

Cannabis bylaw set for TM vote

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The Planning Board Tuesday night finalized wording of proposed zoning regulations governing recreational and medical marijuana retailers in Winchendon. The vote came at the conclusion of a public hearing continued from March 20.

"The selectboard, at their last meeting," said Planning Board Vice-Chairman Caitle Kelley, "approved three licenses instead of two, so we have to make the changes to our bylaw to align with that."

The Planning Board origi-

nally recommended creating two retail marijuana licenses, the minimum number allowed by state law, while selectmen voted to increase that number by one. Selectmen also voted to recommend that Central Street be dropped from consideration for inclusion in a retail cannabis overlay district. That, too, ran contrary to the Planning Board's original proposal.

"I have already expressed my displeasure to a member of the Board of Selectmen," said Planning Board member Burton Gould, "for what happened at their meeting

here a week or so ago. The Planning Board, the Planning Department, has done all the leg work and the selectmen haven't done a damn thing. I indicated to the chairman, who is here tonight, that it would be nice if the selectmen got together with the Planning Board. That is what we are here for."

Town Manager Keith Hickey and Police Chief David Walsh both urged the board to reconsider its proposal to allow marijuana sales in the Central Street corridor.

Hickey praised the board for its work in addressing the

issue of marijuana sales, "but there are a couple of things I'd like to bring to the Planning Board's attention that I think are important items for the board to consider when they make their final decision."

"The Board of Selectmen voted three weeks ago to send a letter to the Planning Board letting its members know that the Board of Selectmen does not support a retail facility on Central Street," said Hickey.

"I'm here to reiterate that. I don't believe a retail facility on Central Street is appropriate for this community or sets the

right tone for the main street of this community."

Hickey said it was his belief that a cannabis retailer is a destination location, arguing that people wanting to purchase marijuana will find a store regardless of where it is located.

"People will drive to that specific location in town in order to purchase that product," he said.

Chief Walsh rebutted arguments that locating marijuana retailers on Central Street would reduce the like-

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Photo by Keith Kent

Matthew Tranbarger, a Grade 4 Toy Town Elementary student, with CFCE Director Nicole Cormier using Footsteps2Brilliance for the very first time at Literacy Night recently held at Memorial Elementary School.

WPS holds Literacy Night, rolls out Footsteps2Brilliance

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

In a night full of engaging activities for both young children and students alike, the Winchendon district held a Literacy Night to kick off the Brain Building month of April, in conjunction with its official roll-out of demonstrating and accepting its very first Footsteps2Brilliance members.

Held at the Memorial School cafeteria during the early evening of March 29, work stations were set up with various brain building activities and exercises based around the fantasy stories of Harry Potter, to the delight of young children and students.

Activities such as a word wizard word crossword puzzle search, Harry Potter wand

making, Harry Potter world, word wizard songs, puppet making, face painting, coloring, and more were just some of the activities enjoyed by all in attendance with both children and parents smiling around the room.

The highlight of the evening was the official unveiling and ability for parents and chil-

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CAC volunteers threatening to quit over board allegations

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

A minimum of five out of the current six Winchendon Community Action Committee volunteers have said they are ready to quit due to what they claim are the current actions of its Board of Director, and that if current Executive Director Colleen Laperriere is either forced out or terminated, they are leaving with her.

Speaking with several current volunteers ranging in service from less than one to nearly seven years of service, it was verified that Denise Laperriere, Darren Surette, Stephen Barbin, Robyn Swaney, and Jennifer Murdock have claimed members of the WCAC Board of Directors have accused them as volunteers of a number of improper acts ranging from speaking with vulgar-

ity around those attending to receive assistance, to stealing food, and even using the newly acquired van paid for with a \$35,000 grant by Robinson/Broadhurst for personal transportation and not CAC usage.

Laperriere, who started just a few weeks after Laperriere, said she has been falsely accused of speaking in vulgarity and being rude to clients, and stealing food from the premises.

She said, "Several of us went to attend a BOD meeting on February 28. We were told by the BOD 'We didn't know this is an open meeting tonight' and I said well this is supposed to be open to the public. I said I am not happy, I am being told that I am being rude to my clients."

Speaking of current WCAC

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Greg Vine photos

One of the kitchens recently renovated in four of the units operated by the Winchendon Housing Authority at its Hyde Park Drive development.

Former Patriot brings anti-drug message to MHS

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Former New England Patriot Chris Sullivan brought his anti-drug campaign to students at Murdock High School last Friday. Sullivan's message, however, went well beyond the "just say no" slogan repeated time and again over the past three decades. Instead, the one-time defensive lineman discussed his own struggle with drug addiction.

Sullivan was first with Pats from 1996 to 1999, when he was traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers. He said his problem with first began when he had trouble fitting in with his new team. Returning to New England for their 2001-02 Super

Bowl run, his addiction accelerated with the medications prescribed for the treatment of injuries sustained on the field.

Sullivan retired from football following the Patriots upset Super Bowl win over the St. Louis Rams. In the meantime, he began purchasing drugs on the street and eventually found himself using heroin.

In 2005, Sullivan was arrested in Attleboro and charged with driving under the influence of drugs, possession of heroin with intent to distribute, illegal possession of a prescription drug, disorderly conduct, and driving to endanger.

In 2008, two weeks into his sobriety, Sullivan found himself attending a parent's night



Greg Vine

Former Patriot Chris Sullivan addresses students at Murdock High School.

at a local school. It was there that he met Kathi Meyer, whose 17-year-old daughter Taylor drowned in a shallow swamp following a night of underage

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WHA hopeful over enactment of housing bond bill

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The Massachusetts Senate voted last Thursday, March 29, to pass a \$1.8 billion Housing Bond bill, which will provide funding over the next five years to address a variety of housing-related issues around the state. The legislation, which must be reconciled with the House version of the bill, includes \$600 million for the modernization and redevelopment of the state's public housing stock.

Housing Authority Executive Director Dave Connor is hopeful that somewhere in the vicinity of \$700,000 of that cash will flow to Winchendon over the course of the bond.

"That \$600 million is basically going to be spread out over the next five years," said Connor. "The DHCD (Department of

Housing and Community Development) is going to work with the housing authority's. We have to put together a plan of what needs to be accomplished over the next five years.

"What we're looking at doing here in Winchendon," he said, "is to continue to with what we started this year. We've done new kitchens at baths at Hyde Park Drive. We've done four units out of the 77 units there. That took all of our funding, and some future years' funding, to accomplish that. They've already told us we can go into next year, FY19, and do four more."

Connor said the cost of renovating the kitchens and bathrooms in the four Hyde Park units cost in the vicinity of \$235,000.

"With your bidding, and your

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LOCAL

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SPORTS

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WEEKLY QUOTE

Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one.

— Benjamin Franklin



CLYDE'S CORNER

Saturday, April 7

IT'S A TRIBUTE: The Sons of the American Legion Post 193 host Petty Larceny, the tribute to Tom Petty in a concert to benefit Children's Hospital

beginning at 8 p.m. at the Legion, 295 School St. \$10 in advance (available at the Legion or from any Sons member), \$15 at the door. Raffles, live auction.

Friday, April 20

DINNER & A SHOW: Eugene M Connor Post Auxiliary Unit 193 offers

a dinner and a show, with a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. and Comedy for a Cause featuring local comedian Jerry Caruso & Friends at 8 p.m. Dinner and show \$20; show only \$15. Tickets for the show will be available at the door. Proceeds to go toward the Charland Children Education Fund.

Saturday, April 21

BLUES AT ITS BEST: the Winchendon Lions present the Souled Out Show Band at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 8 p.m. \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. 50/50 raffle and 30 minute live auction. To benefit local activities of the Lions.

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COURIER CAPSULES

POWER OFF!

Power will be off throughout Winchendon for about 30 minutes just after midnight tomorrow, Saturday, April 7, and again on Monday, April 9. National Grid will be doing work at the transfer station during those time periods.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

BATON ROUGE, LA — The following local residents were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate

honor society for all academic disciplines. Antonia Tontodonato of Athol was initiated at Westfield State University. Page Demarest of Templeton was initiated at Westfield State University.

AMHERST — The following local students were named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the 2017 fall semester. In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point

scale. **ASHBURNHAM:** Vanessa Rain Archangelo, Bryce K Bodley-Gomes, Iya Carney, Brooke Ann Durkan, Hannah Fortune Glenny, Eric Kupcinkas, John Thomas Mellish, Peri Lian Zhen Michael, Matthew Joseph Rasmuson, and Bethany Sefakis. **GARDNER:** Canaan Elijah Bushee; Tylenne Jaylynn Dickie; Vincent Kanealii Goo; Annelise Rose Gordon, Matthew Spencer Gordon, Skylia Jeanne Johnson, Melissa Jozefiak, Marissa Knoll, Devan Robert Kumar, Jake Lucas Marcoulier,

Molly Reed McKeogh, Luke Somers Morrell, Jaclyn Helena Nicholson, Samantha Carol Riggins, Jennifer Eleanor Slade, Kylie Morgan Weld, and Troy Alexander Yacyshyn. **TEMPLETON:** Anna Marie Capps, Renee Elaine Capps, Jesse Gauvin, Bridget Carol Murphy, and Jessica Rose Suchocki. **WINCHENDON:** Brittany Paige Eliason, Casey Jane Galat, Aidan Quinn Provost, Isabela Kirst Schultz, and Allyson Katherine Wolski.

July GALA art show plans in process

Plan now for entry into GALA's Paint the Town art show July 27 - September 27 at Gallery Sitka, 454 Main St., Fitchburg.

Opening reception is planned Friday, July 27, 6-9 p.m. with art awards at 7 p.m.

Our distinguished judges include: Jennifer Jones of Fitchburg Cultural Alliance; Susan Navarre of Fitchburg Historical Society; Susan Wadsworth, FSU art history professor; Kledia Spiro, marketing at The Fitchburg Art Museum (and an artist).

Two options for entering the show:

Option 1: Online entry, which submits your information & payment to GALA electronically.

Option 2: Paper entry form. A PDF Call for Entries which includes a form that you print & mail with payment to GALA, PO Box 664, Gardner, MA 01440. ****Please allow enough time**

for mailing so that your entry is received by the deadline.**

With either option, your entry is due by July 16.

Please support GALA by donating a town of Fitchburg artwork to the show raffle.

Please consider demonstrating your creative process at the show. Indicate your interest on your entry form.

You will need to renew your GALA membership on your entry form unless you are a current member for the duration of the show. If in doubt, please email debgiordano59@comcast.net. See the Call for Entries for more information.

ASB CONTRIBUTION TO LIONS



Greg Vine photo

The Winchendon branch of Athol Savings Bank contributed \$500 to the Winchendon Lions Club Saturday morning at the Central Street office. The money will help underwrite the club's fundraising concert, featuring Souled Out Showband, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at the American Legion on School Street. Tickets are \$15 per person/\$25 per couple. The event also features a 50/50 raffle and a 30-minute live auction. Front row (l-r): Lion Ken LaBrack, ASB Branch Manager Christine Gibbs, and Lions Vicki LaBrack and Curt Fitzmaurice. Back (l-r): Lions Club members Joan LaPlante, Dan Tenney, Tracy Barrows, and Diedre Holt.

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Bellina to vacate Chamber post

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

After eight years on the job, Jim Bellina is leaving his post as president of the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce. Although it was his first leadership position within the business organization, he said he felt comfortable accepting the job.

"My father ran a small business," said Bellina, "so I understood the small business world. I worked for big companies, so I understood that world really well. I had done several merger and acquisition types of things. And I ran a small company for about 10 years. So, I had a passion for it."

Bellina, who is 64, grew up in Newark, New Jersey.

"It's kind of interesting," he said, "because if I were to put you into my old neighborhood you would say, 'Hey, this looks like Gardner.' It was a blue-collar area. The buildings were all built around the same time, so it looked very, very similar."

Bellina took over leadership of the Chamber at a time when the region, in fact the nation as a whole, was just emerging from the throes of what has become known as "The Great Recession." Still, said Bellina, the mission of the organization remained unchanged.

"The mission of the Chamber really was the mission," he said, "and that was to help grow the economy through



Greg Vine photo

In his office, Jim Bellina reflects on his time with the Gardner area Chamber

informed and involved members. To improve the business environment. That was what we wanted to do then and continue to do now."

"It was tough," Bellina continued. "A lot of businesses didn't really have flexibility and employee counts were down. The economic challenges to the Chamber itself, just the financial viability, were substantial. Remember, the Chamber several years before had almost twice the members that we have today. And those companies were bigger. You had the manufacturing base, which bled off over time, so it was a real challenge."

"We took it very seriously. We're very serious about our Legislative Affairs Committee. I think we've been very

successful at having a good relationship with all of our legislators; local, state, and even federal. That's important because small businesses don't have that access in and of themselves. When you're representing a big group of businesses there's a little bit of clout there."

"The responsibility," Bellina emphasized, "is to use that clout wisely and maintain good relationships."

While Bellina does see an opportunity for expanded manufacturing opportunities, he also doesn't believe the Gardner area will see a return of the types of manufacturing jobs that sustained the region for over a century.

"I would say it's unlikely we're going to see that kind of resurgence," he said. "However, we may see pockets of it, as long as the economy continues to do very well. The one thing we do have out here is the low cost of housing. So, some bigger company may say, 'Hey, this is the place to go.'"

Bellina said the Chamber "absolutely" could do a better job in reaching out to the business community in the towns surrounding Gardner. In addition to the Chair City, the organization represents businesses in Ashburnham, Barre, Hubbardston, Templeton, Westminster, and Winchendon.

He believes the recent formation of the Winchendon Business Group could actually

help facilitate the Chamber's outreach efforts.

"I have a suspicion that what's going on right now in Winchendon," said Bellina, "is going to end up being the solution. We work very closely with the Winchendon Business Group. The way I look at it - going back to our mission - if the Winchendon Business Group can be successful, eventually they're going to want to expand and they'll take advantage of a broader network. Then, hopefully, they'll see the advantage of joining the Chamber. I don't see a conflict."

Bellina said he expects to be involved with the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce for about two more months and plans to assist in the transition to a new president.

Family issues are necessitating his departure. Bellina and his wife will be moving to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to help care for their son, who has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, better known as Lou Gherig's disease.

