of many people, including Lorna Stone at Heywood Wakefield Commons in Gardner, one of the region's brightest new assisted living facilities.

"If I can sleep at night knowing I've done everything I can to help people, knowing I'm coming to work somewhere where we're not going to throw people out, and not everywhere is like that, that's a good feeling," she reflected.

Stone's excited about the options offered at the new Heywood-Wakefield ("yes, Winchendon is definitely 'our neighborhood' too") and

so is Executive Director Dale Prouix.

"The quality of care we offer here is unmatched," stressed Prouix. "And," he added, "that matters. People need and deserve to be treated with dignity."

Perhaps befitting his military background, Prouix likes structure and that, he said, is essential to the way a place like Heywood-Wakefield is run.

"Our residents have a right to know what to expect."

If the reception Stone received from residents as she gave a tour is any indication, she's as popular as are the large, bright rooms which have dinettes and walk-in showers.

"The personal touch matters," said "Red," a veteran and retired businessman who found that kind of personal attention helped him be suc-

cessful in his professional life.

"We always treated people that way. It was just the right way to do things, and the staff here does the same, not because it's just how businesses should be run but because that's the kind of people who work here. Lorna's a perfect example. She treats everyone, and sincerely, like she's personally invested and she is. You can't ask for more than that. If you can't feel at home here, you can't anywhere," he stressed.

Prouix said that while he doesn't necessarily see his facility in competition with others, "we do what we do here. The population is aging and people are living longer but I keep going back to the whole issue of dignity. I can't tell you enough how much that matters to us. We feel like it's one of our biggest selling points."

Stone reminded one major feature are the spacious private apartments.

"People like the option of privacy while still being able to socialize with their neighbors if that's what they want to do and of course we encourage," she said. "Here they can make their apartments home. They can balance their lives."

Heywood-Wakefield boasts three chef-prepared meals every day as well as 24/7 staffing, medication reminders and safety checks along with house-keeping and laundry services. "Like a hotel. Better than a hotel," she laughed.

It's the little day-to-day things which matter. When the Courier visited, there were no customers in the beauty salon/barber shop but simply knowing it's there "is important to our residents," said Stone. A

media room, library and even private dining rooms for resident and family use are available.

"People have choices," acknowledged Prouix. "We think we have a lot of reasons people would want to be here and I just can't say enough about my staff. They're the ones who make this place go. Lorna is indispensable. You saw how people respond to her. That's how everyone is here. You met other staff. We have people working here who love what they do. That's our secret to success, and it's not really a secret."

Heywood-Wakefield is located at 50 Pine St in Gardner and can be reached at (978) 632-8292 or at www.hwcommons.com.

Hicks honored for work



Courtesy photo

Rachael Hicks, a case worker with Montachusett Home Care with that company's executive director Gregory Giuliano

tenure at the agency and this award is very much deserved. All of us at MHCC are very proud of her and pleased that her excellence was recognized."

As an ASAP case manager, Hicks is responsible for determining the needs of frail elders who require home care or other community-based services to remain safely at home, developing care plans to address those needs and monitoring the implementation of these plans. Once the care plan is developed, the case is referred to one of the vendor agencies under contract to MHCC whose home care aides provide the direct care to the client. Services include, but are not limited to laundry, housework, personal care assistance, including dressing and bathing, grocery shopping and meal preparation. During the course of a case, ASAP case managers and the home care aides work closely together to ensure the services provided are meeting the needs of the elder and that care plans and the scheduling of services are adjusted when necessary to respond to an elder's changing needs.

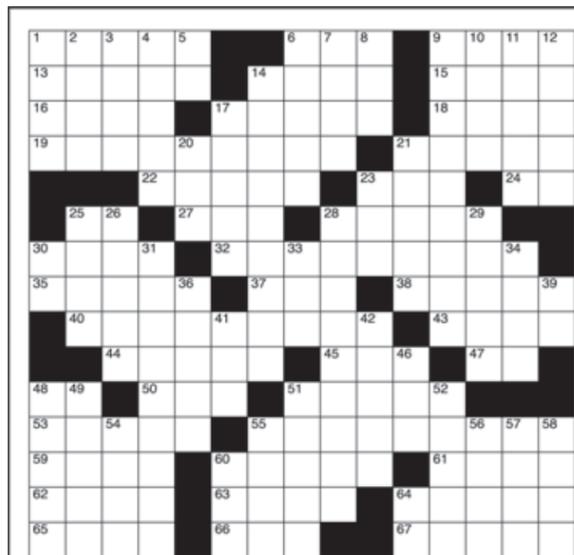
Montachusett Home Care Corporation is a non-profit agency located in Leominster whose mission is to enable elders and disabled individuals to remain safely in their own home through the provision of appropriate services and to prevent unnecessary nursing home placements. The agency serves 21 communities in north central Massachusetts. Information is available at (978) 537-7411online at www.montachusethomecare.org.

LEOMINSTER — Rachael Hicks of Worcester was presented with the Cathe Madden award as the outstanding Aging Services Access Point case manager for 2016.

This prestigious award was presented to Hicks by the Home Care Aide Council at its 46th annual meeting Nov. 15 in Randolph. The Home Care Aide Council is the professional association representing the vendor agencies that employ home care aides across the state.

are made by staff of these agencies that have direct contact and working relationships with case managers employed by the 25 ASAPs in the Commonwealth. There were 12 ASAP case managers nominated for the award and Hicks was selected as the winner. She has been employed by Montachusett Home Care Corporation of Leominster for just over two years.

Gregory Giuliano, the executive director of MHCC said, "Rachael has been an outstanding employee throughout her



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Poets
- 6. Insecticide
- 9. Insect feeler
- 13. Intestinal
- 14. "Drum Boogie" singer
- 15. Region
- 16. Chinese automotive co.
- 17. Served before entree
- 18. Dwells
- 19. Boosted
- 21. Tells players what to do
- 22. Infections
- 23. Hoover is one
- 24. Expresses surprise
- 25. Basketball position (abbr.)
- 27. Fresh Prince of ___ Air
- 28. Hindu queens
- 30. Easter marshmallow treat
- 32. Where coaches stand
- 35. Women
- 37. Thai province
- 38. Drenches
- 40. Matters that settle
- 43. Not wide
- 44. Elaborate garments
- 45. Swiss river
- 47. South Dakota
- 48. Instinctive part of the mind
- 50. Some put this in their hair
- 51. French young women
- 53. Two legged support
- 55. Stimulates the heart
- 59. Waste matter
- 60. Nocturnal rodents
- 61. The Who anthem "___ O'Riley"
- 62. Old age personified
- 63. Remnant
- 64. Disband
- 65. Nanosecond
- 66. Referee declares
- 67. A citizen of Iran

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "ER" actress Leslie
- 2. Wings
- 3. Power to direct and control
- 4. Freshwater fishes of Eurasia
- 5. Scandium
- 6. Earnhardt and Hunter are two
- 7. Two-parted
- 8. Foul-mouthed movie bear
- 9. Tan horses
- 10. Song
- 11. Draw blood
- 12. High-ranking Turkish officer
- 14. Determine time
- 17. Begets
- 20. Watch chain
- 21. Constellation representing a dog
- 23. Indian dish
- 25. Legumes
- 26. Romanian river
- 28. An auto you don't keep
- 29. Signs, ___, delivers
- 30. Police Department
- 31. Relating to teaching
- 33. Sportscaster Patrick
- 34. A way to glide
- 36. Fathered
- 39. Statute mile (abbr.)
- 41. One-thousandth of an inch
- 42. Discounts
- 46. Rockers from Georgia
- 48. Norwegian playwright
- 49. Herbs
- 51. S. China seaport
- 52. Stout sword
- 54. Pasty
- 55. Fill a suitcase
- 56. Japanese weapon
- 57. Dark brown or black
- 58. Grain crop
- 60. Time used in far western states
- 64. Drill instructor



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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, NOVEMBER 21
 12:39-3:14 a.m.: building checks, secure; 3:06 a.m.: ambulance (Mellen Road) transport; 7:15 a.m.: auto fire (Gardner Road) fire extinguished; 8:31 a.m.: DPW call (West Street) call canceled; 10:15 a.m.: officer wanted (Webster Street) spoken to; 11:40 a.m.: suspicious person (Memorial School) no FD service required; 12:57 p.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln Avenue) refer to ACO; 1:13 p.m.: general info (Town Farm Road) report taken; 1:19 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street) spoken to; 3:28 p.m.: ambulance (Alger Street) transport; 4:51 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 5:07 p.m.: trespassing (Krantz Road) unable to locate; 7:10 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 7:21 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 7:27 p.m.: road rage (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 8:07 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 8:18 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 8:24 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 9:14 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 9:28 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 9:51 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 10 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 10:46 p.m.: lift assist (Hyde Park Drive) services rendered.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
 12:05 a.m.: suspicious person (Clark YMCA) spoken to; 12:17 a.m.: ambulance (Oakland Street) transport; 12:53-3 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 1:45 a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) transport; 2:33 a.m.: transport (High Street); 5:43 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 6:02 a.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) verbal warning; 6:07 a.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) verbal warning; 6:39 a.m.: disabled MV (Baldwinville Road) assisted; 8 a.m.: harassment (Murdock High School) report taken; 8:39 a.m.: suspicious MV (Toy Town Elementary) gone on arrival; 9:31 a.m.: suspicious other (Walnut Street) report taken; 9:47 a.m.: fire alarm (Ipswich Drive) false alarm; 11:20 a.m.: general info (Webster Street) unable to locate; 12:01 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Elmwood Road) unable to locate; 12:29 p.m.: registration check

