



Photo by Keith Kent

Recent Mass Firefighting Academy call and volunteer firefighters graduation, representing the Winchendon Fire Department from left to right are new firefighter Betty-Jane Nicholson, Chief Tom Smith, and new firefighter Edward Coulter, with Templeton Fire Chief David Dickie, and new Templeton Fire Department member Drew Brassard.

Winchendon adds two new Firefighter Academy graduates

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The Winchendon Fire Department is pleased to announce the addition of two new firefighters, as Edward Coulter and Betty-Jane Nicholson celebrated their graduation at the Stowe campus on Tuesday.

Coulter and Nicholson, who were joined by 23 other graduates representing 13 fire departments, became members of the second of three classes to graduate this week, according to State Fire Marshal, Peter J. Ostroskey.

Completing a 240 hour comprehensive course, all graduates have met the National Fire Protection Association 1001 standards and requirements, allowing the ability to become certified to the level of Firefighter 1 and 2, along with hazardous materials first responder operational level by the Mass Fire Training Council, according to Jennifer Mieth, public information officer.

As part of earning their certification, all graduates have learned the basic skills needed to respond to, contain, and control fires,

as well as receiving public fire education, hazmat material incident mitigation, flammable liquids knowledge and training, stress management, firefighter self-rescue, and vehicle extraction. Other aspects of the program include physical fitness training, skills training, classroom instruction, and live firefighting practice.

Ostroskey said to start ceremonies, “It’s my great privilege on the behalf of the Department of Fire Services to welcome you here tonight as we celebrate with you the graduation of these new recruits of the call/volunteer recruit class number 69.”

Ostroskey continued, “I also have the privilege to work here every day with a terrific staff and terrific group of instructors at the Massachusetts Firefighters Academy. These professionals come back to the Firefighter Academy to deliver training day in and day out, and all are fire service personnel, active or retired, who are committed to our firefight-

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BOS weighs Blair Square options

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Plans currently call for the reconstruction of Central Street between Blair Square and Maple Street, with work due to get underway in 2020. Partly in response to that project, the town has asked the engineering firm of Tighe and Bond to weigh various options to improve the flow of traffic at Blair Square, where Central, Spring, Front, and High streets converge.

It is common for traffic turning left from Central Street to Spring Street to back up several cars deep and accelerating to make that turn can often be risky business. The intersection has certainly seen its share of fender-benders.

Tighe and Bond Vice President David Loring and project engineer Alex Fagnand met with selectmen Monday night to discuss steps that could be taken to improve traffic flow and safety at the troublesome square.

“The intersection currently...has a series of four traffic islands,” said Loring. “They really aren’t the kind of a design that we’d use today. They’re too small to be functional. When we look at intersections like this we talk about traffic conflict, where oppos-

ing vehicle movements conflict with each other. When you look at the current configuration with these traffic islands, you’re really creating additional points of conflict as motorists try to maneuver around them.”

“There’s also a lack of traffic signage and directional out there,” he said. “So, while locals may understand the movements, others entering that intersection may not. You really have a point of confusion as to where you should go. Luckily, because of the confusion, most of the traffic movement is slow.”

Loring said a traffic study revealed that during peak volume, more than 2,000 vehicles per hour move through the intersection.

Loring said Tighe and Bond looked at either installing a traffic light or constructing a roundabout to control traffic flow.

“I understand people have really strong opinions about each one of these options,” he said. “With traffic signals you’ve got aerial interference with sight lines. Modern roundabout is a new traffic pattern some people aren’t comfortable with.”

Turn To **BOS** page **A7**

Firms face sanctions for wetlands violations

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Two local companies are being called to enforcement hearings to answer to findings they violated the state’s Wetlands Protection Act during logging operations on a 230-acre parcel located off Teel and Bemis roads in Winchendon. The property is owned by Steven Powell, owner of Powell Stone and Gravel Company, Inc. and Winchendon Materials, LLC, both owned by Steven Powell and headquartered in Lunenburg.

In letters to Powell, Denise Childs, Wetland Chief for the state’s Bureau of Water Resources, said the state Department of Environmental Protection “intends to take enforcement action in response to your noncompliance. Possible actions may include issuance of an administrative consent order, a unilateral administrative order, a civil administrative penalty, or referral of this matter to

the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office.”

Winchendon Conservation Agent David Koonce said penalties could range from an order that damaged wetlands be restored to a financial penalty, or a combination of the two.

In an email to Powell, Childs said it is DEP’s hope “to reach a negotiated settlement that provides you an opportunity to have input on the corrective actions and penalties to be assessed.”

State and local conservation officials held a meeting last August to discuss a complaint filed with DEP claiming that tree harvesting on the property had occurred “in streams and around wetlands following the completion of a timber harvest that concluded last year (2016)...I witnessed substantial road construction and culvert installation. I did not witness any DEP permit information on site, and so my assumption

Turn To **WETLAND** page **A10**

Swanson on to national races

Richard Swanson not only became the first Murdock athlete in nearly two decades to qualify for the All-New England track meet to be held tomorrow, he also punched his ticket to next week’s national high school event at the New York City Armory with an outstanding race in last weekend’s 600 meters where he ran 1:23.93. A week earlier, an unseeded heat in 1:21:68, lowered his own school mark by two full seconds.

Swanson wasn’t the only star

performer at the Massachusetts Class V championships. Eighth grader Lily Digman and freshman Lexi Allard captured state crowns as well (600 meters and long jump respectively) and as a two-competitor team, piled up more points (28) than any MHS track team, boys or girls, had ever done.

Digman had been considered a significant underdog against older runners before her tour-de-force when she stopped the timer in 1:37, obliterating the school record and putting up

the eighth fastest number in the state at the time.

Allard not only won the state long jump title, she set a new school record in the 55 meters and finished second in the 55 hurdles.

That group might have posted the most headlines but it was a banner day for others as well. Ryan Thira and Steven Ingman ran personal bests in the 55 meters and mile respectively. Thira finished 15th overall while Ingman placed ninth.

Turn To **RACES** page **A9**

CDBG: one applied, another weighed

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon Planning and Development Director Tracy Murphy, in cooperation with the assistance of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, has spent the past couple of weeks putting the finishing touches on the town’s FY18 Community Development Block Grant application. The final request is due into the state Department of Housing and Community Development by the end of today. The total for the grant comes to \$550,000.

Unlike recent years, the town isn’t seeking any funding for roadwork. Grants from the previous two years included money for the reconstruction of Walnut and Chestnut streets. Walnut Street was completed last year and work on Chestnut Street is expected

to get underway in late spring or early summer.

“We decided to do more housing rehab (for FY18) because next year we’re going to try to do an infrastructure project, and infrastructure projects take up a lot of the money,” said Murphy. “So, if we propose 10 or 11 housing projects this year, next year we can only do one or two.”

Murphy said the town is seeking \$440,000 per housing rehab.

“That’s \$40,000 per project,” she added.

Murphy explained the housing rehab money is used to bring local residences up to code.

“A lot of different things qualify under that,” she continued. “The roof, the septic system. This year we had three septic systems.”

“Last year we only asked for \$30,000 per unit and we’ve done several single-case waivers because we’ve gone over that amount. The costs have just gone up.”

Murphy also explained the rehab grants are not to pay for aesthetic improvements to the home.

“It’s to improve peoples’ homes and take care of code violations, really, quality of life type of things. We want to make sure people are living in a safe home.”

The town is also seeking \$12,500 for fuel assistance. Last year the town had to practically beg people to apply for the help but, according to Murphy, that has changed.

“I think we’ve done a better job of making people aware that we have this program,” she said. “Last year was the

first year we did it, and we didn’t even the program going until late in the year. This year we were up and running in the middle of December. We were taking applications. It was just much more efficient this year.”

The Board of Selectmen recently endorsed the town’s application and received an update on plans for the FY19 grant.

“In a two-year span, the maximum we’re allowed to apply for is \$1.35 million,” Murphy said. “The most we can ask for in any one year is \$800,000, that’s why we asked for the \$550,000 this year. We wanted to maximize our available funds.”

Much of next year’s grant will, if approved, cover much of the cost of

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LOCAL

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SPORTS

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WEEKLY QUOTE

It is impossible to practice parliamentary politics without having patience, decency, politeness and courtesy.

– Khaleda Zia



CLYDE’S CORNER

Friday & Saturday, March 2 & 3

FOOTLOOSE! Murdock High School presents its annual musical, this year the coming of age and bittersweet Footloose. When a California teen moves to small town USA and finds it too strict for his taste, he finds ways to give a bit of freedom to his fellow students. 7 p.m. both nights, tickets available at the door or in advance by calling Murdock High School.

Saturday, March 10

MYCHAEL DAVID PROJECT: here it is! If you enjoyed the music at the annual Massachusetts chili cook off, then this evening is for you. Kiwanis of Winchendon have brought the Mychael David Project indoors for an evening at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Only \$10 per person. Tickets available at the door beginning at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 24

DAZED TILL DAWN! At the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club beginning at 9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 4

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:

Memorial School Kindergarten Registration for school year 2018-19: If your child will be 5 years of age by Aug. 31, 2018 then he/she is eligible for Kindergarten in the Fall of 2018. Open enrollment will begin on Monday, March 12 and run through Friday, April 6 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For those parents that are unable to register their child during that time, an evening registration will be held on Wednesday, April 4, between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Registration packets were mailed home on Friday, Feb. 16 (based on town census). If you do not receive a packet and your child is eligible, registration forms will be available on the District website at www.winchendonk12.org or you can call the school at (978) 297-1305 for more information.

Saturday, May 19

OWC: Operation Winchendon Cares - Remembering Our Current Military - to be held on Saturday, May 19, at the American Legion Post 193 on School Street, Winchendon from 9-11 a.m. For updates please visit our Facebook page or our website www.winchendoncares.com.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS

INDIVISIBLE WINCHENDON: The Indivisible Winchendon group meets every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. to discuss and organize creative, effective resistance to the Trump administration over the long term. We are liberal/progressive but non-partisan. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/381174492262359/>

MONDAY

LEGO CLUB: Beals Memorial Library, 50 Pleasant St. hosts a Lego Club for kids aged six-12, 3:30-4:30 p.m. every Monday afternoon the library is open. Show off your creative side. More information about this and other programs by calling (978) 297-0300 or visit townofwinchendon.com/bealmemoriallibrary.

TUESDAY

WINCHENDON NA MEETING: Hosted by UUCW and led by Winchendon residents, in collaboration with the Central Massachusetts area/New England Region of Narcotics Anonymous. This is an open meeting with general discussion and support, for anyone who is in recovery or wants to be. Please pass on this information to anyone you know who might be interested in, or benefit from, a meeting. We're working hard to get the word out! At the UU Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St, downstairs in the parish hall. Begins at 6:30 p.m.

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.

TINY TOTS PLAYGROUP: on Tuesday 10-11 at Beals Memorial Library, 50 Pleasant St. for toddlers aged 0-4. Songs, rhymes and sharing.

WEDNESDAY

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.

BINGO 2! Old Murdock Senior Center hosts Bingo on Wednesday afternoons at 12:15 p.m.

FRIDAY

FREE MOVIES: Throughout the summer, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church holds family movie nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. Bring a blanket, a chair, pillows and a few snacks for a free movie under the stars. Every movie will be a family rated G or PG bundle of fun. In case of bad weather, the movie will be shown the following day, Saturday. Check the Facebook page for the name of each week's movie.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

WINCHENDON

\$255,000 158 West St, Purposeful Realty LLC, to Martin, Jonathan.
\$252,500 53 Elmwood Rd, Roberts, William M, and Johnston, Brandi, to Balthaser, Ryan P.
\$152,000 436 Maple St, Veilleux, Noel P, and Veilleux, Maureen, to Hart, Christopher M.
\$127,500 74 Front St, Charters Dental Arts Lab, to Gauthier, Lisa.
\$35,000 67 Juniper St, Manson Mickey D Est, and Manson, Robert B, to ZBH RT, and Hagemeyer, Melissa.



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COURIER CAPSULES

University Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2017-18 academic year. To qualify for this academic honor, the student must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5. Lauren McMillen of Templeton and Jacob Wood of Fitzwilliam.

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Sarah McQuiston of Winchendon has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2017 semester.

DURHAM, NH — The following students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2017 semester.

Skylar Preston-White of Fitzwilliam with High Honors, Joshua Joslyn of Fitzwilliam with High Honors, Laura Howard of Jaffrey with Highest Honors, Peter White of Jaffrey with Honors, Gregory Sopper of Jaffrey with Honors, Brandon Smith of Jaffrey with Highest Honors, Nicholas Lacroix of Rindge with Highest Honors, and Elizabeth Valcourt of Rindge with Highest Honors

GARDNER — The following local Mount Wachusett Community College students who completed a minimum of 12 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.99 were named to the **Dean's List** for the fall 2017 semester: Ashburnham: Curtis Caldwell, David Caruso, Kevin Chambers, Richard Egan, Karin Gould, Jennifa Graves, Jacob Hagelberg, Katherine Herndon, Jackie Lane, Toby LaRoche, Kelsey March, Ashley Salem, Nathaniel Stockbridge, Stephen Streeks; Baldwinville: Julie Ehnstrom, Kyle Gaetani, Jacqueline Morse, Corey Smith, Isabell Thompson; Gardner: Caterina Amico, Kaitlyn Aube, Aaliyha Baldwin-Pierce, David Belitsky, Deidra Brown, Christina Bruce, Cynthia Cajigas, Dylan Cernoia, Brendan Conlin, Megan DiVito, Heather Dobbs, Theodore Doucette, Arnusith Duangsay, Carlos Duran, Abigail Elbourn, Andrew Ferreira, Rachael Gerde, Moses Gomez, Lauren Goodwin, Anna Harvey, Ifra Hassan, Cesar Herrera, Amanda Johnson, Heather Jones, Erin Kiewel, Allyson Landry, Sarah Luoma, Alphoncina Lyamuya, Nicholas McCarthy, Casey Merritt, Carlee Mills, Cyprine Momanyi, Crystal Navaroli, Timothy Nowlan, Nathan Oliva, Anastasia Panageotes, Nicholas Papa, Sahil Prajapati, Taylor Putnam, Trevor Raux, Araya Richard, Nicholas Russo, Ryan Satterfield, Mitchell Smith,

Jonathan Sosa, Jessica St. John, Kaitlyn Tanner, Kevin Theriault, Eva Tolman-Brown, Alan Wong, Kendall Yates; Phillipston: Jacob Hammond, Briana Navarajo, Elizabeth Whiting; Royalston: Kassandra Frazier, Melissa Persson; Templeton: Suzanne Eglington, Savannah Green, Connor Kelly, Franklin Moschetti; Winchendon: Larry Agnelli, Lindsay Allaire, Kayla Bennett, Myranda Bishop, Philipp Blouin, Allyson Bois, Jaclyn Cloutier, Nicholas Coddington, Elizabeth Fitzgibbons, David Fortin, Marissa Galat, Curtis Gerard Baril, Lillian Haas, Rachel Haley, Catherine Jankowski, Michael LeBlanc, Katherine Miller, Olivia Oliveira-LaForest, Scott Ploskonka, Frances Sanchez, Macy Saulnier, Megan Skinner, Holly Tata, Meghan Williams, Christopher Yang; Fitzwilliam: Tonya Wakefield; Jaffrey: Courtney Emond, Madaleine Mitchell, Julia Van Houten; Rindge: Andie Burnett, Austin Carey, Lindsey Seppala, Austin Stacy, and Dylan Wright.