Bellina is leaving the Gardner area with nothing but positive feelings, he said.

"This is the best job I've ever had."

Vezenia responds to Summit critics

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Murdock Middle School Principal Jess Vezenia continued to push back last week at critics of the Summit learning program, explaining point-by-point why and how naysayers are getting it wrong.

Vezenia addressed charges the program is too easy for already high-achieving students.

"That's not true at all," she stressed, adding multiple student interviews and presentations such as the assembly last week have debunked that theory as well.

"The kids sat on that stage in the auditorium, 13 of them, and said that's not the case," she said.

But what about complaints students only have to get 8/10 questions right and in any event, can take tests more than once?

"Content assessment is just one way to measure progress. In Summit, students are assessed on their mastery of content knowledge as well as their development of cognitive skills through real-world projects That's not 'too easy'. In fact, demonstrating competency in skills like analysis, presentation and writing, comprise a greater share - 70-percent - of a grade than content knowledge," said Vezenia.

On the other hand, what about concerns Summit is actually too hard, that it makes kids anxious?

"Students learn, grow and achieve by being challenged," observed Vezenia. "Our teachers and curriculum often present challenges to students that in the end help them grow. Gone are the days where students do bare minimum studying and pull easy A's or B's. Skills-based grading is better measure for students and parents to see exactly where strengths and weaknesses lie."

"Through the platform, students can see exactly what they are expected to learn throughout the year and for some students that transparency can seem overwhelming at first," Vezenia acknowledged, but added, "That's why teachers work one-on-one with students to set realistic short-term goals and break down larger projects into smaller tasks."

Vezenia pointed out one of the assets Summit has is creating options for self-paced learning.

"Students can only progress when they're ready," she reminded. "A single classroom may have students who are ahead, who are behind, who

are at grade level. Because it's self-paced, this frees up teachers to work with students who are struggling. That's a big positive," she noted, adding that teachers, some of whom spoke to the Courier last week, relish the opportunity to have more time to help kids who need it most."

"We had to do 'something,'" after test scores remained stagnant, Vezenia acknowledged. MMS was "selected to participate in the Level 3 Turnaround Process," developed by the state education department.

"We needed to do better. We knew that. We knew we needed to provide more opportunities for students," she said.

Vezenia stressed the decision to implement Summit didn't come in a vacuum.

"After conducting school visits, speaking with users of Summit and conducting additional research, the MMS faculty viewed Summit as offering the change we had been searching for. The staff and I went through an extensive application process to demonstrate our readiness and commitment to improve instruction."

"What interested us in Summit's approach to personalized learning was much more than the platform. The platform is useful but the exciting part is what it allows teachers and students to do together," emphasized Vezenia.

"At MMS," she added, "we envision that every individual, upon leaving middle school, is equipped with the skills, knowledge and habits necessary to realize their unique potential. We understand that every student is an individual and deserves an education that meets their needs, whether that be specialized instruction, interventions or extension tasks to challenge students. It's our job as educators to provide those opportunities," said Vezenia.

"Change is not a one-step process," she continued. "Throughout this year, we'll continue to improve our instructional practice to make sure all our students are receiving the support

they need when they need it," said Vezenia.

She invited parents, guardians and members of the community at large to visit MMS and see for themselves what's going on.

"We hold tours every Monday from 8:45-9:45 and noon to 1:00. We also understand parents have busy schedules so we are willing to find a time to meet that works best. The teachers and I would love to talk...about the changes we have made and answer any questions," Vezenia said.

For those who would like to meet, the contact information is (978) 297-1256, extension 5101.

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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Please nominate someone

Last year the Winchendon History and Culture Center started something new. They want to make it a new tradition. But they need your help.

Two new awards were created. One, the Meg Uruhart award, is to recognize someone in Winchendon who has done outstanding volunteer work in any capacity.

We all know someone like this. Someone who goes way beyond expectations. Doing more, going out of their way to be helpful. Sometimes it is entirely for one organization, but sometimes it is for several. Sometimes it is for a volunteer position at the town level, maybe years and years devoted to town board, and also volunteering elsewhere on a church committee or at a service group.

The second is the Lois Greenwood award. This one is to recognize someone who pays attention to things of an historic nature in Winchendon. Someone who perhaps also volunteers, or who has brought a beautiful relic back to life, or who pays a great deal of attention to a specific area of historic preservation, or serves untiringly on a town board devoted to not only specifically preserving history, but the fabric of the town, even conservation or the planning that preserves the integrity of our town.

In any event, these two awards will once again be given to deserving people at the annual meeting in May, and we have only a couple of weeks to make a final decision. While a few people have come to mind, the WHCC would like to ask the public if they have someone in mind, if they would like to recommend a good person for either award.

If so, please contact the editor of the Courier at ruth@stonebridgepress.news or by phone at (978) 297-0050 and they will take your nominee under consideration.

In another vein: the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Educatory and state level school board took a vote saying they are not in favor of arming staff in state schools in any way.

They've taken a firm stand on it. The statement made was that they felt students were not safe when unintentional consequences could be the

results of people not professionally trained to handle the situations that might arise.

We support that. We have said in several places the rights of others to own firearms, those who want to hunt, those who want to target practice, those who want to feel themselves safer because they are trained in weapons have every right to that; but they also have to understand the rights of those who don't feel the same way.

There does indeed need to be some restraint on just who can purchase, own and handle firearms. Deadly force is possible, so anyone with a history of instability, violence, or criminal behavior does indeed need to be denied the right to own them.

There is a fine line to be drawn here. And just who it is who can determine those rights must be unbiased, unequivocally qualified to make the decision, and make the decision made on facts, not emotions.

There also needs to be a way for a person, who has done their due diligence to earn back their responsible lives to also earn back a possible right to bear arms once more.

This is the discussion that should be happening.

It should be a discussion involving mental health professionals, law enforcement, judicial presence, legislators, and others with a stake in the outcome, including gun rights advocates.

There can be a lot written into laws that allow for training of young hunters without allowing them to own guns outright; let them wait to the age of 18 to own them.

Anyone can take classes in gun safety and obtaining licensing without actually purchasing a weapon.

So let's take the emotion out of this and be more objective.

We don't want our children with their hands on guns. We don't want the violent and unstable with their hands on guns. We don't want those who respect weapons correctly to lose their rights either.

So find the places to make the meeting of the minds. It is time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OMSC: Thanks for dinner

To the Editor:

The Old Murdock Senior Center would like to thank the members of the Artisan Lodge of Masons of Winchendon for preparing and serving a spectacular ham dinner on Saturday March 24 at the Center in Winchendon.

The dinner, spear headed by Mason Richard McAllister, served approximately 125 elders from Winchendon.

We would like to thank all those who served: the Rainbow Girls from Barre,

the Demolay Boys from the Gardner Masons lodge, and members of the Winchendon Key Club. Thank you also to Steve Hammond who expertly ran our kitchen.

It was a delicious meal and on behalf of the seniors of Winchendon, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

ALL OF US AT THE OLD MURDOCK SENIOR CENTER

Where's the bonnet?

I am writing on Easter Sunday.

Having attended events at two churches, I am ready to declare that the Easter Bonnet no longer exists!

When I was growing up, the ladies, especially on Easter, could be found at church with the most beautiful and colorful bonnets. Some were expensive, some were homemade, but they sure brightened up the occasion.

They were the most beautiful and colorful bonnets. Made from straw, or linen, or other fabrics, they were graced with roses and camellias, violets and daisies, even the occasional magnolia blossom.

You could see lace trim, bits of mesh or veils, and ribbons of all hues, fashioned into bows or streaming down the back of the wearer. There were feathers: pheasant or peacock or dyed and unidentifiable. Occasionally, one could even find a bird perched among the greenery or flowers. It was a veritable burst of brilliance, fluff, and femininity.

I am from a generation that thought women looked beautiful in hats. I cannot imagine who convinced them otherwise. If we knew who he was we could make him wear a bonnet every Sunday for a year.

In fact, I am thinking of organizing a march to oppose this loss of tradition. It would be held on a Sunday.



NOTES OF CONCERN

JACK BLAIR

Participants would skip church. Everyone who misses seeing Easter bonnets in church would gather in Washington, wearing beautiful bonnets, and we would march on the White House where I will have convinced Melania Trump to appear on the

Truman balcony in a festive bonnet. I doubt that this effort would bring bonnets back, but since in a recent column I encouraged people to speak out and demonstrate peacefully, this seems like a good suggestion.

The participation of radicals would not be encouraged, and we would absolutely not burn all our bonnets at the gate of The White House.

Seriously, in my two church events this Easter, each held in a large church with a large assembly of people, I saw THREE bonnets. I made sure to speak to each of these ladies to compliment them. One of them actually said if I liked hers so much, she would let me wear it. I think she missed the suggestion of feminine beauty in my argument.

At my church, I noticed as I approached for Sunday service a lot of kids engaged in an egg hunt on the church grounds. They were running here and there with their little baskets filling up with eggs.

I thought to myself, maybe I should encourage a bonnet hunt for next year.

Where were you when you heard?

We remember where we were when we heard the news, right? We remember where we were November 22, 1963 or September 11, 2001. How can we forget? But there are exceptions. I have no idea where I was but probably home since I was just shy of 15 when 50 years ago Wednesday Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis.

It wasn't that I didn't follow the news, even at 14. I did, voraciously. You have to remember I was made aware early. My mom took me with her when she was distributing leaflets at the polls on Election Day, 1960, and not for Nixon. I spent part of the summer of 1966 (I was 13) volunteering for the Baltimore

County council campaign of Stanley Sollins, though my incentive might have been, well, probably was that he was the uncle or maybe cousin of the first girl I liked. I spent part of that fall handing out literature for, ready, Spiro Agnew, who was actually the rational non-segregationist candidate in the Maryland governor's race. The Democratic nominee was a blithering bigoted dope. Guys like him won nominations when sensible voters split evenly for other candidates so scumbags can slip through primaries. Agnew? He was a progressive. Who knew as county executive he was already taking paper bags full of twenty-dollar bills? Anyway,



JOURNEY OF THE HEART
JERRY CARTON

I was out there volunteering. So were plenty of friends. You think the Parkland kids are the first generation of teenage activists?

So in 1968, I was quite aware of what was going on. I was for Bobby Kennedy because even at that age I felt like Kennedy "got" it about discrimination and probably more so because he was JFK's

brother. I was growing up in a segregated neighborhood because although Maryland had recently passed the state's first open-housing laws and while discrimination was now illegal, well, there were laws and there was reality on the ground below the Mason-Dixon Line. Bottom line - I definitely had a clue.

But I don't remember where I was when I heard about MLK's death. I do remember very well what happened afterwards. Unlike some other cities, Baltimore stayed quiet for a day or two after the assassination. The quiet didn't hold. Even in my suburban neighborhood, you could see the sporadic drift of smoke coming from down-

town where all hell had broken loose and who-knows-how-many businesses including, if I recall, those of my grandfather and uncle, were being looted. I vividly remember the curfews and watching on TV as the National Guard was brought in to restore order. Was it scary? It was surely unsettling.

Nancy Pelosi's brother Tommy was Baltimore's mayor at the time and "young Tommy" as he was known to distinguish him from their father "old Tommy" who'd also been mayor, had been hoping to breathe new life into downtown through a public-private partnership and racially and culturally

Turn To HEARD page A6

Let us not forget MLK Jr.'s great contributions

Fifty years. It has been five decades since the assassination of one of America's greatest civil rights leaders, and quite possibly the greatest of our history, Martin Luther King Jr., who was struck down in his messaging prime on April 4, 1968 by a cold blooded act of racism and hatred.

Nobel Prize winner, advocate of non-violence, civil rights activist and leader, and very possibly the greatest communicator of African American heritage ever known to have graced our lands from sea to shining sea. A man among men, a gentleman of gentlemen, Martin Luther King Jr.'s messages still live strongly with us to this very day.

While we could use many large and glorious words to describe his efforts and campaigns against racism, hatred, and bigotry, I say keep it simplistically, just has MLK Jr. kept many of his speeches and messages, and call him one of the greatest citizens and contributors in the history of the United States of America.

Racism exists in many shapes and forms. From being turned down for

housing when some landlords conveniently use the legal excuse of "We found a more financially qualified client" to racist comments such as "African-American's don't want to work or work as hard as white people" or "Blacks are not as smart as whites" and many more. While we as a people and nation have come far and made significant strides against this pathetic ignorance, arrogance, and lack of intelligent thought in many ways, "We the People" as a combined total have seemed to of stalled either dead in our tracks, or in certain situations taken even taken steps backwards.

Hatred, intolerance, and racism come in many forms. It not only lurks in the deepest and darkest shadows of our society, but also places itself right out there in the daylight for many to see.

No person as a young child is born with either racism or hatred, it is something which is taught by adults who



ANYTHING NEAR & FAR
KEITH KENT

see a color, they see a person. Many adults should take a good long hard look and learn from this.

Our nation has gone and continues to go though many growing pains. Yes, sadly it is part of the greatest political experiment ever undertaken in this world with the formation of our nation, from its beginnings as a fledgling nation to the world's current day greatest super power, racism and hatred still exists. While we may never totally stop it as it has existed since early humanity, we can take a stand against it and decide not to teach it.

When I attended, and played locally, on the GHS basketball team 30 years

ago when we took the old Wachusett League 18-0, I was great friends with one of the only then two African American students in my school. We were nearly inseparable. This man to this day is still GHS's all-time leading scorer in a sport which for us was nearly a religion. I can't even tell you how many times we slept over each others' homes as friends, students, and teammates. I took my share of unintelligent racist flak during those old days long ago and I will tell you this, I wouldn't have traded those times and memories with my old friend for anything in the world.

Martin Luther King Jr., the contributions of both yourself and great family are not forgotten. You were and always will be a man among men, one of our greatest communicators, and a shining example of what life could be like if people would just see a person, and not a color. Fifty years ago, you were taken away from us far too early. Please know in heaven above, your great teachings and messages like you sir are not forgotten. You may have not lived to see your dream, but many are still fighting for it.



The Alligator Pit

YOUR TURN

BRIAN DICKENS

My days are often spent replacing a teacher at any of the public schools. Around the end of March, I decided to stick around and observe one of my classes during their gym period. I chose to do this because I saw a long rope hanging between two large gymnastics fall mats, separated by a flat, level floor. I noticed that the rope was closer to one side. Then I listened to the teacher explain the rules.