(Jackson Avenue) assisted; 1:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Pearl Drive) referred to court; 1:36 p.m.: arrest (Webster Street) Michael Adam Arsenault, age 29 of 17 Webster St., Winchendon: based on warrant; 2:20 p.m.: assist other agency (Town Farm Road) services rendered; 2:57 p.m.: general info (Mechanic Street) spoken to; 3:11 p.m.: illegal dumping (Rice Road) report taken; 3:17 p.m.: deliver message (Central Street) info given; 3:55 p.m.: traffic hazard (School Street) unable to locate; 4:33 p.m.: ambulance (Bayberry Circle) services rendered; 4:33 p.m.: assist other agency (Chestnut Street) assisted; 5:04 p.m.: accident (Spring Street) report taken; 5:13 p.m.: assist other agency (Mellen Road) assisted; 5:46 p.m.: smoke (Mill Street) services rendered; 7:19 p.m.: property damage (Cedar Street) report taken; 7:56 summons service (Cedar Street) served; 8 p.m.: officer wanted (Juniper Street) info taken; 9:08 p.m.: MV stop (Baldwinville Road) verbal warning; 9:35 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 9:38 p.m.: MV stop (Lincoln Avenue) summons; Mallorie M. Day, age 28 of 206 Lincoln Ave., Winchendon: operating MV with license suspended and failure to stop or yield; 10:57 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Rite Aid) traffic citation; 11:40 p.m.: building check, secure.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23
 12:08-1:31 a.m.: building checks, secure; 5:21 a.m.: MV stop (Baldwinville State Road) verbal warning; 9:02 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road) report taken; 9:53 a.m.: investigation (River Street) spoken to; 9:55 a.m.: general info (Main Street) spoken to; 10 a.m.: general info (Town Farm Road) services rendered; 10:19 a.m.: summons service (Ready Drive) served; 10:27 a.m.: summons service (Juniper Street) unable to serve; 10:45 a.m.: summons service (Woodlawn Street) served; 12:29 p.m.: assist citizen (Juniper Street) assisted; 12:52 p.m.: fire mutual aid (Royalston station) assisted; 12:59 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Road) refer to ACO; 1:59 p.m.: general info (Cross Street) info taken; 2:08 p.m.: ambulance (Highland Street) assisted; 2:09 p.m.: burglar alarm (Murdock High School) accidental; 3:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Pond Street) report taken; 4:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Drive) assisted; 4:29 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) no PD service required; 5:23 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) traffic citation; 5:52 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) verbal warning; 7:03 p.m.: accident (Alger Street) summons: Alexander Stephen Neal, age 22 of 660

Central St., Winchendon: OUI-liquor and negligent operation of MV; 8:28 p.m.: registration check (Murdock High School) info given; 8:31 p.m.: annoying phone calls (Central Street) spoken to; 10:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Maynard Street) spoken to; 11:49 p.m.: building check, secure.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24
 12:31 a.m.: building check, secure; 12:48 a.m.: FD call (Webster Street) no FD service required; 1:16 a.m.: investigation (Toy Town Pub) spoken to; 3:19 a.m.: ambulance (Alger Street) transport; 5:29 a.m.: ambulance (Spring Street) arrest: Mettaya Ashley Potter, age 26 of 97 3rd St., Medford: OUI-liquor and negligent operation of MV; 8:13 a.m.: ambulance (Benjamin Street) transport; 8:27 p.m.: fire alarm (Spring Street) services rendered; 9:02 a.m.: burglar alarm (Murdock High School) advised officer; 9:22 a.m.: 911 hang up (Alger Street) child playing with phone; 9:45 a.m.: fire alarm (Murdock High School) assisted; 10:45 a.m.: ambulance (Lakeshore Drive) transport; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street) transport; 11:47 a.m.: ATV complaint (Alger Street) unable to locate; 12:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Benjamin Street) unfounded; 12:13 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 12:16 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Maple Street) unable to locate; 12:53 p.m.: license plate missing (Central Street) property returned to owner; 2:47 p.m.: fire alarm (Lakeview Drive) no FD service required; 4:22 p.m.: registration check (Gardner Road) spoken to; 4:26 p.m.: fire alarm (Spruce Street) services rendered; 5:27 p.m.: lift assist (Lakeshore Drive) assisted; 5:30 p.m.: accident (River Street) services rendered; 5:49 p.m.: ambulance (Congress Road) assisted; 8:36 p.m.: traffic hazard (Baldwinville Road) removed; 9:21 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street) secure.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25
 12:05 a.m.: ambulance (Harris Road) transport; 1:33-2:34 a.m.: building checks, secure; 2:38 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 3:03 a.m.: intoxicated person (Cumberland Farms) unfounded; 7:40 a.m.: officer wanted (CVS) no cause for complaint; 8:25 a.m.: notification (Maple Street) unable to locate; 9:12 a.m.: threats (Goodrich Drive) no cause for complaint; 12:48 p.m.: general info (Webster Street) spoken to; 1:54 p.m.: mental health issue (Mechanic Street) spoken to; 3:18 p.m.: investigation (Central Street) unable to serve; 3:36 p.m.: ATV complaint (Alger Street) spoken to; 4:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Mill Street) spoken to; 4:25 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street) transport; 5:21 p.m.: investigation (Central Street) spoken to; 5:29 p.m.: keep the peace (Lakeshore Drive)

services rendered; 5:56 p.m.: property found (Alger Street) returned to owner; 6:24 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) unable to locate; 9:36 p.m.: carbon monoxide incident (Converse Drive) accidental; 10:52 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street) secure; 11:04 p.m.: fire mutual aid (Fourth Street) removed to hospital.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26
 12:17 a.m.: intoxicated person (School Street) transport; 12:27-1:41 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:45 a.m.: transport (Railroad Street); 7:41 a.m.: open door (Murdock High School) secured building; 8:02 a.m.: assist other PD (phone) assisted; 9:31 a.m.: accident (Bellettes) services rendered; 10:44 a.m.: MV stop (Central Street) spoken to; 11:12 a.m.: accident (Mr. Mikes) MV towed; 11:35 a.m.: assist citizen (Juniper Street) referred to court; 2:15 p.m.: assist other PD (Juniper Street) spoken to; 2:43 p.m.: MV violations (Alger Street) info taken; 3:03 p.m.: ATV complaint (Alger Street) unable to locate; 3:33 p.m.: keep the peace (Polly's Drive) assisted; 4:57 p.m.: burglary, B&E (Central Street) unfounded; 5:13 p.m.: harassment (Elm Street) report taken; 5:26 p.m.: traffic hazard (Forristall Road) services rendered; 5:38 p.m.: ATV complaint (Laurel Street) advised officer; 6:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street) refer to ACO; 7:01 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street) secured building; 7:03 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) spoken to; 8:54 p.m.: MV stop (River Street) verbal warning; 9:59 p.m.: ambulance (Metcalf Street) transport; 10:16 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Elmwood Road) verbal warning.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27
 12:40-2:26 a.m.: building checks, secure; 3:12 a.m.: fire alarm (Eli Drive) accidental; 6:09 a.m.: extra patrols, secure; 9:57 a.m.: burglar alarm (Winchendon Furniture) secured building; 11:19 a.m.: ambulance (Linden Street) transport; 12:50 p.m.: general info (Lake Denison) info taken; 1:32 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville State Road) report taken; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Vaine Street) services rendered; 3:27 p.m.: open door (Crosby Road) services rendered; 4:32 p.m.: automatic fire alarm (Ready Drive) services rendered; 4:32 p.m.: summons service (Central Street) served; 4:54 p.m.: general info (Glenallan Street) refer to ACO; 5:35 p.m.: extra patrols, services rendered; 9:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Baldwinville Road) spoken to; 9:26 p.m.: threats (Maple Street) report taken; 10:45 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville State Road) transport; 11:03 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) unable to locate; 11:14 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation.

COURIER CAPSULES

FREE GIFT WRAPPING

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

TTES NEEDS YOU

Volunteers Needed: Toy Town Elementary: We are looking for volunteers to help in our school. We would like to have adults to help with recess and lunch supervision, as well as, to run small group instruction. You don't have to commit to every day. If you are interested, please visit the Toy Town office. You will also need to have a CORI check.

ANNUAL NATIVITY

Living nativity Dec. 3 and 4 from 6-8 p.m. Our Savior Lutheran Church in Westminster will recreate Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. Stroll the marketplace and get a glimpse of life on that sacred night. See Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the innkeeper, Roman soldiers, shepherds and sheep, beggars and buyers, the rich and poor, and so much more. This is a "must see" event if you have never been to experience it.

HELP GALA

Raise funds for our track lighting system! GALA will hold an ONLINE AUCTION in January. To raise money for the purchase of a track lighting system which is needed in order to begin holding art exhibits and workshops in our Arts Gallery. We need donated items for this auction such as paintings, prints, sculpture, crafts, jewelry, tickets, services, music CDs, tools, toys, furniture, camping supplies... pretty much anything you can give us. We especially need gift certificates. Reach out to your local businesses, we need your help! Please call (978) 407-1419 to make arrangements to drop off your donations.

STUDENT AWARENESS

WINCHENDON — The Winchendon Police Department will be sponsoring a student trip to the Massachusetts Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness held at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell on Tuesday Dec. 6.

Murdock High School students can get a permission slip at their counselor's office during school hours. In order to attend all permission slips need to be returned to the school no later than Friday Dec. 2.

The Massachusetts Youth Summit on Opioid Awareness is a half-day Summit designed to educate middle and high school students about the dangers of opioid addiction while promoting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. <http://drugfreeisuptome.org/>

OBITUARIES

Charles N. Testa, 63

ASHBURNHAM — Charles N. Testa, age 63, of 34 Turnpike Road, died peacefully Saturday morning, Nov. 26, 2016 in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home, Gardner.

He was born in Fitchburg on Sept. 16, 1953, son of the late Albert and Doris (Theren) Testa. Charles grew up in Fitchburg and lived in Ashburnham for 26 years.

Charles was a machine operator at New England Woodenware for over 20 years until his retirement in 2015. He proudly served in the Vietnam War as a member of the Army and Air Force. An avid fisherman, he was a member of the Turnpike Road and Gun Club for many years and was a former member of Thomas P. Sweeney Post #142 American Legion in Ashburnham.

He leaves his wife of 25 years, Cheryl A. (Brown) Testa; a brother, Richard Testa of Clinton; two sisters, Carol

Clapper and her husband William of Fitchburg and Jeannie Babineau and her husband Donald of Westminster; two brothers-in-law, Wayne Brown of Baldwinville and Stephen Brown and his wife Stacie of Gardner and many nieces and nephews.

Military funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 in Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallan St., Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to Montachusett Veterans' Outreach Center, 268 Central St., Gardner, MA 01440.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon is directing arrangements.

OBITUARIES

William L. Wallace III, 59



GARDNER — William L. Wallace III, age 59, of Gardner, passed away peacefully in his home on Nov. 27, 2016.

Bill was born in Lunenburg on Oct. 11, 1957, son of Joan Wiles Pellerin and the late William L. Wallace Jr. After graduating from Leominster High School, Bill enlisted in the US Navy where he proudly served his country for 14 years until his honorable discharge in 1988. While in service, Bill was at the top of the bantam weight class in boxing, winning 23 out of 24 fights.

