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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017

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Contracts approved for manager and chief

BY GREG VINE COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The Board of Selectmen Monday night approved new three-year contracts for Town Manager Keith Hickey and Fire Chief Tom Smith. Hickey's new contract kicks in on December 1, 2018, when his current contract is due to expire, while Smith's will go into effect on July 1 of next year, the start of fiscal year 2019.

In addition, the board voted to give Hickey a five percent salary hike for the last year of his existing contract, retroactive to December 1. Based on his negotiated salary of \$125,000, the increase amounts to an additional \$6,250, for a total yearly pay of \$131,250.

"Because Mr. Hickey's contract does not allow for a raise," said board Chairman Barbara Anderson, "it should be negotiated yearly. The board sought to compensate him for the evaluation in which he got outstanding scores. So, we wanted to adjust his FY18 contract by five percent."

Because neither the existing nor the new contract for Hickey

provide for an automatic percentage increase each year, his salary will remain \$131,250 when his new agreement goes into effect next December 1.

"We didn't want to put any language in there that defined a certain percentage," said board member C.J. Husslebee. "We want to come back as a board after the fact, after the evaluation, and just make sure we're giving him what we think is appropriate."

"We did have that discussion," said Anderson, "and I think we decided overall it was better to renegotiate – reevaluate – the contract based on evaluations. And I think that should be up to the board every year."

The board's decision differed from the strategy it employed last year. At that time, instead of giving Hickey a percentage increase, selectmen voted to give him a flat \$5,000.

During the discussion on Hickey's new contract it was noted that a residency requirement had been dropped.

"Not necessary in this day and age," said Anderson. "As far as I'm concerned," said Selectman Mike Barbaro, "Mr. Hickey has done an outstanding job for this community, turning it around and working with the staff and getting everything done that we needed to get done. He continues to move this town forward." "Our goal," Barbaro contin-

"Our goal," Barbaro continued, "has been, and is now, to get out of debt next year, four years into a ten-year deal. That's a lot of hard work by all the departments, with the leadership of Mr. Hickey. So,

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Winchendon Firefighters deliver toys to the WCAC collected from the town hall, Family Dollar, & Smith's Country Cheese

Behavioral needs addressed well but need funding support

BY KEITH KENT COURIER CORRESPONDENT

As young children enter the public school system for the very first time, the district has realized a growing need for added funding and programs to assist with educational needs of students who, through no fault of their own, have complex behavioral or social issues.

The growing need has necessitated the first year introduction of special classrooms and playrooms for children with advanced or strong emotional, social, or behavioral needs.

Memorial School which, serves 300 students in grades Pre-K through 2, has been seeing a significant increase of children who coming to school as new first time students especially at the Pre-K level, are experiencing complications with being hyperactive, a lack of frustration or anger control mechanisms, or even the attacking teachers among other complications.

Principal Michelle Atter during a school tour which included State Representative Jonathan Zlotnik, Superintendent Steve Haddad, and Town Manager Keith Hickey explained, "It can get difficult. Students with 'strong behavioral issues' will lash out at teachers sometimes hitting, kicking, and spitting on them. It only takes one student to disrupt an entire class, which can also upset the children around them. We have realized the need for and created a separate classroom / playroom for

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As Santa makes visit, toys delivered

BY KEITH KENT COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Christmas got an early start this year, as Santa attended an early greeting for some extremely happy children hosted by the WCAC Dec. 14 with many smiling faces providing a warm room on a cold winter's night.

Temps may have been in the single digits, but that didn't stop many happy children from coming to meet Santa Claus in person. Every child visiting was greeted with a warm welcome and one unwrapped toy, which was almost always opened immediately as children meeting for the first time played with

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Photo by Keith Kent

First Grade classes sing along with music teacher Samuel Vendt for parents, relatives, and friends.

Memorial students sing

to celebrate bolidays

Benedict headed for Harvard

BY JERRY CARTON COURIER CORRESPONDENT

For the second time in three years, a graduating Murdock senior will be headed to Harvard next fall. Michaela Benedict got the good news around 7 p.m. last Tuesday, and she acknowledged her immediate reaction was "a little bit of shock. I mean, it's Harvard."

She had known at 3 that afternoon the news was coming Tuesday night, but rather than tell that to her parents, Benedict said she calmed her own nerves by going out for ice cream.

"Yeah, it was cold," she laughed. "I knew I had a chance but you never know for sure so it was a little nervous waiting for it to come online."

Benedict had applied to eight schools but Harvard stood out in part because of her experience spending several summer weeks on campus a few years ago and because, as she said, "it's Harvard."

Yet even before that, Cambridge was special for her. She recalled going to Harvard for a swim meet when she was 11 and thinking, "it's really pretty here. I obviously wasn't thinking about college then but I guess there was something about being there," she laughed.

Throughout high school, Benedict was up for every academic challenge thrown at her. She cited science teacher Bill Puishys as a particular faculty inspiration, but not at first.

"I've had three AP classes with him but I remember the first day in AP physics, he threw a problem on the board and told us to solve it. Andrew *Turn To* **HARVARD** *page* **A10**

Courtesy photos

Michaela Benedict holds up her phone, on which an announcement from Harvard University states, "congratulations...the Committee on Admissions has admitted you."

BY KEITH KENT COURIER CORRESPONDENT

It was a time for joy and time for cheer, as Memorial School first grade students sang for their parents and many more with enthusiasm at a heartfelt holiday concert.

It may have only been 10° outside, but that didn't stop parents and friends from packing the Memorial School cafetorium to full capacity, as more than 120 first grade students representing five classes put on a musical performance for 300 in attendance to enjoy with photos flashing, video rolling, and room to stand a valuable commodity.

With a 30 minute performance and nearly a dozen songs on tap, students joyfully sang Winter Again, We Will Jingle, La Navidad, Winter Fun, My Red Sled, Don't Eat a Poinsettia, Mittens & Gloves, Happy Hanukkah, Christmas Jubilation, Peace "In a round" and closed with Silent Night.

Music teacher Samuel Vendt, who not only lead the students as their instructor and conductor, also joined in on the holiday performance with his young pupils playing the guitar while leading the way; and even fellow faculty members could be seen on the sidelines singing along with their young friends.

After the performance ended, students took a well-deserved bow, with adults in the room standing and clapping in jubilation for an evening performance to be remembered and cherished.

"Our students who performed this evening prepared with roughly a dozen classes of about 40 minutes each. They love the songs 'Christmas Jubilation' and 'Winter Again'

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LOCAL





SPORTS

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Greg Vine photos

Event organizer Bridget Marinelli speaks to a crowd of more than 300 people who showed up in single-digit temperatures to place wreaths at the graves of service men and women interred at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon. The event is part of the national Wreaths Across America program.

Volunteers for Wreaths Across America place wreaths at the graves of veterans at the Massachusetts Memorial Cemetery last Friday.



wreaths at the graves of veterans at the Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery.



Temperatures were in the single digits for the hundreds of people who showed up to place I-r) Laney, Jackson, Felicia, Raeanna, and Jessica Deloge of Fitchburg placed a wreath at the grave of Louis T. Depasquale at the state veterans' cemetery. Depasquale was Jessica's grandfather and the children's great grandfather.







Coral Grout - long active in local, state. and national American Legion Ladies Auxiliary affairs - places a wreath at the grave of her father, Charles "Charlie" Grout. Charlie, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, also served for many years as veterans' agent for Winchendon and several other communities. He was instrumental in getting the state to locate the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon. The cemetery opened in 2005.

Murdock Middle School 7th-grader Calvin Tenney places a wreath at one of the graves at the Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery in Winchendon as part of the annual Wreaths Across America event.



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REAL ESTATE **TRANSACTIONS**

WINCHENDON

\$366,250 186 Monomonac Rd E, Ocken Dorothy Est, and Coffey, Melisa D, to Hunt, Sheila M.

\$300,000 129 Toy Town Ln, Johns, Megan C, and Henry, Brian J, to Walker, Meredith.

\$235,000 155 Converse Dr, Pearson, Carolyn A, and Jackson, Edward C, to Powers, Colleen M.

\$225,000 106 2nd St, Farnam, John E, and Evans-Farnam, Sheryl, to Laroche, John, and Laroche, Tenneson.

\$224,019 35 Chase Ln Hachey, Paul E, and Hachey, Tammy L. to Wilminaton Svgs Fund Soc

\$190,000 36 Sibley Rd, Lafrennie, Paul A, and Lafrennie, Florence M, to Chabre, Jamie N, and Rodgerson, Courtney L.





Sunday, December 24

CHILDREN'S SERVICE: Children's Christmas Eve Service 10 a.m. at United Parish, 39 Front St.

For the young and old alike who enjoy hearing the story of the first Christmas as told in the scriptures.

LIVING NATIVITY: 6:30 p.m. at Clark Memorial YMCA

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: Candle Light Service at 10 p.m. at United Parish, 39 Front St.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: UUCW will host our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for this traditional service that includes readings of the Nativity Story, carol singing, and passing candlelight around the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome at this lovely prelude to Christmas Day. We will not have a morning worship service on Sunday, December 24.

Thursday, December 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. 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.

Thursday, January 11

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 Jan. 11. 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.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS

INDIVISIBLE WINCHENDON: The Indivisible Winchendon group meets every Sunday at 12:30 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/bealmemoriallibrary.

TUESDAY

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

LEARN: Computer classes for adults are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Beals Memorial Library and are open to adults ages 18 and older. CRAFT FOR ADULTS: On Tuesday nights at 6:30 Beals Memorial Library has an adult craft hour providing a place to meet and do crafts. People bring in things they are working on, and can get help on knitting, crocheting, quilting and discuss different ideas.

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

WEDNESDAY

BINGO! Hyde Park residents hold bingo in the community hall every Wednesday night beginning at 6 p.m. It's inexpensive, just two cards for 5ϕ , 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.

CHURCH HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Unitarian Universalist Church

UUCW will host our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Join us for this traditional service that includes readings of the Nativity Story, carol singing, and passing candlelight around the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome at this lovely prelude to Christmas Day. We will not have a morning worship service on Sunday, December 24.

United Parish Church Holiday

Happenings

ALL ARE WELCOME please take note of the times and locations!!!

Dec. 9th: Holly Bazaar 9 a.m.-2 p.m. United Parish Fellowship Hall

Dec. 17: The Christmas Cantata & Children's Christmas Party Luncheon 10 a.m. at United Parish

Dec. 17: Community Caroling 4 p.m. Meet at United Parish

We will be meeting at the church to gather the groups together and then divide into two groups. Everyone is welcome to join in voice and spirit, serenading folks with the Blessing of their favorite Christmas Carols.

Dec. 24: Fourth and Fifth Sunday of Advent: Lighting the Candle of Love at 10 a.m. and The Christ Candle at 10 p.m. **Dec. 24:** Children's Christmas Eve

Service 10 a.m. at United Parish For the young and old alike who enjoy

hearing the story of the first Christmas as told in the scriptures.

Living Nativity 6:30 p.m. at Clark Memorial

The Candle Light Service 10 p.m. at United Parish

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*.

The Iceman cometh!

the funds collected.

At the past Fall Festival, people may recall a mannequin [the iceman] at the Winchendon Springs Lake Association booth garbed in a WSLA sweat shirt and hat.

He also needed a name and several visitors to the booth entered the contest. "Plummeting Paul" was submitted by Mark Tambling and chosen by an astute 9-month old, Jack Drudi. Plummeting Paul will be set out on the ice at Lake Monomonac at the beginning of January. He has the duty to keep his watchful eyes on a 40 pound block and note when it goes through the ice. The first annual "Ice Out" contest is sponsored by the WSLA. The winner/s will split the pot with WSLA when Plummeting Paul takes his chilly dip and trips a clock that will record the day and time that the wet moment takes place. out-2018 or the following businesses: Chick's Tavern Brooks Auto Pete's Barber Shon in Cardner

Pete's Barber Shop in Gardner To each His Own Design Pelletier's Sport Shop in Jaffrey Not Just Produced

taining a clean lake for all to enjoy.