"Using anything on the mat, get your whole class across the alligator pit. Everyone stands on one mat, and they must use the rope to get to the other mat without touching the floor — or falling in the gator pit. Again — you cannot jump, you cannot reach the rope. What will you do?"

The students took off their shoes and took right to shouting at each other. There was a nucleus of four or five girls who were ripping into a few boys for continually suggesting that they do a cheerleader-type lift. The girls were the ones pulling everyone about, and the boys were attempting to yell louder than everyone else while being

far too rough and belligerent. The rest of the students all stood around, scratching their chins and shrugging their shoulders. Some of them sat down. Their voices would not be heard, of course, even if they had a good idea.

"Alright, everyone off the mat," the teacher said. After managing to make the class settle down and listen, the teacher asked, "so, I ask the class this: is everyone's voice being heard?"

Half the class answered an immediate yes, followed by some clear, soft spoken nos.

"Hmm, well now!" the teacher and I laughed. "Consider this and make another attempt," they were instructed.

The class tried to cross the gator pit, shrieked at each other, and were seated from the activity another three times. At the last sit down, one kid raised his hand and said "I have a sweatshirt, so?..."

The bossy girls and imaginative boys gasped and jumped right back on the mat before even being told to. They swung the sweatshirt towards the rope, lassoed the thing over,

and had control of it — but not the control of their absolutely maniacal, screaming, cheering voices!

The teacher and I clasped our ears, hollering, "oh my gosh, alright, enough, alright!"

They did not manage to get everyone across the gator pit in the span of the gym period. But this was enough of an experiment to make a very curious impression on me. This class had been at their own throats for most of the day prior to this afternoon gym time. It was such a political, controversial group of folks, tattling brazenly to the attention of the whole class, several times an hour — always trying to start something! It was ruthless!

But this behavior separated them from solutions when they needed those higher skills the most. This observation of mine begs the question: did the kids know? I cannot say if they do.

Were they aware of just how much they disliked some of their classmates, and how the gym activity was made worse by its forcing them to associate with people they considered lesser?

Again, I can only speculate. Speaking as a former grade schooler, I can recall very clear

hierarchies, cliques and inner circles that made school the occasionally hazardous place it sometimes was. But here's the kicker: I definitely didn't conceptualize it in that manner at the time, maybe not even until years later.

In reflecting on the battling children, the ear stinging shouts and flagrant roughhousing, I have found myself judging my own feelings about my childhood. More specifically, I think about the shame, fear and utter discomfort of what it meant to grow up. It draws me to consider if I even have grown up — and what about everyone else?

We have rendered our own gator pit in our eggshell coated environment of political dialogue and communication with our closest allies, neighbors and family members. I witnessed a tiny truth in that gym: that a small but deafening minority can call the shots, even if they don't have real ideas.

A more tender person in this toxic and frightening atmosphere has little desire to join this type of fray. They may begin to pity the group, or choose to sit out and wash their hands of the outcome. But

if they are viewing the process at all, they are immured with the idea that their class cannot manage to solve this issue. They will retreat to their corners later to complain and point fingers.

But this is when we remember that it is often just one person with one good idea who flips the switch. It took a single, scared soul, voice shaking, to object to common wisdom — or the lack thereof — and make a proposal. They might not even be congratulated or honored for their successful methods, becoming just another student in the class once more.

This is the world most of us come from — one of adversity, frustration and annoyance. But we can beat it when we realize that we exist in a vacuum of human connectivity and moral, mutual aid. We can only cross that alligator pit once we hear every idea, and cast them against the walls of everyone's conscience to see if they stick or bounce back. This is a terrifying and begrudging process.

The result of that effort is never a guarantee for success. But it can be one that presents honor, experience and wisdom to its participants. That sounds like a win to me.

Taking His Dream to Heart

"We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others." — Wil Rogers, American humorist



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

This Wednesday past marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. The great civil rights leader had gone to the city to support striking sanitation workers.

The strike began 12 days after two trash collectors, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, were crushed to death in the maw of a malfunctioning garbage truck. Frustrated by the city's failure to respond to what they saw as a long pattern of neglect and abuse, 1,300 black DPW workers hit the picket line.

It was natural that Dr. King would find himself in Memphis to support the striking workers. He was a champion of the oppressed. His campaign for civil rights had transformed from an effort to raise up African Americans to one designed to give voice to all voiceless people in this nation, to the poor and near poor, black and white.

Still, he was seen by many white people as a threat to a way of life which had too long been the norm in this country. He was feared by those who

claimed to be red, white, and blue Americans but who, at the same time, were uncomfortable when confronted with the principles upon which their homeland was founded.

King spoke those principles in his famous speech at the March on Washington in August 1963: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.'"

But far too many white Americans thought then — and too many still think today — that equality is something that they alone possess and only bestow upon others when they condescend to do so. Equality is a gift, they believe, that must be earned. They don't really believe all men are in fact created equal. Not really. They believe, as George Orwell wrote in the still-relevant *Animal Farm*: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

Our forefathers, to their great disgrace, enshrined that

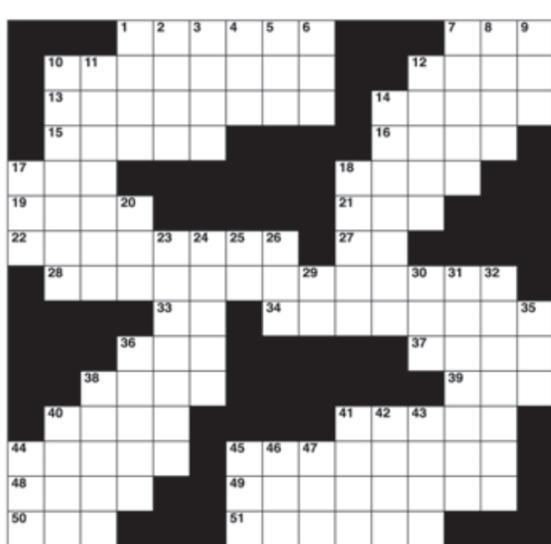
thought when, in our original Constitution, they declared that black slaves would be counted as only three-fifths of a person when determining a state's total population for representation in the U.S. House.

But those among us who still hold onto the long-discredited idea that ours is a white, Anglo-Saxon, protestant nation better wise up...and fast.

The fact remains that, if current populations trends continue, whites will no longer make up the majority of people in this country by 2040, or shortly thereafter. At that time, we will become a nation of minorities only. Whites will still be the largest minority — for a time, but the majority of Americans will have a lot more melanin in their skin than this pasty-faced white guy.

I hope when that day comes that none of us will feel forced to accept our differences but will instead rejoice in our differences. I hope, by then, all Americans will accept that ours is indeed a vibrant, multicultural, multi-ethnic nation.

So, as we remember Dr. Martin Luther King on the 50th anniversary of his untimely death, we ALL would do well to hold onto that dream he expressed on the steps of the Lincoln Monument on August 28, 1963. For only then will we finally have a true American civilization.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Latin American dances
- 7. European viper
- 10. Finch-like birds
- 12. Civil rights college organization
- 13. A person who organizes
- 14. Small carnivorous mammal
- 15. City in Sweden
- 16. Grayish-white
- 17. Google certification (abbr.)
- 18. Six (Spanish)
- 19. The highest adult male singing voice
- 21. Political action committee
- 22. Exterior part of a home
- 27. And, Latin
- 28. Where pirates hide their bounty
- 33. Six
- 34. Cores
- 36. Diego is one
- 37. ___ Carvey, comedian
- 38. Aromatic plant
- 39. Carry with great effort
- 40. One point east of southeast
- 41. Female cattle's mammary gland
- 44. Small fries
- 45. Optimistic in tough times
- 48. Make less distinct
- 49. Surrounds
- 50. Cost per mile
- 51. A local church community

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Beastmaster" actor Singer
- 2. Rice-distilled liquor
- 3. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 4. Wet, muddy ground
- 5. Have an obligation to
- 6. Defunct Chevy convertible truck
- 7. Deer-like water buffalo
- 8. Skin lesion
- 9. Amount in each hundred (abbr.)
- 10. Where kids play ball
- 11. Roman judge
- 12. One who endures hardship without complaint
- 14. Cover the sword
- 17. "Frozen" actor Josh
- 18. Eyeglasses
- 20. Metal-bearing material
- 23. Primitive persons
- 24. Wild ox
- 25. Group of countries (abbr.)
- 26. Before
- 29. Spanish be
- 30. Opposite of the beginning
- 31. With three uneven sides
- 32. Gives a permanent post to
- 35. Actors' group (abbr.)
- 36. Cavalry sword
- 38. Gland secretion
- 40. Marine invertebrate
- 41. Hybrid citrus fruit
- 42. Pairs
- 43. Used to serve food
- 44. English broadcasting network
- 45. Calendar month
- 46. Comedic actress Gasteyer
- 47. Company that rings receipts



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SUDOKU

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

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!

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!

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

ANSWER:



Insightful

OBITUARIES

Carol Schotte Baker

WEST BOYLSTON — Carol Schotte Baker was born in Worcester on March 14, 1934 to Charles and Greta Schotte. Carol grew up in Massachusetts and lived most of her life in West Boylston. After her birth, her mother became ill, and Carol was moved to Huntington, in the Berkshires, to live with her beloved Aunt Hazel and Uncle DeWitt on their farm. Carol

observed and took part in all the activity on this large farm and grain storage facility. Carol was very happy on the farm but at the age of five, her parents moved her back to Worcester. Her mother was well enough to care for her at this point.

Carol attended Worcester public schools and then graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Clark University in 1955. At Clark University, she met and fell in love with her husband of 59 years, Richard J. Baker "Dick" (Dick passed away just over two years ago). They were married in 1956 and then moved to Baumholder, Germany where Richard served in the US Army for two years. He was part of the Tank Battalion, "Hell on Wheels". This force served mainly as a Russian deterrent. After serving their tour of duty, they returned to the US and settled in Boston, where Dick attended and graduated from Boston University Law School. Carol worked as a claims adjuster at Liberty Mutual while Dick was attending law school (she was a diligent worker and fully supported them through Dick's time in law school).

After graduating law school, Dick landed a job as an attorney at Allmerica Financial in Worcester. Carol and Dick had three beautiful children and raised their family of three children, Laurie, Rick, and Scott in West Boylston. After her children were grown, Carol returned to school at Assumption and received her Master's degree in special education. She worked at Quinsigamond Community College as an English and learning dis-

abilities tutor, West Boylston public schools as a reading tutor, and in the Winchendon public schools as a special needs teacher. She became a very accomplished reading specialist with an expertise in teaching children with dyslexia. She was successful and well-liked by her students and colleagues. Many young adults owe their ability to read to Carol's dedicated and skillful teaching methods. Carol was also the founder and director of the Community Nursery at the First Congregational Church in West Boylston from 1964-70.

Carol was known as a forward thinking entrepreneur and feminist. Her accomplishments teaching, and founding the Community Nursery were no easy feat and she was met with much opposition at the time, as women were expected to stay at home and raise their families. Carol has always had a kind heart and an eye for justice and fairness. She would be the first to identify and speak up against injustice. She was a strong advocate for her children, her husband and her students. She was a lover of animals and donated to The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals throughout her life.

She is survived by her two children, Dr. Richard J. Baker Jr., Scott C. Baker, and seven grandchildren. Carol had a close relationship with her daughter, Laurie. Laurie passed away a day after her mother.

Family and friends will gather to honor, remember and celebrate the lives of Carol and Laurie on April 7 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm at Fay Brothers Funeral Home, One West Boylston St., West Boylston. A private family burial will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to: The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals online at mस्पca.org. Click on Donate Now upper right. Click on memorial. Gifts can be made in Carol's name.

For additional information, or to place an online condolence please visit: www.faybrothers.com.

Linda C. (Leduc) Cassettari, 56

WINCHENDON — Linda C. (Leduc) Cassettari, age 56, of 1245 Alger St., died peacefully Saturday morning, March 31, 2018 in UMass Memorial Medical Center, Worcester, with her family at her side.



She was born in Methuen on March 4, 1962, daughter of Carolyn M. (Lizotte) Leduc of Lawrence and the late Richard E. Leduc Sr. Linda received her GED and graduated later in life from Mt. Wachusett Community College, Gardner.

Linda grew up in Lawrence and lived in Gardner for many years. For the last 10 years she lived in Winchendon. Linda worked as a driver of special education children for Van Pool. She previously worked as a van driver for Heritage Transportation. Linda had a very generous heart for children and animals. Most recently, Linda had worked with her close friend, Anne Cook at Perennial Patch in Winchendon.

In addition to her mother, she leaves her husband and soul mate of 32 years, James A. Cassettari; her brothers and sisters, Nancy A. Leduc and her husband Michael H. Schloss of Windham, NH, Richard E. Leduc Jr. and his wife Lisa of Methuen, Debra A. Leduc of Lawrence, Anne M. Leduc of Andover and Kristopher E. Leduc of Lawrence; her nieces and nephews, Carolyn Alicata, Mackenzie Leduc, Nicholas Leduc and Rachel Schloss; two great nephews, Matthew Alicata and Brodie Dube; an aunt Lorraine Leduc of Salem, NH; a brother in law, Stephen Cassettari of Manchester, NH and a sister in law, Lynne Brown of Haverhill. Above all else, Linda loved her family and friends and spending time with them.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 2 to 4 P.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central Street, Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue, 381R Baldwinville Road, Templeton, MA 01468.

Lonnie Jean Kindley, 84

PORTSMOUTH NH — Lonnie Jean Kindley, age 84, of Portsmouth and a former resident of Hampton, passed away peacefully at the Edgewood Centre on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, where she had been living since falling ill. Lonnie was born in Van Buren, IN, one of 10 children to the late Francis D. and Eldora (Mendenhall) Slagle.

Raised in Van Buren, Lonnie met the love of her life and future husband, Marvin L. Kindley, at a school basketball game. They were married and lived the life of an Air Force family, residing in many locations during Marvin's 20 year career. Lonnie's main focus was taking care of the household, raising their daughter Sherry and keeping things in order during Marvin's deployments. They moved to Hampton in 1972

after Marvin's retirement.