Bill was the owner of the gaming stores, The Dragon's Den, Cody's Castle in Winchendon, and Autumn's Adventure. He was also a specialist in the paranormal. In his spare time Bill enjoyed playing tactical video games and darts, he was always improving and played darts in a local league. Having been around the world two and half times, Bill was always proud to share his many lessons and stories learned over the years. Bill was a loving father and grandfather who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He will be fondly remembered for his quick wit, loving demeanor, and incredible ability to instill hope in those around him. The

animal that embodied him most was the owl.

He leaves his children, Kenneth Wallace and wife Anita of Pennsylvania, Jennifer Wallace of Pennsylvania, Cody Woodard-Wallace of Westminster, Autumn Woodard-Wallace of Westminster; step children, Daniel Bernard of New Hampshire and Joseph Bernard of Gardner; grandchildren, Alexis and Landon Wallace, Taylor Wallace, Willow Gillis and Isabella Bernard; his mother, Joan Pellerin and her husband Jerry Pellerin of Leominster; sisters, Brenda Lauth and husband John of Leominster, Wanda Wallace of Leominster; stepbrother David Pellerin; mother of his children, Diane Woodard of Westminster; his partner, Aprille Bernard of Gardner; several nieces, nephews, and many close friends.

In addition to his father, Bill was predeceased by his son, William L. Wallace IV.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Brandon Funeral Home, 305 Wanoosnoc Road, Fitchburg was entrusted with arrangements.

"Howl at the moon."

George A. Picard, 64



WINCHENDON — George A. Picard, age 64, of 447 Maple St. died peacefully Tuesday morning, Nov. 29, 2016 in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home, Gardner, with his family at his side.

He was born in Winchendon on May 12, 1952, son of the late George J. and Theresa M. (Bruno) Picard and was a lifelong resident of Winchendon.

George was an insurance agent for many years for Boston Mutual Insurance Company and New York Life Insurance Company. He was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. George was a 1970 graduate of Murdock High School and served in the Massachusetts National Guard. He enjoyed spending time with his family

and grandchildren.

He leaves two children, George A. Picard Jr. of Rindge and Heather Keyes and her husband Michael of Keene, NH. He also leaves four grandchildren, Madison Picard, Aidan Picard, Jaxon Keyes and Calan Keyes, and his former wife Patricia (Buckley) Picard of Swanzey, NH.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce St., Winchendon. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon are Friday, Dec. 2, 2016 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Thomas A. Asaiante, 86



WINCHENDON — Thomas A. Asaiante, age 86, of 36 Monomac Road West, died peacefully Saturday morning, Nov. 26, 2016 at his residence with his family at his side.

He was born in Cambridge on Feb. 6, 1930, son of the late Orlando and Louise (Romano) Asaiante and grew up in Cambridge. He later lived in Arlington and worked for the city of Boston Post Office as a sorter for 30 years until his retirement. In later years, he and his wife lived in Hyannis, Zephyr Hills, FL and Las Vegas, NV. Following her death, he moved to Winchendon in 2008.

Tom enjoyed going to dog track races and spending time with his family. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War.

His wife of 55 years, Jeanne (Doyle)

Asaiante, died in 2006. He leaves two children, Deborah Paquin and her husband Mark of Winchendon and Thomas J. Asaiante of Las Vegas, NV; four grandchildren, four step grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren; a sister Theresa; two stepbrothers, Bobby and Michael and many nieces and nephews. A sister Janet and stepsister Dolly, preceded him in death.

Military funeral services was held Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 in Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallan St., Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 480 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472 or to American Heart Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon is directing arrangements.



OBITUARIES

Patricia Emily Gibbons, 38



VERO BEACH FL — On Nov. 4, 1978, a bright light entered our universe and lit up our world by touching the lives of many people for 38 years. On Nov. 9, 2016, that same bright light left our universe to begin

a new life in the Heavenly realm. That bright light is Emily Gibbons, daughter of Patti Gibbons and the late Darby Gibbons.

Emily was born in Greenfield. She spent the next five years in Winchendon, where her dad taught school. Emily and her parents relocated to Vero Beach to be near their families so Emily could grow up alongside her cousins who were like siblings to her.

Emily attended Maitland Farm Preschool, Rosewood Elementary School, St. Edward's School and graduated in 1997 from Vero Beach High School. She was a proud member of Mr. Miller's award-winning Vero Beach High School chorus which took her and other students to Austria to sing in the Schubert Festival in the summer of '97.

Emily was the recipient of a Richardson Foundation scholarship. She also received a scholarship from Brevard College in Brevard, NC, where she studied music for two years. In 1999 Emily returned to Vero Beach and continued her studies at Indian River State College, transferring to the University of Florida where she graduated with honors in 2004 with a degree in elementary education. While attending the University of Florida, Emily was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Emily began her teaching career with the EOC Head Start program in Vero Beach where she taught for nine years receiving awards for perfect attendance and positive attitude. Emily also taught third grade at the Imagine School and was a substitute teacher in the school district of Indian River County. In August of this year, Emily began a new teaching job at St. Peter's Preparatory Academy in Gifford where she taught third grade. She loved her students and her job and looked forward to each day at St. Peter's Academy.

Her students and fellow teachers recently honored her life with a beautiful memorial service.

Emily's love for music continued when she joined the Vero Beach Choral Society and performed in Carnegie Hall in NYC. Emily also enjoyed traveling and discovering new places whether

it was the Mayan pyramids in Mexico or her annual trip to Epcot to taste her favorite foods and libations in the different countries. Her dream was to visit the British Isles one day to see the homeland of her ancestors.

Her passion for singing transferred into a passion for exercising and Emily was an avid member of Max Fitness Club in Vero Beach where she worked out daily.

Emily is survived by her mom, Patti Willmot Gibbons, her grandmother, Gloria Miller Gibbons, Willmot family aunts and uncles, Bill and Judy Willmot, Linda Willmot Scott, Rosemary Willmot and Ronnie Willmot; first cousins Tara Willmot McGowan (Brian), Will Willmot (Audrey), Reed Willmot (Jessica), Bonnie Willmot Matz (J), Jacob Scott (Kristen), Andrea Clements (Cory) and Diana Sacrey (Brent) and all of their children. She is also survived by Gibbons family aunts and uncles, Chuck and Marie Gibbons, Gloria and Richard Tejera, Heather and Joe Lowther, Madge and Tim Dobeck, Barbara Gibbons, Rose Gibbons, Kevin and Roxanne Gibbons; first cousins, Sean Gibbons (Lori), Chad Gibbons (Monica), Travis Gibbons (Jaclyn), Tambi Gibbons Cobb, Kristen Gibbons Mickler, Amy Gibbons Balfe (Ryan), Brandon Gibbons, Dax Tejera, Justine "Kiwi" Tejera, Jordan Lowther (Andrea), Matt Lowther (Tiffany), Dylan Lowther, Morgan Lowther, Josh Dobeck (Megan), Zackary Dobeck (Catherine), Erin Dobeck, Dana Gibbons, Tristen Gibbons and all of their children.

Emily is also survived by her recently adopted kitten, Woody, and her dearest childhood friends, Kelly, Rachel and Kyle, and her new friends, Anna, and others that she had met through teaching and her daily workouts at the gym. Emily will be sorely missed by her "nieces and nephews," Scotty, Andrew, Sophie, Tatum, Addie, Liam, Amelia, Annalise Darby, Ella, John, Nola, Merritt, Hazel and Miller.

She is predeceased by her father Morris A "Darby" Gibbons, her grandfather, Morris A. "Toni" Gibbons, her grandmother Marilyn "Ollie" Willmot, grandfather William Watson Willmot, uncles Carter and Mark Gibbons and her Siamese cat of 16+ years, Della.

A celebration of Emily's life took place at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach Saturday, Nov. 26.

Donations can be made in Emily's memory to St. Peter's Preparatory Academy, 4250 38th Avenue, Vero Beach 32967 or to St. Francis Manor Building Fund, 1750 20th Avenue, Vero Beach 32960.

Kenneth M. 'Buster' Hastings Sr., 72



EOMINSTER — Kenneth M. "Buster" Hastings Sr., 72 years old, of Leominster, died Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2016, in the Golden Living Center in Fitchburg.

Kenneth was born June 15, 1944 in Clinton, a son of Elmer F. and Bertha M. (Hitchcock) Hastings. He leaves his wife of 52 years, Brenda J. Hastings; two sons, Kenneth M. Hastings Jr. and his wife, Stephanie of Winchendon and Wayne R. Hastings and his longtime companion, Heather Koll of Leominster; two daughters, Kim M. Martin and her husband Daniel of Leominster, and Marylou Anderson and her husband Michael of Myrtle Beach, SC; two brothers, Robert Hastings of Leominster,

and Roland Hitchcock; two sisters, Jacqueline Hastings and Elaine Bartlett; 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, many nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his brother, Elmer and his sister, Marion Woodcock.

Kenneth was employed for over 27 years at the former ITT Supernaut in Clinton. He was a member of the Leominster Sportsman's Club and the NRA. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and any outdoor activity.

A funeral service for Kenneth was held on Saturday, Nov. 26 in the Silas F. Richardson & Son Funeral Home (richardsonfuneralhome.net), 106 West St., Leominster. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery, Leominster.

Please omit flowers. Memorial contributions can be made to N.E.A.D.S. 305 Redemption Rock Trail, Princeton, MA 01541.

Vernon B. Palen Sr., 78



LENOX — Vernon B. Palen Sr., age 78, of King William Road passed away on Monday, Nov. 21, 2016 at Berkshire Medical Center. Born on Feb. 18, 1938 in Hudson, NY, he was the son of the late Vernon and

Isabella McCagg Palen. He had resided in Lenox for the past 35 years and prior to that had resided in Pittsfield.

He was educated in Hudson, NY schools and was a 1956 graduate of Hudson High School. He attended Alfred University in Western New York and later joined the General Electric Apprenticeship Tool Making program. After returning to college, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in physics in 1974 from the former North Adams State College, now M.C.L.A. Mr. Palen was employed for 37 years in a management position at General Electric and its successor Lockheed Martin, retiring in 1994.

A longtime member of Zion Lutheran Church, he was very active with many church committees including the re-designing of the present church building. He was also a member of the G.E. Elfun Society, and very involved with Habitat for Humanity where he served on its board of directors. Mr. Palen was also a 56 year member of the Hudson Widow Son's Masonic Lodge AFM #7.

He enjoyed the challenge of repairing anything that needed fixing, doing woodworking and especially during retirement spending time with his family and extensive traveling.

