

Future of intermunicipal agreement on the line

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Members of the subcommittee hammering out an agreement between the towns of Winchendon and Templeton to share a chief administrative officer last week agreed on the final wording of the proposed pact. The future of the agreement is now in the hands of the Templeton Board of Selectmen and the voters of Winchendon, who will consider the accord at a town meeting late this fall.

Town Manager Keith Hickey told the subcommittee at its Sept. 14 meeting that while it's likely the question will be put before the traditional fall town meeting, it's not out of the question that a special town meeting could be called specifically to consider the arrangement.

Templeton selectmen, who have already expressed support for the agreement, may take a final vote on the pact at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 25. The board reportedly has no plans to put the proposal before voters at a town meeting.

Winchendon selectmen were to hold a meeting on Wednesday of this week, several hours after this publication's deadline, to consider whether to endorse the plan. Board members have, at several meetings, been peppered with questions and concerns from residents worried about the impact of the plan on Winchendon. Most have expressed a belief the town has little to gain.

It's anticipated that Hickey would move into the shared position if the agreement receives the approval of both communities.

Under the plan, Hickey would make \$156,250 in the first year of the agreement, which is set to run for two years, until June 30, 2020. Under the 60/40 plan, Winchendon would pay \$93,750 of that amount, while Templeton would chip in \$62,500.

The proposal also provides Hickey a \$3,600 car allowance. Associated costs include just under \$5,250 for health insurance, \$1,864 in Medicare costs, and \$84.60 for life insurance. These costs would also be split according to the agreement.

The subcommittee also

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Courtesy photos

Members of the Knights of the Inferno MC present a check to Murdock Middle School Principal, Jessica Vezina along with many of our Special Olymplians holding the check.

Knights in shining leather

WINCHENDON — The Knights of the Inferno Motorcycle Club (MC) is an international MC with its Mother chapter out of New Jersey. The MC has clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Germany and Switzerland. Winchendon is the home of the "Ironsides" Chapter (MA1). MA1 is the first chapter in the state of Massachusetts. The club members include fire fighters and military members, both active and retired and also select associated members. The Ironsides chapter was chartered in November of 2014. Frank "Boss" McKinnon is the MC president.

The Knights of the Inferno MC has chosen two local causes to support and fund-

raise for. This year the Knights of the Inferno MC held a charity golf tournament with all proceeds being donated to the "Wreaths Across America" program. The program ensures that a wreath is placed on every veteran's grave marker in the Massachusetts State Veteran's Cemetery here in Winchendon in December.

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Improv with a garage band...no sweat

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — When the school year began a couple weeks back, not a single student signed up to take an elective in percussion. Not one. But was music teacher Aly Galipeau discouraged?

If she was, there wasn't time to dwell on it because after huddling with Principal Ralph Olsen, just like that, Murdock High School found itself with a garage band class.

"Ralph said 'we have to do something and we had to call it 'something','" recalled Galipeau, "and 'something' turned out to be the garage band and I thought, 'I can teach this. It's our own little School of Rock'."

She laughed, adding, "Yes, I was a little apprehensive at first. This was something we'd never quite done before and



Greg Vine photo

The Garage Band under the direction of Murdock music instructor Aly Galipeau includes (l-r) Jeremy Diaz, Jacob Sargent, Kalib Montgomery, Andrew Cormier, Jackson Higgins, Ethan Brodeur, Zachary Cardarelli, Jacob Packard, and Jaden Ayres

you never know how it's going to go, but here we are."

Three students signed up for starters, then several more from the Murdock Academy



LOCAL

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SPORTS

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WEEKLY QUOTE

Behavior is what a man does, not what he thinks, feels, or believes.

Emily Dickinson

Fidelity, Colonial Co-op to merge

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Leominster-based Fidelity Bank and Gardner-based Colonial Co-Operative Bank have agreed on a merger that will create a financial institution in northern Worcester County worth some \$870 million. Fidelity currently lists assets totaling \$800 million, while Colonial brings \$70 million to the marriage.

As part of the merger, Fidelity has committed to set aside \$500,000 for increased contributions to nonprofit groups and investments to small businesses in the Gardner-Winchendon area. The set-aside will establish a micro-loan fund – to be called the Colonial Bank Loan Fund – to provide support to the region's small businesses. It will be overseen by the Greater Gardner and North Central chambers of commerce.

While already approved by

the boards of directors of both financial institutions, it still awaits approval by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the state Division of Banks, as well as the banks' shareholders. It's expected the deal will be finalized during the second quarter of 2018.

A spokesperson for the banks said customers at the Winchendon branch of Colonial Co-op will see few, if any, changes. The spokesperson added that no change in personnel at the branch is currently anticipated and that there would be no changes to the services customers are accustomed to, adding they are likely to see added services.

Since both banks will fall under the Fidelity name, the only change Winchendon Colonial customers are likely to see is in the signage at the

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Winchendon Winds begins three-concert series

Winchendon Winds, a 40-piece professional concert band, continues its third season with a series of three concerts performed in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St.

The first of these concerts, titled "Music We Remember," will be held Sunday, Sept. 24, at 2:00 p.m. The program

will include some of the most memorable and beloved folk, patriotic and movie tunes designed to entertain audiences of all ages.

Rev. Inanna Arthen, the church's pastor, is thrilled to be hosting "Win Winds" for the second consecutive year.

"Our church, with its superb acoustics, was built

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Surprise! Town has more roads than first thought

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon selectmen learned Monday night the town is responsible for more streets and roads than anyone thought. The board was given a list of 24 roads thought to be private and, therefore, the responsibility of property owners who lived on those roads.

As it turns out, 15 of the roads had been accepted by the town as a result of votes taken at several town meetings.

Roads the town now acknowledges as being under its auspices include: King Phillip Way, Prentice Circle, Maple Place A, Maple Place B, Waite Road, Boyce Place, Beaman Court, Bruce Road, Hapgood Road, Converse Drive, Nash Road, Clark Road, Hancock Road, Hilltop Terrace, and Duval Court.

Those identified as private

roads are: Branch Street, Hillside Drive, First Street, Harrisville Road, Mellen Road, Shady Glen Terrace, Second Street, Wendell Drive, and Sunny Cove Road.

Town Manager Keith Hickey said the addition of 15 roads to the official municipal inventory could prove a benefit to the town.

"We will be updating the records with the state, MassDOT (Dept. of Transportation)," said Hickey. "With that will come some additional Chapter 90 revenues because that is based on road miles that they provide road revenues for. So, we're obviously happy to see that."

"There are a number of roads that we will now be required to maintain," he added. "I know on our discussion this evening, First and Second streets are on the discussion. Unfortunately,

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Healthy weekend food provided: backpack program is up and running

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The backpack program is back. Every Friday afternoon almost 90 students from Memorial and Toy Town elementary schools go home with a variety of healthy food for the weekend and coordinator Jennifer Haddad credits a wide range of people and organizations for the pro-

gram's success.

Launched in early 2016 Winchendon thus joined schools across the country which are also participating in the 'Feeding America Backpack Program', a national drive begun more than 15 years ago. In Winchendon, the program started at Memorial and has now expanded to include Toy Town.

The backpacks are filled on Thursdays by volunteers including a number of students from the Winchendon School and the local Key Club for distribution the next day.

"Kiwanis was an important player in helping get us started," said Haddad. "They initiated it, for which we're appreciative but we've had support from so many places," she proudly noted. "People have really come together to make the program work."

Getting so many backpacks ready to go takes a while.

"We're really excited to have the kids from the Winchendon School come down and every week and actually do the work," filling the backpacks, noted Haddad.

"We're happy to have Murdock's Key Club doing the same. It takes a slew of volunteers and it's gratifying to see these students involved," she pointed out.

But before the packs can be filled, the goods have to be found. That means donations are needed every week.

And so groups like the AE White Foundation, Brooks Automotive, Poulin Construction, the Women's Circle of Giving, the Crafty Cauldron, Eastern Propane, the Masonic Lodge and others "have been so generous," acknowledged Haddad. "Don O'Neil gives us juice every month. Larry and Victoria Barrett have been amazing. I can't emphasize enough how much we appreciate everyone who helps," she stressed.

"When we first got involved we this, I think we underestimated how much work it would be. That's when Kiwanis stepped and said, 'you need help,'" she laughed.

"They were right. We may not have gotten off the ground without them," she remarked.

Haddad specified food donations are always needed. Preferred items include microwaveable mac and cheese, spaghetti with sauce, Campbell's soup with pop tops, tuna packets, beef stew, assorted juices, vitamin water, hot chocolate, oatmeal packets, individual

cereal boxes, breakfast cereal bars such as Trix, Cheerios, and Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Quaker oats and Nature Valley granola bars, shelf-safe pudding cups, fresh whole fruit, fruit cups, and boxed and yogurt covered raisins.

She also does plenty of shopping, armed with a debit card, an online account at Wal-Mart and there have been runs to BJ's Warehouse, too.

"You never let up, but it's worth it because this is a really important program that makes a difference," Haddad said.

Next month, at the Winchendon School dining hall Kiwanis on Oct. 14, will host 'Deadly Chateau Shenanigans', a mystery tour dinner theater event to raise money. Tickets are \$45 with raffles and a cash bar also slated. All the proceeds will benefit the backpack program.

More information on the program, including how to help, can be obtained from Haddad at (978) 616-1458.

COURIER CAPSULES

FALL FAIR

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

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

NORTH ANDOVER — Merrimack College recognizes local students who have achieved dean's list for Spring 2017. Phillipston residents Gabrielle Hammond and Kylie Chartier both earned a place on the Dean's List.

Office of Senator Anne Gobi September Office Hours

Tyler Wolanin, district aide to Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) will be holding office hours throughout the district during the month of September. Constituents and town officials are invited to meet with Tyler to express any concerns, ideas and issues they have. Walk-ins are welcome, but to set up an appointment you can e-mail Tyler at tyler.wolanin@masenate.gov, or call at (508) 641-3502. Appointments are encouraged during so that information on cancellations can be shared.