Family was her life, especially her grandchildren, and she thoroughly loved attending as many of their school and sporting events as possible.

Family members include her daughter Sherry Lee Hilton and her husband, Robert of Winchendon; her grandson, Anthony Prescott and his wife Celina of Loudon, NH; her great-grandchildren, Mariah, Brianna, Acacia and Hunter; and her great-great-grandchildren, Brody and Keira.

In addition to her parents and beloved husband, Marvin, Lonnie was predeceased by her nine siblings.

Services will be private. Assistance with arrangements was by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory, Hampton.

Barbara Ann (Soper) Hayes

BURLINGTON — Barbara Ann (Soper) Hayes of Burlington, unexpectedly, March 12.

Beloved wife of the late Robert J. Loving and cherished mom of Pamela Hayes & her significant other Kevin Raymond of Winchendon and the late Robert J. Proud grandmother of Manuel Caiado & his wife Victoria, Michael Caiado & his fiancée Donna Moore, Robert Hayes & Ryan Hayes. Great-grandmother of Jacob, Maxwell and Emmaline. Sister of the late Ken Soper. Sister-in-law of Joan Soper of New Hampshire and Katherine Jerde of Iowa. Barbara is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at the United Church of Christ of Congregational, 6 Lexington St., Burlington on Monday, March 19. Burial followed in Shawsheen Cemetery, Bedford.

Visiting hours were held at the Edward V Sullivan Funeral Home, 43 Winn St., BURLINGTON (Exit 34 off Rt. 128/95 Woburn side) on Sunday, March 18.

Memorials in Barbara's name may be made to the UCC Church, 6 Lexington St., Burlington, MA 01803. For directions, obituary & online guestbook see www.sullivanfuneralhome.net & www.uccburlington.org

Mary M. (Morin) Maillet, 90

FITCHBURG — Mary M. (Morin) Maillet, age 90, of Fitchburg, passed away peacefully in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home on March 19, 2018.

Mary was born in Winchendon on November 14, 1927, a daughter of the late Frank and Madeline (Reynolds) Morin. She loved to browse yard sales and flea markets in her spare time.

Mary also enjoyed relaxing at the beach and was an avid reader. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Mary is survived by her son James Maillet and wife Andrea of Gardner; three grandchildren, Melissa Maillet,

Kristopher Maillet, and Kellie Maillet; three great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband Delcy Maillet, her two sons Michael Maillet, and Paul Maillet, with whom she lived and had a special bond. Mary was also predeceased by her brother Buster Maillet.

Calling hours were held in Brandon Funeral Home, 305 Wanoosnoc Rd., Fitchburg on Saturday, March 24. Mary's funeral Mass was in St. Bernards Parish at St. Camillus Church, 333 Mechanic St., Fitchburg. Burial will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Pat Brody Cat Shelter, PO Box 142, Lunenburg, MA 01462.

Father Robert Mathieu

WESTBOROUGH — Father Bob Mathieu passed away on February 16, 2018 from injuries sustained in a car accident in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was patient and kind and will be remembered for his laughter and easy going attitude. Over the course of his 42 years in the priesthood, he formed beautiful and lasting friendships, and will be greatly missed.

Born in Winchendon and raised in Westborough Father Bob was the oldest of twelve children. He felt a calling to the priesthood at the age of eight and in high school decided to answer that call. Ordained at St. Luke's Parish in

Westborough in 1976, Father Bob began his ministry in the Southwest. At the time of the accident, he was the pastor of Our Lady of the Snow in Snowflake, AZ.

Father Bob leaves behind six brothers, five sisters, and 27 nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Bob and Lee Mathieu.

Father Bob sought to serve his diocese for many years. Memorial contributions, in his name, may be made to The Diocese of Gallup: 503 W. Highway 66, Suite B, P.O. Box 1338, Gallup, New Mexico 87301.

Funeral Services and Burial were held in Snowflake, AZ.

A Memorial Mass and Celebration of His Life were held on Saturday, March 24 at St. Luke's Church, 70 West Main Street, Westborough. www.westboroughfuneralhome.com

Nancy J. (LaFountain) Piepiora

RINDGE — formerly of Fitchburg, Nancy J. (LaFountain) Piepiora, a special family member and friend let this earth March 12, 2018. Her pain and suffering has finally left her.

Nancy was born May 11, 1945 in Fitchburg daughter of Albert W. and Dorothy M. (Harland) LaFountain. She leaves her brother Richard and his wife Ellen LaFountain of Rindge, nieces Karin L. Forgues and husband Brian of Winchendon, Kathryn J. Kidder and Eric of Palm Bay, FL. and Kristina A. Nieves and Eric of Gardner and several great-nieces and nephews all of Winchendon, Florida and Berlin, N.H. She was predeceased by her son Steven

Piepiora, her significant other of many years Daniel O'Connell, her parents and nephew Jason LaFountain.

For many years she was employed at Burbank Hospital as a x-ray file clerk before they closed and had worked at Asher Pant Co. She retired from the office of Dr. Vasuki Radhakrishnan. She was a dedicated employee, never late, never took time off for any reason and just very caring and dedicated. When she moved to Rindge she loved her home and would just sit outside every day and watch all the birds. She loved going to the beach, going shopping and going to yard sales. She will be sadly missed by her four-legged friend Molly, whom she loved very much, also her closest friend Nicky Leger of many years.

At her request there will be no funeral services. Aubuchon-Moorcroft Funeral Home Fitchburg is assisting the family with arrangements.

HEARD

continued from page A4

diverse neighborhood organizations. The riots, which began in the same neighborhoods which would be aflame again in 2015, ended that ambition. The flight to the suburbs accelerated and while Tommy's successor, the inimitable William Donald Schaefer, did build that coalition and engineered breathtaking changes the turnaround hasn't lasted. There are to be sure still great things about Baltimore but so many things to be frustrated and depressed about as well.

There are so many reasons. We all know them. Urban jobs disappeared as

companies fled to happier tax havens. Drug dealers moved in. Neighborhood stores often closed up, making it so much harder for inner-city residents to be able to access shopping options. Getting to the malls was frequently out of the question. Income inequality continues to grow and not just because of race. I could go on and on as could you no doubt. I don't think Dr. King would be very pleased with where we seem to be right now but he'd also be reminding us that the arc of the universe, while long, eventually bends towards justice. He'd also remind us of our obligation to be participating members of society. It's an admonition we need to take to heart. See you next week.



STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME

STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME

343 Central Street
Winchendon, MA 01475

Tel: 978-297-0077 • Fax: 978-297-0075

OBITUARIES

Doris Mary (Leger) Legros, 87

FITCHBURG — Doris Mary (Leger) Legros, age 87, of Fitchburg, died Monday, March 12, 2018, at Health Alliance - Leominster Hospital.



Her husband, Norman V. Legros, died in 1987.

Mrs. Legros was born in Fitchburg, July 15, 1930, a daughter of Anselme and Regina (Cormier) Leger and was a lifelong Fitchburg resi-

dent.

She was a member of St. Joseph's Church and many years ago had been involved in the Fitchburg Cub Scout program. She enjoyed crocheting, and working on jigsaw puzzles. She was an avid fan of the Boston sports teams, especially the Red Sox.

Many years ago she worked at Comfort Slipper in Fitchburg.

She leaves three sons, Brian N. Legros and his wife, Eileen, of Lakeville, MN, Alan Legros and his wife, Laura of Sandy Hook, CT,

Richard Legros and his companion, Donna Goodchild of Fitchburg; a daughter, Paula Livesay and her husband, James, of Winchendon; three sisters, Lillian Richard, Clarice Lomaglio and Pauline Bowen all of Fitchburg. She also leaves 9 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was the sister of the late Ovila Leger, Joseph Leger, Gerene LeBlanc, Lucille Cormier and Bernadette Baldarelli.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, March 16, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church, 49 Woodland Street, Fitchburg. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

the Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home, 316 Clarendon Street, Fitchburg was entrusted with arrangements. Please see www.andersonfuneral.com for additional information or to leave and e-condolence.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Willis Merrill Pearson, 90

LANCASTER — Willis Merrill Pearson, age 90, of Lancaster, and former longtime resident of Carlisle, died at home on Saturday, March 24, 2018.



He was born in Concord on Sept. 12, 1927 as the son of the late Willis and Celeste (Melanson) Pearson. A World War II Navy veteran and 1947 graduate of Concord High School, he was voted most valuable player

on the school's first undefeated football team. He also graduated from Bentley School of Accounting and Finance in 1950.

Bill retired from the town of Concord Light Department. He enjoyed following the Red Sox, New York Giants, and New England Patriots. He also loved gardening, black labs, and a host of outdoor activities.

He was the father of Thomas R. Pearson and his wife Judy of Strafford, NH, Merrill Bloor and her husband Bill of Plymouth, and the late Michael W.

Pearson and his surviving wife Carolyn of Winchendon. He also leaves behind four grandchildren, Michelle Bissonnette and her husband Jerry of Townsend, TJ Pearson and his wife Nicole of Lancaster, Michael Pearson of Clinton, and Emily Gravelle and her husband Mark of Gardner, MA, nine great-grandchildren: Courtney, Wyatt, Sam, Connor, Maddie, Ryan, Kayleigh, Tommy, and Zach, several nieces and nephews, and his former wife, Jane R. Pearson of Marshfield. He was the brother of the late George Pearson.

Relatives and friends gathered for his graveside service on Thursday, March 29 in Green Cemetery, Bedford Road, Carlisle.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Bethke Cancer Center, Emerson Hospital, 133 ORNAC, Concord, MA 01742.

Arrangements are under the care of Dee Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Concord. To share a remembrance or to send a condolence in his online guestbook, please visit www.DeeFuneralHome.com.

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, MARCH 27

12:16-12:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:58 a.m.: suspicious mv (Central Street), unable to locate; 1:29-2:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:20 a.m.: ambulance (Summer Street), transported; 5:27 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:32 a.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Avenue), transported; 5:45 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 6:04 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 6:11 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 6:20 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 8:58 a.m.: animal complaint (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 9:58 a.m.: mv stop (Front Street), citation issued; 10:23 a.m.: summons service (Hale Street), unable to serve; 10:31 a.m.: summons service (Brown Street), served; 10:49 a.m.: summons service (Grove Street), served; 10:52 a.m.: summons service (Brown Street), unable to serve; 1:25 p.m.: juvenile/general (Memorial Drive), assisted; 1:29-1:47 p.m.: summons service, advised officer; 1:50 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), citation issued; 2:13 p.m.: mv stop (Front Street), citation issued; 3:15 p.m.: threats (Baldwinville Road), referred; 3:27 p.m.: mv violation (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 3:48 p.m.: summons service (Summer Street), served; 3:51 p.m.: summons service (Spruce Street), served; 3:55 p.m.: summons service (Spruce Street), unable to serve; 4:00 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street), transported; 4:06 p.m.: summons service (Maynard Street), unable to serve; 4:09 p.m.: summons service (Spruce Street), unable to serve; 4:11 p.m.: summons service (Academy Street), unable to serve; 4:21 p.m.: summons service (Ready Drive), unable to serve; 4:26 p.m.: summons service (Brown Avenue), unable to serve; 4:33 p.m.: noise complaint (Metcalf Street), info given; 4:42 p.m.: summons service (River Street), served; 4:46 p.m.: summons service (Hale Street), unable to serve; 4:50 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 4:56 p.m.: summons service (Hale Street), unable to serve; 5:08 p.m.: assist citizen (Mill Glen Road), info taken; 6:02 p.m.: mv stop (Elmwood Road), citation issued; 6:31 p.m.: mv stop (Harvard Street), Salvatore J. DiCostanzo, 50, 204 Glenallan Street, #1, Winchendon, op w/suspended license, arrest; 7:33 p.m.: assist motorist (Gardner Road), services rendered; 9:38 p.m.: mv stop (Pond Street), verbal warning; 9:55 p.m.: noise complaint (Tucker Street), unable to locate; 10:41 p.m.: fire alarm (Elmwood Road), services rendered; 11:19 p.m.: burglar alarm (Joslin Road), no service necessary.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

12:50 a.m.: burglar alarm (Central Street), secure; 1:41-1:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:27 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 5:55 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 6:18 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 6:28 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 7:40 a.m.: fire/box alarm (Commercial Drive), accidental; 8:03 a.m.: ambulance (Brown Street), transported; 8:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Teel Road), spoken to; 9:04 a.m.: accident (Teel Road), report taken; 9:39 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 9:55 a.m.: officer wanted (Elmwood Road), canceled; 10:42 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 10:51 a.m.: summons service (Old Gardner Road), served; 11:03 a.m.:

River Street MVA requires multiple ambulances.

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

A motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles with unknown injuries took place in the early afternoon on Thursday, March 29 at 400 River St. in front of Waterville Plaza, necessitating three ambulances for the parties involved.

Winchendon Dispatch received the call for the River Street MVA at 1:07 p.m., immediately placing the call for both police and fire departments, along with EMS.

A black 2004 Ford Escape driven by Alexander Monaco of Main Street, Winchendon, traveling southerly on River Street was attempting to turn left in to the Waterville Plaza in front of One Stop Convenience when it was struck in the passenger side by a 2013 Jeep Wrangler operated by Mercedes Tejada, of Alger Street, Winchendon who was traveling in the north bound lane.

With police quickly first on scene, the WFD who also received a call for

aid at 1:08 p.m. was on scene with its Engine 2 pumper truck, just two minutes later at 1:10 p.m.

As possibly injuries were reported, dispatch then placed the calls for three ambulances to assist for both Monaco and a passenger, along with Tejada in the other vehicle.

Due to the location of the MVA, traffic was temporarily diverted around the accident through the plaza. Members of the Winchendon DPW, who were also in the area of the scene early on, assisted with temporarily directing traffic.

WFD A-1 and A-2 transported both Monaco and his passenger, a minor, to Heywood Hospital for treatment, and Woods Ambulance, which arrived to assist for Tejada, returned, as she exercised her legal right to a medical right of refusal.

