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Friday, September 29, 2017

Newsstand: 75 cents

State to implement new vehicle inspection program Oct. 1.

BY: KEITH KENT COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Garages certified as official Massachusetts motor vehicle inspection stations have just spent considerable money for updated required compliance, as Mass DOT and the Commonwealth has mandated all stations must have new operation systems and five video cameras in every inspection bay beginning Oct. 1, as part of a new revised vehicle inspection program.

The vendor contract for the new program was awarded to Applus Technologies of Chicago, for five years at a cost of \$29 million to administer and monitor the state inspection program, with a three year option to renew. It currently services programs in Georgia, Illinois, and other states around the nation. Applus under a previous state contract in 2003 was cited for chronic false and inaccurate test results which it then blamed on faulty equipment form a previous outside supplier.

Currently Massachusetts issues an average of 4.4 million inspection stickers annually through some roughly 1.800 commonwealth inspection stations. Under the new mandates, each inspection bay will be required to have one video wall mounted camera, two

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Photo by Keith Kent

Brooks Automotive Vehicle Inspection Technition Frank Peckham stands with what will be a new soon to be installed inspection equipment station.

Intermunicipal agreement in

BY GREG VINE COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — "I think it was a decision the board needed to make. They made it, and I respect that."

Those were the sentiments of Town Manager Keith Hickey that day after the town's Board of Selectmen voted not to move forward with a plan to share his services with the town of Templeton.

At a special meeting last Wednesday, Sept. 20, some members of the board – and more than a few residents expressed concern that the agreement, as presented to selectmen, left too many questions unanswered. Some felt the proposed pact could be "tweaked," while others wanted to see a study done by the state on the likely impact of such an accord. That study on shared services would have required the town to apply for a grant through the state's Community Compact, a process that would likely take several months to complete

It was at that point that

Selectman Michael Barbaro, a member of the joint subcommittee that had negotiated the agreement and a vocal proponent, moved to kill the proposal. Barbaro had been one of four selectmen, two each from Winchendon and Templeton, who had negotiated the deal.

"I really don't think it's fair to Templeton to delay this any further," he said. "They need to move forward and try to find a town administrator. I can't see continuing it. I don't think the community is ready for it.'

Templeton has been trying unsuccessfully for four years to find someone to take the administrator's position on a permanent full-time basis.

While voting to disband the negotiating subcommittee, the board also decided to form an ad hoc advisory committee to study whether some form of regionalization might be feasible in the future.

"I certainly hope that some of the people who were most vocal in their opposition to

Turn To COMA page A5

WPD receives crucial service protection equipment



Photo by Keith Kent

Officer Rick Oinonen and Chief David Walsh accept a donation of personal protection kits from 24 Trauma sales & marketing rep Haley Convertino & director of dales Kerry Gilmore.

BY: KEITH KENT COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Members of the Winchendon Police Department received an important donation in the form of personal protection kits Sept. 14 from the company 24 Trauma to help protect officers from both potential bio-hazards and narcotics such as fentanvl and carfentanil which can be deadly upon human contact.

A total of six kits (One for each police patrol vehicle and one for the detective's vehicle) was donated, with each containing a Tyvek body suit, foot covering, sleeve protectors, three different types of gloves (Nirtile, Latex, & thick chemical gloves) face masks, and two types of protective eye wear.

The kits importantly help to protect against bloodborn pathogens, bodily fluids, and even more importantly the increasingly potential life threatening exposure to physical contact with fentanyl, which is 40 to 50 more times powerful than heroin, and carfentanil, an extremely powerful synthetic opioid derivative of fentanyl and a narcotic analgesic 100 times stronger than fentanyl, and 10,000 more times potent than morphine.

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High Street bridge to open

The High Street bridge, closed for now for nearly 2-1/2 years, is set to open sometime next week. Winchendon Public Works Director Al Gallant said Wednesday the contractor doing repairs on the span should be finishing work as of today.

"Then on Monday, we'll go down to do some cleanup work and some work on the sidewalks and, hopefully, the bridge should be open to traffic by Tuesday," said Gallant.

The bridge was shut down by the state Dept. of

Transportation on April 15, 2015 after inspections found it to be unsafe. MassDOT found the girders and beams supporting the deck to be rusted out at either end of the bridge, which spans the southern end of Hunts Pond - also known as Tannery Pond - on the Millers River. It was originally built in 1850, and reconstructed in 1973.

BOS accepts SAFER grant

BY GREG VINE COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The Winchendon Board of Selectmen Monday voted to accept a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant would provide nearly \$424,000 to the town for the purpose of hiring three additional firefighter/ EMTs, one of which would be added to each of the Fire Department's three shifts. The town is expected to pitch in a total of \$263,557. Federal monies would cover 75 percent of the cost over the first two years of the grant, while FEMA would cover 35 percent of the cost in year three.

According to the award letter, the cost for personnel during each year of the grant is set at \$154,851, while the cost of benefits is estimated at \$74,328, for a total annual cost of \$229,179 per year. Winchendon would be responsible for \$57,295 per year in

each of the first two years of the grant, and \$148,967 in year three.

'We were also approved for a cost-share waver," Fire Chief Tom Smith told the board, "which does bring the federal funds fully to the town. If we were to hire a firefighter with benefits for \$60,000 and the federal government was to allow for \$57,000 of it, then we'd only be responsible for the next \$3,000. The current 25 percent, 25 percent, 65 percent are base numbers, but with this waiver we were basically able to front-load the FEMA money to where their money is spent first and the town makes up the difference."

"We currently run three shifts 24/7 with two paramedic/firefighters on each shift,' said Smith. "During the day we have myself and the deputy chief, also. This will allow us to have three members on staff round the clock. The

Turn To BOS page A6

Big Fall Festival in the works

BY GREG VINE COURIER CORRESPONDENT

This will be the third year that Winchendon has had a Fall Festival, but this year is going to be something a lot bigger and quite different than what the town has been used to.

Instead of taking place on the Ingleside property off Maple Street, this year's event will be held over the stretch of Central Street between Blair Square and Maple Street. Central Street will be closed to traffic from those two locations.

The festival is being organized by leaders of the newly-organized Winchendon Business Group, including Rebecca Robillard and Janet Lee of The Crafty Cauldron, realtor Michelle Peterson, Michelle Comeau of To Each His Own Design, and Cailte Kelley of Edward Jones.

Central Street will be lined with over 100 vendors, some coming from as far away as Chicopee, Holyoke, Fall River, and Salem. They will be offering everything from handmade crafts to toys, and from jewelry to clothing.

A number of local organizations will also have booths. Groups on hand will include Winchendon Kiwanis,

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LOCAL

PAGE 2



SPORTS

PAGE XX



WEEKLY QUOTE

One's native land! There should one live! There die!

- Jules Verne

COURIER CAPSULES

ZOMBIE FUN...THEN PARTY!

Come dressed in your Halloween costume and enjoy a fun filled day for the whole family. Kicking things off will be our Zombie Fun Runs. Walkers and runners can come an enjoy a 2 mile run through the zombie filled bike path. There is also a 1/3 mile Halloween themed run around the Y track for those who may not want to be chased by zombies.

After the race is over, join us for our annual Kid's Halloween Party filled with fun activities like Halloween themed games, a haunted house...It all happens Saturday, Oct. 28 beginning at 9 a.m. (By the way, we need zombies, stop at the Clark to find out how.

CAC: Winchendon's Community Action Center will hold a yard sale tomorrow, Sat., Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the CAC on 273 Central Street. The event is open to the community and representatives from the CAC will be available to provide information and answer questions about the services the agency provides. Sale spaces remain available for \$10 and can be reserved by calling the CAC today (978) 297-1667 or simply by showing up tomorrow though vendors are advised unsold items must be removed. Vendors are also advised to bring a table and awning. The yard sale will take place rain or shine.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

LOWELL --- The following local residents recently received diplomas from

and the Winchendon School collab-

orate to present "Deadly Chateau

FROM ASHBURNHAM: Maureen Kelly, Connor Emma and Jacob Boucher. FROM GARDNER: Brooke Horrigan, Benjamin Clarkson, Thomas Francis, Amanda Harmon, Walter Toomey, Candice Renaud, Andrew Gallant, Travis Babb and Danielle Fagnant. FROM ROYALSTON: Alex Koula. FROM TEMPLETON: Frank Maine. FROM WINCHENDON: Ashley Hancock, Kristopher Clayton and Kyle

Mystery, murder and a meal — to help feed kids

WINCHENDON - More than 100 students in the Winchendon public schools are benefiting from the weekly Kiwanis backpack program; which provides a sampling of nutritious snacks and small meals each Friday for the use of those kids over the weekend.

The program has been a wild success, involving the schools, the Kiwanis, the Murdock Key Club, the Murdock Student Council and the Winchendon School service students in collaborative effort to provide the meals and snacks. A labor of love, but it does take dona-

tions...and funds. With that in mind, an evening of mystery, murder and a great meal are planned Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Winchendon School dining hall when

the Comical Mystery Tour, Kiwanis

Shenanigans." A beer and wine cash bar, raffles and a whole lot of fun will accompany an excellent chicken dinner as we all try to

solve a who-dun-it.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show starts promptly at 6 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person, and tickets are available from any Kiwanis member, at To Each His Own Design and at Crafty Cauldron in downtown Winchendon.

This will be a one of a kind evening for a great cause, and only 120 tickets are available so get yours soon. For more information call Kiwanis President Bruce Cloutier at (978) 297-1815.

Winchendon Winds series continues

BY GREG VINE COURIER CORRESPONDENT

For the past two years, Winchendon Winds, a concert band under the direction of conductor Lucinda Ellert, played a summer concert series in the Toy Town. This year, that series turned into a fall event. The band played its second concert of the series Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Central Street.

The first had been performed at the Winchendon School. The next two, scheduled for Oct. 7 and 14, will also take place at the church.

At last Sunday's performance, entitled "Music We Remember," Winchendon Winds played nine pieces for an appreciative audience. Selections in the first half of the concert included "American Salute," written by Morton Gould, and "The Golden Years" by Alfred Reed. Next came "Shenandoah," penned by

Frank Ticheli and James Horner's "Hollywood Blockbuster," as arranged by John Moss. Before intermission, the band played "America the Beautiful," written by Samuel Ward and arranged by Carmen Dragon.

