



Dakota makes adjustments on his version.

Courtesy photos

Engineering classes attracting girls

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The nationwide data is as irrefutable as it is puzzling. Once girls finish middle schools, many fewer of them gravitate towards engineering-type courses in high school than do boys. It's true at Murdock. It's true everywhere and there seems to be no consensus as to why this is the case.

Mike Fontaine teaches classes in robotics and computer science and while he too acknowledged the gender disparity, Fontaine is happy a pair of freshman girls are taking the computer science principles honors class and will be taking it next year when it becomes an Advanced Placement course.

Hannah Demanche and Riya Patel are happy to be

there.

"It's a new adventure every day," said Demanche, adding, "this is much more advanced than my middle school classes and I'm excited to come to class."

Patel shared that enthusiasm. "I didn't know what to expect when we started this class but I've learned a lot and I'm glad I'm here."

Fontaine is glad to have the duo in class.

"Nobody's sure why so many girls don't follow up middle school with engineering classes in high school especially when the field is changing so fast and the job opportunities are growing all the time but it's a fact they often don't take these kind of classes. I don't know. Maybe they think, 'I have to take math and this and that and I need a foreign

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Grant request to Robinson Broadhurst for WPD sally port



Photo by Keith Kent

The rear structure of the Winchendon Police Department shows where the proposed Sally Port would be connected to the existing building.

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The town has submitted a grant application for assistance with the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation to finish the police station project on Central Street with the addition of a secured sally port to be constructed on the rear of the facility.

A sally port, which can vary per specified need or application, typically has a space to control incoming and outgoing vehicles along with personnel, and is a secured and controlled entryway comprised of a series of doors and/or gates.

The funding if approved, will pay for an addition to be constructed in brick matching the rest of the building, and once

completed will be the same width as the existing structure at 65 feet wide, and will be 36 feet in depth.

Project completion would be placed on the winning bidder and contractor, with the possibility of minor details such as any possible landscaping to be aided by the DPW.

Town Manager Keith Hickey
Turn To **WPD** page **A5**

Salter facing challenge from Husselbee

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Voters will be faced with a single contest on this year's town election ballot.

Political newcomer Charles "C.J." Husselbee is challenging incumbent Selectman Amy Salter.

Salter was elected to the board in 2015, when she ousted sitting board member Beth Hunt in a contentious recall election, which also saw Austin Cyganiewicz replace Selectman Fedor Berndt.

While mounting a challenge to the incumbent, Husselbee had nothing but good things to say about Salter.

"I believe Selectman Salter has done an excellent job in her duties," he said. "I just believe individuals should have a choice in who they have

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IT'S GOING UP



Keith Kent photo

The solar project at the transfer station is nearing the half way mark in construction as the base for panels is nearing completion

Layoffs appear likely in school budget

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — "We're faced with the fact that we've got to cut teachers or ask for another override," said Superintendent Steven Haddad in a recent interview, "and how is the town going to perceive that? I'm trying to turn the image of the schools around in a positive direction and it's tough if we have to keep going back to the town and asking for more money."

That pretty much sums up the dilemma faced by school officials, including the School Committee. Haddad describes it as a "Catch 22" situation.

Last week, the superintendent presented the committee with three possible budget for

fiscal year 2018. One is a balanced budget, the other is what he called an "improved" budget, and the third is a "what we really need" budget.

The balanced budget comes in at \$15,187,715, and increase of about \$58,000 over the FY17 budget. Haddad said this spending package would require the layoff of around a dozen people including "four or five" teachers. Some paraprofessionals, secretaries, and custodial staff would also be faced with the loss of their jobs.

Layoffs of this kind, says Haddad, only serve to hurt his efforts to raise Winchendon schools from a Level 3 district to a Level 2 district, a move based mostly on the scores of Winchendon students on the

annual MCAS exam.

"If we cut teachers, we increase class size," said Haddad. "If we increase class size, it makes it harder to provide the kind of instruction kids need to pass the exam; especially those who are having some trouble. It's that much harder to help the kids who need help. You start cutting away at the support we need to improve our numbers."

"Where it affects us most is enrollment," he said. "When a parent says 'I'd rather go down the road to a Level 2 school, or a Level 1 school, than to go to a Level 3 school.'"

"We've got the best teachers. We have highly qualified teachers. We have teachers teaching in their areas of certification —

100 percent of our teachers are in their area — compared to 96 or 97 percent statewide. If you have to cut teachers, you're going to increase class size."

"How does that affect enrollment?" he asked "Well, a parent is going to say 'class size is too big. I want my kid to go to a school where the classes are smaller.'"

And, Haddad points out, as student enrollment decreases, so does the amount of state aid.

The superintendent explained that passage of the "improved" budget of \$15,390,357 would allow him to retain the teachers who would otherwise be laid off. It would also, however, require approval of a Prop 2 ½ override of just over \$200,000.

The "what we really need" budget of \$15,564,010 would necessitate passage of a \$376,000 override. That would allow Haddad to hang to all staff members currently under threat of a layoff.

All three budget proposals were being presented to the Finance Committee for consideration on Thursday night.

"It would be tough to go to a town meeting to ask for an override if the Finance Committee doesn't support it," said Haddad.

The School Committee will decide on which budget plan to recommend in the wake of Thursday's meeting. The panel will then hold a public hearing on its proposed budget next Thursday, April 6.



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WEEKLY QUOTE

Either you run the day or the day runs you.

— Jim Rohn

Water system losing 24m gallons a year

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — At a recent Tri-board meeting, it was learned that some 24 million gallons of water is, for all intents and purposes, wasted in Winchendon each year. The problem isn't leaky home faucets, excessive car washing, or unnecessary lawn watering; the water is purposely allowed to empty out of eight so-called bleeder lines in order to keep it moving through the many miles of pipes that serve homes and business throughout the town. If the practice were to be stopped, the water would come to a standstill, allowing sediment to settle and build up in the system.

"We try to slow down the flow every few weeks," explained Public Works Director Al Gallant. "The day after we slow it down, we start getting calls; 'dirty water again.'"

Gallant said the town's pipes are sup-

posed to be flushed at least twice a year to clear the system of sediment, "but for years, it hasn't been done."

"When I came on board (as DPW chief), I started doing it," said Gallant, "but I got shut down because of the drought. I asked the Water Commission last fall: where are we with the drought, can I flush my pipes? I was told they'd rather I didn't do it because we're too low on the lake."

Winchendon gets its water from Upper Naukeag Lake in Ashburnham.

Gallant was told at the time the lake was 32 inches low. He recently called the water plant, however, and was told the lake is currently 11 inches low.

"So, I'm going see if I can get the go-ahead to flush the pipes this spring," he said. "If I'm told 'no,' I don't know what I'm going to do. You can't do that. You can't just go without flushing the pipes."

To clean out the pipes, while at the

same time cutting back on the amount of water that will be allowed to run out of the bleeder pipes, Gallant has asked for permission to undertake a process known as "ice pigging," a process developed in Great Britain about a decade ago.

"The simple way to explain it," said Gallant, "is that it's a big slushy. It's 3,000 gallons of frozen water that is run through the pipe, and that takes out 10 times more sediment than just flushing the water. I put in for all eight bleeders to be done, but I think the town manager is going to let me start with four."

The procedure is not inexpensive. "Each run that I want to do is going to be between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per line, per - like - 15-hundred feet of the line. I'm going to try to do the end of four lines. Once that's done, hopefully, we can reduce the amount of water we need to let flow out of the line."

The bleeder lines in question termi-

nate on Glenallan, Benjamin, School, Pine, Ash, Vaine, and Weller streets, and Jameson Way.

The "ice pigging" procedure, said Gallant, is done by only one company in the world; Suez Water Advance Solutions.

"There are only three trucks in the country that make the 'slush' that's pumped into the line," he said. "The closest one, the one that would probably come here, is based in Georgia."

According to the company's website: "Ice Pigging is up to 1,000 times more effective at removing sediment and bio-film than traditional flushing and flows through all diameters. It takes half the time required by other techniques, requires no excavations and is the lowest cost option in terms of amount of sediment removed."

"If it works out," said Gallant, "I'm hoping we can do the other four bleeder lines next year."



CLYDE'S CORNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

SIGN PAINTING EVENT: Join the Crafty Cauldron and your friends for a paint event for a good cause, \$35 a person at 2 p.m. Paint 2 wooden signs in your choice of color and design. Fundraiser to benefit the Kiwanis of Winchendon backpack program. Register in store or online prior to the event, no space will be sold that day. The Crafty Cauldron, 91 Central St., www.thecraftycauldron.net/events.html. Email: thecraftycauldron@yahoo.com.

TOUR OF ITALY: Murdock athletics puts on a 4-course dinner with minestrone soup, salad buffet, pasta with meatballs and cannolis at the American Legion, 295 School St. 5-8 p.m. Advance tickets, available at Murdock High School office, \$14; at the door \$17. To benefit the Carol M. Higgins Memorial Fund.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

LEARN: Computer classes for adults are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Beals Memorial Library and are open to adults ages 18 and older.

CRAFT FOR ADULTS: On Tuesday nights at 6:30 Beals Memorial Library has an adult craft hour providing a place to meet and do crafts. People bring in things they are working on, and can get help on knitting, crocheting, quilting and discuss different ideas.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT! Begins at 10 a.m. sharp, gather on the

Old Centre Common beginning at 9:30 a.m. Hike to the Militia Grounds with the Easter Bunny. Rainedate same time, April 8.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

DEADLINE DAY: GALA 2017 spring photography exhibit, calling ALL photographers!!

Entry deadline: Sunday, April 2. Register: www.galagardner.org

MEAT SHOOT: American Legion Auxiliary Post 193 hosts a meat shoot beginning at 2 p.m. Side raffles, including lottery, 50/50 and a gift basket. Never been? Come learn how to win with just a trio of cards, a handful of markers and a bit of luck.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

MAY BASKET WORKSHOP: FREE workshop, open to everyone. Keep the tradition going! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the GALA Arts Gallery, 135 Front St. Please register so we have enough materials: www.galagardner.org.

ZUMBA GOLD: Unlimited Zumba from 7-9 p.m. with some of the best Zumba instructors in the area. Saturday April 8 at the Winchendon School's Trustee Hall, 172 Ash St. \$15 per person. Tickets available at the Clark Memorial YMCA front desk, or email Charlotte Rheault at saddleup2000@hotmail.com. All proceeds will help fund The Clark Memorial YMCA's annual campaign, BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES. Our annual campaign supports our Scholarship Fund that assists individuals and families with memberships, programs and Before & After School.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY! At the United Parish from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Pack 193's annual Pancake Breakfast! All you can eat pancakes plus sausage, eggs, orange juice and coffee! Come visit with the Easter Bunny and have pictures taken. Adults - \$7 Kids 10 and Under - \$5 Families of 4 or more - \$20. All

proceeds benefit local Cub Scouts.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

GOLDEN AGERS: the Golden Agers hold a meeting at 2 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. K9 Clyde, with Officer Jim Wirnonen and Chief David Walsh intend to be hand.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

BOOK DISCUSSION: Beals Memorial Library has a book club that meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Thursday each month, the next meeting is Thursday April 13 Books are available at the library.

