

## IGA closes its doors

WINCHENDON — More than a dozen people are out of work following the sudden closure Monday afternoon of the Central Supermarket IGA.

According to Cindy Cloutier, who worked as a cashier at the store, employees were called to a meeting at 3 p.m. Monday, at which time store owner Mike Szelest told them they were out of work, "and locked the doors."

Cloutier said none of the workers, about 16 in all, had any idea what was coming.

Local Family Dollar management categorically denied rumors the IGA had new owners who are planning to expand the grocery store into the space now occupied by Family Dollar.

Town Manager Keith Hickey said he had been in contact with Szelest to discuss the sale of the store to someone who would keep the IGA in town, but he has yet to receive a response. Hickey said was concerned about the now-jobless workers and the many people who patronized the store.

"A lot of them lacked the transpor-

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Staff photos

Two signs, one thanking customers for their business, the other just announcing an unspecified length of time to be closed, greet those unaware of the demise of the iconic grocery.

## Cultural Council awards grants

WINCHENDON — David LaDeau, chairman of the Winchendon Cultural Council, has announced the award of 17 grants totaling \$5730.00 for cultural programs in Winchendon. The grant recipients selected by majority vote of the Cultural Council are:

Beals Memorial Library: \$230 for the Toe Jam Puppet Band; \$300 for Lindsay and her Puppet Pals; \$200 for Magician Eddie Raymond; \$400 for Animal Adventures; \$250 for Caterpillar Lab; \$300 for All Hands Drumming; \$300 for First Friday movies; \$150 for the Eric Carle Museum; and \$100 for a back to school party.

Fitchburg Art Museum: \$100 for an art & craft exhibition.

Gardner Area League of Artists: \$200 for the annual Spring Art Show and \$350 for the May Day Basket workshops.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: \$500 for flute quartet performance.

Anne LeBlanc: \$1,500 for the Winchendon Music Festival.

John Root: \$250 for an

Edible Wild Plants walk.

Village School: \$100 for a children's book festival.

Winchendon Winds: \$500 for the summer concert series.

The Winchendon Cultural Council is part of a network of 39 local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC program is the largest grassroots, cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Winchendon Cultural Council are: David LaDeau, chairman; Coral May Grout, treasurer; Greg Vine, Marilyn Abare, Andrew Arceci, Miranda Jennings, and Tina Santos.

Statewide, more than \$3.5

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## Gardner Area League of Artists established in Winchendon



Courtesy photo

The GALA Art Gallery has a new home in the carriage house at 135 Front St.

WINCHENDON — GALA, the Gardner Area League of Artists, has been an established arts non-profit for several years; but have struggled to find a permanent home. The group wanted not only gallery space, but a place to have classes, demonstrations, and a place to hold meetings and programs. It was a fortuitous turn of events that new GALA president Deb Giordano had become more involved with the Winchendon

Historic and Cultural Center just as that group had made a decision to expand and purchase a second property...complete with a barn that could be rehabilitated into the perfect space for the arts group.

"We have now settled into our new home and completed some goals and making new ones," said an excited Giordano. "We support the local artists and bring the arts and culture to the north central area of

Massachusetts."

"Our new home is located at 135 Front St. and we're working hard on our art gallery project. We also have exciting events coming up that you may be interested in joining. We have been making good progress on the renovations of our new art gallery," she continued.

"We have stopped the renovations for the winter due to no heat, but will start up again in the spring. We have completed the first phase of the project. The wiring, insulating and sheet-rock of the first level of the art gallery are complete. We have also finished repairing the damaged and rotten exterior side boards and scraped and painted the outside of the building," she explained.

It was done with a lot of volunteer help, with people spending weekends and evening scrambling around the building.

"We need you, 'Art Supporters,' who can help make a crucial donation to our renovation project so we are able to purchase the necessary track lighting and floor paint for our art gallery. It will cost \$5,000 before we can exhibit art in the new building. More work needs to be done and we need art supporters to help us con-

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Ricci Ruschioni photos

The crowd was gathered as the bonfire made the evening warmer. Hot chocolate was provided by the Lions.

## Fourth annual event brings out the crowd

WINCHENDON — The weather was cooperative and those who braved the cold were treated to an amazing evening last weekend at the fourth annual bonfire and fireworks display.

The first event was the kickoff to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, and was so well loved, several citizens decided to find a way to make it happen again. With the help of the American Legion Post 193, the fire department and several private citizens, it did.

Now, the American Legion has adopted it themselves, though they work jointly with the fire department and with several others in Winchendon to make it happen.

Starting in early December, the call goes out to remind people to bring their trees to the site at the post after the holidays to add them to the bonfire. In addition, the several thousand live wreaths used by the Wreaths Across America once removed from the cemetery, are also added to the conflagration. A pile of wood pallets forms the framework.

It makes for a huge bonfire.

Before the flames are touched off though, Atlas Fireworks gives the spectators a fireworks show in the night sky. The American Legion organizers, with the help of a few others, do a fundraising drive each fall to raise the money for the show; and have managed for the last couple of years to make it a huge part of the evening. Atlas didn't disappoint.

The Winchendon Lions offered free hot chocolate to those who crowded the Legion parking lot. Being at the fire and the fireworks was free to anyone who wanted to come.

But at close to 6:45, those lucky few who had managed to buy a ticket, were invited inside the building to partake of a chicken barbecue put on by the Legion with the help of the Auxiliary.

In all, it was a successful evening that will be repeated next year. Organizers have said they may move the date later in the month so as not to interfere with potential important football games.

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## Vet Center has plans for expansion

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — The Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center is taking over the across-the-street Gardner Visitors Center and yes, that has potential implications for Winchendon.

MVOC Executive Director Bill Edson says numerous services, among them workshops, seminars on various veter-

ans-related issues and counseling, all of which are available to Winchendon residents, will be moved to the currently empty former Visitors Center facility. MVOC is also maintaining a three-day-a-week presence on the local Stallings campus.

"We were really running out of room," at the MVOC's primary building, noted Edson, "and being able to rent the visitors center is not only good for us,

it's good for the city and for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, which actually owns the building. It's a great public/private collaboration. The visitors center has been empty for something like 12 years and we're told it's in remarkably good shape."

"I don't like seeing old buildings go to waste and it fits

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WEEKLY QUOTE

Correction does much, but encouragement does more.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

# Educator Benedict finds her niche at Academy

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Becky Benedict has been part of the school system for a while at various levels — substitute teaching, working as a one-on-one para-professional, and for the last two years, helping make the Murdock Academy for Success go every day and in this latter position she's found herself working strictly with high school students for the first time.

"It hasn't been boring," she laughed.

"I've always wanted to be an advocate for kids, from the time since I was in school," said Benedict in a more serious vein. "The great thing about the Academy is students can learn and work at their own

pace. Every kid comes from a different place and for some of them, the traditional educational model just doesn't work. Here, we can tailor-make individual programs and that gives them a better chance to succeed, it gives them hope and confidence that they can succeed, and some of our graduates are now going to college. They see they can achieve their ambitions."

And now that the Academy is located on the main campus, students mingle with mainstream peers in various classes, lunch and extracurriculars.

"Having access to all that is healthy," she noted

Benedict, who has three children of her own in Winchendon's school system (eldest daughter Michaela was featured in the Courier

last month in a story about her Youth Venture project), came to the Academy in 2015.

"I'd come on as a para in 2012 and at one point was laid off, budget cuts, and when Kris (Academy director Provost) offered me the opportunity to come here in August of '15, it was easy to say 'yes'. I wanted back in and the Academy looked like the kind of place where I could have an impact. We had middle school students too last year and working with them for the first time was interesting."

"I'll be honest," she recalled. "Sometimes kids would say 'we hate you', but you know, that comes with the territory. We've all heard it but the more time I spent with them, the better things got and I'm happy to see the success stories."

Benedict is happy to see the Academy restricted to high school students because, "it works better. It's easier on them. There's a big difference between middle school and high school maturity-wise. It was hard on some of the middle school kids," a sentiment shared by administrators.

For her personally, "every day brings a different kind of challenge. Every day is different from the day before. The people I work with are great and these kids, I've met some of the kindest, smartest, most talented kids," she enthused.

Being in education is a natural for Benedict.

"I'm passionate about it," she acknowledged. "Being a one-on-one was fulfilling and this is a different kind of challenge, and it's one I'm excited about



Morgan St. Pierre photo

**Becky Benedict likes her new home at the Murdock Academy**

being part of. I don't have any regrets about coming here. I adore this place."

## Keeping Family Dollar bubbling along

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — One of the reasons Family Dollar has been able to maintain a steady level of success in recent years is staff stability and though Shannon Tucker is one of the newest hires, having come aboard last summer, she anticipates becoming a mainstay and that pleases store manager Brian Shaughnessy.

"Shannon has something you can't teach. She's got that bubbly, outgoing upbeat personality which is perfect for the retail business. She makes people feel welcome. That's what we're looking for here."

Those are also employee qualities he's stressed since arriving in town more than a half-decade ago and it's been kind of a mantra ever since.

"We're doing well. Business has been steady for several years and one reason is because we have had these kind of people working here. People notice that, and now they've noticed Shannon," he said, adding, in a broader, yet more personal vein, "This town has really grown

on me. This is the longest I've been in one place and the people here are why."

A native of Cape Cod, Tucker is much newer to Winchendon, though not to retail, having previously worked at Stop 'n Shop ("I was 15 when I started there"), Radio Shack, and the local Dunkin Donuts, the latter shortly after she moved to Winchendon about a year ago.

"I really like retail. I like interacting with my customers," she smiled, "with all the people who come in the store and helping them find what they're looking for. If they're happy, they're more likely to come back."

"Everyone who comes in is different. You have to be able to react to that. Some are real chatty and others just want to be left alone. You need to be sensitive to everyone as an individual. That's how retail goes. Obviously some days are better than others but overall, this is a good place to work. Some days it gets a little crazy but you just go with it," she shrugged.

Like her boss, Tucker also likes Winchendon a lot. "Everything feels

like it's pretty much on one road," she said, referring to Central Street. "On the Cape, everything was scattered. It's really different. It's a lot quieter here, too, and I like that, and at work, when people come in, even if you don't know their names, you know who they are, you recognize them, and I like that. It's peaceful here. This is a good place to live."

"Like" is a word which comes easily to Tucker but it's not one she uses when it comes to helping unload the delivery truck, not because of the physical labor of unpacking boxes and stocking shelves but because of the time - 6 a.m. Sunday mornings.

"I like to sleep in," she laughed, adding, "and you can't be late. The driver, he's there, he wants to get done. You might have to force yourself to get up, but you'd better be there. I'm glad I don't have to do it every week."

Tucker began at Family Dollar last August and said this has been her favorite retail experience.

"Bosses matter and Brian is Brian, in a good way. It's good to have a manager



Morgan St. Pierre photo

**Shannon Tucker is part of the Family Dollar team.**

like that. I'm not looking to go anywhere else," she asserted.

## Monty Tech first quarter honor roll

FITCHBURG — Thomas R. Browne, principal of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, announces the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2016-17 school year.

Principal's List  
PHILLIPSTON: Daniel Stellato and Tanya Valley.  
ROYALSTON: Bradley Ayers.  
TEMPLETON: Nathan Ferraza, Noelle Johnson, and Tessa Wixon.  
WINCHENDON: Ashley Ellis, Greta Haas, Travis Hull, Shelby Landress, Alison Miller, Bradley Parks, Anna Salter, Stephanie Wazal, and Brooke Young.