The final half kicked off with "Procession of the Nobles," composed by Nicholas Rimsky-Korsakov and arranged by Eric Leidzen. This was followed by "Little English Girl" by D. Dell Cese and "Just a Closer Walk," as arranged by Don Gillis. The concert concluded with the theme from "Star Wars" by John Williams, arrangement by James Burden.

The concert series is made possible in part by the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, and Winchendon Cultural Council, with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Greg Vine photo

Conductor Lucinda Ellert leads the orchestra during the first concert earlier this month at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

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

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WINCHENDON

\$302,000 303 Ash St, Gallant, Bruce, and Gallant, Kristina, to Julius, Benjamin.

\$230,000 266 Ash St, Kilskey, Joshua D, and Kilskey, Erica L, to Farley, Manuel J, and Farley, Lousie K. \$147,000 19 Western Ave, Tavares, Paul S, and Tavares, Laurel A, to Shultz, Emily J.

\$121,000 70 School St, Tribou, Christopher E, and Tribou, Renee J, to Vailancourt, Albert.



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NEWS STAFF DIRECTORY

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TO SUBSCRIBE, OR FOR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: KERRI PETERSON

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TO PRINT AN OBITUARY: EMAIL: ruth@stonebridgepre 44 Central Street

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The Winchendon

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 **EDITOR**

RUTH DEAMICIS 508-909-4130 ruth@stonebridgepress.news ADVERTISING MANAGER

508-909-4104 jean@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE julie@villagernewspapers.com

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Saturday, September **30**

TOY TOWN MARKET: on the lawn of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Sunday, October 1

A SYMPHONIC SAMPLING: familiar and exotic works by Dvorak, Debussy and others will ring out in the acoustically superb Unitarian Universalist Church, 126 Central St. beginning at 2 p.m. as the Winchendon Winds presents its third concert of the season. Many of these works will showcase the fine abilities of the musicians who comprise this outstanding community concert band.

INDIVISIBLE WINCHENDON: as the time conflicts with the concert. Please enjoy!

Saturday, October 7

FALL FEST: the entire length of Central Street will be closed off for a fun day of vendors, music, food and fun. Activities begin at 10 a.m. More information as it becomes available. Plan for this one.

FAMILY FESTIVAL OF DELIGHTS: among the offerings for the day long festivities is a lighthearted program of music by the Winchendon Winds at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 126 Central St. Featured will be familiar works by John Williams from favorite movies such as Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark and others. Premiering at this concert will be the Toy Town March, a special work commissioned for Winchendon Winds to honor the town and its history. The concert begins at 2 p.m. and is free admission.

Thursday, October 12

OUR NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN: Our Neighbor's Winchendon's Kitchen 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. at 5:30 p.m. On the first and third Thursdays, the supper will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 52 Spruce St. Our Neighbor's Kitchen meals are cooked homestyle from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations and many hard-working volunteers.

BOOK DISCUSSION: Beals Memorial Library has a book club that meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Thursday each month, the next meeting is Thursday October 12 Books are available at the library.

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

Saturday, October 21

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Ladies Fellowship Retreat at United Parish, Saturday Oct. 21 from 8:30 a.m. -2 p.m. Guest speaker: Cherrilynn Bisbano. Lunch is catered by Panera Bread. Cost is \$30 per person. To register call the church at (978) 297-0616. All ladies welcome!

Wednesday, October **25**

SENIOR WELLNESS DAY: The Old Murdock Senior Center will once again host their annual Senior Wellness Day on Wednesday Oct. 25 from 9 am to 12:30 p.m. The Center is located at 52 Murdock Ave., Winchendon.

Thursday, October 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! Nonsmoking venue.

OUR NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN: Our Neighbor's Winchendon's Kitchen Community Supper is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church Winchendon, 126 Central St. at 5:30 p.m. On the first and third Thursdays, the supper will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 52 Spruce St. 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, November

FALL FAIR: Fall Fair at the Hvde Park Drive Community Building in Winchendon Saturday, Nov. 4th, 9am to 2 pm. Crafts, flea market, ticket auction, goodies & Good Company.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS

INDIVISIBLE WINCHENDON: The Indivisible Winchendon group meets every Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. to discuss and organize creative, effective resistance to the Trump administration over the long term. We are liberal/progressive but non-partisan. https:// www.facebook.com/ groups/381174492262359/

MONDAY

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

allibrary. **TUESDAY**

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

FRIDAY

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



at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church 52 Spruce St., Winchendon, MA

First 12 weeks of lessons are free!

Lessons will be scheduled Monday's and Wednesday's from 4-7pm to start. A non-refundable fee of \$30.00 is required before start of lessons for cost of method books and other materials as needed. Instructor David LaDeau, will be using Alfred's Basic Adult-all-in-one piano course starting at level 1, 2, and 3 based on past experience. For continued lessons after 12 weeks of free instruction, lessons will cost \$10/half hour.

Contact David LaDeau at 978-297-0959 or email ladeaud20@ comcast.net for registration forms or for more information.

Piano Lab open to all Winchendon Public School students, adults and Winchendon area churches.

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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

<u>Editorial</u>

No, we can emphatically say, they live is a farce.

And despite a real effort, illegal by our own town charter by the way, to drive another nail into the doom of this local newspaper by the local governing body just Monday night, we can say emphatically that indeed, small town

newspapers are doing well, thank you. What one tends to forget in an age of instant gratification iPhone news briefs and YouTube videos and Facebook newsfeeds, is that they don't provide local news. You can't find the local Conservation Commission on there, or even the Board of Selectmen for the most part, though a few towns are now livestreaming and then uploading to YouTube at a later date.

You also don't get the quotes, the follow up, the facts and figures behind news online anywhere. You get news bites. You get quicknotes versions. You get a lot of innuendo too.

So, no people still depend on newsPA-PERS for news.

Here's another factoid. One many, many people have lost sight of. Not everyone is on the internet.

We know, that is nearly impossible to believe but it is true. Absolutely true.

And not everyone subscribes to a localized news able TV service. You can't get Channel 8 on Direct TV. So thinking everyone is watching the Board of Selectmen on Monday nights

And let's be honest, not everyone is just that interested in sitting through a live political meeting. Many don't care. They aren't going to sit at home for an hour and half to watch talking heads, even they know the people involved.

But they will read about it later. So let's just get over that whole, "dying" scenario first and foremost. We aren't going anywhere anytime soon.

We will take umbrage at being cut out of the picture though.

First of all, changing the charter is spelled out within the charter itself. It takes a committee, it takes a certain amount of time, it takes town meeting approval, and in many, many ways, it is the town's constitution. It just can't be circumvented or changed on the whim of a political body. The Board should know that, we just went through it.

It's why the whole sharing a town manager was technically illegal. Our charter calls for a full time town man-

We as a local business depend on advertising for our livelihood. That's what pays our bills. Not subscriptions, they are tiny part of the income at best. We depend on the good will of other businesses to keep ours going. It's how it works. When the local Powers That Be decide to add to the end of that process, it can only bode badly for every-

The Mail... and Newspapers are dying' re-energizing democracy

It came with Monday's mail, a plain brown manila envelope and my hands were shaking as I opened the official report from the state medical examiner, putting in black-and-white what we suspected, what we were virtually certain of - that Courtney died from "complications of insu-

lin-dependent diabetes." All of it written in sterile medical terminology, it really didn't tell me anything I didn't already know, so I actually lost more sleep after talking to state trooper Dan Moran. He was assigned the case back in June and has been nothing but empathetic and gracious throughout this nightmare. When people complain about public servants, they need to think about guys like Dan Moran. But I digress. Trooper Moran had reconstructed as best he could primarily through interview with Courtney's friends, a chronology of those last days and the portrait he painted was of someone who went from healthy on Friday to being gone on Wednesday with stunning rapidity. Diabetes can do that - even the sniffles or a cold can trigger extreme blood sugar fluctuations. Stress can be a factor, too and the rigors of an MSW program at an elite school certainly brought with it a whole lot of stress as well. This was the final summer with the thesis due and graduation looming, and while Courtney had been fortunate enough to have already had one job offer, that didn't mean there wasn't any

I know she felt the pressure. She never complained to me, never lamented anything about her health, but consistently talked about school and her internship at YOU, Inc where she was deeply saddened by much of what she saw, which in turn made her even more determined to get into the fray and try to contribute. If she was feeling crummy the last few months and weeks she never let on. Additionally, during the last 18 or so months of her life, Courtney had being doing a better-than-ever job of taking care of herself but something went horrifically wrong in early June and we're never going to know exactly what or when. We'll never know

JOURNEY OF THE HEART **JERRY CARTON**

why she didn't go to the ER or call her doctor, except that it was her pattern to never complain and we'll never why others know weren't pro-active on her behalf. I'm guessing it's because when you're in your early 20's, you think you're immortal, invincible.

You're not. That's what's haunting me. Changing gears about as far as you can, it seems to me that it just might be that Donald J. Trump is the best thing to happen to American democracy in my lifetime and the best thing to happen to progressives in a very long time. Roll that around in your head. Sounds weird? Look at it this way - Trump's election has jolted people out of their complacency. It has reminded people that participation matters, that activism is essential. By posing a threat to (small "d") democratic values, Trump,

and those who have risen to power with

him, have made a whole lot of people

understand they shouldn't be taking the

fragility of democracy for granted.

Case in point? Every time yet another repeal-but-not-replace bill raises its hideous head, people have mobilized. They've inundated their congressional representatives with phone calls, letters, emails, and texts. They've shown up en-masse at town halls and rallies, in the latter case frequently joined by conservatives who have suddenly discovered that on balance, the ACA is a good thing. For a lot of those folks, it turns out the only thing they didn't like was the nickname of "ObamaCare". They sure liked a lot of the provisions.

since Vietnam. Then there's Indivisible. This group has not only provided an organizational structure to oppose this calamity of a presidency, it, along with offshoots, has provided a road map for local issue and electoral activism. I write all the time about the importance of local activism and I'm glad to be seeing so much of it springing up across the country and sometimes even in places you wouldn't have expected a year or so ago. Maybe all this is the perhaps long-range not so

small silver lining? One can only hope.

I haven't seen the left this energized

LETTERS POLICY



Letters to the editor are always welcome, and may be sent to to ruth@stonebridgepress.news, or The Winchendon Courier, 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. Be sure to include a name and residence. Please refrain from sending letters via fax, and be sure to supply a home address and phone number to allow for confirmation. Allow at least 48 hours for a response. Letters must be submitted by noon Friday to ensure publication in the following week's issue. Every

effort will be made to accommodate late submissions, but inclusion can not be guaranteed. The rules of good taste and libel will, of course, apply to all submissions. Personal attacks will not be published. The editor retains the right to edit all letters.