Monday, September 11th

Ashby Town Hall, 10 to 11 AM
Ashburnham Town Hall, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Winchendon Town Hall, 1 to 2 PM

Tuesday, September 12th

Petersham Town Offices, 10:30 to 11:30 AM
Athol Senior Center, 12 to 1 PM
Phillipston Town Hall, 1:30 to 2:30 PM
Templeton Town Hall, 3 to 4 PM
Thursday, September 14th
Ware Senior Center, 12 to 1 PM
Palmer Senior Center, 1:30 to 2:30 PM
Monson Town Hall, 3 to 4 PM

Monday, September 18th

Hubbardston Town Offices, 10 to 11 AM
Barre Town Hall, 11:30 AM to noon
Hardwick Town Hall, 1 to 2 PM

Tuesday, September 19th

Brimfield Senior Center, 11 AM to noon
Wales Town Hall, 12:10 to 1 PM
Holland Town Hall, 1:30 to 2:30 PM
Sturbridge Town Hall, 3 to 4 PM
Wednesday, September 20th
Brookfield Town Hall, 10 to 11 AM

Thursday, September 21st

West Brookfield Senior Center, 1 to 2 PM
Warren Municipal Building, 2:30 to 3:30 PM
Monday, September 24th
Paxton Senior Center, 11 AM to noon
Spencer - Howe Village, 12:30 to 1:30 PM
East Brookfield Municipal Office Building, 2 to 3 PM

Tuesday, September 26th

Oakham Senior Center, 9:30 to 10:30 AM
North Brookfield Senior Center, 11 AM to noon
Rutland Senior Center, 12:30 to 1:30 PM
New Braintree Town Hall, 2 to 3 PM
Wednesday, September 27th
Charlton Senior Center, 10 to 11 AM



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\$285,000 35 Cardinal Ln, Patterson, Sharon L, to Karlton-Black, Lee, and Black, Mary-Helen V.
\$199,000 30 Elmwood Rd, Cartier, Sharon L, to Tribon, Christopher E, and Tribon, Renee J.
\$166,000 44 Mechanic St, Price, Kelley, and Fernandes, Carlos N, to Gendron,

Pater E, and Gendron, Rehta Y.
\$126,900 12-14 Beech St, Thompson, Douglas A, to Cesolini, Anthony S.
\$105,500 380 West St, Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Midland Ira Inc.
\$30,000 550 Hale St FMA, to Curtis, Steven B.
\$27,000 86 Gleanallen St, FHLM, to Walsh, Angie L.
\$24,000 Alger St, Urquhart, David L, to Wentworth, Robert, and Preston, Karen.

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

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CLYDE'S CORNER

Saturday, September 23

SATURDAY YARD SALE: at UU Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. From 9 a.m. to noon, come browse for unlikely treasures and unexpected bargains. Donate goods to sell or set up your own table for a modest donation to the church. Saturday Yard Sales run every other week through the summer.

TOY TOWN OUTDOOR MARKET: 126 Central St. on the lawn of the Unitarian Universalist Church, Winchendon Thursdays 4-7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, September 24

MUSIC WE REMEMBER: Winchendon Winds holds a concert of well loved and most requested pieces of concert band pieces including Shenendoah, America the Beautiful and a selection of music from Hollywood. The Win Winds returns to the Unitarian Universalist Church, 126 Central St. with the concert beginning at 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

NO INDIVISIBLE WINCHENDON: as the time conflicts with the concert. Please enjoy!

Thursday, September 28

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

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

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 commu-

nity concert band.

NO 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 Kitchen Winchendon's Community Supper is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. 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 reg-

ister 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.

Saturday, November 4

FALL FAIR: Fall Fair at the Hyde 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/bealsmemoriallibrary.

TUESDAY

WINCHENDON NA MEETING. This is a new meeting being launched with the support of the Central Massachusetts Area of Narcotics Anonymous. Led by Winchendon residents, Winchendon NA is an open meeting, welcoming newcomers and old-timers alike, featuring discussion, sharing and learning. If you're in recovery or want to be, and would like support, please join us. At the UU Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St, downstairs in the parish hall. Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

FRIDAY

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

ACCURACY WATCH

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

KITTY CORNER



WE'RE BOOKENDS

Adorable best friends Fran and Smokey were surrendered to the A Better Tomorrow Shelter because their family lost their home.

They have been at the shelter for a while now and sadly, we have not had many inquiries about them. Both boys are timid at first but sweet and affectionate when approached gently. They have lived together for the past 13 years in a loving home and the shelter life is stressful for them. We would love to find a quiet, peaceful home for them soon. They have lived with other cats but

would probably do best in a home without dogs or young children.

We would offer a discount on their adoption fee. They are a bonded pair and will need to be adopted together. Both boys are up to date on their vaccines, neutered, tested for FIV/Felv, and microchipped.

If you would like to meet them in person, please stop by during open hours: Wednesday 6-8pm, Saturday noon-2pm, or appointment A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats, 202 Central St. For an adoption application, please visit www.shelterforcats.org or call (774) 641-1271.



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** Minimum deposit to open and earn interest is \$500. Funds must be new to Colonial Co-operative Bank. Offer subject to change without notice. Early withdrawal penalties apply.
† FDIC insures each depositor to at least \$250,000 and the SIF insures all additional deposits.



WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI
EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Favorite time of the year

When there isn't an election making us all just a little cuckoo from the ad campaigns, the fall season can be the best time of the year. The weather isn't usually too hot or too cold; being on the cusp of a change of seasons. Yes we do get a cold day or night, and yes, a day in the 80s is absolutely possible, but the general rule seems to be mild, less humid, more human.

We in New England of course get the bonus of gorgeous landscape surrounding us too. The swamps are already red, orange, maroon and a deep purple against the most vivid yellow ever. Just which plant is which to create that riot we don't know, don't even much care, as long as the sight coming over a hill, down the long stretch and into the gap between the colors is that glorious.

The season allows us to move once more. If you are an athlete, you've most likely been enjoying the hot weather anyway, and moving right along. For some of us, the heat is too much (so is the cold, but that's a tale for another day). So we don't move as much even though it might be shiney and pretty and all that. If it is also hot and humid, then even the thought of moving rapidly in some manner makes us sweat.

We are front porch and iced tea people.

But in the fall, the weather is conducive to movement. NOW we can move the furniture around, wash down that deck, do a bit of painting, plan a different flower bed. In August, when maybe those things could have been done... they just weren't OK? We'll do them now, and actually enjoy doing them

because we have more energy and we like the taste in the air.

You know that taste. It's apples, cinnamon, that ever present pumpkin (what ELSE can they flavor with pumpkin anyway. Heaven help you if you don't like that squash...)

Pumpkin, by the way, is a fruit, not a vegetable. How do we know? The tried and true old wives' tale way is this: If you can see the seeds, it's a fruit; if you can't, it's a vegetable. Think carrots and apples. Apricots and asparagus. Yup, under that criteria, those messy innards make pumpkin a fruit.

Sorbet next?

The real chores will begin soon, because we do know "Winter is Coming."

Ours may not be 23 years long, but it is what it is, and soon will be here whether we are ready or not. So those people who must deal with separate storm windows, or clean their gutters or add winterization in any manner... now is the time to start. Putting a garden to bed, changing to snow tires, digging out the ice scrapers, finding gloves and mittens and scarves and boots and...

Wait, just wait.

Can't we just enjoy this weather, right now? This season, this milder, less moist, less stressful, awesome time? Sure the birds are flocking, remaking acquaintances they haven't seen all summer in preparation for the big family trip, but right now they are in the trees out back calling to one another, singing, making our day.

We think the porch is calling again. The gutters can wait.

Various summer topics

In a recent column, I suggested we extend summer to include September.

I cannot say I got a lot of agreement on that.

But my summer started a month late so I was hoping for some extended time. I don't accomplish much in the summer because I am a "couch potato" but I try to read 40 books a year and I need lots of summer time to do that.

Now my wife is an athlete. She kayaks, runs, hikes, bikes and treats her fitbit as the holy grail.

Just the other day she took a 40 mile bicycle trip. I was so tired just thinking



NOTES OF CONCERN

JACK BLAIR

about it that I took a nap.

Today was her day for kayaking. Way down the bay. She loves to tell me about the eagles and osprey she sees. From my point of view, once you have seen one osprey or one eagle who needs to see more?

The talk today was of the coming eclipse. I read online that you could severely damage your eyesight if you looked at it without precautions. I had absolutely no intention of looking. So one sphere blocks out another. I should risk my eyesight to see this event? Fat chance.

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.

SOUND OFF POLICY

In addition to the Letters to the Editor section, the Winchendon Courier offers an anonymous forum allowing callers to "Sound Off" about the hot-button issues and topics in their towns. The "Sound Off" line can be reached 24 hours a day, at 978-297-0050. Names may be omitted for "Sound Off" calls only, although you may leave a name or initials. All comments should be made clearly and concisely, to minimize the potential for mistakes. Please remember that libelous comments, personal attacks and material that cannot be verified will not be published. "Sound Offs" may be sent to ruth@stonebridgepress.news, or The Winchendon Courier, 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 with "Sound Off" in the subject line. All "Sound Off" submissions are due by noon on Fridays. We look forward to hearing from you!

Faith...



JOURNEY OF THE HEART
JERRY CARTON

I've never been religious. I was always more cultural than religiously Jewish. Yes, I had a formal religious education. I went to Hebrew school, though not at all happily. I had a Bar Mitzvah. On the High Holidays, I went to temple as a kid even though in the beginning my sister and I were relegated to the children's services at Beth Israel. We did Passover seders (it was a big deal when you were chosen to ask the Four Questions) and fasted on Yom Kippur, breaking said fast with the time-honored traditions. We made a big deal of Chanukah. My sons went to religious preschools. Both a had a briss, Andy's delayed because of a hurricane. Courtney's pre-

school was secular in name but culturally Jewish in reality. She had a formal naming ceremony. I went to a college which was technically Methodist, but overwhelmingly populated by Jewish kids who grew up in the Northeast corridor between Boston and Washington. I accepted the rabbis' repeated emphasis that we were the "chosen people" but I interpreted it then and now to mean we were leaders in education, philanthropy, medicine, law, culture — not that our religion was better than others. My interpretation might have been at odds with what they were actually telling us but so be it.

So, I was never religious in the faith sense. I stopped going to temple even on the Holidays. I remember spending one Yom Kippur, the holiest, most somber day on the Hebrew calendar at Bowie race course where a horse named Jewish Princess was running and yes, winning that afternoon. Not to be flip, but the racetrack might as well have been my temple through most of my life anyway. That's

simply the truth. I surely did more praying there than anywhere else. So sue me. Besides, you didn't, and don't, have to be "religious" to be a good person and live the right way. We've all seen a whole lot of supposedly devout hypocrites out there, haven't we? I like to believe we instilled the right values in our children without preaching from any Testament old or new.