Tickets are one pick for \$2 or three picks for \$5

who guesses the date and time for Plummeting

Paul to take his dive. If you win, you receive half

Come and join the fun and you may be the one

All proceeds go toward weed control and main-

Any questions please feel free to call Dave

Anderson at (978) 855-6143 or dander1952@yaho.



Tickets are available on line at www.wsla.us/ice-

CONTRACTS

continued from page A1

it's our intent to renew his contract based on his performance. That's why we're doing this now. I don't want to lose Mr. Hickey to anybody else at this point."

The vote to approve both the FY18 increase and Hickey's new contract was four in favor, with one abstention.

Selectmen Austin Cyganiewicz explained he was abstaining because he was not present for the discussions on the pay and contract issues.

"However, I do want to note that I do think Mr. Hickey is doing an excellent job," said Cyganiewicz.

Prior to consideration of the town manager's contract, selectmen addressed the new contract for Chief Smith.

com.

"I'm very pleased and honored to bring this contract before the board," said Hickey. "I think Chief Smith has done a tremendous job for this community, and addressed a lot of shortcomings that we've had in the past, and he continues try to make improvements."

The first year of the contract

provides Smith a salary of \$92,310, representing an increase of 5.9 percent over his salary for the current fiscal year. In the remaining two years of the agreement, Smith will "receive a wage adjustment consistent with the percentage of adjustment given to all other nonaffiliated (non-union) employees." The chief is also entitled to an educational incentive equal to four percent of his base salary.

The vote to approve Smith's contract was unanimous.

"Thanks for your service," concluded Anderson. "Fabulous job." TheHeartOf Massachusetts.com



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WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS



<u>Editorial</u>

Let there be peace...

We are here just three days before the biggest holiday in the Christian calendar, the birth. It is a joyous time, and meant as time for families to unite (or reunite), for good will toward one another, for charity, for hope, and also for meditation and prayer; for reflection and perhaps even repentance.

The end of the cyclical year, the dead of winter; the end of days for those who go by the seasonal year as the Solstice ends the solar calendar with the shortest day of the year and begins a slow climb toward more light.

Those who live in an even darker, colder climate than New England were the ones who lit a log in commemoration of this, the hope the light would come back, that the people would stay warm enough through the rest of the dark winter to survive.

Many traditions are based on even older traditions, adapted to new uses.

We don't mind at all, but we would like to see some revived.

The one that says for just a few days, we forgive one another our differences, no matter what they may be. We don't need to know what it is we fear about one another that makes it an "us" and a scary "them." We just need to be a people. A single entity. Just for now.

We need to erase imaginary lines drawn on maps and globes. We need to forget anyone actually "owns" dirt. Or air. Or water.

We don't. We borrow for a few years. It then reverts or moves on to another form and to another "owner." We carry more dust that belongs to us on the soles of our shoes that we can claim ownership to than the acres we fight over on man-drawn papyrus.

We need to learn to say...enough. We own enough, we have enough, we've had enough, that's enough...

The wealth of the world is skewed true, and no, we don't expect it ever to be equalized; nor should it be spread about without someone doing their fair share to earn a bit of it; work is rewarded not existence. But on the other hand, when the world is producing enough food to feed itself easily yet there are people starving, when there are people without housing or clothing in a world as rich as ours, there is something wrong with the economies of the countries.

Health care, education, food, basic needs, are not rights true, at least not now in our country at this time in history (and before you hit us with the education one, re-examine the criteria now being set for voc-tech schools, charter schools and public schools and tell us again how we all have a right to basic education).

A lot of it has to do with the gap between the costs of goods and services and the wages that have not risen had the same rate as those costs. A person making \$1 an hour in 1957 was living better than his counterpart at \$10 an hour now.

Our expectations of having someone else do the hard stuff is skewed too. We have attempted to give our power to the politicians, the ones in charge, the Powers That Be, the bosses. We want to keep our heads down, do our thing and not take any responsibility. It's someone else's problem, so we can just complain, not be part of the solution.

Which brings us full circle.

If we aren't responsible, if we aren't the ones to reach out first, to say we will help, we will talk, we will ask, we will find out, we will fix, we will try... who will?

And if we want a bit of peace, we first need a bit of disturbance, of our own conscience.

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

And so 2017. What can I possibly say that I haven't already? The anguish never ends. It briefly eases some days but never disappears. 198 days ago, my world was irrevocably shattered, changed forever. Not just mine either. I remain awed at the number of lives

Courtney touched in her all-too-brief life. I can't tell you how much it meant to me the other day when one of her cohorts now on the West coast told me that she found herself, after a particularly difficult session, wondering what Courtney might have suggested as an approach. And I can't tell you how much it meant to me when this woman told me another of their cohort said the same thing to her - 'what do you think Courtney would have thought? Those sentiments meant the world to me. As agonizingly personal as losing her has been and while I'm obviously biased, what I hear from her cohorts suggests she might have made a significant mark even in her little corner of the world. When her Smith cohorts tell me they remain inspired by her, I can't help but smile and cry at the same time.

Her friends here in town? They too have been breathtakingly amazing throughout, several having been to Baltimore twice in the last few months where they've been wonderful as well to my aging and grieving parents. Class acts, every one of them. My own friends here and across the country, literally coast-to-coast? I'll never find the right words to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you. Quite simply, it truly does take that proverbial village.

And so 2017. We lost Courtney. We lost Annie. My mom went through a very serious health scare, and last week while at physical therapy for my shoulder, I fell and fractured a rib. No, the next 4-6-8 weeks will not be fun.

And then there was 2017 beyond our private world. What began at the Women's March the day after the relatively-sparsely attended inauguration has morphed into increasing electoral victories as the full impact of this presidency sinks in. Best of all, we're seeing tangible results from the Resistance on state and local levels. Alabama's Senate race drew the most attention because

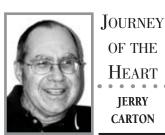
This year...

OF THE

HEART

JERRY

CARTON



child molester on the ballot but it means so much that people who might never have chosen activism before became involved this year. Those state legislative races in Virginia, in New Jersey, in Washington state, are I hope the early signs of the wave that just might

be building for next November.

I have opined here that DJT's election might eventually be seen as the best thing to ever happen to American democracy because this is what it took to awaken people to the fact that democracy is very fragile and needs constant vigilance and nurturing. Turnout in these off-off year elections despite efforts at voter suppression spiked and that's a good thing.

It was good as well this year to see how many of us responded by stepping up our contributions to organizations and causes dedicated to doing the right things. There is hope. There is always hope but turning hope into results, into improved economic equality and social justice takes work. For too long, too few people were willing to help do that work. Maybe, just maybe, things are changing.

And so 2017. I covered a lot of interesting stories and fascinating people. I try in this weekly essay to steer away from commenting on the work I do every day while wearing my reporter's hat but as the year draws to a close (this is our last issue until January - next week is the annual pictorial review), I nonetheless have to say this - I see a whole lot of innovative programs and projects going on at the schools, both at Murdock and the Winchendon School. From personalized learning to live labs to "Think Globally, Act Locally," to creative ways to teach, to the backpack program, to students who are ambitious and committed to making their own impact and who are already doing so, I covered a lot of energetic and enthusiastic kids and teachers. The public school system is making strides towards the next level. The private school is not isolated and haughty but a real partner. All these are good things. There remains much work to be done but the commitment is there. Once again, it takes that aforementioned village.

And so 2017. See you January 5.å

Christmas and its holiday billions

Every year the commercialization of Christmas seems to somehow reach new uncharted levels. This year is no exception with consumer confidence at near record levels and the stock market breaking well in to the 24,000 point barrier by Dec. 16. The spending spree has declared it's game on, so sit back and here we go.

Where does all this money come from with so many saying they have no money? It can't all be the top one percent, can it? While the national divide between those who have, and those who have not continues to grow as fast as the stock market, the numbers clearly do not represent those in who are members of the "In-Need" population. This December is certainly no exception, so let's look at some statistics.

Hundreds of billions doesn't seem large enough to describe how monstrous the appetite for Christmas or holiday spending has gotten. Forbes, CNN-Money, and more have been tallying the figures and the numbers are staggering.

This December, American consumers will spend \$2.04 billion on Christmas trees. Yes, you read correct. We will blow over 2 billion large on something which in one month or less, we will be tossing out as garbage. By the way, at an average of \$40 per evergreen, we are tossing out over 50 million trees. Has using a fake tree actually become the new going green? Yes, I know, not popular. You decide.

Paper giant Hallmark also released its industry projections, and this holiday season

.....



U.S. consumers will spend and additional \$3.2 billion on wrapping paper to decorate and disguise those treasured gifts. If there is an upside to these trees coming down, at least we can recycle them.

Now if you're ready for the real hard hitting numbers, try these on for size.

Black Friday shoppers spent a record \$5 billion nationally in just 24 hours, up a whopping 16.9 percent from the previous December record. A few days later, on Cyber Monday, another \$6.06 billion was added though on-line sales.

The numbers don't stop there. Total holiday sales both retail and on-line combined reached \$655.9 billion for December 2016. Surely, we couldn't top that, right? Well, guess again my fellow patriots. Our combined consumer spending army waged its war on the old records, and blew them away. Holiday sales starting Black Friday of November and through this December, 2017 are on track to meet or exceed 680 billion bucks. That's right. We are closing in, and at this rate will reach 3/4 of a trillion dollars in just shopping spending alone within just several more years.

Well, that's assuming the quite possibly over inflated

economy doesn't come crashing back down and wipe out your 401K gains like the asteroid that opened up a can of whoop-ass on the dinosaurs.

Finally, when you combine the fuel it takes your vehicles to drive to all those stores, shoppers eating at restaurants, family gatherings, airline tickets, gift cards and more, combined Holiday spending surpasses one trillion dollars here in the good old U.S.A. Santa, I think you're going to need a bigger sleigh!

With that, I wish everybody a Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah, or whatever else you may celebrate. We all hope to get to the same place someday, so let's just offer a hug in the name of the holidays. Travel safely, and God Bless.

Long past time to honor the innocents

"Why ban guns? Let's give everyone rocket launchers! What could possibly go wrong?" - Oliver Markus Malloy, German-American author

Last Thursday, December 14, marked the fifth anniversary of the day a crazed young man with a Bushmaster XM-E2S rifle – a semi-automatic weapon - blasted his way into the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut and, in the space of five minutes, coolly snuffed out the lives of 20 first-graders and six adult staff members.

Americans were shocked...for about a half-second.

Predictably, there were calls for new federal and state gun laws banning the manufacture and sale of certain types of semi-automatic weapons and magazines holding more than ten rounds of ammunition. There were calls for expanding background checks and closing gun show loopholes.

Just as predictably, a Republican Congress did nothing.

For some reason, Republicans' backbones take on the characteristic of an overcooked ramen noodle when faced

with the possibility of incurring the wrath of National Rifle Association Vice President Wayne LaPierre. Not since presidential candidate John Anderson (who, sadly, passed away on Dec. 3) has a Republican dared take on the mighty gun lobby. During an appearance before the Gun Owners of New Hampshire, after his six rivals for the GOP nomination declared their opposition to gun control, Anderson stood before the crowd and asked, "When in this country we license people to drive



automobiles, what is so wrong about proposing that we license guns to make sure that felons and mental incompetents don't get ahold of them?" The answer, of

course, was - and still is – nothing.

And that's exactly what was done following the slaughter in Connecticut; nothing.

Naturally, we heard some politicians, in a totally meaningless gesture, solemnly urge Americans to remember the victims in their thoughts and prayers. It is a plea cynically repeated following each increasingly bloody mass shooting since Newtown. It is a plea uttered by our so-called leaders solely to assuage the guilt they harbor for doing absolutely nothing to curtail the slaughter

(assuming, of course, they actually have enough heart to even feel guilt).