High Honors  
BALDWINVILLE: Silas Bruno, Kiley Douckas, Kayla McMaster, Haleigh Medlin, Devin Merritt, Matthew Paul, Nicholette Roy, Emily Spaan,

and Peter Yeboah.  
EAST TEMPLETON: Cassandra Basso.  
PHILLIPSTON: Brooke Couture, Sara Desgroseilliers, Jakob Rickan, Kade Vautour, Kaleb Vautour, and Elizabeth Whiting.  
ROYALSTON: Marnie Anair, Sarah Arsenault, Cody Bassett, Mackenzie Mastaler, and Sadie Wright.  
TEMPLETON: Tyler Allsobrooks, Erin Davila, Brian Gallant, Savannah Green, Lillie Hall, Tynan Hollyer, Meghan Laperriere, Rachel Laperriere, Matthew LeBlanc, Madison MacAdams, Johnrich Mbwambo, Emma Nelsen, Tazia Newton, Mackenzie Pappas, Evan Perez, Jeffrey Schrecke, Jared Shepard, Jared Simkewicz, Damian Sutton, and Matthew Taylor.  
WINCHENDON: Samantha Adams, Alexis Arsenault,

Thomas Becotte, Connor Benoit, Aidan Bourque, Isabel Bulger, Alexander Burby, Austin Caruso, Andrew Colcord, Tiffany Collins, Rebecca Cormier, Lynne Dufault, Paityn Duffy, Jadyne Fletcher, Ryan Forgues, David Fortin Jr., Anthonio Garcia, Nathan Gaulin, Hannah Gaunt, Austin Hackett, Samantha Haley, John Hancock, Sara Hancock, Aiden Helie, Owen Hunt, Hannah LaGrassa, Nicholas Lamb, James Lemmer, Brandon Mackenzie, Chemlah MacNeil, Jacob Mahan, Nathan Mahan, Carissa Manca, Kelly Mansfield, Katherine Miller, Mia Miranda, Cassidy Morey, Julia Nijadlik, Tarryn Nutt, Troy Paradise, Abigail Parks, Jordan Ramsay, Nicholas Richtarczik, Max Robichaud, Felipe Rodriguez, Mena Salame, Emily Semenza,

Ian Shack, Jacob Shea, Cassie Skinner, Cameron Sparks, Paige Spivey, John Sweeney, Faith Touseignant, Caleb Van Hillo, Breanna Whittier, Anthony Wolski, Sarah Wood, Brandon Woodbury, Sara Woodbury, and Garrett Woodman.

Honors  
BALDWINVILLE: Christian Coleman, Cassandra Cooper, McGuire Favreau, Donald Giardino, Joseph LaBonte, Matthew Lucas, Zachary Roy, Benjamin Rusch, and Caleb Tebbetts.  
EAST TEMPLETON: Zane Bankowski, Brady Bernard, Samantha Giblin, Sebastian Simpson, and John Warren.  
OTTER RIVER: Ethan Miller.  
PHILLIPSTON: Hannah Bean, Nicholas Couture, Denver Meunier, Austin Pucko, Graeme Richard, and Lindsey Tenney.  
TEMPLETON: Scott

Crank, Mallory LeBlanc, Morgan Miller, Sabrina Nogueira, Anthony Richard Jr., Lauren Saunders, Alexia Schrecke, and Jacob Shepard.  
WINCHENDON: Kevin Beauvais, Jumily Bourommavong, Andre Brady, Jillian Bussiere, Mitchell Charland, Ariana Dietz, Kiley Donahue, Amber Flagg, Leon Gaulin, Amber Gendron, Robert Gifford, Emily Haley, Jacob Hull, Jonathan Jean, Cameron Johnson, Kyle Kane, Alexis Kapp, Alex Lafrennie, Maggie Lashua, Antonio Lore, Lauralie Michaud, Christopher Mitchell, Jessica Nijadlik, Logan O'Dea, Justin Sevigny, Rachel Spivey, and Jason Tavares Jr.

## Cup of Joe generates donation

Katherine Vanderhoof of Toy Town Elementary School and Stacy Irons, assistant manager at Hannaford in Rindge with challenge coins received from a member of the Air Force.

Last year, a third grade class began sending messages to soldiers serving overseas through the Green Bean Coffee Cup of Joe program. The students soon had soldier pen pals in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Jordan, Turkey and Qatar.

The package arrived honoring the class for "unwavering support and simple acts of kind-

ness," and included a challenge coin for the class. The coins are a military "handshake" exchanged among units as symbols of gratitude.

The airman who sent the coin was with the 332<sup>nd</sup> Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, which had designed the coins and raised funds to have them made.

The class has been asked to accept ours for our "unwavering support for the men and women of the unit."



Courtesy photo

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### NEWS STAFF DIRECTORY

EDITOR  
RUTH DEAMICIS  
(978) 297-0050 x 100  
ruth@stonebridgepress.news

### TO SUBSCRIBE, OR FOR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

KERRI PETERSON  
508-909-4103  
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

### TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:

RUTH DEAMICIS  
(978) 297-0050 x 100  
ruth@stonebridgepress.news

### TO FAX THE COURIER:

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EMAIL: ruth@stonebridgepress.news  
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### PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
508-909-4101  
frank@stonebridgepress.com

### CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RON TREMBLAY  
508-909-4102  
rtremblay@stonebridgepress.news

### OPERATION DIRECTOR

JAMES DINICOLA  
508-764-4325  
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

### MANAGING EDITOR

ADAM MINOR  
508-909-4130  
aminor@stonebridgepress.news

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

JEAN ASHTON  
508-909-4104  
jean@stonebridgepress.news

### PRODUCTION MANAGER

JULIE CLARKE  
julie@villagemagazines.com

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"Every Town Deserves  
a Good Local Newspaper"



# Fourth annual event brings out the crowd



The pallets and dry evergreens made for quite a mountain of flammable materials before the event.

## ACCURACY WATCH

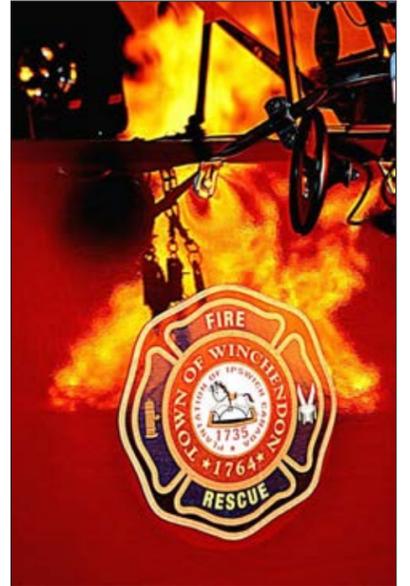
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The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary served up a very good chicken barbecue.



Only 200 tickets were sold for the dinner.



Reflections on a piece of firefighting equipment.



One group was pretty in pink.

Atlas Fireworks put on a great show.



Atlas Fireworks put on a great show.

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## WINCHENDON COURIER

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## VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

## EDITORIAL

Goodbye  
to another icon

It wasn't done with much class at all. But most people saw it coming in one way, shape or form. The Central IGA closed its doors Monday.

It's a great loss to many residents who depended on the little store for staples, because they lacked transportation to get to a larger grocery in any nearby town. If transportation is an issue, how can you trek to a Price Chopper, a Hannaford or a Market Basket even as little as five miles away?

You can't.

There is a small group attempting to put together a possible ride-share list, matching up people willing to share rides with those who need them; but that can be fraught with possible dangers. We'd like to think people just want to help one another, but there are those who would use such a list for a chance to prey on the vulnerable. So if such a listing is generated, it needs to be vetted carefully, and the match ups done with foresight and finesse. We'd hate to think of anyone being damaged or abused because of someone else taking advantage.

At least one agency, the Council on Aging, has discussed adding another van run to a market to its scheduling. But that won't necessarily help everyone.

And we need to point out some facts of the case.

The former owner has abandoned his

business. He locked the door and walked away. Yes, he has removed some items (he said he would share out some of the food with the local CAC; we don't know at this writing if that has happened); as we saw U-Haul trucks being loaded up with 'stuff' on Tuesday. Some of it we are certain was added to his stock at his second location.

The point is, there is no "business" to sell. He left it behind, abandoned. To our way of thinking, that leaves the space open for the owner of the property to re-lease to anyone he chooses. There is no longer a question of someone "buying" the IGA itself; that goose has flown. Now the potential grocer must deal only with the landlord directly and parse a future for themselves.

We understand that may already be in the works. Someone already does have a plan. It still may mean several months of renovation and a closed store before we see an improved business there; but if it so, we may see an amazing, rejuvenated grocery.

In the meantime, we have also heard there may be problems for the former employees as they try to collect their rightful unemployment; and there are others; vendors and utilities, left owed considerable amounts. It was no way to run a business.

We can only hope, for the sake of everyone affected, the next few months bring a better scenario.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Boycotting the Presidential Inauguration just wrong

Many times during the most recent presidential election we listened as former Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton said "We must have a peaceful transition of power" and continually call out then Republican candidate Donald Trump for saying he would possibly contest the election if he thought it wasn't performed fairly. We also heard Clinton upon winning the popular vote by nearly 3,000,000 votes but losing the electoral vote "As Trump won over 2,620 counties to her less than 500" call for the people and government and to get behind their next president.

Now before our President Elect even took the Oval office, some democrats and hardcore liberals have already started playing their games, with civil rights activist, champion, and hero, Rep. John Lewis of Georgia leading the way to boycott our next President, calling him out and saying, "I do not see Trump as a legitimate president."

This is at the very least very unprofessional, and fostering decisiveness before the gavel even drops.

Lewis, to his great credit, suffered a skull fracture in 1965 during a high profile police crackdown on marchers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama while protesting for civil rights. Lewis was highly active in the prolific cause, fighting for the goal of equal rights for all African Americans. His contributions cannot be ignored, and great credit must be given to him for his part in history, and lifelong contributions to the fight for equal rights.

However, Lewis is now leading another kind of protest and dishonoring both his own name and our next president, by boycotting the inauguration while calling for others to follow him. Citing Trump by the time of this publication in saying, "I do not see Trump as a legitimate president" and going on to say, "President Elect Trump is trying to take us back" among many other things which are of his personal perspective and not proven as necessarily true, are disrespectful and lack honor.

Excuse me, but what happened to the calls for unity and a peaceful transition of power? It apparently didn't take long to go by the wayside.

Now Lewis is leading at the very least 25 members of Congress to boy-

cott Trump's inauguration, including African American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke saying, "We stand shoulder to shoulder against anyone who seeks to deny our humanity." This begs the question, what has Trump done to deny your humanity as he was not even in office yet?

Look, Donald Trump may be many things, loud mouthed, rude at times, and not afraid to speak what is on his mind even to the point where it gets him in hot water. He has even grotesquely offended many women at times, and has some serious fence mending ahead of him. But to accuse him of "Denying your humanity," and "Turning back the clock on such prolific causes as civil rights," before the man even takes office, is just down right unprofessional bologna and typical partisan politics.

On top of all this, and after listening to some of the confirmation hearings on C-SPAN, I found Democratic members of Congress grilling proposed Republican cabinet nominees about global warming during questioning regarding cyber security! While both are topics of great importance, are these people totally out of touch, and are they completely unable to set aside partisan politics to the point where they unable to just stick to the subject matter at hand?

Here is the bottom line. Like him or not, we need to all get behind our next president because no matter what the party, if our president fails, we all fail together as one people and one nation. A nation divided cannot and will not stand the test of time, and eventually will fall. Even the great Roman Empire which controlled three quarters of the known world at one time, cracked from within, and crumbled into antiquity. To believe this could not eventually happen to our own nation is to deny world history.