Lt. Kevin Wolski reported one citation was issued for failure to yield to oncoming traffic when turning. No other information was available per motor vehicle law and medical privacy rights.

animal complaint (Lakeshore Drive), referred to ACO; 11:08 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 11:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Spring Street), referred to ACO; 12:44 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), citation issued; 12:59 a.m.: welfare check/child (Beech Street), spoken to; 1:09 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street), transported; 1:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Washington Avenue), report taken; 1:58 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), verbal warning; 2:05 p.m.: keep the peace (Maple Street), verbal warning; 2:18 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street), spoken to; 2:36 p.m.: harassment (Main Street), report taken; 4:14 p.m.: warrant arrest (Court Street), Joshua Daniel Develis, 27, 104 Oak Street, Winchendon, arrest based on warrant x 2; 4:35 p.m.: burglar alarm (Royalston Road North), secure; 4:56 p.m.: harassment (Front Street), report taken; 5:44 p.m.: fight (Central Street), report taken; 7:07 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 7:13 p.m.: mv stop (Krantz Road), written warning; 7:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:27 p.m.: attempt to locate (Front Street), unsuccessful; 7:31 p.m.: officer wanted (Teel Road), report taken; 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 9:42 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), written warning; 9:46 p.m.: ambulance (Woodlawn Street), assisted; 11:30 p.m.: assist other PD (New Brunswick, NJ), info taken.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

12:28-1:19 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:39 a.m.: noise complaint (Goodrich Drive), spoken to; 1:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Town Farm Road), report taken; 1:57 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:28 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:40 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 6:10 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 7:25 a.m.: assist citizen (Elmwood Road); 7:45 a.m.: 911 non-emergency (Pleasant Street), secure; 7:56 a.m.: ambulance (Benjamin Street), transported; 8:59 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 9:51 a.m.: attempt to locate (Rivet Street), spoken to; 11:02 a.m.: threats (Royalston Road North), report taken; 12:30 p.m.: info/general (Elmwood Road), report taken; 12:36 p.m.: bolo (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 1:06 p.m.: accident (River Street), transported; 1:10 p.m.:

suspicious/other (Front Street), spoken to; 1:18 p.m.: bolo (North Ashburnham Road), unable to locate; 1:41 p.m.: 911 hang-up (Teel Road), no service necessary; 2:10 p.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street), assisted; 2:37 p.m.: suspicious/other (School Street), assisted; 3:18 p.m.: annoying phone calls (Ipswich Drive), info taken; 3:33 p.m.: threats (Goodrich Street), info taken; 4:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Metcalf Street), referred to ACO; 6:13 p.m.: assist citizen (Mill Glen Road); 6:34 p.m.: animal complaint (West Street), referred to ACO; 7:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Bayberry Circle), spoken to; 7:20 p.m.: FD call (Hyde Park Drive), referred; 9:37 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 9:44 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 10:59 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Drive), transported.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

12:24-12:34 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:36 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), written warning; 12:58-1:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring Street), report taken; 1:22 a.m.: building checked, secure; 8:21 a.m.: property found (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 10:01 a.m.: welfare check/general (Spring Street), no service necessary; 10:24 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), Kevin D. Stacey, 42, 328 Brook Street, Carlisle, MA, op w/suspended license, summons; 12:30 p.m.: assist citizen (Mason Street); 12:46 p.m.: bolo (Goodrich Drive), unable to locate; 12:55 p.m.: assist citizen (School Street); 1:18 p.m.: assist citizen (Winter Street), spoken to; 1:46 p.m.: erratic operation (Route 202 N, Rindge), referred; 3:15 p.m.: custody dispute (Alger Street), advised civil action; 3:24 p.m.: ATV complaint (North Vine Street), spoken to; 4:32 p.m.: animal complaint (Royalston Road North), referred to ACO; 5:34 p.m.: fire/box alarm (Hyde Park Drive), referred; 7:23 p.m.: assist other PD (Central Street), unable to locate; 11:40 p.m.: intoxicated person (Central Street), returned to home.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

12:18 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 12:43 a.m.: investigation (Gardner Road), secure; 12:55 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 1:14-1:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure;

2:58 a.m.: burglar alarm (Ash Street), secure; 4:03 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Drive), transported; 8:41 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), 10:56 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 11:02 a.m.: burglar alarm (School Street), false alarm; 12:21 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 12:31 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), citation issued; 12:42 p.m.: info/general (Chestnut Street), info given; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (Teel Road), assisted; 1:19 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), info taken; 2:49 p.m.: accident (Mill Glen Road), report taken; 2:56 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Street), transported; 3:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Juniper Street), spoken to; 5:21 p.m.: intoxicated person (Elmwood Road), returned to home; 7:27 p.m.: accident (Front Street), report taken; 10:53 p.m.: ambulance (Spring Street), assisted; 11:47-11:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

12:04-3:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:49 a.m.: suspicious/other (Highland Street), secure; 8:14 a.m.: stolen mv (Front Street), referred to other PD; 9:09 a.m.: custody dispute (Brown Street), advised legal help; 10:16 a.m.: accident (Teel Road), no service necessary; 12:14 p.m.: burglar alarm (Central Street), secured bldg.; 12:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Baldwinville State Road), canceled; 12:55 p.m.: property damage (Main Street), report taken; 2:23 p.m.: custody dispute (Pearl Drive), report taken; 3:38 p.m.: 911 non-emergency (Murdoch Avenue), services rendered; 5:02 p.m.: assist other agency (Eli Drive), services rendered; 5:31 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), transported to hospital; 6:35 p.m.: suspicious mv (Gardner Road), services rendered; 6:47 p.m.: harassment (Duval Court), report taken; 7:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Franklin Street), referred to ACO; 7:21 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville State Road), services rendered; 8:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), spoken to; 8:15 p.m.: repossess mv (Elmwood Road), info taken; 8:44 p.m.: ambulance (Gardner Road), returned to home; 9:40 p.m.: dog bite (Rice Road), report taken; 9:52 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 11:42 p.m.: building checked, secure.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

12:02 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:08 a.m.: property lost (Mason Street), info taken; 12:15-12:37 a.m.: 5:18 a.m.: fire alarm (Old Centre), assisted; 7:36 p.m.: threats (Emerald Street), info taken; 7:41 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), report taken; 8:32 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road), report taken; 8:37 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), services rendered; 10:00 a.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street), assisted; 10:14 a.m.: summons service (Central Street), advised office; 10:16 a.m.: summons service (Juniper Street), advised officer; 12:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Hyde Park Drive), assisted; 12:05 p.m.: trespassing (Pearl Drive), unable to serve; 12:39 p.m.: disabled mv (Baldwinville State Road), unable to locate; 12:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Alger Street), referred; 1:00 p.m.: juvenile/general (Memorial Drive), report taken; 1:48 p.m.: FD call (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 1:54 p.m.: investigation (Highland Street), report taken; 3:18 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), unable to locate; 3:28 p.m.: intoxicated person (School Street), arrest; 3:54 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 4:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Hyde Park Drive), referred to ACO; 4:36 p.m.: ambulance (Old Centre), transported; 4:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 5:31 p.m.: ambulance (Brown Street), transported; 5:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street), referred to ACO; 5:51 p.m.: intoxicated person (Otter River Road), report taken; 5:55 p.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Road), transported; 6:13 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street); 7:03 p.m.: ambulance (Spring Circle), no cause; 9:14 p.m.: burglar alarm (Toy Town Lane), accidental.

SPORTS

Murdock Spring Sports Preview

In spite of Mother Nature's strange sense of humor with continued snow and rain that threaten to delay the opening of the spring sports season, all of the Murdock Spring Sports

teams have been working hard at indoor practices. The girls' softball, boys' baseball and boys/girls track and field teams have been diligently preparing for their opening days, which as of this writing, continue to be scheduled for Thursday, April 5 for Track and Tuesday, April 10 for baseball and softball.

SOFTBALL: John Reilly, the new varsity softball coach, is excited to have 11 versatile players on the 2018 team.

"This is a wonderful group who believes in hard work, dedication, and teamwork! We've developed strong communication between the coaches and players."

Reilly is assisted by Jack Smith and Guy Santos.

"We plan on fielding

VIEW FROM THE TOWER
SUE POLCARI

three teams this year: Middle school, JV and Varsity."

The JV team will be skipped by longtime coach and teacher, Stephanie Rondeau while the Middle School team will be

coached by Dave Laraba. Reilly exclaims, "I am thankful to have such a dedicated coaching staff."

Reilly has appointed four captains for this year's squad: senior, Molly Murphy (outfield captain), junior Jocelyn Garner (infield captain), junior Emily Smith (pitchers' captain) and junior Maria Polcari (catchers' captain). Smith will be the starting pitcher with Polcari behind the plate. Rounding out the team, in addition to the above mentioned players, are Emily Kiberd-Pervier, Victoria St. Hilaire, Kelly Murphy, Lindsey Smith, Meghan Knight, Cassidy Stadfeld and Ashley Sevigny, all of whom are multi-position players.

TRACK: Anthony

Findley, assisted by Dick and Eha Karvonen, Max Rocheleau and Drew Pelkey, is pleased to see several new faces (primarily on the girls' side) in addition to a "good group of returning athletes" from the winter season and last spring.

Coach Findley states, "We are in a tough league" (which includes the Central Mass State Champ Ayer-Shirley), but predicts a second place finish for the boys and possible second place for the girls. The primary focus this season will be on individual events. Findley has some solid competitors in 8th graders Lilly Digman and Nobaleigh Laraba, freshmen Alexia Allard and Briahna Bouchard, and sophomores Paige and Hanna Demanche. Ani-naj Rodriguez (new to Murdock) and Rachel Legault also show promise as point contributors to the team.

On the boys' side, a strong Junior component in Richard Swanson III, Adam Digman, Ryan Thira, and Dylan Lupien

along with sophomore Logan Huff, freshman Justin Thira, and senior Steven Ingman will be the major point contributors in addition to "up and coming" participants Eric Hogan and Kevin Pesce.

All Murdock sprinters and middle distance runners are expected to participate in two field events as well. Long distance runners typically stick to the distance events, but may try their hand in a field event. Multiple other participants on both the boys' and girls' teams help provide depth to the teams and gain valuable experience in various running and field events.

BASEBALL: In his fourth year at the helm, varsity baseball Coach Bob Polcari, is encouraged by what he has seen so far in his baseball team. Even though last year's two top hitters (Will Iannacone and John Murphy) were lost to graduation, two of the three starting pitchers are returning (Zach Richards and Jack Polcari). Additionally, the majority of this year's

team are returnees which Coach Polcari feels "helps in development at the plate to be more productive" in order to score runs.

Alex Marshall (OF/C), Sam Drake (OF,2B), and Austin Barrows (3B, 1B,P) have been named captains of this year's team. All three are seniors and have demonstrated leadership qualities, commitment to the team and have been with the program for several years. Other seniors on the team are Scotty Laverdure (OF), Austin Fontaine (OF/P), and Donovan Rudy (P/1B/OF). Junior players are Zach Richards (P/1B/OF), Mitch Charland (2B), Tony Wolski (SS/OF/P), Dom Quinones (3B/P/OF) and Nick LeBlanc (3B/OF). Sophomores Alec Barrows (C/OF) and Mohrei Castro (2B/OF) and freshman Jack Polcari (P/SS/OF) round out the team. Richards, Polcari and Rudy are slated as the starting three pitchers with Alec Barrows starting behind the plate.

Coach Polcari states, "we're doing as much as

we can in the gym, but I'm looking forward to getting outside - fortunately (or unfortunately), most of the schools are in the same boat" as far as having unusable fields at this point.

"This is a good group of kids, and they're rounding into a pretty good team. Our goal is to improve from one game to the next and be competitive."

Varsity assistant coach is Stephen Brown. This year's middle school coach is Kevin Southwell.

Upcoming events:
Tuesday, April 10th - Varsity Softball 3:30 at Murdock

Tuesday, April 10th - Varsity Baseball 3:30 at Nashoba Valley Technical School

Thursday, April 12th - Track 3:30 at Narragansett

Thursday, April 12th - Varsity Baseball/Varsity Softball 4:00 at Murdock

Friday, April 20th - Varsity Baseball 12:00 at David Prouty

Saturday, April 21st - Bottle/Can Drive at Rite Aid

Philly earns its rep... but horses have to run to earn theirs



TALKING SPORTS
JERRY CARTON

I am about to pen a sentence I never thought I or anyone else would ever write, one I have never wanted to write but here goes. The winningest sports city in America is Philadelphia. Really. Can you believe it? Do you want to believe it?

Two months ago, the Eagles won the Super Bowl, which still seems surreal. Last Monday, the Villanova Wildcats (as predicted here) won their second NCAA title in three years by methodically taking apart a

pretty good Michigan team, completing a tournament in which they won all six games by double digits. The Madness began three-plus weeks ago when the overall number one seed, Virginia, became the first ever to lose to a16 (UMBC), included a slew of buzzer-beater finishes, an unheralded Loyola-Chicago team making the Final Four and it all ended when the best team won. Again. 'Nova went out earlier than they should have last year but roared back this season and likely should have been the top seed. They won most of the time with dazzling offense but with stifling defense and great rebounding when those were needed. The 'Cats were the best team all year, period. Jay Wright joins a short list of coaches will multiple crowns. And so Philly gets to

celebrate again.

It's not that I'm really anti-Philly sports fans but let's face it - in most cities, catcalls are reserved for opponents. Not so in Philadelphia. Those folks save most of their ire for the Phils, Eagles, Sixers and Flyers though they obviously can't complain about the Eagles and shouldn't about the exciting young Sixers. But they do. That's who they are.

There's been plenty of excitement in Augusta, GA this week. The Masters' second round gets underway this morning but before yesterday's opening, we heard rave reviews from other players regarding how well Tiger's game seems to be rounding into form. We'll see of course, but there was a pre-tournament buzz the likes of which we haven't seen in

a while, or since the last time Woods looked like he might be a legitimate contender. It's not just that. While he is the main attraction, many of the sport's top names were coming into the week pretty sharp. That's what we as fans hope for every spring and this year that's the case. It should be a fun weekend.