And yet. In the last 107 days, I have had people tell me that Courtney is at peace, that she is in "heaven", that I and they will see her again. Truth be told I envy the faith, the certainty which is absolutely, completely, entirely sure of that. There are days when I wish I shared it because you see, I don't know. I really don't. I have days when I grumble that you live, you die, you go into the ground and that's it. Period.

I have had a few, just a few, days when I've seen butterflies and on those days, I've mused maybe there is something afterwards out there after all.

But I don't know. By no means am I sure there is not but

by no means am I sure there is, either. I've had moments when I've heard about the goodness of God and my instinctive response has been to wonder what kind of benevolent God would have allowed this to have happened. I've had other moments when I felt that God, or whatever there is out there, is punishing me for whatever sins I've committed. Who the hell knows? That's why I have plenty of moments where I envy those whose faith is unshakable.

Unyielding faith might not be the worst thing to have because of the questions. We'll be getting the medical examiner's report very soon, in fact it's possible we'll have it by the time this column hits the streets. That report will presumably, hopefully at least, formally answer the medical questions though the medical examiner, who is diabetic himself, told us immediately the overwhelming likelihood is she went into a DKA coma and slipped away in her sleep. Still, we want to know for sure. After all, she had very high

blood pressure which was seemingly resistant to treatment. She had a heart murmur. There's a lengthy family history of cardiac issues which did not begin with mine. She, like her cohorts, was under intense stress finishing a rigorous academic program at an elite school. She had neuropathy. So, there were numerous health issues.

Additionally, there are inevitably other questions haunting me — what were those final days and hours and minutes like? What was going on? Who was she with the day before? Or that morning? Granted, knowing the answers wouldn't change anything but if I knew those answers, it might help me gain some measure of closure and acceptance. Perhaps and more to the point of this essay, if I had more "faith", I'd be less inclined to torment myself by even asking them? I don't know. I just don't.

So to those of you with unquestioned, unwavering faith irrespective of your religious affiliation — I envy you. I do. I wish I could share it.

Bigotry fades in the face of disaster

"We must never remain silent in the face of bigotry. We must condemn those who seek to divide us. In all quarters and at all times, we must teach tolerance and denounce racism, anti-Semitism, and all ethnic or religious bigotry wherever they exist as unacceptable evils. We have no place for haters in America — none, whatsoever." — Ronald Reagan

Now, anyone who knows me at all knows I was not a huge fan of Ronald Reagan, the politician. Like most Americans, however, I kind of liked Reagan, the person. Besides, when a man is right, he's right — and in this case, Ronald Reagan couldn't have been more right.

In the past two weeks, our country has been hit by two natural disasters of historic proportions. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have destroyed homes and businesses, disrupted millions of lives, ended dozens of others, wrecked local economies, and made it more expensive for nearly all Americans to drive to work each day.

We have grown accustomed over the last 14 days to seeing people in chest

deep water fleeing flooded neighborhoods, mothers and babies being lifted to safety in baskets hoisted into helicopters, and volunteers in boats cruising streets and roads normally traversed by cars and trucks, searching for people in need of help. We have seen people carrying other people on their backs to safety. We have witnessed individuals risking their lives to save the lives of strangers.

And we have seen Americans from coast to coast, from Alaska and Hawaii, reaching into their pockets to fund relief efforts. Others have sent water, diapers, socks, underwear, toothbrushes, and other necessities to their suffering countrymen and women.

Yet, through it all, never did we see those in need looking first to see if the hand extended to assist them was brown, white, or tan. Never did we hear the people extending a helping hand asking first if the person they were



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

eral or conservative, gay or straight, male, female or transgender. All that mattered was they were all neighbors, all Americans, needing and/or offering help.

In the wake of the deadly "Unite the Right" rally at Charlottesville, Virginia on August 11 (basically, a gathering of white nationalist/supremacist pinheads) and Pres. Trump's ludicrous defense of the Nazis as including some "fine people," it maybe should come as no surprise that it takes an horrific natural disaster to get people thinking straight.

You see, when responding to a life-threatening emergency there is little or no time to think. One must sim-

saving was Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, or atheist. No one asked if their rescuer — or the person serving them warm food at a shelter, or giving them a desperately needed hug — was Anglo or Latino, liberal

ply act. There is no time to question motives, no time to seek out differences, no time to preach theology or ideology, and absolutely no time — or rationale (ever) — for holding onto petty ethnic bigotry.

But being rational is not a trait that bigots can lay claim to. In fact, thinking — period — is not a trait common to racists.

If they thought at all, they would realize that skin color, country of origin, language, religious beliefs can all — for the most part — be chalked up to an accident of birth. Being white, or black, or Anglo, or Hispanic, or Asian, or gay, or straight is not really anything to be proud of. It's not like it's a goal achieved after years of hard work. It all comes down to happenstance.

You had absolutely nothing to do with it...so get over yourself!

Religion may be a bit different, but not much. Chances are you believe what you believe because your parents believed it. If your parents were Indian, chances are you'd be Hindi. Were they



Annual Casino draws crowd

From spinning money wheels to the proverbial calls of Blackjack! The annual Casino Night hosted by the Winchendon History and Culture Center at the home of Bob O'Keefe and Don O'Neil is an eagerly anticipated event. A major fundraiser for the upkeep of the two house museums maintained by the WHCC, the evening was deemed a success.

Courtesy photos



VINE

continued from page A4

Algerian, you would likely be Muslim. If they were from West Virginia, you would very probably be Baptist.

So, please, people, just accept

our most obvious differences for what they are – a chance meeting of sperm and egg, the division and multiplication of random cells, the handiwork of genes, DNA, and evolution.

You are an accident. How you decide to live your life – how you decide to treat other humans – is

not. Here's hoping you decide that respect, understanding, and a concentration on similarities, rather than differences, is the way to go.

It shouldn't take a catastrophe to make that obvious.

connect the thoughts...

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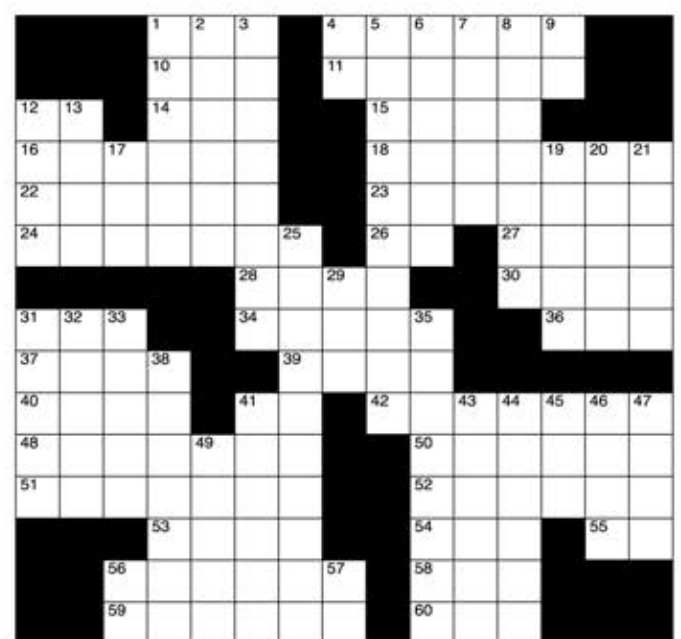
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Storage device
4. Disagree with
10. Political organization
11. Playoff appearances
12. Collection of cops
14. Balkan mountain peak
15. Island north of Guam
16. Seizure of someone's property
18. Repeat
22. Beautiful youth
23. Bullfighters
24. Charges a fare
26. Not off
27. Where skaters ply their trade
28. Meson
30. Guru
31. Cycles/second
34. Alternating turns
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Mound
39. Boxer Amir
40. Away from wind
41. Exist
42. Working man
48. British soldier
50. Scrounge
51. Upset
52. The act of escaping
53. Poet Pound
54. Confederate general
55. Midway between south and east
56. Becomes hot from the sun
58. Fictitious poet Mailey
59. Not yet purchased
60. Intersperse

CLUES DOWN

1. Bathing suit
2. Poignantly different from what was expected
3. A person with the same name as another
4. West Siberian river
5. Of the membrane lining the abdominal cavity
6. Has a positive electric charge
7. Fish-eating mammal of the weasel family
8. Offerers
9. Spanish be
12. Chilean province Capitan
13. Father
17. Pestilence
19. Songs
20. Grilling tools
21. Long, winding ridge of sand and gravel
25. Court game
29. _kosh, near Lake Winnebago
31. Variety of beet
32. Caps
33. Rides in the snow
35. Took without permission
38. Tall stand to hold books
41. Spanish neighborhood
43. Spanish dance
44. Countries of Asia
45. Make fun of
46. Elk Grove High School
47. Network of nerves
49. Greek apertifs
56. Unit of volume
57. South Dakota



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SUDOKU

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

Level: intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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

POLICE LOG

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12:08 a.m.: info/general (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 12:16-2:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:55 a.m.: registration check (Harvard Street), spoken to; 3:04 a.m.: extra patrol, secure; 7:21 a.m.: noise complaint (Island Road), info taken; 9:17 a.m.: info/general (Goodrich Drive), assisted; 9:35 a.m.: investigation (Baldwinville Road), spoken to; 9:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Monadnock Drive), referred to ACO; 9:56 a.m.: burglar alarm (School Street), secure; 9:58 a.m.: assist other PD (Teel Road); 10:25 a.m.: summons service (Eagle Road), served; 10:46 a.m.: property lost (Franklin Street), info taken; 11:07 a.m.: info/general (Banner Place), assisted; 11:27 a.m.: assist other PD (Franklin Street), assisted; 12:17 p.m.: investigation (Front Street), spoken to; 12:33 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), advised officer; 12:45 p.m.: mv repossession (Baldwinville Road), info taken;