He leaves his wife, Maude Smith Palen of Lenox whom he married on Feb. 27, 1960. His son; Vernon B. Palen Jr. and his wife Jane of Becket. Two daughters; Lynn M. Denette and her husband Matthew Sr. of Winchendon and Kathleen A. Bonzani of South Windsor, CT and former son-in-law; Frank P. Bonzani Jr. of South Windsor, CT. A sister; Jane Rauscher of Fort Pierce, FL. Nine grandchildren; Matthew Denette Jr. and his wife Brandice, Alexander Denette and his wife Erin, Lea Dayton and her husband Michael, Daniel Denette, Kate Palen, Kyle Palen, Nicolas Bonzani, Michael Bonzani and James Bonzani. A great grandson; Matthew Denette III as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins. He also leaves his three brothers-in-law; the honorable Judge John Connor, Harold Horner and Arthur Smith and his five sisters-in-law; Joan Connor, Nancy Battistello, Mary Ann Horner, Loraine Smith and Bette Smith.

He was predeceased by a sister; the late Betty Jane Palen and by his parents.

Funeral services were held Nov. 29 at Zion Lutheran Church in Pittsfield conducted by the Rev. Timothy Weisman, pastor. Burial will take place at a later date in Mountain View Cemetery in Lenox.

Memorial donations in memory of Mr. Palen may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church Capital Campaign in care of the funeral home, 54 Bradford St. Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Dery Funeral Home in Pittsfield was entrusted with arrangements.

Mary G. (Freeman) Gilmore 98



RINDGE — Mary G. (Freeman) Gilmore age 98, resident of Rindge passed away Nov. 29 2016 at her home surrounded by her family.

Mary was born on Nov. 11 1918 in New York, NY to James and Beatrice (Kent) Freeman. She grew up in Harvard and Exeter NH. Mary married Lewis D Gilmore Jr. July 15 1941. She graduated from Robinson Female Seminary and the University of New Hampshire class of 1940. She obtained her Master's degree from Fitchburg State College. She spent most her teaching and administrative career at Murdock High School in Winchendon.

She was a charter member of the Rindge Women's club. Girl Scout leader. Member of the National Education Association and Winchendon Teachers Association. She worked during World War II in the ammunitions factory in Watervliet, NY.

Mary was predeceased by her husband of 56 years Lewis D Gilmore Jr. and her son Thomas Rock Gilmore. Also, predeceased by her five brothers Howard, Richard, John, James and Dennis Freeman. Her three sisters Helen Leonard, Anne Pico and Ethel Welch.

She is survived by her children Sue Ellen Cady, Anne Elizabeth Tomasini (Sandy), Lewis Daniel Gilmore III (Donna), David Sean Gilmore (Karen) and Christopher Dean Gilmore (Kari); her grandsons Michael Tomasini

(Emily), David Tomasini (Erin), Andrew Gilmore, Mathew Gilmore. Her granddaughters Lisa Tomasini Allen (Daniel), Sarah Gilmore, Meghan Gilmore (Stuart), Laura Shirley (Andy), Caitlin Gilmore (Michael), Nicole Gilmore (Ryan), Peyton Gilmore; great grandchildren Erin, Christopher Ryleigh, Olivia, Talia, Spencer, Oliver, Josie, Shepherd, McKayla, Michael, Eternity, Jayla, Thomas, Reese, Carter and Gavin, great-great granddaughter Everly, Peter M. Keating his wife Shirley and their children Betsy, Eric and Sean and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their thanks to the family of Marge and Deanna Andrews and to Hospice HCS aides and nurses for their kind and compassionate care. In addition, our family cannot thank Dr. John Harrington, MD enough for his loving care of our mother for the last 35 plus years. Your dedication and exceptional care to your patient and friend was truly amazing. You brought a smile to her face every time you walk in to see her.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, Dec. 2, 2016 from 7-9 p.m. in the Cournoyer Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 33 River St., Jaffrey. A funeral service will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 at 10 a.m. in the Cournoyer Funeral Home Chapel, 33 River St., Jaffrey with burial to follow at the Exeter Cemetery, Exeter, NH.

To share photos, memories or condolences with Mary's family, please visit her permanent online memorial at www.cournoyerfh.com.

Janice Marie (Corrigan) Keck, 77



WINCHENDON — Janice Marie (Corrigan) Keck, age 77 of Winchendon, went to rest in the arms of her Savior at her home Nov. 22, 2016.

She was born June 10, 1939 in Boston to parents William and Mary (Jordan) Corrigan. She married Cecil L. Keck on June 3, 1957 in Idabel, OK. Cecil died in 2000.

Janice leaves two daughters: Cheryl Sibley and her husband Robert of Hudson NH and Sandra Boyd and her husband James of Dublin NH; grandchildren Robert Sibley, Cara and her husband Evan Bartlett, and Allyson Boyd; and siblings William and Janet Corrigan of Jefferson TX, Jeannie and Stanley McKillop of Danville NH, George and Denise Corrigan of Orange, Mary and Tony Lang of Templeton, Irene Martin whose husband Normand is deceased of Cleburne TX and brother in law David McKaw whose wife Enid was Janice's sister who is now deceased, of Florida; and by many nieces and nephews.

She also lost two children, Theresa Marie Keck who died in 1976 and Cecil L. Keck II who died in 1984.

She was supportive to her husband while he served in the Air Force and together they moved their children to Kansas, Great Britain, Portsmouth NH, Great Falls MT, and Madrid Spain. They eventually settled in Winchendon, to be near extended family, in 1976.

She was very artistic and creative. She ran Jan's Ceramics in Winchendon for many years.

She enjoyed flower gardening and with her husband kept bees as a hobby. After his death she designed a line of ceramic pieces with a "Bee Happy" theme.

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SPORTS

Winchendon School athlete heading to Pac-10



WINCHENDON — He's not from Winchendon (close enough, in West Boylston though) but has been attending the locally-based Winchendon School and now Bryan Perla will be headed west — to Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA.

Perla, you see, is the 2016 Junior Olympics horizontal bar champion and recently signed a letter of intent to join the Cardinal gymnastics program starting in the fall of 2017 and tallying high scores in floor and vault events didn't hurt his chances of reaching the Pac-10 either.

"Winchendon taught me a lot about time management and creating relationships," Perla told media outlets, adding, "I learned a lot from Tony Lambert (the school's director of college counseling) and Kelly Harris about focusing on what you're good at and focusing energy on my strengths. The Winch always believed in me."

You don't become a big-time champion overnight. Bryan was five and full of energy when his parents originally got him started in gymnastics.

"I was bouncing off the walls and beds," he recalled. "My parents had to do something constructive with all that energy."

So gymnastics it was, with training at the Sterling Academy of Gymnastics and an academic stint at the Carroll School in Lincoln, both of which paved the way for Perla to arrive in town for his sophomore year in 2015, a decision made easier by the Winchendon School's low student-to-teacher classroom ratio.

The rest is local history. Junior Olympics is pretty impressive. Stanford's not bad, either. The future? It's bright. Small towns can turn out big stories.

Warriors too much for Blue Devils



Huddle!

WINCHENDON — As they've done every year for 44 years, the Murdock Blue Devils and Narragansett Warriors have faced off on the gridiron, battling for victory, acclaim, and hometown pride in their annual Thanksgiving Day grudge match. The record of each team matters not a whit entering this contest. For every high school football team the country, the Thanksgiving Day game is the game of the year.

Nov. 23, 1972 marked the first holiday battle between Murdock and 'Gansett. They had met in previous years, earlier in the regular season, but this was the first time they butted heads in the game.

So, on a warm fall day, 16 days after the re-election of Richard M. Nixon, the Blue Devils and Warriors competed for Thanksgiving Day glory. In an exciting mostly defensive battle, Murdock's Bill Fitzgerald completed an offensive drive when, with the ball at the Narragansett 21 yard

line, he connected with Keith Martin who took it into the end zone with just 56 seconds left in the game. The TD gave the Blue Devils the 14-8 victory.

Thanksgiving 2016 didn't go quite so well for the Devils.

'Gansett wasted little time as they marched down field for three minute-13 second drive and an 8-0 lead immediately in the first quarter. They struck with another touchdown toward the end of the same quarter to end with a 16-0 lead.

Three minutes into the first quarter, Warriors junior halfback Jake Mott capped off a 54-yard with a 13-yard ramble in for the score. It would not be Mott's last visit to the Murdock end zone in the first half.

He would go on to add three more TDs to the Warrior tally on runs of 5, 17, and 21 yards.

Mott would rack up a total for the game of 118 yards on 11 carries and fellow junior and fullback Dominic Kallel rambled for a total of 81 yards on nine carries, even though neither Warrior had a second-half carry.

Other than Mott, the only



Logan Hawkins throws a great pass downfield to get the Blue Devils on the boards.

other Warrior to cross the Murdock goal line was Miles Blaber-Brissett. After a Blue Devil fumble was covered by 'Gansett, the moved the ball to the Murdock 21. From there, senior quarterback Bailey Vaillancourt tossed perfect rainbow to Blaber-Brissett, who was wide open in the back of the Devils' end zone.

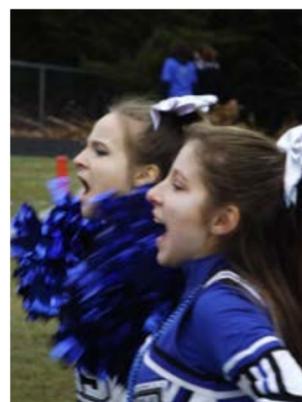
Nine seconds into the second quarter 'Gansett struck with the third TD of five to take a 24-0 lead. The Warriors would manage two more before half time, with one touchdown coming with a bit over two minutes remaining and the second with just five seconds remaining to go into the half 30-0.

They could have just thrown

up their hands and spent the second half thinking about holiday repast that awaited them but, to their credit, the Blue Devils did not just roll over in the second half.

The defense for the Blue Devils stepped up their game, not letting the high powered Warriors into the end zone in most of the second half.

The Devils did avoid being blanked when, with the ball at the Warrior 11, Blue Devils quarterback Logan Hawkins to the snap, then scrambled about 20 yards avoiding would-be tacklers, before lobbing a pass to Daunte Pridgen. The ball was tipped by a Gansett defender, but Pridgen maintained concentration to pull in



Cheerleaders get into the game.

the pig skin for the score.

The Devils tacked on two more points when Hawkins rumbled in on a successful conversion attempt.

The game would end with Narragansett on top, 36-8.