The Kentucky Derby is less than a month away and there's a big-time hyped preview tomorrow in the Santa Anita Derby. Last year's much ballyhooed two year old, Bolt D'Oro will square off with Justify who ran his first race earlier this year. No horse has won the Derby, the Kentucky variety, without running at two since Apollo did so in 1880-something. Can Justify justify the seemingly over-the-top hype? We'll start to see tomorrow. Last week-

end, an Irish-raced colt named Mendelsohn won a Derby prep in the Dubai desert by 18 lengths and did it in fast time. He's already been to the States, winning the Breeders Cup Juvenile Turf last fall. The switch to dirt didn't faze him at all. He looks legit. So does Audible, the visually impressive winner of the historic Florida Derby. Then there's Gronkowski. Yes, he's named for the Patriot tight end. But he's also coming from Europe where he has been racing on synthetic or grass tracks. Talented? Yes. But he is being asked to overcome a lot of hurdles. He'll get some media attention for his name but can he be a serious contender? Eh. I say not likely. But that's why they run the races. See you next week.

Montachusett Home Care plans 19th annual golf classic

Montachusett Home Care Corporation will be hosting its 19th annual Golf Classic. The event is scheduled for June 11 at the Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg with tee off at 1 p.m.

Montachusett Home Care Corporation (MHCC) is a non-profit agency whose mission is to help elders and disabled persons remain safely in their own homes through the provision of home care and other supportive services. This annual tournament helps MHCC raise the necessary funds to support our volunteer programs that serve over 4,000 elders a year with a contingent of approximately 100 trained and supervised volunteers. Our volunteers in the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Money Management, and Medical Escort and Companion programs greatly enhance our service delivery capacity in the 21 communities we serve. Without them, many elders would not receive the services and supports they need.

For more information on the Golf Tournament, the agency can be contacted Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-978-537-7411. Registrations are available for golfing at a cost of \$175 per golfer, which includes lunch and dinner, 18 holes of golf, greens fees, carts and an opportunity to bid on auction items and participate in a raffle.

Individuals unable to golf, but interested in sponsoring the event, can do so by contacting the agency, as well. Any and all sponsorships are accepted and duly recognized in local media, the agency's newsletter and other agency advertising.

COMMUNITY INVITED TO CHARACTER BREAKFAST AT MWCC



Courtesy photo

Children at the Mount Wachusett Community College Phi Theta Kappa Character Breakfast will be able to interact with some of their favorite characters.

GARDNER - Characters from fairy tales, cartoons, storybooks and beyond will be making a special appearance at Mount Wachusett Community College on Saturday, April 7 during the fourth annual Phi Theta Kappa Character Breakfast.

The annual character breakfast will take place from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at MWCC's South Cafeteria. In addition to volunteers dressed in costume, there will be a hot breakfast buffet, activities for children, and a raffle. Attendees are encouraged to dress up in their favorite costumes.

All proceeds from the event will go to benefit the MWCC Food for Thought Campus Pantry and the Gardner CAC. Tickets are currently on sale at a discounted price: \$7 for ages 12 and up, \$5 for ages 2 to 11, and free for ages one and under: until the day of the event. Tickets may be purchased by emailing Tammy Goodgion at tgoodgion@mwcc.mass.edu or stopping in to the Brewer Center at the MWCC Gardner Campus in room 152.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$10 for those 12 and older.

Office of Senator Anne Gobi April Office Hours

Tyler Wolanin, District Aide to Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) will be holding office hours throughout the district during the month of April. Constituents and town officials are invited to meet with Tyler to express any concerns, ideas and issues they have. Walk-ins are welcome, but to set up an appointment you can e-mail Tyler at tyler.wolanin@masenate.gov, or call at 508-641-3502. Town attendance is not restricted to residents of those towns.

Tuesday, April 10
Petersham Town Offices, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Athol Senior Center, 12-1 p.m.; Phillipston Town Hall, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Templeton Town Hall, 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17th
Brimfield Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon; Wales Senior Center, 12:10-1 p.m.; Sturbridge Town Hall, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18
New Braintree Town Hall, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; West Brookfield Senior Center, 12-1 p.m.; Palmer Senior Center, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Ashby Town Hall, 6-7 p.m.

Monday, April 23
Barre Town Offices, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Hubbardston Selectboard Office, 2-3

WHA

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architectural design, and then your oversight, it adds up fast," he said. "The actual construction cost for the first four was \$193,000."

"Overall, the work went very well," said Connor. "We had an excellent contractor. The tenants worked with us very well. We were hoping it would take about two and a-half or three weeks, but it took about a month to complete. We started on February 5 and the tenants were back in on March 5."

The work was done by Garland Construction of Chicopee. The architect was Nault Architects of Worcester.

"Because we're only doing four units a year" Connor said, "the goal is, in 18 years we'll have it done. And that's too bad. In order to commit the amount of money this project would take to do all at once, DHCD would have to commit like \$3 million. It would, in the long run, be cheaper to do it all at once but it's tough to get a commitment for that much money."

"So, the state is saying, 'We'll commit to doing four units a year.' And that's just this year. That doesn't necessarily mean they'll commit to it next year."

Connor also said its possible a portion of the money said aside for renovations may have to be used to cover unforeseen expenses, such as a boiler repair or replacement.

A spokesman for Sen. Ann Gobi's office said it's unlikely it will take long for a conference committee to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the bond bill. Once that task has been accomplished it will move to the desk of Gov. Charlie Baker, who is expected to sign it into law.

p.m.; Ashburnham Town Hall, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; Winchendon Town Hall (Auditorium), 5-6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 24
Oakham Senior Center, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; North Brookfield Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon; Rutland Senior Center, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25
Charlton Senior Center, 12-1 p.m.; Holland Town Hall, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Monson Town Hall, 3-4 p.m.

Monday, April 30
Paxton Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon; Spencer, Howe Village 12:30-1:30 p.m.; East Brookfield Town Hall 2-3 p.m.



Insightful



Smallest students getting biggest boost to literacy

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

After more than a year of research, planning, and trials, Winchendon schools unveiled its official roll-out of the availability of “Footsteps2Brilliance” to parents and young children during a Literacy Night on March 29 at the Memorial Elementary School cafeteria.

Designed to be both a tool and early childhood learning solution, its goal is to help children and young students to become more proficient readers by the time they reach the grade 3. As long as a parent or guardian has access to even just one smart device such as a phone, tablet, home computer, or other, it can be accessed for early childhood learning virtually anywhere, as the platform can be downloaded and used either without internet access or anywhere a Wifi hotspot is available.

A comprehensive curriculum focused on assisting early childhood learning for birth through Grade 3, more than 1,000 interactive books, games, and songs can be readily available in a completely bilingual platform of either English or Spanish at a simple and user friendly click of a button. Through a diverse learning platform, which encourages children to learn with game infused methodology, young children learn while having fun.

Currently the Footsteps2Brilliance format is available for students in Athol-Royalston, Ayer-Shirley, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Lunenburg, Narragansett, North Middlesex Regional, and now Winchendon public schools, which are all members of The Early Literacy Zone of North Central Massachusetts.

As explained by assistant director of pupil services Suzanne Michel, the grant funded program through the United Way and other partners, is available to any child, parent and or guardian, or citizens of the community who lives within the 01475 zip code.

While the software is designed to be address case sensitive with street and zip code security filters, Michel was happy to clarify any child who lives outside the zip code, but is a school choice student who attends the WPS district can, and will, be entered in to the system upon request to have full

and inclusive equal access just as students who live within the town’s boundaries. Parents or guardians go on-line to set up the account for their child,

By having the ability to be downloaded and then used without WiFi or internet, Footsteps2Brilliance more importantly aids to bridge the gap for low income families, as currently 90 percent of households with children have at least one smart device in their home.

Michel explained, “Footsteps2Brilliance really came to light because of the innovation zone, which was to bring early literacy activities and programs into communities. Footsteps is a tool for families to be able to access strong quality early literacy while the children are at home. After the parents or guardians go on-line and set up the account, their child is able to use the tool to gradually progress through a variety of early learning and literacy activities such as social, emotional, math, comprehension, and other important areas all around enhancing vocabulary.”

“We know if we can address these needs early, we are better able as a school district to have student reading at grade level by Grade 3” followed Michel.

Footsteps2Brilliance director of curriculum & implementation Catherine DeRosa explained, “Typically we set up the school Pre-K through 3rd Grade and also start with the parents through the community access. Every single page available in English and Spanish, and there will be a little toggle switch on each page so they can readily change to each, allowing a child to read a page in English, and with the click of a button it’s in Spanish. This is very advantageous for dual language families.”

“We get a lot of people calling us and thanking us for the platform as parents say their language is getting better along with their child’s. Over the years, we have found that it makes families better, which in turn helps to make your community better,” added Rosa.

Addressing any childhood screen time concerns of the American Academy of Pediatrics, parents, or others Rosa clarified, “This platform and program is designed Michel followed with, “The 15 minutes a day part is important, because the expectation is that the time

is done in conjunction with a positive child and adult interaction. We are not looking at having a child age 2 for example to have a device put in their lap and just start hammering away at an app. We are highly promoting the interaction of a parent and child.”

Rosa also added, “We want to give parents the tools to help both they and their families. We always tell them, ‘You are your child’s first teacher.’ Sit with your child. Put them on your lap, and read them a book from your smart device just like you would from a picture or hard cover book.’”

“If the child can’t read yet, everything with the click of a button can be read to them, and they can follow the words in English or Spanish. It’s a win-win for everybody. We just stress that 15 minutes a day, at least three days a week, is backed by research showing you will see astronomical gains in your child’s literacy development. This is a wonderful free tool for parents to use to help their young child become a better reader and writer,” said Rosa.

Both Rosa and Michel each again clarified, “Once the account is set up by a parent and downloaded to any smart device, the program can go anywhere with you on that device. You won’t need an internet connection or WiFi to use it, which allows everybody equal access. They only need internet access once to download the program. They could even do it at a McDonald’s, Starbucks, anyplace that offers WiFi to customers, you only need it that one time to download the platform for your child.”

Michel discussing various family financial situations said, “If a family only has one car, and a parent is at work, if they are somehow isolated and can’t get to the library, this is something educational the family can do together.”

Nicole Cormier, who recently joined the district as its new family outreach & resource liaison and also serves for coordinated family & community engagement detailed, “A very unique feature is that stories are very user friendly and include prompts for parents and comprehension pieces in a way that the parent will know to ask their child if they understood what they either just read or was read to them.”

“If the smart device being used has a

microphone button, the child or parent can click on the microphone button on the program, and they can hear themselves reading by playing it back. Another great feature is the child can create a story. They could re-sequence the stories events, or tell it a different way, the child could design different backgrounds, move characters around, and write their own sentences,” detailed Cormier.

Michel added, “What is also very interesting for the child is they can save that recording, and either play it back or even send it to somebody with their parent.”

Regarding security Michel explained, “Parents have the choice to opt in or out whenever they want. Footsteps2Brilliance also not collecting any third party information or trying to sell it. There is absolutely none of that to contend with.”

“Additionally, parents will help their child pick a ‘Secret Password’ which will be easy to remember, as the parent and child can pick out a four picture password which could be something as easy as a Duck, Lobster, Cow, and Cat” explained Michel.

Michel discussing reaching out said, “Our early childhood programming doesn’t reach enough people in the community to best serve them before they hit the door for Kindergarten. We just don’t have the capacity to serve all of the students before they come here. We recognized we needed to move the needle, and Footsteps2Brilliance like our Playgroups is now another inclusive tool to help make this happen.”

In closing Michel said, “We are very excited about this new offering for the young children and students in Winchendon. It’s user friendly, it only needs WiFi to install it, and can then be used anytime, anywhere without the internet, and is a great way for parents to spend time with their child while helping with their literacy through a fun interactive platform.”

Footsteps2Brilliance will soon be added as a link to school social media, along with being included in future school Brain Building newsletters and the WPS district site. To register your child with Footsteps2Brilliance, please go to www.myf2b.com/iz and once registered www.f2b.com to log in.

Week devoted to violence at MWCC

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Mount Wachusett Community College, home base for a lot of Winchendon students, is among the schools participating this week in raising awareness about societal violence, complete with films, forums and discussion groups.

The week-long event is part of the ‘Enough is Enough’ movement, established by Dr. Zenobia Lawrence Hikes, a professor at Virginia Tech University, after the massacre

on that campus in 2008.

“MWCC is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming campus community. I am so proud of the students who are organizing this week’s series of events at MWCC designed to raise awareness, promote healthy relationships, and address issues of systemic violence in our society. ‘Enough is Enough’ week is one powerful example of our collective commitment to making a difference in North Central Massachusetts,” said Jason Zelesky, MEd, Dean of

Students.

The event opened with the screening of ‘If I Can’t Have You’, a film about college student Tiana Notice, who died in a domestic violence tragedy. Her mother, Kathy Lewis was on hand, noting after her daughter’s passing, the Tiana Angelique Notice Foundation was created to “continue the fight against domestic violence,” she said.

The Foundation also hosted a workshop “contrasting healthy and unhealthy relationships, help attendees develop healthy

relationships and provide resources for further education and support.”

Colleges across the country are conducting similar events this week. The ‘Enough is Enough’ campaign is a project advocating for the stemming “of the tide of societal violence before students reach our nation’s campuses.”

That’s the idea behind Murdock High School’s Youth Venture programs revolving around mental health, bullying and outreach issues. It was just a week prior that MHS students

joined forces with high school students from other regional schools to map out strategies to address many of these issues before leaving for college.

Students should act with a “fierce urgency”, said Dr. Hikes. The week’s activities are encouraging college campuses and their surrounding communities to work together “to develop comprehensive, intentional, and systematic violence prevention initiatives,” she noted.

CAC

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BOD President William Stewart, Lapierre said, “If you’re on his board, he is fine. If you’re not on his board, well, the way he treats people who volunteer here, I don’t like it one bit. BOD members are saying that I am also rude to my clients. If that is true, why do the clients I help and serve always tell me that I am so nice?”

Additionally, Lapierre said, “He (Stewart) told me that we need volunteers. I get the need for volunteers. We get them in here; they fill out the paperwork, and start. As soon as I tell them that they need to clean the bathroom, or go outside and sweep the driveway, or pick up discarded cigarettes, as soon as I tell them any of that, these new volunteers are gone.”

Lapierre stated that a minimum of 20 new volunteers, and as possibly as high as 40 over the last two to three years have left when asked to help with various tasks such as those.

“I have multiple sclerosis, Darren has heart problems, Stephen Barbin has had heart surgery, and Robyn has bad back issues. We do everything from shoveling out the walkway after snow storms so people can get in to the door, to all donating over 40 hours in just one week alone during the Christmas rush, not including the Thanksgiving rush, and all the others hours we put in during the year which really pick up during the holidays” detailed Lapierre.