It's not just about them apples



ANYTHING Near & FAR KEITH **KENT**

With fall's arrival comes some things dear. The seasons have changed and so the views as their appear. Foliage draws many from all around, including those who try to pick apples before they drop on the ground. People make time to go for familv rides, time to take a breath and remember to keep things in stride. So if you're looking for some old fashion apple picking on a given day, Alyson's Orchard is a great alternative

and not that far away.

After a recent trip my better half and I took to the Vermont Country Store in Rockingham, VT we decided to cross the beautiful Connecticut River and head home back down good old Route 12 which runs near our humble home. Intrigued in trying to find something unique just off the well beaten path, we decided to check out Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, NH only 2 towns north of nearby Keene.

Now our locally famous Red Apple Farm is a great friendly place, and I enjoy the Rose's multi generation family owned and operated business very much. But once in a while you want to change things up a little, and if you have not yet been to Alyson's Orchard, well you're really missing out on something unique.

orchard site is at least some 150 feet up off the road or more in elevation. Driving the twisty and winding dirt road through multiple S-turns, you find yourself passing a roughly 15 foot tall wooden bear greeting you as you rise above the valley floor, and a view not fully appreciated until you depart once finished your visit.

The orchard boasts some 450 acres of many kinds of apples, many of which I had not heard of before. Even better, each type and row have a full post and sign clearly indicating the type you approach, "Very user friendly."

There are two food trucks on site, one for apple cider donuts, and one for that treasured American tasty treat, "Barbecue." If those two don't strike your fancy, there is also

Placed along Route 12, the a small store on site with a few cheese and frozen goods.

> Walking along the grounds one quickly comprehends the appeal of the high hilltop apple delight surrounded by rows upon rows of all kinds of Malus Domestica. Children playing on swings, families and friends eating under a few tents. No shortage of places to walk "You will get your daily steps in" and Hay Rides passing rows and rows of

When you enter the orchard there are sections of rows to the left. and rows to the right, more sections out back, and many which go out of sight. A pond with ducks and geese is close by, and even a large function hall which had a newly married couple celebrating a new life at the hilltop facility just a little closer to the sky.

Upon leaving and slowing meandering back down that old twisty road, you look across a small section of the valley and quickly appreciate the departing view by others which I had been told. Creeping around the bends and back down past the bear, we headed back to Winchendon with return trip thoughts to be prepared. About this place I just simply wanted to get the word out, as we again we realized the benefits of going just off the beaten path and this not so far away orchard is totally worth going back to without a doubt.

Alyson's Orchard is only a 20 minute drive north of Keene, and easily located along side Route 12 North in Walpole, NH at 57 Alvson's Lane. To learn more on the internet go to <u>www</u>. alysonsorchard.com for more information.

The Flag, the Constitution and, well, You Know Who

"If the flag needs protection at all, it needs protection from (people) who value the symbol more than the freedoms that the flag represents" - U.S. Rep. Jerrold

I have to ask this question: People love to say that our nation's fighting men and women have fought and died to protect the flag. Did they? Or did they fight and die to protect the freedoms – as Rep. Nadler said – represented by that flag?

Forgive me, but there is a huge difference.

The flag is a symbol. Nothing more, nothing less. Our Constitution, however, the document that enumerates the many rights we enjoy in this country, is far more than a mere symbol. It is the foundation of our nation.

If you want to offend me, burn a copy

of the Constitution.

One of the very first rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights is that of freedom of speech. Our president, who has already demonstrated a woeful ignorance of U.S. history, either doesn't



...And ONE MORE THING... **GREG** VINF.

understand that or, worse, chooses to ignore it.

His call for NFL players who "take a knee" during the playing of the National Anthem to be fired by team owners demonstrates a complete disregard for the Constitution. And his protest that the statement he made last Friday has 'nothing to do with race" is laughable.

First, NFL teams are overwhelmingly owned by wealthy white men. The players who have quietly protested during the National Anthem have been almost exclusively black. The president's remarks Friday smacked of a plantation-era mindset. He might just as well have said the owners should punish their uppity n___rs. That is, after all, what appears to have been on his mind.

But NFL players are employed by team executives, not owned by them. They have every right to express themselves in nearly any way they deem appropriate. They are not slaves.

And the fact that he made his comments in Alabama, the home of George Wallace – the governor who stood in the door of the state university in an attempt to bar black students - made his words seem all the more racist. They were, after all, aimed at young, black men.

Plus, his intemperate comments come on the heels of his defense of white supremacists and Nazis as having some "fine people" among them following the deadly alt-right fiasco in Charlottesville, Virginia.

All that being said, I can't help but wonder if Pres. Trump knew his words word create a firestorm of controversy designed to distract Americans from any number of issues.

Things are heating up in the Russia election-meddling investigation, yet another GOP health care proposal has gone down in flames, Trump son-in-law Jarod Kushner and five other top aides have been found to have used private e-mails to conduct official White House business (remember how Trump excoriated Hillary for that), and the president continues to carry out a juvenile but very dangerous war of words with the similarly unstable leader of North

As one commentator tweeted, Trump paying attention to NFL players while facing a nuclear threat from North Korea would be akin to John F. Kennedy worrying about the state of men's singles tennis during the Cuban missile crisis.

The words of late 19th and early 20th century cartoonist, humorist, and journalist "Kin" Hubbard seem even more appropriate today than they did a century or more ago: "It seems like the less a statesman amounts to, the more he

loves the flag. The sad fact is the more that the 'statesman" currently in the White House opens his mouth or runs to his Twitter account, the less and less he amounts to.

Tech program flourishing in middle school connect the

BY JERRY CARTON COURIER CORRESPONDENT

For years Mike Fontaine taught robotics and other tech classes at Murdock High School and a couple years ago led the way to secure an \$86,000 Capital Skills grant.

This fall, though, Fontaine has moved to the middle school where prospective technology and engineering students are getting their first tastes of the field and the veteran educator is having a great time.

"I'm re-energized," enthused.

Fontaine took over the middle school program after Sheila Hunt retired. "We knew last year was going to be her last, and when she decided to retire, I thought this would be a great opportunity to come in and work with the younger kids, try to get them excited about these kinds of classes.

'We've always wanted to do more on the high school level but we were spending a lot of time teaching basis there. We're going to be getting away from

that now," he said.

So Fontaine is teaching about 90 kids from sixth through eighth grades. The courses are quarter-year in length and change at the end of each marking period and unlike in high school, the gender split is about 50-50 boys and girls.

"All the data says girls, who are for some reason labeled 'an under-represented' group in science and technology, girls interest in these subjects tends to drop off and we are trying to spike their interest so they'll keep taking these when they get to high school. Middle school is too early for them to think much about it, but as they get older, they'll learn there are new tech-related jobs opening all the time. If we get them interested early, there's a better chance they will stick with it," he pointed out.

Classes are larger at the middle school level with as many as 30 students enrolled in some and "that's a challenge," Fontaine acknowledged.

Game making, communications and robotics are included in the curriculum and Fontaine observed "they're buying into it and having fun," adding, "they're catching on quickly. They're finding out this is about more than ones and zeros, that there's a lot of creative things they can be doing.'

Fontaine said launching a broader middle school program is a strategy designed in part to retain students in the Winchendon system.

"For kids who are interested in pursuing this in high school, and for many of them, this is their first exposure to these kinds of classes, they won't have to go to tech schools to keep building on what we're doing here. And if they are interested, they won't have had to wait until high school to start taking tech and engineering classes. This program is a feeder program for

the high school," he asserted.
"I'm having a lot of fun. I look forward to coming to class every day. Teaching middle school is different than high school but it's exciting too. Sometimes it's good to take on new challenges. I like doing that," he remarked.



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COMA

continued from page A1

this proposal will volunteer to sit on that committee," said Hickey. While the board did ask

Selectman Audrey LaBrie, Winchendon's other member of the negotiating subcommittee, to see if Templeton's representatives would meet one more time to see if their town could extend the deadline for needing a decision on the agreement, Chairman Barbara Anderson told the Courier she believes "the IMA with Templeton is in deep hibernation, if not a coma."

"The residents of Winchendon have made it abundantly clear that they are not ready to share the administrator's position, and they may never reach that point," said Anderson. "I feel very strongly the IMA is a change to the charter. No selectboard should ever undertake making such a major change without

at least consulting the voters at town meeting. I wouldn't expect a change unless something drastic happened.'

The idea for a shared chief administrative officer for the two communities was first broached in June by the state Department of Revenue. The DOR had facilitated a similar agreement between the towns of Lee and Lenox earlier this year.

Zach Blake, of the DOR's Division of Local Services, said after the board's rejection of the plan that "we've said all along it's a local decision. We'd be willing to undertake a study of shared services through a grant under the Community Compact Cabinet. We could provide assistance for a study of what mechanisms could best accomplish that."

Blake said any grant application for a shared services study would have to be "multijurisdictional.'

"I get very defensive and a

little insulted whenever someone tries to insinuate that Mr. Hickey was only looking out for his own personal benefit," said Anderson. "The state DSL sought him out. He did not seek the situation. The state is actively encouraging as much regionalization of as many local assets as possible."

"My concerns would be the same regardless of what town we partnered with," she continued. "I am used to having the town manager available whenever I need him, and it would be difficult to remember that at certain time he would not be as available. I also have concerns over which town would receive his attention for anticipated economic activity or grant applications.'

"The majority of people in town are thrilled with Mr. Hickey and what he has been able to accomplish. It was really a case of 'if it isn't broken, don't fix it," she concluded.

Fun By The

Like puzzles?

sudoku. This

mind-bending

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puzzle will have

you hooked from

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square off, so

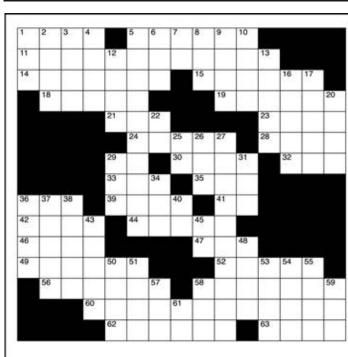
sharpen your

your sudoku

pencil and put

savvy to the test!