12:54 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville State Road), transported; 12:54 p.m.: accident (East Street), report taken; 3:07 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street), spoken to; 3:29 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), spoken to; 3:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street), info given; 4:04 p.m.: suspicious person (Goodrich Drive), unable to locate; 4:22 p.m.: info/general (Central Street), services rendered; 5:10 p.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 5:15 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 5:46 p.m.: property damage (Glenallan Street), report taken; 6:07 p.m.: info/general (Brown Street), referred; 6:28 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 7:34 p.m.: suspicious person (School Street), unfounded; 7:47 p.m.: fire alarm (Front Street), services rendered; 8:02 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 8:16 p.m.: FD call (Ash Street), services rendered; 8:32 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:35 p.m.: harassment (Benjamin Street), report taken; 9:21 p.m.: harassment (Central Street), report taken; 10:21 p.m.: suspicious person (Glenallan Street), unable to locate; 11:20 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), secure; 11:44 p.m.: suspicious mv (Commercial Drive), secure.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:12-12:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:21 a.m.: suspicious mv (Spring Street), secure; 12:22 a.m.: mv stop (Front Street), verbal warning; 12:25-3:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:01 a.m.: assist other agency (Pearl Street), report taken; 8:24 a.m.: suspicious mv (Grove Street), search negative; 8:30 a.m.: property found (Murdock Avenue), info taken; 9:52 a.m.: assist citizen (School Street); 10:34 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Monadnock Avenue), assisted; 11:11 a.m.: assist citizen (Spring Street), advised officer; 11:57 a.m.: traffic hazard (School Street), unable to locate; 12:00 p.m.: assist citizen (Alger Street); 12:37 p.m.: assist citizen (Teel Road), info taken; 12:49 p.m.: ambulance (Sunset Court), transported; 12:53 p.m.: brush fire (Spring Street), extinguished; 1:38 p.m.: property lost (High Street), info taken; 2:20 p.m.: tree down (Alger Street), no service necessary; 5:37 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 5:48 p.m.: 911 non-emergency (Gardner Road), no cause; 5:56 p.m.: erratic operation (Hitchcock Road), unable to locate; 6:41 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 6:52 p.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive), false alarm; 7:00 p.m.: suicide threats (Independence Drive), report taken; 8:42 p.m.: ambulance (West Street), transported; 9:17 p.m.: disturbance (Highland Street), spoken to; 11:03-11:41 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:51 p.m.: investigation (Central Street), secure.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

12:57 a.m.: suspicious mv (Gardner Road), spoken to; 1:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Glenallan Street), assisted; 4:40 a.m.: accident (School Street), report taken; 6:19 a.m.: bolo (Glenallan Street), unable to locate; 8:06 a.m.: summons service (Madison Street), advised officer; 9:47 a.m.: harassment (Central Street), referred to other PD; 11:21 a.m.: property damage (Juniper Street), report taken; 11:49 a.m.: info/general (Baldwinville Road), info taken; 12:15 p.m.: summons service (Beech Street), served; 12:49 p.m.: investigation (Maple Street), info given; 1:04 p.m.: info/general (Maple Street), info taken; 1:23 p.m.: trespassing (Center Lane), assisted; 2:28 p.m.: summons service (Glenallan Street), unable to serve; 3:11 p.m.: missing person (Polly's Drive), returned home; 3:33 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Mill Street), report taken; 3:40 p.m.: erratic operation (Mellen Road), spoken to; 3:58 p.m.: assist other PD (Winchester Street); 4:19 p.m.: intoxicated person (Ash Street), unable to locate; 5:25 p.m.: lift assist (Elmwood Road); 7:20-7:25 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 7:26 p.m.: noise complaint (Benjamin Street), spoken to; 7:39-7:44 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 8:29 p.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 8:53 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 11:07 p.m.: mv repossession (Lincoln Avenue), impounded; 11:20 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Street), transported.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

1:00-8:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:51 a.m.: officer wanted (Linden Street), report taken; 9:33 p.m.: lift assist (Elmwood Road); 10:26 a.m.: summons service (E. Monomonic Road), served; 10:27 a.m.: summons service (Spring Street), served; 10:59 a.m.: intoxicated person (Lakeview Drive), assisted; 11:09 a.m.: assist citizen (River Street); 11:23 a.m.: suicide threats (Spring Street), report taken; 12:09 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street), info taken; 12:55 p.m.: summons service (Glenallan Street), unable to serve; 2:04 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 3:01 p.m.: investigation (Goodrich Drive), services rendered; 3:22 p.m.: ambulance (Murdock Avenue), transported; 5:23 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), referred to other PD; 5:47 p.m.: accident (Spring Street), report taken; 6:48 p.m.: threats (Alger Street), no service necessary; 7:04 p.m.: fire/box alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 8:04 p.m.: accident (Elm Street), report taken; 9:07 p.m.: suicide threats (Beaman Court), transported; 10:56 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

1:22-3:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:19 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Street), services rendered; 9:47 a.m.: ATV complaint (Island Road), info taken; 10:43 a.m.: assist

other PD (Cardinal Lane); 11:00 a.m.: welfare check (Spring Street), spoken to; 1:44 p.m.: trespassing (Beachview Drive) assisted; 3:31 p.m.: parking violation (Spruce Street), unfounded; 4:00 p.m.: assist motorist (Spring Street), report taken; 4:55 p.m.: ambulance (Eagle Road), assisted; 6:06 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 6:26 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street), referred to ACO; 8:43 p.m.: traffic hazard (Brown Street), removed; 8:46 p.m.: officer wanted (N. Ashburnham Road) secure; 9:34 p.m.: trespass notice entry (Glenallan Street), spoken to; 9:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Oakland Street), spoken to; 9:41 p.m.: erratic operation (Front Street), info taken; 10:11 p.m.: smoke (Main Street), unfounded; 10:22 p.m.: suicide threats (Beaman Court), transported; 10:32 p.m.: 911 hang up (Gardner Road), services rendered; 11:16 p.m.: accident (River Street), report taken; 11:54 p.m.: info/general (Juniper Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

12:45 a.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Avenue), transported; 4:12-4:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:18 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:19 a.m.: mental health issue (Center Lane), info taken; 10:53 a.m.: 911 hang up (Teel Road), no service necessary; 11:04 a.m.: harassment (West Street), report taken; 11:43 a.m.: runaway (Polly's Drive), report taken; 1:31 p.m.: harassment (Alger Street), report taken; 1:49 p.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Avenue), transported; 2:37 p.m.: welfare check/child (West Street), spoken to; 2:58 p.m.: animal complaint (Baldwinville Road), gone on arrival; 3:01 p.m.: keep the peace (Alger Street), assisted; 3:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (Glenallan Street), no service necessary; 3:54 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), written warning; 4:08 p.m.: fight (Central Street), report taken; 5:43 ambulance (West Street), transported; 6:19 p.m.: FD call (Webster Street), services rendered; 6:27 p.m.: mental health issue (Center Lane), info taken; 7:00 p.m.: ambulance (School Street), no service necessary; 7:02 p.m.: FD call (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 7:05 p.m.: DPW call (Front Street), referred; 7:19 p.m.: investigation (Goodrich Street), info taken; 8:43 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 8:55 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 9:10 p.m.: investigation (Goodrich Drive), spoken to; 10:10 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 11:00 p.m.: drug/narcotics violation (Main Street), info taken.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

1:11-2:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:16 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 5:27 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), citation issued; 5:40 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:53 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 8:27 a.m.: road rage (Gardner Road), summons; 9:03 a.m.: mv stop (Route 140), spoken to; 9:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), info given; 9:15 a.m.: investigation (Maple Street), spoken to; 10:39 a.m.: property found (Central Street), unfounded; 10:53 a.m.: investigation (Spruce Street), unable to locate; 11:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Toy Town Lane), unable to locate; 11:46 a.m.: suicide threats (Ready Drive), transported; 11:53 a.m.: erratic operation (Elmwood Road), spoken to; 12:42 p.m.: illegal dumping (Pearl Street), spoken to; 1:43 p.m.: harassment order service (Old Gardner Road), unable to serve; 3:53 p.m.: ambulance (Walnut Street), services rendered; 4:03 p.m.: mv stop (Harvard Street), citation issued; 4:29 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Drive), citation issued; 4:46 p.m.: mv stop (Joslin Road), services rendered; 4:51 p.m.: keep the peace (Main Street), services rendered; 5:28 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 5:53 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), false alarm; 5:58 p.m.: vandalism (Center Lane), report taken; 6:24 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 7:25 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), spoken to; 7:57 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), written warning; 10:05 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street), services rendered; 8:30 p.m.: investigation, (Woodlawn Street), services rendered; 8:34 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), citation issued; 9:04 p.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Road), services rendered; 9:57 p.m. mv stop (Front Street), Jacqueline M. Toth, 33, 163 Brown Street, Winchendon, op w/ suspended license, arrest; 11:47-11:51 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

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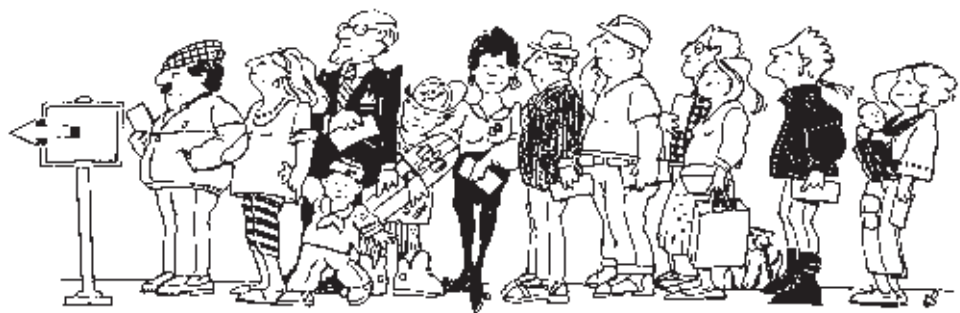
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OBITUARIES

Irene H. (Penney) Girouard, 89



GALLATIN, TN — Irene H. (Penney) Girouard, age 89, of 100 Beacon St., died peacefully Friday afternoon, September 15, 2017 in Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, TN after a brief illness.

Irene was born in Chelsea on Nov. 21, 1927, daughter of the late Ralph and Etta (Osmond) Penney. She grew up

in Revere, and attended Chelsea High School. She lived in Tennessee for 14 years, moving from Rochester, NH. She had lived in Winchendon at one time and had lived in many locations with her late husband, who served in the United States Marines from 1953 to 1973. Her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her family.