The win leaves Narragansett with an overall record of 6-4; 4-3 in league play. That's good enough for a 4th place finish in the Mid-Wach D League.

The Devils ended the season at 2-9 overall, and 1-6 in the league for a 6th place finish. Murdock was winless at Alumni Field this year, finishing the season with six losses in front of the hometown crowd. The Devils were 2-3 on the road.

Murdock's wins this year included a 30-0 romp over Ayer-Shirley, and a close 14-12 win over Nashoba Valley Tech.

'Gansett ended their season 6-4 and Murdock finished 2-9.

The Blue Devils recognized three players: offensive MVP Logan Hawkins, defensive MVP Jared Nelson and sportsmanship award Tom Aho.

(Correspondent Chris Martin contributed to this story)

Too much...too late

Truth, okay? Have any of you lost a great deal of appetite for and interest in the NFL? I have, big time. I'm not crazy about the violence or about the league supposed commitment to on-field safety or the way the weight of a football carries greater suspension implications than domestic violence.

Those all bother me, a lot, presumably you're not crazy about them either and then there's the mediocrity on the field which, combined with those other factors, have rendered a lot of games pretty unwatchable. Close finishes don't necessarily mean games were any good. Last Sunday, my hometown Baltimore Ravens' victory over the woeful Cincinnati Bengals wasn't assured until the game's last play. Dramatic? Yes. Exciting? Anything but. The Ravens are 6-5 and hold a tenuous-by-tiebreaker-lead in the AFC North. Right now, they'd be the AFC's 3 seed and host a playoff game. And trust me, they're, well, mediocre. They have arguably one of the great kickers ever in Justin Tucker but winning games because you have a guy who can

boot four field goals — well — that might get the job done against crummy teams but it's neither interesting nor entertaining. Bottom level state-bred claimers at Aqueduct are more interesting on Sunday afternoons and that's really saying something. The next two weeks have the Ravens playing the Dolphins, who may or may not be equally mediocre and the Patriots, who, you might have noticed, aren't mediocre. In fact, you can make a case the only teams who aren't mediocre at best are the Patriots, Raiders, Cowboys, Chiefs and maybe the Broncos and perhaps you think the New York Football Giants are actually good.

This isn't the way the NFL should be. It certainly isn't the way it was when the NFC East was sports' toughest division and granted, nothing stays the same, but for me at least the NFL has become sleep-inducing.

Ah, you say, that's because the Ravens aren't exciting. No. Football, NFL-style isn't exciting. Plus, there's too much of it. Way too much. How many of you watch Thursday night football? Or Sunday night for that matter? Or Monday, where ESPN's ratings have plunged? Three games on Thanksgiving is at least one and likely two too many.



TALKING SPORTS

JERRY CARTON

ACC Challenge game tonight, though it'd be nicer if this were still an ACC/Big East contest and I care whether on Dec. 17 California Chrome runs well enough in the created-just-for-him Los Alamitos Winter Challenge to assure his presence in next month's \$12 million Pegasus. (Speaking of, I can't decide if the Pegasus, to be run Jan. 28 at Gulfstream is a great marketing idea or not. Most big names aren't exactly cranked up in January and though it might be a decent stepping stone to the Dubai World Cup in late March, it's an awful long year from January to the Breeders Cup in November for athletes who don't exactly replicate the sturdiness of previous generations.)

I digress. College hoops? You bet I care about that and I pay attention to more than merely the currently-unbeaten-without-having-beaten-anyone-so-let's-not-get-carried-away-yet Terps. Horses? I've been trying to pick winners and writing down names in little spiral

notebooks for more than a half-century. Tropical Park? Great Barrington Fair? Hazel Park? Marlboro?

Anyway, those two sports I can get amped up for. I still love the long leisurely pace of a baseball season, including the kind of strategy arguments fans can have that isn't really possible in football and I'm absolutely intrigued by Tiger's return this weekend, even in a no-cut 18-player event. College football has tons more excitement than the NFL, and if you can somehow not think about the corruption and exploitation of the athletes, it's fun to watch those kids.

I never thought I'd be pretty much dismissive of the NFL. Never. Colts home games were almost a religious ritual — starting with Sunday brunch at my grandparents' house, then we'd make the drive towards old Memorial Stadium, park a few blocks away on Veneble Avenue, walk down the hill to 33rd Street and then up, up, and up the ramps (no elevators nor escalators) to the upper deck and climb 22 more rows to our seats (wooden benches with no backs were ultimately replaced with aluminum seats with 'backs'). We'd do that week after week, year after year, decade after decade. The memories are pretty fresh and still warm, too. But that was a different time in a different world. Today the NFL holds much less interest for me. Who really knows why? How about you?

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New office offers autism educational services



Colleen Canty

FITCHBURG — Behavioral Concepts, Inc. (BCI), a company of behavioral clinicians specializing in the care of children with autism in Central Massachusetts, recently named Ayer resident Colleen Canty as the director of the company's new location in Fitchburg. BCI opened the new location at 207 Authority Drive earlier this month.

The new location will replicate programs and services provided at BCI's corporate headquarters at 345 Greenwood St. in Worcester, as well as be

a base of operations for staff providing in-home operations.

"There is a great demand for services for children with autism in the Fitchburg/Route 2 corridor. Right now, we have only been able to work with clients in their homes. The new location opens up those services and a myriad of other opportunities for our clients within the community," said Dr. Jeff Robinson, founder and director of Behavioral Concepts, Inc. "With her experience, education and roots in the community, Colleen is the perfect choice for the job."

Canty began her behavioral services work in the Fitchburg community as the program manager of in-home behavioral services for LUK Crisis Center. She then moved into a behavioral consultant role in several local public school districts, including Fitchburg, Ayer-Shirley Regional, and West Boylston.

A board certified behavior analyst, Canty holds a master's degree in education and a certificate of advanced graduate study in behavior modification from Fitchburg State University. She's currently an adjunct professor at Cappella University and a Ph.D. candidate at Antioch University. Canty received her undergraduate degree from Clark University in Worcester.

Additionally, Canty has been a long-time volunteer for many non-profit organizations in the area, most notably the Special Olympics, ARC, Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network and the Hope Center. She also sat on the board of the North Central Massachusetts Faith Based Community Coalition and is currently that organization's membership coordinator.

"I have a brother with special needs. Though his challenges are differ-

ent from children with autism, my brother and our entire family benefited from the services provided by a number of organizations in our community," said Canty. "I'm eager for BCI to be that kind of positive resource for Fitchburg area children and clients with autism and their families."

Canty has several items on her to-do list that go beyond the 100-plus families with children with autism on BCI's wait list. That includes partnering with local businesses for work opportunities for students and getting together with Fitchburg State to develop an internship program.

"BCI already has a number of Fitchburg alums working at the Worcester headquarters. With an office in the same city, it seems like the perfect opportunity to create a pathway to employment for Fitchburg students," added Canty.

A ribbon-cutting for

BCI's Fitchburg office is scheduled Jan. 17, 4-7 p.m. at the 207 Authority Drive location.

Added Dr. Robinson, "With Colleen at the helm, we look forward to not only helping children with autism and their families, but building relationships in the local community. That includes developing work opportunities for our clients and creating jobs for aspiring behaviorists."

For more information about BCI and its services, visit www.bciaba.com or call (508) 363-0200.

Founded in 2002, BCI provides educational, behavioral, consultative and assessment services to children with autism and their families. These services are based on the principles of applied behavior analysis and are tailored to meet the unique needs of clients. It's BCI's goal to maximize individual potential, increase independence and enhance our clients' quality of life

within their home, school and community.

BCI provides center- and home-based services through health insurance and is an approved provider of specialty ABA services for early intervention in central Massachusetts. BCI's main care center offers intensive treatment for young children aged 3 to 6 years of age, an after-school program for all school aged children and a weekend social skills program. In addition, BCI will open a second location in Fitchburg in November 2016. BCI also provides in-home services within a one-hour radius of Worcester.

For complete information, visit <http://bciaba.com> or to arrange a consultation with a BCI clinician, please call (508) 363-0200. For more information on CABI, visit <http://www.cabiutism.org> or call (508) 363-0201.

SOLAR

continued from page A1

If that's the case, Onyx would need to go before the Planning Board at its last meeting in January to get approval for an amended site plan. We still don't know yet if that will be necessary, but if it is it could push back the start of work a couple of weeks. But we're still looking at roughly the same time frame."

The start of work on the array has been delayed longer than anyone could have anticipated when the town first signed and agreement with Axio Energy to construct the facility. That contract was inked in 2011.

Six months after the pact between the town and Axio was signed, Axio was bought out by one-time renewable energy giant SunEdison. That company was unhappy with some of the details included in the Axio contract and negotiations with SunEdison dragged on for some months.

Meanwhile, SunEdison, in an attempt

— analysts say — to get too big too soon stumbled when its attempt to acquire rooftop solar company Vivan Solar collapsed and SunEdison's stock nosedived. At the same time, the company found itself being sued by one of its own subsidiaries. The troubles led SunEdison to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April of this year.

In July 2015, SunEdison stock stood at around \$32 per share. As of shortly after 2 p.m. Wednesday, a share of SunEd stock could be had for 12¢.

Enter Onyx Renewable Partners, which purchased three SunEdison contracts in Massachusetts, including Winchendon, Pembroke, and Brockton.

It's anticipated that by going solar, Winchendon could save \$12 million in energy costs over the course of its 20-year contract with — now — Onyx.

Any electricity not consumed by the town will be sold back to National Grid by Onyx, and the town stands to receive 6 percent of any revenues such a sale may generate.



Courtesy photo

GO KENZIE GO!

McKenzie Tenney of Orange was honored by the Western Massachusetts Coaches Association banquet at the Storrowtown Carriage House in West Springfield for making the All State team.

Tenney finished her prolific career with 90 goals and 27 assists. She is pictured with Mahar Head Coach Softic. She formerly played in Winchendon.

Castaways swim through loss

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — For a long time, as wife Barbara coached the Castaways swim team, Mark Lawrence handled much of the logistics needed to develop a strong and successful program.

Mark passed away in July, a couple months before a new season began, so while the Castaways reassembled in September with heavy hearts and a moment of silence, the in-the-water goals have remained constant.

"Our goal every year is to bring 100-percent of the team to the end-of-season Champs Meet and our second goal is to get as many swimmers as we can to the banquet and that's not easy because to do that, to get there, you have to finish in the top three places," Barbara Lawrence explained.