The same thing happened in the wake of the Las Vegas massacre. Immediately, there were calls for banning so-called "bump stocks," which essentially turn a semi-automatic weapon into a fully automatic weapon of mass destruction. And yet, our lawmakers have done nothing.

I'll admit it. I do not like guns. Don't want one. Don't want one near me.

My father, uncles, and brothers were all, to a greater or lesser extent, hunters. I get it. I'm not suggesting a ban on all firearms.

What I don't get is the cowardice of mainly GOP senators and representatives. Why are they so reticent to enact legislation that actually has the support of most of their constituents?

A Quinnipiac poll conducted in

Taking away fears of first day by playing

BY KEITH KENT COURIER CORRESPONDENT

While it may have seemed like any other day at Memorial School it was however anything but, as children ages five and younger were taking part in a unique "Play Group" Dec. 13 alongside their parents, who were equally enjoying the opportunity all funded by a Coordinated Family Community Engagement grant.

The program tour, which was attended by both State Representative Jonathan Zlotnik (D-Gardner) and Winchendon Town Manager Keith Hickey, provided a unique insight in to the value of earlier than normal traditional educational beginning steps.

As children were coloring. making arts and crafts, and learning early social skills, the programs true benefits, while barely visible to the untrained eye, were helping future students become comfortable with their upcoming surroundings to ease their transition from the home and into the classroom, all the while building trusting relationships.

Assistant Director of Pupil Services Suzanne Michel was very happy with the results.

Michel said, "We are able to make those early connections with the children and the families. What we want to do is build those ties and bridges so that by the time students are ready to walk through the doors, no matter if they come in for Pre-K or Kindergarten, they will have already established a rapport with the school."

The CFCE grant, according to Michel, also allowed for the hiring of an outreach liaison who is available to answer any questions about a child's development, give them access to resources in the community, and provide an Ages and Stages Questionnaire.

"The liaison helps parents connect with where their children are at and where they need to go developmentally,' explained Michel.

The grant also allows for a Brain Building Bulletin Newsletter. For families who are looking for more information, there is an automatic email list for parents who can join by contacting the Pre-K program office, and there has also been the recent addition of a Winchendon Play Group Community Facebook page.

Discussing relationships, Michel said, "Building trusting and familiar relationships comes from a platform of respecting that parents are a child's first teacher, so we provide activities and enrichment opportunities to engage the parents. Again, it's all about starting early and building those relationships.'

As preschool is ultimately a formal foundation of education, and it addresses children ages 3 to 5, the established "Play Groups" under the pro-gram target children ages birth and up, providing a significant advantage to children who previously would have never entered the school. Now, these children and future students through the grant funded program can achieve hands-on experience in an early classroom setting, become familiarized, and established personal relationships with both the school and its teachers.

Describing age range opportunities Michel added, "Any of our students who did not get selected to take part in our age 3 to 5 Pre-K program, which is lottery based and has a limited number of spots, can still access the Play Group, and we run a Pre-School aged play group which meets only once a week and still provides an educational relationship with families. Now with the play groups we can provide for and let parents start to bring in their children even as early as just after birth.'

One other significant advantage of the play group program as explained by Michel is providing an opportunity for children who are an only child to interact with other children and learn social skills.

Also, as networking is provided for parents of future students, it allows the school and district to partner with the parents before the students even come through the door for formal education, and help identify any social, developmental, cognitive skills for which the child may need early or proactive assistance.

When asked what has been the reactions of parents taking part in the early play group programs Michel said, "Parents have been very positive, they have been very receptive, to coming in and working with us and engaging with us. All of the feedback has shown tremendous interest. This allows



WINCHENDON COURIER 5

Photo by Keith Kent

Parents and children ages Pre-K and younger take advantage of free early introduction to school through play groups to help students become more comfortable with their future surroundings.

us to look at what other types of programing can we provide to meet the needs of or the interests of the families. By their feedback, we are able to develop new programs to match what it is they are looking for from us."

Michel added, "Parents also gain a deeper understanding of developmental miles stones, and a better understanding of what their child needs. It's all research and networked based."

In closing Michel said, "There are many advantages to this program, as what we are looking to do is not only establish a relationship with the child, parent, and school, but that they see this is all one interconnected entity that relies on each other. We can address and individualize a child's needs. We get to understand the family, the family is able to realize what is expected of the school, and together we all build that plan. Right away we come at it from a proactive response, rather than needing to be reactive once the child comes to school with us."

More students making college plans

BY JERRY CARTON COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Continuing the Courier's series on college-bound Murdock High School seniors, meet Arianna Berman and Maddy Bishop.

Berman was all set to leave for warmer climes. With family in the Sunshine State, the University of Central Florida beckoned. But then Berman became one of the recipients of the John and Abigail Adams scholarship, which suddenly made staving in Massachusetts a lot cheaper while still allowing her to pursue her dream of teaching math. "Math always clicked for me," said Berman who is busy tutoring other students for whom the subject doesn't come quite as easily. Overall, working out of

the Academic Support Center at MHS, she's working with eight students including a middle schooler whom she has tutored since last year.

"I was sort of volunteered by Ms. (Sherri) Fairbanks but I really like doing this.

"I tell them to take it step by step," noted Berman while acknowledging "sometimes people panic about math. I try to

help prevent that."

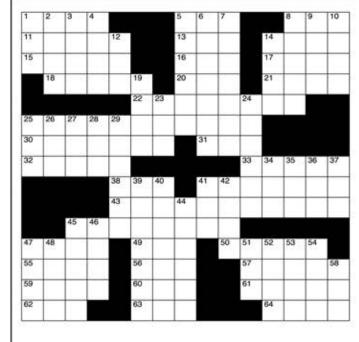
Pro Athletics in Leominster.

"I've been cheering for eight years. It was a way to make friends in the beginning," she said.

As for Pro Athletics?

"They're really experienced," she said of the All-Star facility. "Being there has benefited me, and my school team too. It's a great place."

What prompted Berman to get involved in so many activities? I saw people out in the cold. That's when I knew I wanted to help. Even tutoring, I feel like I'm making a difference," she explained. Berman hasn't committed to any school yet and laughingly conceded there are winter days when she "sort of regrets" her decision to forgo Florida.



CLUES ACROSS

11. Sayings attributed to Christ

13. The products of human

18. Yankees' sensation Judge

21. Comics legend Lee

22. Honorary title holder

30. Graceful and stylish

8. Residue

14. Listen to

15. Longed

20. Zero

creativity

16. No (Scottish)

25. "Uncle Joey"

31. Pitching term

CLUES DOWN

1. Pie mode

26. Complete

28. Psyche

27. Automotive belt

2. Portuguese cape

3. Ottoman military title

17. Descriptor

1. Member of a Semitic people 33. One who avoids animal products 5. Certified public accountant

so while she wants to teach math, tutoring is hardly the only item on her plate these days. Student Council, National Honor Society, and being a class officer all represent components of a busy life.

there's Then cheering. Berman has been cheering for a long time and not only is she on the school team, she's active at

Turn To **STUDENTS** page **A8**



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5					9	8		7

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!

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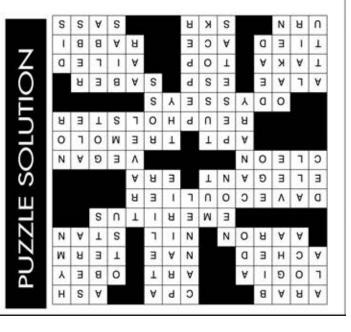
Fun By The Numbers

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!

4. Movable frame used in burials 36. Type of beverage 37. Neither 5. Type of coal 6. A treeless grassy plain 39. Spanish monetary units 7. Artist's workroom 40. Small area of grass 8. Assists 41. Your 9. Protein-rich liquids 42. Diana __, singer 10. A song of praise to God 44. Salt's partner 12. Much about nothing 45. Made of wood 14. Japanese city 46. No longer alive 19. Atomic number 10 47. Alaskan island 23. Egyptian goddess 48. Wild animal's resting place 24. Go places 51. Swiss river 25. Having ten 52. Partiality

- - 53. "Luther" actor Idris 54. UNLV's "Runnin'





- 38. Quick to learn
- 41. Mechanism in an organ
- 43. Redo with new materials
- 45. Epics
- 47. Wings
- 49. Extrasensory perception
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Bangladeshi monetary unit
- 56. Not the bottom
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Bound
- 60. One who is highly skilled
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Tall, rounded vase

29. Melodious bird

35. Acquired

34. Medical personnel

- 63. Liturgical language of Hinduism (abbr.)
- 32. Former Mets outfielder Jones 64. Cheek

Police Log

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

Police agencies can no longer print the names of people who are arrested or charged with domestic assault related charges. The new law is designed to protect victims, so they are not re-victimized through indirect identification.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

1:00-1:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:06 p.m.: investigation (Benjamin Street), services rendered; 4:58 a.m.: assist other agency (Ready Drive), info taken; 7:41 a.m.: assist citizen (Spruce Street), message delivered; 8:06 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), citation issued; 8:30 a.m.: DPW call (School Square), referred; 8:56 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 10:34 a.m.: assist other agency (Central Street), services rendered; 11:31 a.m.: dog bite (Ash Street), spoken to; 12:04 p.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Street), transported; 12:40 p.m.: suspicious (other) (Pleasant Street), info taken; 1:46 p.m.: FD call (Central Street), services rendered; 3:45 p.m.: accident (Front Street), report taken; 5:18 p.m.: ambulance (High Street), transported; 5:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Goodrich Drive), written warning; 6:32 p.m.: welfare check/child (Hale Street), spoken to; 6:35 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), written warning; 6:42 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), written warning; 6:50 p.m.: investigation (West Street), unable to locate; 8:49 p.m.: ambulance (River Street), verbal warning; 9:28 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 9:38 p.m.: mv stop (Front Street), citation issued.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

12:10 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:20 a.m.: recovered mv (Central Street), mv stored/impounded; 12:27-1:56 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:05 a.m.: assist other agency (Ready Drive), info taken; 8:47 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), advised civil action; 8:50 a.m.: warrant of apprehension (Joslin Road), arrest; 9:26 a.m.: traffic hazard (Monadnock Avenue), referred; 9:43 a.m.: info/general (Spruce Street), no service necessary; 9:52 a.m.: investigation (Maple Street), spoken to; 10:35 a.m.: warrant of apprehension (Spring Circle), arrest; 10:41 a.m.: ambulance (Memorial Drive), transported; 12:00 p.m.: juvenile/general (Memorial Drive), property seized: 1:29 p.m.: keep the peace (Spring Street), assisted; 1:47 p.m.: investigation (Robbins Road), spoken to; 4:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Front Street), gone on arrival; 5:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Ronald J. Flagg Jr., age 50, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, citation issued; 5:28 p.m.: burglar alarm (Baldwinville Road), secure; 6:56 p.m.: investigation (School Street), spoken to; 7:25 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), verbal warning; 8:04 p.m.: repossess my (Pearl Drive), info taken; 8:22 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 8:34 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), written warning; 8:49 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), written warning; 11:52-11:54 p.m.: buildings checked, secure

Street), secured bldg.; 1:26 p.m.: harassment order service (Juniper Street), unable to serve; 2:01 p.m.: investigation (Gardner Road), report taken; 2:03 p.m.: vandalism (School Street), report taken; 2:27 p.m.: info/general (Memorial Drive), info taken; 4:41 p.m.: investigation (Maple Street), spoken to; 4:50 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:34 p.m.: illegal dumping (Railroad Street), spoken to; 6:43 p.m.: investigation (Summer Drive), secure; 6:52 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:35 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 7:39-9:47 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:49 p.m.: investigation (Glenallan Street), secure; 9:52-10:03 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:44-2:22 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:26 a.m.: assist other agency (Ready Drive), info taken; 10:08 a.m.: summons service (Juniper Street), served; 10:15 a.m.: summons service (Juniper Street), unable to serve; 10:18 a.m.: summons service (Hitchcock Road), advised officer; 10:31 a.m.: investigation (Gardner Road), services rendered; 11:31 a.m.: missing person (Liberty Drive), report taken; 1:00 p.m.: investigation (Grove Street), report taken; 1:54 p.m.: vandalism (Glenallan Street), report taken; 3:33 p.m.: harassment (Pearl Drive), report taken; 4:27 p.m.: welfare check/elderly (Linden Street), transported to hospital; 4:59 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), unable to locate; 5:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Juniper Street), referred to ACO; 8:06 p.m.: investigation (West Street), spoken to; 8:27 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 8:40 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 11:22 p.m.: burglar alarm (Glenallan Street), canceled; 11:42-11:43 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