Numbers



CLUES ACROSS

- service
- 5. Facial expressions
- 11. Forebears 14. A portable gun
- 15. Decrees
- 18. Resin obtained from
- tropical trees 19. One who divines the future
- 21. River in Oregon
- 23. Norse god of thunder
- 24. It's on the lawn
- 28. Speaks
- 29. Polish beer
- 30. Ethnic group in Laos
- 32. Insecticide
- 35. Third-party access
- 36. Senior officer
- 39. Makes a living with difficulty
- 41. Expression of sympathy
- 42. Former U.S. president
- 44. Passover feast and ceremony 46. Wild sheep of northern Africa
- 47. Pouch 49. Public buildings
- 52. Type of cuisine
- 56. "Hotel California" rockers
- 58. Universal
- 60. Eloquently
- 62. Scantily 63. Japanese alcoholic drink

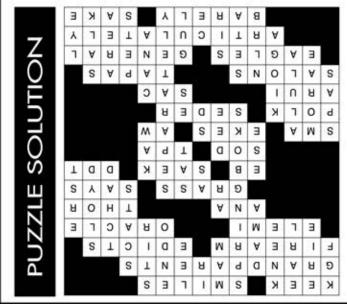
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Kilogram force (abbr.)
- 2. Lake __, one of the Great 3. Seahawks safety Thomas

- 5. Gazelles 6. One's mother
- 7. Iridium
- 8. Comics writer Stan
- 9. Within
- 10. Excite
- Long-legged gazelle 13. Leaves
- 16. African nation 17. System of handcraft-based
- education
- 20. Formerly (archaic)
- 22. Argon
- 25. Equally 26. Standardized test

- 27. Not part of

- 29. Midway between east and southeast
- 31. Native American tribe
- 34. Marlins infielder Gordon 36. Places to relax
- 37. Phonology units
- 38. Bastard wing 40. South Dakota
- 43. Lake in Uganda 45. Spanish be
- 48. Town in Galilee 50. Mediation counsel
- 51. Hair-like structure
- 53. Domesticated animals
- 54. Region
- 55. He cured polio 57. Title of respect
- 58. Carpet design 59. Strongly alkaline solution
- 61. Cerium





Here's How It Works:

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

| 3 | 2 | ļ | Þ | 9 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2 | | | | | |
| | | | _ | | | | | |
| | | | 7 | | | | | |
| 9 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 | Þ | 2 | L |
| 9 | ε | 2 | 6 | 1 | Þ | L | G | 8 |
| Þ | L | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| | | | g | | | | | |
| 2 | 9 | 9 | 8 | Þ | L | 3 | L | 6 |



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Police Log

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

12:03-12:08 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:16 a.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), verbal warning; 12:33-3:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:17 a.m.: disable mv (Gardner Road), secure; 3:18-6:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:37 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Memorial Drive), secure; 8:28 a.m.: investigation (Spruce Street), report taken; 8:44 a.m.: parking violation (Central Street), spoken to: 9:45 a.m.: ambulance (Ingleside Drive), transported; 10:04 a.m.: mental health issue (Center Lane), no service necessary; 10:22 a.m.: summons service (Spruce Street), served; 10:32 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 10:33 a.m.: summons service (Royalston Road South), served; 10:44 a.m.: summons service (River Street), served; 10:54 a.m.: investigation (Phyllis Road), unable to locate; 11:04 a.m.: assist citizen (High Street), spoken to; 12:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Baldwinville Road), referred to ACO; 12:58 p.m.: summons service (Spring Street), served; 2:01 p.m.: mv stop (Elmwood Road), verbal warning; 2:41 p.m.: info/general (Lincoln Avenue Extension), property returned; 3:25 p.m.: assist citizen (Spring Street), spoken to; 3:28 p.m.: assist citizen (Center Lane), report taken; 3:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:35 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 3:58 p.m.: mv stop (Front Street), citation issued; 4:33p.m.: suspicious person (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 5:26 p.m.: harassment (Banner Place), report taken; 6:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Phyllis Road), spoken to; 6:20 p.m.: fire/unknown type (Alger Street), services rendered; 6:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), spoken to; 7:56 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street), services rendered; 7:59 p.m.: mv stop (Summer Street), verbal warning; 8:03 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 8:29 p.m.: mv stop (Monadnock Avenue), citation issued; 8:48 p.m.: harassment (Central Street), report taken; 8:57 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), citation issued; 9:12 p.m.: registration check (Glenallan Street), services rendered; 11:00 p.m.: trespass notice entry (Pleasant Street), info taken; 11:05 p.m.: noise complaint (School Street), spoken to; 11:38 p.m.: ambulance (Mechanic Street), transported.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 12:04-3:17 a.m.: buildings checked,

secure; 6:24 a.m.: fire alarm (Sibley Road), services rendered; 8:12 a.m.: ambulance (Benjamin Street), transported; 10:13 a.m.: mental health issue (Front Street), arrest based on warrant; 11:05 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Spring Street), spoken to; 11:25 a.m.: accident (Winter Place), report taken; 11:39 a.m.: harassment (Old Gardner Road), unable to serve; 11:53 a.m.: keep the peace (River Street), assisted; 12:05 p.m.: fire/box alarm (Pleasant Street). false alarm; 12:27 p.m.: investigation (Oak Street), services rendered; 1:08 p.m.: civil complaint (River Street), spoken to; 1:56 p.m.: custody dispute (Goodrich Drive), assisted; 2:17 p.m.: Section 12 (Center Lane), transported; 2:46 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 5:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Pond Street), referred to court; 5:23 p.m.: assist other agency (Front Street); 5:57-6:08 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 6:21 p.m.: assist other PD (Old Gardner Road); 6:25 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 6:38 p.m.: keep the peace (River Street), assisted; 6:44 p.m.: keep the peace (Main Street), assisted; 6:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Gardner Road), returned to owner; 8:15 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), verbal warning. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

12:27 a.m.: suspicious person (Central Street), secure; 12:35-1:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:05 a.m.: assist citizen (Maple Street), spoken to; 7:20 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 7:51 a.m.: mv stop (School Street), verbal warning; 9:35 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 9:40 a.m.: ambulance (Spring Street), transported; 10:36 a.m.: property found (Central Street), returned to owner; 10:49 a.m.: mv stop (Mason Street), verbal warning; 11:20 a.m.: mv stop (School Street), verbal warning; 11:30 a.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), verbal warning; 11:48 a.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), citation issued; 11:56 a.m.: summons service (Glenallan Street), served: 12:43 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), verbal warning; 12:54 p.m.: investigation (Glenallan Street), assisted; 12:57 a.m.: larceny (Joslin Road), report taken; 1:05 p.m.: erratic operation (Glenallan Street), advised officer; 1:11 p.m.: mv stop (Grove Street), verbal warning; 3:02 p.m.: investigation (Central Street), spoken to; 3:25 p.m.: ambulance (Hospital Drive), transported; 4:00 p.m.: sex offender registration (Central Street), info taken; 4:09-4:15 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:38 p.m.: noise complaint (Hale Street), spoken to; 4:45 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 5:20 p.m.: threats (Hyde Park Drive), report taken; 5:21 p.m.: keep the peace (Front Street), spoken to; 6:34 p.m.: traffic hazard (River Street), unable to locate; 6:46 p.m.: erratic operation (Baldwinville State Road), report taken; 7:17 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 9:27 p.m.: disabled mv (River Street), spoken to; 9:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Banner Place), spoken to; 11:42 p.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive), transported.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

1:46-3:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:48 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 6:07 a.m.: disturbance (Central Street), unable to locate; 7:06 a.m.: FD call (Polly Drive), service rendered; 8:26 a.m.: FD call (Kemp Street), services rendered; 8:32 a.m.: assist other agency (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 8:59 p.m.: summons service (River Street), unable to serve; 9:26 a.m.: mv stop (High Street), verbal warning; 9:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Royalston Road North), referred to ACO; 10:33 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 10:49 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), citation issued; 12:07 p.m.: fraud (Teel Road), report taken; 12:22 p.m.: custody dispute (Goodrich Drive), report taken; 1:12 p.m.: harassment (Liberty Drive), report taken; 1:27 p.m.: traffic enforcement (School Street), services rendered; 1:29 p.m.: open door/window (Crosby Road), report taken; 1:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Oak Street), assisted: 3:07 p.m.: burglary/b&e (Woodlawn Street), report taken; 3:17 p.m.: property found (Spring Street), assisted; 3:22 p.m.: suspicious person (Beech Street), info taken; 3:57 p.m.: welfare check/general (Otter River), canceled; 5:06 p.m.: ambulance (Linden Street), transported; 5:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Monadnock Avenue), secure; 6:15 p.m.: town bylaw violation (Spring Street), report taken; 7:11 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Willoughby Avenue), report taken; 7:37 p.m.: erratic operation (West Street), referred to other PD; 7:45 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), verbal warning; 8:04 p.m.: disabled auto (Baldwinville Road), mv impounded; 8:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Winter Place), referred to ACO; 9:25 p.m.: animal abuse (Woodlawn Street), report taken; 10:09 p.m.: assist other agency

(Mechanic Street), unable to locate. **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

1:27 a.m.: burglar alarm (Summer Drive), secured bldg.; 1:40 a.m.: registration check (Central Street), services rendered; 2:00-3:29 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:52 a.m.: officer wanted (Front Street), spoken to; 8:58 p.m.: info/general (Banner Place), info taken; 10:02 a.m.: traffic hazard (Front Street), assisted; 10:26 a.m.: summons service (River Street), served; 10:32 a.m.: harassment order violation (Banner Place), report taken; 10:50 a.m.: trespassing (Railroad Street), advised officer: 10:55 a.m.: drug/ narcotics violation (Murdock Avenue), gone on arrival; 12:14 p.m.: trespassing (Central Street), info taken; 12:34 p.m.: officer wanted (River Street), secure: 12:40 p.m.: accident (Academy Street), report taken; 1:01 p.m.: burglar alarm (Memorial Drive), secure; 4:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), no service necessary; 4:59 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road) citation issued: 5:27 p.m.: suspicious person (Eagle Road), search negative; 6:08 p.m.: suspicious person (Western Avenue), search negative; 6:23 p.m.: smoke (Lakeshore Drive), fire extinguished 6:41 p.m.: ambulance (North Street), transported; 6:57 p.m.: mental health issue (Ready Drive), transported to hospital; 7:02 p.m.: illegal burn (Elm Street), services rendered; 7:23 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), spoken to; 7:27 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville Road), verbal warning; 7:36 p.m.: noise complaint (Ash Street), search negative; 7:40 p.m.: gunshots heard (Hitchcock Road), spoken to; 7:44 p.m.: harassment (Linden Street), report taken; 8:04 p.m.: noise complaint (Laurel Street), search negative; 8:34 p.m.: extra patrols (Banner Place), services rendered: 8:35 p.m.: my stop (Front Street), verbal warning;