“We don’t need this kind of belittling, we don’t appreciate these kinds of things being said about us, and we certainly don’t like the way our Director Colleen Laperriere is spoken to, spoken down to, and treated by Bill Stewart and the BOD. Now we get accused of stealing food or possibly even more. We are not just volunteers, we are also clients. Any food we leave this building with at the end of the week is food that we receive specifically as clients. We are not stealing from the agency, and do not appreciate being accused of it, especially after all our voluntary service. We

have had enough and it’s time to speak up!” exclaimed a frustrated Lapierre.

“Also at the February 28 meeting we attended, when we were done voicing our concerns they requested we leave and would not continue with the meeting until we left. We were not allowed to stay. We were escorted to the exit door by Nancy Romanowski and she made sure we left the building. These meetings are supposed to be open to the public. Now they are all private and secretive. What are they trying to hide?” asked Lapierre.

Lapierre closed with, “We are sick of how we are spoken of, and now they want our director to leave. If Colleen is forced out, or she leaves because of how they treat her, we are leaving with her. Colleen has worked so hard to address and fix a lot of problems the agency previously had. We have watched donations significantly increase under her leadership. She completely turned this place around. If she leaves, we also leave.”

Barbin has two associate degrees in accounting and business management from Northern Essex Community College. Barbin also has a Bachelor’s degree with a triple major in business, music, and education from Salem State University. Barbin stated he applied for an open seat on the CAC Board of Directors, and claims he was turned down.

Barbin explained, “First the BOD wanted me to fill out a resume which I did in January as Director Colleen Laperriere asked me to bring one in. Then they wanted me to fill out an application and letter of intent. They knew about my college degrees and qualifications. I applied Feb. 9, and never heard from them again.”

“The BOD skipped over me as a potential member, and in my opinion I’m sure it is because Bill Stewart and his board doesn’t want anybody that they can’t manipulate. I ask questions, and don’t believe they want anybody who could dig in to their records and discover anything which is not kosher, or want anybody who doesn’t agree with everything they say,” said Barbin.

Barbin, who explained he moved to the town of Winchendon last July, shortly after his arrival wanted to volunteer in his new community and started helping out with CAC food runs last October. In November, he started volunteering working two days a week by Thanksgiving.

“By Thanksgiving to Christmas I was here every day, as we all helped with sorting lots of toys for families, food, and more,” said Barbin.

“Director Laperriere is no longer told when the meetings are held now by the BOD. She is left out and on a need to know basis. She is only allowed to attend the meetings for what the BOD considers the portion of the meeting she is needed at, and then not allowed to stay. She has told us as her volunteers that she doesn’t even get a copy of the agenda anymore, or minutes of the meetings. She doesn’t even have a way to know if she is quoted correctly, or when many of the meetings or their secret meetings are which only have people they invite to attend,” emphasized Barbin.

In closing Barbin said, “I have dealt with other agencies such as the Emmaus organization and Haverhill Community Action Inc., and I have never ever seen things done like the way the BOD is doing things here at the CAC in Winchendon. Even during the Christmas holiday rush when we were here at night, none of the BOD members came in to help. The night we gave out toys with Santa, two of them came in and just sat there. They just sit back and take the credit for everything. As a volunteer knowing what I do now and seeing how it works, I have very low confidence in the board and I am very suspicious of them.”

Surette, like his fellow volunteers, assists the CAC in multiple facets of the daily operations. Darren has assisted many times as a volunteer driver, assisting in bringing clients to medical appointments, food shopping, and even local community dinners for those who either cannot drive, or are shut in.

In fall 2017, the WCAC was the beneficiary of a \$35,000 grant from the

Robinson/Broadhurst Foundation which allowed for the purchase of a new minivan for clientele transportation needs, as the older van was encountering significant corrosion and repair needs and was no longer reliable for all required daily operation.

Surette, who lives just over one mile from the CAC and does not own an automobile, returning home after chauffeuring from a community meal one day took a CAC vehicle home at 7:00 p.m. so he would not have to walk home, and could pick up two of his fellow volunteers, Denise & Robyn, and provide them with a ride to the CAC the next morning for their group volunteering efforts.

About two weeks ago, Surette was shocked to be informed by Laperriere that he had been accused by the BOD of using a CAC vehicle for “personal use,” however the BOD according to Surette, did not specify when.

“I was told about two weeks ago by Colleen that the board said I was using a vehicle for personal use which I was absolutely not in any way. This is completely untrue. I take people to the pharmacy to get medications, shopping, and other necessities including community dinners. I never used it for personal gain,” said Surette.

Surette went on to say, “Members of the Board of Directors, after all my volunteering never even had the decency to ask me for my side of the story. They wouldn’t even come to me directly, which is what adults should do. They made Colleen come and tell me, and didn’t show or have the respect to ask me about their concerns or allegations in person. Now as a result of this, Colleen informed me that CAC vehicles must be parked here at the CAC when the agency is closed, and is not allowed by the board to go anywhere during that time.”

It was then the true magnitude of the board’s decision making became clear as Surette said, “As a result of the board making this decision, neither I or anybody else who volunteers their time can use any CAC vehicle to

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Moore motivates students at Monty Tech

SUBMITTED BY TARA K CUCCHIARA

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued its annual speaker series with a visit from Wes Moore. Moore spoke to the entire school, most in the auditorium, while the freshman watched on screen from their classrooms. Moore is the author of numerous books, is a graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, and works speaking engagements. This is the fourth year Monty Tech has welcomed a keynote speaker, thanks to Superintendent Sheila Harrity and a generous donor.

When Harrity worked as a principal at Worcester Technical High School students would approach her for help and advice.

"As much as I tried to help them, I knew we need to bring something else in from the outside," she said.

Harrity knew about a young woman who went from homeless to Harvard. The students and teachers at Worcester Tech read Liz Murray's memoir "Breaking Night" and then watched the movie to prepare for her visit to the school. The students benefited greatly but so did the teachers. Liz spoke to the

teachers and told them how much of an impact they can have on their students.

"We constantly have to recharge the battery and assist teachers to do so," Harrity said.

After this first success, the students were eager to know, "Miss, who is our speaker next year?"

Thus, an annual tradition began. A personal friend of Sheila Harrity sponsored these talks in Worcester and when Harrity transferred to Monty Tech, the funding came with her. Harrity did not want Worcester Technical High School to discontinue the speaker series so the donor doubled down and now generously funds the series at both schools.

It only seemed appropriate that the superintendent invite Liz Murray to speak at Monty Tech that first year. Other speakers have included businessman and author Chris Gardner and co-founder of 'Life is Good,' Bert Jacobs.

"The whole idea is to inspire our students to think big. They have so many opportunities and talents. If we can teach them to follow their dreams and passions while they are young, they can have a very fulfilling adult life," Harrity

explained.

Junior Mack Favreau said he resonated with Chris Gardner's message of "never give up" and has taken that with him. Favreau said that Moore talked about his time in military school, where Moore learned that "it isn't all about you and 'you need to focus and help those in need'."

Favreau is currently in the culinary program at Monty Tech; he aspires to become a firefighter.

"Listening to Wes Moore makes me want to save lives and participate more than I am now."

Jill Nelson is a health occupations student in her senior year. She felt connected to Moore's experience losing his dad. Jill's mother just passed away from cancer December 20, 2017. Principal Tom Browne introduced Jill to Wes Moore at the end of the presentation. Jill feels that Moore's message "no matter where you come from and what you've been through - you can be successful," is one that will help her to finish this school year and continue on without her mother.

Principal Browne said that the real

highlight of the day was the question and answer session at the end of the presentation.

"The kids really made him think and Wes really took his time to process before answering the students."

Senior class President Rachel Spivey has enjoyed all four keynote speakers. She is excited to see the movie coming out based on the book, "The Other Wes Moore." This is the story of two men with the same name who grew up a few blocks apart. Both grew up in a rough neighborhood and got in trouble. Wes's mother sent him to military school but the other Wes Moore didn't have that opportunity and landed in prison instead.

"We all can stumble and fall but we can get right back up," Rachel recounted just one of the takeaways from Moore's presentation.

Rachel is setting lofty goals for her future, which can be very daunting.

"Moore reassured me that it isn't something I have to worry about as long as I put in the work and the time; I can do it."

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WPS

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dren to sign up for Footsteps2Brilliance. A grant funded transformative Pre-K through Grade 3 literacy solution totally free to subscribers in the 01475 zip code, or children who by school choice who attend the district, which can be accessed via any smart device and after downloading only once, can then be used anywhere without an internet or Wi-Fi connection.

During the evening, young students along with their even younger brothers and sisters took turns on a laptop computer under the guidance and assistance of Nicole Cormier, who serves the WPS

district as coordinated family & community engagement and family outreach & resource liaison.

One by one children got their first experience with Footsteps2Brilliance alongside Cormier, as they listened to nursery rhymes, viewed interactive learning games, reviewed children's stories, and more. Children enjoying the interactive literacy site, designed specifically to their age groups with parental participation, which is even bilingual at the simple click of a button, and has shown to provide literacy gains being used just 15 minutes a day, at a minimum of three days per week.

As children went from one fun filled

work station to another, many were lending a hand. Sherry Divol and Paula Lashua-Brisbois volunteered their face painting skills, Memorial Kindergarten teacher Erin Boucher read a story, para Samantha Brooks assisted with activities, along with TTE Principal Mary Aker, district Assistant Director of Pupil Services Suzanne Michel, and others assisting in managing a smooth Footsteps roll-out. Sue Radar, a library trustee who also subs for grades Pre-K through 5 was also in attendance lending a helping hand with library information and more.

Adding to the friendly event and helping parents open their children's Footsteps2Brilliance account,

Catherine DeRosa who serves as a Footsteps2Brilliance director of curriculum & implementation along with others directed parents when needed though the signup process to create accounts and passwords for their children.

After viewing her son using Footsteps2Brilliance for the first time, Mrs. Tranbarger and mother of TTE student Matthew said, "I think it's great that Suzanne Michel has worked to bring this program to us, as my son Matthew who has a learning disability can really benefit from going at his own pace with all these new different activities going on to help him."

Rosa was please to confirm near the events end that all parents who came to the registration table found the account registration process for the free literacy site to be very easy and user friendly, along with picking their child's secret account passwords.

Cormier was happy to add, "Everybody who was registering seemed really easy going, and a lot of parents came bringing in their own devices. Those who didn't bring one seemed very confident after explaining the directions to them that they could take them home and utilize it themselves. A few having already hearing of the app through our flyers just came for registration this evening, so we were excited and so were they."

Michel said, "I am very pleased with the turnout that we had for tonight's literacy night. It was exciting to see the children so engaged in the various activities and crafts. They also importantly got to have their first experience with navigating the platform of Footsteps2Brilliance."

In closing Michel added, "Hearing the buzz from all of the parents about gaining access to Footsteps2Brilliance this evening and being able to use it at a variety of locations without needing Wi-Fi support was just wonderful to hear. We had great help from many volunteers from the community, staff, and the parents with their commitment to providing optimal experiences for their children. I just want to thank every who made tonight's event possible, and we are so excited about being able to bring the new Footsteps2Brilliance literacy platform to children, parents, and our district."

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Classifieds@stonebridgepress.news

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ONLY \$20
 30 Words Or Less Please

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE WORKERS

The Fitzwilliam Cemetery Commission is seeking individuals to perform grounds maintenance in the cemeteries. Responsibilities include mowing and trimming grass, raking, and other cleanup and general maintenance tasks as required. These are part time positions and are also weather dependent. The work period will begin

VENDORS WANTED for 2018
 producers-only outdoor market, May - Oct. \$20/season. Corner of Rt. 12 and Rt. 202, Winchendon. For application / information email winchendon.agcom@gmail.com

as weather permits in the spring and continue through the fall cleanup (late October to early November).

Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and must be able to operate power equipment such as lawn mowers and string trimmers. Applications and position descriptions are available at the Selectmen's Office (603) 585-7723 in the Fitzwilliam Town Hall or at the Fitzwilliam Library. EOE.

MASONRY INC.

Construction laborers or mason laborers. Must have a vehicle and a phone. Company is out of Jaffrey. (603) 532-8471. TFN

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.

FOR RENT

GOODRICH APARTMENTS

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

WANTED

Wanted Motorcycles, ATVs, scooters. Cash paid for good deals. (978) 297-1800. 2.1.19

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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

LEGALS

WINCHENDON Office of the Collector of Taxes 6-Apr-18

The owner(s), occupant(s) and public are hereby notified that the following described parcels herein, located within the municipality of WINCHENDON and WORCESTER COUNTY, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have taxes for the following years as committed to the Collector of Taxes, by the Board of Assessors of this municipality which remain delinquent and unpaid, and that the property herein described will be taken by WINCHENDON on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 12:00 pm for non-payment of taxes, including interest and all legal costs and charges thereon, unless the property shall be previously discharged.

Donna Spellman

Collector of Taxes

Assessed Owners:

ROCHELEAU, JEAN L.

ROCHELEAU, DENNIS J.

Property Location:

17 OLD GARDNER ROAD

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 2.330 acres described as parcel 9 0 56 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 42115-249, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2009 taxes of \$656.31 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$17,104.34

Assessed Owners:
BARTLETT, RANDY
BARTLETT, CINDY LOU

Property Location:

346 BROWN STREET

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 1.040 acres described as parcel 4 0 53 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 38936-151, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2011 taxes of \$2,026.60 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$15,428.74

Assessed Owners:

BARTLETT, RANDY

BARTLETT, CINDY LOU

Property Location:

364 BROWN STREET

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 4.600 acres described as parcel 4 0 54 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 38936-151, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2014 taxes of \$254.64 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$1,582.61

Assessed Owners: BLISS, KEVIN G.

Property Location:

WEST MONOMONAC ROAD

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 0.150 acres described as parcel M6 0 42 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 45512-23, WORCES-

TER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2012 taxes of \$650.81 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$6,427.11

Assessed Owners:

DABULIEWICZ, JOSEPH

WIERSTAK, ADELLA

Property Location:

110 MILL GLEN ROAD

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 13.100 acres described as parcel 11 0 66 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 16734-344, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2014 taxes of \$1,865.72 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$6,365.98

Assessed Owners: GIRARD, DENNIS

Property Location:

433 BROWN STREET

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 2.230 acres described as parcel 4 0 42 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 23183-123, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2015 taxes of \$1,136.98 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$7,197.95

Assessed Owners:

RAMSAY, SHERYL D.