Her husband of 60 years, Ronald A. Girouard, died May 7, 2016. She leaves five daughters, Donna Harper of Gallatin, TN, Sheryl Hankins and

her husband Patrick of Lewisburg, TN, Karen Young and her husband Kevin of Gordonsville, TN, Roni Martin and her husband Jules of Cross Plains, TN and Janice Girouard of Portland, TN; ten grandchildren, David, Caroline, Armaugh, Trisha, Dustin, Sydney Johnson and her husband Bobby, Kelsie, Julia, Paige and her husband Jesse and Cameron; numerous great grandchildren and two nieces, Lorraine and Marlene List and Steven Penney.

Funeral services will be held

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at 11 A.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

A calling hour will precede the funeral Saturday from 10 to 11 A.M.

Memorial donations may be made to Little People of America, 250 El Camino Real Suite 218, Tustin, CA 92780 or to the charity of one's choice. www.stone-ladeau.com

Students take part in community action day



Photos by Guy Corbosiero and Greg Vine
The crew stopped for a quick photo, from left: Ed Grueter (teacher), Guy Corbosiero (IUC), Trey Wilkinson, Vadim Prokopets, Casper Vaisanen, Elliot Harvey (teacher), Tony Tu, Chris Michaud, and Brian Prevere.

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Fanned out over several locations in town, students from the Winchendon School spent last Friday commemorating Community in Action day. From Ingleside to the Beals Memorial Library students participated in a variety of projects dealing with assorted social, educational, and environmental issues.

One of those events took place at the police department where almost 20 students gathered with Chief Dave Walsh for a discussion about domestic violence, sexual abuse and child abuse, topics chosen by those students.

Noting there's been a more than 30-percent increase in domestic vio-

lence calls this year, Walsh cited economic factors and drug and alcohol abuse as likely the primary culprits.

"It's very beneficial to understand the root causes and connections between child abuse and domestic violence issues," he said, acknowledging emotional abuse issues also play a role.

"I'm sure it's a factor," he remarked.

Walsh said while men between the ages of 20-29 make up the bulk of aggressors, the drug use which might well be a trigger for violence is unrelated to socio-economic status. But, "if it happens once, it will happen again," he warned about domestic violence.

Sexual abuse, he stressed, isn't about sex but actually about power and control and reminded the teenagers, "no

means no, period," irrespective of previous consent.

Added Walsh, social media sites "are police departments' worst nightmares."

During the more than hour-long event, Walsh fielded questions and later called the queries "insightful," and reflected, "It was enjoyable" to meet and talk with students.

"This was a student-centered project" pointed out art teacher Liz Perkins, who was among the staff accompanying the group, adding, "community

Street to visit the Crafty Cauldron where they started the process of learning how to sew, the first step in making teddy bears to comfort youngsters struggling with family issues, the Environmental Education group was at Ingleside where they helped clean trails.

The Youth Empowerment Group was at Memorial School spreading mulch on the playground. Those students will be coordinating with program director Jennifer Haddad on after-school activities at Toy Town Elementary School.



Hauling brush, raking, and clean-up sent the crew into the woods.

involvement lives up to our mission as a school."

Business manager Donna Catalano said, "days like today helps open them up to things going on in the community."

While one group of students spent much of the morning at the police department before crossing Central

Previewing the day, Winchendon School service learning director Miranda Jennings was anticipating illuminating and educational experiences for the students and when it was over, she felt that's exactly what had happened.

"It was a good day," she said.

LUTHERFEST: Party like it's 1517 with faire, Biergarten, Oktoberfest dinner

Lutherfest, a Medieval-Renaissance Faire for Children, will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of Advent Lutheran Church, Route 202 in Rindge, Sept. 23.

The day features free, family activities including arts and crafts appropriate to the era, knight's helmet-making, Fair Maiden hat-making, quill-writing, and more. Children, adults, and dogs are invited to participate in a costume contest with period-appropriate garb. The contest will be judged by area theater professionals at 1 p.m. and prizes awarded.

Free hot dogs and homemade root beer will be available along with one free book to each child, as long as supplies last.

The Faire is followed at 2 p.m. by the opening of a traditional Biergarten, featuring beer and soft German pretzels for sale. The Biergarten will run until 6:30 p.m. A celebratory Oktoberfest dinner featuring classic German foods will be served from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Attendees can arrive at any time.

Lutherfest celebrates the 500th anniversary of an event

that sparked the Protestant Reformation and changed the religious landscape of the western world. On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a German scholar and monk, protested some of the practices of the only Christian church of his time by nailing 95 theses — or arguments — to the door of the town church. He meant his points to be items for discussion, but church authorities soon branded him a heretic. Luther objected most strongly to the prevailing practice of paying one's way back into the good graces of God by giving

money to church authorities in Rome. These payments were known as "indulgences."

Today, Advent Lutheran Church, founded 34 years ago in Rindge, considers itself an heir to Martin Luther's legacy, and joins with its national synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to celebrate Reformation 500.

Luther's activities, with the help of a new-fangled social media of its time — the printing press — promoted literacy among German commoners. Luther was known for his love of dogs and beer. Late in life he

married Katrina, a former nun who escaped her convent in order to follow Luther's teachings. Katrina became a brewmeister, a farm manager, and mother to her own six children and many foster children.

Contact event organizer Christine Sheldon, christine-halvorsen@yahoo.com, with questions, call the church office at (603) 899-3095, or visit the Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/AdventRindge>.

REALLY ACTIVE DUTY



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Michael Lehman/Released

Gov. Rick Scott of Florida thanks Quartermaster 3rd Class Kaitlynn Hardy of Gardner, who is assigned to USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), for her hard work during humanitarian assistance efforts following Hurricane Irma's landfall in Key West, FL. The Department of Defense

is supporting Federal Emergency Management Agency, the lead agency, in helping those affixed by Hurricane Irma to minimize suffering and as one component of the overall whole-of-government response efforts.

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

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



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SPORTS

Thanks, Penny...

Penny Chenery died last week-end at 95. Who, you might ask? If you're old enough to remember, you saw her on television a lot 44 years ago for it was in 1973, when she was going by her married name of Tweedy and she owned a racehorse named Secretariat.

Penny was the perfect owner for the greatest horse who ever lived. She was smart, articulate, passionate about the sport, understood what a sound bite was and knew how to take advantage of her moment in the sun to support not just Big Red but a number of charitable racing causes to which she was then and to which she remained devoted for 40-plus years down the road. That aforementioned moment in the sun also allowed Chenery to be a leader in bringing racing into the commercial sponsorship age. If Secretariat was the best

horse in the world and he was, stablemate RivaRidge, winner of the 1972 Derby and Belmont was arguably second best. A proposed match race between them turned into the Marlboro Cup Invitational, at which was assembled probably the greatest array of talent in the same starting gate in history. It was Penny's idea to nix the match and create the newly sponsored race. All the big races are sponsored now, but that sure wasn't the case in 1973.

She was also, and equally importantly a role model. Secretariat's still unfathomably fast Triple Crown sweep, the first in 25 years at the time, came in the same year as the nonsensical Billie Jean King-Bobby Riggs circus. Women holding prominent positions in racing, as in many other fields, were



TALKING SPORTS
JERRY CARTON

an unusual sight. But Penny Tweedy broke the mold. The historic family farm had fallen on hard times following the death of her father two years earlier and despite pleas from siblings and her husband, Penny refused to sell, moved from her home in Colorado to Kentucky, took over and demonstrated what too many silly people thought impossible — she proved a woman could run the business just fine. Of course, she had equine help — Riva, the always overshadowed

Riva, whom many of us cheered for just as much if not more than we did Secretariat — Riva had that great year in 1972 which helped pay the bills and keep the operation afloat. That same season, the two year-old Secretariat was not only the champion of his age group, he was also, and deservedly so, Horse of the Year.

All that was merely the prelude. As Secretariat glided through the classics in breathtaking fashion in a manner not seen since Man O'War himself, Penny was front and center, poised, ebullient, gracious and very much in charge of her horses. An awful lot of young women and girls were watching and decided they could emulate her, helping to shatter the glass ceiling which had previously pretty much barred women from assuming control of racing sta-

bles and breeding farms. Women were becoming jockeys and trainers too. A couple years later my sister became the youngest female to ever be issued a thoroughbred training license in Maryland, though it took another 20 years before Julie Krone became the first woman to ride a Triple Crown race winner when she took the 1993 Belmont aboard Colonial Affair. Nonetheless, it was Penny (Tweedy) Chenery whose leadership opened the floodgates. The First Lady of the Turf indeed — that was who this elegant yet down to earth Smith graduate was. She left the sport better than she found it. No one could ask for a greater legacy. For those of us whose lives have so often revolved around the majesty of the thoroughbred, thanks, Penny.

Whitaker pleased with change and the future

As Murdock High School and Middle School athletic director Jenna Whitaker surveys the changes in the varsity football program, she likes what she sees, echoing the sentiments of other administrative leaders.

“Coach (Billy) Wright has made a really positive difference just in the week or two he's been in charge. Even what seems to be a little thing — the team room is cleaned up and looks like it should. That's one way coach Wright is making clear people are going to do things the right way and take pride in the program. He's got his own approach, and it's one we think is the right one, working with kids, emphasizing the 'with'. I don't know what

the record will be on the field, but I do know the games will be played the right way, the kids will represent themselves and the school the right way and in the long run, that's really important,” stressed Whitaker, adding, “it was time for a change.”

As for parental concerns about safety, “we require them to take an online concussion course, it's a video, and sign off that they did that. We are using top-of-the-line speed flex helmets. Our coaches are taking every precaution they can.”

Those weren't the only issues Whitaker addressed in a wide-ranging interview with the Courier. She said she understands the frustrations of parents and coaches when the score-

board clock isn't working during some afternoon soccer and field hockey games but pointed out, “we need people to be willing to do that. We really haven't budgeted anything to pay anyone but we'd love to have someone, anyone, be willing to do that from game to game.”

Whitaker was able to have the scoreboard lit up during a recent field hockey contest against Monty Tech.

“Those kids deserve to have it running too so we'd be happy to work with anyone who wants to do it,” she said.

At a small school, Whitaker noted, it takes a number of people to make things happen and that's when the prospective

revamping and reorganization of the MHS Hall of Fame came up.

“I'm looking for someone to be willing to take on the project. Athletic directors generally don't do this and I really don't know as much about the history as some people in the community who have been around a long time. We had a meeting and some people showed up but no one has yet stepped up to say, I'll do this. I'll put this together” It would be nice if someone would.”