1:04 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 1:21-2:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:17 a.m.: investigation (Murdock Avenue), spoken to; 2:27-2:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:40 a.m.: assist other agency (Ready Drive), info taken; 7:17 a.m.: mental health issue (Pleasant Street), report taken; 7:24 a.m.: mental health issue (Central Street), transported to hospital; 10:41 a.m.: mv stop (Front Street), verbal warning; 11:05 a.m.: welfare check/general (Cedar Terrace), report taken; 12:00 p.m.: fraud (Phyllis Road), report taken; 12:42 p.m.: assist other PD (Cedar Terrace), William T. Wright, 38, 19 Cedar Terrace, Winchendon, violation of abuse prevention order, report taken; 2:11 p.m.: accident (Teel Road), info taken: 3:12 p.m.: ATV complaint (Washington Avenue), spoken to; 3:35 p.m.: mv violations (Hall Street), report taken; 6:05 p.m.: traffic hazard (West Monomonac Road), unable to locate; 6:33 p.m.: ambulance (Walnut Street), transported; 7:14 p.m.: accident (Hill Street), Daniel M. Benavides, 20, 528 Central Street, Winchendon, op w/suspended license, summons; 9:04 p.m.: disabled my (Baldwinville State Road) mv towed; 9:10 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), written warning; 9:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Goodrich Drive), referred to other PD.

ing; 4:36 p.m.: accident (Spring Street), report taken; 5:32 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lincoln Avenue), advised officer; 7:28 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), verbal warning; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), citation issued; 8:55 p.m.: assist other PD (Benjamin Street), assisted; 9:05 p.m.: burglar alarm (Front Street), secured bldg.; 9:18 p.m.: investigation (Laurel Street), message delivered; 11:16 p.m.: disabled mv (Spring Street), services rendered; 11:24 p.m.: ambulance (Phyllis Road), transported; 11:57 p.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Road), transported.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

1:09-2:15 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:09 a.m.: burglar alarm (Maple Street), secured bldg.; 5:58 a.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), written warning; 7:32 a.m.: ambulance (Maple Street), transported; 8:03 a.m.: burglar alarm (High Street), false alarm; 9:16 a.m.: assist motorist (Mill Glen Pond North Road), services rendered; 9:29 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 11:53 a.m.: mental health issue (Lakeshore Drive), transported to hospital; 12:29 p.m.: weapons violations (Mellen Road), property seized; 2:13 p.m.: property found (School Street), unable to locate; 2:15 p.m.: illegal dumping (Central Street), spoken to; 2:27 p.m.: fire/box alarm (Memorial Drive), false alarm; 4:28 p.m.: FD call (Gardner Road), unfounded; 5:01 p.m.: traffic hazard (Prospect Street), info given; 5:22 p.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Street), services rendered; 6:47 p.m.: ambulance (Cabot Road), transported; 7:23 p.m.: larceny (Ipswich Drive), spoken to; 7:39 p.m.: mv stop (Railroad Street), Shari L. McCarthy, 44, 47 Wyman Road, Keene, NH, op w/suspended license - subsequent offense, mv operator refusing to identify self, failure to stop/yield, arrest

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:49-1:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:41 a.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street), transported;

1:42-2:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:24 a.m.: assist other agency (Ready Drive), info taken; 9:15 a.m.: 911 hang up (Whitney Street), child playing w/phone; 10:15 a.m.: accident (Central Street), report taken; 10:29 a.m.: ambulance (Elm Street), transported; 10:32 a.m.: holdup alarm (Central Street), false alarm; 11:13 a.m.: extra patrols (Central Street), advised officer; 11:36 a.m.: accident (Winchendon Road, Royalston), referred; 12:00 p.m.: drug/narcotics violations (Memorial Drive), report taken; 2:00 p.m.: larceny (Ipswich Drive), report taken; 2:20 p.m.: burglar alarm (Front Street), secure; 2:42 p.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street), info taken; 3:38 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Cedar Terrace), report taken; 4:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Front Street), spoken to; 5:38 p.m.: accident (River Street), report taken; 6:00 p.m.: officer wanted (School Street), spoken to; 6:56 p.m.: traffic hazard (Front Street), removed; 8:07 p.m.: disabled mv (River Street), removed; 9:48 p.m.: my stop (Front Street), verbal warning; 10:24 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 11:55-11:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 12:01-12:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:17 a.m.: juvenile/general (Royalston Road South), services rendered; 6:02 a.m.: assist motorist (Gardner Road); 8:39 a.m.: keep the peace (Hill Street), advised civil action; 8:48 a.m.: investigation (Monadnock Avenue), Krystal K. Hubbard, 31, possession of heroin, possession Class B drug, arrest; 10:00 a.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), false alarm; 11:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Old Gardner Road), referred to ACO; 12:30 p.m.: investigation (Memorial Drive), juvenile arrest, 16, distribution of Class D drug, drug violation near school/park: 1:59 p.m.: ambulance (West Monomonac Road), transported; 2:06 p.m.: accident (River Street), report taken; 2:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), message delivered; 3:45 p.m.: accident (Central Street), report taken; 4:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:52 p.m.: intoxicated person (Gardner Road), AL SER SQ spoken to; 5:18 p.m.: investigation (Maple Street), spoken to; 5:29 p.m.: ambulance (Hospital Drive), referred; 6:18-7:52 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 9:07 p.m.: burglar alarm Street), (Front secure.

vice necessary; 1:46 p.m.: ambulance (Teel Road), services rendered; 2:45 p.m.: suicide threats (Jackson Avenue), transported to hospital; 4:13-4:28 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:31 p.m.: investigation (Glenallan Street), spoken to; 4:35-4:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:57 p.m.: domestic (Teel Road), unfounded; 5:10 p.m.: accident (North Fitzwilliam Road, Royalston), services rendered; 6:04 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), advised officer; 6:17 p.m.: accident (Spring Street), citation issued; 6:28 p.m.: accident (Spring Street), citation issued; 6:57 p.m.: ambulance (Webster Street), unfounded; 9:28-9:29 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:35 p.m.: lift assist (Lakeview Drive), services rendered.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

1:01-2:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:14 a.m.: animal complaint (North Ashburnham Road), returned to owner; 8:33 a.m.: sex offender registration (Glenallan Street), assisted; 9:15 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Spring Street), spoken to; 9:47 a.m.: disabled mv (River Street), assisted; 10:30 a.m.: accident (Teel Road), report taken; 10:42 a.m.: ambulance (Teel Road), transported; 10:58 a.m.: larceny (Beaman Court), no service necessary; 12:33 p.m.: accident (Central Street), report taken; 12:34 p.m.: custody dispute (Goodrich Drive), info given; 12:58 p.m.: disabled mv (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 1:10 p.m.: DPW call (Laurel Street). referred; 1:50 p.m.: 911 non-emergency (Pleasant Street), no service necessary; 1:57 p.m.: welfare check/general (Central Street), no service necessary; 2:09 p.m.: assist other agency (Mill Glen Road), spoken to; 2:35 p.m.: property damage (Front Street), report taken; 3:10 p.m.: ambulance (Beaman Court), transported; 4:37 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), advised civil action; 5:35 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), verbal warning; 5:43 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), citation issued; 5:54 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), written warning; 6:00 p.m.: fire alarm (Railroad Street), false alarm; 6:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), referred to ACO; 7:19 p.m.: dog bite (Mellen Road), referred to ACO; 8:29 p.m.: ambulance (Brown Street), transported; 8:49 p.m.: mv stop (Pond Street), verbal warning; 9:01 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Street), written warning; 9:14 p.m.: suspicious mv (Railroad Street), spoken to; 10:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (Grove Street), secure; 11:27 p.m.: disabled mv (Lincoln Avenue Extension), services rendered.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

1:09-1:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:53 a.m.: disabled mv (Gardner Road), services rendered; 2:10-3:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:51 a.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville Road), transported; 8:53 a.m.: accident (Central Street), report taken: 9:08 a.m.: bolo (Route 12 southbound), assisted; 9:53 a.m.: assist other PD (Spring Street), unable to serve; 10:06 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), false alarm; 10:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Krantz Road), spo ken to; 10:55 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road), report taken; 11:11 a.m.: investigation (Gardner Road), spoken to; 11:36 a.m.: ambulance (River Street), transported; 11:41 a.m.: animal complaint (School Street), referred to ACO; 1:00 p.m.: missing person (Cedar Street), spoken to; 2:05 p.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive), services rendered; 3:54 p.m.: ambulance (Chestnut Street), transported; 5:33 p.m.: extra patrols (Glenallan Street), secure; 5:40 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 6:03 p.m.: extra patrols (Glenallan Street), secure; 6:25 p.m.: burglar alarm (West Street), false alarm; 6:27 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), advised officer; 8:20 p.m.: registration check (Glenallan Street), no service necessary; 9:07 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive), services rendered; 10:11 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 10:23 p.m.: intoxicated person (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:46 p.m.: ambulance (West Street), services rendered; 11:42 p.m.: mv stop (Railroad Street), verbal warning; 11:55 p.m.: building checked, secure.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

1:22-1:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:46 a.m.: suspicious mv (Maple Street), gone on arrival; 5:05 a.m.: assist other agency (Ready Drive), info taken: 6:04 a.m.: ambulance (Hvde Park Drive), services rendered; 10:42 a.m.: abandoned mv (Spring Street), info taken; 10:47 a.m.: burglar alarm (Russell Farm Road), services rendered; 11:19 a.m.: summons service (Independence Drive), unable to serve; 11:59 a.m.: b&e/ mv (Gardner Road), report taken; 12:44 p.m.: summons service (Alger Street). served; 12:54 p.m.: harassment order service (Clark Road), spoken to; 1:06 p.m.: summons service (Alger Street), served; 1:17 p.m.: burglar alarm (Pine

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

1:25-1:44 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:55 a.m.: burglar alarm (Front Street), secured bldg.; 2:15 a.m.: building checked, secure; 3:53 a.m.: ambulance (Cummings Road), services rendered; 4:08 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), rescued; 7:35 a.m.: assist other PD (Baldwinville Road), assisted; 7:38 a.m.: burglar alarm (Central Street), secure; 11:22 a.m.: threats (Webster Street), report taken; 11:51 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Street), transported; 12:29 p.m.: accident (River Street) report taken; 1:10 p.m.: disabled mv (West Street), advised officer: 1:59 p.m.: property damage (Elmwood Road), spoken to; 2:12 p.m.: animal complaint (Route 12, Fitzwilliam), info taken; 2:27 p.m.: ambulance (Whitney Street), transported: 3:50 p.m.: accident (Alger Street), report taken; 3:52 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), verbal warn-

THURSDAY, **DECEMBER** 14

12:29-3:04a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:19 a.m.: domestic (Baldwinville State Road), no service necessary; 11:17 a.m.: burglar alarm (Prospect Street), secured bldg.; 11:57 a.m.: custody dispute (Goodrich Drive), advised civil action; 12:51 p.m.: DPW call (Alger Street), referred; 1:17 p.m.: investigation (Ipswich Drive), no ser-

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

1:11-1:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:16 a.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), citation issued; 11:34 a.m.: assist other agency (Teel Road), message delivered; 11:45 a.m.: property damage (Brown Street), report taken; 11:51 a.m.: info/general (Central Street), referred to court; 12:46 p.m.: suspicious person (Spruce Street), transported; 12:51 p.m.: assist other PD (High Street); 3:43 p.m.: property damage (Brown Street), report taken; 4:19 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 6:33 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), verbal warning; 6:45 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 6:53 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 7:37 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street), transported; 8:44 p.m.: runaway (Polly's Drive), report taken.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:33 a.m.: traffic hazard (Hale Street), spoken to; 10:01 a.m.: threats (Spruce Street), report taken; 10:34 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Spring Street), report taken; 10:45 a.m.: ambulance (Alger Street), transported; 11:35 a.m.: assist citizen (Prospect Street), spoken to; 11:56 a.m.: assist other PD (Spring Street), 209A served; 12:27 p.m.: keep the peace (Lincoln Avenue Extension), property returned to

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OBITUARIES

Cameron Paul Butler

WINCHENDON - Cameron Paul Butler, passed away in the arms of his parents, Mitchell and Rebecca (Finnessey) Butler, on November 30, 2017.