9:02 p.m.: loitering (Memorial Drive), dispersed gathering; 9:23 p.m.: noise complaint (Hyde Park Drive), unable to locate; 11:22 p.m.: suspicious (other) (Baldwinville State Road), services rendered; 11:28 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), verbal warning; 11:45 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), citation issued.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:26 a.m.: extra patrols (Central Street), services rendered; 12:28 a.m.: suicide threats (Harris Road), spoken to; 12:31 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:00 a.m.: burglary/b&e (Spruce Street), spoken to; 1:13 a.m.: assist other agency (Tuckerman Road, Ashburnham), services rendered; 1:18 a.m.: burglar alarm (Summer Drive), secured bldg.; 2:11-2:41: buildings checked, secure; 3:56 a.m.: ambulance (School Street), transported; 9:03 a.m.: animal complaint (Cedar Terrace), referred to ACO; 9:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), referred; 10:34 a.m.: illegal dumping (Lakeview Drive), report taken; 12:30 p.m.: property damage (Cedar Terrace), William Wright, 38, 19 Cedar Terrace, Winchendon, malicious destruction of property under \$250, report taken; 1:31 p.m.: accident (Spring Street), Isaiah Allen Woodliff-Freeman, 20, 57 Millet Road, Swapscott, Mass., negligent operation of mv, report taken; 2:05 p.m.: ambulance (Joslin Road), transported; 3:31 p.m.: extra patrols (Willoughby Avenue), info taken: 3:47 p.m.: assist other agency (Maple Street), unable to locate; 3:51 p.m.: ambulance (Spring Street), transported; 4:34 p.m.: mv stop (School Street), verbal warning; 4:49 p.m.: mv stop (School Street), Tiffany Marsh, 33, 52 Vernon Street, #2L, Gardner, op w/suspended registration, uninsured my, unregistered my, report taken; 8:49 p.m.: extra patrols (Walnut Street), secure; 8:56 p.m.: warrant check (Lincoln Avenue Extension), Joshua David Paul Robichaud, 28, 53 Washington Street, #2, Gardner, arrest based on warrant; 8:57 p.m.: extra patrols (Hyde Park Drive), secure; 10:18 p.m.: burglar alarm (Memorial Drive), secured bldg.; 11:29-11:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

12:01 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road), report taken; 12:04 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:39 a.m.: animal complaint (School Street), unable to locate; 4:15 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:09 a.m.: larceny (Vine Street), report taken; 7:55 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Elm Street), child playing w/phone; 8:02 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Memorial Drive), child playing w/phone; 10:15 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 11:06 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 11:10 a.m.: custody dispute (School Street), info taken; 1:38 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), unable to locate: 2:53 p.m.: info/ general (Rice Road), spoken to; 3:26 p.m.: assist citizen (Mill Street), services rendered; 3:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), services rendered; 4:25 p.m.: traffic hazard (Monadnock Avenue) services rendered; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Juniper Street), spoken to; 5:01 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street), transported; 5:03 p.m.: disturbance (School Street), report taken; 5:11 p.m.: accident (Front Street), report taken; 5:31 p.m.: info/general (Central Street), spoken to; 6:19 p.m.: traffic hazard (Laurel Street), services rendered; 6:47 p.m.: disturbance (School Street), spoken to: 7:36 p.m.: info/general (Harvard Street), spoken to; 8:38 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), referred to other PD; 10:08-10:13 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:27 p.m.: burglar alarm (Goodrich Street), secured bldg.; 10:31 p.m.: assist citizen (Cedar Street), spoken to; 10:38 p.m.: disturbance (Cedar Street), report taken; 11:34 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), secure.



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BOS continued from page **A1**

additional help, although it only seems like one body, makes a big difference when it comes to emergency response

here in Winchendon." Smith said one additional firefighter/

EMT per shift would make it easier to respond to multiple ambulance calls and reduce the need for calling on mutual aid to help respond to those calls. 'Over the past year, we've given a

minimum of 100 calls away, just due to call volume," Smith continued. "If this additional person allows us to cover even 50 percent of those calls - to err on the lower end – I believe the revenue on that would add an additional \$40,000 coming in. It also allows for a much quicker response to emergencies."

Smith added that the additional staff would also allow the department to carry out more frequent inspections and spend more time in the community, adding many of the town's elderly residents don't like to "bother" the department in an emergency.

"The more we're out there with them," he said, "whether they see us doing more inspections, or they see us doing different programs – at the Council on Aging, at the schools, at the fairs – they feel more comfortable calling us during an emergency. This grant would allow us to have that extra person to go out into the community."

"The idea of expanding the ambulance service and not have so many calls out to other communities is a good thing for us," said Selectman Mike Barbaro. "It makes the fire department more billable. So, I think that helps offset the cost of the firefighters and EMTs. I think that's a great thing for this community. To have more people to respond quicker is key in any situation."

'If the chief didn't get a SAFER Grant, we wouldn't be sitting here looking to add three firefighters," said Town Manager Keith Hickey. "That being said. I don't believe it would be efficient to phase those three hires in. So, you're either all in or all out.'

The board ultimately voted unanimously to accept the grant.

In other action, the board voted to approve the appointment of Ken LaBrack to the Ingleside Utilization Committee.

In addition, a one-day beer and one license was granted to Christo's Place, allowing the Central Street business to sell beer outside during the Fall Festival on October 7.

The board also set hours for Trick or Treat for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31.

Finally, the date for the fall special town meeting was set for 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13, in the auditorium at Murdock Middle/High School. The warrant for the town meeting closes on Thursday, Oct. 5 at 5 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Richard L. Batt, 87

GARDNER — Richard L. Batt, age 87, of 215 Bickford Hill Road, died unexpectedly Saturday morning, September 23, 2017 in Baldwinville Nursing Home, Baldwinville.



He was born in Westfield, New Jersey on May 17, 1930, son of the late T. Howard and Helene (Parr) Batt and had lived in Gardner for 61 years. Dick worked for many years at the former Collier Keyworth

Company of Gardner as a chief engineer. He retired in 1989. Dick was a graduate of Westfield, New Jersey High School, where he played football and sports and was a member of its Sports Hall of Fame, and Purdue University.

Very involved in the Gardner community, Dick was a longtime member of First Baptist Church, where he had sung in its choir for many years. He was a member and former chairman of its executive board, its diaconate and stewardship committees. Dick had been a member and past president of the Gardner Boat Club, Chair City Club, Mononomac Sporting Club and Monadnock Council of Boy Scouts. He was a former corporator of Heywood Hospital, treasurer of the former Protestant Youth Center, former Vice President of the Board of Directors of

Baldwinville Nursing Home and former chairman of Gardner Redevelopment Authority. Dick had also been chairman of several safety committees of the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association

Dick enjoyed playing golf and had been a member of the Wednesday morning golf group at Gardner Municipal Golf Course. In his earlier years, Dick enjoyed tennis, piloting single engine planes and skiing.

His wife of 60 years, Ruth (Troeber) Batt, died in 2014. He leaves three children, Gary T. Batt of Alexandria, VA, David R. Batt and Bonnie Batt of Merrimack, New Hampshire and Linda K. Batt and John Santagada of Lawrenceville, GA, as well as five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Madelaine Grafton and a brother, T. Howard Batt Jr. Dick's family, faith and friends were most important to

Calling hours will be held Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 4 to 7 P.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon.

Private graveside services will be held Wednesday, September 27, 2017 in Green Bower Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to First Baptist Church, 14 High Street, Gardner, MA 01440 or to the charity of one's choice.

Marcelle A. Jean, 59

She was born in

WINCHENDON — Marcelle A. Jean, age 59, died unexpectedly Friday morning, Sept. 22, 2017 in Heywood Hospital, Gardner.



New Hampshire.

Gardner for many years. Marcelle went to special schools in

Mrs. Jean was involved in Winchendon schools for many years, volunteering in the third grade. She was well liked in the Winchendon community. She was a very devoted Christian and loved the Lord with all of her heart. She was a member of Church of the Redeemed. Marcelle enjoyed going to church, volunteering and spending time with her family and

her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Ernie Jean; daughters Beth Smith of Winchendon and Jessica and Eric Dewey of Gardner; brothers, Walter Smith and his wife Donna of Winchendon, Paul Smith and his wife Jane of Peabody, Eddie Smith of Fitchburg and Michael Smith of Gardner. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Patricia Montesion, Alex Melanson, Zachary Smith, Victoria Dewey and Arianna Smith and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. She was very close to her aunt Stella Staknis, who lives in Spencer. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister Mary and brother in law Bob.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017 at 1 p.m. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stoneladeau.com). The Rev. Beverly Long will officiate.

There are no calling hours

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to ruth@stonebridgepress.news



MHCC honors its support staff



MHCC Administrative Support Staff and Case Aides gathered for the event.



Our Fiscal, Information & Referral, Clerical, and COC Support Staff



Our Case Aides for our State Home Care and Senior Care Options Programs

LEOMINSTER Montachusett Home Care Corporation of Leominster recently recognized its Social Workers, Support Staff, and Nurses with a breakfast in their honor. The event was in recognition of Social Workers month March; Administrative Assistant's day in April; and Nurses month in May.

Montachusett Home Care

Corporation is a not for profit agency which helps to keep elders and disabled individuals living safely in their own homes by providing an array of community based services. For more information about MHCC services, the agency's information and referral department can be reached at 1-800-734-7312 or 1-978-537-7411.

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Monday, October 9: Center Closed for Columbus Day Tuesday, October 17: International Veteran's Chorus at 10 Wednesday, October 25: SENIOR WELLNESS DAY 9 a.m.-

Thursday, October 26: Fallon Rep 10 a.m.-noon

ONGOING

Monday: Wii Bowling at 9:30; Chair Exercise at 9:30; Yoga

Tuesday: Wii Bowling at 9:30; Pool/Card Games/ Shuffleboard

Wednesday: Market Basket at 9:15; Wii Bowling at 9:30; Yoga at 10:00; Pool/Card Games; Shuffleboard; BINGO 12:15 Thursday: Line Dancing at 10:00; Wii Bowling at 9:30; Pool/ Card Games/Shuffleboard

Friday: Painting Class 9:00—11:00 am; Peanut Auction

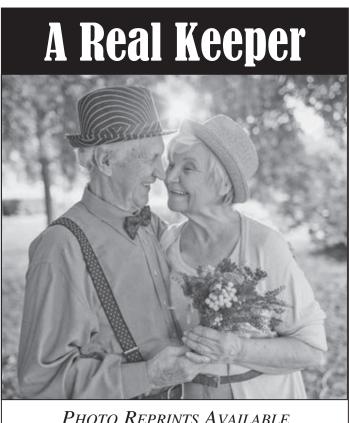


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SPORTS

After Sunday..



