

Winchendon Courier

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Bethany Youth Group exemplifies spirit of Thanksgiving

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

During the holidays, countless organizations step up efforts to help those who lack something many take for granted, food security. Locally, an example of service to others before self has been hard at work, and this time it's not just the grownups, as members of the Bethany Bible Chapel Youth Group assembled Thanksgiving baskets in a true effort to do just what the Bible teaches, "To love and help the less fortunate."

Youth group leader Tony Ruschioni, with his wife and co-leader Morgan Ruschioni, couldn't be more proud of their members and the good deeds their projects contribute and lessons learned. As Tony said, "It's really rewarding to be able to teach young adults in our youth group the value and lifelong lessons of helping not only others, but the less fortunate. These are lessons they are learning young and will take with them the rest of their lives."

Members are of both middle school and high school ages, representing students who attend Murdock, Monty Tech, Rindge, and students who are home schooled, adding diversity to the pool of young adults learning the value of charity.

Morgan explained, "The families the young adults in our youth group are making the baskets for families we learned about through our 'ACTS' family relationships. Our church is broken up in to smaller family groups, and

by building relationships and getting to know each other, we find out who is in need, and what they need. Tonight these young adults in our youth group you see here are assembling baskets to donate to seven local families in need for Thanksgiving."

Bethany Acts groups are sub groups named after ACTS 2:42 of the Bible, which discusses "Devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Morgan who also did the shopping to collect the items added, "Each of the seven baskets the youth groups assembled contains a cookie mix, pumpkin bread mix, hot chocolate and marshmallows, sparkling apple cider with cherries, oven mitts, a dish towel, homemade caramels along with mixed nuts, and a \$75 gift card to Market Basket."

Another advantage of the group is "Emerging Leaders" are trained and learn valuable lessons in both leadership and how to encourage others in relationship building and the importance of charity before self.

Tony said, "What better way to lead the way, than to help others learn how to lift people and those around them up?"

Morgan followed with, "We think it's really important that these children and young adults know that they and their lessons learned are not just important to our church in the future, but they are important now in

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Photos by Keith Kent

Bethany Bible Chapel Youth Group members assembling Thanksgiving gift baskets.

Vine requests backing of letter to MVRTSD

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

School Committee member Greg Vine requested his fellow committee members vote to support the backing of a letter submitted by Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke and Fitchburg Mayor Stephanie DiNatale to the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, which seeks pursue updating of its aging district agreement.

Vine said, "I don't want Mayor Hawk and Mayor DiNatale to think they are the only ones out there swimming upstream alone on this. I think we should have explicit support, however I have no idea what other communities may be doing in regards to this letter. As the second highest sending district to Monty Tech, I think our voices should be heard."

Currently the MVRTSD accepts students from two cities, 16 towns, and seven regional school districts. The current district agreement is now over 50 years old, with the last amendment taking place nearly two decades past.

The letter, dated Oct. 25, and addressed to MVRTSD Committee Chair Barbara Reynolds along with members of that school committee reads as, "It is in our understanding that the MVRTSD School Committee has decided not to pursue updating the district agreement that is currently in place. We are formally requesting that you reconsider this matter and place it on your next meeting agenda for further discussion. It is our agreement that the District Agreement is out of compliance with current Massachusetts General Law (MGL) and is not being complied with on an annual basis."

"As member municipalities, we have the legal right to expect strict compli-

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New owner and location make an Impression



Greg Vine photos

Angel Lebarge, new owner of 2nd Impressions, now located at 206 Central Street, Winchendon. The store sells items on consignment, as well as new items, ranging from children's and adult clothing and dishware to furniture and home decorations.

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Angel Lebarge said she's been thinking about opening her own business in Winchendon for some time. For about the past three years she's rented booth space at locations like Country Mischief consignment shop in Templeton.

Recently, however, Michelle Williams, who owned 2nd Impressions

consignments next to the Rite Aid Pharmacy on Central Street, decided to get out of the business and concentrate on her real estate career. She posted a message on the company's Facebook page asking if there was someone who might be interested in taking over the store.