As an Independent voter with no party loyalty, it doesn't matter if one voted for him or not. I am deeply saddened as past civil rights champions and current elected leaders boycott our next president. They have only proven a current lack of ability to rise above, which by the way our new president also did by even responding to their childish shenanigans.

## Bulger: seeking a brighter side

To the Editor:

I was stricken with the level of negativity in one editorial in particular in our Courier. While I cannot deny the facts, let us look at the other side of the coin. The only way to avoid cynicism is to balance what we know to be evil against what we know to be good.

We the People are generally doing the best we can with the various resources we have: intelligence and open-mindedness to evaluate what we see and hear; a balanced emotions; general knowledge of the facts; a well-rounded intake of healthy media sources; our character and personality; our financial ability; our spirituality and how we see others and our own place in the world.

While Congress has been as dysfunctional as it has ever been, we've reached a point when they might meet the test. The story of the strength and balance of democracy has yet to be played out. Let us hope and pray it so. Amen. But let us look back and take in the good that has been done over the last eight years, regardless of whether you like President Obama, he facilitated the rescue of our economy. And then there is the Affordable Care Act, imperfect, but has a multitude of people insured who previously were not and with a particular concern for children's healthcare. And then there is Bin Laden. There is more, but you get the idea.

True, there is misery aplenty in all its forms to be found in the media, and it is unfortunate that we now not only have a rag paper in the Enquirer, we also have rag "news" across the internet. We do have to be much more discerning about how we weigh what we read. Yet, there is still a great deal of good amongst the people in the form of charity, education, physical, emo-

tional and spiritual support; neighbors helping neighbors and more. We also read in our little newspaper about an award for renewable energy efforts, a program to send items to veterans, the back pack program so that kids don't have to be hungry when away from school, church suppers that receive at will offerings for their meals and the list goes on. In Winchendon alone, we have a multitude of organizations who have been founded expressly to assist others and in a multitude of ways. We are not alone in this.

I believe that most people really do want the best for our beautiful country. We, being human, just don't always get it just right for the greatest number of people. Yes, there will always be sin in its basic forms of greed, fame and power. We also need to recognize that there are many who do fight for what is right and best; they are driven by an others minded spirit.

We are in the midst of a test, a test of our democracy; democracy, a blanket word for the people who make and govern a nation. We the People are individuals first. Let us check ourselves to see if we put the greatest good first. Let us constantly combat hatefulness and cynicism with a good-natured and hopeful attitude and reinforce the positive. I don't suggest that we ignore the wrong; I just prefer not to let it over shadow what is good; and consider a solution — or to support a solution to our problems. And let us challenge our leaders to live by conscience and do the greatest good for as many as is possible even unto the point that one day we can say for all.

MARY W. BULGER,  
WINCHENDON

## Thank you, Mr. President

I haven't agreed with every policy decision Barack Obama has made the last eight years, not by a long-shot. From the very beginning I believed, and wrote in this column at the time, he should have built a partial health care plan while focusing most of his energy and expended political capital on a massive jobs program in the aftermath of the Great Recession. I thought the stimulus package was too small. I've thought he's too often been too erratic on foreign policy and I was frustrated that like his immediate predecessor, he was unable to provide a sensible rationale for why we were still in Afghanistan.

But you're never going to agree 100-percent with the people for whom you vote. Whatever its faults, the Affordable Care Act has been the vehicle through which more than 20-million people are newly-insured (As an aside, I never quite got the "ObamaCare" moniker. Social Security isn't "FDR-Care," or Medicare "LBJ-Care." My sense is Republican opponents created it as a derisive term). Because it exists, people with pre-existing conditions can't be denied coverage based on those conditions and in a society which has theoretically prided itself on having an unwritten social contract, this matters. Because it exists, young people can stay on their parents' insurance until they're 26 and because it exists, we even know more about what goes into various foods. All of this is good. During the first week of his Administration, President Obama signed the Pay Equity Act. By choosing Eric Holder to be Attorney General, he signaled a historic commitment to equal protection, equal rights, enforcement of voting rights (until the racist extremists on the Supreme Court cowardly gutted it), and pro-active legal action against corrupt and bigoted police whose behavior tainted the overwhelming majority of their law-abiding fellow officers. He took climate change seriously and moved to protect the environment. He lifted the freeze on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, a positive development because while Washington's money can't guarantee



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a cure for Alzheimer's or diabetes or various forms of cancer, no private company, no matter how wealthy, could afford to invest the same amount of money as the federal government. He wasn't one to merely play to the crowd and offer sound-bite solu-

tions. "The President-elect," I wrote in this column eight years ago today, "is sometimes frighteningly policy-wonkish, prone to offering complex answers to complex questions." That's what Presidents should do.

I could go on for a while about policy, but on a broader scale there is this - this was a presidency characterized every single day by class and dignity, wit and reflection. The President never once demonized his all-too-frequently-race-baiting-over-the-top detractors and critics. He never once made any group feel like they were unwelcome to be participants in this ongoing democratic (small "d") experiment. No one can question him as a husband or father.

Barack Obama wasn't my first preference for the Democratic nomination in 2008 - Joe Biden was, just as he had been in 1988. I can't express how strongly I feel about what this country missed out on because Biden never became President. Sure, he talked a lot and often went off-script, but Biden understood the pains and struggles of working-class people as thoroughly as he did foreign policy. That noted, it says a great deal about Obama's judgment that he picked Biden as his Vice-President. Together, they've given us a million reasons to be proud of them, how they think, what they've done, how they've represented us. And so while Joe Biden has left his own mark, and while administrations aren't a solo act, it is ultimately the President to whom we look for policy priority-setting and moral leadership alike. Historians will debate the policy. For us, on this day as Barack Obama leaves office, we can look back on these eight years as a time when we were quite simply led by a man who is above all a decent, caring and compassionate human being. For that alone, we owe an eternal debt of gratitude and appreciation. Thank you, Mr. President.

## Is there any humor in death?



NOTES OF  
CONCERN  
.....

JACK  
BLAIR

I rarely have morbid thoughts but I was told a story about the death of an old friend. No one had ever shared the details with me and I was unable to go to the funeral.

That story reminded me of some other chuckles I associated with death and so I decid-

ed to dedicate my column this week to three of them.

I was visiting the graves of friends one day and took a stroll through the well manicured grounds of the cemetery, reading the names and dates and admiring the various sizes and shapes of the granite.

Finally I walked past a small flat stone. There was just a simple inscription. A man's name. No birth or death dates. And under the name just a simple: "I DIED". Although odd when compared to the things typically written on the other stones I realized that I could surmise

this fellow was a man of few words, perhaps lived a simple life or alternatively a comedian who got the last laugh.

While attending a memorial service for a friend I was talking to his wife. I asked whether he had been cremat-

Turn To HUMOR page A5



# CLYDE'S CORNER

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 FREE THROW CONTEST:** a free, local level competition for the 2017 Knights of Columbus free throw contest is scheduled at Murdock High School gym beginning with registration at 10:30 a.m., play at 11 a.m. This is open to all boys and girls age 9-14, you will compete against others of your age.

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

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 LEARN:** Computer classes for adults are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Beals Memorial Library and are open to adults ages 18 and older.

**CRAFT FOR ADULTS:** On Tuesday nights at 6:30 Beals

Memorial Library has an adult craft hour providing a place to meet and do crafts. People bring in things they are working on, and can get help on knitting, crocheting, quilting and discuss different ideas.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 BINGO!** Hyde Park residents hold bingo in the community hall every Wednesday night beginning at 6 p.m. It's inexpensive, just two cards for 5¢, and the community is invited! Anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to join in. We'd love to have more players.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 OPEN MIC:** at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Beginning at 9 p.m. Like to sing? Play an instrument? Willing to jam with a few other musicians? Then come on down and join us at the lower level. Always a good time. Open to everyone! Non-smoking venue.

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

Neighbor's Kitchen are: Jan. 26: Shepherd's pie with sides and dessert.

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

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 PAINT NIGHT:** gather your friends and make it a date as the Winchendon Kiwanis and Crafty Cauldron again sponsor a paint night to benefit the backpack program. Show your artsy side by creating unique glassware. Go online to sign up at [www.thecraftycauldron.net/events.html](http://www.thecraftycauldron.net/events.html). Hurry, space is limited and the last one sold out.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 LIONS MEAT RAFFLE:** the annual breakout bash is planned with meat galore! Come take a chance on winning a nice roast, pork loin or roasting chicken for a long winter's night. Fun starts at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Always other raffles and surprises too.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 OWC:** "Send a little love to

our troops!" On Saturday, Feb. 4 at the American Legion Post 193 on School Street from 9-11 a.m. Monetary donations for postage is always welcome. Check out our Facebook page or website for a list of items to be donated- [www.winchendoncares.com](http://www.winchendoncares.com). Stop by to lend a hand sorting and packing the items!

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

**MARK'S ROAST:** come out the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. and give Mark Desmarais a hard time! Yes, he's been every where and done everything. A Navy veteran, commander of the Legion, president of Lions, even governor of Lions, guitarist with Deacon Express and a go-getter from the get-go. 7 p.m. is cocktail hour, festivities begin at 8 p.m. \$6 per person or \$10 per couple. All proceeds will be donated to the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, a charity personally chosen by the man of

the hour.

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 ZOOM, ZOOM:** the annual Pinewood Derby goes flags down at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Come watch local Boy Scouts and Cubs with their hand made cars vying for the trophies.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3 GREASE IS THE WORD:** Murdock High School presents the musical Grease beginning tonight at 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12 BLUE & GOLD BANQUET:** the Winchendon area Boy Scouts celebrate their year with the annual Blue & Gold banquet at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. at 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29 ANNIVERSARY BLOW OUT:** the 10th anniversary of Fire & Iron will be celebrated with the annual spring blow out at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 7 p.m. Come help us celebrate!

## HUMOR

continued from page A4

ed or buried. Her response was astonishing. She said she just couldn't decide so she purchased a large freezer, placed it in the garage, placed him in the freezer while contemplating his final resting place. Then she looked at me and said she felt good about the temporary arrangement because, as I knew, "he so loved his cars."

No one will top this last story. We had a friend who was truly a man of many talents. He had a huge collection of model trains in his house and one day decided he want a real railroad. So he built one around the edges of his property, laid the track, made an area to go over a trestle, bought parts and built a large engine and a smaller caboose. Lots of kids came to visit and ride on his train.

While trains have nothing to

do with the story of his death, but rather reflect on his cunning, he then built a cannon, a real one that worked. And he left instructions for his funeral. When he died, his wife, carefully following his wishes had his body cremated, gathered all the friends, put the cremains into the canon and shot him into the air. He would have loved it.

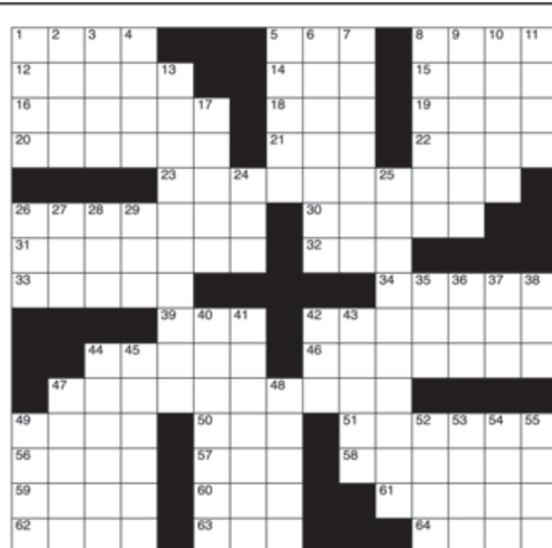
So as you contemplate the inevitable, perhaps these stories will give you some new thoughts.

## PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR PLAYGROUND



Courtesy photo

**Worcester County District Attorney Joe Early Jr. presents a check for \$2,000 to Winchendon Superintendent Steven Haddad and Pre-K Director Suzanne Michel. The money will be put toward the building of the playground at Toy Town Elementary School. The contribution comes from the Drug Forfeiture Reinvestment Fund overseen by Early's office.**



### CLUES ACROSS

- Short tributary of the Seille
- Where you sleep
- Crinkle
- Regions
- United States
- Icelandic poetry books
- Transferred property
- Electrocardiography
- From here
- Hunting or observation expedition
- Used to make cabins
- Containers
- Famed patriot
- Makes less intense
- Forced to take refuge
- Campaigner
- Special security team
- Egyptian city
- The Muse of lyric and hymns
- What newlyweds just said
- Pain
- Norwegian village
- Produced on paper
- Acceptance
- Semite
- Detective Ventura
- Martens
- Small mammal related to rabbits
- Airsick
- Itinerant
- Has spotted
- Garland
- Search engine
- Former Knick and Bull Curry
- Student selected components
- Norwegian island

### CLUES DOWN

- Fathers
- Region
- The Great Barrier \_\_\_
- Father
- Civil War general Don Carlos
- Bodyguards
- Knives
- Member of U.S. Navy
- English prince
- Expression
- Giants great Willie
- Curving
- Actress Keaton
- Deploy
- Medicine that treats animals
- We all have it
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Kevin Smith film "Chasing \_\_\_"
- City in India
- Went jogging
- What thespians do
- One and only
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Obstructs from a course
- Prophets
- Prefix meaning on or above
- Got up
- Drenched
- N.Y. State capital
- Sampled
- Tending to an end
- Architectural recess
- Undergarments
- Ethnic group in China
- Reactive structure
- Greek portico



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# POLICE LOG

## Toy gun leads to discipline

WINCHENDON — A disciplinary hearing was held last Thursday morning Jan. 12, for a Toy Town Elementary School student who brought a toy gun to the school. While declining to provide specifics, Superintendent Steve Haddad did say the youngster did receive “appropriate” disciplinary action.

“He really was remorseful,” said Haddad. “He honestly had no idea his actions would create such a problem.”

Toy Town Elementary School houses grades 3 through 5.

Principal Mary Aker became aware of the issue after a mother called the school to report that a student at Toy Town had shown her son an Airsoft pistol the other student was carrying in his back pack. When the first youngster arrived at school the following day, administrators checked his backpack and found the toy gun.

Airsoft pistols are equipped with an orange tip at the end of the barrel

in order to distinguish them from the real thing. They shoot plastic pellets.

Haddad reportedly said when the student was asked by Aker why he brought the faux gun to school, he replied he was just trying to be cool.

As required by law, school officials notified the state Department of Children and Families.

Following the incident, Haddad sent an e-mail to the parents of all students in Winchendon public schools telling them of the incident. In his correspondence, Haddad said, “The school stands by its zero-tolerance policy. Situations like this will not be tolerated. I can assure you this situation is being dealt with and the appropriate actions have been taken. We remain committed to the safety and well-being of all staff and students.”

Haddad also stressed that at no point were any students or staff in danger.

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

### MONDAY, JANUARY 9

12:06 a.m.: ambulance (Monomonac Road West) transport; 12:39-2:48 a.m.: building checks, secure; 4:13 a.m.: general info (Heywood Hospital) no cause for complaint; 7:07 a.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street) assisted; 8:30 a.m.: accident (Harris Road) report taken; 9 a.m.: accident (Murdock Avenue) advised officer; 9:50 a.m.: general info (Joslin Road) assisted; 10:36 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 10:42 a.m.: threats (Cross Road) report taken; 11:29 a.m.: general info (Central Street) info taken; 12:20 p.m.: investigation (Beech Street) unable to locate; 12:23 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road) removed to hospital; 12:59 p.m.: investigation (Oakland Street) unable to locate; 1:56 p.m.: investigation (Oakland Street) spoken to; 2:12 p.m.: sex offender registration (Spring Street) info taken; 2:45 p.m.: DPW call (MH Parks Co.) referred; 2:59 p.m.: suspicious MV (Mill Glen Road) unable to locate; 3:28 p.m.: general info (School Street) refer to other agency; 4:18 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 4:33 p.m.: MV stop (High Street) verbal warning; 4:58 p.m.: burglar alarm (Carriage House) checked, secure; 5:26 p.m.: ambulance (Northern Heights) transport; 6:01 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) report taken; 6:04 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 6:09 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Front Street) report taken; 7:18 p.m.: elderly welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 8:36 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 9 p.m.: general info (walk in) refer to other agency; 11:55 p.m.: building check, secure.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY, 10

12:17-4:06 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 6:05 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 8:20 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road) report taken; 8:41 a.m.: disabled MV (Gardner Road) assisted; 9:25 a.m.: general info (One Stop Plaza) message delivered; 9:41 a.m.: building check, secure; 10:24 a.m.: summons service (Juniper Street) served; 10:26 a.m.: mental health issue (Ready Drive) removed to hospital; 10:43 a.m.: ambulance (Benjamin Street) transport; 11:11 a.m.: summons service (Teel Road) served; 11:21 a.m.: accident (Spring Street) report taken; 11:24 a.m.: fire alarm (Brown Street) false alarm; 1 p.m.: MV operating erratically (CVS) spoken to; 1:14 p.m.: summons service (Ready Drive) served; 1:43 p.m.: general info (phone) spoken to; 2 p.m.: summons service (Royalston Road North) unable to serve; 2:20 p.m.: traffic hazard (Elmwood Road) removed; 2:34 p.m.: ambulance (Monomonac Road West) transport; 3:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street) services rendered; 4:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (CVS) spoken to; 4:32 p.m.: general info (Carriage House) advised officer; 5:12 p.m.: summons service (Royalston Road North)

served; 5:28 p.m.: suicide threats (Cedar Street) removed to hospital; 7:39 p.m.: gunshots heard (Robbins Road) unable to locate; 11:34-11:54 p.m.: building checks, secure.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

12:10-2:59 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 12:35 a.m.: suspicious person (Central Street) spoken to; 3:26 a.m.: accident (Mill Glen Road) unfounded; 3:28 a.m.: suspicious person (Gardner Road) transport; 3:46 a.m.: burglar alarm (Alger Street) secure; 6:01 a.m.: tree down (Glenallan Street) refer to DPW; 6:15 a.m.: MV stop (Elmwood Road) verbal warning; 6:19 a.m.: tree down (Town Farm Road) refer to DPW; 7:42 a.m.: wires down (Independence Drive) refer to other agency; 7:43 a.m.: tree down on wires (Mill Glen Road) refer to other agency; 10:02 a.m.: burglar alarm (Alger Street) secured building; 10:17 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street) transport; 10:19 a.m.: MV stop (Front Street) verbal warning; 11:39 a.m.: MV stop (Front Street) verbal warning; 11:46 a.m.: 911 hang up (Central Street) false alarm; 12:02 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) report taken; 12:23 p.m.: 911 hang up (Memorial Drive) non-emergency call; 1:47 p.m.: accident (Central Street) report taken; 3:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Mill Street) services rendered; 4:13 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (River Street) spoken to; 7:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Webster Street) call canceled; 8:32 p.m.: trespass notice (Murdock High School) info taken.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

12:12 a.m.: disabled MV (Gardner Road) secure; 12:28 a.m.: MV stop (Monomonac Road East) verbal warning; 1-3:22 a.m.: building checks, secure;

2:10 a.m.: registration check (Elmwood Road) info given; 2:16 a.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 2:32 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 2:35 a.m.: registration check (Glenallan Street) info given; 9:14 a.m.: suspicious MV (School Street) assisted; 9:30 a.m.: trespassing (Main Street) spoken to; 9:49 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 10:36 a.m.: extra patrols, secure; 11:29 a.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 11:55 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 1:41 p.m.: investigation (Mellen Road) refer to ACO; 1:56 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 2:19 p.m.: investigation (Lincoln Avenue Extension) report taken; 3:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Walnut Street) no PD service required; 4:01 p.m.: ambulance (Elm Street) transport; 4:07 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) spoken to; 5:03 p.m.: investigation (Mechanic Street) unable to locate; 5:37 p.m.: suspicious MV (Clark YMCA) gone on arrival; 6:55 p.m.: ambulance (Highland Street) transport.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

1:11-1:20 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:29 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street) transport; 7:57 a.m.: accident (Central Street) report taken; 8:22 a.m.: tree down on wires (High Street) area search negative; 9:07 a.m.: burglar alarm (Front Street) false alarm; 9:43 a.m.: general info (Baldwinville Road) referred to court; 9:49 a.m.: suspension MV (Lakeshore Drive) services rendered; 10:47 a.m.: 911 hang up (Glenallan Street) no PD service required; 1:19 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) unable to locate; 1:32 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street) assisted; 3:43 p.m.: be on the look out (CVS) advised officer; 4:57 p.m.:

MV stop (Spring Street) written warning; 5:28 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) report taken; 5:45 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 5:58 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 6:59 p.m.: assist other agency (Lakeshore Drive) assisted; 8:35 p.m.: investigation (Lakeshore Drive) assisted; 8:37 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 8:48 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive) transport; 8:52 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 10:04 p.m.: DPW call (High Street) referred; 10:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Teel Road) unable to locate; 10:55 p.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street) accidental; 11:20-11:54 p.m.: building checks, secure.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

12:01-3:17 a.m.: building checks, secure; 12:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Ipswich Drive) removed to hospital; 1:45 a.m.: suspicious MV (bike path) spoken to; 2:45 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Drive) transport; 7:30 a.m.: property damage (Ready Drive) report taken; 8:01 a.m.: assist other agency (Lakeshore Drive) assisted; 11:20 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 11:59 a.m.: burglary, B&E (Linden Street) report taken; 12:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Lake Denison) returned to home; 12:38 p.m.: elderly welfare check (address not printed) services rendered; 2:11 p.m.: general info (86 Front St.) referred to court; 2:18 p.m.: ambulance (Woodlawn Avenue) transport; 2:33 p.m.: burglar alarm (Summer Drive) secure; 2:43 p.m.: ambulance (Winchendon School) transport; 5:22 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 6 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) advised officer; 6:19 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) advised officer; 8:04 p.m.: suspicious other (Town Farm Road) secured building; 8:40 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) no cause for complaint; 10:13 p.m.: harassment (Pearl Drive) report taken.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

12:11 a.m.: noise complaint (East Street) spoken to; 1:34 a.m.: general info (Railroad Street) spoken to; 1:35-3:50 a.m.: building checks & extra patrols, secure; 2:39 a.m.: MV stop (Spruce Street) spoken to; 8:29 a.m.: ambulance (Front Street) transport; 9:17 a.m.: accident (Pond Street) report taken; 10:18 a.m.: ambulance (Monomonac Road West) transport; 10:36 p.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) written warning; 11:05 a.m.: harassment (Ipswich Drive) report taken; 1:08 p.m.: DPW call (Elm Street) referred; 2:07 p.m.: MV stop (Maple Street) verbal warning; 4:27 p.m.: registration check (Front Street) info given; 4:46 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 5:08 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 5:34 p.m.: ambulance (Shady Glen Terrace) transport; 5:59 p.m.: registration check (Central Street) info given; 6:23 p.m.: assist other PD (Front Street) assisted; 7:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street) spoken to; 8 p.m.: DPW call (Grove Street) referred; 8:30 p.m.: accident (IGA) report taken; 9:37 p.m.: suspicious MV (Murdock High School) spoken to; 9:51 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) written warning.