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

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

TRIVIA CHALLENGE: every month it's Franco O'Malley's trivia challenge at Zoe's Restaurant beginning at 8 p.m. Bring a team or join a team and try your memory at this intriguing game of wits. Open to everyone, come on down.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

OUT OF DARKNESS: We are ready to rock the second annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk/Suicide Prevention Benefit with special guest, Ryan Hood, on keyboards. In addition to some classic rock from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s that will be getting you on the dance floor, there are going to be some BIG raffles, a door prize and a 50/50. Donation is \$10 per person, or \$15 per couple at the Winchendon American Legion, 8 p.m.-midnight. We will also be doing our TBR Jukebox Karaoke...where you get to choose a song from our list for \$5, and for \$5 more, you and your friends can sing it with us! All proceeds from this event will go to Team Silver Linings, led by Brittany LaPointe, and Team Peace of Mind, led by Mariah Ackert. Let's make sure no one has to walk alone in the darkness...end the stigma!

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

GALA ART EXHIBIT: opening reception and art awards at Old Murdock Senior Center 2nd floor auditorium, 52 Murdock Ave. 2-5 p.m. More Info: www.galagardner.org

EARTH DAY: in Winchendon, roll off dumpster will again be sited on Pleasant Street 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Seeking volunteers and donations toward drinks and snacks for workers. Clean up a street, clean up an acre, help keep our town green.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

VETERANS: Working Wonders in Winchendon is holding a free Veterans' Lunch in the basement back room at the American Legion between 1 and 5 p.m. on April 23. Veterans and their families are invited for an Italian buffet and dessert. There will also be a free raffle for veterans. For more information, visit workingwondersinwinchendon@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

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

FRIDAY, MAY 19

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

COLLAGE WORKSHOP: Instructor: Jill Pottle will teach a class on collage 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the GALA Arts Gallery, 135 Front St. For more information and to register visit www.galagardner.org.



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Family Movie Nights Spark Meaningful Family Dialogue

(NAPS)

Disney's "Queen of Katwe," now available for home viewing, is the perfect film for family movie night and can spark important family conversations. In addition to providing a captivating, funny and heartwarming glimpse into the lives of children in current-day Africa, it also has

the advantage of providing valuable life lessons that can help open your children's minds to new ways of approaching problems and inspire them to try new challenges that can expand their skills for navigating the world.

"Queen of Katwe" is based on the true story of Phiona Mutesi, a courageous young girl from the slums of Africa who sells corn on the streets of rural Uganda and whose world rapidly changes when she's introduced to the game of chess. As the movie unfolds, it presents a wonderful example of how mastery of the game of chess helps Phiona become a champion in the game of life. (Phiona, now 20, hopes to earn a college degree and continue to study chess in the hope of becoming a Grandmaster.)

What makes "Queen of Katwe" different from other inspirational stories is its setting. As Phiona dreams of a better life, she must face the possibility of not making it out of the slum. And even if she does, she'll have to navigate in a world she has no idea existed. Most audiences will never experience her world or even know there is such a place or that kids

manage to grow up and thrive in such dire circumstances.

Adding to the realism are the actors and their backgrounds. Madina Nalwanga, who plays Phiona, is herself from a Ugandan slum, and director Mira Nair, very familiar with the environment, having lived nearby, shot the film mostly in the Katwe slums. Over 100 Ugandans worked as extras in the film's street scenes, 80 of them without any prior experience with, or in front of, cameras. David Oyelowo, best known for playing Martin Luther King, Jr. in "Selma," is the charismatic chess teacher who understands the vulnerabilities of his young charges and knows how to lift their diminished spirits while teaching them how to win.

Here are a few things that Phiona learns along the way that children can universally relate to as they watch the film. These points would also make for great family discussions that encourage kids to connect the concepts to their own challenges.

Learn to use your mind. The movie shows how chess teaches the children to make a plan and focus on that plan as they move forward. It is not just about winning. The purpose of the competitions is really to

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How to Use: THE WINCHENDON COURIER

A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION

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The Winchendon Courier (USPS 685-920) is published weekly for \$45 per year (in county) by Stonebridge Press, 25 Elm St. St. Southbridge, MA 01550 Out of county rate is \$56 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Winchendon. To subscribe call (800) 367-9898. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Winchendon Courier, 44 Central St., Winchendon, MA 01475.

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Library Project: it's gonna happen!

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — It's been a long time coming, but it looks like the work to make the Beals Memorial Library handicap accessible is finally going to happen. A contract has been signed with P&S Construction of North Chelmsford and given the stamp approval by Koppleman & Page, the town's legal consultant. Groundbreaking is tentatively set to take place during the week of April 17; school vacation week.

The contract, for \$1.3 million, comes after years of planning to bring the library into compliance with Americans With Disabilities Act. An initial proposal to build an addition onto the rear of the building was initially abandoned as being financially impractical. Instead, current plans call

for a new entrance to be built at basement level on the south side of the building, where an elevator to carry patrons to the upper floors will be installed.

Funding for the project is coming from several sources. The biggest chunk of cash, nearly \$600,000, will come from the library trust fund. In addition, the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation has made three contributions totaling nearly \$287,000. A number of smaller trusts and foundations will also be used to fund the work.

In 2014, by a 532-321 margin, Winchendon voters approved a \$300,000 Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion for the project. Then, at last year's fall town meeting, residents okayed the use of \$140,000 from the town's stabilization fund to cover unexpected costs related to the steel to be used in con-

struction.

David Pollack, with the firm of Abacus Architects and Planners of Boston, told a February meeting of the Planning Board that improvements to the library — in addition to the elevator — will include a concrete handicapped-accessible walkway from Pleasant Street sidewalk to the new entrance; a glass and painted galvanized steel rain canopy for the new entrance; a concrete wall along the walkway, which will allow the library lawn to be maintained at its existing grade; new handicapped-accessible bathrooms; and a fire-protected stairway that leads from the entry way to the first floor, and to the auditorium and offices on the second floor.

Library Director Manuel King said the two majestic oak trees that occupy the lawn near the south side of

the building will not be disturbed, although some pruning will be done to maintain the health of the trees.

A subcommittee of the Library Board of Trustees was to meet on Thursday to discuss the exact date for groundbreaking ceremonies. It's also hoped members of the Beals family will be able to attend the event.

In 1909, local financier Charles A. Beals donated \$25,000 to the town for the construction of a library in memory of his wife, Hattie. The donation came after efforts to secure funding from industrialist Andrew Carnegie fell through. (Carnegie funded the construction of 1,689 public libraries throughout the country early in the last century.) Beals Memorial Library first opened its doors to the public in September 1913.

ACCURACY WATCH

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



College honors Sen. Brewer

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

GARDNER — Mount Wachusett Community College's Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement has a new name - it's now the Stephen Brewer Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement, the school's way of honoring the long-time regional politician who spent more than a quarter-century in the state legislature.

"It's important to be civically engaged, to learn how your government works, to effectuate positive change in this world we live in, and this is where we learn," said Brewer referencing the college.

Long-time college President Daniel

Asquino, who launched the Center about 30 years ago, pointed out Brewer had long been a supporter for public education, especially the Mount.

"He played an instrumental role in securing the release of the funding for the new science center," which opened last year.

Also, observed Asquino, Brewer, who represented Winchendon for much of his legislative career, deserves the accolades for "the ethical, easy and diplomatic manner in which he engages students and responds to constituent concerns."

Asquino added, "it is about his humanity, compassion and empathy for his fellow beings."

Accepting the honor, Brewer quot-

ed from a speech President John F. Kennedy was scheduled to deliver in Dallas on November 22, 1963, reading,

"The link between leadership and learning is not only essential at the community level, it is even more indispensable in world affairs. Ignorance and misinformation can handicap the progress of a city or a company but they can, if allowed to prevail in foreign policy, handicap this country's security. In a world of complex and continuing problems, in a world full of frustrations and irritations, America's leadership must be guided by the lights of learning and reason or else those who confuse rhetoric with reality and the plausible with the possible will gain the popular ascendancy with their seemingly swift

and simple solutions to every world problem."

Brewer served on Barre's Board of Selectmen from 1977-84. He was elected to the Massachusetts House in November, 1988, sitting in the lower chamber for eight years before winning a state Senate seat where he served from 1997 until his retirement in 2015.

Brewer emphasized it was President Kennedy who inspired him to become involved in public affairs, noting Kennedy's words resonate clearly than ever more than a half century later.

"I was involved and I want to pass that on. That will be the moral compass that will guide me in the remaining years of my time on this Earth," he stressed.

CLASSES

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language' but boys need those too. I don't know. But we have had some and it's especially good to see freshmen girls who might be role models for others."

That discussion took place Tuesday as preparation continues for the annual Vex competition later this spring. Robotics students have been participating in simulated in-class competitions, including Murdock March Madness where a nerf basketball was used and in Tuesday's simulation, the theme was using robots to check for radio-activity within a nuclear power plant.

"We try to use real-life situations," remarked Fontaine.

For class purposes, student-designed

robots were used to catch and lift balls over a wall.

"Trial and correct' is our mantra," noted Fontaine. "When they built their robots, they'd see what changes they had to make, whether weight was evenly distributed, whether there was a flaw in the design or what other problems might be."

Pointing out the competition at Oakmont high school is just some seven weeks away, Fontaine lamented, "there never seems to be enough time" every year to prepare.

Not many girls have pursued an opportunity to participate in the Vex event, but perhaps Demanche and Patel will help change that.

"These classes are really eye-opening," reflected Demanche. "You don't know where it might lead."

ELECTION

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representing them."

He said he was motivated to run "by the recent political climate in Washington, DC. It made me take an interest in town politics because this is where the most significant impact I can make can come from."

"I feel qualified to serve my community as I've lived here all my life. I understand the culture, needs, and importance of the town felt by anybody who has had the pleasure of living here."

Salter said seeking re-election "was a difficult decision for me and my family."

"Being a member of the board is a serious commitment for me," she said. "Ultimately, the decision to run was based on my feeling that my responsibility to the

town has not been completed yet. I've enjoyed working with my fellow board members and believe we have the right dynamic to accomplish so much more."

When asked about the accomplishments of the board during her tenure, Salter said, "By far, the board's greatest accomplishment was the hiring of Keith Hickey as town manager."

"Mr. Hickey is an amazing leader," she said, "and it's under his leadership that we have made huge financial strides."

As for her role as selectman, Salter said, "I feel my conservative view on most financial decisions is my strongest contribution to the board."

Still, she says, there is more work to be done.