Cameron leaves his paternal grandparents, Paul and Karen Butler of Fitchburg; his maternal grandparents, Ronald and Rose Finnessey of Easthampton; uncles, Chris Butler of Fitchburg and Ronald Finnessey Jr. of Easthampton.

Calling hours were held Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017 in the Lamoureux-Smith & Poliks Funeral Home, A Mack Family Funeral Home, 105 Central St., Gardner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Cameron's memory to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607. Please indicate that the donation go to Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield MA, C/O Mitchell and Rebecca Butler. You may also donate online at loveshriners.org with the notation Mitchell and Rebecca Butler.

To send an online condolence please visit www.mackfamilyfh@gmail.com

Lamoreux-Smith & Poliks, a Mack Family Funeral Home, 105 Central St., Gardner is assisting with arrangement.

Patricia Lee Fougere, 79

DANVERS — Patricia Lee Fougere, age 79, longtime resident of Marblehead passed away peacefully on December 12, 2017 in Danvers.



Patricia was born on April 11, 1938 Winchendon to Elizabeth Townes Poole and William Thomas Poole. attended Patricia Marblehead High School and later earned a Master of

Education degree from Cambridge College. Patricia was committed to social justice causes, mostly recently women's prison outreach through Church of St. Andrew in Marblehead. Patricia was the first female president of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead.

Four trees are planted in Patricia's name at the John F. Kennedy Peace Forest in Jerusalem. She also received accolades as a social worker, including being awarded Woman of the Month in Santa Barbara, CA for her work in domestic violence prevention.

Patricia was a published author of

novels, poems and a children's essay entitled A Glover Goes to Sea, which recounted her great-grandfather Edmund Glover's first sea voyage as a cabin boy to the Grand Banks in 1866.

Patricia was preceded in death by her husband Dr. Paul Francis Fougere. She is survived by her sister Judith Poole Humphrey, her daughters Wendy Lee Hubbard, Susan Bentley Johnson, Rebecca Salter Brainard and Jessica Glover Brainard, her grandchildren Meghann Sargent and Sakara Dream Gerke, and her great-grandchildren Dillon Vacek and Emersen Sargent.

Memorial donations may be kindly made to Kaplan Family Hospice House, 78 Liberty Street, Danvers, MA 01923.

The family wishes to extend their deep gratitude to Kaplan Family Hospice House for their gracious care and compassion.

A memorial service for Patricia will be planned at a later date. Arrangements by Eustis and Cornell of Marblehead. To share a memory of Patricia or offer a condolence to her family, please visit www.eustisandcornellfuneralhome. com.

Bruce A. Peal, 80

WESTMINSTER — Bruce A. Peal, age 80, a former longtime resident of Westminster, died peacefully Saturday evening, December 16, 2017 in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home, Gardner, with his family at his side.



He was born in Hartford, CT on December 4, 1937, son of the late George E. and Evelyn (Telfer) Peal and lived in Westminster for most of his life. While living in Westminster, Bruce

ME. After living in Westminster for many years, he lived in Hampton, NH for twelve years. Most recently, he lived in Gardner.

He leaves his children, Debra Dahlgren and her wife Linda Bouchard of Phillipston, Tracie Clark and her husband Robert of Gardner and Bruce E. Peal and his wife Chandra of Gardner; 2 sisters, Janice Adams of Florida and Dion Eskew of Nevada; his former wife Sandra J. (McMilleon) Peal of Winchendon, seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren; his former partner of many years, Diane Sawicki of Hampton, NH and several nieces and nephews. A daughter, Susan D. Peal, died earlier this year, and a sister, Sandra Legaux, who died in 2008.

Robert A. Craig, 72

HUDSON, NH - Robert A. Craig, age 72, of Hudson, NH died Saturday December 16, 2017 surrounded by his loving family.

> He was the husband of the late Karen (Flanders) Craig for 34 years. He is survived by his fiancé Nancy (Lynch) Sireen of Lowell, MA.

Born in Lowell on October 15, 1945, he was the son of the late Raymond and Helen Craig. He was raised in Lowell and graduated Lowell High School with the Class of 1963. Bob attended Northern Essex Community College.

During the Vietnam War, he served in the US Army.

Most of his life, he worked as an accountant for Prince Spaghetti of Lowell. Most recently he worked at the Donahue Law Firm of Lowell.

Bob was a member of the American Legion Post 200 of Hudson, NH. He loved to camp at Dolly Copp Campground in NH. He was an avid Nascar fan.

Winchendon Courier

Besides his fiancé, he is survived by a daughter, Kimberly Steele and her husband, Thomas of Goffstown, NH; two sons, Brian Craig and his wife, Melissa of Lowell, and Scott Craig and his fiancé Christi Kennedy-Martin of Winchendon; a sister, Gail Gordon and her husband Charles of North Chelmsford, a brother, Richard Craig and his companion, Denise Carter of Lowell,, a brother-in-law Patrick Flanders and wife Jeanie; eight grandchildren, Joshua, Julia, Emily, Craig, Sarah, Caleb, Scott and Shelby, many beloved nieces and nephews, as well as his and Nancy's best friends Jean and Joe.

Visitation Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a Funeral Service at 11:00 a.m. at the DOLAN FUNERAL HOME, 106 MIDDLESEX ST., CHELMSFORD, MA. Memorials may be made in his name to American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Larry S. McClurken, 75

TEMPLETON — Larry S. McClurken, age 75, of 9 Mill Stone Circle, died peacefully Thursday morning, December 14, 2017 in Heywood Hospital, Gardner, with his family at his side.

He was born in Philadelphia, PA on March 13, 1942, son of the late Samuel and Mildred (Kline) McClurken and grew up in Philadelphia, where he graduated from high school.

Larry proudly served 22 years in the United States Army as a clinical and medical specialist. He was awarded the Bronze Star medal, Army Commendation medal, Good Conduct medal. National

Defense Service medal, Legion of Merit medal, Army Service ribbon and Overseas Service ribbon.

Following his discharge, he went to nursing school at Mount Wachusett Community College. He worked as a registered nurse at Heywood Hospital, NCCI in Gardner and later worked for 18 years at Templeton Developmental Center until his retirement.

Larry was a member of Ovila Case Post 905 VFW and served on its honor guard for many vears. He

where he taught bible school for many years, Templeton and Gardner and Templeton Golden Agers. A resident of Gardner from 1982 to 2005, Larry had lived in Templeton for twelve years. Larry will be remembered as a wonderful family man.

He leaves his wife, Lucille (St, Hilaire) McClurken, with whom he was married 48 years on the day of his death; five children, Michael S. McClurken of Templeton, Julie A. Senesi and her husband Ronald of Gardner, Mark A. McClurken and his wife Susan of Leominster, Christopher J. McClurken and his wife Ella of Taunton and Amy S. McClurken of Gardner; a sister, Carol Hallberg of Cotesville, PA, six grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. A sister, Joyce Stephans, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 18, 2017 in Faith Lutheran Church, 627 Green Street, Gardner.

Following the funeral, burial, with military honors, was held in Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallan Street, Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to Faith Lutheran Church, 627 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 or to Montachusett Veterans' Outreach Center, 268 Central Street, Gardner, MA 01440.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon is directing





was a volunteer firefighter for 32 years. Bruce had worked for Digital as a courier for thirty years until his retirement. In later years, he drove a school bus for the Hampton, NH school

district. He proudly served his country as a private in the United States Navy.

Bruce enjoyed motorcycle riding and was a member of Red Knights Motorcycle Club. He also enjoyed boating and fishing. Furthermore, he enjoyed ice racing and antique cars. He was particularly fond of spending time at Red Apple Campground in Kennebunk,

Calling hours will be held Thursday, December 28, 2017 from 12:30 to 2:30 P.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon,

Military funeral services will follow Thursday at 3 P.M. in Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallen Street, Winchendon. Food and fellowship will follow at Knights of Columbus Hall, 110 South Main Street, Gardner

Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimers' Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd. Waltham, MA 02452.

Besides his parents of Shirley, he

leaves his son, Brian Stanislaw of

Winchendon; his step daughter Abbi

Roark of Wilton, NH; his brother, Joseph

R. Stanislaw and his wife Andrea of

New Ipswich, NH; and his sister, Sherri

DiPasquale and her husband Paul of

Funeral services and interment will

The Anderson Funeral Homes, Ayer,

Townsend and Fitchburg is assisting

the family with the arrangements. To

leave an e-condolence please see www.

In lieu of flowers donations may

be at the convenience of the family.

tions officer at MCI Shirley.

Eric G. Stainslaw, 46

Fitchburg.

and erson funeral.com

SHIRLEY — Eric G. Stanislaw, age 46, formerly of Shirley, died unexpectedly Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at his home in Leominster from complications of diabetes.

Mr. Stanislaw was born in Leominster, February 18, 1971, a son of Joseph B. and Judy L. (Livermore) Stanislaw and



grew up in Shirley. He attended the Lura White School in Shirley before attending Nashoba Valley Technical High School in Westford where his focus of study was electron-

ics. He later attended be made to the American Diabetes Mount Wachusett Community College Association or the Hazen Memorial in Gardner. Library.

He retired after 21 years as a correc-

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.

LOG

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owner; 12:47 p.m.: juvenile/general (Elm Street), report taken; 2:35 p.m.: intoxicated person (Main Street), transported; 4:09 a.m.: welfare check/child (Baldwinville Road), spoken to; 4:22 p.m.: mv stop (Phyllis Road), spoken to; 4:30 p.m.: assist other agency (Elm

Street); 5:24 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville State Road), report taken; 5:51 p.m.: disabled mv (Gardner Road), spoken to; 7:34 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 7:38 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 7:49 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 8:11 p.m.: extra patrols (Harris Road), secure; 9:10 p.m.: mv stop (Front Street), written warning; 11:51 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to.

arrangements a member of Faith Lutheran Church,

Woodrow J. 'Bo' Putnam, 57

WINCHENDON — Woodrow J. "Bo" Putnam, age 57, of 18 Goodrich Drive, died peacefully Saturday morning, December 16, 2017 in Fitchburg Health Care, Fitchburg with his family at his side. Bo was born in



Winchendon on February 19, 1960, son of the late Bert E. and Joan M. (LaPointe) Putnam and was educated in Winchendon schools.

Bo was employed as a construction worker

in this area for many years. His hobbies were fishing, hunting and woodworking. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren.

He leaves his wife, Penny (Cornwell) Putnam; two children, Brian A. Putnam of Winchendon and Derek A. Putnam of Winchendon; two grandchildren, Audrina Putnam and Cassidy Putnam; his brothers and sisters, Gerald Putnam of Alaska, Bert Putnam, Christine Chandler of Hillsboro, NH, Carline Putnam of Keene, NH and Nancy Broadley of Washington, NH and many nieces and nephews. A brother, Ricky Putnam, preceded him in death.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 1 p.m. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central Street, Winchendon. There are no calling hours.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in the spring.

Randy Vaillancourt, 56

GARDNER — Randy Vaillancourt, age 56, of Gardner, died Saturday, December 9, 2017.