Whitaker acknowledged numbers are as usual an issue and said she'll be asking the MIAA for a general waiver which would permit eighth graders to play for the high school teams.

“This isn't something

we like having to do, but the numbers are what they are, unfortunately. I don't see where we have much choice.”

She said she doesn't envision shutting down either field hockey or girls' soccer, though both are fall sports.

“Both programs are in good shape now. It would be better if soccer had a feeder program. So many young kids play at the Clark but don't always stay with the sport. That said, Jason (coach Marshall) does have more than 20 players which gives him plenty of subs. Not enough to have a JV team but at least plenty enough to have everyone fresh. Same goes for field hockey. Both programs have great coach-

es in Jason and Amanda (Lawlor) who also do things the right way,” she noted. Field hockey is hoping is qualify for districts for a second straight season.

“On balance, we are doing okay. We have good continuity with our coaches in every sport but football and Billy has been on the staff as an assistant,” Whitaker reflected. “We would always like to see more numbers. We would always like to see more volunteer participation but for a small school, we're doing pretty good and when we have teams which get sportsmanship awards, we're really proud of that,” she said.

Effort is seen on pitch

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Ask Murdock varsity girls' soccer coach Jason Marshall what he likes most about his team and he'll tell you, “I am proud of their effort to continue to play through to the end despite the score. That has always been the case with all the Murdock teams I have coached. They don't get down.”

Marshall was matter-of-fact about that, but it's no small accomplishment for a program where wins have been hard to come by. It says something the character of players and coaches. Last week the Lady Devils managed a tie with Sizer but were blanked by Narragansett, yet Marshall found silver linings.

“Individually they are improving their skills,” he said.

“Our next step is to improve together as a team. We need to be able to play for 80 minutes at one time,” said Marshall.

Michaela Benedict and Gabby Cote became the first players to score in the 2017 season during the deadlock with the Lady Tigers. Benedict tallied at the 36-minute mark on a penalty kick. It was the former swimmer's first high school goal and came after Mary Desire was fouled inside the box. That cut Murdock's deficit to 2-1 and Cote evened the score in the 49th minute on an assist from Benedict.

“At the break, the captains (Benedict and Maria Polcari) redirected their teammates to come out with more intensity,” said Marshall, adding, “that leadership manufactured several scoring opportunities” leading to Cote's equalizer.

“We had a few more chances to grab the victory but couldn't convert,” acknowledged Marshall. “One final rush in the last few seconds came up short.”

The shutout loss against Narragansett saw former Lady Devil Izzy Stakley score twice in the first half.

Summer league completes its season

BY JON KAMINSKY
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

As summer 2017 came to a close, so did the the M.A.B.L. summer league at Murdock High School.

After a competitive season and playoffs, only two teams remained. On Monday, Sept. 18, X-Treme Auto Body & Collision Center and Harbour Restaurant went at it in the finals.

X-Treme Autobody came into the finals with a perfect record on the line and they would not be defeated. After a long fought game, X-Treme Auto Body would defeat Harbour Restaurant 79-60.

High scorers for X-Treme Auto Body

included Christopher Pinsonault (30 pts) Nathaniel Martin (17 pts) and Chaz Chesson (15 pts).

High scorers for Harbour Restaurant included Pedro (22 pts) and Adam Vazquez (20 pts).

The winning team also received sweatshirts.

M.A.B.L. raised over \$3,000 with help from all of their sponsors.

League organizer Donald Hunt ran a very successful 2017 summer league and he hopes to continue this next year as well. It's a great opportunity for people who love the game of basketball and want to continue playing after high school and college.



Jon Kaminsky photos

The team celebrates

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KNIGHTS

continued from page A1

This year the golf tournament raised \$2,550. This has been an annual fundraiser for the past three years.

The Knights of the Inferno MC also wanted to provide support on a more local level. They've sponsored a Motor Cycle Poker Run with all proceeds going to the Winchendon school district's "Special Olympic Program." Last year the club's ride raised \$700.

This year they set a goal of \$1000, which they raised. Thank you to all who participated in the golf tournament and the Poker Run.

A check was presented to Bridget Marinelli, "Wreaths Across America" chair, for \$2,550 by the club at the MC's monthly meeting.

On Monday, Sept. 11, 2017, the MC presented a \$1,000 check to Murdock Middle School Principal Jessica Vezina for the Special Olympics Program. Also in attendance were many of the

Special Olympians.

Please SAVE THE DATES: The MC is sponsoring a "Comedy Night" to be held on Nov. 4 at the Winchendon American Legion. The MC will also be sponsoring with the American Legion a great New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31. More to come on both events in the future.

Members of the Knights of the Inferno MC present a check to Bridget Marinelli to support the "Wreaths Across American Program:



AGREEMENT

continued from page A1

reworked a section of the contract relative to the hiring of an interim chief administrator officer, should such a step become necessary. Any short term interim CAO, who would serve during a temporary absence of the full time administrator, would be prohibited

from making any final appointments to town departments, and could make no decisions on the hiring or firing of town employees. Any interim administrator appointed to a term of three months or more would have appointment and hiring and firing powers.

Hickey told the subcommittee that the state's Department of Revenue has reiterated its support for the proposal. Officials at DOR have committed to

covering any costs associated with the merger.

Templeton Selectman Diane Haley Brooks emphasized to the subcommittee that, while current discussions revolve around Hickey taking the job, the agreement will remain in effect should Hickey decide to leave.

Templeton has been trying to fill the post of town administrator for nearly four years, without success. May

Winchendon residents have expressed concern the DOR is pushing the agreement in order to bail Templeton out of its predicament. Some have also argued the accord would violate the town charter, which calls on selectmen to appoint a full time town manager.

Under the proposal, Hickey would spend three days a week in Winchendon and two days per week in Templeton.

BAND

continued from page A1

was learning the classic if not exactly deep "Louie, Louie", the old 1960s hit easily covered by multiple bands. The clever Ted and Marshall's '500 Miles' was also on this week's playlist.

"I love doing this," exulted Galipeau.

"We want them to learn how to play," enthused Galipeau.

"We're teaching Instruments 101 and the kids are really into

it. You know, a lot of songs have a three or four chord beat, which is pretty easy. They're picking it up and there's a lot of energy," she added.

"Early rock was an extension of the blues," she pointed out.

That's not to say there's no frustration, though.

"In the beginning, a few of them were frustrated. Sometimes the hand motion you use on a guitar for example isn't the most natural thing to do so there was some trepidation, but they're becom-

ing more comfortable," said Galipeau.

The half-year course is comprised of all boys.

"We'd like to get more girls involved in a class like this. This year it just came together very quickly, in a matter of a few days but down the road, we'd definitely like, and expect, to see some of the girls too," Galipeau reflected.

"One of the things we need to do here is get the band program going again and this is a way to start doing that," observed Galipeau.

When it comes to musical tastes?

"Some of them like heavy metal," she acknowledged.

Guitars, keyboards, bass and drums are, of course, all fixtures when it comes to bands and Galipeau, whose life has been immersed in music since she was a kid herself, has plenty of experience working with a variety of instruments. To that end?

"Horns," she laughed.

"Remember when horns were so much a part of bands? It used to be that if you could

play the horn, you could get a job in a band. We don't have a horn in our band," she noted in mock rueful sorrow..."Yet."

Galipeau told her students to find songs online in order to get started but in time, "we want them to write their own music. The technology is obviously there to be able to do that."

"Also, they're here because they want to be here," she said. "That makes a big difference. This is going to be fun."

CONCERTS

continued from page A1

to showcase beautiful music," Arthen said, noting the church boasts an E. & G.G. Hook pipe organ installed in 1866 and a 19th century Chickering grand piano.

"Our high vaulted ceilings allow the sound to completely blend and fill the sanctuary. It's a transporting experience to hear a band of this quality play here."

Win Winds is comprised of some of the finest brass, woodwind and percussion players hailing from Winchendon and neighboring towns, as well as the

Boston metropolitan area. The band's conductor, Lucinda Ellert, also hails from Winchendon. Many of the players are career musicians and educators.

Clarinetist Kim LaPoint, a Murdock graduate and Winchendon resident, is a band director at Hawthorne Brook Middle School in Townsend.

She shares, "It is wonderful to have such a great group right in my home town. I thoroughly enjoy playing with the other talented musicians and hope to play with the group for many years to come."

Trumpet player and Gardner resident Joseph Goguen teaches 7th and 8th grade general music at Arthur F. Sullivan Middle School in Worcester.

Noting his close friendships formed in bands, he adds, "Music brings people together, whether they are musicians or audience members, and groups like the Winchendon Winds provide opportunities for the community to come together for enjoyment and entertainment."

Percussionist Cody Arington teaches band, choir, and music classes at Mascenic Regional High School in New Ipswich, NH. A composer, pianist and guitarist, he offers the words of Victor Hugo: "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."

All of the Win Winds players are looking forward to sharing wonderful

concert band music with the community. Don't miss this opportunity to hear exemplary music in your home town.

Winchendon Winds is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by Winchendon residents and sisters Jill Nicholson Sackett and Inanna Arthen. Its mission is to offer entertaining, enjoyable and inspiring live band concerts to everyone in the Monadnock region. Win Winds is sustained entirely by donations, including generous support from the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation and the Winchendon Cultural Council, as well as local business and individuals. For more information visit winchendonwinds.org.

ROADS

continued from page A1

those roads are not accepted roadways. They still remain private roads. Their status remains unchanged. I wish I had better news for the individuals who live on those roads, but I don't."

"So, essentially, what we've been doing by not including what we thought were private roads as public roads, we've been shortchanging ourselves," said board Chairman Barbara Anderson.

"Yes," Hickey replied. "These roads, since they were accepted by the town and the town did not notify MassDOT, the town did not receive

Chapter 90 revenues for those roads, even though we could have received revenue for those roads."

Public Works Director Al Gallant told the board that in at least one instance, one road was accepted by the town as far back as 1965 but never included on the town-owned inventory.

Anderson said she has received feedback from a number of residents of Converse Road regarding the poor condition of their street.

"Public works will be going out to Converse Drive and some other roads that are now public roads, and performing maintenance to make those roads more passable," said Hickey.

"I think the priority of the DPW and I is to recommend to the board

to repair the roads that are still in good enough shape to be paved."