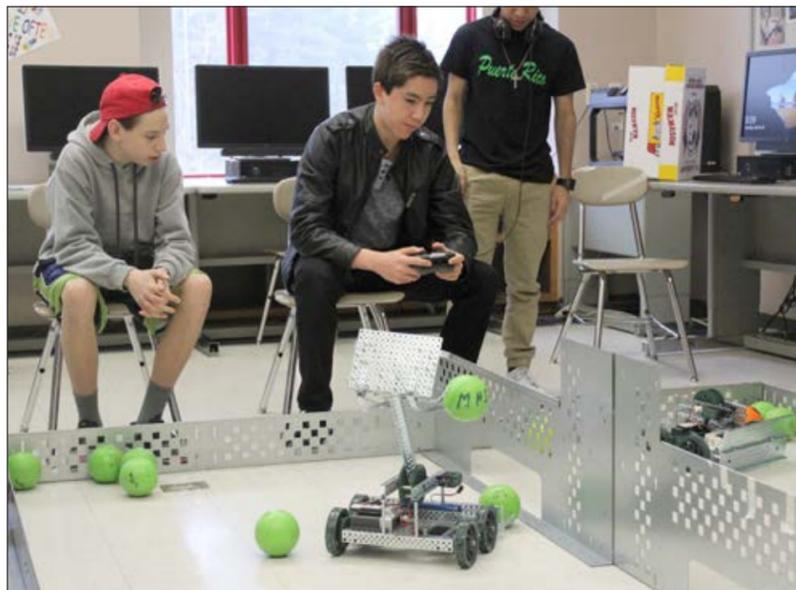
"My desire to see the deficit borrowing paid off is a huge factor in my decision to run.

While we certainly have addressed this issue, and have been tremendously successful in paying down the debt, it's still the most important unresolved issue for me."

Husselbee, 22, is currently enrolled in the online program of the UMass Isenberg School of Management, working toward a master's degree in accounting. He received his BS through the same program.

At present, Husselbee works full time as Student Activities officer for the Upward Bound math and science program through Mount Wachusett Community College.

Salter earned her bachelor's in accounting from Fitchburg State University. She currently works as the trust and estates manager for Robert Alario CPA in Leominster.



Two students, Tim and Austin, practice with the robots.

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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

*'I'll wait
for a new editor'*

Pretty cryptic words since this new editor has been here less than six weeks; but not entirely surprising.

It's been our experience the work of writing and putting together the news looks like a different animal than it really is...from the outside.

How did this statement come about? Let us explain.

Slowly, we have begun making some changes in the newspapers, trying to make more space for news that really affects the towns where the papers are; Northbridge news in the Tribune, and so on. We have good writers, but they are stretched thin, trying to cover several towns in limited time.

So we have been encouraging people to submit their information directly to us, to send photos, to help us help you and...we believe in sharing views with our news so yes, we are encouraging letters to the editor please, more of them. Tell us and others what is on your minds, and about the towns and the interests that impact you.

Of course we welcome those letters eagerly, and read them anxiously. We want to share them with other readers.

But.

Isn't there always a 'but'?

In the atmosphere of news, newsgathering, politics and opinions in this day and age there is a big blurring of lines. There always has been, with people not understanding the differences between "articles" and "letters" or "editorials"

or "columns" and just what constitutes a factual story and what is opinion. We are super aware of just how letters are likely to be interpreted by the public.

So we ask sometimes that a writer add words like "in my opinion" to his writing; or ask that she say clearly that this is how she feels personally about a topic or a person. We are also very careful about "name calling" even of more well known people. We can get in a bit of trouble over some terms or accusations, though it might be clearly the letter writer's and not the newspaper doing the cryptic cacophony.

Where is all of this going? It is simple really. We have asked a letter writer to change a letter to better reflect that it is indeed his opinion, that it be made clear the terms he uses, the information he has chosen to include are based on his opinion and on his attempts to make a point, not on facts or factual information.

He has chosen instead to "wait until there is another editor" to submit his work.

OK.

We can live with that.

Because we too have some opinions on matters; one of them being that the standards for the newspaper are more important than making someone miffed.

But don't let that stop you from writing us letters to the editor. We welcome them. Truly.

**Betro unruffled
by threats to
Meals on Wheels**BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Council on Aging executive director Sheila Betro says she's adopting a wait-and-see attitude when it comes to funding for the town's Meals on Wheels program after President Trump released a proposed budget which includes an almost 18-percent cut to the Department of Health and Human Services, the agency which provides federal funding for Meals on Wheels.

"Worst-case scenario, we'd have to create a wait list for new clients," said Betro, who added she experienced a similar situation in another town during the Clinton presidency.

"I'm not going to panic. Let's see what actually happens," she added, assuring current clients will not be affected.

HHS funding for elderly nutrition is managed through the department's Administration for Community Living and it is unclear how the proposed budget would impact that division of the agency though Meals on Wheels national vice-president of communications Jenny Bertolette said last week "it is difficult to imagine a scenario in which Meals on Wheels will not be significantly and negatively impacted" by Trump's

budget offering.

Local agencies receive as much as 35-percent of their funding from Washington. Meals on Wheels served over 219 million meals to some 2.4 million seniors across the country last year through about 5,000 centers. In Winchendon, Betro said her team delivers around 60 meals a week and hosts weekday meals at the Center as well.

The proposed budget has run into fierce criticism from across the ideological spectrum with liberals and conservatives both citing specifics they didn't like and as the debate raged, Meals on Wheels saw a spike in donations with more than \$1,600 coming in within a few days of the budget release.

Betro said she wasn't certain how many of her clients have been following the story nor how closely if they have.

"I really don't know. It's obviously been in the news but I don't know who's been paying attention," she noted.

"We can't do anything about what's happening in Washington. All we can do is continue to provide the services and we'll see how it plays out," said Betro.



JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART
.....
JERRY
CARTON

As my friend and longtime Republican strategist Mike Collins pointed out, if Donald Trump thought health care was complicated, wait until he takes a look at the tax code, which is next on the agenda of #notmypresident now that seven years of promises to "repeal and replace" proved to be pixie dust. It was pathetic but expected, to see Trump blame Democrats for the failure to get RyanCare to the floor. Hey, Donald, your side has the majority. You guys pitched a pledge to the country that if you were handed the car keys, you'd fix things, starting with the despicable and socialist ObamaCare, which in reality was, for all its flaws, exceedingly, some might suggest excessively, moderate and taken largely from the playbook of the conservative

Heritage Foundation and the Mitt Romney/Ted Kennedy partnership which brought us a fairly successful system here in Massachusetts.

So much for that. Aside from the fact the Republican bill was a hodge-podge combination of draconian and irrational provisions panned by serious economists on both sides of the aisle, from the left because it was correctly seen as nothing more than tax breaks for the rich, from the right because it was believed to be too generous, and from governors of both parties who were terrified of having the responsibility for Medicaid funding shifted to them, Paul Ryan is discovering what John Boehner could've told him and maybe did - there's a bunch of wackbirds (John McCain's phrase) on the far right of the Republican House caucus who aren't going to play ball, aren't going to cooperate, aren't going to compromise, and are going to be as much a thorn in his side as they were in that of his predecessor. You think they're going to be rational on tax

reform? I suppose you have to give them props for consistency but they continue to make legislating impossible. That's the reality. Ideological intransigence equals federal gridlock and the only way to break it is for progressives to win back enough governor's offices and state legislative majorities next year to control the redistricting process after the 2020 census and elect a sensible congressional majority in 2022. Good luck with that. Maybe we can start by winning in New Jersey this fall.

Trump ironically made the same mistake as did Obama and for that matter Bill Clinton nearly a quarter-century ago - starting out with an attempt to massively overhaul the health care/insurance system. Obama should have begun with a jobs program and Trump should have begun with infrastructure. Both would have earned bi-partisan support. Health care is too large a project to tackle at once and certainly not worth risking an entire domestic agenda on. Piecemeal

progress would be entirely acceptable. The problems with the ACA might've been avoided had Obama sought a more modest approach. But all that is of course water over (or is it under, I never get that right) the bridge. I'm glad the ACA remains the law of the land but I'm disappointed, if not surprised, there's been no real bi-partisan effort to fix what's wrong and I have serious doubts there ever will be.

Thinking about all this can raise your blood pressure. Mine's okay, medication sure helps, but the really good news on the health front is that my cholesterol, suspected by more than a few people to be out of whack, is in fact perfect. Yes, perfect. I hit every benchmark right on the money. Part of this is because I babble about bacon 100x more than I actually eat it. I'm much more likely to eat broccoli than bacon though I certainly haven't wholly given up the latter, and I've abandoned my reduced fat Cheez-its for almonds. Times change. This is what people talk about

as we age. Well, this and our assorted aches and pains. Years ago, I could and did go to fancy restaurants and eat an appetizer, a steak and potatoes and dessert, though the dessert was frequently a second salad since I was never a "dessert" person. That was then. I bet my cholesterol was worse then than now. But now, most of us, not just me, those of us of a certain age, are likely not only eating healthier overall, we're eating less. I joke about bacon but I eat lots of fish and poultry and vegetables and not in large portions either. And I sure can't eat meals at 9 or 10 p.m. anymore, either. There's a reason for those early-bird specials, though they're still too early for me, but for who knows how long.

Am I meandering here? Not really. There's a direct correlation between how we eat and the health care services we might need. Want to help keep health care costs down, even a little bit? Eat better! See you next week.

*The link...***Can journalists' donations create conflict of interest?**

Reporter, journalist, correspondent. Three titles that come with incredible responsibility representing honestly, integrity, ethics, objectiveness, and neutrality. Professions where information and happenings are supposed to be relayed with documented facts in a completely unbiased format to inform "We the People" under our First Amendment right to Freedom of the Press. Well, at least that is how it is supposed to work.

Money, often jokingly called the "Root of all evil" plays a role in virtually every aspect of our daily lives. We donate to charities to help the less fortunate, many donated to church's, and we donated to nearly countless other causes including campaigns. No matter if on paper or plastic is your method of choice, money does make the word go around.

This all begs the first question, "Should members of the Free Press be legally allowed to donate independently of their profession as 'Free citizens' to campaigns they themselves are supposed to professionally cover?"

No matter what the donations size,



ANYTHING
NEAR &
FAR
.....
KEITH
KENT

with their professional judgement, and all necessary ethical standards to get to the facts?"

US Federal Election Law requires candidates to report where each donation comes from, however it does not require the sometimes crazy amounts of money which can be donated to "Super PACs" which are essentially independent-expenditures committees. Direct donors in one calendar year can donate up to \$2,700 to a federal candidate, \$5,000 to a PAC, \$10,000 to a state or local party committee, and \$33,900 per year to a national party committee.

George Stephanopoulos is a very well known ABC chief political correspondent. Stephanopoulos donated \$25,000 to the Clinton Foundation in the years of 2012, '13, & '14 in total donating \$75,000 as documented by the Washington Post. He also previously served as a close

White House aide to President William Jefferson Clinton in his first term. These alone were very lofty donations to a foundation representing both President Clinton, and Secretary Clinton. While not necessarily guilty of bias, this is but one of many examples which raises serious ethical questions.