As it turned out, the fall campaign proved to be a success with the Castaways taking home six of ten available high point trophies and finishing second overall to the Stingrays who had 100+ competitors as opposed to 41 for the local squad.

"I compare that to coach Mark's favorite movie, 'Facing the Giants,'" noted Barbara.

Castaway swimmers who reached that Championship meet included Elise Beniot, Abigail Bosley, Aidan and Emma Bourque, Sophie and William Chretien, Liam and Riley Daviau, Emma and Sam Dunn, Aleksander Guskov, Anna and Ben Kalber, Lexie Lajoie, Chris and Nick Lamb, Jaci Langford, Chloe and Drew Lawrence, Emma Lent, Nola Patty, Jacob and Joe Pervier, Elianna Rodriguez, Erica Schuyler, Jayden Shampine, Josh, Kaleb, Kemeul and Luke Silva, Noah Stein, Cyrus and Farah Tavakol, Emma, Forest and Jude Veilleux, and Evan, Kiley, and Tyler Young.

The Worcester County League also introduced the Mark Lawrence Award, given to a parent with long-standing involvement in meets. The initial recipient was Rob McKenzie.

"Mark's presence was felt by all of us during our meets every week," Barbara reflected.

"The Castaways swimmers showed exactly what we're made of when we took 33 swimmers to the Banquet. He's greatly missed by his family, friends, swim parents and swimmers, but I know he'd be proud," she said.

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BRANDYWINE
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of Lake Monomonac due to significant safety concerns.

In a meeting with town treasurer Donna Spellman, it was confirmed as of Nov. 4, the Brandywine Farms Inc. properties was \$39,441.57 behind in back taxes. Spellman confirmed in addition to this development, the town has previously been forced to place four liens on the properties in an effort to obtain the tax monies due, which can take up to one year to process.

Town Manager Keith Hickey confirmed neither Giovanoni or his wife Amelia had contacted the town about getting caught up on the back taxes owed.

On May 18, 2015, the town and Brandywine Farms Inc entered into a TIF agreement by vote at annual town meeting. The document is signed by Giovanoni and received the needed approval of the Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council. Part of the agreement says the project will create 100 permanent full time jobs, and make an investment in the building of \$6,500,000. To this date and 18 months later, the complex sits virtually dormant, with all gates chained and the property and the facility locked down.

Per the TIF agreement, under Section 6, subsection B, the clause reads "Invest \$6,500,000 in capital improvements to the Project, which improve-

ments shall be in use by the first quarter of 2017 (estimated.)

Under subsection E the agreement goes on to read, "Pay all taxes and all other payments owed to the town during the term of this agreement in a timely fashion."

In July 2015 Brandywine Farms posted a press release from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development on its Facebook page. The announcement was a description of how local incentives such as the TIF would "leverage" more jobs. However, there was no cash award to Brandywine Farms from this program.

The portion of the release addressing Brandywine was listed under Local Incentive Only Projects and read:

"Brandywine Farms, Inc. was established to develop the White's Mill Farm Complex in Winchendon into economic driver of recreation, agriculture and services as a destination for agri-tourism. The White's Mill Farm Complex consists of ten mill buildings, a dam, a pond, and acres of open land. Brandywine Farms will invest \$6.5 million to repurpose each of the ten mill buildings, constructing 7,425 square feet of office space, 50,000 square feet of hydroponic growing space, a 3,200 square foot farm-to-table dining restaurant, a 6,000 foot function hall, and a 3,000 square foot craft brewery. The project will create 100 full-time jobs in Winchendon. The

Town of Winchendon is supporting the project with an 8-Year Tax Increment Financing Agreement valued at \$331,968. Brandywine Farms is also eligible to take advantage of the Commonwealth's 10% Abandoned Building Deduction."

Adrian Servetnick, program and communications coordinator for the EOHEd explained the award as follows.

The process for TIFs works as follows, "Cities work with private companies to negotiate tax incentive agreements on local property taxes in exchange for a certain amount of investment/jobs etc. The EACC (which runs EDIP's) approves these contracts, and announces them in a press release. Most companies cite this as an EDIP award, even though no state dollars are going to the project. They received no state investment tax credits, only the approval of a local TIF." Brandywine Farms Inc. received no cash award. It received economic assistance in the form of the TIF agreement with the town of Winchendon and approved by the state through the EACC. That award is now potentially at stake, as various requirements of the TIF have not been either followed as required or are currently falling behind schedule and running out of time.

The Whites Mill Pond Dam, which is falling deeper in to disrepair, resides directly behind the main complex. A long

distance zoom-in photo from off the property once enlarged revealed significant rot and corrosion on the lower sections of the steel beams at the draining point.

According to the report obtained from the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety, the dam is an earthen embankment 375 feet in length, holds back 272 acre feet of water when full, and was inspected in 2015 under Massachusetts 302 CMR 10.00 to provide information about the dam, any repairs needed, and planning/conducting maintenance and operation. The report was completed by the PARE Corporation of Foxborough, which the report says was retained by Brandywine Farms Inc.

The dam is listed as an "intermediate size structure" and in "poor condition" needing estimated repair costs ranging from low of \$761,000 to a high of \$1,557,000. Such problems are listed as but not limited to, an inoperable low level water outlet system, weathered concrete, voids, potential movement, cracking, and areas of missing mortar, seepage at the base of the downstream wall, potential sink holes developing behind the downstream wall, and "bulging" and displacement of the downstream wall right of the spillway.

The 2015 report continues, "Mr. John Giovanoni, owner of Brandywine Farms, Inc. is primarily responsible for the operation at the dam. An Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

Manual has not been prepared for the dam. Neither the low level outlet nor the stop logs have been operated by the current owner. It should be noted that Mr. Giovanoni acquired the dam in and the mill property in April of 2015."

Possibly the most startling part of the report is the Dam Hazard Classification. Under Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dam Safety rules and regulations, the Whites Mill Pond Dam is classified as a "Class I (HIGH) Hazard Potential Dam." Along with this listed in section 1.2.8 of the report, it goes on to say, "it appears that a failure of the dam at maximum pool will likely cause a loss of life, and serious damage to home(s), industrial or commercial facilities, important public utilities, main highways or railroads."

Going by the timeline of the report, this means Giovanoni has known for almost a year and a half the dam was in desperate need of repair, and had the potential to cause a loss of life or lives, and has not as yet had any visible repairs made to the structure to prevent the chance of such.

The report's finding of the potential loss of life was brought to the attention town officials for input.

Police Chief David Walsh, so he could be made aware of the situation for emergency management purposes. Walsh replied, "Although I am not aware of the extent of the deterioration of the

particular dam, I would obviously be concerned in the event of any dam's failure."

Fire Chief Smith responded, "The dam as with any dam and any kind of breach, would potentially cause a lot of havoc for the community. Our fire department would be very well utilized at that point, as well as with our dive team. We would hopefully be able to provide as much benefit for the community as possible but at the same time we would be needing to reach out to neighboring communities as it would cause a lot of problems if that dam was to breach."

Hickey replied, "Obviously it's concerning. We should have a little bit of time to deal with this with the drop of the lake (Monomonac). With the winter season coming in we won't have the lake levels at their maximum until next spring which is helpful. I can't speak to if the property owners have the ability to pay to repair the dam or not. I think the town overall is disappointed that we have not seen the project moving forward in all aspects including repairs to the dam. I have been in constant communication with the owners who have a strong desire to move forward and finalize their site plans so the can ultimately apply for state and federal programs so they can redevelop the property. It's almost been a well over a year, and I think the people's expectation was the redevelopment would have started by now."

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BUILDING

continued from page A1

clips, and are constructing and installing scaffolding. They also prepared classroom floors for the concrete pouring.

Under the direction of house carpentry teachers, Peter Maxfield, who also serves as clerk of the works, and Jim Brooks, seniors were building and erecting exterior and interior walls, which will support the roof. Now that the concrete flooring has been poured, the carpenters have started framing the room partitions.

At a later date, the HVAC and property maintenance students and teachers will install the state-of-the-art heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system.

The one-story, 7,465-square foot facility is being constructed on Rte. 2A, on the

Westminster side of the school campus, where the tennis courts were situated. It will contain classrooms, laboratory, surgical area and a state-of-the-art veterinary clinic.

"This is a great opportunity for our students. They have never done commercial construction before, and you can tell they are excited to be a part of it. This is a totally different experience for them and for Monty Tech. Although we build a house every year, which usually contain about 2,000 square feet, this project is over 7,000 square feet. They are going to get a good sense of what is involved in this type of construction, and it fits right in with our teaching frameworks," Maxfield said.

James Cournoyer, Holden representative to the School Committee, was touring the site that day. A plumbing

and heating contractor for 40 years, he said, "This is just amazing...how can it get any better than this, to see all these students working together on a project like this? I have been a contractor for 40 years, and I think this is wonderful. These kids are excited about what they are doing and learning. It is so different than what is going on in comprehensive schools."

Labor reports predict that by 2021 there will be an urgent need for licensed plumbers and electricians, he said. "We need more students to consider entering these fields. We need to provide students with skills that will lead to well-paying jobs. These trades pay very well. College isn't the only pathway to a successful career."

James Hachey, director of vocational programs, said as

many as 45 students are on site daily, gaining real-life experience in commercial construction.

"This experience will go a long way in helping them secure jobs in the construction fields. Even though this is a learning environment, the students are putting in a good day of work. It will definitely give them an edge in a job interview," he said.

In addition to housing Monty Tech's 21st vocational-technical program, focusing on veterinary science, the facility will also feature a veterinary clinic, where limited-income residents may receive quality health care for their pets.

"There is a great need for affordable veterinary care, and area professionals in the field have expressed their support of this project," he added.



GOAL!!!
CHECK OUT THE
SPORTS ACTION!

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 Scott D. Parkinson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Countrywide Bank, FSB, its successors and assigns, dated March 16, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 40848, Page 269 subsequently assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 47624, Page 38, subsequently assigned to Bank of America N.A. successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing LP by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Countrywide Bank, FSB by assignment recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 55080, Page 331 and subsequently assigned to Nationstar Mortgage, LLC by Bank of America, N.A. by assignment recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 51163, Page 311; 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 10:00 AM on December 9, 2016 at 147 Benjamin Street, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land together with all buildings and improvements thereon located on the southerly side of Benjamin Street, in the Town of Winchendon, Worcester County and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being shown as Lot 3, containing 1.000 acres, on a plan of land entitled, "Plan of Lots prepared for Robert B. Van Dyke, Winchendon, MA, dated November 18, 1996, Szoc Surveyors, 32 Pleasant Street, Gardner, MA" said Plan being recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Plan Book 718, Plan 6, to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description. Subject to any and all matters as shown on Plan Book 718, Page 6. Meaning and intending to describe and convey the same premises conveyed to Scott D. Parkinson by deed of Lawrence A. Wells, Jr. and Kristin S. Wells, dated October 10, 2003 and recorded at Book 31933, Page 263 at the Worcester Registry of Deeds.