Lebarge responded, and has now

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Wreath project gearing up locally

Local volunteers are working hard to ensure that all veterans laid to rest at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery are honored this December on National Wreaths Across America Day.

This year, the ceremony, held simultaneously across the country at more than 1,000 locations, will be on Saturday, Dec. 16. The goal: to place a live, balsam fir wreath at the headstone of every veteran buried there and say each person's name, so their memory lives on. The wreaths for this cemetery will be placed Dec. 15, beginning at 9 a.m., we welcome and encourage participation from our

Massachusetts community.

From now until the end of November, donations are accepted to sponsor the 2,350 wreaths needed to honor every veteran at Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

"Each and every wreath is a gift from an appreciative person or family who knows what it means to serve and sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy," said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "We are so humbled that the community of Winchendon is participating in our mission to Remember, Honor, Teach."

National Wreaths Across America

Day is a free event, open to all. For more information, to donate or to sign up to volunteer, please visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester 25 years ago. The organization's mission — Remember, Honor, Teach — is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in

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LOCAL

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SPORTS

PAGE 8



WEEKLY QUOTE

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.

Victor Hugo

Ashburnham helps with relief efforts

Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant's General Manager, Kevin M. Sullivan, announced this week that AMLP has donated one of their bucket trucks to the United States Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority to assist in the hurricane relief and power restoration efforts on the devastated islands.

In the month of September and only two weeks apart, hurricanes Irma and Maria decimated the islands in the Caribbean basin. Weeks later, the New England Public Power electric utilities were asked to consider being part of a 'mutual aid' effort to rebuild the electrical distribution for the residents of the Virgin Islands.

"When we began hearing about the extensive damage the two Category 5 hurricanes inflicted on the US Virgin Islands, it made us think about our epic New England ice storm back in 2008," said Sullivan. He added, "the linemen and I talked about the humanitarian aspect of this request and how our customers benefitted by mutual aid for the town of Ashburnham back then. I decided if the linemen would commit to spending several weeks away from their families, the AMLP would sup-

port the request to help."

Once the paperwork was in place, 40 trucks drove to Fort Lauderdale, FL, arriving Oct. 11th. One of the trucks was the AMLP's bucket truck carrying two of the linemen. All trucks were then transported by barge to the assigned island of St. Thomas, where crews had flown in days earlier to prepare. Upon the return of AMLP's first two crew members (11/5), two other linemen were sent the following day. As of this press release, they are still on the island assisting with the recovery and repair efforts.

"Receiving reports of the extent of the devastation we all realized that there might be another way the AMLP could share its resources. The three member Ashburnham Municipal Light Board voted unanimously to donate the AMLP's 17-ton bucket truck already on-site," said Sullivan. "The truck is a well-maintained 2006 International with a 50-foot aerial lift. After driving to Florida, the vehicle has been in service 12-14 hours each day since it arrived on the island, which is a testament to its service history. Late last week, I received notification WAPA accepted



Courtesy photo

An AMLP truck was shipped to the Virgin Islands to help with relief efforts.

the donation", he said.

AMLP's Light Board management and personnel strongly believe in paying it forward—not just within the local Ashburnham community, but in other areas near and far where the need is

greatest.

The USVI Water & Power Authority plans to utilize the AMLP-donated bucket truck in and around St. Thomas at their discretion, including Water Island, for the foreseeable future.

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.

Goodall documentary this weekend

JAFFREY — Named "one of the best documentaries of 2017," by RogerEbert.com, the new film *JANE* opens Friday, Nov. 24 and plays through Sunday, Nov. 26 at the River Street Theatre.

Drawing from over 100 hours of never-before-seen footage that has been tucked away in the National Geographic archives for over 50 years, award-winning director Brett Morgan (*The Kid Stays in the Picture*, Cobain: Montage of Heck),

tells the story of *JANE*, a woman whose chimpanzee research challenged the male-dominated scientific consensus of her time and revolutionized our understanding of the natural world.

Set to a rich orchestral score from legendary composer Philip Glass, the film offers an unprecedented, intimate portrait of Jane Goodall — a trailblazer who defied the odds to become one of the world's most

admired conservationists.