One study provided by the Center for Public Integrity examined and documented who they could find as higher level journalists who donated to the most recent Presidential campaign, and how much each donated by the Fall of 2016. Of over just the 425 identified journalists who could be documented, 96 percent donated \$382K to Hillary Clinton, and the balance donated \$50K to Donald Trump.

Where do we draw the financial line between juggling journalistic ethics and financial donations to either charities or campaigns of any kind which we may cover? Should journalists, reporters, and correspondents be allowed to donate and if they do, should they be barred from covering a subject or person they donated to? Should members of the Free Press have limits on how much money they can donate to prevent potential conflicts of interest and bias due to their personal tie to the money donated? Should we expect them to do

it on the honor system, or should we think about legislation to change the law and prevent members of the media from covering a story about a subject he or she has donated to as a member of the Free Press to help ensure the integrity of the process?

These are the hard questions both we and those we inform have to ask ourselves as members of the media and general public, no matter if you're a local reporting agency, or a nightly televised consumer giant in the national corporate news industry.

We are all only human, we are all subject to making mistakes and all professions have mistakes made within them. However, when it comes to certain professions, some are held to higher ethical standards. When any members of the media become biased especially if due to money, we have not only failed the public, but our constitutional liberties and responsibilities.

Has the time come for out law makers to begin discussion on placing legal limitations on members of the Free Press regarding personal donations and subject coverage, especially when regarding campaigns? To ensure the integrity of the process against potential financial evils, I say yes.



Teach your children well ... about finances and investing

High debt levels ... lack of savings ... the inability to budget – these problems all have several causes, but one of them is almost certainly financial illiteracy. Too many of us just never developed the money management skills necessary to cope with our complicated – and expensive – world. But if you have young children, you can teach them some money-smart lessons – and who knows? You could use the opportunity to give yourself a few valuable reminders, too.



FINANCIAL FOCUS
CAILTE KELLEY

your children will eventually become somewhat acquisitive. Obviously, it's important to teach them that they can't have everything – and they certainly can't have everything right now. So, once they are old enough to receive an allowance or to earn money in some fashion, encourage them to set a goal for something they want, such as a toy or video game, and to put money aside every week for that goal. It's also an excellent idea to model this behavior yourself. So if you are considering making a major purchase in the not-too-distant future, such as a car, show your children how you are setting aside money regularly for this purpose, rather

er than borrowing as much as you can or putting the entire purchase on a credit card. **Establish a budget.** It can be challenging to create a household budget and just as difficult to stick to it – but for most people, it's worth the effort. You'll be doing your children a favor by showing them how you have a certain amount of income and where it goes – mortgage, utilities, groceries, retirement accounts, etc. – each month. Explain to your kids that by staying within your budget, you can help avoid problems such as debt and extra fees tacked onto bills for late payments. You might also want to point out that, as your income rises, you can gain greater flexibility in budgeting. Here's the key point: Living within your means pays

off in the long run. **Have fun with investing.** It might surprise you, but even young children enjoy learning about the investment process, especially if you explain to them that they can be an owner of a company that makes a product or service they like. You might want to pick such a company and, along with your child, chart its course over time. You could give your child a pretend \$100 bill to “invest” in this company and then see how its value changes, explaining along the way that various factors – such as the popularity of the company's products, the skill of its managers, and so on – will affect the stock's price. At some point, you may even wish to purchase real stocks for your child and place them within a custodial account. And you

might also want to show your child how your own stocks and other investments are performing. The investment world can be fascinating, and by sharing your enthusiasm for it with your children, you can encourage them to invest throughout their lives. Knowledge is power. And the more knowledge about finances and investing that you can impart to your children now, the more empowered they will be to make smart financial moves in the future.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Cailte Kelley, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, 1 City Hall Ave. Gardner. (978) 630-8670. www.edwardjones.com

WPD

continued from page A1

said, “If the project is approved and funded, I don't see any reason why it would not be completed in the fiscal '18 year as that would be the expectation.” Explaining the cost break down Hickey said, “The total project cost as proposed for the WPD will be \$690,610. We have had prior conversations with Robinson Broadhurst to approach the subject with them and find out if they would be supportive of the town submitting a proposal like that, and they are prepared to help us as long as the town has a stake in the game. Robinson Broadhurst has been very supportive and we have proposed and asked if they could contribute \$562,610 of the total, which represents the construction of the outside of building, site work, and construct the sally port itself.”

from the operating budget, and \$69,000 coming from the State 911 grant, divided up over a three year period, and would fund the interior, equipment, and items of various nature. The three year break down would be \$23,000 per year from the state grant, and \$19,667 in fiscal 2018 and '19 & \$19,666 in fiscal 2020 from the department's operational budget.” If the town votes to approve the measure as currently proposed at the upcoming May 15 annual town meeting pending Robinson Broadhurst approval of the town's grant application as submitted, Robinson Broadhurst would cover 82 percent, or just over four-fifths of the total project cost. The funds from the State 911 grant represent an additional 10 percent of the project cost. In the end, residents and taxpayers would only need to cover \$59,000 of the nearly \$700K project cost, or eight percent. Hickey said, “If the grant was not approved, the funding and the article itself would be null and void.” When examining the proposed project, WPD Chief David Walsh explained,

“The port as proposed would have a garage, booking area, prisoner holding cell for people being processed, secured armory, and a forensic lab to process evidence. The department would have one additional holding cell for security. I don't see us outgrowing that space for 40 years or more. I want to stress this provides added security for both the police officers and the public. This would also provide for privacy. Currently, we pull up to the building and we take you out and bring you in through the back of the building. There is no privacy. This would also provide for privacy.” Discussing recent history Hickey wanted to clarify, “I think we understand this property has some past history behind it in how it was acquired. We understand and respect that. However, this is a building the town voted to acquire and we need to finish the building itself as part of

having an appropriate and responsible police department. In my mind, we need to finish that building.” Walsh also added, “The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive. It is going to provide much more efficient processing, while providing for added safety for both people and for the police officers.” In closing Hickey said, “I think it's a necessary asset for a police department that will allow police officers to properly and safely process individuals who have been detained by the police department, providing them with additional safety along with additional safety for the public. In the end, if the project is approved, the total cost to the town would be just \$59,000 out of a nearly \$700,000 project.”

FAMILY

continued from page A2

learn strategy and reasoning to overcome challenges in life. — Do not be too quick to give up. Instead, stay focused on the destination and let the journey unfold. It's easy to get discouraged when something dreamed for looks as though it's slipped away. The important thing is to concentrate on the goal no matter how you're feeling in the moment. — Where you come from does not define where you're going. Phiona shows us it ultimately doesn't matter where you've come from. It can actually be a positive thing for your dreams to exceed your current ability to achieve them. — Losing is part of life. While feeling defeat is normal, don't succumb to those feelings. It's about what you can learn from the loss. As David Oyelowo's character, Katende, advises Phiona, “Losses happen to everyone. But then you reset the pieces and play again.” — Never compromise integrity to win. Staying true to your values and your morals is what will take you far in life, and open up doors no one can close. Too often, we're paying attention



Madina Nalwanga, as the Ugandan chess champion Phiona, can teach your kids many lessons.

to what everyone else is doing. “Queen of Katwe” proves that winning is not about compromising to fit in. It's about showing up, being true to yourself and doing what you do best. Such considerations paired with the crowd-pleasing victories, comedic moments, and approachable, family-friendly tone of the film enhance the impact of the film's life lessons and encourage kids to come up with their own.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thick flat pad
- 4. Green regions of desert
- 9. Fill with dismay
- 14. Boxing legend
- 15. Soup
- 16. Your sibling's daughter
- 17. A long thin implement
- 18. Late ESPN anchor
- 20. Motives
- 22. Astronomerology term
- 23. Semitic Sun god
- 24. Small cigar
- 28. Promotions
- 29. Not off
- 30. Line or plaster the roof
- 31. African Indian people of Alberta, Canada
- 33. Rituals
- 37. Chlorine
- 38. Red deer
- 39. Offers a good view
- 41. Post-indictment arrangement
- 42. Blood group
- 43. Razor clams
- 44. Fleshes of animals
- 46. Nipple
- 49. Indicates position
- 50. Electrocardiogram
- 51. Can be disconnected
- 55. Tall military cap
- 58. Cape Verde capital
- 59. Not written in any key
- 60. Creative
- 64. Suffix
- 65. Stacked
- 66. One who consumes
- 67. Not he
- 68. Whiskey and milk are two
- 69. Entryways
- 70. ___ and cheese

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Marketplaces
- 2. Hawaiian greeting
- 3. Mark left by the sea
- 4. Strongly affected by something
- 5. Music and painting are two
- 6. Small coin (French)
- 7. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 8. A gesture involving the shoulders
- 9. Grey geese
- 10. Meal in the park
- 11. Human beings
- 12. What thespians do
- 13. Allow
- 19. Third-party access
- 21. “Casino Royale” villain Mikkelsen
- 24. Painful foot problems
- 25. The very first
- 26. Lawful
- 27. Ceramic jars
- 31. Hind ends
- 32. “Virginia Woolf” author
- 34. Try
- 35. For instance
- 36. Academic terms
- 40. Article
- 41. Religious belief outside the mainstream
- 45. Sound caused by reflection
- 47. Greatly horrify
- 48. Prey
- 52. Forays
- 53. River in eastern France
- 54. Bleated
- 56. Soft food cooked from buckwheat
- 57. Pre-Mayan civilization
- 59. Assert to be the case
- 60. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 61. “Rosemary's Baby”, Farrow
- 62. Chinese philosophical principle
- 63. Simpson trial judge



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POLICE LOG

MONDAY, MARCH 20

1:09-3:20 a.m.: building checks, secure; 5:28 a.m.: ambulance, (Central St.) transport; 9:19 a.m.: fraud (High St.), report taken; 9:42 a.m.: info/general (Cedar Terrace), spoken to; 10:10 a.m.: animal complaint (Christmas Tree Lane), referred to ACO.; 10:51 a.m.: Ambulance (Pearl Street), services rendered; 11:10 a.m.: accident (Lincoln Ave. Extension), report taken; 11:40 a.m.: lift assist (Hyde Park Dr.), assisted; 11:49 a.m.: assist citizen (Cedar Terrace), assisted; 12:31 p.m.: ambulance (Teel Road), services rendered; 1:06 p.m.: fire/auto (Winchendon Fire Dept.), extinguished; 1:35 p.m.: summons service (Oak St.), unable to serve; 1:35 p.m.: wires down (Central and Grove streets), referred to other agency; 2:11 p.m.: assist citizen (Pearl Street), spoken to; 2:14 p.m.: ambulance (Front Street), services rendered; 2:42 p.m.: harassment (Cedar Terrace), report taken; 3:17 p.m.: fraud (Spring St.), report taken; 5:19 p.m.: road rage (Spring and Front streets), verbal warning; 7:40 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Gardner Rd.), verbal warning; 8:23 p.m.: registration check (bike path parking lot - Glenallan St.), dispersed gathering; 9:19 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Gardner Rd.), traffic citation issued; 9:28 p.m.: burglar alarm (Main St.), false alarm; 11:29-11:50 p.m.: building checks, secure.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