GARDNER – The following local Mount Wachusett Community College students who completed a minimum of 12 semester hours with a grade point average of 4.0 were named to the **President's List** for the fall 2017 semester: Ashburnham: Brandt Bodley-Gomes; Baldwinville: Dylan Oxford, Kelsey Rayner; Gardner: Jon Moss, Alison Richardson, Amy Rogers; Templeton: Garrett Dora, Daniel Eaton, Allison Guthrie, Paula Rosario; Winchendon: Webster Batista-Lin, Maria Javien, Jana Murphy, Julia Shelly, Thomas Sutherland, and Jacob VanHillo.

NEWTON — Lasell College in Newton announced students named to the fall 2017 Dean's List. Students with this accomplishment are full-time degree candidates who completed 12 or more credits in the fall semester, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. This semester's Dean's List encompasses students from all class years and over 30 majors, including 157 members of the school's freshman class. Brianna Dellechiaie of Winchendon, event management, Class of 2018 and Bethany Hector of Jaffrey, secondary education and English, Class of 2021. sza

WEST HARTFORD, CT — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Tyler Coppo of Fitzwilliam has been named to its Dean's List for

Turn To **CAPSULES** page **A3**

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Monty Tech JROTC works at Houston

During school vacation last week, Paul Jornet, the Marine Corps Junior ROTC instructor for Massachusetts Regional Vocational Technical School took 56 of his cadets and 15 adults across country to the Houston area to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey, as part of the self-proclaimed Mission Texas: Operation Restore Hope. Another 140 cadets had to be left at home because logistics couldn't to support them.

The work in south of Houston was to honor an Army soldier from that area who was killed in the Korean War and who'd been denied a Congressional Medal of Honor because of his Hispanic heritage. The oversight was corrected after Congress ordered a Pentagon review in 2002 of thousands of medals to learn if race or Jewish religion had played a role in any Congressional Medals of Honor being withheld. The review spanned World War II through September 2001 and in March 2014, President Obama awarded Congressional Medals of Honor to two dozen soldiers, including Michael C. Pena, of Newgulf, Texas.

Jornet's cadets raised \$60,000 through fundraising, plus got corporate sponsorship for \$10,000 worth of supplies such as drills, ladders and gloves. The United States Marine Corps donated \$50,000 for

airfare and meals.

The cadets flew to Houston's William P. Hobby Airport Feb. 16 and returned home Feb. 23. When they weren't working up to 16 hours a day on 15 houses in Wharton, Texas, they slept in the local Boys & Girls Club of America.

"I'm still moved by it," said Jornet, a retired Marine Corps First Sergeant. "Moved by the people who volunteered."

There's a good backstory to the trip. Jornet's Marine Corps buddy John Pena was the grandson of medal recipient (award is never given, it's received) Michael C. Pena. The elder Pena joined the U.S. Army as an infantryman in 1941 who fought in World War II and the Korean War. With his unit under fierce attack near Waegwan, Korea, on the evening of Sept. 4, 1951, Pena ordered his troops to fall back while he gave them covering fire with a machine gun, according to the U.S. Army. Pena single-handedly held back the enemy until the next morning when he was overrun and killed. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. That award was upgraded after the Pentagon review ordered by Congress.

Toraise awareness of the honor awarded his grandfather, John Pena decided to walk 63 miles from Houston to Michael

C. Pena's hometown Newgulf under the Texas sun in the summer of 2014 — a mile for each year his grandfather was denied the Congressional Medal of Honor. Jornet and a few others joined the walk.

"John really wanted people in that area to know they had a hero," Jornet said. "Somebody who had done a very courageous act, and that became the basis for the walk."

Jornet decided to take the idea of the walk a step further. He teaches his Junior ROTC cadets that America is like a ship rolling to the left and to the right and sometimes you need to put it on an even keel. We, as a country, have an obligation to recognize the men and women who sacrifice themselves for the greater good. After Hurricane Harvey tore through parts of Texas and Louisiana, causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage, Jornet decided to honor Michael C. Pena's sacrifice by helping rebuild the region.

"I used this as a leadership exercise for my students," he said. "We can talk about it or do something."

Jornet worked with a community activist in Texas who had helped coordinate the original 63-mile walk to find homes on which to work and shelter for the cadets last week.

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.news.

Kerrigan quits race

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The spirited battle for the Democratic nomination in the Third Congressional District has one less candidate in the race. Steve Kerrigan, the party's standard-bearer for lieutenant governor in 2014 withdrew this week following the death of his mother.

"It has been an incredibly difficult time for my father, brother, sister, and our whole family," he said.

Kerrigan added he doesn't plan to endorse any of the remaining dozen or so candidates hoping to succeed Rep. Nikki Tsongas, who is retiring after serving since 2007.

Last week, former US Ambassador to Norway Rufus Gifford became the first candidate in the race to visit Winchendon when he stopped by the Cruisin' 12 Diner on School Street. No other campaigns have indicated plans to come to the town in advance of the Sept. 18 primary.

Remaining candidates include Alexandra Chandler, Adjihit Das, Dan Koh, Barbara L'Italien, Juana Matias, Bopha Malone, Nadeen Mazem, Terri Ryan and Lori Trahan.

The largest fund-raisers so far include Koh, a former chief of staff for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Trahan, who served UMass Lowell chancellor Marty Meehan in the same role when Meehan was in Congress, state Senator L'Italien, and Gifford.

The District stretches across parts of Essex and Middlesex counties as well as a portion of Worcester county. All of Winchendon except for Precinct 1 is in the Third. Precinct 1 is in the Second, represented by Rep. Jim McGovern.

View from the tower

BY SUE POLCARI

Last week may have been the winter break from school, but lots of school activities were still occurring! Rehearsals for the school musical, cheerleading practices for upcoming regional competition and track practices for post season meets have been occurring.

The varsity cheerleaders will be competing in regional competition at Holyoke High School on Sunday, March 4th. Good Luck!

Indoor Track: Many members of the track team have been achieving personal best scores, breaking school records and achieving huge accomplishments. See more specific information elsewhere in this newspaper. Congratulations to Lilly Digman who qualified for the New England Track and Field championship! Richard Swanson III placed 4th in the 600 meter at the All-State Meet, setting a new school record and qualifying for the National Meet. On 2/27, Alexia Allard broke the school record in the Indoor Pentathlon. Briahna Bouchard also achieved 3 personal bests in her strong finish in the pentathlon. The New England Championship Meet will be held tomorrow.

February Students of the Month, recognized at a recent School Committee meeting, are as follows: Morgan Coderre, Grade 12 (Murdock Academy), Molly Murphy, Grade 12 (Murdock



Klhoë O'Brien (pre-K) Student of the Month with her family.

High School), Kayden Gordon, Grade 7 (Murdock Middle School), Matthew Tranbarger, Grade 4 (Toy Town Elementary School), Bradley Schofield, Grade 1 (Memorial Elementary School), Klhoë O'Brien, Pre-K (Memorial Pre-School). Congratulations!

Get your tickets to Footloose! Performances are tonight at 7:00 and tomorrow night at 7:00. Tickets are available at the door!

Spring Sports registration is open now! Register your student by logging into FamilyID.com.



Bradley Schofield (Grade 1) Student of the Month with his family.

CAPSULES

continued from page A2

Fall 2017.

MANCHESTER, NH — Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the College, announced that the following students have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2017 semester at Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire. Caroline Chlebeczek of Winchendon, classical archaeology, class of 2020; William Bearce of Jaffrey, history, class of 2019 Jaffrey

WESTON — Regis, a Catholic university in Greater Boston, is pleased to announce that 527 students have made the Dean's List for academic achievement for the 2017 fall semester. Shannon St. Onge, of Baldwinville is among the students who made the Dean's List. St. Onge is class of 2021.

LOWELL — Local residents have been named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Among those recognized for achieving academic distinction for the fall semester at UMass Lowell are: From Ashburnham: Stephen Foster majoring in plastics engineering, Courtney Mercier majoring in music studies, Sian Michael majoring in music performance, Devin Resnik majoring in environmental science; from Gardner: Marcus Campbell of Gardner majoring in business administration, Alyson Comeau majoring in nutritional science, Elmer Melendez majoring in com-

puter science, Patrick Moore majoring in business administration, and Carlos Ticas Rodas majoring in biology; from Phillipston: Alexander Howard majoring in mathematics and Acacia Langlais majoring in exercise physiology; from Templeton: Brianna Dowse majoring in exercise physiology, Justice Graves majoring in computer engineering, and Shane Rickman majoring in business administration; from Winchendon: Thomas Becotte majoring in criminal justice, Andrew Burns majoring in physics, Joel DeVelis majoring in business administration, Matthew Galat majoring in electrical engineering, Jordan Manuel majoring in exercise physiology, and Jacob Michelson majoring in business administration.

DARTMOUTH — The following University of Massachusetts Dartmouth students have been named to the Dean's List, (grade point average of 3.2 or higher out of a possible 4.0) for the Fall 2017 Semester: Carynn Rheame and Cameron Whittle; Winchendon: Andrea Bickford



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WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI
EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

30 years of notoriety

There is an old adage about squeaky wheels and etc., etc.

Which is true up to a point. We truly do pay attention to a part or a piece making noise. We fix it, or oil it, or replace it entirely with a newer model.

Keep that in mind.

Because we were enlightened this week by a “new” month that’s been around for a whole 30 years and we were blissfully unaware. We probably knew, shrugged it off, and went about the business of actual work; but for some reason this year it slammed back in our faces again.

International Women’s Month.

Huh?

We know. We do know about inequality, we live it. We know about subversive behavior. We know about unfair labor practices and fighting for attention and how long it took to get the vote and all of it. The ERA is still out there sniveling.

But....

While righteous women are celebrating what has been accomplished (and yes, me too). Because yes, it is true. And there are wars to be fought over the way people live worldwide; women in America? Really?

If you aren’t happy with your pay, (and no one is, we all think we are worth more), either buck up and ask for more, find a different job, add a way to supplement your income, find ways to save money elsewhere so you aren’t spending as much or join with other people around you in your place of business and ask what can be done. Don’t whine internationally. Work locally.

If you don’t like what is happening with the schools or the government or potholes in your street, then attend meetings, join a committee, talk to your neighbors, find the right people, find out how to vote for the people who will make a difference or run for office yourself. More women in office only happens if more women actually get involved. Don’t whine. Get involved.

If you truly don’t want something to happen in your children’s schools; are fearful of the atmosphere, then find out about posing neighborhood watch

groups, get involved with school based groups and committees and find out what is or can be done to keep kids safe; it starts in your own neighborhood, not with national laws.

Even with mental health issues. Can you help? Can you volunteer? Man a crisis intervention hot line? A suicide prevention phone?

Women are far from being the so called weaker sex here. They never have been. The expectations have changed because society has changed; and some women do adapt better than others.

As for history books and a whole month of paying attention? Well, ok. History books are always written by the winners; and for hundreds of years they have also been written by fusty old white men too. So if people want to get on their hobby horses and carry on about strong people we don’t always hear about, that’s good for us to know.

The day you stop learning is a bad thing.

On a whole different note we’d like to talk about local elections for a minute. In an age of tight budgets, slimmed down staffs and everything done via email, we are not going to be taking time to interview every single candidate for local public office this year. Instead, we will be sending out a survey of questions and requesting candidates take some thoughtful time to answer them, return them to us and we will print those answers the week before local elections. We are concentrating on the larger offices like selectmen and school committees; and contested offices; but we do invite everyone running for office to send their own letters to the editor explaining why they are choosing to run and a brief biography. We feel it is the best way to give space in the paper to everyone, to make certain everyone is fairly asked the same questions (we will be sending every candidate three or four questions to answer); and give everyone an equal opportunity to share their views and ideas.

Any questions please contact the editor at ruth@stonebridgepress.news.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OWC: another successful drive

To the Editor:

A lot of love was sent to our troops on February 10th by the residents of Winchendon. Twenty one packages were sent stateside and twenty four packages were sent overseas! This was the 50th mailing that Operation Winchendon Cares has completed!

A huge thank you goes to Stephen & Sheba Ashmore, Joni Gorecki and Ann Marie Slomcheck for overseeing everything while we were out of town! They are amazing. As always thanks go out to Will Brown for hosting our website, Sweet Treat Bakery for delivering our cookies and shrink wrapping them for freshness, the Blue Star Mothers Leominster Chapter for the Texas Roadhouse gift cards and the American Legion Post 193 for contributing towards the postage as well as allowing us the use of the hall. A huge thank you to the Winchendon School for transporting & unloading the packages at the Post Office.

Thanks to the following who donated to our Holiday Drive but were too late for the article in the paper: Betty Allaire, Charlotte Drury and the First Day Warriors — Murdock High School. Thank you to our volunteers who help separate the donations and pack the boxes and/or donate money towards the postage or an item: Lynn & Anthony Ahola (Wolf Cubs 193); ALA

Unit 174 - Ellen Brooks & Jenn Brooks; Anonymous; Steve & Sheba Ashmore; Sheila Beane; Blue Star Mothers Leominster; Megan Bohan & Family; Sandy Bowler; Cub Scout Pack 193; Liz Findley; Joni Gorecki; Coral & Rachel Grout; Julie Holly; Mary Kauppila; Tony Lapointe; Kayla & Mikey Maine; Catherine Manca; Kirsten Maxfield; Memorial School — Mrs. Flemings First Grade Class, Mrs. Lyons First Grade Class, Miss Smith’s Second Grade Class, Mrs. Smith’s 2nd Grade Class; Lynn Murray’s TTE Class; the Nasiatka family; Barbara Nicolette; Lindsay & Emily Smith; Ann Marie & Matt Slomcheck; Colby & Abigale& Nicole St. Pierre and the Winchendon School — Miranda Jennings, Sean Liu, Marashi Yeshihna, Dmitry Kolesnikov, Alex TurnBull, Bradley Bigelow, SergeyKestov, Epe Gonendir, Evean Noring, Nino Neuen, Shuto Terashina, Bill Karis.

Please mark your calendars for our next Operation Winchendon Cares - Remembering Our Current Military - to be held on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the American Legion Post 193 on School Street, Winchendon from 9-11 a.m. For updates please visit our Facebook page or our website www.winchendoncares.com.

Thank you Winchendon and beyond!

LARRY & LINDA SORDONI



LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor are always welcome, and may be sent to ruth@stonebridgepress.news, or The Winchendon Courier, 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. Be sure to include a name and residence. Please refrain from sending letters via fax, and be sure to supply a home address and phone number to allow for confirmation. Allow at least 48 hours for a response.