> He was born in Winchendon on May 26, 1961, son of the late Robert Vaillancourt and Judith A. (Cutler) Chalke. He had lived in Winchendon and Gardner for most of his life.

Randy loved watching wrestling and western movies. He also enjoyed listening to country music, playing card games and doing jig saw

puzzles. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with family and friends.

He leaves a daughter, Serina Atuahene and her husband Bernard of Leominster; his brothers and sisters, Brian Cutler, Scott Vaillancourt, Ricky Chalke, Belinda Chalke and Tracy Chalke; his stepfather Leo Richard; four grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A sister, Carla Chalke, preceded him in death.

Funeral services and burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon is directing arrangements.



SPORTS



SPORTS JERRY CARTON

If you're a Patriots fan, 2017 was a great sports year given that remarkable Super Bowl comeback. Good for them. I pay ever-less attention to the NFL for a lot of reasons. I've watched two games in their entirety this year. Two. Mostly I just root against the Colts, yes, still, because I will forever resent Bob Irsay for the despicable way he treated then-Baltimore Mayor Don Schaefer. Irsay's drunken performances that last week of March, 1984 and the lies he told the mayor to his face remain searing to me. Jim Irsay still owns the franchise so I continue to root against them but beyond that my interest in the NFL is relatively minimal.

Hence, the rest of the year in sports? That depends on whether you look at things

provincially or from a broader perspective. My three favorite sports, in alphabetical order are baseball, college basketball and horse racing. The Orioles finished last in the AL East which from a provincial perspective wasn't fun to watch but it was fun to see Giancarlo Stanton hit 59 homes and see an exciting World Series (at least the first six games) which ended with a first-time champion. It was fun to see the baby Bombers arrive a year early baseball is always better when the Yankees are good. While I have no sympathy for obnoxious Red Sox fans, disappointed yet again (that's three titles in a century in case you're counting), I do feel a twinge of sympathy for Nationals fans. They're just less annoying. It was fun to watch a whole slew of great young players bloom. There are terrific young shortstops everywhere you look. How long until pitchers and catchers report?

I wasn't crushed when a legitimate ACC team survived March Madness but I'd have preferred it have been say, NC State or Wake as opposed to Carolina. Old rivalries die hard and even though Maryland has been out of the ACC for what, about four years now, it's still easy for me for root against Carolina and that other arrogant uppity school which seems to travel with its own refs, ha ha.

Wrapping up '17

The new college season has already seen some Final Four worthy games and last Saturday the sport jumped into the time machine when Syracuse went to Georgetown to renew the best old Big East rivalry of them all. How weird it was to see Patrick Ewing coaching against Jim Boeheim, 30-plus years after playing for the Hoyas against the Orange. Overtime was inevitable. And appropriate. Chris Mullin is the coach at St. John's. It's like the Big East has risen from the ashes.

Speaking of hoops, Kentucky coach John Calipari raised some eyebrows when asked about his tendency to recruit one-and-dones to the Wildcats. Cal said it's not his job to win national titles but rather to prepare his kids for their professional careers.

"Isn't that what college is supposed to be about?" he asked. Well, actually, yes.

On balance, the racing season was pretty desultory until Breeders Cup weekend. Even Saratoga was a comparative dud. None of the three horses who split the Triple Crown races were able to repeat those efforts. Arrogate had begun the year as a potential superstar but he fizzled too. Songbird wasn't the same filly at four than she'd been at two and three. But BC weekend salvaged the season, at least for me. Forever Unbridled finally became the champion I always believed she might. To my delight, Bar of Gold, conditioned by a trainer I've been following for a quarter-century or more, scored that 66-1 upset in the Filly sprint, the second longest shot to ever win a BC race. The two year old races were won by horses who look like they might actually be 'something'. The game still has enormous structural problems including one it shares with other sports - the never-ending chase of those suspected of using PEDs - but for one weekend, the action was hot. And on the other side of the world, a filly named Winx won 22 races in a row. Not bad at all.

I don't pay a lot of attention to the NBA's regular season but the LeBrons and Stephs put on another good Finals with decent ratings to boot.

Sports talk shows? There's PTI and there are interminable hours of redundant garbage. Do any of you watch that stuff? Army-Navy was stirring as always, even though the wrong team won. McGregor-Mayweather was a joke. Any of you pay \$100 for that?

Tennis? Serena had a baby. Congrats.

Golf? The 20-somethings definitely took over, Jordan, Justin, etc. Sergio finally won a major and who'd have believed this but most of us were rooting for him. Go figure. Good for the game, and yet earlier this month, the old man finally returned and played four full rounds pain-free. If baseball is better when the Yankees matter, golf is better when Tiger is out there too.

So there it was - 2017. See you January 5.

Winter track underway

SUBMITTED BY ANTHONY FINDLEY

With two meets already in the books and the Murdock track team is already turning heads, locally, in the state and nationally. The teams started off the season against rivals Narragansett. The boys soundly defeating the warriors 53-38.

Junior Adam Digman amassing 20 for those points on his own, winning the shot put, high jump, 55 hurdles and 300 meters. Classmate Richard Swanson pulled in a first in the 600m and second to teammate Digman in the 300m and shot put. Other notable

winners were senior Steven Ingman, winning the 2 mile and placing second in the 1 mile. Junior Ryan Thira winning the 55 meter dash, placed third in the high jump. While brother Justin Thira helped to complete the sweep in high jump with his second place finish. Third place finishers Sam Drake, 55m and shot put, Logan Huff 55 hurdles, Anthony Wolski, 600m, and Justin Manuel in the 1000m contributing to the win.

On the girls' side, despite winning six out of the 11 events they fell just short of victory. With only nine girls competing



it's hard to win meets. This small group of girls were led by a healthy and determined freshman, Alexia Allard who won three out of four of her events, 55 meter dash, 55 hurdles, high jump and placed second in shot put. Eighth grader Lilly Digman was also a multi-event winner, in the 300m and 600m while placing third in the high jump. Fellow classmate and newcomer to indoor track Nobaleigh Laraba won the 2 mile and placed third in the mile and sixth grader Kaitlyn Tamulen place third in the 2 mile.

This weekend the teams put Murdock on the map with their performance at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston attending the MSTCA Winter Festival Meet. Although almost everyone had a personal best the completed in the meet. The talent at Murdock was also on showcase. Lilly Digman finished third in the 600m in a time of 1:43.79. Alexia Allard finished sixth in the 55 hurdles

girls 4x400m team finished fourth with a time of 4:32.07 the team comprising of underclassmen Allard, Digman, Paige Demanche and Briahna Bouchard have a bright future together.

On the boys' side Steven Ingman finished 10th in the mile with a time of 4:46.93 and the boys 4x400 consisting of Adam Digman, Richard Swanson, Anthony Wolski and Ryan Thira placed third with a time of 3:46.65. By far the best race of the day, as quote by Milesplit (an online distributor of everything track and field) belonged to Murdock's own Richard Swanson in the 600m. Swanson ran a blistering 1:24.59 and passed the second and third place finishers for the win at the finish line, breaking the school record.

Theboys4x400mrelay, StevenIngman, Lilly Digman, Alexia Allard(long jump) and Richard Swanson all qualified for the state meet in February. As it currently stands Swanson, Allard and



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with a time of 9.53 and third in the long jump with a distance of 16'4.5". The

VINE

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October showed that 79 percent of Americans support a mandatory waiting period for all gun purchases, 86 percent support a ban on the sale of guns to people convicted of violent crimes, and 64 percent support a ban on the sale of assault-style weapons.

Additionally, said the Quinnipiac report, "Republican voters say 51-37 percent that it's possible to make gun laws that don't interfere with gun rights and voters in gun households agree 57-33 percent."

If even small steps toward sensible gun safety legislation are ever to be

Digman are top 10 in the state, in their respective events!

taken Americans must keep up pressure on our leaders to act. If we do, maybe America can, by the time the sixth anniversary of Newtown rolls around, truly honor the memory of those little victims - not with mere thoughts and prayers - but with new laws designed to prevent more unnecessary gun deaths. Maybe by next Christmas we will no longer have to accept that nearly 20 American children are killed or wounded by gunfire each day in our otherwise great country.

As Gary Younge writes in his book, Another Day in the Death of America: A Chronicle of Ten Short Lives: "If one child's death is preventable, then the proper question isn't 'Why should we do this' but rather 'Why shouldn't we'?"

STUDENTS continued from page A5

"When it snows and it's 15 degrees,

definitely." But that Adams scholarship, which brings a nice financial package as well as prestige made remaining home an easy call. "I'm excited about the next step," she said.

College really wasn't even on Maddy Bishop's radar a year ago.

"I just doubted I could do it," she shrugged.

What changed? Bishop has a couple dogs. Mount Wachusett Community College has a vet-tech program. And yet, that might not have been enough, if MWCC representatives hadn't come to MHS last month or if guidance counsel-

or Mary Ann Borsky had not "pushed me to talk to them. 'Go to the library', she told me, so I said, 'okay, I guess I will'. I still wasn't real excited about it but I went and I got accepted that day,' recalled Bishop.

"Now when I think about it, I think the program at the Mount might lead to something else," she reflected. "I really want to help save animals and I think the training at the Mount will give me a platform to maybe even own a business working with animals someday.'

Bishop ruminated on her future. "I'm nervous about college and I know it will be stressful but high school wasn't really the place for me. I'm ready to move on. You've got to do what you've got to do to get where you want to get to," she remarked.





View From the Tower

SUBMITTED BY SUE POLCARI

Last week the boys' varsity basketball team opened their season by participating in the Red Raider Holiday Tournament held at Athol High School. Thursday night the Blue Devils were defeated by Gardner 59-39. They faced Athol High School in the consolation game Friday evening, with a much stronger showing, resulting in a 72-53 victory. In both games, LJ Hicks and Ross O'Toole were the high scorers. Members of the varsity basketball team are: Seniors Spencer Pelkey, Nick Roy, James Anderson, Scott Laverdure; Juniors Zach Richards, Dylan Lupien; Sophomore LJ Hicks; Freshmen Ross O'Toole, Jack Polcari; 8th Grade Tyler Biron, Quentin Pridgen

Indoor Track: The indoor track team

has participated in two track meets thus far.

Girls Basketball: The JV and Varsity girls 'basketball teams were victorious in their first two games (vs. Sizer and St. Mary's). Members of the team are: Senior Molly Murphy; Juniors Kelly Murphy, Jocelyn Garner; Sophomores Rylee Brooks, Janessa Heath-Consentino, Cassidy Stadtfeld; Freshmen Kaliegh Lazier, Limeily Pagan, Gabriela Lugo, Julia Greco, Nicole Becotte, Shaelyn Dupuis, Hannah Lowe; 8th Grade Ashley Sevigny, Morgan Eldredge

National Honor Society: 14 new members were ceremoniously inducted into the Murdock chapter of the National Honor Society on December 13th, joining the previous 12 members. All members embody the virtues of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. Current members of the Honor Society are as follows (asterix indicates new inductee): Marisa Losurdo (President), Michaela Benedict (Vice President), Phebe Shippy (Treasurer), Alex Marshall (Secretary), Owen Benedict*, Ariana Berman, Elissa Boucher, Jacob Carter*, Patrick Cortis*, Hannah Demanche*, Paige Demanche*, Kaileen Dibble, Jose Gamez^{*}, Lindsey Gemme, Britney Jackson^{*}, Timothy Jinn*, Erica Lashua*, Chloe Lawrence*, Nicole Lemire, Juliana Nolin*. Maria Polcari, Ashley Signa*, Emily Smith, Lindsey Smith, Cassidy Stadtfeld*, and Cassandra Wightman*. Congratulations to all on this very special accomplishment!!

Winter Vacation is December 25 through January 1st, but that doesn't mean our students will be idle! Varsity boys' basketball will be participating in a Tournament at Keene State College. First game is at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, 12/27. Times of games on Thursday and Friday TBD. Good Luck Murdock Blue Devils!