12:03-3:14 a.m.: building checks, secure; 3:30 a.m.: investigation (Central St.), referred to other PD; 9:45 a.m.: motor vehicle violations (Cedar Terrace), info taken; 10:21 a.m.: trespassing (Cedar Terrace), info given; 10:50 a.m.: animal complaint (Woodlawn St.), referred to ACO; 11 a.m.: investigation (Grove St.), report taken; 12:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Benjamin St.), returned to home or family; 12:57 p.m.: fraud (Main St.), report taken; 1:55 p.m.: suspicious auto (Central St.), assisted; 2:06 p.m.: threats (Hale St.), report taken; 2:24 p.m.: assault (Western Ave.), report taken; 4:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple St.), referred to ACO; 4:29 p.m.: harassment order service (Front St.), harassment order served; 5:24 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Gardner Rd.), written warning; 7:21 p.m.: MV stop (Spring St.), traffic citation issued; 7:36 p.m.: power outage (High St.), referred to other agency; 9:54 p.m.: MV stop (High St.), verbal warning; 9:54 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Spring and Lake streets), verbal warning; 11:01 p.m.: ambulance (Front St.), removed to hospital.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

12:41-2:18 a.m.: building checks, secure; 7:30 a.m.: general info (Gardner Road) refer to other agency; 7:41 a.m.: accident (River Street) report taken; 8:24 a.m.: attempt to locate (Maple Street) spoken to; 8:40 a.m.: patrol initiated (Elmwood Road) services rendered; 8:41 a.m.: property found (Black Bridge) info taken; 9:08 a.m.: investigation (Mill Glen Road) info taken; 10:02 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 10:35 a.m.: investigation (Main Street) report taken; 11:22 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 11:32 a.m.: assist other agency (Forristall Road) spoken to; 11:51 a.m.: animal complaint (Hale Street) refer to ACO; 12:03 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 12:17 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 1:10 p.m.: M stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 1:12 p.m.: ambulance (Front Street) transport; 1:16 p.m.: assist other agency (36 Spring St.) unable to locate; 1:44 p.m.: ambulance (Tolman Road) transport; 3:36 p.m.: road rage (Central Street) unable to locate; 3:56 p.m.: general info (Woodlawn Street) report taken; 4:31 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) transport; 4:56 p.m.: trespass (Main Street) spoken to; 5:12 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 5:25 p.m.: MV stop (Elmwood Road) verbal warning; 6:16 p.m.: property damage (Rte. 2) refer to other PD; 8:59 p.m.: 911 call non-emergency (Alger Street) accidental; 9:11 p.m.: ambulance (Hale Street) transport; 10:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street) spoken to.

Commuter station serving its purpose and its clientele

FITCHBURG — It's been six months since it opened for business and the Wachusett stop on the MBTA commuter rail line is off to a promising start with officials anticipating ridership continuing to grow.

"The numbers are improving," noted MART administrator Mohammed Khan. "People are coming from Winchendon and Athol to work in Boston. We're saving them money on gas and parking", he added.

The facility at 55 Authority Drive just off Route 31 was built to have room for 360 parking spaces and handle traffic of 400 riders on a daily basis. For now, Khan said as many as 85 cars are being left for a full day as people go to work or other destinations. He said January saw just under 200 riders, an uptick from December.

"That's good news," he remarked. "People are starting to use the station more and more. It will take time to build ridership. We've only been open full-time since late November and as the weather improves, we believe the station will be used more."

Khan pointed out there's also a regular shuttle bus between Wachusett and the City Hall bus stop in Gardner.

"Using us is much easier than taking Route 2 with the traffic there," he stressed.

The very existence of the station has been a long time in coming. The Fitchburg railroad was part of the original Massachusetts/Vermont line when railroads were first coming into their own in the 1850s. A Westminster station about a mile west of the current site operated until 1945 and a successor line a half mile east ran for 15 subsequent years. Between 1980 and 1986, there was commuter service between Fitchburg and Gardner but the run made no intermediate stops.

In 2000, the state legislature approved a feasibility study to look into the practicality and economic value of re-establishing a line to Gardner and Athol but that idea was shot down because Gardner is 64 miles from North Station in Boston and Athol 81 miles. Instead, a proposal was made to build a station on the existing line to West Fitchburg.

The federal Department of Transportation awarded an initial \$55 million grant in 2010 with an anticipated completion date by 2014 but environmental issues surrounding the layover yard delayed the project. That was resolved in time for a do-over groundbreaking in August, 2013 and the station opened to limited service last September with full-service launched Thanksgiving week last year.

The partial September launch was required or the state would have risked losing the more \$59 million eventually put up by the federal government. In the end, the project cost \$93.3 million.

"A good investment," assured Khan.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

12:09-3:29 a.m.: building checks, secure; 7:30 a.m.: DPW call (Maple Street) refer to state DPW; 7:33 a.m.: vandalism (River Street) report taken; 8:17 a.m.: summons service (Maple Street) served; 8:31 a.m.: summons service (Cedar Street) unable to serve; 8:33 a.m.: summons service (Juniper Street) unable to serve; 8:35 a.m.: summons service (Webster Street) served; 8:36 a.m.: summons service (Front Street) served; 8:38 a.m.: summons service (Sibley Road) served; 9:05 a.m.: summons service (Mill Street) unable to serve; 9:41 a.m.: summons service (Main Street) unable to serve; 9:53 a.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 10:18 a.m.: investigation (Royalston Road North) no PD service required; 11:13 a.m.: investigation (Hale Street) info taken; 11:34 a.m.: investigation (Mechanic Street) services rendered; 11:41 a.m.: officer wanted (Cottage Hill) report taken; 11:48 a.m.: automatic fire alarm (Winchendon School) services rendered; 12:16 p.m.: investigation (Royalston Road North) info taken; 12:27 p.m.: investigation (Brooks Auto) services rendered; 1:48 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street) refer to ACO; 2:14 p.m.: MV stop (Alger Street) verbal warning; 2:21 p.m.: MV stop (River Street) verbal warning; 2:31 p.m.: MV stop (Baldwinville State Road) verbal warning; 3:34 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 3:41 p.m.: investigation (Hyde Park Drive) spoken to; 3:53 p.m.: investigation (Central Street) services rendered; 5:11 p.m.: burglar alarm (Harbour) services rendered; 5:22 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) unable to locate; 6:57 p.m.: wires down (Pearl Street) services rendered; 7:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Highland Street) refer to ACO; 7:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Mill Glen Road) report taken; 8:46 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Glenallan Street) unable to locate; 9:45 p.m.: runaway (East Street) returned to home; 10:03 p.m.: disturbance (Spruce Street) spoken to; 11:07 p.m.: illegal burn (Old County Road)

fire extinguished; 11:53 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) report taken.

12:29-12:44 a.m.: building checks, secure; 12:53 a.m.: suspicious person (Spring St.), spoken to; 12:55-1:13 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:15 a.m.: ambulance (Spruce St.), removed to hospital; 1:17-1:38 a.m.: building checks, secure; 2:07 a.m.: extra patrols (Goodrich St.), checked/secure; 2:15-2:49 a.m.: building checks, secure; 4:31 a.m.: ambulance (Phyllis Rd.), removed to hospital; 6:55 a.m.: ambulance (Pearl St.), removed to hospital; 8:22 a.m.: suspicious auto (Baldwinville Rd.), unable to locate; 8:53 a.m.: summons service (Beech St.), summons served; 8:54 a.m.: assist citizen (Spruce St.), assisted; 8:56 a.m.: attempt to locate (Front St.), unable to locate; 9:51 a.m.: officer wanted (Goodrich Dr.), report taken; 10:38 a.m.: larceny (Happy Hollow Rd.), report taken; 10:56 a.m.: vandalism (Glenallan St.), report taken; 11:06 a.m.: motor vehicle stop (Baldwinville State Rd.), written warning; 11:32 a.m.: motor vehicle stop (River St.), verbal warning; 1:12 p.m.: investigation (Main St.), spoken to; 1:46 p.m.: summons service (Juniper St.), unable to serve; 2:00 p.m.: assist other police department (Alger St.), message delivered; 2:05 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Baldwinville State Rd.), written warning; 2:06 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Spring St.), verbal warning; 2:23 p.m.: suspicious auto (West St.), spoken to; 2:29 p.m.: accident (Ready Dr.), report taken; 2:31 p.m.: fire alarm (Grove St.), false alarm; 3:50 p.m.: extra patrols (bike path and Black Bridge area), checked/secure; 4:10 p.m.: officer wanted (47 Water St.), assisted; 4:17 p.m.: disable auto (School St.), assisted; 4:20 p.m.: disabled auto (East St.), advised officer; 5:04 p.m.: info/general (Ash St.), report taken; 5:40 p.m.: threats (Goodrich Dr.), spoken to; 6:38 p.m.: larceny (Juniper St.), report taken; 6:41 p.m.: ambulance (Winter St.), removed to hospital; 7:00 p.m.: motor vehicle operating erratically (Baldwinville State Rd.), spoken to; 8:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Mellen Rd.), report taken; 8:36 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Central St.), traffic citation issued; 9:07 p.m.: ambulance (Central St.), removed to hospital;

tal; 10:18 p.m.: ambulance (Teel Rd.), removed to hospital;

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

1:53-1:56 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:57 a.m.: extra patrols (Juniper St.), checked/secure; 2:11 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Gardner Rd.), written warning; 2:13-2:21 a.m.: building checks, secure; 2:21-3:00 a.m.: extra patrols (Benjamin St.), checked/secure; 3:19-3:24 a.m.: building checks, secure; 5:48 a.m.: burglar alarm (Main St.), call cancelled; 7:56 a.m.: ambulance (Mill St.), removed to hospital; 8:00 a.m.: assault (Grove St.), report taken; 9:15 a.m.: info/general (Glenallan St.), assisted; 9:51 a.m. ambulance (Central St.), removed to hospital; 11:52 a.m.: lift assist (Hyde Park Dr.), services rendered; 12:41 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Baldwinville State Rd.), written warning; 12:47 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Central St.), verbal warning; 1:37 p.m.: ambulance (Lakeshore Dr.), services rendered; 2:12 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Lincoln Ave. and Grove St.), summons; Edward J. Wilson, age 55, 299 Ash St., #1F, Winchendon, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, driving vehicle with no inspection sticker; 3:55 p.m.: larceny (Spring St.), investigated/report taken; 4:15 p.m.: larceny (Goodrich Dr.), removed to hospital; 4:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Forristall Road), spoken to; 4:48 p.m.: mental health issue (Polly's Dr.), Section 12; 5:21 p.m.: traffic hazard (River St.), unable to locate; 7:31 p.m.: suspicious auto (Hale St.), unable to locate; 7:49 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (River St.), verbal warning; 8:00 p.m.: disabled auto (Franklin St.), checked/secure; 8:16 p.m.: ambulance (Cabot Rd.), referred to f.d.; 11:38 p.m.: welfare check/general (address not printed), checked/secure.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