### Power outage in two towns

REGION — A National Grid spokeswoman said a problem with a mainline led to a power outage just before 12:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon affecting about 4,000 in customers in Winchendon and Westminster.

Most of the affected customers were in the Toy Town. Power was restored at around 1:40 p.m.

A linemen on the scene said it’s not unusual for outages to occur in communities that don’t share borders, adding it depends on how the electricity is routed.

## Lord’s Church folds its tent

WINCHENDON — A group of worshippers which had been meeting at Winchendon’s Old Centre Church has reportedly disbanded. The congregation, calling itself The Lord’s Church, had been meeting in the historic house of worship for about four years.

In a published article, Pastor John Roy said he hoped “the faithful” would not lose hope “by seeing...another church closure.”

Anne LeBlanc heads the Congregational Church organization that owns the Old Centre Church. She wanted to assure the public that the church building is still, and will

remain, available to the community for public events.

Regarding The Lord’s Church, LeBlanc was quoted as saying, “We’ve had a very nice relationship with them. I’m certainly wishing they wouldn’t leave, but I was told they would no longer meet as a group.”

LeBlanc also said the church would remain available for community events, including the annual Winchendon Music Festival, which takes place in June. Festival organizer Andrew Arceci is reportedly planning a performance for May 6 to help publicize this year’s event.

LeBlanc said her family has been a part of the church since 1890, adding she wants to ensure it remains open and available.

“It’s quite an asset to the community,” she said.



Staff photo

The historic church in Old Centre has been used for several congregations over the years, most recently for the Lord’s Church.



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## ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

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# OBITUARIES

## Susan Virginia Clevenger, 71

VIRGINIA BEACH VA — Susan Virginia Clevenger, age 71, a longtime resident of Virginia Beach, VA, passed from her earthly home into her heavenly home in the early hours of Jan. 7, 2017. She is preceded in death by her late husband, Walter (Bill). She is also preceded in death by her brother Steven St. Pierre, her parents Francois Xavior St. Pierre Jr. and Clara Virginia Thibeault, and step-father Axel E. Storm.

Susan leaves to cherish her memory three daughters and a son. Sandra Sue Baboorian and her husband Razmik, Peggy Sue Harrington and her husband Roger, Virginia Sue White and her husband Frank and William Kenneth Clevenger and his wife Irish Mae. She is also survived by eight grandchildren; Eric Baboorian, Brett Baboorian, Isabella Harrington, Sarah White, Olivia White, Britany Clevenger, Brandon Clevenger

and Jordan Clevenger.

Born on Jan. 13, 1945 in Winchendon, Sue graduated from Murdock High School in 1963 entered the U.S. Navy where she met and married the love of her life and fellow sailor, Bill. She chose to leave the Navy and devote herself to raising her children while faithfully accompanying her husband to new duty stations throughout his 30 years of service. Later she served as a pastor's wife when he chose to enter the ministry following his Naval retirement. After nearly 50 years of marriage, his death in 2015 was a indeed great heartache.

She greatly enjoyed the art of sewing and quilting, encouraging others to learn and create pieces by hand. She volunteered her time to the Girl Scouts, Bible study groups, quilters groups and sewing circles. As coordinator for the Union Mission Quilt Project, Sue guided other volunteers in stitching together over 100 quilts that were distributed to the men's shelter.

A memorial service for friends and family was held on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 followed by a reception at Smith & Williams Funeral Home, 4889 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

## Maureen V. Hipp, 74

COLEBROOK NH — Maureen V. Hipp, age 74, of Colebrook, passed away on Monday morning, Jan. 9, 2017, at the Coos County Nursing Hospital in West Stewartstown, after a period of declining health.

She was born in Winchendon on May 27, 1942, a daughter to the late William and Florence (Richards) Morrison. She was raised in Winchendon and was a 1959 graduate of Murdock High School. At one time in the early 1960s, Maureen held the title of "Miss Winchendon." She also attained her liberal arts bachelor's degree from Franklin Pierce College.

For many years, she was a professional florist and the owner and operator of the Tudor Rose flower shop in Jaffrey. Maureen enjoyed horseback riding, reading, painting, traveling, and she

was an enthusiastic supporter of the arts.

Maureen leaves behind three daughters, Lisa Gravel-Hebert and husband Dan of Colebrook, Brandelle Carr and her husband Clark of Leesburg, VA, and Tauna Calise and husband Ken Rodderick of Jaffrey; two brothers, Wayne Morrison and wife Carol of Canaan, NH, and Rick Morrison and wife Carol of Navarre, FL; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

There are no public calling hours or services scheduled.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Mrs. Hipp may be made to the Tillotson Center for the Arts, 14 Carriage Lane, Colebrook, NH 03576.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to [www.jenkinsnewman.com](http://www.jenkinsnewman.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

## Meaghan Lee Manning, 22

GARDNER — Meaghan Lee Manning, age 22, of Gardner, died Friday, Jan. 13, after a short illness.

Meaghan was born Nov. 22, 1994, daughter of Stanley Manning and Jennifer (Alisaukas) Manning and has lived in Gardner all her life. She worked for Locktite Security Services.

Meaghan was a country girl. She loved the outdoors. She could be found four wheeling, horseback riding, and loved her truck.

She leaves her parents, Stanley Manning of Gardner and Jennifer

Manning of Deltaville, VA; two sisters, Stephanie Manning of Winchendon, and Brianna Manning of Deltaville, VA; two brothers, Eric Manning of Gardner, and Curtis Manning and his companion Jade Wickberg of Winchendon; maternal grandparents, Barbara and Frank Alisaukas of Winchendon; several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her paternal grandparents, Robert and Corinne Maynard Radicioni.

On Thursday, Jan. 19 the funeral was held in Lamoureux-Fletcher & Smith Funeral Home, 105 Central St., Gardner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to [www.gofundme.com/38mdvjc](http://www.gofundme.com/38mdvjc).

## Stephen D. Waxlax, 61

ALAMAGORDO NM — Stephen D. Waxlax "Waxie" of Alamagordo NM died unexpectedly Jan. 2, 2017.

He was born in Gardner March 1, 1955, the son of the late Donald and Alice (Bourgeois) Waxlax.

He grew up in Templeton and lived in Gardner and Winchendon before moving to New Mexico several years ago.

He graduated from Narragansett High School in 1973 and East Coast Aero Tech with an FAA and pilot's license. He then enlisted in the Navy as an E-3, making E-5 in less than three years. During that time, he was the youngest

E-5 to run a test cell.

While in high school, he played baseball and was a tri-captain of the football team. In 1972 he was honored as outstanding lineman. He was a talented auto mechanic and worked for several area garages over many years. He enjoyed skiing, cooking and riding his Harley.

He leaves one son Joshua, and his wife Connie of Winchendon; one brother, Anthony and his wife Theresa of New Mexico; two sisters: Julie Bassett of Athol and Tina and her husband Daniel of Phillipston; two granddaughters: Makayla and Aniyah; along with several nieces and nephews.

The burial and celebration of life will be held at a later date.

## Barbara Harriet Rogstad Wiseman, 81

WINCHESTER — Barbara Harriet Rogstad Wiseman passed away Sunday, Jan. 8 in Winchester. Barbara was born on Aug. 29th 1935 in Winchendon. She was the daughter of Harry Nils and Harriet Cross Rogstad and the great granddaughter of Morton E. Converse, founder of the Converse Toy Factory.

Barbara is survived by her loving family: husband of 44 years George A. Wiseman of Stoneham; brothers Ronald H. Rogstad of Jaffrey and Barry K. Rogstad (Lorraine) of Potomac, MD; niece Aimee Rogstad Guidera of Orono, MN and nephew Erik N. Rogstad of Potomac, MD; and great nieces and nephews Jane and Anne Guidera, Jack, William and Katherine Rogstad.

A graduate of Murdock High School,

Barbara's career aligned with her love of books and learning. She was a children's librarian at the Boston Public Library and a reference librarian at the Boston Museum of Science. Beyond measure, Barbara was a passionate Red Sox fan who closely followed all the statistics, trades, victories and defeats.

Barbara was a member of Aletheon Chapter #154, Order of the Eastern Star and the North Congregational Church in Woburn to which memorial gifts may be given at 896 Main St., Woburn, MA 01801.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Arrangements by the Graham Funeral Home, Woburn.

## Cheryl Marie Hardy, 70

LONG BEACH WA — Cheryl Marie Hardy has died at her home in Long Beach, Washington. She was 70.

Born in Winchendon to Charles Henry Hardy and Marie Hardy (nee Campbell), the eldest of four children, she moved to California at age 10 and graduated James Madison High School in San Diego with a scholarship to study nursing. She subsequently worked for 43 years as a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree, critical care nurse, public health Nurse, parish nurse, heart care specialist, and clinical nursing instructor in Palm Desert CA where she helped develop award-winning units for chest pain and heart failure. She retired in 2008.

A member of the Green Finger Garden Club, she was active in St. John's Lutheran Church and a volunteer at the Long Beach Visitor's Center.

She was predeceased by her father, her sister, Candice Hardy Lewis, and three husbands: Kermit E. Fitzmaurice (1937-97); Larry Gravette (1939-2007). and Frank Linley (1936-2013).

She is survived by daughters Kelly Faulkner of Napier, New Zealand, Kerry Fitzmaurice of Los Angeles, sister Cathy Tenney of Long Beach, WA, brother Charles Hardy Jr. of Washington state, her mother Marie Hoffman of Long Beach, WA and granddaughter Shea Faulkner of Taronga, New Zealand.

Per her request there is to be no funeral service. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Humane Society in Long Beach, Washington, or the Columbia Memorial Cancer Center in Astoria, Oregon.

## Edna E. (Henry) LeBlanc, 96

GARDNER — Edna E. (Henry) LeBlanc, age 96, of Gardner, died peacefully, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017 in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home of Gardner, surrounded by her family, following a brief illness.

Edna was born and raised in Rumford, ME on April 29, 1920, the daughter of the late Etienne and Josephine (Arsenault) Henry. She graduated from Stephen High School of Rumford with the class of 1939.

Edna was the assistant librarian of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary School of Gardner for several years, retiring in 1983.

She was a member of Annunciation Parish/Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church of Gardner. Edna was also a member of the Gardner Golden Agers and the Gardner Chapter of A.A.R.P.

Edna loved scratch tickets and playing Bingo. She enjoyed spending time talking on the telephone and treasured

spending time with her family.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ernest R. LeBlanc, who died Sept. 21, 1988.

Edna leaves four sons, Dennis M. LeBlanc of Gardner, Paul D. LeBlanc of Gardner, Stephen F. LeBlanc and his wife Lisa of Gardner and John M. LeBlanc and his former wife, Sue LeBlanc of Gardner; one daughter, Carmelle E. Lucius and her husband Randy of Winchendon; 13 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by all her siblings; and by her grandson, Troy LeBlanc who died June 12, 2015.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 17 from the Boucher Funeral Home, Inc., 110 Nichols St., Gardner with a Mass in Annunciation Parish/Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, 135 Nichols St., Gardner. Burial will be in Notre Dame Cemetery, Gardner.

Memorial contributions may be made to Annunciation Parish/Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, 135 Nichols St., Gardner, MA 01440.

## Alice E. (Roberge) Reinikainen, 90

GARDNER — Alice E. (Roberge) Reinikainen, age 90, of Gardner died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017 at Wachusett Manor Nursing Home of Gardner.