Letters must be submitted by noon Friday to ensure publication in the following week’s issue. Every effort will be made to accommodate late submissions, but inclusion can not be guaranteed. The rules of good taste and libel will, of course, apply to all submissions. Personal attacks will not be published. The editor retains the right to edit all letters.

The last non-partisan evangelical

“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.” – Billy Graham



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

My maternal grandfather and great grandfather were both Baptist ministers. My grandmother was a church organist, and my mother was on the Board of Christian Education at our church. When I was a senior in high school (you’d better sit down for this) I was a Sunday school teacher. My mother, however, was also a teacher who encouraged her students — and, thankfully, her children — to find their own their own truth.

My search for that truth may have led me into the camp peopled by the likes of Richard Dawkins, Neil deGrasse Tyson, and Christopher Hitchens, but one of my fondest childhood memories remains sitting in front of our black-and-white television watching Billy Graham Crusade specials. Yes, specials. They were, after all, shown in prime time on one of

the (at that time) three major networks.

Mom wasn’t big on televangelists. She preferred Christians who lived their faith over those who just talked a good game. But she admired Billy Graham. She saw him as sincere. He was not cloaked in hypocrisy like other radio and TV ministers; those carried away by their own fame and talent for fleecing the desperate and the naïve out of not only their cash but — worse — their hope and their faith.

There certainly were times I found myself at odds with Rev. Graham. His opposition to homosexuality and gay marriage comes quickly to mind. Yet, while I disagreed with him, I also understood the perspective from which he assessed

those issues. (Contrary to a scurrilous meme that arose on social media shortly after the good reverend’s passing, Billy Graham never — never — called for the castration of homosexuals.)

Equally disturbing, H.R. Haldeman, former aide to Pres. Richard Nixon, once recalled a conversation between Graham and Nixon following a 1972 prayer breakfast. Graham, according to Haldeman, faulted Jews for the “pornography” being shown on television and movie screens. The Jewish “stranglehold” on the media, he said, “has got to be broken or the country is going down the drain.”

Graham — in a move completely alien to most of today’s political and religious leaders — eventually summoned the character to apologize. His apology, made in 2003, was too little and came about three decades too late for many. But at least he made it.

Often criticized for his closeness to Nixon, Rev. Graham was nonetheless decidedly

non-partisan. He ministered to presidents of differing levels of faith, from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. Christianity, after all, was supposed to be for everyone.

But, around 1980, televangelists hungry for power began supporting politicians they believed could help write their religious beliefs into law books and the U.S. Constitution itself. Ayatollahs of the religious right, like Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, Pat Robertson, Tim LaHaye, and others turned their branch of Christianity into little more than an outreach and fundraising arm of the Republican Party. And GOP politicians have become all too willing to return the favor; sponsoring so-called “pro-life” amendments to the Constitution, submitting legislation declaring Christianity the official religion of the United States, proposing laws requiring the teaching of Creationism in science classes, and pushing for the return of the Lord’s Prayer to public schools.

In the meantime, we see evangelicals rushing to the defense of Roy Moore, the defeated GOP candidate for the U.S. Senate from Alabama accused by eight women of sexual misconduct — some of whom were teenagers at the time. We see them excusing Donald Trump’s alleged affairs with a porn actress and a Playboy bunny which took place shortly after his wife, Melania, gave birth to the couple’s only son. And we see them rationalizing Mr. Trump’s boasts about women allowing him to grope them because he is “powerful.”

In 2007, Billy Graham said, “I’m all for morality, but morality goes beyond sex to human freedom and social justice... Evangelists cannot be closely identified with any particular party or person. We have to stand in the middle in order to preach to all people, right and left.”

The evangelical movement, if it’s ever to regain any credibility, could use a whole lot more Billy Grahams in this day and age.

That week. Again

13 years. Next Wednesday, March 7, will mark 13 years since I suffered the heart attack in the Philadelphia airport which became the catalyst for this series of essays which began a few weeks later. Courtney was with me that day and while I am glad I am still here, I am sure you will understand my heart is heavy, so heavy, every minute of every day, I don’t know whether it originated with him or not but I am reminded of what Joe Biden has been saying regarding the passing of his son Beau. Says Biden, something like, ‘you know you’re doing better when the thought of the person you miss brings a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye’. A wise philosophy indeed. I’m in sort of a transitional phase. Perhaps that represents progress?

Anyway, “crying white mothers are ratings gold”. Yes, those words really were uttered at last week’s CPAC conference, the annual gathering of alleged conservatives. They were spoken by Dana Loesch, an NRA mouthpiece. Think about the insensitivity, the unhelped ugliness of such a statement. Let them sink in. Loesch was the most vile, but she wasn’t alone in voicing imbecilic garbage. NRA chief Wayne Lapierre warned a socialist state was coming for the guns. He used to spout this nonsense during the Obama presidency and here he is, in



JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART
JERRY
CARTON

scared. They must be. But even so, their desperate extremism reveals them for who they are, and I say this with complete seriousness, the NRA is the American Taliban, inflexible, uncompromising, fearful, essentially jihadist. Too strong a portrayal, you say? “Crying white mothers are ratings

the second year of the current Administration, throwing out the same red meat. Turn on CNN and see once rational former Congressman Jack Kingston mocking and verbally assailing those kids from Parkland.

These people and the followers who believe their filth are running scared. They must be. But even so, their desperate extremism reveals them for who they are, and I say this with complete seriousness, the NRA is the American Taliban, inflexible, uncompromising, fearful, essentially jihadist. Too strong a portrayal, you say? “Crying white mothers are ratings

gold”. What more do you need?

So here we are. To call us the “united” states is absurd. We are not. There are those who will insist we still, collectively, have more shared values than opposing values. I’m not at all sure that’s true. I think a lot of us have shared values about pluralism, inclusion, compassion, fairness and decency but it feels very much like we’re being outshouted by those who, as I have said before, profess to love America but clearly hate so many of their fellow Americans.

And yet there is hope.

“We’ve been waiting for you,” Barack Obama tweeted last week in a shout out to all the in many cases newly activist young people. All those kids

Massachusetts a hypocrite when it comes to firearms and mental health

As the heated and often times strongly divided debate continues over what to do about the complicated firearms laws in our nation, there is profound proof very close to home regarding a lack of proper mental health informational sharing when involving firearms. The proof is, "Massachusetts will not share with any state."

Yes, you have read correctly. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, when requested by another state to share any available mental health records regarding firearms applications by Mass residents to another state as "Out of State Applicants," responds to the requesting state with a resounding "denied," and big thumbs down.

Upon previously calling the head licensing authority for the state of Maine when then requesting why my application as an out of state resident was taking nearly four months to process, I was personally shocked to learn



ANYTHING NEAR & FAR • • • • • KEITH KENT

the cause of delay was a legal informational blockade to which our Commonwealth sternly adheres.

The reason, believe it or not, are the laws currently as worded and in place regarding your Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act rights.

The Act created with the best of intentions, was designed to provide protection for personal health information. HIPPA first enforced in 1996 and over two decades prior, is nothing short of a giant legal roadblock to other states when they try to prevent mentally unstable people from doing all of us harm.

As Maine is now a Constitutional Carry State or "CCS," meaning they now accept the license of the state you reside in as qualified while within their boundaries, some would say this situation with Maine as an example now has no meaning, which is simply incorrect.

Any licensed firearms owner can still apply for a Maine license as an out of state resident, as it carries reciprocity with other states subject to possible legal limitations. So again, when a person from Massachusetts applies and Maine asked for your mental health information, Mass again denies the request. This also applies to all other states.

Our nation, while often called the "50 States," has 46 states and four commonwealths, which are Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Kentucky. Massachusetts, along with the state of New York, offer no reciprocity and neither accept or recognize any firearms license from any other state or commonwealth.

Under the current HIPPA laws as worded, Massachusetts will not share "any" mental health information with any other state or commonwealth when a Massachusetts resident applies to their state as an out of state resident, no matter how strongly the receiving state of the license application requests it.

Knowledge is power my fellow cit-

izens. When people say the mental health system here in our nation is broken, it's a gigantic understatement. HIPPA is but one of countless examples I could provide with how efforts to stop an unstable person from obtaining firearms or even carrying firearms in another state has and is failing us all immensely as law abiding citizens every day.

It is time to contact our representatives no matter if a legal firearms owner or not, and stand up for change when regarding HIPPA's legal relationship with mental health and informational sharing regarding firearms.

As a lawful firearms owner I, like vast majority of my fellow enthusiasts, do not want either guns or licenses falling in to the hands of mentally unstable people, and neither should you. While many want blame the NRA, I will bet my bottom dollar most of them never dreamed HIPPA plays a solid role in the mental health information and firearms fiasco which plagues our nation.



FREEDOM WATCH • • • • • JOHN WHITEHEAD

Mass shootings have become routine in the United States and speak to a society that relies on violence to feed the coffers of the merchants of death. Given the profits made by arms manufacturers, the defense industry, gun dealers and the lobbyists who represent them in Congress, it comes as no surprise that the culture of violence cannot be abstracted from either the culture of business or the corruption of politics. Violence runs through US society like an electric current offering instant pleasure from all cultural sources, whether it be the nightly news or a television series that glorifies serial killers."—Professor Henry A. Giroux

We are caught in a vicious cycle.

With alarming regularity, the nation is being subjected to a spate of violence that terrorizes the public, destabilizes the country's fragile ecosystem, and gives the government greater justifications to crack down, lock down, and institute even

Merchants of Death AMERICA'S TOXIC CULT OF VIOLENCE TURNS DEADLY

more authoritarian policies for the so-called sake of national security without many objections from the citizenry.

Take the school shooting that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL on Valentine's Day: 17 people, students and teachers alike, were killed by Nikolas Cruz, a 19-year-old former student armed with a gas mask, smoke grenades, magazines of ammunition, and an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle.

This shooting, which is being chalked up to mental illness by the 19-year-old assassin, came months after a series of mass shootings in late 2017, one at a church in Texas and the other at an outdoor country music concert in Las Vegas. In both the Texas and Las Vegas attacks, the shooters were dressed like a soldier or militarized police officer and armed with military-style weapons.

As usual following one of these shootings, there is a vocal outcry for enacting more strident gun control measures, more mental health checks, and

heightened school security measures.

Also as usual, in the midst of the finger-pointing, no one is pointing a finger at the American police state or the war-drenched, violence-imbued, profit-driven military industrial complex, both of which have made violence America's calling card.

Ask yourself: Why do these mass shootings keep happening? Who are these shooters modelling themselves after? Where are they finding the inspiration for their weaponry and tactics? Whose stance and techniques are they mirroring?

Mass shootings have taken place at churches, in nightclubs, on college campuses, on military bases, in elementary schools, in government offices, and at concerts. In almost every instance, you can connect the dots back to the military-industrial complex, which continues to dominate, dictate and shape almost every aspect of our lives.

We are a military culture engaged in continuous warfare. We have been a nation at war

for most of our existence.

We are a nation that makes a living from killing through defense contracts, weapons manufacturing and endless wars.

We are being fed a steady diet of violence through our entertainment, news and politics.

All of the military equipment

Turn To **FREEDOM** page **A6**

CARTON continued from page A4

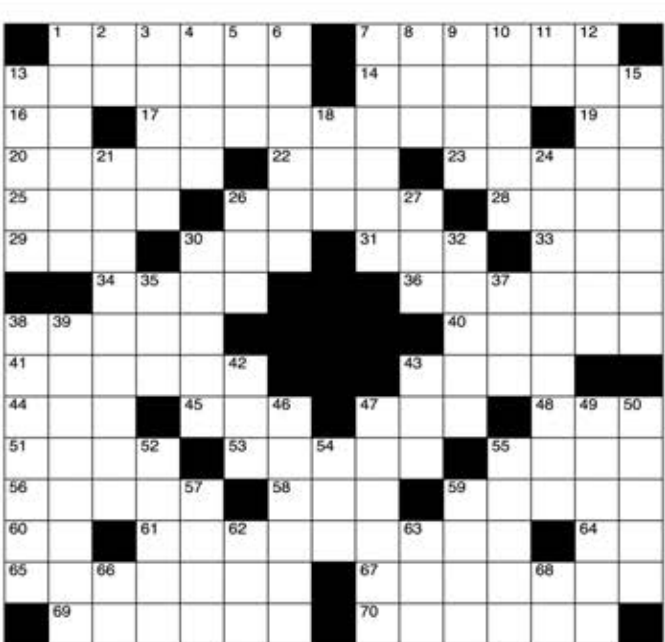
we saw in the streets of many cities and towns last week? They reminded me of my generation taking to the streets to protest the war in Vietnam and support the Civil Rights movement. It took a while, but we helped turn the country, not instantly but gradually.

I hope we're seeing the beginnings of the same process now, this time about guns yes, but also about how we treat and care for one another. Yes, we do indeed need a revolution, but it has to be an electoral revolution and these brave kids, representatives of a generation too easily dismissed and scorned, are paving the way for that revolution.