12:16-12:53 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:32 a.m.: ambulance (Brown St.), no fire service necessary; 1:47-5:03 a.m.: building checks/secure; 8:30 a.m.: burglar alarm (Memorial Dr.), false alarm; 10:00 a.m.: suspicious auto (Spring St.), spoken to; 1:19 p.m.: disable auto (Madison Ave.), assisted; 2:15 p.m.: tree down on wires (High St.), referred to other agency; 2:43 p.m.: fire department call/general (Hyde Park Dr.), services rendered; 3:20 p.m.: ambulance (Sibley Rd.), removed to hospital; 3:36 p.m.: suspicious (other) (Lakeview Dr.), report taken; 3:38 p.m.: 911 hang up (Linden St.), child playing with phone; 4:23 p.m.: trespassing (Town Farm Rd.), info given; 4:54 p.m.: animal complaint (Juniper St.), spoken to; 5:58 p.m.: ambulance (Central St.), removed to hospital; 7:27 p.m.: burglary/breaking and entering (Front St.), report taken; 9:52 p.m.: suspicious auto (Memorial Dr.), checked/secure; 10:05 p.m.: registration check (River St.), info given; 10:08 p.m.: suspicious person (Spring St.), info taken; 10:29 p.m.: accident (Maple St.), report taken.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

1:08-1:15 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:16 a.m.: property damage (Mechanic St.), report taken; 3:32-3:58 a.m.: building checks, secure; 9:18 a.m.: fire alarm (Front St.), services rendered; 9:21 a.m.: motor vehicle operating erratically (Gardner Rd.), unable to locate; 11:45 a.m.: motor vehicle stop (Lincoln Ave.), spoken to; 11:50 a.m.: motor vehicle stop (Front St. and Lincoln Ave.), spoken to; 12:02 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Lincoln Ave.), traffic citation issued; 12:10 p.m.: suspicious auto (Central St.), spoken to; 1:50 p.m.: animal abuse (Front St.), no cause for complaint; 2:07 p.m.: ambulance (Central St.), removed to hospital; 2:20 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Central St.), spoken to; 2:25 p.m.: property damage (Pine St.), report taken; 4:34 p.m.: Dept. of Public Works call (Chestnut St.), referred to DPW; 4:53 p.m.: disable auto (Spring St.), assisted; 4:56 p.m.: summons services (Juniper St.), unable to serve; 7:16 p.m.: mental health issue (Ash St.), report taken; 8:45 p.m.: ambulance (Brown St.), no fire service necessary; 8:57 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Gardner Rd.), written warning; 9:04 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Central St.), verbal warning; 9:22 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Spring St.), written warning; 9:30 p.m.: motor vehicle stop (Spring St.), traffic citation issued; 9:55 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan St.), removed to hospital; 10:29 p.m.: dog bite (Front St.), report taken; 11:58 p.m.: ambulance (Pond St.), removed to hospital.

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OBITUARIES

Dolores 'Dodie' Dayton

LODI TX — Dolores (Dodie) Dayton passed peacefully on March 18, 2017 after a lengthy illness. She was born and raised in Winchendon to Eva and Arthur Seymour.



Upon graduation from high school she attended nursing school and began her career as a registered nurse. In 1952 she joined the United States Air Force as a first lieutenant flight nurse and proudly served during the Korean Conflict. Swept away by flight navigator Gerald K. (Jerry) Dayton, they married in Fort Worth, TX on August 20, 1955. In 1967, they settled in Lodi after many years in Los Angeles where she worked as an RN at UCLA to put him through medical school.

Dodie was an avid gardener and an accomplished home chef. She grew spectacular orchids and showed her bonsais at the annual Obon Festival. Dodie always had a great recipe to share and even produced a family cookbook. She will forever be remembered in the kitchen with the stereo on, and a glass of wine in her hand showing off the latest Jazzercise moves, while cooking up a feast.

Active in the local community, Dodie proudly volunteered for many years at Lodi Memorial Hospital as a patient advocate. She held office in the local Republican Women's group and she loved Jazzercise, clocking many years with the local group. She never lost contact with her old friends with the

Society of Air Force Nurses and was a member of the San Joaquin Medical Wives Society.

Dodie and Jerry loved to travel. They visited all 50 states, including Alaska, in their RV. They belonged to the Vagabundos Del Mar RV travel club and rarely missed the annual crab feed held at Tower Park Marina. They made wonderful memories in Cabo San Lucas, b.c.s, making the trip in their RV many times, meeting up with their daughters and making lifelong friends along the way.

Dodie was a generous donor to many nonprofit organizations including the Humane Society, the Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Disabled Veterans Fund. Always most important to Dodie, after Jerry, were their three girls. She was a wonderful, kind, and supportive presence in each of their lives. She spent countless hours poolside with the Lodi City Swim Club, cheering the girls on, and she never missed a chance to brag about them.

Dodie was the glue that held the family together always in touch with her sister in Florida, and her nephew and nieces back east. She is preceded in death by Jerry and sister Iris Warren. She is survived by her daughters, Annie Dayton, Elizabeth Dayton and Joan Utley, her beloved sons-in law Jeff Utley and Justin Larsen and her grandchildren Noah Peake, Sydney, Riley and Tucker Utley.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the staff at Brookdale for their loving care and support during this difficult time. Per Dodie's wishes, there will be no formal memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her name to the Humane Society of the United States, or to Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Nancy L. (LeClair) Dauphinais-Harris, 71

TEMPLETON — Nancy L. (LeClair) Dauphinais-Harris, age 71, of 11 Otter River Greene, died peacefully Monday evening, March 27, 2017 in Heywood Hospital, Gardner with her family at her side.



She was born in Fitchburg on Aug. 13, 1945, daughter of the late Clifford and Lillian (Gagne) LeClair and lived in Fitchburg and Lunenburg for many years before moving to Otter River 15 years ago. At one time, she lived on Lake Shirley in Lunenburg, where she loved her heart shaped beach.

Nancy worked many years ago as a self employed hairdresser. At one time, she worked as an administrative assistant to former Fitchburg Mayor Hedley Bray. Nancy was a member of the Fitchburg YMCA. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, to whom family was most important.

She leaves her husband of 17 years, William W. Harris; two children, Alan Dauphinais and his wife Danet of Houston, TX and Wendy Nelson and her husband Krist of Deerfield, NH; two sisters, Betty Shepherd of Leominster and Donna Greenstreet of Leominster;

a brother, Richard LeClair of Apache Junction, AZ; five grandchildren, Jamie and Jessica Nelson, Ally, Paula and Nancy Dauphinais; her stepchildren, Betsy A. LaBelle and her husband David of Lunenburg, Jodie L. Parker and her husband Thomas of Otter River, Julie Brown and her husband Randy of Otter River, William C. Harris and his wife Carol of Templeton, Molly R. Paine and her husband Richard of Baldwinville and Jonathan A. Harris of Baldwinville; her step grandchildren, Katie and Andrew LaBelle, Joseph, Jacob and Joshua Parker, Jason and Jennifer Brown, William and Danielle Harris, Kayla and Brittany Paine, Justin Dean and Julian Harris, seven step great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Her first husband, Peter Dauphinais and a sister Gail Roy, predeceased her.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 11 a.m. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St. Winchendon.

Calling hours in the funeral home will precede the funeral Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to Templeton Fire Department Rescue Squad, 2 School St., Baldwinville, MA 01436.

Rosario Romano, 92

FITCHBURG — Rosario Romano age 92, a lifelong resident of Fitchburg, died peacefully March 18 at Health Alliance Hospital. He was born Oct. 7, 1924 the son of Guisepppe and Rose (Bottino) Romano.



He was married 54 years to the love of his life the late Rita (Lemay) Romano. Ross was a member of St. Anthony Di Padua Church. He attended Fitchburg High School. He was employed at Shirley Industrial School for Boys and later at Fitchburg State College as a second class fireman, until his retirement in 1988. He was a dedicated employee and tireless worker with a strong sense of values.

Ross was a loving and supportive husband, father and grandfather. He remained extremely active after retirement. Ross was often found in his yard, taking long walks or tinkering in his

cellar. He was a long time gym member and enjoyed reading, Cape Cod and Maine. His great love was engaging in exchanges with everyone he met. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, smile and devotion to his family and faith. He leaves his children, Joyce Helmer of Fitchburg, Mark Romano and his wife Judy of Winchendon; grandchildren Anthony Romano, Ashley Schofield, Mark Helmer and Emilie Helmer; sister-in-law Mary Romano and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves his caregiver Rita Breau. Ross was preceded in death by his brothers Joseph, Vincent, Antonio "Tony" and Harry.

A funeral Mass was held Monday March 27 in St. Anthony Di Padua Church, 84 Salem St., Fitchburg. Interment will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias, 6 Executive Drive, Suite 2, Fairview Heights, Illinois, 62208-1360 in Memory of Rosario Romano.

Susan D. Peal, 50

WESTMINSTER — Susan D. Peal, age 50, of 12 Franklin Ave., Westfield, formerly of Westminster, died Monday, March 20, 2017 in Baystate Noble Hospital, Westfield.



Susan was born in Gardner on Oct. 13, 1966, daughter of Bruce A. Peal of Gardner and Sandra J. (McMilleon) Peal of Winchendon. She grew up in Westminster and graduated from Oakmont Regional High School in 1984. She enjoyed singing and listening to music and the beauty of the

ocean.

In addition to her parents, she leaves two sons, Michael Deslauriers and his wife Tabitha of Templeton and Tyler Keough of Gardner; a granddaughter Briana Keough; two sisters, Debra Dahlgren and her wife Linda Bouchard of Phillipston and Tracie Clark and her husband Robert of Gardner; one brother, Bruce E. Peal and his wife Chandra of Gardner and several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon were Saturday, March 25, 2017.

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

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

Peter J. Hemlin, 76

ATHOL — Peter J. Hemlin, age 76, of 739 Daniel Shays Highway, formerly of Winchendon, died peacefully Tuesday, March 28, 2017 in Quabbin Valley Healthcare, with his family at his side.



He was born in Fitchburg on April 16, 1940, son of the late Theodore and Miriam (Koskie) Hemlin and was a 1958 graduate of Fitchburg High School. Pete proudly served in the United States Navy from 1958 to 1962. He lived in Winchendon for many years until moving to Athol five years ago.

Pete worked as a machinist and owned and operated Hemlin Machine and Repair from 1989 until his retirement last year. He was a member of Eugene M. Connor Post #193 American Legion. He enjoyed golfing, traveling and spending time with his family.