TALKING **SPORTS JERRY CARTON**

So, if sports and politics are supposed to be separate as we heard from some last weekend, how come baseball was segregated until 1947? How come the Boston Red Sox, the last MLB to integrate, took more than another decade to do so?

The point is, sports and politics aren't separate today and never have been. Not really. They certainly weren't separate when John Carlos and

Tommie Smith raised clenched fists at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968 and they sure weren't separate, tragically so, at the Munich Games of 1972. Nor were they separate when Ali refused military induction or when Jesse Owens participated in the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Or when Curt Flood challenged baseball. Or when Red Sox "fans" taunted Baltimore's Adam Jones earlier this season. Or, you get the idea.

What we saw across NFL stadiums last Sunday was a response to Donald Trump's inability to know when to shut up. There were bigger issues than DJT but be assured Trump threw gasoline on a smoldering fire when he went to Alabama and engaged yet again in racist garbage which may have fired up his increasingly isolated base but which also triggered a reaction from owners and players black and white alike the likes of which we hadn't seen before. Not in the NFL. Owners have tended to view players as the worker bees and nothing more. And let's not even get into the issue of doesn't a President presumably have better things to do than bash football players for exercising their First Amendment rights.

I understand a lot of white fans here in New England and across America have never been subjected to police brutality or even profiling. They haven't seen ghettos or poor people in Appalachia. Lots of them are smug sunshine patriots who never served in the military or perhaps even knew many if any African-Americans. Their world view has been severely restricted and so they fear and reflexively oppose what they don't know. They truly do want to separate their sports teams from the "real-world". But it's 2017 and that doesn't fly any-

And so for those of you who agree with Trump, or who were booing from stands or in front of your TV's, you folks need a lesson in basic civics. Those players and coaches and, yes, owners, weren't desecrating or dishonoring anything - they were in fact doing what we cherish so much - expressing their opinions in a supposedly free society and doing so

peacefully. Isn't that what our national symbols represent? Tell me again why you're mad at Bob Kraft?

Bottom line - civil rights protests tend to make a hell of a lot of white people very uncomfortable. That, in case you needed reminding, is a good thing, and yes, that means at stadiums too.

What we saw last Sunday on sports' biggest stages is going to be repeated when the NBA season opens in a month. And in other places. As well it should.

So tell me again, if sports and politics should never intersect, how come baseball was segregated until 1947?

Soccer marathon planned

BY JERRY CARTON COURIER CORRESPONDENT

On the field there was a narrow 2-1 loss to Fitchburg and a lopsided defeat against Tahanto, but the longer-range news regarding Murdock High School's soccer program was last week's announcement of a marathon fund-raiser the first weekend of November. The event will be held at the Clark Memorial YMCA fieldhouse on November 4-5 beginning and ending at 10 a.m. that Saturday and Sunday.

The fee will be \$64 for an hour of soccer with teams anticipated to be in the 7-10 player range.

"We're trying to build awareness for our soccer program," said girls varsity coach Jason Marshall. "We want to get people interested in coming out to watch the games.

"I'd like to do this (marathon) as a kickoff to the season in August but we're going to pilot it this fall and if it goes well, next year we will be trying for the middle of August," noted Marshall.

Marshall explained how it would

"We are having players from the boys and girls teams collect donations. Their goal is to raise enough for new goals, warm-ups or other soccer improvements.

"People will be able to register teams for any time slot during those 24 hours. We're going to try and get teams from all age ranges to play from the community," said Marshall, who added the Clark's fee is "bare-bones, covering one worker.'

Marshall told his team if it meets the initial fund-raising goal of \$4,000, he'll play the full 24 hours. If the Lady Devils meet the second goal of \$5k, he and assistant coaches Alex Burke and Brian Pfeifle will both play the entire time as well.

The Boosters will be providing food and drinks.

Murdock had taken the lead against Fitchburg when Maria Polcari scored on an assist from Lexi Pare at the 35 minute mark but the Lady Red Raiders rallied for a couple of tallies early in the second half to triumph. "It was a good

effort," noted Marshall.

Tahanto proved to be a tough opponent but despite the shutout, Marshall found silver linings. "The girls had periods of play that looked good. They are starting to put together passes and working the ball up the field. We were also able to get extended playing time for newer players to build up their soccer experience.

"Player of the match went to Kaileen Fir. She did good work at midfield and was confident with the ball."

Marshall acknowledged goal-keeping remains an issue for MHS.

"Brian (goal coach Pfeifle) has his work cut out for him.'

United Sport program gets under way

BY GREG VINE COURIER CORRESPONDENT

United Sports Program, a sports program for children with special needs ages 4 and older kicked off over the weekend at the soccer field across from the Jason Ritchie Ice Arena at the Winchendon School. About three dozen people, including children and their volunteer "buddies" gathered for a soccer game under blue skies and a hot, early fall sun. A good crowd of parents and spectators sat on the sideline, cheering on the partici-

Sports for kids will change with the seasons.

The program is open to from Gardner, children Winchendon, and the Narragansett Regional School District. While a \$20 donation to help cover costs is requested, it is not mandatory for children to participate and no one away for financial reasons.

The remaining schedule of games is October 1, 8, 22, and 29, and November 5 and 12. November 12 will also be marked with a celebration for

everyone involved.

Anyone interested in registering a player/participant or to register as a high school/ adult buddy should go to http:unitedsportsprogram.weebly.com.

Adult and Winchendon School volunteer buddies include: Alix Always, Alyana, Anne Robinson, Anthony Haimila, Anya Gat al Jain, Chloe Ballentine, Dmitry Kolesnikof, Emily Fluet, Freddy Herf, Jace LeClair, Jacob Clancy, Jacques Delorme, James Corcoran, Jamieson Rushia, Justin

Keira Columbus, Alves, Lauren Ward, Lorenzo Catto, Maggie Cunningham, Mary Lee Harrington, Miranda Jennings, Nora Coxall, Patrick Englehardt, Seth Barrett, Suji Kim, Tianna Lloyd, Topias Travis Heap, and Zachary Valliere.

The committee coordinating the United Sports Program iranda Jennings, Dir. of Service Learning, Winchendon School; Justin Alves, Service Learning Leader, Winchendon School; Set Barrett, Service Learning Leader, Winchendon School;

Dawn Casavant, Vice President of External Affairs and Chief Philanthropy Officer, Winchendon School; Chris Casavant, Superintendent, Narragansett Regional School District; Suzanne Michel, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, Winchendon School District; Jacques Delorme, Foreign Language Department Head Winchendon School and Joyce West, Assistant Director of Admissions, Winchendon School.



FESTIVAL

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Winchendon Garden Club, Cub Scout Pack 193, the Winchendon Fire Department, Winchendon Springs Lake Association, Winchendon Lions Club, Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue, Winchendon Babe Ruth Softball, and several others. The Winchendon Health Center and Mount Wachusett Community College will also be on hand.

"Central Street is just going to be packed," said Robillard.

Among the events planned is a car show, sponsored by Mathieu Ford, which will be held in the parking lot at Rite Aid. Anyone is free to display a car. To be eligible for one of the prizes being awarded, a \$15 fee is required.

The newly-formed Toy Town Project band will be performing on the grounds of the Clark Memorial YMCA. The band's performance is slated to take place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Band drummer and spokesman Dave LaPointe said the performance will begin with a performance by the acoustic duo, Fat Fingered Freddie. LaPointe said plans also call for solo acoustic artists to be performing at each end of

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Central Street throughout the day.

Also at the Clark, Winchendon Police Department K-9 Clyde will put on demonstrations at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Students from the Dance Center will perform, and the Gill-based Skeleton Crew Theater will also put in an appearance.

More than just a performance, Skeleton Crew will provide fairgoers with a unique experience.

All businesses along Central Street will be open during the event. In addition to Mathieu Ford, other businesses not located on Central who will be participating include the Glenn Café and Smith's Country Cheese. In addition, Christo's Place will be running a beer garden.

A touch-a-truck event will take place in the Central Plaza parking lot. Robillard said vehicles from the police and fire departments and the public works department will be on display, as well as a number of tractors.

Because Central Street will be shut down, patrons of Belletete's will be able to access the store from Maple Street via Linden and Pond Streets. People headed to Rite Aid will be directed down Juniper Street.

While parking will be allowed on side streets, people are encouraged to park at the Ingleside property. A shuttle between Ingleside and downtown Winchendon will be provided. In addi-

the parking lot at CVS will be for pharmacy customers only.

The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Audit findings may benefit Massachusetts veterans

BOSTON — Auditor Suzanne M. Bump released an audit of the Department of Veterans' Services, in which she provides recommendations to improve outreach to veterans who may qualify for benefits and assistance from the agency. The audit found that inter-governmental silos and a lack of data created barriers that result in veterans not receiving benefits for which they are qualified.

Bump's audit notes that DVS could improve outreach to veterans through veterans' services officers by utilizing data collected by other state agencies. For example, currently, DVS uses US Census Bureau data to estimate the statewide population of veterans, however it does not obtain information on veterans in individual

communities. The audit notes that the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth collects data on veterans in individual communities, which DVS could provide to VSOs to ensure they are reaching these populations.

Additionally, the audit encourages DVS to explore opportunities to better collaborate with other state agencies that provide public benefits to residents of the Commonwealth to ensure it is reaching veterans. The audit highlights MassHealth as a potential partner for DVS. MassHealth provides its members the opportunity to self-identify as veterans. The audit shows that of the 13,679 MassHealth members who identify as veterans, only 1,460 also receive Chapter 115 veteran benefits. However, analysis by Bump's office notes that 7,938 of the remaining MassHealth members who identify as veterans may also qualify for veterans' benefits administered by DVS, but do not currently receive them.