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.

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

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14-017823

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November 25, 2016

December 2, 2016

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 Crystal A. Geslak to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Delta Funding Corp., its successors and assigns, dated May 24, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 37039, Page 257 subsequently assigned to HSBC Mortgage Services, Inc. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Delta Funding Corp., its successors and assigns. by assignment recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 53281, Page 380 and subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by HSBC Mortgage Services, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Registry of Deeds at Book 54317, Page 20; 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 11:00 AM on December 9, 2016 at 12 Winter Street, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in Winchendon, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded And described as follows: COMMENCING at a stake and stones at the southeasterly corner of the lot, on the Westerly side of Winter Street; THENCE westerly on line of land formerly of Emeline Vose, ninety nine (99) feet to the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of William C. Parke; THENCE northerly on line of land of said Parke eighty two (82) feet to said Parke's northeast corner. THENCE easterly on line of land now or formerly owned or occupied by Charles W. Day ninety nine (99) feet to said Winter Street; THENCE southerly on said Winter Street eighty two (82) feet to the place of beginning. Being the same premises as conveyed by deed and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 34506, Page 236.

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 Mortgagee, 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.

U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust

Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,

ORLANS MORAN PLLC

PO Box 540540

Waltham, MA 02454

Phone: (781) 790-7800

16-002975

November 18, 2016

November 25, 2016

December 2, 2016

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

16 SM 008113

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Lance L. Mason

Sonya A. Mason

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. § 501 et. Seq.: J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 254 Ash Street, given by Lance L. Mason and Sonya A. Mason to Chittenden Trust Co. d/b/a Mortgage Service Center, dated November 24, 2004, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 35156, Page 352, 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 December 26, 2016 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 November 18, 2016.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

16-025950 / Mason, Lance

December 2, 2016

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Richard S. Baum and Debra E. Baum to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as nominee for Principal Residential Mortgage, Inc., dated January 27, 2004 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32866, Page 298 of which mortgage Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Principal Residential Mortgage, Inc. to CitiMortgage, Inc. dated March 6, 2012 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48661, Page 388; assignment from CitiMortgage, Inc. to Pretium Mortgage Credit Partners I Loan Acquisition, LP dated December 1, 2015 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54641, Page 320 and assignment from Pretium Mortgage Credit Partners I Loan

Acquisition, LP to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust dated December 17, 2015 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54834, Page 70, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 296 Ash Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 will be sold at a Public Auction at 2:00PM on January 3, 2017, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land, with the buildings thereon situated on the northeasterly side of Ash Street in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts and being shown as Lot 6 containing 43,605 square feet on a plan entitled "Plan of Lots, prepared for D. M. Industries, Winchendon, MA., Scale 1 in = 60 ft., May 18, 1987" which plan is recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 578, Page 40 and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the Northwesterly corner thereof at point in the easterly sideline of Ash Street and at the southwesterly corner of Lot 7 as shown on said plan hereinabove referred to;
Thence N. 74 Degrees 05' 33" E. by Lot 7 as shown on said plan 291.30 feet to a point at land now or formerly of D. M. Industries, Inc.;

Thence S. 15 Degrees 54' 27" E. by last named land 150 feet to a point;

Thence S. 74 Degrees 05' 33" W. continuing by last named land, 291.30 feet to a point in the easterly sideline of Ash Street;

Thence N. 15 Degrees 54' 27" W. by the easterly sideline of Ash Street 150 feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 18178, Page 164.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust

Korde & Associates, P.C.

900 Chelmsford Street

Suite 3102

Lowell, MA 01851

(978) 256-1500

Baum, Richard S. and Debra E., 14-018372, December 2, 2016, December 9, 2016, December 16, 2016

December 2, 2016

December 9, 2016

December 16, 2016

MWCC

continued from page A1

ulty member in the Social Sciences Division at Bunker Hill Community College in Boston. Hart's desire to make a broader contribution to the college was realized in a variety of leadership positions he assumed while at Bunker Hill, including vice president of communications. In this position, he shaped a new cabinet level division and with other senior leaders helped transform Bunker Hill Community College into the strong learning environment it is today.

Hart has been the chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office since 2009. He had previously served as the deputy director for five years. His thorough understanding of critical issues in higher education administration, coupled with his ability to articulate to an array of audiences, has been instrumental in his successful advocacy on behalf of the institutions in which he serves.

Hart has been extremely active over many years in building partnerships with employers throughout the region. He has served as chamber of commerce president in two local cities; a longstanding member of the Metro North Regional Employment Board; and was a gubernatorial appointment to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. He also serves on many charitable and civic boards of directors. He is often called upon to provide political commentary and policy analysis for local cable television.

Hart earned a Bachelor of Arts from Merrimack College in North Andover and a Master in public administration from Suffolk University in Boston. He currently resides in Lynnfield and previously in Everett, where he served in various elected and public service roles. View William D. Hart's resume at www.mwcc.edu/presidents-transition



Dr. JD LaRock

Dr. J.D. LaRock is chair of the Board of Trustees at North Shore Community College, a diverse, high-performing, 10,500-student community college with campuses in Lynn, Danvers, and Middleton. LaRock also represents and advocates for Massachusetts' 15 community colleges and 135,000 community college students as the

community college segmental representative on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.

A nationally known education policymaker with an eclectic background as a television reporter, school district spokesperson, and international education official, LaRock works at Northeastern University, where he has served as executive director of strategic presidential initiatives, chief of staff, and on the university's senior leadership team. A scholar of education policy, education politics, and the future of higher education, he is also a faculty member in Northeastern's College of Professional Studies.

As a senior education advisor to the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, LaRock helped author several major laws that have made college more affordable, especially for low-income and first-generation students. These include the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, a 2007 law that increased funding for federal Pell Grants by more than \$11 billion, and the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, which reauthorized the federal Higher Education Act and strengthened its many college access programs, including the TRIO and GEAR UP programs.

As policy director at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education in the administration of Governor Deval L. Patrick, LaRock authored major portions of the Achievement Gap Act of 2010, which has been hailed as one of the most impactful education laws of the last generation. The law enabled the creation of 40 "Innovation Schools" across the state, including the Pathways Early College Innovation School at Mount Wachusett Community College. It also significantly strengthened the state's power to intervene in low-performing school districts, leading to a nationally praised school district turnaround effort in Lawrence.

LaRock holds three degrees from Harvard University, including a doctorate in education administration, planning and policy, as well as a law degree from Georgetown University. He lives in Melrose. View J.D. LaRock's resume at www.mwcc.edu/presidents-transition



Dr. Maureen Powers

Dr. Maureen Powers was born and raised in Worcester County and

started her college studies in the Massachusetts public college system, and later returned to North Adams State College (now MCLA) to serve as the assistant dean of students. She has since served in senior college leadership roles as vice president or dean at several institutions including Emmanuel College in Boston, The City College of New York in NYC, Stanford University in California and most recently at Plymouth University, a public institution in England. Powers has also served in senior leadership roles at two international institutes, running 75 undergraduate academic programs in 43 countries.

Powers is a respected speaker on risk reduction/management, diversity and inclusion, student retention, crisis response/safety, and legal and international issues in higher education. She has delivered influential presentations on student safety, FERPA, Title IX, diversity and inclusion and cross cultural competency to faculty, administrators and students in the USA and 12 other countries. Since returning from the UK this past year, she is serving as a consultant to the Los Angeles Transit Authority on sexual harassment, as a consultant on diversity for the Indiana University IU-MSI Faculty STEM project, and as a consultant to the CEO and program speaker for LEAD, a drug and alcohol abuse prevention non-profit outside Chicago.

Powers received her bachelor degree from Georgetown University in government, a Masters from Saint Louis University in urban affairs and she earned her Ph.D. in higher education from Indiana University-Bloomington. She holds dual citizenship in Ireland and the USA, and has lived in Africa, Europe and the United States, but always considers Worcester County her home. View Maureen H. Powers' resume at www.mwcc.edu/presidents-transition



Dr. James VanderHooven

Dr. James VanderHooven has been committed to the ideas of access and opportunity in higher education for the majority of his professional career. After a few years of secondary teaching and administration, Vander Hooven found his true calling when he stepped foot into a non-

traditional classroom and he was the youngest person in the room. From that evening on, he has focused his energy and time on increasing opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds to achieve their academic, professional, and personal goals.

VanderHooven is currently serving as the vice president for enrollment management at Landmark College in Putney, VT. In this role, he serves as the college's chief enrollment officer, manages recruitment activities, enrollment and admissions processes, and administers the Office of Financial Aid. He also oversees the Office of Transfer, Career, and Internship Services.

Prior to joining Landmark College, VanderHooven was president of Tohono O'odham Community College, a tribal college located on the Tohono O'odham Reservation in Arizona. In that role, he oversaw the \$9 million construction of a new main campus, strengthened programs in the areas of STEM and developmental education, and represented the tribal colleges in annual presentations on Capitol Hill.

In previous roles, he has served as vice president of student affairs and enrollment management at Lakes Region Community College in Laconia, NH, and regional dean of academic and student affairs at National American University in Denver, CO. The breadth of his experience gives him a keen understanding of the challenges and opportunities of educational leadership. He is dedicated to building strong teams designed to achieve important goals and improve student outcomes.

Vander Hooven attained his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the Ohio State University. He received his Master of Arts degree in American studies from the University of Wyoming. In 2009, he was awarded his Doctorate in higher education leadership from the University of Maine, where he focused on student access. His dissertation was titled, "Lessons From Success: The Experience of Women Who Successfully Completed an Associate Degree While Parenting Children." He lives in Keene, NH. View James Vander Hooven's resume at www.mwcc.edu/presidents-transition



Dr. Julie White

Dr. Julie White currently serves as the senior vice president of student engagement and learning support at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, NY. Previously, White served as interim provost and senior vice president at OCC, while the college extended its search for a new provost. White joined OCC in 2013. Prior to that, she held the position of director of centers for student engagement and academic advisement at Cayuga Community College, and from 2005-13, White worked at Monroe Community College as the assistant director of student services, where she also served as an adjunct instructor in sociology. Prior to joining the Monroe Community College staff, she worked at Rochester Institute of Technology, serving in roles including director of human subjects research, associate director of the center for student transition and support, and coordinator of the women's center. Previously, she was a health educator at the State University of New York at Geneseo and University of Rochester. Currently she is also an adjunct professor and dissertation committee chair in St. John Fisher College's Ed.D. program in executive leadership. She has also taught as an adjunct professor at the Warner Graduate School of Education at the University of Rochester, Monroe Community College, and SUNY Geneseo.