He leaves his wife of 12 years, Patricia (DuPray) LaBarge Hemlin; three sons, Peter J. Hemlin Jr of Winchendon, Scott A. Hemlin and his wife Nicole of Baldwinville and Richard D. Hemlin of Baldwinville; four grandchildren, Amber, Alyssa, Madyson and Landyn; two sisters, Linda Daher of Westminster and Barbara Pajunen of Groveland and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Nancy Lee (McAllister) Hemlin, who died in 2004 and a brother David Hemlin.

A memorial service will be held Monday, April 3, 2017 at 1 P.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central Street, Winchendon. A calling hour will precede the service Monday from 12 to 1 P.M.

Burial, with military honors, will be held later in the spring in Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society, 30 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701 or to Patients Activities Fund of Quabbin Valley Healthcare, 821 Daniel Shays Highway, Athol, MA 01331.

SUDOKU

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Fun By The Numbers

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

ANSWER:

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READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

SPORTS

These four?



TALKING SPORTS

JERRY CARTON

Admit it - this is a pretty unlikely Final Four. Sure, North Carolina will take the floor in Phoenix tomorrow as a semi-regular, the Heels making a record 20th appearance in the national semi-finals, but the other three?

Gonzaga may have been a heart-warming story when the Zags first emerged from the blur of mid-majors but that was almost two decades ago. The refrain surrounding Mark Few's team this week has been 'what took you so long to get here'? Oregon? The Ducks won the first NCAA title in 1939 but back then the NIT was the big dog, and there was no Final Four per se since the

whole field consisted of eight teams. South Carolina's never reached these heights though the Gamecocks once were a national power.

Bottom line - it's an eclectic group and while the Tar Heels are probably the favorites, they haven't been overwhelmingly dominant. I hope Gonzaga wins. More accurately I hope UNC doesn't. You can't pretend old historic rivalries don't matter anymore just because teams switched leagues so as a Maryland fan, my antipathy towards Carolina, while not as intense as that towards Duke, remains pretty strong. ABC. Anyone But Carolina. Of course that means Carolina will likely win Monday night.

But by the time they do, a whole slate of baseball games which count will have been played. Monday is one of the most anticipated days of the year because Monday is Opening Day. In no other sport is "Opening Day" capitalized. Never has been, never will

be. The question surrounding the Red Sox is how will all that young talent do without David Ortiz in the lineup. Papi provided a buffer of sorts and without him the dynamics have changed. That said, and with the addition of Chris Sale who can't possibly be any less useless in October than David Price, Boston is the smart pick in the AL East. In baseball you never know because magical seasons emerge from nowhere but because they do, you can't see them coming. Nonetheless, the Sox are the choice. Last year the Indians took the Cubs to extra innings in Game Seven, but since you can't take all the chalk, I'll take Detroit to have a bounce back season and regain the AL Central title.

Out West, I'll take Houston to edge Seattle but the Mariners will take one wild card spot, a year later than anticipated and the Tribe will get the other. But really who knows? The Jays, O's and Rangers could go either way. There's no clue

here about the Yanks either. That's why these are merely fun guesses not to be taken all that seriously.

The NL though is pretty clear-cut. Washington, Los Angeles and defending World Series champion Chicago look like virtual locks to win their respective divisions. The Mets are a logical wild-card team with the other probably coming down to the Giants or Cardinals. In the end, just like last year the Cubs are by far the best team in the game but what they won't have going for them is the sense of destiny which didn't hurt one bit in 2016. If that's all they're missing, they're a good bet to win it all again. Come October, Chicago beats Houston.

Arrogate beats everyone. Last year the colt wasn't ready for the Triple Crown series but since then has won the Travers, Breeders Cup Classic, Pegasus and last weekend the Dubai World Cup, all in devastating fashion. The World

Cup was the most impressive because he blew the break, lost a lot of ground and had to circle horses while running at night for the first time and doing so halfway around the globe. After that race, his over-enthusiastic supporters were comparing him favorably to Secretariat. That's a wee bit hyperbolic. It's taken Arrogate seven months to win those four races. Secretariat swept the Triple Crown in record time, then went to Chicago to win the Arlington Classic in record time, all within a seven week, not month, span. In the summer of 1989, Easy Goer won the Belmont Stakes, Whitney (against older horses), Travers, and the Woodward and Jockey Club Gold Cup, both also vs older in the span of just over three months. Arrogate? He's the best horse on the planet now. All-time great, much less GOAT? Let's wait and see.

Spring, when a young man's fancy turns to... turkey



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

Spring turkey hunting is on the minds of many local sportsmen in Massachusetts, and opening day is only four weeks away. The restoration of wild turkey into Massachusetts started as early as 1914.

After numerous attempts to successfully introduce the wild turkey from game farms in the 1960s to the Quabbin area, Mass Fish & Wildlife soon realized that the birds were not doing well and the program was dropped. The next attempt to reintroduce wild turkey into Massachusetts came in 1972 and 1973. Birds from New York were live trapped and released in the Southern Berkshire County. Although the birds were slow to multiply, the efforts of MFW started to pay off in 1976 and it was all history after that. The flock continued to grow, with a population of 1,000 birds by 1978. Some of the birds were trapped and relocated into numerous areas throughout western Mass!

Local sportsmen were eager to have some of the wild turkey relocated into the Blackstone Valley area but that was not being considered by MFW at

that time. We were told that the valley area would be the last to see trapped birds relocated from the western part of the state. Some Mass Fish & Wildlife personnel felt that the valley area was not suitable enough for the birds to survive. In 1979-96 turkey were expanded into central Massachusetts and northeastern and southwestern parts of the state. The wild turkey is now residing in all of Massachusetts and the central district has one of the largest population of birds.

Hunting the wild turkey is enjoyed by millions of sportsmen annually in many parts of the United States. Massachusetts wild turkey hunting opens on April 24 in zones 1-13, with a two bird spring limit. Only male birds (toms) can be harvested in the spring. In the fall a hunter can harvest a bird of either sex if he did not fill his two permits in the spring. Only one bird is allowed in the fall.

The excitement of hunting wild turkey is second to none, and I know some deer hunters that would rather hunt the wild turkey, over hunting deer. Hunting turkey from a ground blind is the best way to go. The turkey has keen eye site and can spot any movement by a hunter, sending the bird scurrying out of sight. Wearing camouflage clothing is not necessary when hunting turkeys, if you hunt from a ground blind. Last year I was dressed in only cam-

ouflage pants and a long sleeve brown sweater. Sitting in my blind I enjoyed the comfort of a chair, ate an egg sandwich, and sipped on coffee as I waited for a bird to respond to my turkey calling. It also keeps you off the ground and away from the possibility of a tick bite. Wearing a face mask is not necessary.

As light broke I spotted some movement about 100 yards from my blind. It was a coyote sneaking up on my turkey decoys. If they looked good to him they should look good to a turkey. The coyote came closer to my decoys and was within 50 feet of the decoys when a slight breeze started to blow sending my scent in his direction. He hightailed it out of the field and disappeared into the woods.

Within minutes a turkey gobbled and I quickly became on high alert, picking up my gun and setting the gun barrel out the small window of my blind I could see two very large turkey heading my way. My mouth became very dry and I could feel the adrenalin rushing through my body. "I better no screw this up," I thought to myself! A couple of soft calls on my mouth piece turkey call, had the birds running right at my small decoy spread which included a couple of fanned out tails that I saved from previous year's hunts. The feathers of the fanned out tails were slightly moving from the light breeze.

Twenty yards was close

enough for my twelve gauge shot gun and 3 1/2 inch shell to drop the bird in his tracks. Taking aim at the bird, I placed the red dot from my scope on his head. Slowly squeezing the trigger, the roar of the discharged shell echoed throughout the valley. The huge bird lay motionless on the ground and the second bird took flight disappearing into the woods.

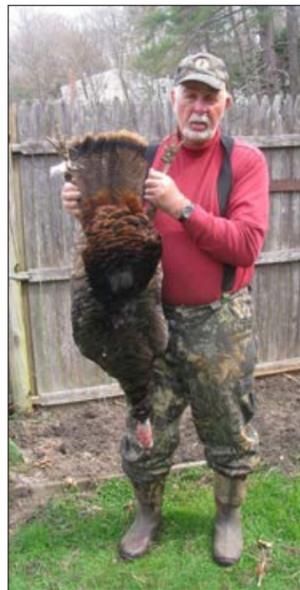
I quickly headed out to the motionless bird, and as I did, I spotted at least a dozen more turkey scampering away from the edge of the field. I never even knew they were there.

As I picked up my bird I realized I had shot a corker. He was huge. I took a few minutes to admire my surroundings, as the sun was just coming into view. The rays of the sun coming through the trees just added to the successful hunt.

How lucky we are that we can enjoy the thrill of turkey hunting, and it was all made possible by some dedicated personnel of the Mass. Fish Wildlife, private citizens, and sportsmen's monies.

After I picked up my gear I stopped to show my bird to the land owner, and to thank him for allowing me to hunt on his property.

After returning home I took the time to weigh the bird. 25 pounds? I was going to take it to Jerry's Bait & Tackle shop in Milford to weigh it on his precision scale, but I decided to clean the bird. No matter what,



This week's picture shows this writer with his wild turkey. It was a CORKER!!

it was a CORKER!

Stocking of trout continues throughout the valley. Anglers using power bait are catching a few of the fish, but the water needs to warm up for them to actively start biting on lures, worms and flies. Wallum Lake in Douglas opens to all fishing next Saturday April 8. Hope to see you there!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Color Eggs from Household Products

Easter is right around the corner, and few family traditions are more enjoyable than the much-anticipated egg coloring project. Whether you decorate your eggs with intricate wax designs or plopp crayoned eggs into overfilled dye cups, the annual ceremony is always filled with fun and a sense of family togetherness. The following ideas are fun and easy to do egg coloring projects.

Note: Eggs that are to be eaten should always be refrigerated after coloring.

**

Natural Dye for Easter Eggs

Years ago, before the invention of the commercial dyeing kit, eggs were tinted by necessity with natural foods that produced an array of pastel colors. Today, it's just as easy to duplicate the rainbow colors of yesteryear using everyday fruits, vegetables and seasonings. All it takes is a little bit of patience, and a lot of enthusiasm to produce an impressive basket full of colorful Easter eggs!

Certain foods can naturally produce a desired color:

Pale Red/Pink: Fresh beets or cranberries, frozen raspberries, red onion skins
Orange: Yellow onion skins
Light yellow: Orange or lemon peels, celery seed or ground cumin
Yellow: Ground turmeric
Lavender: Grape juice

Pale green: Spinach leaves

Green gold: Yellow Delicious apple peels

Blue: Canned blueberries or red cabbage leaves

Beige to brown: Strong brewed coffee

Instructions:

1. Place eggs in a single layer in a pan. Pour water in pan until the eggs are covered.
2. Add about a teaspoon of vinegar.
3. Add the natural dye appropriate to the color you want your eggs to be. (The more eggs you are dyeing at a time, the more dye you will need to use.)
4. Bring water to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
5. Remove the substance you used to color the eggs. Put eggs in a bowl. If you want your eggs to be a darker shade, cover them with the dye and let them stand overnight in the refrigerator.