The next steps are both easy and hard. The easy part? Register to vote and then actually vote. The hard part? Recognizing and accepting that changing gun laws even on a state level will almost certainly require patience because that's how the legislative process works. After all, it took 101 years from the release of the Emancipation Proclamation to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Obviously codifying social change into law usually isn't going to take that long, but the point is

that change can be evolutionary. On the other hand, the legalization of same-sex marriage seemed to take place pretty quickly. Regardless, the bottom line is that activism requires tenacity. I'm guessing and hoping this awakening of citizen participation isn't going to stop anytime soon. The horror in

Florida combined with the simple meanness of this presidency has spurred activism unseen in nearly half a century. Perhaps from catastrophe can come continuing commitment to bringing about change. God knows we can't go on like this. Agreed? See you next week.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Shaded inner regions

7. Overlapping part of a garment

13. Type of smartphone

14. Fall apart

16. Football's big game (abbr.)

17. Crocodilian reptile

19. Of I

20. Swamp plant

22. Sun can help you get one

23. Hops, __ and jumps

25. Cuckoos

26. Small cavities in rocks

28. American traitor

29. Tooth caregiver

30. Popular fish

31. Ottoman military leader

33. Anger

34. Fish of the mackerel family

36. Some people can't eat it

38. Amer. Revolutionary War battle
40. Misleading ads

41. Atomic number 76

43. A type of castle security

44. Sunscreen rating

45. Very fast airplane

47. Vigor

48. 007's creator

51. __ and that

53. Indicating silence

55. Brown and gray rail

56. Nocturnal insects

58. Make an incision

59. Norwegian village

60. Commercial

61. Criminal

64. Northeast

65. Clouds of gas and dust in outer space

67. Mysterious things

69. One who won't be forgotten

70. Starts over

CLUES DOWN

1. Straighten

2. Gives medical advice (abbr.)

3. Touts

4. One's job

5. Afflict in mind or body

6. Proofed

7. Capital of Angola

8. Social insect living in organized colonies

9. Ones who are financially compensated

10. Jacket

11. Electron volt

12. Tuned

13. Syrian leader

15. Reduces

18. Congress' investigative arm

21. Make uneasy

24. A fake

26. Any thick messy substance

27. Goad

30. Titan
32. Continental Congress delegate for NY

35. Peyton's younger brother

37. Fiddler crab

38. Delivers the mail

39. Liliaceous plant

42. Mountain Time

43. Where wrestlers work

46. Secured

47. Dog breed

49. Where rockers perform

50. Nostrils

52. Express doubt

54. Pointer

55. Slang for sergeant

57. Selling at specially reduced prices

59. Six (Spanish)

62. Holds nonperishables

63. Between northeast and east

66. Exist

68. Meitnerium



SUDOKU

	6							2
		7		2			1	
	9					8		7
7				5	1			
			4		6	7	3	
		4			2	5		
2			9			6		
		6					4	
3	7				8			

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

5	2	9	8	6	4	7	1	3
8	5	6	2	7	3	1	4	9
3	9	6	7	5	8	9	1	4
6	9	8	5	2	3	7	4	1
1	3	7	9	6	5	4	8	2
4	6	2	5	1	8	9	3	7
7	5	1	2	6	4	3	9	8
1	9	2	3	6	4	8	7	5
6	4	8	7	5	2	9	3	1

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



POLICE LOG

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

Police agencies can no longer print the names of people who are arrested or charged with domestic assault related charges. The new law is designed to protect victims, so they are not re-victimized through indirect identification.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
1:50-3:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:11 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:19 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:30 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:40 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:56 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 6:06 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 6:34 a.m.: ambulance (Vaine Street), transported; 7:30 a.m.: DPW call (West Street), referred; 8:25 a.m.: extra patrols (Spruce Street), info taken; 8:38 a.m.: investigation (Teel Road), report taken; 9:11 a.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), services rendered; 10:20 a.m.: property found (Central Street), info taken; 10:24 a.m.: investigation (Front Street), spoken to; 11:28 a.m.: animal complaint (Lakeshore Drive), referred to ACO; 12:30 p.m.: property found (Central Street), info taken; 12:35 p.m.: summons service (Polly's Drive), served; 12:43 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), assisted; 12:45 p.m.: ambulance (Tolman Road), transported; 12:57 p.m.: harassment (Central Street), referred to other PD; 1:05 p.m.: keep the peace (Cedar Street), assisted; 1:44 p.m.: fraud (Pearl Drive), report taken; 2:07 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 2:09 p.m.: sex offender registration (Elmwood Road), info taken; 2:16 p.m.: loitering (Spruce Street), spoken to; 2:25 p.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln Avenue), referred to ACO; 4:08 p.m.: DPW call (Woodlawn Street), referred; 4:56 p.m.: burglar alarm (Beachview Drive), unable to locate; 5:27 p.m.: DPW call (Central Street), referred; 6:18 p.m.: summons service (Royalston Road North), served; 6:20 p.m.: transport (Central Street); 6:23 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), verbal warning; 6:40 p.m.: investigation (River Street), services rendered; 6:41 p.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Street), services rendered; 7:33 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive), transported; 8:25 p.m.: fire alarm (School Street), services rendered; 8:43 p.m.: erratic operation (Glenallan Street), unable to locate; 8:54 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 9:05 p.m.: erratic operation (Baldwinville State Road), unable to locate; 9:18 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), written warning; 10:56 p.m.: ambulance (Crescent Road), transported; 11:47 p.m.: burglar alarm (Gardner Road), secure.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
2:15 a.m.: alarm/type unknown (School Street), canceled; 2:23-3:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:59 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 6:10 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 6:22 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 7:38 a.m.: suspicious person (Central Street), spoken to; 9:16 a.m.: suspicious/other (Washington Avenue), assisted; 10:17 a.m.: assist citizen (Goodrich Drive), report taken; 10:49 a.m.: investigation (Central Street), spoken to; 11:20 a.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln Avenue), unable to locate; 11:52 a.m.: suspicious person (Chestnut Street), no cause; 12:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Elmwood Road), referred to ACO; 1:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Joslin Road), canceled; 2:12 p.m.: FD call (Prospect Street), services rendered; 2:32 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), spoken to; 3:02 p.m.: traffic hazard (Lakeview Drive), citation issued; 3:34 p.m.: juvenile/general (Oak Street), spoken to; 4:18 p.m.: summons service (Baldwinville State Road), advised officer; 4:23 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), Peter E. Halfkenny, 75 Coleman Street, Gardner, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, citation issued; 4:34 p.m.: burglar alarm (Elmwood Road), accidental; 4:55 p.m.: ambulance (Ash Street), transported; 5:23 p.m.: harassment (Mill Glen Pond), report taken; 5:35 p.m.: traffic hazard (Beech Street), assisted; 5:53 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), written warning; 6:20 p.m.: ambulance (Ash Street), transported; 6:26 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 7:04 p.m.: harassment (West Street), info taken; 8:36 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), referred to other PD; 10:12 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 11:32 p.m.: animal complaint (Town Farm Road), referred to ACO.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
12:12-12:29 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:37 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 12:47-12:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:57 a.m.: suspicious person (Gardner Road), spoken to; 1:29-1:41a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:50 a.m.: parking violation (Elm Street), written warning; 1:56 a.m.: parking violation (Highland Street), written warning; 1:59 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:04 a.m.: open door/window (Franklin Street), secured bldg.; 2:35 a.m.: parking violation (Juniper Street), citation issued; 8:19 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), citation issued; 8:21 a.m.: extra patrols, secure; 8:51 a.m.: property found (Central Street), info taken; 11:37 a.m.: fire alarm (Central Street), referred; 12:16 p.m.: assist other PD (Walnut Street), assisted; 1:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Glenallan Street), unable to locate; 2:16 p.m.: burglar alarm (Royalston Road North), false alarm; 2:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 2:29 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), referred to ACO; 3:06 p.m.: investigation (Harris

Road), services rendered; 3:24 p.m.: accident (Teel Road), citation issued; 4:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Chestnut Street), info taken; 4:05 p.m.: assist citizen (Juniper Street); 4:50 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), written warning; 5:09 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road), info taken; 5:58 p.m.: mv stop (Lincoln Avenue Extension), verbal warning; 6:19 p.m.: mv stop (Grove Street), written warning; 6:36 p.m.: harassment (Central Street), info taken; 8:15 p.m.: investigation (Spruce Street), info taken; 8:23 p.m.: suicide threats (Glenallan Street), transported to hospital; 8:26 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), verbal warning; 8:49 p.m.: fire alarm (), no fire service necessary.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
12:52-3:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:26 a.m.: burglar alarm (Gardner Road), spoken to; 5:01 a.m.: disabled mv (Gardner Road), spoken to; 5:26 a.m.: burglar alarm (Murdock Avenue), accidental; 6:20 a.m.: info/general (Mill Glen Pond North Road), spoken to; 7:11 a.m.: animal complaint (Phyllis Road), referred to ACO; 7:19 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 7:28 a.m.: animal complaint (West Monomonac Road), referred to ACO; 8:45 a.m.: DPW call (Pearl Street), referred; 9:41 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), written warning; 9:42 a.m.: summons service (Glenallan Street), advised officer; 9:45 a.m.: property lost (Central Street), cancelled; 10:10 a.m.: ambulance (Front Place), transported; 10:40 a.m.: mv stop (Lakeshore Drive), verbal warning; 10:47 p.m.: welfare check/general (Cedar Street), services rendered; 11:10 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Glen Pond North Road), report taken; 11:36 a.m.: mv stop (High Street), verbal warning; 12:26 p.m.: fire/mutual aid (Holden Street, Ashburnham), services rendered; 12:42 p.m.: Section 12 (Mill Glen Pond), transported to hospital; 2:45 p.m.: investigation (Glenallan Street), info taken; 6:14 p.m.: ambulance (Ash Street), transported to hospital; 6:44 p.m.: gunshots heard (Ash Street), spoken to; 8:12 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 11:19 p.m.: ambulance (Linden Street), transported; 11:31 p.m.: building checked, secure.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
1:30 a.m.: parking violation (Emerald Street), written warning; 1:32-3:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:46 a.m.: DPW call (Glenallan Street), referred; 7:48 a.m.: ambulance (West Street), transported; 7:52 a.m.: info/general (Elmwood Road), services rendered; 8:16 a.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), referred to other PD; 8:48 a.m.: mv stop (Academy Street), citation issued; 10:34 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), citation issued; 12:12 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), Shari L. McCarthy, 45, 47 Wyman Road, Keene, NH, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, misc. equipment violations, citation issued; 12:25 p.m.: mv stop (Lincoln

Avenue), citation issued; 12:34 p.m.: mv stop (Front Street), citation issued; 2:13 p.m.: harassment (Spruce Street), report taken; 3:10 p.m.: burglar alarm (Old County Road), secured bldg.; 3:33 p.m.: erratic operation (Lincoln Avenue), advised officer; 4:09 p.m.: assist motorist (Baldwinville Road), assisted; 6:35 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), spoken to; 7:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Spring Street), unable to locate; 10:29 p.m.: erratic operation (School Street), spoken to; 11:03-11:33 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
12:56-2:29 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:45 a.m.: harassment (Gardner Road), report taken; 10:42 a.m.: accident (Banner Place), report taken; 2:13 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), Jacob Holmes, 22, 56 Main Street, Winchendon, op w/suspended license, summons; 2:28 p.m.: assist other PD (Munroe Street), services rendered; 3:55 p.m.: harassment (Main Street), info taken; 4:13 p.m.: welfare check/child (Old County Road), unable to locate; 6:07 p.m.: accident (Gardner Road), David C. Greene, 54, 27 High Street, Hope, RI, negligent operation, info taken; 6:14 p.m.: assist citizen (First Street), services rendered; 7:26 p.m.: ambulance (Vaine Street), transported; 7:50 p.m.: welfare check/child (Old County Road), no service necessary; 8:25 p.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive), no services necessary; 10:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Gardner Road), spoken to; 11:44 p.m.: info/general (Spring Street), report taken; 11:58 p.m.: building checked, secure.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
12:21-2:56 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:16 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 5:22 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 5:37 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:47 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:55 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 6:08 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 6:19 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 6:27 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 6:40 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 8:19 a.m.: ambulance (Chestnut Street), transported; 9:10 a.m.: assist citizen (Baldwinville State Road), services rendered; 11:37 a.m.: sex offender registration (Brown Street), assisted; 11:47 a.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), verbal warning; 12:48 p.m.: welfare check/child (Cottage Lane), assisted; 2:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Goodrich Street), spoken to; 3:48 p.m.: summon service (Glenallan Street), unable to serve; 3:57 p.m.: Section 12 (Maple Street), report taken; 5:04 p.m.: assault (Pearl Drive), info taken; 6:44 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 7:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Emerald Street), spoken to; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (High Street), citation issued; 10:09 p.m.: noise complaint (Spring Street), spoken to.

FREEDOM

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featured in blockbuster movies is provided — at taxpayer expense — in exchange for carefully placed promotional spots.

Back when I was a boy growing up in the 1950s, almost every classic sci fi movie ended with the heroic American military saving the day, whether it was battle tanks in *Invaders from Mars* (1953) or military roadblocks in *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956).

What I didn't know then as a schoolboy was the extent to which the Pentagon was paying to be cast as America's savior. By the time my own kids were growing up, it was Jerry Bruckheimer's blockbuster film *Top Gun* — created with Pentagon assistance and equipment — that boosted civic pride in the military.

Now it's my grandkids' turn to be awed and overwhelmed by child-focused military propaganda in the *X-Men* movies. Same goes for *The Avengers* and *Superman* and the *Transformers*. (Don't even get me started on the war propaganda churned out by the toymakers.)

Even reality TV shows have gotten in on the gig, with the Pentagon's entertainment office influencing "American Idol," "The X-Factor," "Masterchef," "Cupcake Wars," numerous Oprah Winfrey shows, "Ice Road Truckers," "Battlefield Priests," "America's Got Talent," "Hawaii Five-O," lots of BBC, History Channel and National Geographic documentaries, "War Dogs," and "Big Kitchens." And that's just a sampling.

It's estimated that U.S. military intelligence agencies (including the NSA) have influenced over 1,800 movies and TV shows.

And then there are the growing number of video games, a number of which are engineered by or created for the military, which have accustomed players to interactive war play through military simulations and first-person shooter scenarios.

This is how you acclimate a population to war.

This is how you cultivate loyalty to a war machine.

This is how, to borrow from the subtitle to the 1964 film *Dr. Strangelove*, you teach a nation to "stop worrying and love

the bomb."

As journalist David Sirota writes for *Salon*, "[C]ollusion between the military and Hollywood - including allowing Pentagon officials to line edit scripts - is once again on the rise, with new television programs and movies slated to celebrate the Navy SEALs...major Hollywood directors remain more than happy to ideologically slant their films in precisely the pro-war, pro-militarist direction that the Pentagon demands in exchange for taxpayer-subsidized access to military hardware."

Why is the Pentagon (and the CIA and the government at large) so focused on using Hollywood as a propaganda machine?

To those who profit from war, it is — as Sirota recognizes — "a 'product' to be sold via pop culture products that sanitize war and, in the process, boost recruitment numbers. At a time when more and more Americans are questioning the fundamental tenets of militarism (i.e., budget-busting defense expenditures, never-ending wars/occupations, etc.), military officials are desperate to turn the public opinion tide back in a pro-militarist direction — and they know pop culture is the most effective tool to achieve that goal."

The media, eager to score higher ratings, has been equally complicit in making (real) war more palatable to the public by packaging it as TV friendly.

This is what professor Roger Stahl refers to as the representation of a "clean war": a war "without victims, without bodies, and without suffering":

"‘Dehumanize destruction’ by extracting all human imagery from target areas ... The language used to describe the clean war is as antiseptic as the pictures. Bombings are ‘air strikes.’ A future bomb-site is a ‘target of opportunity.’ Unarmed areas are ‘soft targets.’ Civilians are ‘collateral damage.’ Destruction is always ‘surgical.’ By and large, the clean war wiped the humanity of civilians from the screen ... Create conditions by which war appears short, abstract, sanitized and even aesthetically beautiful. Minimize any sense of death: of soldiers or civilians."

This is how you sell war to a populace that may have grown weary of endless wars: sanitize the war coverage of anything graphic or discomfiting (present a clean war), gloss over the actual numbers of soldiers and civilians killed (human cost), cast the business of killing humans in a more abstract, palatable fashion (such as a hunt), demonize one's opponents, and make the weapons of war a source of wonder and delight.

"This obsession with weapons of war has a name: technofetishism," explains Stahl. "Weapons appear to take on a magical aura. They become centerpieces in a cult of worship."

"Apart from gazing at the majesty of these bombs, we were also invited to step inside these high-tech machines and take them for a spin," said Stahl. "Or if we have the means, we can purchase one of the military vehicles on the consumer market. Not only are we invited to fantasize about being in the driver's seat, we are routinely invited to peer through the crosshairs too. These repeated modes of imaging war cultivate new modes of perception, new relationships to the tools of state violence. In other words, we become accustomed to 'seeing' through the machines of war."

In order to sell war, you have to feed the public's appetite for entertainment.