Show times for *JANE* are Friday, Nov. 24 and Saturday, Nov. 25, both at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Additionally, there is a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Tickets for *JANE* (rated PG) are \$8 (seniors, military, students, teachers \$7). More program and schedule information, as well as ticket purchases, can be found at riverst.org or by calling the RST Box Office (603) 532-8888. The after-hours box office

can be reached by calling OvationTix at (866) 811-4111.

The River Street Theatre is located in downtown Jaffrey at 6 River St. The River Street Theatre is sponsored by Grove Street Fiduciary, Coca-Cola, the Board of Trustees of the Park Theatre, Janet S. Grant, Betty Locke, Owen Houghton and the James F. & Fernande Kelly Charitable Trust.

COURIER CAPSULES

in need. Brighten a child's holidays on "Black Friday!"

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Saturday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m. a Brass Quintet Holiday Concert presented by Winchendon Winds. Come enjoy a special holiday concert at Unitarian Universalist Church of

Winchendon, 126 Central St! A brass quintet will play seasonal music interwoven with holiday themed poetry and readings by Rev. Inanna Arthen. At the concert's conclusion, the tree of lights on the front lawn will be lighted, and you'll be invited to join in some informal carol singing. The concert is free and open to all.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

You don't have to travel any further than the Fitzwilliam Community Church to have breakfast with Santa. Santa will be visiting the church on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 8-10 a.m. to find out what children want for Christmas. He has said he will be available for pictures. A breakfast of pancakes (plain or with blueberries) with butter and maple syrup, sausages, orange juice, milk and coffee will be served. This is a free event. Donations are always welcome if you appreciate the church and its role in the community.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

This Saturday, Nov. 25 at the town hall auditorium, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Come visit and see what the businesses of Toy Town have to offer. Free admission.

SEARCH

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to have held the first search committee meeting to go over the ground rules and what we are looking for," advised Haddad.

Committee member Greg Vine made a motion to nominate Committee Chair Lawrence Murphy for the seat on the search committee.

tee as representing member. The motion was seconded and followed by all four other members voting unanimously with Murphy abstaining.

If you are interested in serving on the MHS Principal Search Committee, please contact Haddad at the WPS District Central Office at (978) 616-1450, or email the Superintendent at shaddad@winchendon12.org.

WREATH

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December at Arlington, as well as at more than 1,000 veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Donation checks can be made payable to: Winchendon

Wreath Fund and mailed to: Bridget Marinelli, WAA Coordinator, 14 Winter Place, Winchendon, MA 01475, or login to www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org and make a site specific donation to Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon.

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This holiday is Crystal clear



Crystal House Executive Director Pamela Deveikis donned an apron to serve meals at the facility's Thanksgiving Dinner, served last Friday. Located in Gardner, the group's website describes Alternatives' Crystal House Clubhouse as "a community dedicated to the rehabilitation of adults recovering from mental illness. It is a member of the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition, an organization comprising 33 clubhouses throughout the Commonwealth." In addition to Gardner, communities served by the local club include Templeton, Ashburnham, Winchendon, Westminster, Hubbardston, Princeton, Barre, Rutland, Oakham, New Braintree, and Hardwick.



RIGHT: Eric Thompson and Ian Nault serve up plates of turkey and fixin's at last Friday's Thanksgiving dinner at Crystal House in Gardner.



Greg Vine photos

Matthew Brooks and Katlin Murphy preparing meals for last Friday's Thanksgiving dinner at Crystal House in Gardner.

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Ron Amidon in the wild



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MRWC annual meeting will include conservationist

The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) will hold its 2017 annual meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. with a review of water monitoring and recreational Blue Trail accomplishments.

The keynote presentation will

be made by Templeton resident Ron Amidon, who was appointed commissioner of the Mass Department of Fish & Game by Governor Charlie Baker in July. Ron is an avid sportsman and conservationist, and will have lots to say about watershed health and the environment.

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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

The gratefulness factor

We have heard the proverb, "I despaired because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet..."