Property Location:

269 MAIN STREET

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 2.700 acres described as parcel 7A 4 0

40 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 41336-335, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2015 taxes of \$1,143.83 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$4,708.07

Assessed Owners:

MCQUESTON, JOHN E.

MCQUESTON, INEABELLE

Property Location:

136 SECOND STREET

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 0.144 acres described as parcel M3 0 23 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 43222-334, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2014 taxes of \$852.50 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$9,109.35

Assessed Owners:

SWEENEY, PAULINE M.

Property Location:

155 WEST MONOMONAC ROAD

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 0.350 acres described as parcel M9 0 24 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of WINCHENDON identified in book and page 7322-396-334, WORCESTER County Registry of Deeds.

Said land is taken for non-payment of FY 2008 taxes of \$180.07 plus subsequent taxes for a total of \$12,800.92

April 6, 2018



LEGALS

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH
 OF MASSACHUSETTS
 LAND COURT
 DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
 COURT**
 17 SM 008293
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
**Heirs, Devisees and Legal
 Representatives of the Estate of
 Ramona M. Campbell-Gilbert aka
 Ramona M. Gilbert; Alexander
 Campbell; Keith P. Gilbert Jr.; Craig
 Lopez; Michael Gilbert; Danielle
 Gilbert**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. 50 §3901 (et seq):
**U.S. Bank National Association,
 as Trustee for Structured Asset
 Securities Corporation, Mortgage
 Pass-Through Certificates, Series
 2006-GEL4**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 199 Mill Street, given by Ramona M. Gilbert and Keith Gilbert to Mortgage Amenities Corp., dated October 29, 2005, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37719, Page 38, and now held by plaintiff by assignment has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before April 30, 2018 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of this Court on March 16, 2018
 Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
 Recorder
 (16-011281 Orleans)
 April 6, 2018

**MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE
 OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Richard Warpula Jr and Christine Warpula to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Sherwood Mortgage Group, Inc, its successors and assigns, dated July 8, 2002 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 26954, Page 132 subsequently assigned to Chase Home Finance, LLC by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 45974, Page 82, subsequently assigned to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., S/B/M to Chase Home Finance, LLC by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 52003, Page 255, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trust for LVS Title Trust I by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 55440, Page 375, subsequently assigned to UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for MART Legal Title Trust 2015-NPL1 by US Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for LVS Title Trust I by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 54564, Page 294 and subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Legal Title Trustee for MART Legal Title Trust 2015-NPL1 by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 56992, Page 122; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on April 13, 2018 at 52 Belmont Avenue, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: Being Lots 21 and 23 on a plan by George N. Merrill & C. E. dated July 1903, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 8, Page 21. The premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, Easements, appurte-

nances, reservations, restrictions, and layouts and takings of record, insofar as they are in force and applicable. For our right in title see deed of Steven C. Amenta, Wendy L. Amenta and Gloria M. Lucas dated July 8, 2002 and recorded immediately prior hereto.

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

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

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

U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT
 Present Holder of said Mortgage,
 By Its Attorneys,
 ORLANS PC
 PO Box 540540
 Waltham, MA 02454
 Phone: (781) 790-7800
 17-008661
 March 23, 2018
 March 30, 2018
 April 6, 2018

**MORTGAGEE'S SALE
 OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Casey E. Lucier** (the "Mortgagor") to **Athol Savings Bank**, (the Mortgagee"), having a usual place of business at 112 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475, Worcester County, Massachusetts, dated February 2, 2010 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 45421, Page 92 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, and for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on the premises situated at 97 Baldwinville Road, Winchendon, Massachusetts, at 11:00 A.M. on the 26th day of April, 2018, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: the following described land with all buildings, equipment and fixtures now or hereafter placed thereon:

A certain parcel of land situated on the westerly side of Baldwinville Road, in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the southeasterly corner thereof, at an iron pin in the westerly line of Baldwinville Road, at a corner of land now or formerly of Dennis I. & Christine M. Ledford; thence S. 69° 20' 23" W., by said Ledford land, 350.83 feet to a drill hole in a stone wall in line of land now or formerly of Rayford R. & Arlene C. Parker; thence N. 2° 02' 42" W., 75.80 feet; thence N. 1° 55' 28" E., 137.55 feet to a drill hole; thence N. 3° 41' 56" E., 75.28 feet to an iron pin at a corner of other land of Emile J. & Anna M. Duclos, the preceding three courses being by a stone wall and said Parker land; thence N. 77° 21' 30" E., by said Duclos land, 365.39 feet to an iron pin in a stone wall in the westerly line of Baldwinville Road; thence S. 18° 43' 40" W., partly by a stone wall, 97.02 feet; thence S 8° 40' 36" W., 25.96 feet; thence S. 0° 43' 41" W., 91.53 feet, the preceding two courses being by a stone wall; thence S 1° 55' 46" E., 35.49 feet to an iron pin at a corner of land of the first mentioned Ledford and the point of beginning, the preceding four courses being by said road line.
 Containing 87,382 square feet.
 This instrument creates no new bound-

aries.
 Meaning and intending to convey and hereby conveying the same premises conveyed to Casey E. Lucier by deed of Joseph E.J. Duclose, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of Lillian M. Greulich, Worcester County Probate Docket No. 09P2457EA, dated February 1, 2010, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 45421, Page 90

Said premises are to be sold and conveyed subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes to the Town of Winchendon Massachusetts, and to any unpaid liens and assessments thereon, and subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding liens, or claims in the nature of liens and existing encumbrances of record, created prior to the mortgage, if there be any. Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, leaseholds, tenancies, occupants, municipal or zoning regulations or requirements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage or to which the Mortgage has been subordinated, if any there be.

No representation is made as to the existence or non-existence of lead paint or UFFI at the premises and Buyer purchases subject to all requirements related thereto.

If the premises are not serviced by a public sewage system, Buyer will be solely responsible for compliance with all Title V Regulations, including but not limited to, any inspection and upgrade requirements set forth in 310 CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations) 15.300 through 15.305. The Mortgagee will offer for sale the mortgaged premises as an entirety.

Terms of sale: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$5,000.00) DOLLARS, to be paid in cash, (U.S. Currency), Bank Certified Check, Bank Treasurers Check, Bank Cashiers Check or other official Bank Check, at the time and place of sale. Such deposit must be shown to the auctioneer prior to the commencement of bidding in order to be entitled to bid. The purchaser will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale containing the above terms and such other terms as may be announced at the time and place of the sale. The sale will not be complete until such deposit is paid and such Memorandum is signed.

The Purchaser will be required to deliver the balance of the purchase price to be paid within thirty (30) days of sale, upon the delivery of the foreclosure deed at the office of Richard A. Cella, Esquire, 65 Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 297, Leominster, Massachusetts, at which time the foreclosure deed and all related documents will be delivered to the Purchaser. The Purchaser will be solely responsible for completing the filing and recording of all foreclosure documents as required by applicable laws and for the payment of all deed excise stamps and all filing and recording fees.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorney, RICHARD A. CELLA, 65 Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 297, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder and title shall be conveyed to the said second highest bidder within thirty (30) days of said written notice. In the event that the second highest bidder shall not be interested in purchasing the mortgage premises, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its sole election, to sell the premise by foreclosure deed to the other qualified bidders, Mortgagee also reserves the right, at its sole election, to assume the bid of any defaulting or declining bidder.

If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property.

Except for warranties arising by operation of law, the sale of the mortgaged property and personal property

is "as is", "where is" and with all faults, latent or patent, and subject to all prior encumbrances. The mortgagee expressly disclaims all warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose and/or regarding title to the personal property and/or any such fixtures or other personality.

The description of the Mortgaged Premises contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Subject to such other terms and conditions as may be announced at the time, date and place of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

ATHOL SAVINGS BANK
 Present Holder of Mortgage

By Its Attorney,
 Richard A. Cella, Esq.
 65 Pleasant Street
 P. O. Box 297

Leominster, Massachusetts 01453
 Telephone No. (978) 537-8214

March 30, 2018

April 6, 2018

April 13, 2018

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH
 OF MASSACHUSETTS
 LAND COURT
 DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
 COURT**
 18SM001672
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:
 Ilene A. Breton
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 et seq.:
 Selene Finance LP

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 9 Orient Place, given by Ilene A. Breton to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Lend America, dated January 16, 2009, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43796, Page 363, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 18, 2013, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 52085, Page 204, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 22, 2015, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 54855, Page 269, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated September 19, 2016, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 56141, Page 373, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before May 7, 2018 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of said Court on March 26, 2018.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
 Recorder
 18-031485
 April 6, 2018

Email Us!

What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to:
ruth@stonebridgepress.news

We'd Love To Hear From You!

THE BUNNY MAKES VISIT TO TOY TOWN

It was necessary to move the annual hunt from the Militia Field to the GAR Park due to soggy conditions, but never fear, the Easter Bunny figured out where to show up and hide the eggs for the crowds of kids in time for the annual hunt last Saturday.

Photos by Greg Vine

FAR RIGHT: This young lady appears a little disappointed the Easter Bunny hasn't yet put some goodies into her Easter Basket. It's a safe bet she had a smile on her face once the Easter Egg Hunt had concluded.

And they're off! Kids and parents scurry to collect candy-filled eggs at Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt at GAR Park.



CANNABIS

continued from page A1

likelihood of crime due to their proximity to the police station.

"In most cases, particularly now, my evening shift is very busy," said Walsh. "They're seldom in the station. If they are in the station they're tied up with paper work and processing prisoners. During the day the patrol officers are in two sectors and Central Street is the split mark. So, they are not normally on Central Street."

Resident Rick Ward urged the Planning Board to stick with its original plan to limit the number of retail licenses to two.

"I think you should totally ignore what the selectmen did," he said,

"because we don't need three. This can be changed in November at the fall town meeting. Why are we rushing to create three, or four, or who knows how many?"

"I keep hearing 'well, we might get the New Hampshire customers'," Ward continued. "Well, if you do, you're encouraging illegal activity, because it's illegal in New Hampshire. It won't take long for the New Hampshire State Police to be on that border if people are coming across the line."

Ward also voiced support from removing Central Street from consideration for a cannabis overlay district.

Resident John Coderre also argued against marijuana retailers on Central Street.

"The town is a business," he said. "So, you need to look at all the properties

you want to develop on the sides. And then you want to have things like your festivals, action downtown. The Fall Festival was really nice. A lot of people did well. A lot of businesses did well."

Allowing marijuana sales downtown could risk the health of Central Street businesses, he argued, due in part to increased traffic and competition for parking.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Barbara Anderson suggested a joint meeting with the Planning Board to see if differences between the two panels could be hammered out. However, Winchendon Planning and Development Director Tracy Murphy pointed out that the warrant for the annual town meeting closes on Monday, April 9. There is not be enough time, she said, to post a meeting and come up

with a new bylaw proposal.

A poll of Planning Board members indicated that two, Gould and Art Amenta, wanted to hold the line at two licenses, while Kelley and Chairman Guy Corbosiero, attending via teleconference, supported increasing the number to three. At earlier meetings, both Goud and Amenta also expressed skepticism about allowing marijuana retailers on Central Street.

The board then voted to approve a compromise, suggested by Corbosiero, that three licenses be approved in exchange for Central Street being made exempt from retail establishments.

The final version of the regulations will be voted on at the annual town meeting on May 21.

CAC

continued from page A9

take any disabled, elderly, or shut in, or family clients to any community meals at either the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, the Unitarian Universalist Church, or even the free community meal provided once a month by the Winchendon School. It doesn't matter their age, it doesn't matter their financial or physical situation. Because of the boards rash decision making, none of us as volunteers can provide rides to any person or family for any of the areas only evening community meals. I think this is dis-

gusting."

In closing Surette said, "We are being treated very unfairly by the CAC board. We are being accused of things that we are not doing. We are not only just volunteers, we are clients. I come here to help out like the others. We are getting accused of things by board members who have never even

been in here to volunteer to help. They have gone too far."

It should also be noted none of the CAC BOD members could be reached for comment, as the Board previously notified the press that all questions are to now be referred to the board's legal representation it has acquired through

Attorney Keith Glenn of Lafortune & Glenn P.C. Glenn was contacted by the press on April 2, but was not available for comment at the time as he was preparing to leave for vacation.

Later that same day, after the press conducted interviews with CAC volunteers, Laperriere reported Glenn con-

tacted her on behalf of the CAC with what she described as a potential "Hush Agreement" to terminate her services, which would require Laperriere to give up her rights to further comment. Laperriere informed the press she had no interest in signing the agreement.

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MHS

continued from page A1

drinking. The teen lay in the murky waters for two days before her body was found.

Taylor was a senior at King Phillip Regional High School in Plainville when she died.

In 2011, Chris Sullivan married Kathi Meyer, who also told her daughter's story to the assembly at Murdock.

The couple found themselves in Winchendon after responding to a message from Jennifer Sibley, one of the organizers of Working Wonders in Winchendon. The group has facilitated two events designed to heighten addiction awareness in the community.

Kathi Sullivan praised Sibley for imploring her and her husband to bring their message to Winchendon. To enthusi-

astic applause for Sibley, Sullivan said, "That's your community guys. Right there."

The Sullivans also took their message to an audience at the Winchendon School last Friday night.

The couple have established an organization known as Taylor's Message. The website is tayorsmessage.com. Kathi Sullivan may be reached at tayorsmessage@yahoo.com.

MOORE

continued from page A10

Meeting Bert Jacobs last year was a huge thrill for Rachel too.

"Whether students are going to college or into the workforce, the speakers reach all and our motivating to everyone."

Assistant Principal Dayana Carlson noted that Wes Moore was

so impressed with the school and students, he said he would love to come back to visit Monty Tech.

"The feedback from teachers is invaluable to me," stated Harry. "Teachers are in the classrooms, they know their [students] trials and tribulations and they share out after these events. I hear from teach-

ers how it affects kids." Harry concluded by saying, "Some kids have a void, no focus, but they can see what these speakers have done."

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