Not satisfied with peddling its war propaganda through Hollywood, reality TV shows and embedded journalists whose reports came across as glorified promotional ads for the military, the Pentagon turned to sports to further advance its agenda, "tying the symbols of sports with the symbols of war."

The military has been firmly entrenched in the nation's sports spectacles ever since, having co-opted football, basketball, even NASCAR.

This is how you sustain the nation's appetite for war.

No wonder entertainment violence is the hottest selling ticket at the box office. As professor Henry Giroux points out, "Popular culture not only trades in violence as entertainment, but also it delivers violence to a society addicted to a pleasure principle steeped in graphic and extreme images of human suffering, mayhem and torture."

No wonder the government continues to whet the nation's appetite for violence and war through paid propaganda programs (seeded throughout sports entertainment, Hollywood blockbusters and video games) — what Stahl refers to as "militainment" — that glorify the military and serve as recruiting tools for America's expanding military empire.

No wonder Americans from a very young age are being groomed to enlist as foot soldiers — even virtual ones — in America's Army (coincidentally, that's also the name of a first person shooter video game produced by the military). Explorer scouts, for example, are one of the most popular recruiting tools for the military and its civilian counterparts (law

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(Include your name and your pet's name and what town you're from)



OBITUARIES

Robert D. Barry, 83

ROYALSTON — Robert D. Barry, age 83, of 11 Stone Road, died peacefully Thursday evening, February 8, 2018 at his residence, with his family at his side.

He was born in Holden, MA on June 8, 1934, son of William Greenough and Elizabeth Barry. He grew up in Worcester then lived in Royalston, Rutland, Florida and North Carolina. Bob returned to Royalston to live two years ago.

For over 35 years, Bob worked as a truck driver for Rand-Whitney until his retirement. His hobbies were fishing, gold mining when he lived in North Carolina and raising many types of birds when residing in Florida.

He leaves a son, Keven R. Barry and his wife Karan D. of Royalston; two grandchildren, Jason Barry of Royalston and Matthew Barry of Athol and a great grandchild, Paige Barry. He also leaves his dog and companion, Hobo.

Private graveside services will be held in Jonas Alliene Cemetery, Royalston. Memorial donations may be made to GVNA Hospice, 34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA 01440 or to Catholic Charities Worcester County, 12 Riverbend Street, Athol, MA 01331.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon is directing arrangements.

Sonja E. (Peterson) Hartz, 78

WORCESTER — Sonja E. (Peterson) Hartz, age 78, of Worcester, passed away on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in Parson Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

Sonja is survived by her loving children, three sons, Paul R. Hartz Jr. and Kenneth D. Hartz both of Florida and David Hartz and his wife Allison of Rochdale; a brother, Jeffrey Peterson of Winchendon and 11 grandchildren. Sonja was predeceased by a daughter, Martha J. Hartz; a grandson, David Hartz, Jr., and two sisters Alia Metcalf and Beatrice Russell.

Born in Kingfield, Maine, daughter of the late, Ezekiel & Ruth (Matson)

Peterson. Sonja was an animal advocate and treasured her pet dogs and cats.

Funeral services will be held privately and visiting hours are omitted and those wishing may remember Sonja with a donation in her memory to the Worcester Animal Rescue League, 139 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01606 or to give over the phone at 508-853-0030 ext 5.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Mercadante Funeral Home & Chapel, Worcester. To send her family a message of condolence, please visit her personal guestbook at: www.mercadantefuneral.com

Paul Charles Jensen, 64

CLAREMONT NH — Paul Charles Jensen of Bellows Falls, VT, passed away peacefully at Elmwood Center in Claremont, NH from complications of Lewy Body Dementia on February 2, 2018.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his youngest daughter, Anne Jensen Griffin. He is survived by his brother and sister; his daughter Susan Jensen and her partner Janna Thomas; his three grandchildren Tess, Joe and Ellie Griffin and son-in-law Sean Griffin.

Born April 30, 1953 in Summit, NJ, Paul spent his childhood in Livingston, NJ, where he graduated from high school in 1971. He then graduated from Roger Williams College in Rhode Island in 1977 and got married, delighting in the birth of his daughters, Susan and Anne. While they were young he worked as a magazine editor in Connecticut and then as an educational paraprofessional in Winchendon, Massachusetts. He moved to South Carolina where he spent six years caring for his ailing

father; and most recently returned to education, spending 12 years working as a paraprofessional at Bellows Falls Union High School in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

From an early age Paul was curious and interested in big ideas- notably peace, social justice and left leaning politics. He never liked rules and joyfully subverted authority whenever he could. He developed passions for music (Bob Dylan, The Band, John Prine, Grateful Dead) and later running and hiking in the New England outdoors. He enjoyed surfing the Jersey Shore, walking and swimming the beaches of Hunting Island, South Carolina. He was a kind man with a deep love for his daughters and his grandchildren.

The family will be holding a private memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association in Westminster, VT (www.windmillhillpinnacle.org) where the woodland trails provided him hours of joy and peace.

Gloria Maybury, 77

WINCHENDON — Gloria Maybury, age 77, of Winchendon, died peacefully Monday, January 29, 2018 at her residence with her husband at her side.

She was born in Fitchburg on December 1, 1940 and had lived in Winchendon with her husband Jim for the last 25 years.

Jim and Gloria have traveled the world together on their own, including a year spent in China, teaching English conversation and literature at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, one of the premier tourist sites in China, home of the fabled West Lake.



They also traveled extensively throughout Europe, five times to Italy, their favorite destination.

In addition to her husband, she also loved her eight children, 23 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with whom she spent many a precious hour.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Saturday, February 3, 2018 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce St., Winchendon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce Street, Winchendon.

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

Florence T. Plante, 87

WINCHENDON — Florence T. Plante, age 87, of 134 Goodrich St., died peacefully Wednesday evening, February 21, 2018 in Baldwinville Nursing Home, with her loving family at her side.

She was born in Winchendon on April 26, 1930, daughter of the late George E. and Josephine (Girouard) Plante and was a lifelong resident of Winchendon.

Florence was a homemaker, who enjoyed cooking and spending time with her brothers, sisters and her many family members. She loved children and was well known for making peanut blossom cookies.

One of 11 children, she leaves her brothers and sisters, Arthur G. Plante, Anita F. Duplease and her husband



Donald, Walter A. Plante and his wife Claudette, Francis E. Plante, Eugene P. Plante and Alice E. Tousignant and her husband Philip, all of Winchendon, Beatrice M. Morgan and her husband Albert of Danvers, as well as many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. She helped to raise three nieces, Lorie LaRoche, Susan Tonet and Sherry Scott, all of Winchendon. Two sisters, Antoinette J. Plante and Claire J. Johnson and a brother, Maurice Z. Plante, predeceased her.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Wednesday, February 28, 2018 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce Street, Winchendon.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in the spring.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central Street, Winchendon was entrusted with arrangements.

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

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

FREEDOM

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enforcement, Border Patrol, and the FBI).

Writing for *The Atlantic*, a former Explorer scout described the highlight of the program: monthly weekend maneuvers with the National Guard where scouts “got to fire live rounds from M16s, M60 machine guns, and M203 grenade launchers... we would have urban firefights (shooting blanks, of course) in Combat Town, a warren of concrete buildings designed for just that purpose. The exercise always devolved into a free-for-all, with all of us weekend warriors emptying clip after clip of blanks until we couldn’t see past the end of our rifles for all the smoke in the air.”

No wonder the United States is the number one consumer, exporter and perpetrator of violence and violent weapons in the world. Seriously, America spends more money on war than the combined military budgets of China, Russia, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Saudi Arabia, India, Germany, Italy and Brazil. America polices the globe, with 800 military bases and troops stationed in 160 countries. Moreover, the war hawks have turned the American homeland into a quasi-battlefield with military gear, weapons and tactics. In turn, domestic police forces have become roving extensions of the military — a standing army.

So when you talk about the Florida shooting, keep in mind that you’re not

dealing with a single shooter scenario. Rather, you’re dealing with a sophisticated, far-reaching war machine that has woven itself into the very fabric of this nation.

You want to stop the gun violence? Stop the worship of violence that permeates our culture.

Stop glorifying the military industrial complex with flyovers and salutes during sports spectacles.

Stop acting as if there is anything patriotic about military exercises and occupations that bomb hospitals and schools.

Stop treating guns and war as entertainment fodder in movies, music, video games, toys, amusement parks, reality TV and more.

Stop distributing weapons of war to the local police and turning them into extensions of the military — weapons that have no business being anywhere but on a battlefield.

This breakdown — triggered by polarizing circus politics, media-fed mass hysteria, militarization and militainment (the selling of war and violence as entertainment), a sense of hopelessness and powerlessness in the face of growing corruption, the government’s alienation from its populace, and an economy that has much of the population struggling to get by — is manifesting itself in madness, mayhem and an utter disregard for the very principles and liberties that have kept us out of the clutches of totalitarianism for so long.

Stop falling for the military industrial complex’s psychological war games.

Niklas Cruz may have pulled the trigger that resulted in the mayhem in Parkland, FL but something else is driving the madness.

As Stahl concludes, “War has come to look very much like a video game. As viewers of the TV war, we are treated to endless flyovers. We are immersed in a general spirit of play. We are shown countless computer animations that contribute a sense of virtuality. We play alongside news anchors who watch on their monitors. We sit in front of the crosshairs directing missiles with a sense of interactivity. The destruction, if shown at all, seems unreal, distant. These repeated images foster habitual fantasies of crossing over.”

We’ve got to do more than react in a knee-jerk fashion.

Those who want safety at all costs will clamor for more gun control measures (if not at an outright ban on weapons for non-military, non-police personnel), widespread mental health screening of the general population and greater scrutiny of military veterans, more threat assessments and behavioral sensing warnings, more CCTV cameras with facial recognition capabilities, more “See Something, Say Something” programs aimed at turning Americans into snitches and spies, more metal detectors and whole-body imaging devices at soft targets, more roaming squads of militarized police empowered to do random bag searches, more fusion centers to centralize and disseminate information to law enforcement agencies, and more surveillance of what

Americans say and do, where they go, what they buy and how they spend their time.

All of these measures play into the government’s hands.

As we have learned the hard way, the phantom promise of safety in exchange for restricted or regulated liberty is a false, misguided doctrine that has no basis in the truth.

What we need is a thoughtful, measured, apolitical response to these shootings and the violence that is plaguing our nation.

As I point out in my book *Battlefield America: The War on the American People*, the solution to most problems must start locally, in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. We’ve got to de-militarize our police and lower the levels of violence here and abroad, whether it’s violence we export to other countries, violence we glorify in entertainment, or violence we revel in when it’s leveled at our so-called enemies, politically or otherwise.

Our prolonged exposure to the toxic culture of the American police state is deadly.

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

BOS

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A 2005 study done by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Loring said, determined that “a traffic signal is warranted at that location.”

Signalizing the intersection would require the installation of four signals.

“The reason for poles in all four quadrants is to set up pedestrian crosswalks,” he said. “These are fully actuated signals. A car comes up and either trips through a video detection system or trips through magnetometer, magnetic loops with in the pavement. There are also pedestrian but-

tons at all four corners.”

In addition, there would be Americans with Disabilities Act ramps for crosswalks in all locations.

“One of the concerns about a roundabout,” Loring continue, “is would it fit spatially? They tend to take up a larger footprint than your signalized intersection. The advantage of a roundabout is that traffic keeps moving. It’s moving at a slower pace, so it’s more comfortable for pedestrians and bicycles to utilize.”

The roundabout, according to Loring, would accommodate the tractor-trailers that regularly travel through Winchendon. Construction of a roundabout, depending on its

size, could require demolition of the building currently occupied by GSF Mortgage Corp., former home of radio station WINQ-FM.

Town Manager Keith Hickey asked if the roundabout could be engineered to a smaller size so that the 3 Central St. property wouldn’t need to be razed.

“The mini roundabout is a much smaller, circular intersection,” said Loring. “It’s made so you can drive over the center island. That allows the tractor-trailer trucks to go over it. It’s an uncomfortable movement, but they’re designed to allow for it. It slows traffic down, and large vehicles drive over it. So, yes – there are options.”

Loring did say a number of parking spaces along Front Street, in front of town hall, would have to be eliminated in order to accommodate appropriate sight lines regardless of which option is chosen.

Any final decision to reconfigure Blair square will depend on the availability of funding and will require the approval of the state Department of Transportation.



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SPORTS

Softball sees change in leadership this year

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

When the Murdock Lady Devils open the 2018 varsity softball season next month against North Middlesex (April 10), that will also be the opening game of John Reilly Jr.'s career as a varsity softball coach.

Reilly, who spent the winter coaching junior varsity girls basketball, takes over from Mike Fontaine, who stepped down earlier this winter.

"I'm going to be an unorthodox kind of coach," Reilly promised. "I'm looking forward to putting my twist on the softball program. I'm very straight-forward," he said.

Regarding his predecessor, "Mike has given me a lot of information. He's sent me off in a good way."

Reilly noted he's going to stress conditioning and small ball.

"We're going to be aggressive, very aggressive. We're going to try and be better every day. I want every player to be better than they are on day one,"

when practice officially begins March 19.

While the Lady Devils know junior Emily Smith will be their primary pitcher, Reilly said he will have some "secret weapons" behind her, "which we'll reveal early in the season." Adding it's too early to know who else will play which positions, ("we'll see who fits where") Reilly noted on the first day of signups, 45 girls ranging from sixth through 12th grades said they were ready to go, meaning MHS will, if they all show up, be able to field a varsity, JV and middle school team this spring.

"It was awesome meeting some potential players and to see some I knew from basketball," he enthused.

Reilly did say he's excited about having senior Molly Murphy on the roster.

"She's such a great kid and such a leader in every sport she plays. She makes every team she's on better."

While no middle school coach has been hired yet, Stephanie Rondeau will again be coaching the junior varsity squad.

"We'll have a middle school coach after the first week of practice and we know what our numbers actually are," said Reilly. His varsity assistants will be John Smith, Dave Laraba and Guy Santos.

Reilly remarked his own long baseball career will be an asset.

"I started playing when I was six years old. The games aren't really different. And you learn by playing. You learn by coaching too, and though this is my first school varsity job, I've had experience coaching some travel teams," he pointed out, adding, "and I have had some great coaches too so I know how to strategize."

The new coach stressed he is planning to revive MHS softball to the lofty status it enjoyed for a long run between 2008-2016 when the Lady Devils reached the post-season every year but one. "That was great. That's where we want to be. We're going to rebuild a solid foundation," Reilly promised.

"We're going to communicate. We're going to get some 'W's. If we have every-



Courtesy photo

John Reilly Jr. will take the reins of the Lady Devils softball dynasty this spring.

one on the same page we can go deep. I'm really excited to start," said Reilly.

Diamond's worth

So apparently sports talent agencies have been giving money and gifts to basketball players in attempt to steer them to certain schools.

I am shocked, shocked, this has been happening. Rarely am I speechless but this just floors me.

Yeah. Right.