As we recover from the abundance of a full groaning feast and enter into the frenzy of what to buy for Uncle Fred, reflect a moment on that.

Because we, most of us at least, did indeed indulge in a huge meal, the leftovers alone could feed a small army. If we have become tired of the turkey in a few days, an abundance of perfectly good food may find its way into trash bins just because we don't want it any longer.

How sad is that?

We've done it. We've all done it. Bought something that sounded like a good idea as we roamed the market, brought it home with all good intentions, and never ate it. It deteriorated into some sort of unidentifiable fuzzy object in a vegetable bin, or a mutant green goo in a plastic container and hit that trashcan.

Ouch.

In a world where food deprivation is real, and programs like free and reduced lunches exist, and service clubs send home bags of food to be certain children eat on the weekends when they aren't getting that school meal, and a newspaper runs a story extolling the new program about having breakfast in a classroom every day to be certain every child starts school not hungry...

Ouch.

We won't even go into the "starving children in (fill in the blank third world country) our mothers threatened us with to get us to clean our plates. Because they are still starving. Nothing is any better for them either.

Ouch.

We do food drives every single month in every single city and town in America. We do it in conjunction with other activities, Bring a canned good and get a \$1 off admission to something else.

And yet, in a country as rich as ours, where our politicians are fighting over how much of a tax break to give one another (forget us, we don't count); and we are shipping food grown in this country to other countries because we have so much, we have hungry people.

We have older people who must choose between paying for medication and food.

We have struggling families who must pay the mortgage and a car payment and insurance and then squeeze groceries out of what is left.

Single mothers.

\$8 an hour workers working three jobs at once to make ends meet.

Students trying to go to school and live on their own.

On top of all that, we have people who no longer know how to cook, how to do the simple meals from basically nothing and turn it into a good supper. Because they don't know how to cook, they then must buy over processed expensive prepackaged nonsense that costs them even more and satisfies even less. What a merry-go-round.

And on top of it being over processed, expensive and unhealthy, it is even worse: it makes you fat. So while you may be starving for good, clean, well made food...you may be fat. It's too much sugar, too much carbohydrate, too much salt...

Starving...and fat.

What a country.

A tragedy we are facilitating

"Misery, mutilation, destruction, terror, starvation and death characterize the process of war and form a principal part of the product." - Lewis Mumford, American historian and sociologist.

Given the time of year, I frankly had intended on doing another one of those hokey "here's what I'm thankful for" columns. But a segment on CBS' 60 Minutes Sunday night just shook me to the core. I don't like to think of myself as overly emotional but the images that flashed across my TV screen honestly brought me to tears.

Here is how the piece, reported by Scott Pelley, began:

"Hungry children cry. But there are no tears at the limits of starvation. Wasting bodies cannot afford them. This is the Al Sabeen Hospital in the Yemeni city of Sana'a. Ibtisam is two

and a half. She weighs 15 pounds. Haifa is seven. She weighs 11 pounds."

The pictures of innocent children, little more than skin and bones, using all their strength just to breath and, yes, too weak to cry, were jarring. I felt physical pangs of guilt for counting myself thankful for so very many things while at the same time being witness to the suffering of those poor, pitiful innocents.

"One child dies every 10 minutes in the country according to the U.N.," Pelley continued.

Yemen is in the throes of a brutal civil war waged by people who are co-religionists. They are all Muslims, but the Houthi rebels, supported by Iran,



JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART
•••••
JERRY
CARTON

corners of the world. I've always believed we have an obligation to do that and there are a million different ways to do so. I'm honored to have the opportunity to currently serve on the superintendent's school advisory committee with some really smart and passionate people dedicated to, yes, trying to make a difference.

I look at Courtney's cohorts, spread out across the country now and am both

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

are Shiites while the country's majority, backed by our ally Saudi Arabia, are Sunnis. The Saudis and the Iranians, as we know, are bitter rivals for power and influence in the middle east.

Now, before you say, "there go those crazy Muslims again," remember it was not all that long ago that Christians – Protestants and Catholics – were tearing each other apart in Northern Ireland.