White is a Fellow of the American College Health Association and has been recognized by several organizations for her work in advancing diversity and inclusion, including recent awards as a YWCA Diversity Achiever from the YWCA of Syracuse and the Ann Felton Multicultural Leadership Award from Onondaga Community College.

She also remains active in academic research, conferences, and publications, in the areas of community college research, success for under-represented populations, and financial aid policy. Active in the community, she serves on the boards of the Everson Museum of Art and the Say Yes to Education Syracuse Operating Board.

White earned a Doctor of Philosophy in educational leadership from the University of Rochester, a Master in education in counseling from Xavier University, and a Bachelor of Science in education in English literature from Miami University. View Julie A. White's resume at www.mwcc.edu/presidents-transition

Dr. Daniel M. Asquino has served as president of Mount Wachusett Community College since August 1987 and is currently the longest-serving public high-

er education president in Massachusetts. Under his leadership, Mount Wachusett has grown exponentially in size, stature and academic services.

Enrollment has grown and satellite campuses have been established in Leominster, Fitchburg, and Devens, and the number of academic programs has expanded to over 75 associate degree and certificate options. During his tenure at MWCC, Asquino has established the college as a state and national leader in the areas of workforce development and economic development; dual enrollment and K-12 partnerships; civic engagement and service learning; veteran services; and renewable energy and sustainability.

"It has been an honor and a privilege," Asquino said in an announcement to the college and greater community when announcing his retirement. "I can say without reservation that it has been a joy to come to work each and every day. For that, I thank the hard-working students, faculty, staff and alumni of Mount Wachusett Community College and our many community partners for their inspiration and support."

The members of the Presidential Search Committee are: Richard A. Cella Esquire (chairperson, search committee, vice chair Board of Trustees, Foundation Board community member); Tina Sbraga (chairman Board of Trustees); Cheryl Oliveri (staff assistant, planning, development and institutional research, MWCC secretary); Diane Ruksnaitis, (ex-officio, vice president human resources & payroll, Affirmative Action officer MWCC); Chuck Bowles (Foundation Board, community member); Wayne Canty, (Foundation Board, community member); Denise Clemons (superintendent, Gardner public schools); Joana Dos Santos (member Board of Trustees, community member); Elmer Eubanks-Archbold, professor of business MWCC); Suzanne Farias (member Board of Trustees, community member); Patricia Marshall (member, Board of Higher Education); Ray Martino (member/ chairman, Foundation Board, community member); Dean Mazzarella, Mayor of Leominster, Community Member); Carla Morrissey (library assistant III MWCC); Kelly Morrissey (director of financial aid MWCC); Shaunti Phillips (senior community outreach counselor MWCC); and Cathy Teague (student, MWCC).

NOTES

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MO. When he left the White House, he moved home to his mother-in-law's modest home. I was on assignment to hand deliver a letter to former President Truman from the then sitting president, Richard Nixon. When I arrived, I was taken to the office of the Secret Service contingent assigned to Truman. I was surprised to find them not on the grounds of the Truman home but in another location across the street. In the main room were walls of televisions showing almost all parts of the outside of the Truman house. To make this story shorter, let me go right to the point.

When the service was offered, Truman refused to accept it. He was reported to have said if someone wanted to kill him, he would have attempted it between 1952 and 1963, and he thought it was ridiculous to protect him. The Service, required to protect him anyway, had to set up elsewhere, putting cameras on trees and in other locations, so they could protect their disinterested former president.

Another thing many people do not know is that Richard Nixon was offered the protection of the Secret Service after his resignation, as a former president. He later refused that protection and hired and paid for his own security detail.

Being president is a tough job. It includes risks to life and family. It is a small price for us to pay to do all we can to let our Presidents know we have their back.

What I would say to the Facebook complainer would be that he look to what it actually does cost New Yorkers to have the United Nations located in New York City, an incredible inconvenience as well as financial burden. That might be more worthy of concern.

JOURNEY

continued from page A4

issues too but here we still are, all these decades later. I credit in part our shared passion for politics, Terps hoops and fast racehorses as reasons for our bounce-backs.

My parents need walkers. My father can't hear much even with the hearing aids though he's mentally sharp as ever, often on the subject of Ravens QB Joe Flacco who despite winning a Super Bowl, has had the audacity to not be John Unitas. He gave up driving last spring after crashing through their garage. I chronicled that here. It was a no-brainer at that point but they have drivers and are able to go out to dinner or events at the JCC and senior center, so they aren't entirely house-bound. That's a good thing. As an aside, my other son Michael, a Navy veteran, didn't join us. He was helping serve other veterans. Classy for sure and he deserves great respect for doing so.

So yes, of course I was going and glad I did. I even got to go one night to the deli I hung out at

as a teenager, though it's relocated since. Back then, Suburban House was next to the movies so it was the perfect logistical dinner/movie date setup, though in 1969, grilled cheese wasn't \$8. We stayed last week at the Hilton where Eggs Benedict went for \$17.

That said, I didn't feel well at all. No, indeed. Agony seems to be the right word, especially for me whose pain tolerance is not exactly through the roof. Courtney thoughtfully even bought me one of those neck things to wear on the flight back, and speaking of flights, thanks so much to Tony for the transportation. Much appreciated.

Hence when we got back Saturday night, I spent six hours in Heywood's ER. Turns out I have and presumably have had pneumonia. Shocking, right? Noooo. Not at all. My head CT scan was okay, my EKG good and that agonizing pain in and around my head? Morphine is a wonder drug, at least short-term IV. I'm writing this Sunday morning so I'm likely to have had a quiet week (by my standards) by the time this is pub-

lished Friday. You might not see a whole lot else from me this week.

November. Two Novembers ago Riley crossed the Rainbow Bridge. 20 Novembers ago Courtney was diagnosed as Type 1 juvenile diabetic. 53 Novembers ago we lost a beloved President. The immortal T.S. Eliot once wrote "April is the cruellest month." Not a chance. And yet here I am. Hope your T-Day was happy. See you next week.





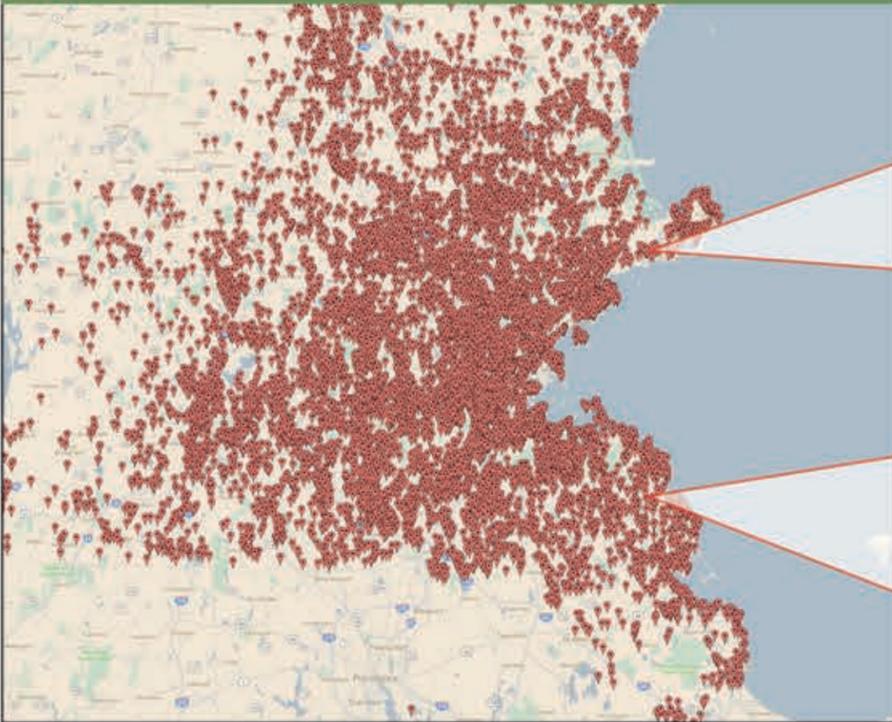
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Just the right thing

During its second season on the air, Saturday Night Live spoofed itself by declaring it was "celebrating a 50th of a century."

Well, To Each His Own Design is this year celebrating a quarter of a century of service to satisfied patrons from Winchendon and beyond.

When Michele Comeau first opened the doors of successful flower and gift shop those doors were attached to the building at 28 Front St. The store occupied the ground floor building, owned at the time by Gus Harris of Level Manufacturing. Instead of a set monthly amount, Harris charged Comeau a percentage of her profits for the month. That arrangement, said Comeau, helped her get To Each His Own Design off the ground. In fact, after 15 years she moved her business to its present location at 68 Central St.

Comeau is the quintessential "hometown girl." She graduated from Murdock in 1985. As a teen, she worked at Winchendon Flowers and Gifts under the tutelage of Pat Doyle and Dennis Ducharme.

She says she's always enjoyed working with the public and the flower and gift business.

The work, she says with conviction, is rewarding.

She explained "it's an easy way to make people happy. You're in the background, not the center of attention. But you help make someone's day."

Much of her business, she says, comes from "the staples" – birthdays, holidays, funerals, and everyday occasions. Her busiest times of the year are (as might be expected) Valentine's Day and the week before Mothers' Day.

She recently took part in the "celebration" of Small Business Saturday.

"It's not my busiest day of the year," she says, "but it really adds a positive boost to the holiday season."

While her bread-and-butter comes mainly from her flower business, Comeau also has a wide array of quality gift items for sale. You might find locally made mittens, and her shelves are stocked with goods ranging from candles to Christmas decoration; hundreds of items to make the home more, well, homey.

And she has nothing but praise for the people of her hometown.

"I'd say most of business comes from folks in town," she says. "The people are here really are beautiful. They're friendly, and they're very loyal."

"If you're a florist, you're a florist because you love what you do," she says.

Asked to describe how she feels after investing all the time, stress, and sweat it takes to run a business for 25 years, she quickly responds with one word: "content."

Have a country holiday in mind? Check here first.

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