Here's what I know for sure. Maryland didn't get anywhere near \$14k of production from Diamond Stone during his one season in College Park. Okay, that's a bit snarky, but the reality is this is nothing new. I love college hoops but I freely admit it's often a cesspool of corruption. The NCAA? Please. The NCAA once gave Maryland the death penalty for basketball coach Bob Wade's horrific crime of driving a "student-athlete" to summer school class, though in reality the punishment was because Len Bias died.

The NCAA tends to be selective. The academic scandal that has rocked the University of North Carolina has been festering for a number of years

but UNC is one of the golden children so nothing has happened. Louisville had its 2013 title "vacated" (what? it never happened? Get real.) only after the FBI, which should have better things to do, got involved. It wasn't like Rick Pitino hadn't been in trouble before. Was Penn State ever really punished for long? Will Michigan State be? Arizona, whose coach was caught on tape talking about \$100k? I try not to think about the off-court craziness too much.

Alas we must. Part of this mess lies at the feet of the NBA which is the only league which does not allow kids to go from high school directly to the pros. There was a time when it did. Lebron bypassed college and so did Moses Malone and others. Shouldn't a kid be permitted to pursue his chosen career? Maria Sharapova was a Wimbledon champion at 17. Proverbial exception to the rule? Sure, and yes, there are going to be players who flame out because of unrealistic/greedy parents and or



TALKING
SPORTS
.....
JERRY
CARTON

agents but that's the risk you take. I do like that the NBA has a development league but maybe it needs more than one, maybe a structure similar to baseball's minor leagues? One suggestion frequently floated revolves around paying players. But which players? Only D-1 football and basketball players at schools which are big-time revenue producers, i.e., Alabama, Duke, etc? I don't know. You tell me.

Here's something else I do know, though. While yes, the football and basketball players, even the ones at the factories are getting exploited, the kids who are really getting shafted are athletes in non-revenue sports. Let's use Maryland as an example.

Four or five years ago, when the Terps left the ACC for the Big Ten to chase the TV football money even though the football program is essentially non-competitive in the B10, that meant parents of, say, soccer or volleyball or baseball players were likely to have a much tougher time seeing their sons and daughters play on the road. Away games weren't being played in Virginia or North Carolina or South Carolina anymore. They were/are being played in Iowa and Minnesota and Nebraska. But those kids' sports never factored into the decision to change leagues. Hell, men's hoops didn't either. It was all about football money and parents be damned. College sports are not exactly utopia but as in so many other aspects of life, we accept the flaws and root anyway, right?

Did you watch the Olympics? I liked the fast events - bobsled, downhill, speed skating and the like. I never got into figure skating, not with Peggy Fleming or Dorothy Hamill,

not with anyone. I like fast horses so it makes sense I'd prefer the speedy sports of the Games. It was weird though, to hear Dan Hicks, normally NBC's lead golf anchor, doing ski events, just as it is weird when he anchors swimming in the Summer Games. And his expert commentator was none other than Bode Miller, the one time rebel turned conformist. Miller was actually pretty boring.

CBS had the golf last weekend and that network, as the Golf Channel had Thursday and Friday made sure we saw every practice swing Tiger took. Woods finished at even par after having reached 3 under at one point. These events are Tiger's Grapefruit League games and he sure looks to be doing well for a 42 year-old who's had a slew of surgeries. I have no idea if he'll win again but you know how we always hear so-and-so "moves the needle"? Tiger IS the needle. Still. See you next week.

Varsity cheer takes grand champion award

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Fresh off a resounding victory in the Gardner Valentine Cheering Invitational, Murdock High School's varsity cheer team were heading to Leominster Feb. 18 for their league tournament with a berth in Regionals on the line.

Not only did the varsity capture Gardner's event, the team also won the Grand Champion award, coming out on top in a field of 20 schools. The middle school team finished second in their division.

Of the varsity squad, Coach Lisa Paulitzky waxed enthusiastic.

"They've really come together as a team. They're really good athletes. They work hard. They're not fazed by anything. They deserve the success," she said.

Paulitzky is also proud of how her team was the catalyst in enabling the program to bounce back after a trying few years.

"They decided they wanted to do the

work it took," she noted.

That weekend's Mid-Wachusett League Championship carried with it an automatic bid to the March 4 Regional competition. That tournament is the gateway to States on March 11.

Paulitzky, though, was focusing strictly on that weekend.

"You have to," she asserted.

The varsity roster includes captains Ariana Berman and Maria Polcari, as well as Taylor Goguen, Meghan Knight, Izzy Alcantara, Rebekah Bergeron, Allie Cobiski, Joslynn Laverdure, Cassandra Wightman, Anijah Rodriguez, and Makenzie Lundin.

The middle school team consists of Jessica Higbee, Kelsey Boucher, Arielle Benedict, Abigail Bradley, Madison Cosentino, Marissa Keeney, Hallie Lafrennie, Emily Michaud, Madison Montana, Dezzary Schindler-Roberts, Abigail Trick, Emily and Breylyn Wightman, Jasmine Hardy, and Min-d Merritt.

Murdock's teams are coached by Paulitzky and Tamara Hayes

Winchendon School makes NEPSAC playoffs

WINCHENDON — The Winchendon School announced the playoff schedule for both the boys' varsity hockey team and the boys' varsity basketball team.

The boys' varsity hockey team earned the number one seed in the 2018 New England Preparatory School Athletic Council Piatelli-Simmons small school tournament. The quarterfinal game was played on Wednesday at the Winchendon School's Jason Ritchie '05 Ice Arena against

the number eight seed, Vermont Academy (Saxtons River, VT).

Assistant Coach Brian Troy said, "Although the School has reached the playoffs over the past few years, this is the highest seed we've reached since the school made the move from Division Two to Division One."

The same day, the School's second seed boys' varsity basketball team will be making its reappearance in the NEPSAC boys' basketball Class C Tournament at neu-

tral Bancroft School in a quarterfinal game against The Harvey School (Katonah, NY).

"We are excited to be making the playoff for the sixth straight year. This is our first time being the number two seed. We have a great group of kids and we can't wait to face the Harvey school on Wednesday," Coach Lo voiced.

Postseason tournament updates can be found on the school's website www.winchendon.org or at www.nepsac.org.



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Winchendon Little League in collaboration with Murdock High School will be holding free clinics for baseball and softball in the high school gym.

Come learn from local Little League and High School coaches along with high school players as they go thru a series of offensive and defensive drills to help you get ready for the season.

Welcome to come to one or all sessions.

Schedule as follows:
Sundays from February 4 thru March 18 (except Feb 25th)
Softball – 11AM to 1PM, ages 6 to 12
Baseball – 1PM to 3PM, ages 6 to 12
Questions? Email: winchendonll@gmail.com or post your question on our FB page: www.facebook.com/winchendonll

SPORTS

Taking a championship and reflecting on what comes next

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

State championships aren't easy to come by. That's no secret, of course. Winning them takes ability, yes, but winning them also takes tenacity, long hours of practice patience, and coaching. Meet Murdock High School freshman Lexi Allard, newly crowned as a state long jump champion (and runner-up in the 55 meter hurdles). State champion as a freshman. Pretty good stuff for a kid whom many had wrongly assumed was going to spend her high school athletic career playing basketball.

"I love track. I love the variety" of events," enthused Allard, who said she was "shocked" when she captured the state crown.

"I was. I really was. But I was very happy," she beamed.

Allard was quick to thank coach Anthony Findley.

"He's a great coach. He's positive. He works with you as long as you want to work," she said.

Though Allard acknowledged basketball still holds a place in her heart, ("I miss it some days for sure") she nonetheless has no regrets whatsoever about moving to track.

"You get to do a lot of different things. You get to run. I love running. I run all year. You get the field events so it's not like you're just doing one thing all the time. I've run the 300 (meters) indoors. I've done the 200 and 100 hurdles. There's a lot to do. It's both a team sport and an individual sport," noted Allard.

Her interest in track began primarily three years ago in the spring of 2015.

"I decided to try it and I loved it right away," Allard recalled. "My brother and sisters had all done track too so I think they were kind of my role models

when I started."

Training for an event like long jump or hurdles isn't easy. "You have to measure all the steps. You know, you can't mess those up," she laughed.

"If you do, it's not going to work. So you really have to work hard. Coach Findley's good to work with on technique," she added.

The hardest season to train for? That was easy.

"Indoors," said Allard, pointing out that winter-season training revolves largely of running through the MHS halls and that includes up and down steps. "Not always a lot of fun. You just have to get through it," she conceded.

While Allard is justifiably proud of her state title, she has ambitions beyond that, pointing to the All-New England meet, adding her season isn't over anyway with the pentathlon coming up next weekend. Ultimately, Allard would like

to compete in college but that's a few years off for someone in their freshman year of high school.

As for being new to high school, Allard said science is her favorite subject, perhaps not surprising for a student who wants to become a doctor someday. She praised teacher Dylan Gamache.

"He's excited about the subject. That's a good thing," she said.

Allard added she likes the comparative freedom of high school as compared to middle school. "Big difference," she noted.

So what do you do after you win a state title as a freshman? That's easy. Track season never ends. You go back to work. That's what you do. After all, spring season looms just around the corner. "I'm pretty driven," shrugged Allard.



Courtesy photo
Lexi Allard has a state championship as a freshman.

Ingman runs a blistering shoe-less mile

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

In an athletic act of pure determination and dedication to his teammates and school, Murdock High School senior Steven Ingman ran a blistering 4:44.15 mile at the MIAA Division 5 Indoor Track & Field Championships while wearing just one shoe at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center on Saturday, February 17 creating a memory for the ages.

Ingman, an MHS star runner for both the MHS indoor and outdoor track & field teams, was competing with a large pack of divisional best runners when just half way through his third of eight laps in the one mile contest the unthinkable happened, he lost his right running shoe.

Receiving what's known in runner's slang as 'getting a flat,' an opponent running just behind Ingman in the tightly knit pack caught Ingman's right heel with the frontal portion of his foot, causing Ingman's shoe, in the biggest race of his life to date, to begin coming off. While running Ingman realizing in a split second what happened tried to quickly stomp it back on to no avail, thus having to cast it off just shy of mid race and run the remaining 5/8s of the mile off balance and in his sock.

Now adding to what would have already been a devastating blow to most, Ingman also got cut on his lower leg by the shin during the race as runners were wearing specialized spiked running shoes for extra grip on the indoor artificial surface.

Quickly realizing there was only one thing he could do to make his parents,

school, and teammate proud, Ingman gave it his all. Off balance, missing 50 percent of his traction, and trying to avoid getting spiked again, Ingman turned on the jets, maintaining an extremely competitive pace, and did what many would have thought the unthinkable, completing a strong sub 5 minute mile in just 4:44.15; displaying the kind of character which would make any parent or coach extremely proud while at the same time posting a personal record and career best.

Ingman, who despite the adverse conditions finished his heat in a strong ninth place, just one position shy of making the medal count in a pack of four runners just several feet apart.

Ingman's mother Jane joked, "The coaches joked that Steven needed to learn to tie his shoes better. I am very proud of how he hung in there. He kept going like nothing happened."

When asked how much it meant to her as this was her son's last Indoor Track & Field season, she paused and said, "I am so proud of him. He just stuck it out, worked through it, and ran a personal best time. I am very proud of my son."

Running has always been a family strong suit. Father Michael is well known by his friends and family for heading out and running 10 miles or more at a time, frequenting the picturesque and scenic roads of Lake Denison and the Birch Hill Wildlife Management area, not far from their family home. Sometimes joined by his wife, two sons Steven and Jason, and daughter Felicia who also previously represented MHS on track & field teams before going off to

college and is due to soon graduate from UNH. Jason, currently in the 7th grade, continues the Ingman family tradition at the middle school level and, like his older siblings, will continue to contribute to MHS for years to come.

Proud father Michael followed with, "He was stuck deep in to the group, and we didn't even see the shoe coming off until the race was over and that it had happened."

Michael also added, "It's pretty good what our son did, we are very proud of him. We are very thankful also that his foot wasn't stepped on with the runners wearing spikes. We also laughed at him and we were all joking with him after the race, as his long distance Coach Dick Karvonen said that 'maybe if he had kicked off the other shoe it would have made him a little faster', with a laugh."

Those who know Steven Ingman know he is a very humble young man. Never one to toot his own horn he would only say, "I knew what had happened as soon as I felt it, and tried to stomp my foot down in the pack and get the shoe back on. When I could tell that wasn't going to happen, I just kicked it off and kept going like I knew I had to."

Coach Anthony Findley said, "To run a personal best, especially at that level after losing one show, is an accomplishment. He definitely had a disadvantage, but he hung in and he persevered. Steven is definitely someone who is always grunting though and going as hard as he can. To stay in the race and do as well as he did, it's quite an accomplishment."

Findley also said, "To finish 9th and



Courtesy Photo
Steven Ingman wearing a Murdock T-shirt enters a turn with no running shoe on his right foot, keeping pace while off balance, only wearing a white sock.

just miss placing with a medal at the podium is a little bit of a shortcoming. But absolutely what happened to him does happen on occasion. Some do well and some give up. Steven didn't give up, and that is prevalent by the time that he ran, and also achieving a personal best."

Goodbye, bullets fly... again

Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye...
This is what we say;
I still don't know why,
We had to part today

Bullets fly, and fly, and fly
From the barrel of a gun.
Each met with a child's cry
And still, there is nothing we
Have done.

Again, and again, and again...
The trigger clicks.
Now we have to say, "goodbye my friend,"
As it's the senseless targets a person
picks.

Not today, not tomorrow, then when?
This has happened before.
Will we let it happen again?
Will we turn our backs once more?

When are we going to learn
That it is our fault too?
Stormy clouds are rolling in.
Bullets are raining down on you.

For now, rest my child,
And will hold you for a while.
For now, sleep my friend,
And one day, I will see you again.

Just dream of a life of bliss.
Your world wasn't supposed to end like
this.
Find yourself a happy place,
And I will wipe the tears from your face.

POETS
CORNER
.....
BENJAMIN R.
WHITE

Forget the painful screams.
Clearly, this world is not what
it seems.
Let the terror go away.
Find laughter once more in
your day.

Now, don't you worry about
what is to come.

I pray this world has remorse for what
has been done.
Brother, sister, friend, son, and daughter,
It is me, your sister, brother, friend,
mother, father.

This may be our last goodbye,
But will this be the last time?
How many more will have to die,
Before we finally change our minds?

From our responsibility we do run.
It is time that we do not.
We keep saying goodbye to our daughters
our sons,
Until we've lost everything we've got.

So, goodbye, goodbye, goodbye...
This is what we say.
I still don't understand why,
We had to part today.

For now, rest my child,
And I will hold you for a while.
For now, sleep my friend.
When my day comes, I will see you
again.

RACES

continued from page A1

Logan Huff and Justin Manuel both delivered overall 26th place finishes, Huff in the hurdles and Manuel in two-mile, the latter posting a personal best .

It was Adam Digman who got the Blue Devils on the scoreboard first, checking in eighth in the 55 hurdles and tenth in long jump.

The boys relay team of Thira, Ingman, Digman and Swanson turned in a season's best fifth place finish.