Mrs. Reinikainen was born June 8, 1926 in Fitchburg, the daughter of the late John B. Roberge and Isabelle (Lorion) Roberge.

She grew up in Fitchburg and worked for Asher Pants Company as a seamstress. Alice went on to work as a nurses aide at Heywood Hospital for 25 years retiring in 1991.

She was a member of Holy Spirit Church. She enjoyed spending time with her family, ceramics, showed dogs at a local kennel club, collected dolls, enjoyed shopping and loved watching T.V.

She leaves one daughter, Shelley I. Huntoon and her husband Scott of Gardner; two sons, Bruce Reinikainen and his significant other Anna Ketola of Winchendon, John Reinikainen and his wife Joanne of Plymouth; seven grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Waino A. Reinikainen who died in 2013, and by her brother, John F. Roberge.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017 at Holy Spirit Church, 50 Lovewell St., Gardner. Burial followed in Wildwood Cemetery, Gardner.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Lamoureux-Fletcher & Smith - A Mack Family Funeral Home 105 Central St., Gardner is directing arrangements.

## Burke P. White, 77

ATHOL — Burke P. White, age 77 of Athol, passed on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017 at home after a lengthy illness, his devoted wife Jean at his side.

Burke was born in Marlborough on April 12, 1939, to the late James H White and the late Phillis J (Burke) White. He attended Marlborough schools. He owned and operated the Lakeside Oil Company of Marlborough and Richards Oil Company of Northboro until his retirement.

Before his retirement Burke enjoyed weekends and long summers at his cottage and farm in Athol. He enjoyed going on frequent walks in the woods observing nature and wildlife. Upon retirement Burke built a home in Athol, furnishing it with his own hand crafted items.

Burke is survived by his wife of 61 years: Jean H. (Gilliatt) White; Their

children: MaryBeth W. Hayward and her husband Glenn (Skip) of Winchendon, Mark White and his wife Rebecca of Orange, Patrick White and his wife Lori of Winchendon, Michael White and his wife Diane of Athol, Phillip White and his wife Maria of Marlborough; and Susan Dodge of Athol; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; two brothers: David White and Neal White; many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother John S. White.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 in the Fiske-Murphy & Mack funeral Home, 110 New Athol Road, Orange.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Burke's name may be made to the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, 1461 Old Keen Road, Athol, MA 01331.

Fiske-Murphy & Mack Funeral Home ([mackfamilyfh.com](http://mackfamilyfh.com)), 110 New Athol Road, Orange is directing arrangements.

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# OBITUARIES

## Shirley (Smith) Cameron, 82

SHARON — Shirley (Smith) Cameron of Sharon passed on Jan. 12 at the age of 82 surrounded by her loving family.

She was the beloved wife of the late Gerard Cameron and the late Charles Husselbee; devoted mother of Charles Husselbee of Winchendon, Craig Husselbee of Alaska and Carl Husselbee and his wife Michelle of Sharon. Cherished sister of Kenneth

Smith of Kansas and the late Donald and Barbara Smith. Loving "Nana" of C.J., Valerie, Cody and Kara and also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral from the Alexander F. Thomas & Sons Funeral Home, 45 Common St., Walpole, Jan. 17 followed by a service at the funeral home. Interment at Rock Ridge Cemetery, Sharon.

## Verna A. (Wood) Chagnon, 90

WINCHENDON — Verna A. (Wood) Chagnon, age 90, of 399 Front St., died peacefully at Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital on Jan. 17, 2017 with her family at her side.



of her life.

Verna had worked as a teacher's aide in the Winchendon school system and had also worked at New Hampshire Ball Bearing in Peterborough, NH. Her hobbies were knitting, crocheting, reading and cooking. Other than spending time with her family, her greatest enjoyment was fishing. She qualified for the State of Maine Tackle Busters Club two years, catching a 30 1/2 pound pollock one year and a 31 1/2 pound pollock the

following year.

Her husband, Edgar Paul Chagnon, died in 2008. She leaves two daughters, Debra Eatmon and her husband Michael of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and Ann Ducharme of Winchendon, as well as eight grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

An open house will be held at the family home on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 4 to 7. A private family service will be held in the Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallan St. on Friday, Jan. 20 at 3. There are no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made to Ronald McDonald House, 300 9th St. SW, Charlottesville, VA 22903. Donation website is [rmhcharlottesville.org](http://rmhcharlottesville.org). Verna's newest grandson will be having open heart surgery and the family will be staying in this facility.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home ([stone-ladeau.com](http://stone-ladeau.com)), 343 Central St., Winchendon is directing arrangements.

**SEND OBITUARIES** at no charge to Editor Ruth DeAmicis, by faxing (978) 297-2177, or by e-mailing the editor at [ruth@stonebridgypress.news](mailto:ruth@stonebridgypress.news).

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

# SPORTS

## Burns honored by superintendents

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — A recipient of the Worcester County Superintendent's Award, and quite possibly the valedictorian several months down the road Murdock senior Andrew Burns took time this week to reflect on the honor and his rapidly dwindling time in high school.

"I'm appreciative," said Burns. "It's definitely special."

Burns was acknowledged not merely because for his superior academic record, but for the wide range of school and community activities in which he's involved, including soccer, National Honor Society, student council and serving on the ski patrol at Wachusett Mountain.

"NHS tends to work on charity projects for the town,"

explained Burns, adding, "and Student Council focuses more on in-school activities. NHS is a little more selective but it's broader-based too."

It was on the slopes and soccer pitch where Burns believes he's become the most comfortable.

"I've always loved skiing and I like to do whatever I can to make that experience fun for everyone," he said.

Burns and his fellow patrol members perform all sorts of tasks on the mountain ranging from helping injured skiers and snowboarders to simply giving directions.

"Trail management" is how he phrased it and noted there are plenty of minor wounds which need attention.

"Wrists with snowboarders especially," said Burns. "People try to break falls with their hands and that's when the

wrists get hurt."

Those shifts aren't ever boring particularly when friends are involved too. "Doing ski patrol gave me a lot of confidence," he said.

The same can be said of soccer, where goalkeeper Burns has been instrumental in helping recruit enough players to help the program survive.

"Soccer was probably my best experience in high school, or one of my best experiences along with Tournament of Plays and the relationships I was able to develop with different teachers."

"In TOP, I had no idea I could do what I did and the personal relationships with teachers who were never detached, who always wanted to see you do well, that meant a lot to me too. From that perspective being in a small school has been a good thing."

"Being soccer captain was an honor. I liked playing on the same team as my friends and being able to be part of keeping the program going meant a lot to me. I had started with cross country but when I saw sixth graders who were going to be a lot faster than me, it was an easy move to soccer," laughed Burns.

"It's all gone by so fast," he reflected on the last four years. "At first, freshman year seemed to go by fast but now I look back and all of it just raced by. This award has been something of a culmination of all of it."

And after graduation? Burns' first choice is WPI though he's also been looking at Brown, Cornell, and Tufts.

"I'm going to major in physics and I'd like to wind up doing science research," he said.

That's still a few months



Courtesy photo

Andrew Burns is looking forward to college and more sports challenges

away, but Burns conceded he's ready to move on.

"It's time," he said.

## Young team still struggles on the boards

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

TEMPLETON — Neighborhood rivalries tend to bring out the most competitive nature both teams can muster, and so last Friday night, the young Murdock Lady Devils hung in for a while against a significantly more experienced Narragansett Lady Warriors squad before falling on the road.

True, the final score didn't look and really wasn't very close at 54-23, but this is a season that's seeing Murdock have a lot of youth on the floor, often eighth grade youth and so, "they did as okay as we could hope for" early on, noted MHS Coach Jim Abare.

"We played halfway decently in the first half," but though MHS scored more points in the second half

than they had in the first, so did 'Gansett and, "we were tired. We don't have any depth at all," lamented Abare.

A whole lot of inexperienced players are getting a whole lot of minutes this winter and Abare hopes that will play dividends down the road.

"If all these kids come back next year, they're going to have gotten lots of experience this year and if we can get them to play in the summer, that's how you get better," he pointed out.

Murdock is helped by the return of Julia Shelly who was the Lady Devils' co-leading scorer along with Molly Murphy, both tallying eight points. "It's good to have someone with experience," noted Abare, who anticipates Shelly and Murphy will carry much of the offensive load over the final month of the season.

Kelly Murphy added four points and young players Jaelynn Stetson (two) and Kaliagh Lauziere (one) also found their way into the score-book, not for the first time for either.

"They're the future, they and a kid like Jasmine (Larosa) or Julia (Lafrennie) who are either new to the game or new to this level. You can see the potential they have," asserted Abare.

But on Friday, "they were just a lot more physical than we were in the second half. That's when our lack of depth catches up to us. We're trying, we were just worn-down. We don't have any bench to speak of," he said.

1-7 after the loss to the Lady Warriors, Murdock visited Ayer Tuesday and hosted Sabis last night. Tahanto comes to town Tuesday for a 7 p.m. tip-off.

## The game puts me to sleep...it isn't old school any longer

Once upon a not-so-very-long-time ago, I was a rabid, fanatic football fan, first for the Colts, then for the Redskins just before and then during the decade-plus Baltimore spent in the NFL wilderness. People have assumed



TALKING  
SPORTS

JERRY  
CARTON

I'm just as fanatical about the Ravens but I'm not and never have been. Let me explain all of that before moving to Sunday's conference championship games and why I don't care the way I once did about who wins.

I've frequently written in this column how going to Colts games seven Sundays every fall was certainly a cherished ritual in my family. I've written about how we'd gather at my grandparents' place before cramming into a couple cars for the ride to forever dank old Memorial Stadium where there were neither elevators nor escalators, just long ramps, and since we sat ten rows from the top of the stadium, it was in retrospect a long walk, though back then I was young and healthy (really!) and unfazed by it. That routine lasted a couple decades, ending a year or two before the Mayflower vans came that snowy March night in 1984.

By then I was actually a Redskins fan as much as a Colts fan. Bob Irsay had driven the Baltimore team into the ground, hell, he even traded John Unitas, and during my first year at AU, the Redskins reached the Super

Bowl so it was impossible to not get caught up in the excitement. It was the one thing we had in common with Nixon.

Anyway, I was fanatical. I lost sleep over 'Skins wins and losses, especially when the games involved the Cowboys. I was proving you could have dual loyalty.

So then the Colts left and a dozen years later, the Browns/Ravens arrived. I was glad Baltimore was back in the NFL, but there were two things which gave me pause then and still do now. First, I wasn't crazy about the details of the deal, specifically the \$1 rent the team was being charged to use the Colts training facility. The "Castle" as it was known, was/is in Baltimore County. The games were in Baltimore City. What economic benefit was my county getting? But more importantly, I was outraged by Governor Parris Glendening taking all the credit for convincing Art Modell to move from Cleveland. That's what pols do, of course, but it was Glendening's predecessor as governor, Don Schaefer, who'd laid the groundwork for the city's return to the NFL in some way. You think Glendening would at least have had the decency to invite Schaefer to the press conference announcing the move, which happened just months after the State House changed hands, but no. For that alone, Glendening earned my eternal enmity.

Also, I felt for the fans along Lake Erie. The truth was, a lot of Baltimore fans had stopped going to games. That wasn't true in Cleveland. After Baltimore had been bypassed in favor of Charlotte and Jacksonville for an expansion franchise, it was clear the way back in was convincing an existing team to move. Business is business but that didn't mean I couldn't feel bad, a little at least, for Browns fans.