"Whether they are assisting with a natural disaster within our borders, or protecting freedom around the globe, veterans have served and sacrificed bravely in our name. It is our responsibility to ensure that when they return home, they receive the assistance and care they deserve," Bump said. "Our audit found that a lack of data sharing, and inter-governmental silos present barriers to efforts to reach veterans who may qualify for services. I encourage the Department of Veterans' Services to expand collaboration with other state government entities to ensure veterans are aware of the benefits that are available to them."

According to U.S. Census data from 2015, there are more than 327,900 veterans living in Massachusetts, representing approximately 6.1 percent of the state's adult population.

The audit is part of a series conducted by Bump's office identifying barriers to accessing programs that make up the Commonwealth's social safety net. Earlier this year, as part of this effort, Bump released an audit of the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund, which found delays in application processing resulted in families waiting on average 289 days to receive financial assistance for costs associated with a child's illness.

The recent audit released also found DVS made improper reimbursements to cities and towns, did not ensure veterans received an explanation of their benefits, and some VSOs did not complete required training and certification examinations.

DVS is an agency within the state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services. It is tasked with assisting and advising veterans' service officers regarding benefits and services for which veterans may be eligible. During the audit period — July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016 — DVS had approximately 65 employees.

INSPECTION

continued from page ${f A1}$

still wall mounted cameras, one work station mounted camera, and one hand held. In addition, each work station will have to have what the Commonwealth calls a "Robust Workstation" which includes two printers and even tablets for field staff who may make an unannounced physical appearance.

The new computers and software provide what the Commonwealth details as "Improved sticker technology to prevent fraud."

Costs absorbed by any Massachusetts certified inspection stations are listed by Mass DOT as an average of \$5,710. However, many stations around the Bay State have reported costs ranging from as much as from \$6K to \$10,000 with the higher amount being the average for inspection stations which also provide inspections for CDL style heavy equipment.

At this time, the current fee and cost of \$35 will remain the same for Massachusetts residents when attempting to obtain a new inspection sticker. Under the divisions of the fee, the inspection station keeps \$23.50 of the fee for administering the entire test; the Commonwealth retains \$10.16 of the cost, and also pays the state contractor Applus \$1.34 for each sticker, which fee is reduced to 43¢ for each additional inspection sticker issued after the 4.4 million sticker average. All figures were provided on-line by Mass DOT.

With the new technology and cameras installed in all inspection stations, vehicle owners who previously thought they had "friends" in garages which potentially assisted with skirting some laws will now be in for quite an awakening.

As an example, any vehicle with excessive window tenting which allows less than 35 percent of light inside, vehicles with excessive ride height, along with the lack of a legally required factory installed catalytic converter will now be more likely to be rejected by stations which may have formally looked the other way as a camera could possibly

start viewing an inspection at any time. License plates will also now be under more scrutiny, as vehicle inspectors will now have a stronger obligation to fail vehicles which have older plates which do not meet the "reflective legal requirement." Such example would include the older and often worn Massachusetts plates which use green numbers or letters against a white background. Those with "license plate frames" should also remove them before going for a sticker, as it could be a potential automatic failure.

In addition, under the new system, inspections will be "timed" by the required software allowing auditors to search and spot patterns for the thoroughness of the inspection, or lack thereof. As the required cameras will also take photos of the vehicles at different angles, inspectors issuing the test for the sticker will also be required to take photos of the vehicles odometer. VIN number, and license plates with a handheld camera.

Those on fixed incomes such as many of the elderly, or other financial limitations may now also feel the pinch. Vehicles excessive rust which is a test failure can no longer be overlooked. If a vehicle potentially requires one or \$2,000 in body work to obtain a sticker and was valued at no more than that, the vehicle would almost essentially be rendered worthless.

For inspections of CDL style heavy equipment such as a tractor or dump style truck which already take considerable time and may take a little longer under the new test, many garages around the commonwealth which previously charged a "flat rate" will now begin charging hourly for inspection stickers due to the time required.

Andy Brooks of Brooks Automotive who has operated his business with a repair garage and inspection station since 1981 said, "This is now the fourth inspection change I have seen since I went in to business. Others were much more costly. We are a different class of station as we give out both regular motor vehicle inspections and heavy equipment inspections, so our cost as a business to be in compliance with the new system and requirements was about \$9.500."

Brooks when asked how in depth the rules and regulations are for motor vehicle inspections presented a 630 page inspection book, along with a book for commercial vehicles, non-commercial vehicles, and even school buses with nine passengers or less saying, "It's a library of its own."

Brooks also said, "Some days busier than others. Some days we may do just three stickers a day, and sometimes we will do up to 50 stickers a day. It can vary considerably from the first of the month, last of the month, and different times of the year."

Previous new equipment requirements by the Commonwealth for inspections have included using a dynamometer for emissions which then cost garages \$50,000. Brooks describe the new requirements as "If this new system last even seven years, it's not that much of a burden on us if we manage it right during our volume of stickers versus our payments on the machine. It's part of the business that comes out and just like towing; it's part of the business as one big business. I have always used the phrase of 'if you just did stickers, would you make any money?' It would be tough. If Cumberland Farms only sold milk, would they make any money? They have to sell it all."

Looking at the implementation of the new system Brooks said, "The reason I think they are doing this new system is because there are people out there doing improper inspections. We try to do our very best to give everybody a fair and due proper inspection."

Brooks went on to say, "Ninety percent of people who live in Winchendon work out of town, and have to have transportation. If they have a car where the value isn't very high, that car is worth more to them than it is anybody else and may be all they can afford. We try to see what that car needs within reason, to keep them up and running safely. If they have a car that's only worth \$1,000 and it needs \$700 to make it safe, you can't find a car for \$700 so maybe it will last you another year. We would be willing to give a quick free visual inspection for items such as rust to help you decide if the vehicle is worth fixing or not."

In closing Brooks said, "In terms of the system it's really no different than before, they just have means of monitoring it more closely, and it will turn the improper inspections, in to hopefully more proper inspections.'

continued from page A1

Adversely fentanyl is as light as confectionery sugar, and is easy to become air born and either spread or inhaled. With just this data alone, the risk to officers entering a potential crime scene is greater than ever.

Due to the increasing frequency of exposure to these extremely deadly narcotics and other situations, companies like 24 Trauma of Massachusetts, which deals with everything from trauma and crime scene cleaning, to bedbugs, hoarder locations, unattended deaths, police cruiser cleanups and much more, have been busy. With the donation of the kits valued at about \$50 each, officers now have the reassurance of knowing if needed, their physical bodies will be far better protected against the chance encounter of these deadly substances.

Currently, the WPD has 14 full time and two part time officers. Officers will receive

roughly 1.5 hours of training cer returns home after their the money in their budget to our commitment to helping on the proper application and

usage of the kits. As explained by 24 Trauma Director of Sales and Marketing Kerry Gilmore, training is provided to officers for the proper application and removal of the personal protection equipment, which is only intended for a limited time of use if needed under the threat of exposure. Certain combinations of several kinds of gloves are applicable depending on potential exposure to bodily fluids and bloodborn pathogens, or chemicals either involved in the making of narcotics or narcotic itself in either power, liquid, or pill form.

Both Gilmore and fellow sales associate Haley Convertino also explained the extreme caution exercised and necessary during removal

of the protection gear once worn, as even the slightest mistake causing skin or inhalation contact could still place the officer in a possibly fatal situation, or even result in cross contamination when the offi-

shift. "There was an incident with an officer on the South Shore where an officer's life was put in danger while taking the gloves off, and actually touched his own skin on another part of his body and had to be rushed to the hospital for exposure to the life threatening narcotics," said Gilmore with Convertino adding, "These kits are only for short term exposure and officers should not prolong their exposure, just do what you have to do and get in and get out.'

When asked what kind of reactions 24 Trauma has received from police departments they have donated the kits to Gilmore said, "They have been really appreciative. Many departments don't have

purchase things like this, So, it's really nice we can offer this stuff to keep the officers protected. We have donated these kits to departments that we have relationships with, so this is part of marketing and we are giving back to those people who we get business from. and helping to make sure they are safe out there in the field and don't take anything home with them during the day. We have a relationship with at least three-quarters of the departments in Massachusetts alone."

Since the beginning of 2017, 24 Trauma has donated the PPE Kits to over 100 New England police departments as part of its coverage and services offered.

"The best part of our job is

police and 1st responders do their job safely" said Gilmore.

WPD Chief David Walsh said, "There was a recommendation from the Chiefs of Police Association that all departments get on board with having these kits in their primary patrol vehicles. Chelsea was the first, and many quickly followed.'

In closing Walsh said, "The chance of exposure has increased significantly, and the need for the protection such as these kits provide is paramount. It helps put me at least a little at ease that there is any kind of protection for our officers, and I appreciate that 24 Trauma was able to provide these kits to our department and officers at no cost and we thank them for this.'



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MHCC recognizes hard work of staff

LEOMINSTER—Montachusett Home Care Corporation of Leominster recognized its social workers, support staff, and nurses with a breakfast in their honor in recognition of Social Workers month in March; Administrative Assistant's day in April; and Nurses month in May.

 $Montachusett\,Home\,Care\,Corporation$ is a not for profit agency which, helps to keep elders and disabled individuals living safely in their own homes by providing an array of community based services. For more information about

MHCC services, the agency's information and referral department can be reached at 1-800-734-7312 or 1-978-537-7411.

MHCC staff serve consumers in the following towns in the north central Massachusetts area: Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Princeton, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Westminster, and Winchendon.

Courtesy photo



MHCC nurses were gathered for the event.

nchendo

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

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HELP WANTED

PART TIME HOUSEKEEPER Monday-Friday 7am-noon; Please send resumes to 172 Ash St, Winchendon, MA 01475 Attn. Scott St. Hilaire or fax to 978-297-2630

BROADVIEW ASSISTED LIVING

Hiring for Activities Assistant: Broadview Assisted Living is seeking an enthusiastic and energetic person to fill our 32-hour a week position Sunday through Wednesday 9:30am-5:30pm. The position would be carrying out daily activities within both our traditional living setting and the memory care setting with our 60+ residents. We are looking for someone who has experience with seniors and is willing to provide recommendations for activities with the residents.

For more information and how to apply call: (978) 297-2333 or visit www. broadviewassistedliving.com

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

HELP WANTED

Gas attendants at Valero. Inquire at Valero to fill out an application. On site. Flexible hours. For information call (978) 320-6375. TFN

JOB SEEKERS

Job Seekers Networking Group hosted by North Central Career Center and Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce. Meetings are open to all job seekers and are held on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Chamber conference room, 29 Parker St. 2nd floor, Gardner. Contact the Chamber at (978) 632-1780.