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smarshall@saloom.com. You can also pick up an application (or fill out in person) from Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm at 256 Murdock Ave, Winchendon. For more information on our company please visit us at www.saloom.com

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JOB SEEKERS

Job Seekers Networking Group hosted by North Central Career Center and Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce. Meetings are open to all job seekers and are held

on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Chamber conference room, 29 Parker St. 2nd floor, Gardner. Contact the Chamber at (978) 632-1780.

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ATTENTION: yard sale ads here are FREE in the Winchendon Courier. Call (978) 297-0050 and leave a message with date, address and times of your sale and we will add it to the list. Deadline for all sales is Tuesday noon.

Zlornik makes own reelection announcement

GARDNER — Representative Jon Zlotnik announced he is seeking a fourth term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He was first elected in the 2012 general election.

Bipartisan leadership has been a hallmark of Zlotnik's style during his time in the legislature. Beacon Hill Roll Call recently identified Zlotnik as the most independent Democrat in the House.

"I first ran on a platform of bipartisanship and cooperative problem solving and it will continue to be the core of how I legislate," stated Zlotnik.

Among Zlotnik's legislative priorities has been his focus on economic development. Having proposed the idea of a business incubator when he first took

office, Zlotnik has worked hard, along with a group of area business people, to create the Greater Gardner Business Incubation Network. The business incubator is at the site of the former Simplex headquarters in Gardner. The incubator began operations last year with the addition of its first client business and is planning its grand opening for later this year.

Zlotnik has also pushed for regulatory reform to incentivize and grow business. He has proposed a number of changes ranging from liquor law reform to tax reform. One recent example is when he, in partnership with Rep. Kim Ferguson (R-Holden), successfully changed the law to allow

for the Wachusett Brewery to expand their tap room and continue to grow in Westminster.

"It's important that our laws and regulations adapt to changes in technology, business practices, and consumer trends so that Massachusetts can be competitive. I'm pleased we've been able to get the ball rolling, but there is still a lot of work to be done."

Zlotnik has supported local economic development efforts such as securing funding in H4569 to demolish the condemned movie theater in downtown Gardner. In addition, he has secured over \$300,000 for veterans housing in the district.

Looking to the remainder of the term,

Zlotnik also plans to finalize a deal where the building that serves as the home of the Heritage Park Visitors' Center in Gardner will be transferred to MVOC in exchange for a parcel of land owned by the city. This deal will allow for MVOC to expand their services and to continue caring for veterans. The land transfer, combined with H997 which establishes new efficiencies in local court, will result in over \$100,000 of savings a year for the taxpayers.

Finally, Zlotnik is part of a coalition of legislators who have pushed for secured increases in education funding of over half a billion dollars in just the last four budget cycles.

Planning a career change?

SPRINGFIELD — MGM Springfield is now offering a tuition reimbursement plan for students entering classes at the Massachusetts Casino Career Training Institute Gaming School in Springfield.

Students who successfully complete two or more courses at the new Gaming School, and obtain a job with MGM Springfield will be eligible for the tuition reimbursement if they remain employed with MGM Springfield for one year after the property's grand opening.

"This tuition reimbursement program is a real incentive to anyone considering enrollment in the new MCCTI Gaming School," said Alex Dixon, general manager, MGM Springfield. "This is a testament to our commitment to the future employees who will make THE SHOW possible here at MGM Springfield.

We can't wait for the first class of students to come through our career center doors, trained and ready to start down a successful new career path."

Classes for the new MCCTI Gaming School are forming now, with first classes beginning Monday, February 26. Successful completion of two or more classes guarantees a graduate an audition with MGM Springfield, where they will find flexible full- and part-time table games dealer positions on day, swing and overnight shifts. No formal education is required to apply to the school, and beginners are welcome. MGM Springfield is seeking to hire 450 table games and poker dealers.

MCCTI is operated by Training and Workforce Options, a collaboration between Holyoke Community College and Springfield

Technical Community College. MGM Springfield is scheduled to open in Q3 2018.

MGM Springfield covers three city blocks in the heart of downtown Springfield. Igniting a cultural and economic renaissance in a historic New England city, the approximately 2 million square-foot development, which combines new construction with revived historic buildings, will offer more than 125,000 square feet of gaming space, a 250-room boutique hotel on Main Street and superior spa services, inspired dining and diverse retail. MGM Springfield also will feature a luxury cinema, high-energy bowling complex, a seasonal skating rink and outdoor marketplace displaying local art, events and talent. MGM Springfield is scheduled to open in Q3 2018. www.mgmspringfield.com

WETLAND

continued from page A1

was there was no permit for these activities."

The company hired to carry out the logging operations was Central Mass Tree, Inc., of Westminster, owned by Randy Rameau.

At the August meeting, Rameau admitted his company had done work on the site after November 2016, the date when the approved Forest Cutting Plan had expired.

Additional information provided at that meeting indicated that a non-approved haul road had been laid out from the northern boundary of the parcel at Teel Road into the interior of the property and that three non-approved culverts were installed beneath the haul road. The state also found a non-approved stream crossing, a non-approved landing, and impacts to wetlands in the southern portion of the parcel.

Rameau readily admitted

his company was responsible for the violations.

In separate correspondence to Rameau, Childs said, "I appreciate your taking responsibility for conducting the work which caused the unauthorized alteration of wetland resource areas.

However, the property owners are ultimately responsible for allowing those activities on their properties, so we will go forward with our scheduled meeting with them."

The state has scheduled an enforcement hearing with Rameau for April 5 at MassDEP's Central Regional Office in Worcester. The enforcement hearing for Powell has been scheduled for March 28.

Koonce said it's likely the violation of state wetlands regulations also resulted in violations of the town's wetlands protection bylaws. He said any possible action by the town, if any is taken, would follow resolution of the issue by the DEP.

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- ☐ 52 WEEKS - \$45.00
- ☐ 104 WEEKS - \$76.00

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- ☐ 52 WEEKS - \$38.50
- ☐ 104 WEEKS - \$62.50

CDBG

continued from page A1

the reconstruction of Beech Street. Final cost figures are being worked out by the town's engineering firm, Tighe and Bond.

Work on Beech Street would include the installation of new drainage and sidewalks and reconstruction of the road surface.

Murphy also said the town's \$400,000 Complete Streets grant application has been turned down. The town had planned to spend \$458,000 to reconstruct the sidewalks on the east side of Central Street, from Maple

Street to Memorial Drive, and along the west side of Central from Maple to North Central Street. The sidewalks running the full length of Grove Street were also to be improved. The remaining \$58,000 would have to come from the town.

"We're prepared to turn around and re-apply in May," she said. "The state wanted me to expand on the benefactors of the project."

Murphy said she has been told by Tighe and Bond that, should the state move expeditiously to approve the application due in May, work on the sidewalks could begin as early as this fall.

READING
NEWSPAPERS
IS A QUEST
LIKE NO OTHER



Making cents of coins

I've discussed coin collecting in previous columns. We have received many calls in the past few months from estate administrators and individuals looking to sell their collections, so I thought this topic was worth further discussion.

The number of members in groups such as The American Numismatic Association can provide some insight as to how many coin collectors there are in the United States. Some estimates begin at 1 million people. Ian Russell runs a coin business on the West Coast. He believes there could be 10 million coin collectors in America.

Coin collectors typically have a focus when they collect. They may try to collect every year and variety of one version of coin. For instance, they may collect every type of Lincoln penny from 1909 to the present. Type collectors collect one coin of every type. For example, they seek out one Barber, Walking Liberty, Ben Franklin and Kennedy half dollar. Depending on their budget, they may even collect older ones



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

and rarer ones. Some collect error coins, such as the 1955 double die (struck twice) penny. Others collect coins from their birth year, novelty coins, tokens, medals, foreign coins or ancient coins. There are collectors of topical coins. For instance, fans of the Olympics may collect Olympic coins. Currency collectors specialize in paper money.

Many find coins to be a good investment as well. Dimes, quarters, half dollars and silver dollars from 1964 or earlier contain 90% silver. Some buy coins of this

era strictly for the bullion. U.S. and foreign gold coins are also popular with collectors.

Both collectors and investors seek out rare coins. A rare gold St. Gaudens double eagle sold for \$7.5 million in 2002. A 1794, silver dollar that experts believe was the first struck at the mint, brought \$10 million at auction in 2013. Of course, there are other rare coins for those with smaller budgets.

When we handle the sale of coins from an estate, we typically encounter three types of situations. Sometimes the collection has been carefully curated. Some coins may be graded in plastic holders. Others may be in coin books. Other times, coins have just been passed down through the family. In one local estate, we found six coffee tins full of coins. The coins were spread throughout hiding spots in the cellar. Often, what we find is somewhere in between these two scenarios. Some coins have been placed in coin books, vinyl or cardboard holders, while others are in bags, boxes or tins.

When evaluating these coins, we check for rare types of coins, condition, dates and mint marks. Silver and gold coins are worth at least the melt value, but others can command prices well above the value of the metal. For example, we sold 58 Lincoln pennies from 1924 in one of our auctions. Despite 75,178,000 of these coins being minted, the outstanding conditions made them desirable. They sold for over \$11,000 at auction. Gold and rare silver coins regularly sell in the hundreds to thousands. One rare Morgan silver dollar



or other rare coin can be worth many Benjamin Franklins.

I'll be at the New Braintree Town Hall on March 4th from 12:00 to 3:00 appraising items for the Quaboag Historical Society. I'll be teaching my Evaluating your Antiques class held at Bay Path Evening School in Charlton on March 5th. Keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for details on other events.

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

FIREFIGHTERS

continued from page A1

ers across the commonwealth."

Ostroskey also thanked the chiefs of all 13 attending departments who sent recruits for training saying, "We thank you all for your commitment and for sending these new recruits to us. We take that commitment seriously, and we know your trust of us through them shows your support and professionalism."

"To family and friends who are joining us here tonight, we thank you for all of your support. For the support of these candidates, support of these recruits, in order to get them where they are today. We know they had a vision. We know they wanted to give back to their community, that they wanted to join the fire service, and we know that took support from home as well. We know you all made sacrifices for these new recruits to get where they are today, and we know both you and they will continue to make sacrifices as long as they are with the fire department" added Ostroskey.

In closing his speech Ostroskey said, "To the class, it's been a long haul. You've worked hard. Tonight is a great night. Take it all in. Take a deep breath

and enjoy this, you have earned it. But remember, tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your fire service career. What you have been exposed to here, and what all your instructors in the fire service have given you, is a foundation to build upon. We face new challenges every day, and you are stepping up, and stepping in to that responsibility. You have earned that title of firefighter as a noble call, but do it justice. When you walk down the street no matter if in uniform or not, people know who you are, know what you do, and respect and honor your hard work and commitment. Do that title justice. It is incumbent upon us that we preform our duties safe, and go home safe after every call. Congratulations, best of luck, and have a long and safe career."

One by one, chiefs of each department were called to the podium. Many times, graduating new recruits called forward were joined on stage with relatives who were either still serving, or had retired from service, attending to honor not only the next generation, but their own loved ones and family members who were now beginning their new careers representing a long profession of integrity and dignity.

Before the ceremony's end, the benediction ended not in prayer, but with a heartfelt poem in tribute to all those lost

in the line of duty during the tragedy of 9/11, 2001. Words powerful, thoughts deep, and a message received by all standing that in fire services, all gave some, and some gave all.

After, the fire marshal, instructors, chiefs, and new recruits were lead out the same way they entered, with a procession of bagpipes. Graduates celebrated in cheer outside the building continuing what began within. Hugs, high-fives, and handshakes in not only a celebration of graduation, but new found bonds and comradery.

Neighboring Templeton Fire Chief David Dickie, while standing with new TFD graduate Drew Brasard said, "He put in a long four months and some of the most grueling training that we can get at the Mass Firefighters Academy, and I can't wait to get him on the job."

Brassard added, "To finish the training is really a relief. All the hard work has finally paid off. I honestly couldn't have done it without Chief Dickie, my peers, and the lieutenants on the department. They pushed me to be the best that I can be, and it's finally come full circle.

WFD member and new graduate Betty-Jane Nicholson after the celebration commented, "The Fire Academy was very stressful. It was an amazing experience, and actually it was aca-

demically very hard for me. My grandfather was my biggest motivator, as he is retired WFD member Lt. Richard Blodgett. If I felt down, that's who I thought of. My grandfather. I was so happy to have him here and to have him pin me, it meant a lot to me."

Fellow WFD graduate Edward Coulter is the son-in-law of Captain Bill Brown who works both at the WFD, and the Academy. Coulter followed with, "I've been thinking about becoming a fire fighter for the last 15 years. To have my wife Kristina allow me the time to go and complete my training so I can serve my community is really important to me. We recently moved back in to Winchendon, and it's one of the things I really wanted to do."

In closing WFD Chief Tom Smith said, "It's a pleasure to have young members of the community coming out with strong fire traditions in their families. Quite often and sometimes people in the community say it's not me. Well these fine individuals are stepping up and saying it's going to be me, it's going to be me that helps the town. I am proud of both of our new graduates. They are both Firefighter EMTs on the department, and it's a privilege to have them both as new members."

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Worcester, SS. SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CIVIL ACTION

No. 18-254B

To THE HEIRS OF ALAN J. POIRIER, JR. (Worcester County) ISABELLA POIRIER (Worcester County), JULIA POIRIER (Worcester County), KASON POIRIER (Worcester County), AMANDA CARUSO, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Alan J. Poirier, Jr. (Worcester County), KYLEE A. BOICE a/k/a CARUSO (Caddo Parish, (Louisiana)

AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED:

WORKERS CREDIT UNION, a Massachusetts credit union with an office in Fitchburg, Worcester County, Massachusetts

claiming to be the holder of a mortgage covering property situated 245 Mill Glen Road, Winchendon, Worcester County given by Alan J. Poirier, Jr. recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 55005, Page 314, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Worcester in said County on or before the twenty-eighth day of March, next or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.

Witness, Judith Fabricant, Esquire, Administrative Justice of said Court, this fourteenth day of February 2018.