I've been happy to see the Ravens win a couple championships but in the last few years, my interest in the NFL has waned for a variety of reasons. One of my pet peeves is seeing adult men wearing jerseys with player's names. Hey, you're over 15, right? You look ridiculous. People are justified in sneering. The only game I watched in its entirety this season was the Ravens/Steelers one a few weeks ago and when Pittsburgh won in the closing seconds, my reaction was, "okay, whatever." As an aside, though, when Nebraska edged Maryland in hoops at the buzzer on New Year's Day, my reaction was quite far from "whatever." What can I tell you?

Last Sunday, I watched part of the Packers/Cowboys and saw the dramatic conclusion only because 60 Minutes had ended. I watched part of the first quarter of the next game until Madam Secretary came on. Bottom line — I just didn't care very much.

A lot of you do, and that's fine. If you're a rabid Pats fan, I don't have any problem with that. I'm rooting,

if I have to choose, for the Steelers and Packers because, a) I'm old school and the Patriots and Falcons are AFL/expansion franchises respectively, and, b) I detest the condescending way Bill Belichick talk to the media. I understand Belichick thinks he's smarter than everyone else even though that's in no small measure because he was lucky to have worked for Bill Parcells and fortunate Drew Bledsoe got hurt. Of the latter, when the Colts won back to back titles in the late 1950s coach Weeb Ewbank said that smartest thing he ever did was having George Shaw get hurt and having to play Unitas at QB. Anyway, it's the bazillions of media advertising dollars which are paying Belichick's salary. Too bad he's not ashamed of behaving like a churlish 12 year-old. I guess he learned nothing from his old man, who coached at Annapolis where such behavior would never be tolerated. Of course on the other sideline you have Mr. Tomlin who has the same maturity level of a middle school kid as well. Ah, for the days of coaches with elegance. I hated his politics but Coach Landry knew how to act on the sidelines. So be it.

Finally this. Last Sunday, Justin Thomas completed the Sony Open in Hawaii with a final total of 253, the lowest in PGA Tour history, a mark which included a 59 earlier in the week. Thomas has begun the year with a pair of runaway wins. Is he a legit major threat? It'll be fun to watch.

**ARTIST**

continued from page A1

tinue our progress so we can invite the public and artists to our unique post and beam gallery. You may go to our website and see photos of our "Gallery Project Tour" at [www.galagardner.org](http://www.galagardner.org)," Giordano continued.

"Please help us by mailing a donation or go to our new GO FUND ME page [GoFundMe.com/p/zwq6m](http://GoFundMe.com/p/zwq6m)."

"If you would like to make a donation and would like a tour, call or email me at [debgiordano59@comcast.net](mailto:debgiordano59@comcast.net) or at (978) 407-1419. You can mail donations to GALA, PO Box 664, Gardner MA 01440."

Giordano wanted to give special thanks to three very special individuals who dedicated in kind services to the renovation project.

"First, we would like to thank Andy Brooks from Winchendon, who had designed and built a custom barn door for our gallery. This beautiful door is a true craftsmanship and fits perfectly with the post and beam building. Andy donated his in-kind services and spent many hours building and installing this unique sliding door."

Brooks installed the door after hours, and after dark, causing a few neighbors a little worry when seeing someone stirring about. But all were reassured, and then in awe when the handsome doors were in place.

"Secondly, we would like to thank Robert Marshall from Winchendon, who has donated his in-kind services and wired the whole interior of the

building. Rob spent many hours helping us with the electrical plan and labor to get it ready for everything we need in the building."

"Thirdly, we would like to thank Rick Flematti from Athol, a retired contractor, who spent many hours of his in-kind services to help us frame, insulate, sheetrock the interior. Rick had also spent many hours helping with the exterior."

Giordano may have singled out these three for special attention, but noted none of the work could have happened without the help of many others in the wider community.

"We are also very thankful to all the members, area businesses, and neighbors who have already donated their time, funds and services to getting our art gallery this far. If you would like to help us in any way please contact us," she said.

She is more than excited about the many activities the GALA organization is launching, and wants to let others in the area know about the many opportunities.

"First," she said, "People should register to receive our online newsletter to stay informed on events and deadlines, [www.galagardner.org](http://www.galagardner.org)."

Upcoming programs include: Digital Photography Workshop A 3-part workshop scheduled Saturday, Feb. 4, Saturday March 4, & Friday April 15.

Photographers at ALL levels are encouraged to enroll. Instructor: Norm Eggert

GALA members: \$55 per person;

non-members: \$75 per person (fee includes a one year GALA membership)

Part One, Feb. 4 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at GALA Arts, 135 Front St. Meet the instructor, discuss techniques and cover basics. Homework for next class.

Part Two, March 4 10 a.m.-noon at GALA Arts, Critique using a projector and photos on USB drive. May provide prints for display.

Part Three, April 5 Reception at Old Murdock Senior Center Auditorium 2-5 p.m., judging of work and awards including GALA Judges, Winchendon 'Town Manager' Choice, COA's Choice, People's Choice on Sunday (Public will vote on Saturday). To enroll go to [galagardner.org](http://galagardner.org).

GALA 2017 Spring Photography Exhibit

Calling ALL photographers; April 15-20 at Old Murdock Senior Center auditorium. Art Drop-off: Thursday, April 13, 4-6 p.m. Opening Reception and Art Awards: Saturday, April 15, 2-5 p.m.; Art Pick-up: Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.-noon. Entry Deadline: Sunday, April 2. Enter online, [www.galagardner.org](http://www.galagardner.org)

GALA Poetry Open Mic Happy New Year - Happy Valentine's Day!

Share a few holiday memories, loving thoughts for Valentine's Day - or a bit of both. We're kicking off another year of GALA Poetry with an open mic on Sunday, Feb. 5 2-4 p.m. We look forward to hearing your own poems, or favorites by another. And we love those who simply enjoy a relaxing

afternoon listening to poetry in the surroundings of the beautiful Murdock-Whitney House, 151 Front St. Sign-up sheet will be available and time slots will be approximately 5 minutes. Light refreshments will be available. ENTRY FEE for GALA members is \$2 at the door (bring your membership cards!); for nonmembers, it's \$3. Anyone wishing to join GALA that day may do so and will be eligible for the discount.

Please contact Paula J. Botch at 978-575-0863 or by email at [cohen5kids@yahoo.com](mailto:cohen5kids@yahoo.com) for further information.

MAY BASKET WORKSHOP Date TBA GALA 2017 annual Spring Art Show with live music

May 19-21 at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Art Drop-off: Wednesday, May 17, 4-6 p.m. Opening Reception & Art Awards: Friday, May 19, 6-9 p.m. Look for the Call for Entries in early February. Expect the entry deadline to be the third week of April.

GALA Online Auction GALA needs item donations for its online auction fundraiser! Raise funds for our Art Gallery project!

We need donated items for this auction such as paintings, prints, crafts, jewelry, tickets, services, music CDs, tools. We especially need gift certificates. Reach out to your local businesses, we need your help! Please call (978) 407-1419 to make arrangements to drop-off your donations. Print the Donor Item Form available at our website, fill it out for each item donated and attach it to the item. The auction will begin as soon as we get enough items.

**IGA**

continued from page A1

tation to go elsewhere," he said.

Cloutier agreed, noting that many of her customers were elderly and low-income residents who were without a vehicle to drive to either the Hannaford or Market Basket stores in Rindge. She said the cost of taking a taxi north of the border was prohibitive for many of the people who must now find another place to buy their groceries — as well as a way to get there.

She called Szelest's decision a "slap in the face to this community."

Sheila Bettro, the director of the town's Council on Aging, said the store's closure would definitely

create a greater demand for transportation services. While details have yet to be worked out, she said she would look at adding one additional trip to the stores in Rindge each month.

Bettro pointed out the senior center currently has an employee who is limited to working seven hours per week.

"He does mostly janitorial work," she said, "but if we have to put him in a van, we will."

In recent months, Szelest was ordered to report to the Board of Health on efforts to correct some problems at the store, including the need to upgrade bathroom fixtures, and address the apparent presence of rodents. That report was

due Tuesday, the day after the store's closure.

Health Agent Jim Abare said it's likely any permits previously issued to Szelest would be yanked. He added that anyone buying the store would need to undergo a re-inspection of the facility and re-apply for necessary permits.

Winchendon Development Director Tracy Murphy said she was blind-sided by the closure.

"I think it's a shame," she said, while adding she would make an effort to reach out to potential new owners for the supermarket.

Attempts to contact Szelest were unsuccessful.

educational activities for young people.

The Winchendon Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall of 2017. For local guidelines and complete information on the Winchendon Cultural Council, contact David LaDeau through the Winchendon Town Hall. Application forms and more information about the local Cultural Council program are available online at [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org).

**COUNCIL**

continued from page A1

million will be distributed by local cultural councils in 2017. Grants will support an enormous range of activities: concerts, exhibitions, radio and video productions, field trips for schoolchildren, nature and science education programs for families, and town festivals. Nearly one-half of LCC funds support

**CENTER**

continued from page A1

our needs perfectly," he said, adding, "Mayor (Mark) Hawke and Rep. (Jon) Zlotnik (D-Gardner) have been key players in making this happen. So has Leo Roy of DCR. "I can't say enough about how much they've helped this process along."

Winchendon veterans are going to be just as welcome as those from Gardner or anywhere else, stressed Edson. At the same time, when it comes to geography, "we're committed to our veterans in Winchendon and being there for them. We've kept Stallings open as efficiently as we could. We do, though, want people to understand that sometimes no one might be there because they might be out on the road or might not answer the door because they're in a counseling session but we certainly haven't stopped providing services at Stallings. We consider it a very valu-

able resource for Winchendon veterans," adding the local center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Of the Gardner-based expansion, "we're going to have a lot more resource space," said Edson. "We really need to be able to expand because we're providing more and more services to more and more veterans and this will enable us to add a better place for therapeutic services, for example. Here, we have just a couple rooms and people are always out in the hall. Across the street, there won't be distractions like that."

The issue of transportation from Winchendon to Gardner has always been a vexing one but Edson said it's one MVOC takes seriously. "We're looking at a broad picture and that's one thing we're looking at," he remarked.

Edson said it's been about an 18-month process which has reached its near-final phase.

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# Devils look to get back in win column

BY CHRIS MARTIN  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — After winning five games in a row, the Murdock Blue Devils had a big week last week, traveling to Maynard on the 10<sup>th</sup> and having that streak snapped by the Tigers with a 79-47 loss.

Murdock attempted to get back on the winning track on Friday traveling to Narragansett to take on the Warriors, and lead by as much as 17 at half time, and with a 13 point lead heading into the fourth quarter. But the Warriors stormed all the way back from that

deficit and pulled out a four-point win, 63-59 at the buzzer.

With the loss, the Blue Devils fell to 5-4 on the season and 2-2 in the league.

Murdock is looking to get back to the winning ways taking on Ayer-Shirley this past Wednesday, and tonight, Friday, traveling to Sizer.

Next week Murdock will travel to Tahanto on Tuesday and West Boylston on Friday. To end the month of January, the Blue Devils will take on Maynard again on the 31<sup>st</sup> and seeking redemption against the Narragansett Warriors on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.

## LEARNING THE ROPES OF MEDIATION



At a recent gathering to learn more about the Neighborhood Watch program held at the new conference room at the police station, Mark Goguen, of Mediation Services of North Central Massachusetts spoke. Goguen discussed the advantages of pursuing mediation to settle disputes, instead of pursuing court proceedings. He added that mediation gives aggrieved parties more of an opportunity to be heard than in the courtroom. He also noted mediated settlements remain private, while court proceedings remain a public record. The Neighborhood Watch plans to hold meetings quarterly, so the next gathering should occur in April.