Need a last minute gift?? Murdock Blue Devil Sweatshirts and t-shirts of various sizes (limited stock) are available. Call me at 978-257-5671 for more information.

Save the Date: The High School Musical this year is Footloose and will be performed on March 2nd and 3rd, 2018.

Happy Holidays!

The race winners of this year's Healthy Harvest 5K

Nearly 150 participated in the 5th annual Heywood Healthcare Healthy Harvest 5K Run/Walk for Mental Health Nov. 4th.

The 3.1mile family-friendly course started and ended at Heywood Hospital and was targeted to all fitness levels. Participants had the option to walk or run the course.

Organizations connected to local health initiatives such as the SHINE initiative, the Greater Gardner Community Health Center, the Gardner Rotary Club, and several others participated in the event, providing information on health topics, such as peer recovery, how to talk to teens concerning alcohol and drugs, and how to care for elders who need more services.

Energy was in the air as students from Gardner High School and the Monty Tech ROTC, helped to direct foot and motor traffic, ensuring participants were safely guided through the course. Winchendon Junior Girl Scout Troop 64509 gave runners and walkers a much needed high five and bottle of water upon completing the race. Music from Masters of Music DJ Services had the crowd on their feet dancing, and complementary donuts and cider from the Red Apple Farm, and egg sandwiches made by the Gardner Rotary Club put a smile on everyone's face! Top RunnersCaitlin DiFava: 00:19:11:53

Jonathan Miganowicz: 00:19:57:28 John Worden V: 00:20:32:53 Michael Casavant: 00:21:58:33 Gary Dilling: 00:22:01:30 Alan Scherer: 00:22:17:29 Daniel Johnson: 00:22:38:53 Matthew Peabody: 00:22:40:53 John Worden IV: 00:23:01:37 Bob White: 00:24:07:79 Top Timed Walkers Jim Maver: 00:26:47.54

Gaynor Goan: 00:40:45.56For a list of race results and results by category visit www.heywood.org/HH5K.

The Heywood Healthy Harvest 5K has been supported by local businesses since its inception. This year's Presenting Sponsors included Baldwinville Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Coverys, Fallon Healthcare, HUB International Limited, Gardner Rehab and Nursing Center and SHINE.Special thank you too all our sponsors, including the 2017 Mental Health Champions: Baldwinville Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, Coverys, The Nottleson Family, The SHINE Initiative and Unitil.

Dawn Casavant, Heywood Healthcare



Jeff Bowers photo

The race winners of this year's Healthy Harvest 5K5th annual Healthy Harvest 5K raises funds for mental health initiatives

vice president of external affairs and chief philanthropy officer stated to participants: "Because of each and every one of you, today's race grossed over \$10,000 to help us continue our community-based mental health and suicide prevention efforts, to include leadership of the Suicide Prevention Task Force, the Regional Behavioral Health Collaborative, and a variety of school and community-based education and care coordination services."

For more information on these initiatives, please contact the Heywood Healthcare Philanthropy Office at (978) 630-6431.

NEEDS

continued from page A1

students with advanced behavioral issues."

Atter explained a special afternoon classroom session was created for students utilizing both a special education teachers and paraprofessionals.

"These children have some

special needs, explained to Zlotnik that the schools and district need added funding and resources to be able to continue to serve not only these

and resources to be able to continue to serve not only these students, but their increasing numbers with each new academic year.

Atter, based on increase of

Atter also made reference to the fact that, in many cases, the young children have experienced rough lives, again at not fault of their own, further complicating their introduction to school for which they were not yet prepared. Part of addressing the behavioral, social, and emotional needs of students as explained by school counselor Tom Paine is the PBIS program which stands for positive behavioral intervention & support. Paine stated all students receive an age appropriate training level of PBIS which is used in conjunction with a social skills curriculum called "Incredible Flexible You" by Michelle Garcia Winner. "We have Paine added, taken both of programs and put them together so much so in a way that both the principal and I have been chosen by the state to present it

at the upcoming North East PBIS Conference this upcoming May at the University of Connecticut."

Paine said the combined program is in its third year, with the class room and play time class for Tier 2 children in its first year. Paine also explained that while students receive 40 minutes per week of the combined curriculum training, Tier 2 students with stronger behavioral issues receive triple that at two hours per week along with the added benefit of having 45 minutes per week of in-school therapy, as the school has outside therapists come in to assist each student with specific issues geared to the student's needs. "Two years ago, we had 16 students who were part of the Tier 2 program. Last year we had 15 students who were part of the program who are also no longer part of it. Those are 31 students who were really high profile, who we targeted and successfully treated with early intervention," said Paine while detailing program history.

it is nice to have a principal who is fully invested in all of our students no matter what struggles they have, as well as teachers who are using the same social skills, so the same core language is being utilized for all students."

Paine elaborated by saying. "We have really taken a kind of mental health approach to make sure that our neediest students will have the skills they need to be successful in life.' Zlotnik was asked what learned from observing the program and children's specific individual needs. Zlotnik replied, "I have long been a supporter for the early intervention when needed for children. It produces better results over time. It also saves money. Many studies have shown those who needed intervention over time and did not receive it early need treatment which becomes more costly later on when not addressed early. Zlotnik went on to say, "Seeing what we have seen on this tour today gives me more evidence I need when starting the budget process for next year, and gives me more ammunition I need to go back and fight for more of those tax dollars with the more things I can point to. There is always a need for more funding. This was very useful and informative."

At the end of the interactive tour Atter said, "These Tier 2 students are getting specialized instruction and care. From small group social skills to individual counseling, the needs are tailored to the student's specific needs with specialized instruction along with school based counseling using outside therapy." In closing Atter said, "With these Tier 2 children, understand the foundation is the social, emotional, and behavioral piece. If we can't target that, we're not working on the academics. A lot of these students are coming here but they are not ready to be here. In order for us to target that we need more individualized instruction to get them to be at a level they need to be at, so they can be reintegrated into a classroom with 20 other children and be where they need to be full time."

pretty significant social and emotional behavioral issues, and even just adding one additional adult in the room can disrupt them and cause a student to become emotionally elevated."

During the tour, Atter's claims were verified as the principal was alerted by the teacher that the tour needed to leave the room as several students who soon became visibly agitated during the presence of others.

Zlotnik speaking with Atter said, "Flexibility is clearly key here. There is a need for staff to help work with these students with special behavioral needs, as well as a need to separate them from other children so as to not disrupt either their learning ability, and assure all students will be safe."

Discussing staffing needs Paine said, "I have to tell you,

SING

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as some of their favorites," explained Vendt.

Vendt went on to say, "I really love the huge support we get here. It's always been great. I always think of music starting from a personal standpoint. I was always really important to me growing up. It helped me when I was younger to get though school in a lot of ways, and I see how a lot of people latch on to it and find purpose in it. Earlier in the day we also took the 5th grade Toy Town Chorus to the Broadview Assisted Living Center and I asked those students what they liked about it and they said they liked how it could affect other people when they could see all the smiles. Students can get a strong sense of community in those situations though music."

In closing Principal Michelle Atter said, "I love to see all the families coming to events like this, and it's just great to have them all here at this time of the year. Seeing the looks on their faces when their children are performing is just wonderful and I love it." Hi-Lo Oil, Inc. 1335 Alger Street Winchendon, MA (978) 297-4456

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Creating a new image

YOUR TURN

RICHARD

JOHNSON

What is meant by living in the light? May I ask you a simple question? What is the primary purpose of life? The answer is being called out of living in the darkness of this world, and being called into the living in the light: the light of Christ.

Is it to be self made in life? Or is it to perform (live) one's life as beautifully as one can and in doing so shine a light on what it means to be blessed in this uncommon way?

What do I mean with these words?

Simply understand and trust your inner self. God's Holy Spirit is living in you, giving you confidence that each day is planned for His purpose to bless you abundantly. All your needs are met by His gracious love.

Be awakened into the light, and be blessed. Arise! Shine forth this light. The glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Walk as children of the light. The power of the Holy Spirit inside is helping you to see through confusion, noise, and darkness, seeking a way out of our passion and into the depth, peace, and tranquility of this center, finding the image once again.

So blessed be the light, in the moment to moment of living with Christ only

— with nothing else — and with inner authority that expands, just by saying Yes to God and His treasure of fellowship, bringing intimacy of presence to presence with God.

Now, having a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, living fruitfully in every good work, and increasing it with our knowledge of God, we are strengthened. We have patience, and bear suffering with joy, giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints, living in the light.

Then those who are wise shall shine and let the Glory of the firmament bringing them miraculously together

into a new blessed image of Christ, a Christ-bearer.

God can recognize you now in Himself, as not ordinary but as extraordinary, and can bless you so you can be a blessing to others.

When we believe that, and can rest into it, we become the expression of His love and life. His will and purpose become reality to us and our lives begin to have more meaning and impact.

God said, "fear NOT. Be strong in

your faith and the knowledge that God loves you."

God will make a way for you. Then strive to live beautifully and become the true person of your destiny.

All of this is by way of asking a simple question. What is the primary purpose of life, even (especially) at its highest level?

Is it to be self made in life, or is it to perform living as beautifully as one can and, in doing so, showing that light from within.

Living now in divine courage allows you to be different from the people who are ignorant of God's amazing power. You are different, living in the light, because you have become a friend of God.

Now, live in the Light of his Love!

SANTA

continued from page **A1**

their new gifts in front of the Christmas tree to the delight of their parents during the early evening event.

In true fashion of the Community Action Committee's mission to stomp out hunger, every child attending who worked up an appetite playing with their new toy also enjoyed cookies, juice, and much more, even taking home some Christmas snacks if desired.

From cars with loud large engines, to dolls, play sets, Playdoh® and more, every child who attended was happy as could be. As the event was winding down and children waving goodbye to their new jolly friend Santa, parents thanked the volunteers for a wonderful time. However, Christmas toy time didn't stop there, not by a long shot.

The very next day, Dec. 15, members of the Winchendon Fire Department arrived with a trailer full of toys, bicycles, boxes of diapers, footballs, basket balls, soccer balls and more, all needing to be off loaded and brought inside the WCAC doors.

Just minutes in to unloading the toys, WFD members had to drop the trailer as they received a call for aid, actually attending the call with a truck full of toys in its rear bed.

Red and full of gifts like Santa's sleigh, WFD personnel to the rescue, and on the way.

Upon return, Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni said, "We want to thank those who provided collection centers at the town hall, Family Dollar, and Smith's Country Cheese. A lot of great people donated at these sites, and on behalf of the children, we thank them all."

Ruschioni went on to say, "I think the most important aspect of the Fire Department Toy Drive is being able to help the children of Winchendon and our community at Christmas time, such a special time of year. It's that simple, what's important is to be able to be part of giving back." As three rooms full of toys would soon have new homes to go to, Community Action Committee volunteers spent all day Sunday sorting gifts for more than 200 children. No small task to say the least, volunteers picked, bagged, name tagged, and more, gifts for children of families in the local population. CAC volunteers worked hard to make sure hundreds of children have Christmas day eyes that gleam.

The very next day on Monday, Dec. 18, CAC volunteers began the next week long task of handing designated bags of toys to parents, guardians, and family members. Toys for all ages going under many trees, being picked up for wrapping to soon bring holiday joy and lots of glee.

After all was said and done, WCAC Director Colleen Laperriere said, "I very much want to take the time to thank the many people who donated and gave so much of themselves at this special time of year. People really stepped up, and the amount of gifts donated is



truly touching. It means so much to both myself and our volunteers to see the overwhelming amount of support our community has shown us with so many donations to help those in need."

In closing Laperriere said, "We can't say 'Thank You' enough to everybody who helped out. You know who you all are, and you have truly warmed many hearts with your donations. We thank you all so much for your support, and please remember that you have all truly made a difference in the lives of those who needed a helping hand at such a special time of year."





HARVARD continued from page A1

Burns and I stood up there arguing the whole period but Mr. Puishys knew I was serious. There were days when I needed a kick in the butt and he was really supportive."