Hickey did note that, while they are not maintained by the town, private roads are plowed and sanded by the town during the winter months to ensure access by public safety vehicles and personnel.

The discussion on the updated list of accepted roads soon morphed into discussion of a petition signed by 23 residents of Second Street asking the town to "make repairs that are necessary to provide safe passage for town vehicles and the general public, including grading, plowing, and sanding."

Hickey and several members of the board again pointed out the town is not responsible

for maintaining private roads, further explaining a road must be accepted by the vote of a town meeting. When it was suggested that perhaps Second Street might be accepted at this year's fall town meeting, Hickey said such a move would be unlikely.

"There are minimum standards these roads have to be built to," he explained. "Sending a grader down to grade that road to eliminate all the potholes and potentially bring some fill down to address it, doesn't bring it up to town standards, in all likelihood. There are specific standards a road needs to be built to."

R.A. Charters of 26 Second St. said, "I look at a road that has enough property to generate about \$120,000 in taxes,

with no kids going to school, no fire protection to speak of - there's not a hydrant there. There's no water. There's no sewer. So, what do we cost the town? We're the most positive cashflow road that I think I can think of in the whole town."

"So, asking for some cold patch," Charter continued, "so you can actually drive down the road without destroying your car, I don't think is asking a whole lot. The residents on that street pay a lot to live there. Repairing the road to a minimum standard is not a lot to ask."

"I think we all sympathize with the situation there," said Hickey. "But the fact remains it's a private road. My concern is precedent. Once you spend town money on one

private road, residents of other private roads will expect the same."

"I would suggest to everyone that lives on Second Street," said Charter, "that you trot on down to the assessor's office and ask for an abatement because all of a sudden all our property is not worth what we thought it was because we're not on an approved road. That makes our property worth less, which means we should be paying less. I'm paying almost \$5,000 for the privilege of living on a road that's full of potholes."

"I'll get an attorney, and I hope I win. And I suggest everyone on Second Street do the exact same thing."

MERGE

continued from page A1

School Square branch.

Colonial has only two branches - one in Winchendon, the other in Gardner - while Fidelity has 10 branches, with two in Leominster and one each in Barre, Fitchburg, Gardner, Millbury, Paxton, Princeton, Shirley, and Worcester.

In a press release, Colonial Co-Op President Joseph Guercio called the merger "a tremendous opportunity for Colonial Co-Operative Bank and our stakeholders," adding that it will extend "our long-term mission of serving our local communities."

"These are challenging times for smaller community banks," the statement continued. "The complexities of today's banking business can be hard for an institution the size of Colonial Co-Operative Bank. This partnership will allow us to stay competitive and fulfill our commitment to our communities, while maintaining our community bank values."

Fidelity Bank Chairman and CEO Edward Manzi Jr., said in the release, "We are honored and excited to have the opportunity to partner with Colonial to ensure this commitment (to community banking) carries on for years to come."

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The feast in your backyard

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Last Saturday, naturalist John Root led a group of people on a walk during which he pointed out a host of edible wild plants. The walk took place at Charlie's Red House Farm on River Street in Winchendon.

The event was supported in part by a grant from the Winchendon Cultural Council, with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Root, whose name seemed appropriate to the event, took the group on a tour of the farm, pointing out a wide range of plants that can be safely eaten. Almost immediately, he tore a dandelion green from the

ground and started chewing on it. No one else followed suit.

"They can be frozen, and they're very high in vitamin A," he said. "It also has a venerated place in Chinese herbal medicine."

Root also pointed out chickweed.

"It's hearty," he said. "Tastes like wheat or corn. You can cook it, but it's more nutritious to eat it raw."

Root also tore a plant with large leaves out of the ground called common plantain.

"It's found in most yards," he said. "It's not related to the tropical, banana-like plants; not at all."

"Violet leaves are also a very under-used resource," he con-

tinued. "You can use them in salads or eat them like spinach. You use them when they're dark green."

Root cautioned, however, that the rhizome of the violet plant is poisonous. The rhizome is the underground stem of a plant that sends out its root system.

Another of Root's favorites is the stinging nettle.

"It's surpassed in nutrition only by seaweed," he said.

Root continued to point edible plants throughout the walk.

At the conclusion of his presentation, he also offered perennials for sale that can be for "edible landscaping" or to attract songbirds, hummingbirds, and butterflies.

Root received his BA in biology from Oberlin College in 1972, and did graduate work in the field of botany at the University of Maryland and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a resident of Amherst.

Greg Vine photo

Naturalist John Root points out (and eats) edible plants during an edible wild plants walk Saturday at Charlie's Red House Farm on River Street in Winchendon.



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Our Winchendon store is looking for a full-time hardware sales person who enjoys people and has good customer service skills. The successful applicant will have a strong hardware background as well as a basic understanding and knowledge of paint mixing a plus. Weekend hours required on a rotating basis.

You may apply in person with Dick Girard, 245 Central Street, Winchendon or download an application from our website. All applications should be submitted to:

Human Resources, c/o Bellettes Inc.
51 Peterborough Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452
or you may email to dbellettes@bellettes.com

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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.

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ed (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) 297-1250.

YARD SALES
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.

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For more info., call 978-297-0050



LEGALS

**Town of Winchendon
Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
FORMAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL**

Pursuant to MGL, c.41, §81T, notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday October 3, 2017 at 6:35 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, 2nd Fl., 109 Front St., Winchendon, MA 01475, to hear the Formal Site Plan application submitted by Winchendon Lincoln Avenue Solar 1 LLC & Winchendon Lincoln Avenue Solar 2 LLC of 1550 Liberty Ridge Drive, Suite 310 Wayne PA 19087 on property identified as Assessors Map 2 parcel 65, Assessors Map 2 Parcel 15, and Assessors Map 2 parcel 12 owned by Glenn C. Kostick of 17 Poplar St. Winchendon MA 01475 for the construction of two (2) Ground Mounted Solar Energy Collection systems. Said property is located in the Industrial (I) Zoning District. All relevant materials, including site plans, may be viewed at the Dept. of P&D at Winchendon Town Hall. All interested persons should plan to attend. **Meeting room is accessible. Alternate accommodations can be made by calling 1-978-297-3537at least 3 days in advance.**
BY: Guy C. Corbosiero,
Planning Board Chairman
September 15, 2017
September 22, 2017

**Town of Winchendon
Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
FORMAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL**

Pursuant to MGL, c.41, §81T, notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday October 3, 2017 at 6:55 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, 2nd Fl., 109 Front St., Winchendon, MA 01475, to hear the Formal Site Plan application submitted by Winchendon Ash Street Solar 1 LLC of 1550 Liberty Ridge Drive, Suite 310 Wayne PA 19087 for property identified as Assessors Map 5C4 parcel 29, owned by the Winchendon School, Inc. 172 Ash St. Winchendon MA 01475 for the construction of a Ground Mounted Solar Energy Collection system. Said property is located in the C1 - Highway Commerical and R80 - Rural Residential Zoning Districts. All relevant materials, including site plans, may be viewed at the Dept. of P&D at Winchendon Town Hall. All interested persons should plan to attend. **Meeting room is accessible. Alternate accommodations can be made by calling 1-978-297-3537at least 3 days in advance.**
BY: Guy C. Corbosiero,
Planning Board Chairman
September 15, 2017
September 22, 2017

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

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Thomas S. Killmon 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 OF WORCESTER, SOUTHERN DISTRICT KNOWN AS: 255R MAIN STREET, WINCHENDON, MA 01475 BY FEESIMPLEDEEDFROMADAMB.

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) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**
Other terms if any, to be announced at the sale.
MTGLQ Investors, L.P.
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLAND PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
16-012724
September 22, 2017
September 29, 2017
October 6, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

179 Laurel Street; Assessor's Map 8A-1, Lot 50
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 7:05 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Jared Maxfield for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 179 Laurel Street; Assessor's Map 8A-1, Lot 50. The project entails the construction of a 24' x 30' (720 square feet) in-law addition on concrete slab with four-foot frost wall. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

297 Ash Street; Assessor's Map 9, Lot 68
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 7:10 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Gerald Albrecht for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 297 Ash Street; Assessor's Map 9, Lot 68. The project entails repair/upgrade to meet Title 5 requirements for an existing subsurface sewage disposal system serving a two-bedroom house. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon

Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

25 Sunny Cove Road; Assessor's Map M-10, Lot 45
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 7:15 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Kurt A. Duguay for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Lake Monononac at 25 Sunny Cove Road; Assessor's Map M-10, Lot 45. The project entails repair of an existing 50 foot long retaining wall, construction of new 24 foot and 25 foot long retaining walls, and construction of a four foot wide pavers walkway. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

86 Second Street; Assessor's Map M-3, Lots 28, 29, 32, 33 and 34
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 7:20 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner William Miller for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Lake Monononac at 86 Second Street; Assessor's Map M-3, Lots 28, 29, 32, 33 and 34. The project entails repair/upgrade to meet Title 5 requirements for an existing subsurface sewage disposal system serving a two-bedroom house. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

44 West Shore Drive; Assessor's Map 6, Lot 35
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 7:25 pm to consider the Notice of Intent filed by property owners William M. and Laurel M. Schmick for proposed work within 200-foot Riverfront Area and the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Sunset Lake at West Shore Drive; Assessor's Map 6, Lot 35. The project entails construction of a new three bedroom house with attached garage, screen porch, and deck, associated septic system, driveway access, utilities, grading/landscaping, and removable dock with 4 foot wide access walkway. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

Gardner Road; Assessor's Map 9, Lots 106 & 62
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 8:30 pm to consider the Amended Notice of Intent filed by property owner Jamison VanDyke for proposed work within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and the associated 100-foot Buffer Zone at Gardner Road (Route 140); Assessor's Map 9, Lots 106 & 62. The amended project entails the construction of a new road and associated drainage infrastructure to serve three proposed industrial lots, installation of utilities, grading, landscaping, and construction of a vehicle acceleration lane by widening the west side of Gardner Road with approximately six (6) additional feet of pavement for approximately 300 feet. The hearing will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Amended Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

Lincoln Avenue; Assessor's Map 2, Lots 65, 12 and 15
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 7:40 pm to consider the Notice of Intent filed by Winchendon Lincoln Avenue Solar 1 LLC and Winchendon Lincoln Avenue Solar 2 LLC on behalf of property owner Glenn Kostick for proposed work within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and 100-foot Buffer Zone at Lincoln Avenue; Assessor's Map 2, Lots 65, 12 and 15. The project entails construction of 4.0 mW and 5.0 mW solar arrays. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

**Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission**

Ash Street; Assessor's Map 5C-4, Lots 29 and 17
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 8:10 pm to consider the Notice of Intent filed by Winchendon Ash Street Solar 1 LLC on behalf of property owner The Winchendon School for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at Ash Street; Assessor's Map 5C-4, Lots 29 and 17. The project entails construction of 4.98 mW solar array. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537.
September 22, 2017

How much solar is enough?