While the Houthis have their fair share of blood on their hands, the Saudi-backed coalition in Yemen has bombed schools and hospitals. Most of the arms they have used have been supplied by the United States of America. In May

of this year, as President Trump was preparing for a trip to the middle east and Europe, it was announced the U.S. had signed a deal to provide the Saudis with \$350 billion in military hardware over 10 years, with \$110 million to be expended immediately.

But worse than the bombs that are fired from American-made aircraft and cannon is the Saudi blockade of Yemeni ports. The blockade is keeping badly needed food and medical supplies from getting into the country.

Said David Beasley, who runs the World Food Programme, "We can't get our ships in. They're blocked."

Part of me wants to urge people to give to the WFP, the U.N.'s first emergency responder to prevent famine, but what good would it do if the food can't

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Coping... and the holidays

Work. Work and a strong support system. When people occasionally ask how I'm managing to cope every day, that's what I tell them. Work offers a purpose. Telling people's stories, especially the inspiring ones about those who are giving back irrespective of age, that's inspiring to me. I write all the time here, admittedly ad nauseam, about the importance of making a contribution, trying to make even a small difference in each of our



corners of the world. I've always believed we have an obligation to do that and there are a million different ways to do so. I'm honored to have the opportunity to currently serve on the superintendent's school advisory committee with some really smart and passionate people dedicated to, yes, trying to make a difference.

I look at Courtney's cohorts, spread out across the country now and am both

awed and gratified to see how seriously these young men and women take their responsibility to roll up their proverbial sleeves and get involved. And as an aside I was of course impressed when one of them stood up to one of the big phone companies. Nice work, Ame!

Ame and the others didn't go into, Courtney wasn't going into social work for the money, that's for sure. They chose this field to have an impact, however small. So for me, writing about them, writing about folks here in town and how they're contributing, that's what helps keep me going. I'm proud of and grateful to them for helping to

honor her memory by their choice of careers.

It's natural that when catastrophe strikes a lot of people are going to show up and as a family, we're appreciative for that initial support. We truly are. But as the months go by, it's human nature that a lot of those people will peel away. That's just reality. We all do that. As I've mentioned previously, sure, there are some in whom I'm very disappointed but let's be honest, tragedy reveals character. So be it. Better to focus, and I do, on those here and

Turn To CARTON page A6

During holidays, be extra vigilant about protecting financial data



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to your financial accounts. It's obviously important to be vigilant at any time, but you need to be even more on your toes during the holiday season, when fraudsters are particularly active.

So, to help keep your important data under wraps during the holidays, consider these suggestions:

Extend your protection to all mobile devices. Identity thieves can now compromise your mobile devices by installing spyware that steals user-names, passwords and credit card information. Fortunately, you can fight back. By doing a little research online, you can

find the best mobile security software for your needs.

Use multiple passwords. Online security specialists recommend that you use different passwords for each new online shopping site you visit during the holiday season. Although this might seem like a hassle, it can be helpful, because even if identity thieves were to grab one of your new passwords, they still couldn't use it for other sites you may visit. And you can even find a free online program that can help you keep track of all your passwords.

Be suspicious of "huge savings." It happens every

holiday season – identity thieves develop fake sites with attractive graphics and stunningly low prices on a variety of items, especially digital devices. If you fall for these pitches, you won't get any merchandise, but you might get a handful of headaches once the bad guys have your credit card number and other personal information. To prevent this, be wary of any deal that sounds too good to be true, and do some digging on the websites that offer these mega-savings.

Watch for fake shipping notices. During the holidays, when you may do a lot of online shopping, you will

probably receive some legitimate shipping notices. But the bad guys have gotten pretty good at generating fake notices designed to resemble those from UPS, FedEx and even the U.S. Postal Service. If you were to click on the link provided by one of these bogus notices, you could either take on some malware or get taken to a "phishing" website created by the shipping notice forgers. Your best defense: Only shop with legitimate merchants and only use the tracking numbers given to you in the email you received immediately after making your purchases.