Quick and Easy Homemade Dye

No egg coloring kit on hand? This homemade mixture rivals the basic egg coloring kits. Use empty egg cartons to dry colored eggs.

Mix three quarters of a cup warm water with one tablespoon white vinegar. Add one quarter teaspoon of desired food coloring. Make individual batches of color in soak mouth mugs or small bowls. Dip and soak hard boiled eggs in mixture to color.

**

Egg Artistry

With parental supervision, little artists can create a mini masterpiece with this



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

easy and fun idea.

Materials: Large glass jar; crayon stubs; vegetable grater; hot water; waxed paper or newspaper, empty egg carton, clear acrylic spray (optional, for blown eggs).

Instructions: Grate peeled crayons over waxed paper. Fill jar with very hot water (or use the water you boiled eggs in). Drop bits of grated crayon into water. Add hard boiled or blown egg as soon as crayon begins to melt. Twirl egg in water with a spoon. The wax should make a design on the egg. Carefully remove egg and set upside down in egg carton to dry. Note for blown eggs: spray above method with blown out eggs; spray with clear acrylic when dry.

Mystery Dots

This simple egg coloring method clearly illustrates a simple science experiment. Kids love it!

To do: Add about two teaspoons of cooking oil to each dye cup. (You might want to do this after you have finished dipping your eggs the traditional way.) When you dip in your egg, the dye won't adhere to the oil, creating mysterious spots on the egg!

**

Egg-cetera

* Wrap a wide elastic band around egg before dipping to create an abstract design.

* Personalize eggs with little fingerprints Just press fingertips into stamp

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Efforts can't stop because projects end

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Riding the momentum of the United Way/Youth Venture Spring Showcase, four Murdock students involved in a pair of YV projects talked earlier this week about the importance and progress of their efforts.

Lily LeBlanc heads an anti-bullying team working on getting funding to build a bench which will be symbolic as well as practical. Hannah Turner has continued her 'Blue Hands' effort regarding suicide awareness.

"I was bullied," she acknowledged. "A lot of people are bullied. We want the bench to be a place where people, students and administrators, can go to listen and be heard."

"It should be a 'safe space'. Depression is common. It's not something to be ashamed of."

To that end, LeBlanc and partners Alec Hart and Cassidy Stadfeld will be preparing to face a panel organized by the Mount's Stephen Brewer Center for Civic Engagement to ask for funding to help move the project along.

"This will be an opportunity for them to present their project and explain why it's worth funding. It's not the same as talking to peers," said MHS faculty YV champion Kris Provost. "They'll be telling professional people why the project is important and what it means."

LeBlanc was unfazed. "I'm really passionate about this. We have this huge packet for the program. I call it 'my

baby,'" she laughed.

"I'm excited that others might want to be part of this," she said, adding,

"I started this about 18 months ago. It's taken a while but it's worth it," stressed LeBlanc. She said she'd even talked with senior center director Sheila Betro about the possibility of volunteers from the center help build and paint.

Stadfeld recalled that she had been bullied in middle school. "I had the support of loving parents and that helped me a lot," she noted.

"You never know who's been bullied. It really hurts," she reflected, "especially when you know you haven't done anything wrong. I just tried not to listen."

Hart said he was grateful he hasn't suffered from bully-

ing but added he "wanted to help Lily and do this. It's not okay. It's hurtful and wrong and I'm mad to do anything to help," he noted.

Turner said her project, which included blue hand posters throughout the building as well as a day when students who were wearing Band-Aids as a show of support for others would high-five each other, has been moving along. But Turner has a wider, larger goal in mind. She wants the anti-suicide project to expand both to younger grades and other schools.

"We'd do it age-appropriately of course," she said, adding she's getting Rivers Edge co-worker Amber White, who's a mom of younger school-age kids, to help prepare such an approach.

Evan Berry is the coordinator from the Mount.

"We feel like this gives students a chance to reach out into a wider community than just the one they have at school and we are always working to assist Youth Venture students in making contributions to that greater community. It's why we want them to deliver their pitch to the panel of people from the business and non-profit world," he said.

"You see the gleam in their eye and you love their energy and enthusiasm," added Berry.

"A lot of people don't have a support system. We want people to know they're not alone," emphasized LeBlanc.

NEWS BRIEFS

Vander Hooven takes over as third president of MWCC

GARDNER — James Vander Hooven, EdD, has officially stepped into his role as the third president of Mount Wachusett Community College since the school was founded in 1963.



"MWCC has a long history serving as an integral part of the communities of north central Massachusetts and responds to the region's ever-evolving needs in order to best serve our students. We plan to build upon that history and create an equally bright

and important future for this college at its Devens, Fitchburg, Gardner and Leominster locations," said Vander Hooven. "We have an opportunity not only to educate, but to be a conduit for the personal transformation and growth of our students and the ongoing growth of our communities."

Vander Hooven has been on campus since February, which allowed for a transition period with Dr. Daniel M. Asquino who announced his retirement last year and served as president at MWCC for over 30 years. Vander Hooven used this transition time to meet with students, faculty, staff and community members and said he looks forward to continuing the process.

"I have met faculty who strive every day to impart knowledge and support students as well as staff who work tire-

lessly towards everyone's success in so many ways. During this time, I have also been able to meet some of our students who persevere in ways both large and small to better themselves through education and personal growth," said Vander Hooven.

Vander Hooven has been committed to access and opportunity to higher education since first stepping into a non-traditional classroom, as an instructor, where he was the youngest person in the group. At that point, he began focusing his energy and time on increasing opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds.

As the president of Tohono O'odham Community College in Tucson, AZ, Vander Hooven successfully raised more than \$9 million for the construction of the college's new main campus.

He has also served as vice president of student affairs and enrollment management at Lakes Region Community College in Laconia, NH, and regional dean of academic and student affairs at National American University in Denver, CO.

Vander Hooven attained his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the Ohio State University. He received his Master of Arts degree in American studies from the University of Wyoming. In 2009, he was awarded his Doctorate in higher education leadership from the University of Maine, where he focused on student access. His dissertation was titled, "Lessons from Success: The Experience of Women Who Successfully Completed an Associate Degree While Parenting Children."

He lives in Keene, NH.

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Famed biologist urges changes to protect Earth

'We can join in one thing — in saving the Creation'

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER — As the hundreds of Bay Staters attending last weekend's Land Conference at Worcester Voke found out, hearing famed biologist Edward O. Wilson speak is to get an earful of grim news leavened with optimism.

"If we could save half of the Earth — I mean protected lands [and waters], recognized as real reserves that are disturbed as minimally as possible," humanity could save 85 percent of Earth's endangered species and ourselves, he said. It'd take protecting half the land and half the seas, alongside a massive educational effort to promote respect for and understanding of a key fact: we don't know what's out there. Wilson noted we can only identify 2 million of Earth's roughly 10 million non-microbial species.

A recent study he cited found that our decades of effort regarding endangered species has been able to "slow, halt or reverse" the decline of just 20 percent of those species. Wilson likened it to "staunching 20 percent of the blood flow" from a major wound, adding, "congratulations, the patient will be dead."

Wilson, a Harvard professor emeritus with two Pulitzer Prizes and numerous well-known books to his credit, is most famous for founding the concepts of sociobiology — the idea that society, biology and ecology are all intertwined by evolution. He started by studying ants, but soon

realized what he saw on that small scale was mirrored all over the living world in various interconnected ways. His research morphed into study of island biogeography, where he and colleagues learned there was "a pretty exact relation between the amount of area on the island, the distance from source areas [of its resident species] and the number of species living in equilibrium," he told the conference.

What that boiled down to was: Habitat size is key. Reduction of available space invariably means a reduction in the number of species that survive.

In today's world, Wilson said, there's an acronym that summarizes humanity's impact on that process: HIPPO — Habitat loss, Invasive species introduction, Pollution, Population growth, and Over-harvesting.

"[Protecting] the sea would be simple," he said. "We could go straight from [today's] 3-5 percent to 50 percent in one stroke," by globally outlawing fishing in the open seas, areas that are outside nations' legally-recognized territorial waters.

"We're down to just 10 percent of the [original] yield of marine fisheries, and that includes the by-catches," he added, noting such a ban would leave a lot of area for depleted species to recover.

On land, it's a bit harder, but Wilson said he feels a big step in the U.S. could come from taking national forests out of the Department of Agriculture, making them National Parks, and setting up ecological research/education centers in all national parks. That sparked applause from the conservation-minded crowd.

Crucial to the process is getting young people involved. Today, most schools have STEM programs, but the approach tends to emphasize chemistry, physics and math



On the stage of Worcester Voke School's auditorium, Laura Johnson and Edward O. Wilson discuss how to save the world.

first. "That's completely wrong," Wilson said. "Our students can be put absolutely on fire by being exposed to Nature... to exploring the environment and empowering them to have explorations of discovery" that give them a reason to dive into the more technical subjects. Doing that, he predicted, could cause "a Linnaean renaissance," a reference to the 19th century botanist who devised the Latin naming system we still use to identify newly-discovered species and how they relate to each other.

Wilson's on-stage host and interviewer, Laura Johnson, director of the International Land Conservation Network, turned the topic to our area, asking how New England fits into Wilson's "half-Earth vision."

Land grant/trust groups "will go far toward bringing the US toward half-protected,"

Wilson responded, adding that such efforts also exist overseas and some places, even in overpopulated countries, are still havens for wild species. He pointed to the Western Ghats of India as an example.

In his own life, though, Wilson has seen a key issue that also needs addressing: building communication between environmentalists and religious people. He grew up Southern Baptist in Alabama and has "tried to create consilience" with them, in Johnson's phrase (quoting Wilson's own book title).

"People of faith have formed tribes that are identified by the creation story that favors their tribe," Wilson said. "Can we find common ground? We can join in one thing — in saving the Creation. You believe it comes into being in one way [divine action]; I believe it comes into being in another way [evolution]."

"Yes, it works," he added. "But it will take a kind of special energy."

That, and other ideas, prompted Johnson to note, "At any point in time, we can get discouraged," and ask how people can keep going.

Wilson responded by noting there is an "asymmetry" between the money spent on research into the non-living and the living world that needs to change, but he thinks it will happen by necessity.

"If you love the outdoors and that sense of empowerment" that comes from finding new things in places you identify with, "go for it," he added.

"To know [the world] well is to love and take responsibility for it," Johnson concluded, quoting another book by Wilson.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

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Legal Notice Winchendon Conservation Commission Lake Monomonac Annual Drawdowns

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 13th, 2017 at 7:05 pm to consider the Notice of Intent filed on behalf of the Town of Winchendon by Department of Public Works Superintendent Albert Gallant to conduct annual water level drawdowns of Lake Monomonac. The hearing will be held in the Second Floor Auditorium of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon (3pm – 6pm on meeting nights), or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
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