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon's Conservation Commission has given its blessing to one of two solar arrays proposed for West Street, while continuing a public hearing on the second. The Planning Board has continued public hearings on the two proposals due to a change in plans for one and neighborhood concerns regarding both.

In addition to the recently completed solar farm sited near the town's transfer station, others are proposed for River Street, Ash Street, Happy Hollow Road, and Lincoln Street Extension. Tracy Murphy, the town's director of planning and development, also says someone has expressed interest in constructing an array on property owned by the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority near the Mylec facility in the Hillview Business Park.

Residents and some town officials are beginning to ask: When are enough solar arrays in Winchendon enough? The developments do generate revenue for the town, but they are not job-creating businesses.

"I have that concern," said Murphy. "I'd like to see more development that brings jobs to town. Our bylaws don't prohibit (the arrays), but it's starting to get our attention. We may have to look at our zoning bylaws."

"They do bring in tax revenues," she said, "but we need economic development as well."

"My concerns are the same as Tracy's," said Town Manager Keith Hickey.

"It's great to see property owners develop their property, but when it comes to using that property for solar arrays they may not really have any other choice."

"I most certainly would like to see development that creates jobs," he said. "The solar issue is sort of a double-edged sword."

When asked if he's likely to lead an effort to look at changes in the town's zoning relative to solar development, Hickey said, "I think everybody who has a role needs to decide if they want

more solar arrays in town."

He added there is no effort currently underway to begin assessing whether zoning bylaws should be changed in order to limit the proliferation of the arrays.

"I don't know if there are any pristine properties that are being taken for these facilities," Hickey continued.

The array at the transfer station was built on the town's capped landfill, the other array planned for River Street and the one proposed for Happy Hollow road would be built on former sand and gravel pits. The arrays proposed for Ash Street would be placed on either side of the road, property once used by the now-closed Winchendon School Golf Course. And one of the West Street developments would be placed on property that was previously logged.

"These arrays are not displacing existing development," said Hickey. "Nor are they being built on properties that have a high grade of use."

While not specifically stating that he'd rather see solar arrays instead of housing developments occupy the prop-

erties in question, Hickey did say the facilities offer some benefits.

"With houses, the town bears the potential cost of educating the children that may come with them," he said. "And it costs more to provide services to homes. The arrays don't really require any town resources, like water and sewer, plowing, police patrols."

With the life of most arrays estimated to be 20 years, Hickey said, "There is a requirement that they disassemble them when they're no longer in use and restore the site, as much as possible, to its original condition."

He added that the town does hold a bond on each project in case the owner fails to properly dispose of a facility no longer in use.

"We'd be able to call the bond to cover the cost of removing the array," he said.

Both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission have hearings scheduled on several of the proposed arrays on upcoming meeting agendas.

Rod & Gun enthusiasts give old bowling pins a second life

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Firearms and sporting enthusiasts from all around continue a long tradition of target shooting with a spin on it of their own, as every third Sunday morning of the month the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club target range hosts Pin Shooting, giving old bowling pins a second lease on life. A use never envisioned.

In a time where re-purposing and recycling items have become cool and hip, members of not only the Winchendon Rod & Gun but many other clubs have been doing just that for many years, by visiting bowling alleys to request if they have any old pins. Often receiving the old discarded pins for free, or paying \$3 each, Rod & Gun tells you it's not only worth it, but a lot of fun.

With attendees ranging in age from 16 year old Keagan Dignard of Acton to 84 year old Dick Spring of Leominster, the monthly event demonstrates there is no shortage of diversity or age.

Two people at a time shoot against each other shooting 4 to 6 pins each. Safety is the top priority from staging, positioning, when to shoot, when to stop and clear the weapon, to hearing protection, and more. Make no mistake, the event is run like a well oiled machine. This past Sunday, 16 people took part.

Dignard being perfect example of never judging a book by its cover. Not only a steadfast pin shooter at just under 17 years old, Dignard is both actively involved in the Boy Scouts and is also an active member of the Acton-Boxboro High School Band.

Dignard said, "I find pin and target shooting is actually really stress relieving. It helps me learn how to maintain focus because you have to concentrate. I have been doing this since I was 9 years old, and it's a lot of fun."

Dignard also gets to spend quality family time at the range with his grandfather, Tom Rutherford of nearby Westminster.

Rutherford, who is a member of the Townsend Rod & Gun Club, takes full advantage of his grandson-grandfather time. Rutherford said, "Not only is pin shooting at these clubs fun to do, but it also helps teach younger people like my grandson responsibility and concentration. I taught my daughters how to shoot responsibly and the right way to shoot, and now I get to do the same with my grandson. I will also tell you, this kind of event really reduces the 'Generation Gap' and not only are we doing this together, but as his grandfather on our way to these events, I also get to teach him how to drive going to and from. We get to spend some good time together, and I enjoy it. It really reduces the generation gap."

Jared Maxfield Sr. of Winchendon was also enjoy the monthly even with is son Jared Jr. Both of Maxfield's sons, Jared age 21 and Jacob age 19 serve their nation in the United States Army, and stared target shooting with their father when they were just 10 years old.

Being asked about the event and people attending Maxfield said, "A lot of these guys are very helpful when it comes to



Keith Kent photo

Sixteen year old Keagan Dignard of Acton fires at bowling pins during recent monthly pin-shooting at the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club.

promoting shooting sports and activities. Everybody here is friendly and supportive. We encourage those who are interested to come down and try it. It's only a cost of \$10 per person, and all the money collected goes to the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club to help support it."

Retired Winchendon Fire Chief Allen Lafrennie is also an avid pin shooter and event supporter. Lafrennie teaches a firearms safety course to obtain a license to carry and has taught the course to over 250 people to date.

Lafrennie said, "I started pin shooting about 10 years ago after going down to the Rod &

Gun to observe. John Durling was the range officer at the time running the shoots. After observing it I got really interested and the rest is history."

"One of the ladies who was there Sunday tried it out after usually shooting at an indoor range in Gardner. She usually uses a lesser caliber, and after shooting the pins said she would probably be out shopping for .45 caliber" said Lafrennie.

Lafrennie also said, "I got in to it just for the enjoyment. I have to tell you I have met a lot of really great people doing this. I have made new friends, and I have continued it every

week. I enjoy helping people, and getting them to enjoy their rights under the constitution. I am a firm believer in the Second Amendment, and until the day I die, I will be enjoying my time to go shooting. I want to get people involved and that's also why I wanted to become and instructor to teach the LTC course, so we can get more people involved and show them there is more to it than just what they may hear. We want people to get involved, and hopefully they will get people involved too."

MWCC hosting discussion ‘gender identity: understanding identity and sexuality’

GARDNER — Mount Wachusett Community College's Tea Time Speaker Series will hold a discussion and presentation titled "Gender Identity: Understanding Identity and Sexuality," on Monday, Sept. 25 from 12 to 2 p.m.

The keynote speaker for this event will be Laura Farnsworth who is the program director for Safe Homes & Greater Worcester PFLAG with The Bridge of Central Massachusetts Inc. Following a luncheon, the presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m. The discussion takes place at a time when understanding identity and sexuality can be challenging and the language around gender and sexuality continues to evolve rapidly.


Learning which words or phrases are most accurate, respectful, and useful is an important goal for classroom and workplace interactions. The training will examine key terms and concepts for understanding gender diversity, sexual orientation, and for communicating students and colleagues.

The Tea Time Speaker Series fosters conversation among the college community and greater community on social and cultural issues and awareness. The event will take place at MWCC's Gardner campus in the South Café. The event is open to the public and registration is available at mwcc.edu/teatime.

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RAPPING WITH RAPSON



Greg Vine photo

Solo guitarist Steve Rapson performed before an appreciated crowd at Beals Memorial Library on Thursday, Sept. 14. Rapson's repertoire ran the gamut from Elton John to J.S. Back. The event was supported by the Winchendon Cultural Council, with assistance from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Driver reports avoiding deer, takes out utility pole

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Winchendon police and fire departments responded to a report of a single vehicle accident along a wooded section of River Street and Route 202 at 11:16 p.m., on Saturday, September 16.

Kristen Ladeau, age 45, of 226 Ash St., Winchendon while traveling south on, swerved across the median in to the northbound lane, striking a utility pole with a 2013 Honda Accord. The impact which severed the pole at its base, was heard nearly a half mile away. There were no passengers.

With both police and fire receiving the call, personnel arriving upon the scene found the vehicle laying on its driver's side, with the lower-upper section of the pole consisting of telephone and cable lines laying both on top and over the passenger side of the vehicle.

Ladeau, after careful extrication,

was thoroughly examined by the first responders for any potential injuries. After the examination Ladeau exercised her legal right to a medical waiver, refusing medical treatment and transport, stating she had no injuries.

In a statement by the WPD, it was reported by Ladeau a deer had run out in front of her vehicle, causing her to swerve to attempt avoiding striking the deer.

National Grid arrived on scene just before midnight to find the severed pole leaning nearly 90 degrees and over the road being supported only by its wires which was slowly settling under its own weight and easily viewed from a distance.

NG worked throughout the early morning hours to remove and replace the old utility pole with a new one making the road and lane again safe for travel.

The WPD reported no charges will be filed.



Keith Kent photo
WFD members work quickly to extricate uninjured operator from a late night River Street Crash

Staying so long at the fair



These piglets were a popular attraction at Saturday's Royalston Country Fair.



Greg Vine photos
Face painter and balloon sculptor Mary Hakkinen was among those providing entertainment at the Royalston Country Fair last Saturday.



Mel Talbot Jr., makes a sale during Saturday's Royalston Country Fair.
Face painting was a popular attraction at the Royalston Country Fair last Saturday.



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