Dennis P. McManus, Clerk
March 2, 2018

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 212 Baldwinville State Road, Winchendon, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert L. Duval to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, said mortgage dated January 4, 2013,

and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester) Registry of Deeds, in Book 50238 at Page 180 and now held by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by virtue of an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC dated May 17, 2016 and recorded June 2, 2016 in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 55420 Page 349 for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **March 12, 2018 at 11:00 AM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Exhibit A – Property Description Closing Date: January 4, 2013 Borrower(s): Robert L. Duval Property Address: 212 Baldwinville State Road, Winchendon, MA 01475 A certain tract or parcel of land together with any buildings and improvements thereon, situated on the easterly side of Baldwinville Road, a State Highway known as Route 202, in the westerly part of Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot 3A on a plan of land entitled, “Plan of Land Prepared for Richard C. Blanchflower, Winchendon, MA, Scale: 1” = 60’, April 5, 1984, Michael S. Szoc, R.L. Surveyor, 32 Pleasant Street, Gardner, MA 01440” and recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 520, Plan 44 and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the southwestern corner thereof, at an iron pin in the easterly line of Baldwinville Road, Route 202, at its northeasterly intersection with the northerly line of Day Road, a discontinued road; thence N. 13° 18’ 31” E., by said Baldwinville Road, one hundred fifty (150) feet to an iron pin at a corner of other land now or formerly of Richard C. Blanchflower, and being shown as the southwesterly corner of Lot 3B as shown on said plan; thence S. 82° 21’ 30” E., by said Blanchflower’s land and Lot 3B, two hundred forty-nine and 45/100 (249.45) feet to a drill hole in a stone wall in line of land now or formerly of George H. & Phyllis B. Duval; thence S. 5° 18’ 58” W., by said Duval land one hundred twenty-five (125) feet

to an iron pin in the northerly line of the aforesaid Day Road; thence N. 87° 31’ 43” W., by said road line two hundred seventy and 43/100 (270.43) feet to an iron pin in the easterly line of Baldwinville Road and the point of beginning.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagors’ Title see deed dated 1/4/2013, and recorded in Book 50238 at Page 178 with the Worcester County (Worcester) Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06032
Attorney for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(860) 677-2868

February 16, 2018
February 23, 2018
March 2, 2018

Town of Winchendon - Planning Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 40A, The Winchendon Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6:30p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium (second floor), 109 Front Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 to consider the following proposed amendments to the Town of Winchendon Zoning Bylaw:

1. Delete section 6.12, TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS, and replace with a new section 6.12 entitled MEDICAL/ ADULT USE MARIJUANA FACILITIES AND THE MEDICAL/ADULT USE MARIJUANA

RETAIL OVERLAY DISTRICT and to further to amend the Table of Contents to rename Section 6.12, “Medical/ Adult Use Marijuana Facilities and the Medical/Adult Use Marijuana Retail Overlay District.”

2. Amend the TOWN OF WINCHENDON ZONING MAP to include a new Overlay District entitled: *Adult Use/Medical Retail Facilities Overlay*.

3. Amend ARITCLE 5 USE TABLE to add a new Section entitled 5.2.8 *Principal Use Category – Special Uses*, providing new line item A with the following description: *A. Marijuana Facility for uses that include cultivation, processing, packaging, and whole sale of products in the form of smoking materials, food products, oils, aerosols, ointments, and other products. These facilities are subject to the provisions set forth in Art. 6.12.* The uses addressed above will be be allowed by Special Permit in the following Zoning Districts: *Residential -80 (R80), Commercial-1 (C1), Commercial-2 (C2), Industrial (I), and Planned Development (PD)*; and further prohibited in the following Zoning Districts: *Residential -40 (R40), and Residential-10 (R10).*

An overview of the purpose of such amendments provides regulations for the use of Recreational and Medical Marijuana Facilities within the Town of Winchendon to address legal, planning, and public safety issues, as well as address the potential impacts of such Facilities. The proposed amendments include the siting of Marijuana Retail Facilities to an Overlay District, that will be defined within the Town’s Zoning map, naming a permit granting authority; the Planning Board, Definitions, Application Requirements, Site Requirements, Reporting, and Fees.

Copies of the draft amendments are available to be viewed in the office of the Department of Planning and Development Room 17, Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street, Winchendon during normal business hours. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Alternative translation and accommodation for disabled persons is available by advance request to the department at (978) 297-5410

By: Guy C. Corbosiero
Chairman Winchendon Planning Board
March 2, 2018
March 9, 2018

Heywood Healthcare honors area health advocates



Pictured L to R: Rev. Joe McGarry of the Gardner Rotary Club, Win Brown and Mark Wright of the Athol/Orange Rotary Club.



Courtesy photos

Pictured L to R: Rep. Jon Zlotnik, Win Brown and Michelle Dunn of the A.E.D. Foundation

GARDNER — Heywood Healthcare celebrated community, health and collaboration at ‘A Winter Affair with Caribbean Flair’ Feb. 9th at The Colonial Hotel

Guests were greeted at the annual event by third and fourth grade students from Elm Street School in Gardner, who attended to help promote the Weekend Backpack Food Program. Attendees and honored guests got a chance to look back at the accomplishments of Heywood Healthcare, as well as highlight Heywood Healthcare’s three major capital campaign projects and raise funds to support the Weekend Backpack Food Program.

At the event, Heywood Healthcare honored Michelle Dunn of the A.E.D. Foundation with the Heywood Healthcare Community Health Hero Award, which recognizes an individual or individuals who significantly impact the health and well-being of the North Central and North Quabbin Communities.

Michelle Dunn turned personal tragedy into hope and help for others in central Massachusetts. She heroically created a system of resources for people in the region to receive assistance, education and encouragement for successful, long-term recovery from substance addiction, when there had been no place else to turn.

After losing her beautiful daughter, Alyssa Elizabeth Dunn, to an overdose at age 20, Michelle founded the A.E.D. Foundation.

The A.E.D. Foundation breaks down many of the barriers she experienced in trying to help her daughter by assisting

individuals and families in recovery, educating the community and working to defeat the stigma around addiction. Alyssa’s Place provides evidence-based recovery support, group setting and resources in Gardner, free of charge. A network of volunteers, counselors and recovery coaches create a system that fills a void for adults and adolescents, connecting them to information and services.

Michelle has spoken at various awareness programs held throughout the state, including the North Central Mass ‘International Overdose Awareness Night’, ‘National Night Out’ and ‘Taylor’s Message’ with former New England Patriots Lineman Chris Sullivan and his wife Kathi. She has also participated in the Fed Up Rally in Washington, D.C.

In 2016, the A.E.D. Foundation hosted the first regional screening of ‘If Only’, a movie based on raising awareness of addiction. For this, Michelle was presented a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate and House of Representatives for Women in Action. Michelle also assisted with the rewriting of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 52, Section 96, covering substance use prevention and education policies for public schools, with State Representative Jon Zlotnik.

Dunn further expanded the reach of the A.E.D Foundation efforts by joining the Gardner-Athol Area Mental Health Association (GAAMHA). With this, she has developed an infrastructure for services and significantly increased the level of impact. The A.E.D. Foundation

and GAAMHA are key collaborators in the development of a continuum of care in our region.

Heywood Healthcare also honored The Athol-Orange Rotary Club and The Gardner Rotary Club with its Collaborator’s Award.

Rotary Clubs are known world-wide for their service and impact on major issues facing communities. Locally, the Athol-Orange Rotary Club and Gardner Rotary Club accepted the challenge of tackling food insecurity and the education of children through the Weekend Backpack Food Program. Their dedication to funding and operating this program in partnership with Heywood Healthcare has reduced hunger and its effects on learning for hundreds of students and their families.

Both Clubs adopted the program in 2015 as an ongoing service effort and have continued to ensure this vital resource through their financial support and manpower. Each week, Rotarians can be found transporting groceries, packing backpacks, purchasing goods and coordinating details of the program so that 250 third and fourth grade students in Gardner and Athol-Royalston School Districts have nutritious food at home for the weekend.

Together, the Athol-Orange and Gardner Rotaries have raised more than \$18,000 to keep the Weekend Backpack Food Program going strong – the program’s largest financial supporters. The annual Wine, Cheese and Chocolate event held in Gardner gener-

ates significant funds along with awareness of the program throughout the region.

Additionally, both clubs have sought and secured Rotary District grants of \$3,000 each in support of this specific community need. Without such large-scale fundraising, this program would not have flourished.

As partners with Heywood Healthcare, these two local Rotary Clubs are using their collaborative financial support, time and energy to positively impact the health and education for the children of our communities.

Dunn and the Rotary Clubs were also awarded with citations from the House of Representatives, presented by Representatives Susannah Whipps and Zlotnik.

A warm audience celebrated the strength and commitment of our honorees, and raised \$75,000 to support the continuation of the Weekend Backpack Food Program, and enjoyed each other’s company along with delicious Caribbean Cuisine compliments of the Colonial Hotel.

“The generosity and commitment of our community to support those less fortunate is overwhelming. I am particularly astounded by the proceeds generated by a mystery box raffle of jewelry donated by Peter Erickson of Erickson’s Silver Shop, which raised \$17,000 in a matter of minutes,” stated Dawn Casavant, vice president of external affairs and chief philanthropy officer.

Zlotnik announces consumer protection bill

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

State Representative Jonathan Zlotnik (D-Gardner) is proud to announce the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously voted for House Bill H 4229, a bill which gives consumers easier access to tools to protect themselves in the event they have been a victim of a data breach.

Originally drafted by Rep Jen Benson (D-Lunenburg), it was prepared for debate and passage by the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure in response to the massive 2017 Equifax data breach which brought to light many key problems with how companies respond to data breaches. Zlotnik is also a committee member.

A press release provided by Zlotnik reads in part, “The bill requires credit freezes/unfreezes to be done for free and far quicker than before. It also requires companies who have had their data breached too quickly notify the public, so they can take steps to protect

themselves.”

The bill includes the following highlights.

1. Requires credit agencies to send to consumers a unique personal identification number or password within 3 days of receiving a request for free and to remove a freeze in 15 minutes, if requested electronically or by phone.

2. Requires companies provide free credit monitoring for 1 year when a reported breach include social security numbers.

3. Requires breached entities to notify the public immediately and provide them with timely updates.

Zlotnik was asked as various types of identity theft are advancing faster than technology can often keep up, how important does he feel the CCPPL, which he is a member of, is? Zlotnik replied, “I think it’s very important. The committee covers many issues such as identity theft and the fraud that comes along with it. As I also sit on the Elder Affairs Committee, and we need to keep in mind that many of these scams target senior citizens.”

Zlotnik also pointed out that Rep Benson filed the bill last January 2017, and that the Equifax breach assisted with placing a lot of attention on it. Benson, who was the CCPPL chair at the time, has since received a promotion and is now serving as the chair of State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

“A cornerstone of this bill was to also alleviate the consumer burden of the cost of freezing and unfreezing their credit when it becomes law. Previously a person would have to pay a \$5 fee to freeze their credit, and then again unfreeze their credit. This would mean \$30 as there are 3 major credit reporting bureaus. Here you have companies which harvest a ton of data about you to make up your credit report and they then do not properly secure that data and it gets stolen. They then charge you a fee to protect yourself. It would be like your bank got robbed, and then they recovered your money but charged you 5 percent as a fee. When this bill becomes law, consumers will no longer be charged these fees. Why should you have to pay a

fee to a company that put you at risk in the first place?” stated Zlotnik.

When asked if he would recommend free tools available on-line to monitor their credit such as Credit Karma or others Zlotnik responded, “Oh absolutely. As just about every American is at risk due to the Equifax breach, we should all try to monitor our credit more often. Waiting 6 months to a year to check your credit score, you lose the chance to catch the red flags early on. If somebody is trying to open a credit card in your name, the sooner you catch it the faster you can shut it down to help protect yourself from both charges and negative information.”

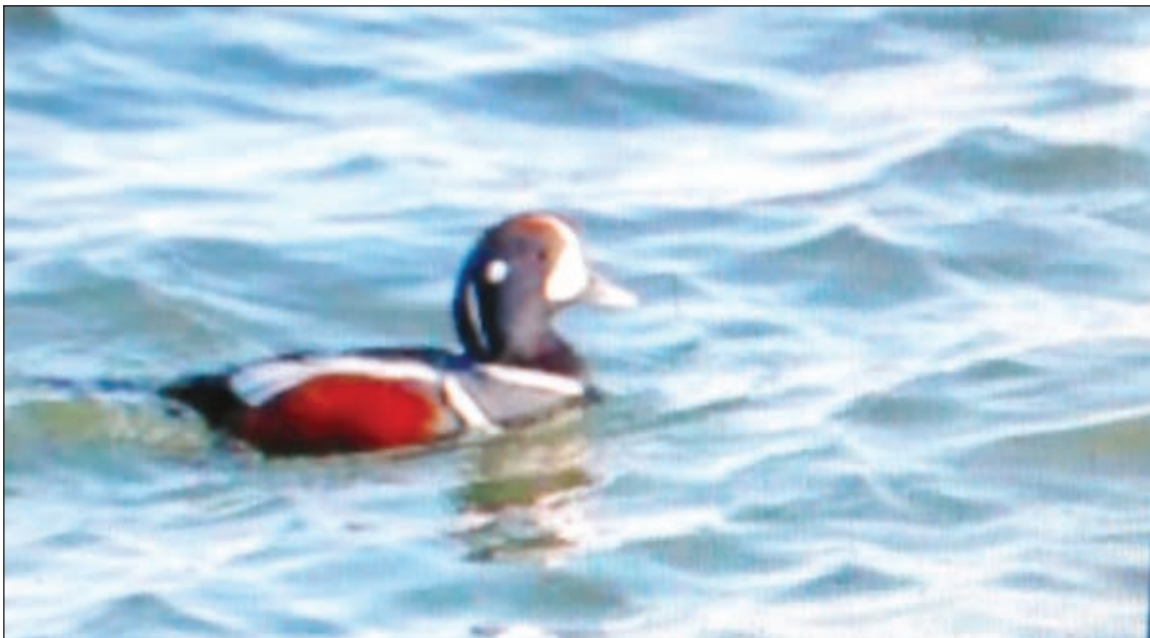
“Thieves are now stealing more, but they are stealing less per incident. Reports we received showed that a few years ago thieves were stealing an average of \$1,200 per incident, and now last year that number was below \$100 on an average incident. So, this shows there are more incidents because the overall dollar amount keeps going up, while the average per instance is going down. Consumers are

being more vigilant, but it’s still happening in larger numbers,” explained Zlotnik.

Demonstrating the magnitude of the total cost and especially important is considering thieves made away with \$16 billion in 2016, on top of \$15 billion in 2015 as a result of identity theft.

As the FY 2018 Massachusetts annual budget is \$39.8 billion Zlotnik said, “The fact that the theft of consumer information across the nation in the years of 2015 and 16 combined nearly equals that of our entire state operating budget for an entire year, it’s truly alarming and was just more proof that we needed to move with this legislation”

In closing Zlotnik said, “It’s incredibly important for people to stay on top of their credit. I think young people tend to brush it off, and older people who more often lack access to technology don’t get to get to check it enough. If you don’t stay on top of it, it can be very difficult to go back in and address errors. Also remember that information stolen in ‘Any breach’ could be used years later in a fraud against you.”



IS HE QUACKING UP?

Submitted photo

While he is indeed meant to be, he is very rare, this is a Harlequin duck, and his breeding ground does indeed include Massachusetts; but he is wee bit early. The distinctive Harlequin duck is a small sea duck with a small bill, short neck, and long tail. Males in breeding plumage are unmistakable with their dark blue color, rufous sides and crown, and striking white patterning on the face, neck, sides, and back. In non-breeding plumage, the males are brown with white on the face. They breed in Alaska and Yukon, south to Wyoming, California, and Massachusetts, from southern Baffin Island and Quebec south to Labrador and the Gaspé Peninsula. They also breed in Greenland and Iceland. So apparently, they do indeed like the cold. Welcome little guy.