Puishys remembered it

some other schools too, I saw and met people in those fields and thought, 'I want to be like them' and then I thought, 'I can be like them'. I'm looking forward to being surrounded by people who are as driven as I am. We need more girls in STEM," she remarked.

Benedict credited more than Puishys. "I've the praise. "Teachers tease me about having senioritis, but I love my classes. I'm keeping up my academic rigor. I'm competitive," she granted.

No question about that and as Benedict points out, nearly everyone at Harvard shares that competitive fire.

"That's the way it

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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

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JOB SEEKERS

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

EMPLOYERS

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

FOR RENT

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

WANTED

WANTED

Motorcycles, ATVs, scooters. Cash paid for good deals. (978) 297-1800. 11.1.16 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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. WCII.

"No sane person takes four AP courses," he laughed. "But I'm glad she took the course. She helped make the class one of my personal favorites. I'm very proud to have been a part of what I think will be a brilliant career no matter where Michaela's studies take her. She will do great things," he said.

Benedict, who spent a couple weeks doing a summer course in Cambridge a few years back, was reflective.

"I think it's important for girls to get involved in STEM. When I was touring Harvard, and

LEGALS

always said my mom is my inspiration because she gave me my work ethic. But the whole community, the town, the school, they've always been there for me. It really does take a community," she stressed. "I know I'm going to stay friends with the people I met here. I'll be just a train ride away."

Michaela doesn't shine solely in the classroom. She's involved in a myriad of activities ranging from being a varsity soccer captain to serving on the principal search committee and other projects.

"That's just who I am," she shrugged, deflecting works there," sne noted. "And I'll be at the same

school as Malia Obama," she laughed.

Indeed she will, and MHS grad Chandler Torres-Pagan is there as well, making Benedict the second student in just a couple years to gain acceptance to the Ivy League institution.

"That's impressive for a small rural school," noted Murdock Principal Ralph Olsen.

It is at that and Benedict is excited for the challenge which lies ahead.

"I can't wait," she enthused.

Town of Winchendon Zoning Board of Appeals PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a PUB-LIC HEARING on Wed., January 3, 2018 at 7:05 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, 2nd Fl., 109 Front St., Winchendon, MA 01475, on the Variance application of Antony C. & Catherine M. George for property located at 134 Hale St, Winchendon, MA 01475 identified as Winchendon Assessors Map 8A-1 Parcels 20 & 21 owned by the same to hear an application for a Variance for relief from setback requirements as outlined in Article 7.2 of the Winchendon Zoning Bylaw for an existing garage. Said property is located in the R80 Rural Residential - Neighborhood District. A copy of the application is available at the Dept. of P&D, Winchendon Town Hall. All interested persons should plan to attend. BY:Cynthia Carville, Chair Winchendon Zoning Board of Appeals December 15, 2017 December 22, 2017

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 17 SM 006970 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Scott Griffith

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act:, 50 U.S.C.c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 99 School Street, given by Scott Griffith to Salem Five Mortgage Company, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, dated May 28, 2010, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 45854, Page 65, and now held by plaintiff by assignment has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you

may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property <u>on that</u> <u>basis</u>, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **January 15, 2018** or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of this Court on December 1, 2017

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder (17-009161 Orlans) December 22, 2017

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WINCHENDON PUBLIC HEARING FY 2018 Community Development Block Grant Application

The Winchendon Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8th 2018 at 6:35 p.m. at the Town Hall, 2nd Floor Auditorium, 109 Front Street, Winchendon MA 01475 to receive comment from the public on Winchendon's application to the FY18 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Applications can be for up to \$792,665 for eligible activities as follows: housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, public facilities, public services, and planning services. Interested persons and organizations are encouraged to attend, and will have the opportunity to comment and be heard on the proposed application. Reasonable accommodation will be attempted upon written request to the Selectmen's Office prior to the meeting. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

By: Winchendon Board of Selectmen December 22, 2017 January 5, 2018

WINCHENDON COURIER 11

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael Parenti to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp. dated October 30, 2006, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40113, Page 101; said mortgage was then assigned to U.S. Bank Trust. N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by virtue of an assignment dated January 12, 2017, and recorded in Book 56631, Page 229; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 10:00 AM on January 9, 2018, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 11 School Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

A certain parcel of land, together with buildings thereon, situated in Winchendon, and numbered 9 and 11 School Street, bounded and described as follows: COMMENCING on the northerly line of School Street at a corner of land of the heirs of Mary Daly; THENCE northerly on land of said heirs of Mary Daly, seventy-nine (79) feet; THENCE turning and running easterly sixty-two (62) feet: THENCE turning and running northerly thirteen (13) feet; THENCE turning and running easterly thirty (30) feet to land of Holly Nicholas et ux; THENCE turning and running southerly by the said Nicholas land one hundred one (101) feet to a stone monument in the northerly line of said School Street; Thence westerly on line of School Street ninety-eight (98) feet to the place of BEGINNING. This conveyance is made subject to and with the benefit of all rights of way, easements, and restrictions of record if any there be, including a right of way on the easterly side of the granted premises as set forth in a deed from Allan J. White et ux to Lararus A. Aaronson under date of July 8, 1946, duly recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3010, Page 571. Being all and the same premises conveyed in Book 26412 and Page 340. Subject to any conditions, covenants. easements and restrictions of record insofar as the same are in force and applicable.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale. Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC, ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned saledate by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The premises is to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, leases, tenancies, and rights of possession, building and zoning laws, encumbrances, condominium liens, if any and all other claim in the nature of liens, if any there be. In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder, providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorneys, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein. If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property at the amount bid by the second highest bidder. The foreclosure deed and the consideration paid by the successful bidder shall be held in escrow by DG&L, (hereinafter called the "Escrow Agent") until the deed shall be released from escrow to the successful bidder at the same time as the consideration is released to the Mortgagee, whereupon all obligations of the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to have been properly fulfilled and the Escrow Agent shall be discharged. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

EGA

Dated: November 29, 2017 U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust

By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center Suite 225D Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 53878 (PARENTI) FEI # 1078.02274 12/15/2017, 12/22/2017, 12/29/2017 December 15, 2017 December 22, 2017 December 29, 2017

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Paul J. Donahue, Christina L. Donahue to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for First Call Mortgage Company Inc. dated November 6, 2006, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40153, Page 67; said mortgage was then assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A., F/K/A Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A., Solely as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Inc. Bear Stearns Mortgage Funding Trust 2006-AR5, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-AR5 by virtue of an assignment dated May 8, 2012, and recorded in Book 49029, Page 294; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 11:00 AM on January 9, 2018, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 491 Alger Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

That parcel of land shown as Lot #2 on a plan entitled "Plan of lots prepared for Robert Van Dyke, Winchendon, MA, scale I inch=60 feet, August 29, 2001, Edmond J. Boucher, PLS, 4 Jolly Road, Royalston, MA, 01368" which plan is recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 773, Plan 16, to which reference is made for a more particular description. For record title see Deed recorded in said Registry in Book 31783, Page 355. Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale. Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC, ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned saledate by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The premises is to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, leases, tenancies, and rights of possession, building and zoning laws, encumbrances, condominium liens, if any and all other claim in the nature of liens, if any there be. In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder, providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorneys, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein. If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property at the amount bid by the second highest bidder. The foreclosure deed and the consideration paid by the successful bidder shall be held in escrow by DG&L, (hereinafter called the "Escrow Agent") until the deed shall be released from escrow to the successful bidder at the same time as the consideration is released to the Mortgagee, whereupon all obligations of the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to have been properly fulfilled and the Escrow Agent shall be discharged. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: November 29, 2017 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, N.A., F/K/A Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A., Solelv as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Inc. Bear Stearns Mortgage Funding Trust 2006-AR5, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-AR5 By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center Suite 225D Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 52874 (DONAHUE) FEI # 1078.02265 12/15/2017, 12/22/2017, 12/29/2017 December 15, 2017 December 22, 2017

December 29, 2017

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Mark Paoluccio to Washington Mutual Bank, FA, dated January 12, 2006 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 38200, Page 362, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association successor in interest by purchase from the FDIC as receiver of Washington Mutual Bank f/k/a Washington Mutual Bank, FA to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as trustee for WAMU Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-PR2 Trust dated March 27, 2012 and recorded with said registry on April 9, 2012 at Book 48797 Page 153, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 a.m. on January 10, 2018, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 Linden Street a/k/a 8 Linden Street. #10, Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR WAMU MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-PR2 TRUST Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California Street Newton, MA 02458 (617) 558-0500 200709-0296 - PRP December 15, 2017

December 22, 2017 December 29, 2017

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bruce A. Traudt to Ameriquest Mortgage Company, dated May 12, 2005 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 36359, Page 236 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 is the present holder by virtue of the Judgment equitably assigning the Mortgage from Ameriquest Mortgage Company and ACC Capital Holdings Corporation to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 dated November 3, 2016 and recorded at Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56413, Page 139, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 81 Benjamin Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 12, 2018, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A parcel of land on the southerly side of Benjamin Street in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts shown as Lot "A" on a plan entitled "Plan of lots prepared for owners, RICHARD E. & DOLORES A. GARNO, Winchendon, MA, Scale 1 inch = 50 feet, February 24, 2004, Edmond J. Boucher, PLS, 4 Jolly Road, Royalston, MA, 01368", which blan is recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 806, Plan 59, to which plan reference is made for a more particular description. Lot "A" contains 1.0915 acres according to said plan.

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, together with the buildings thereon, situated on Linden Street and bounded and described as follows:

COMMENCING on the Southeasterly corner of lot on Linden Street at corner of land now or formerly owned by Ann Weber; thence

Westerly on line, parallel with, and 2 feet from a shed attached to barn on said Weber premises, 89 feet to an iron post in line of one now or formerly owned by John Bourgault; thence Northerly on said Bourgault line 28 feet more or less to an iron post; thence Westerly on line of Bourgault land 42 feet more or less, to an iron pin in line of Baptist Church; thence

Northerly in line of Baptist Church 88 feet, more or less, to an iron post in line of property now or formerly owned by Max Aronoff; thence easterly

On line of Aronoff to iron pin in line of Linden Street; thence

On line of Linden Street Southerly to point of beginning 109 feet, more or less.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38200, Page 360.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 36359, Page 234.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-R6 Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Traudt, Bruce, 14-019586 December 15, 2017 December 22, 2017

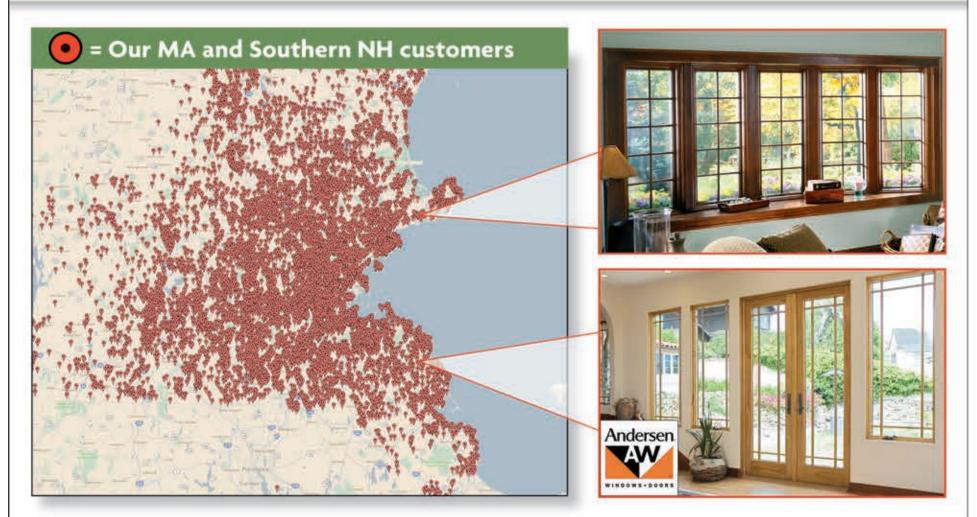
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