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.news

FOR RENT ROOMS FOR RENT

Downtown Winchendon, immediate ecupancy: located on second floor in secured, peaceful, friendly, well maintained, quiet & drug free building. Independent group of older gentlemen to co-habitat, hallway & bath facilities are shared. 1 parking space, dumpster use, heat/HW included, electric included (except AC in summer). \$475 per month. References, income verification, first & last to move in. Applications available: Dick's Place Barbershop, 298 Central St. (978) 297-2281.

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

YARD SALES

CAC: Winchendon's Community Action Center will hold a yard sale tomorrow, Sat., Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the CAC on 273 Central Street. The event is open to the community and representatives from the CAC will be available to provide information and answer questions about the services the agency provides. Sale spaces remain available for \$10 and can be reserved by calling the CAC today (978) 297-1667 or simply by showing up tomorrow though vendors are advised unsold items must be removed. Vendors are also advised to bring a table and awning. The yard sale will take place rain or shine.

HUGE 5-DAY YARD SALE: October 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. every day. 117 School St., Rindge (near center of Rindge just off Rte. 119). Items added every day! Furniture, household goods, glassware, dolls, yard equipment, car parts, too much to list.

Multi-Family Yard Sale: Saturday, Sept. 30. 8am-2pm at 60 Oak St Winchendon. Clothing - multiple sizes, boys, girls, teen, women's, men's. Women's Professional clothing (Kaspar & other name brands) Winter Coats, Horse Tack & Blankets, Sports Memorabilia including Nascar cars in BOX, Working TVs, electronics, Seasonal decorations, housewares, NEW SHEETS in package and MORE!

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

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT **WANTED!! TO COVER LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS EVENTS ETC** 2-3 STORIES **PER WEEK** \$25 PER STORY **EMAIL LETTER OF INTEREST AND WRITING SAMPLE TO: RUTH@** STONEBRIDGEPRESS. **NEWS FOR MORE**





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Academy is evolving

BY JERRY CARTON

The Murdock Academy for Success has something of a different look this year but the mission itself? That hasn't changed at all as the program remains something of a lifeline for students who would be significantly less likely to graduate high school without it. Whether at its original site in the old Marvin school on Ash Street or on the main campus as has been the case since last year, helping kids navigate what can be treacherous academic waters is what the MAS is all about.

This fall though, teachers in

studies - Peter Birney; science Dylan Gamache; English -Stephanie Rondeau, and Math - Laurel Johansen) are delivering their 'product' face-to-face in the classroom.

"That gives me a better feel for how they're grasping it and lets me be able to help them more," remarked Gamache.

"It's much more individualized because of the small class sizes," pointed out Rondeau, who also has the advantage of having known a number of MAS students from teaching them in middle school.

Social studies courses include US and world histo-

the four core subjects (social ry. biology, chemistry, and environmental sciences make up the MAS science curriculum. Algebra and geometry are included in math while ninth and tenth graders will be getting writing instruction and 11th and 12th graders will focus on resume writing, cover letters, career exploration and SAT preparation.

Academy director Kris Provost said he's very comfortable with this new set-up.

"It's a real asset to have subject teachers in the classroom. This enables them to hopefully develop a good rapport with the students and be able to assist students right away," he noted.

"Importantly, the kids have embraced it," observed Provost.

That's not all that's changed. This year there's a separate room for upper-classmen.

'Being away from the younger kids who aren't as focused is a good thing," maintained senior Isaiah Wilson. "Here, we can focus better on things like getting ready to apply to college.'

Added senior Jacob Wheeler, "I like that we have our own space. I feel like that makes a difference for us.'

Paraprofessional Becky Benedict, whose college degree focuses on child advocacy

("she's indispensable," says Provost) agrees.

"We felt like it was an important thing to do for them - their academic issues are often different from those of younger students with different prior-

At the same time, MAS students continue to interact with their mainstream peers. Wheeler and several others are among those taking the garage band class created by principal Ralph Olsen and music teacher Aly Galipeau after no one signed up for the percussion class elective.

"I'm having a lot of fun," he

Gobi announces recycling grants to local communities

BOSTON - Senator Anne M. Gobi and I want to thank Governor Baker (D-Spencer) has announced that thirteen communities in the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, & Middlesex district were awarded funding through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant program. These grants will help communities within the district maximize their recycling, composting and waste reduction programs in an effort to create a greener environment.

These grant funds will assist communities across the Commonwealth reduce their solid waste footprint and meet waste reduction goals," said Senator Gobi. "Massachusetts has always taken the lead on sustainability

and Lt. Governor Polito for their support of this program.'

Twelve communities were awarded funding through the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP):

Ashby: \$5,250 Athol: \$3,500 Barre: \$3,500 East Brookfield: \$2,800 Hubbardston: \$500 North Brookfield: \$3,850 Petersham: \$2,800 Phillipston: \$2,800 Spencer: \$4,550 Sturbridge: \$6,300 Warren: \$3,500 Winchendon: \$4,200

The twelve communities that earned RDP payments must reinvest the funds in their recycling programs for things such as new recycling bins or carts, public education and outreach campaigns, collection of hard-to-recycle items and the establishment of recycling programs in schools, municipal buildings and other public spaces.

As part of the SMRP, communities that did not receive an RDP grant will be awarded a "Small-Scale Initiatives Grant." These population-based grants range from \$500 to \$2,000 each and help communities purchase modest, but critical recycling materials and outreach tools needed to sustain their existing recycling program or to facilitate new,

low-cost initiatives.

One community was awarded funding through the Small-Scale Initiatives

Charlton: \$1,000

The RDP was a new initiative rolled out in 2014 under MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, which was created by the Green Communities Act of 2008. The Act requires that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates (WECs) be directed to recycling programs approved by MassDEP.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Senator Gobi's office at (617) 722-1540.



Sally Dodge

Athol Savings Bank appoints Dodge as assistant vice president of deposit operation

Athol Savings Bank appoints Dodge as assistant vice president of deposit operation

ATHOL — Daniel J. Zona, president and CEO of Athol Savings Bank, announced at its Trustees' meeting the appointment of Sally Dodge as assistant vice president of deposit operations. She will have the primary responsibility of overseeing daily functions of the deposit operations department.

'Sally Dodge has been a vital part of the ASB team for 26 years and we're

pleased to recognize Ms. Dodge with the designation of assistant vice president," said Zona.

Dodge, a life-long Athol resident, joined Athol Savings Bank in August of 1991 and quickly rose to the position of senior accountant. Prior to her promotion, Dodge held the title of deposit operations officer.

Athol Savings Bank is a 150 year old,

full-service mutual savings bank with its headquarters located in Athol. The bank maintains an online presence at www.atholsb.com and through its mobile app. The bank has eight offices located in the communities of Ashburnham, Athol, Baldwinville, Barre, Gardner, and Winchendon.

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

to JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA, dated March 21, 2013 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 50761, Page 39 subsequently assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association by JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 52902, Page 7 and subsequently assigned to MTGLQ Investors, L.P. by Federal National Mortgage Association by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 57379, Page 162; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on October 13, 2017 at 255R Main Street, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER, STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWN OF WINCHENDON, WORCESTER COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 42447, PAGE 120, ID# 7A4-0-34, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS METES AND BOUNDS PROPERTY. RECORDED LAND IN COUNTY WORCESTER, SOUTHERN DISTRICT KNOWN AS; 255R MAIN STREET, WINCHENDON, MA 01475 BYFEESIMPLEDEED FROM ADAM B. BROOKS AND CRYSTAL L. BROOKS FKA CRYSTAL L. CLOUTIER AS SET FORTH IN BOOK 42447 PAGE 120 DATED 02/22/2008 AND RECORDED 02/22/2008, WORCESTER COUNTY RECORDS, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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) By virtue and in execution of the in the form of a certified check, bank Power of Sale contained in a certain treasurer's check or money order will tion. Said property is located in the Lamothe's land ten (10) rods to a stake Mortgage given by Thomas S. Killmon 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. MTGLQ Investors, L.P.

Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys, **ORLANS PC** PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 16-012724 September 22, 2017

September 29, 2017

October 6, 2017

Town of Winchendon Zoning Board of Appeals

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wed., October 18, 2017 at 7:05 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, 2nd Fl., 109 Front St., Winchendon, MA 01475, on the request for a Variance submitted by Jared Maxfield of 179 Laurel St. Winchendon MA 01475 for property located at 179 Laurel St., Winchendon, MA 01475, identified Winchendon Assessors Map 8A1 Parcel 50, and owned by the same, to hear an application for a Variance for zoning relief per Article 7.2. of the Winchendon

Zoning Bylaw. The request seeks relief

from the southern portion of the lot of 6 feet, to construct a 24' x 30' addiof the application is available at the Dept. of P&D, Winchendon Town Hall. All interested persons should plan to attend. Reasonable accommodation for disabled parties can be made by contacting the department during business hours, (978) 297-3537 at least three days in advance. The Town of Winchendon is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cynthia Carville, Chair Winchendon Zoning Board of Appeals September 29, 2017 October 6, 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 Christopher A. Caouette and Bethany L. Snow to New Century Mortgage Corporation, dated March 8, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38524, Page 249 of which mortgage Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee, for New Century Home Equity Loan Trust 2006-1 is the present holder by assignment from New Century Liquidating Trust successor in interest to New Century Mortgage Corporation to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee, for New Century Home Equity Loan Trust 2006-1 dated December 17, 2012 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50187, Page 323, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 104 Elm Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 will be sold at a Public Auction at 10:00 AM on October 24, 2017, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Winchendon in the County of Worcester, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Commencing on the westerly line of Elm Street at land formerly of Nelson D. White, now or formerly of Napoleon Breton;

THENCE: Westerly on line of said Breton's land eight (8) rods to a stake

from the side setback requirement and stones at land now or formerly of Peter Lamothe:

THENCE: No. 38 3/4 E on line of said R-80 Rural Residential District. A copy and stones at land now or formerly of Orlando W. Betterley, now or formerly of Peter Diamantopoulos;

THENCE: easterly on line of said Diamantopoulos' land eight (8) rods to the westerly line of Elm Street;

THENCE: southerly on the westerly side of Elm Street ten (10) rods to the place of beginning.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38524, Page 247.

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. 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.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee, for New Century Home Equity Loan Trust 2006-1

Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Caouette, Christopher A., 15-022858 September 29, 2017 October 6, 2017 October 13, 2017





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