Staff photo

# 5 tips to safely shovel snow

MILWAUKEE — With the first significant snowfall on the ground, the Snow & Ice Management Association, the North American trade association representing snow management professionals, has these five tips for safely shoveling snow.

“Shoveling snow has a number of health risks associated with it, including the most serious one — a heart attack,” said Martin B. Tirado, CAE, executive director, SIMA. “Other more common health risks include dehydration, back injuries, pulled muscles, broken bones and frostbite. But the good news is there are ways to safely shovel snow.”

Here are SIMA’s tips for safe snow shoveling:

**TIP #1:** Stay on top of the snow. We aren’t suggesting that you make snow

angels but when there’s heavy snow, the best advice is to stay ahead of the storm. SIMA recommends that you clear the snow every few inches instead of waiting for the snow to stop falling.

**TIP #2:** Layer it up. Wear three layers: a base, insulating and outer layer. The base layer needs to be comfortable and made of a breathable fabric that allows you to move. It should also wick moisture away from your body, to keep your skin dry. The insulating layer is designed to keep you warm such as your shirt, pants and perhaps a vest. These clothes should be loose fitting and lightweight and have the ability to trap air but allow moisture to get through. The outer layer is for warmth and to keep you dry so the materials need to be waterproof, windproof and able to breathe. You will stay warmer

if your jacket extends below the waist and there’s a hood. Bonus for jackets with elastic or drawstrings at the cuff, midline or hem that may help keep you warmer and drier in the snow and ice.

**TIP #3:** Push, don’t lift. Sounds like something a high school wrestling coach might say, but if you push the snow to the side rather than trying to lift the snow, you exert less energy, thereby placing less stress on your body.

**TIP #4:** Do an exercise warm-up. Although you aren’t running a marathon, shoveling snow is exercise. So warm up before you start with some simple stretches that engage your entire body — especially your arms, legs and back. Drink plenty of water and take breaks when you need them.

**TIP #5:** Call and text. We’re not sug-

gesting that you make calls and text while shoveling snow, but it is important to have your cell phone on you so you can make a call in event of an emergency.

Following these tips will help ensure that you survive and thrive through winter. For more snow and ice removal tips or to interview a snow management professional, visit SIMA.

Founded in 1996, the Snow & Ice Management Association is the North American trade association for professionals involved with the snow and ice industry including snow plowing as well as commercial and residential snow removal for shopping centers, sporting complexes, apartment buildings, offices, schools and universities, hospitals and other necessary facilities in your community.

## KITTY KORNER



Leonard is an adorable, big black cat that enjoys attention. He has a sweet personality, but can be a little shy at times. He seems to get along OK with other cats, but would most likely do best in quite home without small children

Leonard has been examined by a veterinarian, neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

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

## WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

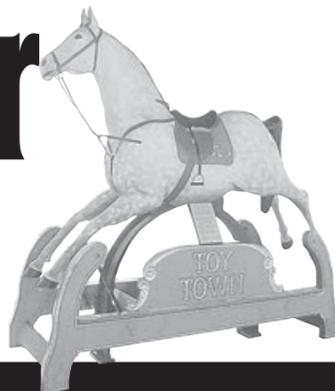


Staff photo

Winchendon native Rebecca Rader recently gave a talk on her experiences living in Japan to an audience in the auditorium at Beals Memorial Library. Rader, a 2010 graduate of Murdock High School, has been living and teaching English in Kochi, Japan, for the past year and a-half. A graduate of Elms College in Chicopee, Rebecca is the daughter of Sue and Richard Rader.

# Winchendon Courier Classifieds

Serving the communities of Winchendon, Ashburnham, Athol, Gardner, Fitchburg, Leominster, Westminster, Templeton, Phillipston and southern N.H.



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candidates to fill part time positions on our 3-11 shift and our 11-7 shift. We have a very unique, employee friendly environment that includes free meals during every shift! If interested email Lindsey at [Lconnor@broadviewassist-edliving.com](mailto:Lconnor@broadviewassist-edliving.com).

### JOB SEEKERS

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

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

### EMPLOYERS

These help wanted ads are FREE! Contact the Courier to find out how to get help for your business by calling (978) 297-0050 x 100 or email [ruth@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:ruth@stonebridgepress.com).

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### A Career You Can Bank On

Athol Savings Bank, a community bank with offices in Athol, Ashburnham, Baldwinville, Barre, Gardner, and Winchendon, has the following new opportunity to join our team:

#### Branch Operations Supervisor

We are seeking a Branch Operations Supervisor to help maintain exceptional customer service standards, while promoting and offering bank products and services, as they coincide with customer needs.

Responsibilities will include coordinating and supervising all aspects of teller operations within the branch ensuring the daily activities of the tellers are performed in a timely, accurate and courteous manner. In addition, this position will support our customer and asset growth by building customer rapport, establishing trusted customer and business relationships by recognizing potential sales opportunities and cross-selling appropriate products and services. Processes teller and service related transactions with accuracy, in accordance with policies and procedures. Adheres to security measures and controls in accordance with established standards to minimize potential loss. Provide superior quality customer service and a positive experience for customers.

The ideal candidate will possess:

- High school diploma or GED equivalent.
- Several years of experience in all phases of teller and platform duties.
- Sales experience preferred.
- Excellent supervisory and leadership skills.
- Excellent listening and communication skills.
- Organizational, interpersonal, and customer relations skills.
- Problem solving/decision making skills.

If you are ready to take your career to the next level with a strong, local community bank looking to grow, then we want to hear from you!!

Please visit the Careers section on our website to apply: [www.atholsb.com](http://www.atholsb.com)  
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### Companion (HHA / CNA)

Our 78-unit assisted living community in Gardner is looking to add to its team of caring, dedicated individuals! We are accepting applications for the position of **Companion (HHA or CNA)**. Our opening is for fulltime 11:00 P.M. – 7:00 AM. working every other weekend. This position will be responsible for personal care and medication assistance, meal service, laundry, and facility preparation.

The ideal candidate will be friendly, caring, team oriented, and flexible. CORI check required. EOE

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# LEGALS

## MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Troy D. Carbone and Pamela J. Morais to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for American Mortgage Network, Inc., dba American Mortgage Network of MA, a DE Corp., its successors and assigns, dated December 14, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 42188, Page 322 subsequently assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 55270, Page 112; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on February 10, 2017 at 4 Mellen Road, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land situated on the easterly side of Mellen Road, in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the northwesterly corner thereof at a point on a stone wall in the easterly line of Mellen Road, at a corner of land of Robert E. & Charlotte M. Noponen; Thence N. 74' 14' 57" E., by said Noponen land 196.34 feet to an iron pin at a corner of other land of Lucy E. Brewer; Thence S. 43' 04' 15" E., 125.85 feet to an iron pin; Thence S. 83' 57' 05" E., 352.40 feet to a drill hole; Thence S. 21' 18' 56" E., 200.00 feet to an iron pin; Thence S. 31' 12' 12" E., 425.70 feet to an iron pin in line of land of David S. & Mary J. Galat, the preceding four courses being by said Brewer land; Thence N. 73' 03' 25" W., 347.80 feet to a drill hole at the end of a stone wall; Thence N. 21' 18' 56" W., 282.33 feet to an iron pin; Thence N. 83' 57' 05" W., 425.49 feet to an iron pin in a stone wall in the easterly line of Mellen Road, the preceding three courses being by said Galat land; Thence N. 30' 14' 44" W., 63.45 feet; Thence N. 17' 13' 21" W., 79.21 feet; Thence N. 08' 17' 35" W., 22.28 feet; Thence N. 01' 20' 45" W., 64.50 feet to a corner of land of the first mentioned Noponen and the point of beginning, the preceding four courses being by the said line of Mellen Road and a stone wall. Containing 5.0000 acres or 217,800 S.F., more or less. Being shown on a plan entitled: "Plan of Land Prepared for Brian & Marnie DuBois (applicant) (Owner: Lucy E. Brewer/Book 18737, Page 171) Winchendon, MA, November 6, 2003, Szoc Surveyors, 32 Pleasant St., Gardner, MA" which plan is recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 805, Plan 119. No rights of way by necessity or otherwise, or the cart road depicted on Plan Book 805, Plan 119, are reserved over the premises conveyed for the benefit of the remaining land of the Grantor.

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

### TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae)  
Present Holder of said Mortgage,  
By Its Attorneys,  
ORLANS MORAN PLLC  
PO Box 540540  
Waltham, MA 02454

Phone: (781) 790-7800  
15-014446

January 20, 2017  
January 27, 2017  
February 3, 2017

## LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the Certificateholders of Soundview Home Loan Trust 2007-OPT1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-OPT1  
Korde & Associates, P.C.  
900 Chelmsford Street  
Suite 3102  
Lowell, MA 01851  
(978) 256-1500  
Smith, Kenneth, 14-015766, January 13, 2017, January 20, 2017, January 27, 2017  
January 13, 2017  
January 20, 2017  
January 27, 2017

## MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Christine Magee to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for, Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns, dated April 20, 2006 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 38829, Page 51 subsequently assigned to HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for ACE Securities Corp. Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2006-FM1, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 49088, Page 165; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on February 10, 2017 at 4 Mechanic Street, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

That certain parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situated at the Northwesterly intersection of the Westerly line of Mechanic Street and the Northerly line of Grove Street in Winchendon, Worcester County and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being shown on a plan entitled, "Compiled Plan of Land prepared for L. Lorraine A. Howe, Winchendon, MA., Scale: 1 inch = 20 ft. - July 17, 1981, Michael S. Szoc, R.L. Surveyor", recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 489, Plan 60, being bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Southeasterly corner thereof, at the Northwesterly intersection of the Westerly line of Mechanic Street and the Northerly line of Grove Street; thence Westerly by said line of Grove Street, 113 feet to land of Teresa B. Sibley; thence Northerly by said Sibley land and land of Richard E. and Patricia Carr, 98 feet to land of Duncan H. Elliott; thence Easterly by said Elliott land, 112 feet to a point in the Westerly line of Mechanic Street; thence Southerly by said line, 92 feet to the point of beginning. Containing about 10,600 square feet of land. Said premises are described subject to and with the benefit of easements, restrictions and agreements of record, if any there be, insofar as the same are nor in force and applicable. For title reference, see deed recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 36124, Page 309.

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

### TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for ACE Securities Corp. Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2006-FM1, Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates  
Present Holder of said Mortgage,  
By Its Attorneys,  
ORLANS MORAN PLLC  
PO Box 540540  
Waltham, MA 02454  
Phone: (781) 790-7800  
13-017594  
January 20, 2017  
January 27, 2017  
February 3, 2017

## Legal Notice Winchendon Conservation Commission

261 High Street; Assessor's Map 5D-3, Lot 35

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 meeting on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:05 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner David Romanowski for proposed work within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and the associated 100-foot Buffer Zone at 261 High Street; Assessor's Map 5D-3, Lot 35. The project entails the cutting and removal of approximately 200 dead and dying red pine trees (stumps will remain) planted in the 1940's, and also invasive vegetation, followed by restoration of the affected area through re-planting with suitable native species. The meeting will be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Request for Determination of Applicability 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, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.

January 20, 2017

(SEAL)

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

16 SM 008240

### ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

**Robert L. Duval**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §501 *et seq.*

**PennyMac Loan Services, LLC** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 212 Baldwinville State Road, given by Robert L. Duval to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, dated January 4, 2013, and recorded in Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 50238, Page 180, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before February 20, 2017 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of this Court on January 3, 2017

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

January 20, 2017

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