Turn To KELLEY page A5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tobacco Free: time again to Cold Turkey

To the Editor:

This Thanksgiving season, I'd like to remind readers to thank a co-worker, friend or family member who has quit smoking. Many smokers say quitting is the hardest thing they have ever done and any amount of recognition can help someone stay quit.

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death and disease in Massachusetts. Nicotine is a very addictive drug and it takes most smokers several tries to quit for good. So reach out to smokers or ex-smokers. Let them know you are proud of how hard they're working to better their wellbeing. Thank them for improving their health and the health of the people around them.

If you're a smoker, even though the holidays can be a tough time to quit, they are a great time to get support from your loved ones to help you try to quit. If you have tried in the past, keep trying. Take advantage of the many resources available in Massachusetts to help you reach your goal.

Smokers can call the Massachusetts Smokers Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) to talk with a free quit coach or enroll online through KeepTryingMA.org. The Helpline is open 24 hours each day, seven days a week (excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas). Smokers can receive a four-week supply of free nicotine replacement help from the patch, gum or lozenge. Online supports include quit planning tools, peer support and motivational text messages.

Smokers who get support and use stop-smoking medicines are nearly three times as likely to quit for good as those who try to quit on their own. Quitting is hard—give thanks to a smoker in your life for quitting or for trying to quit. Every email, text message, phone call, or encouraging word makes a difference.

TINA GROSOWSKY

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LETTERS POLICY



Letters to the editor are always welcome, and may be sent to ruth@stonebridgepress.news, or The Winchendon Courier, 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. Be sure to include a name and residence. Please refrain from sending letters via fax, and be sure to supply a home address and phone number to allow for confirmation. Allow at least 48 hours for a response. Letters must be submitted by noon Friday to ensure publication in the following week's issue. Every effort will be made to accommodate late submissions, but inclusion can not be guaranteed.

The rules of good taste and libel will, of course, apply to all submissions. Personal attacks will not be published. The editor retains the right to edit all letters.

Changes to MCAS comparing apples to oranges

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

As Superintendent Steve Haddad reviewed and advised the school committee changes to MCAS scoring and testing requirement at recent meeting, he explained it will be hard to make comparisons between scores of the old ways and the new.

In a presentation to the committee, Haddad said a combined presentation will be held regarding updated elementary, middle, and high school testing results on Dec. 7.

Haddad explained, "It will be tough comparing the test score numbers with the new test versus the old test, but with the Grade 10 we will be

able to go back four years as they still have yet to take the new test. However, grades 3-8 took the new test for the first time in the spring of 2017 for ELA and math, and we will be able to examine those test results which were recently released."

"The focus on the Next-Gen MCAS test is on student critical thinking skills, application of knowledge, and ability to be able to make connections between reading and writing, and is designed to replace the older legacy style tests" said Haddad. While the Next-Gen MCAS is designed to be given on a computer, the older paper version is still available at this time if needed.

A new difficulty districts

now face is, "How do districts compare the older Legacy test scores with the newer MCAS 2.0 test scores?"

Explaining the new test scoring to both committee member along with parents or guardians of students Haddad said, "Under the old legacy testing, the four categories of scoring where Advanced is 260-280, Proficient is 240-259, Needs Improvement is 220-239, and Warning, 200-219."

"Now it has changed with the new system, and with the Next-Gen MCAS 2.0 test scoring results are listed as Exceeding Expectations, 530-560, Meeting expectations, 500-529, Partially Meeting Expectations, 470-499, and Not Meeting Expectations, a score

of 440-469," detailed Haddad.

Haddad also explained, "In 1998 testing scores were at first lower with the new test. Over time children and students achieved higher test scores as they got used to the then new 'old' test. As this again is now a new test, some parents will wonder why their child got a lower score on the new test than the previous test."

In closing Haddad said, "This is a more rigorous test, as Massachusetts has raised the standards to make sure students are more prepared and ready for the next grade level as well as college. Parents should know they cannot compare the new test to the old test, as it's simply

apples to oranges. Over time as students adjust, they will do better and score higher on the new test as other students did in the past."

To view the current MCAS test results for the Winchendon public schools go to http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mcas/achievement_level.aspx?link_id=32&orgcode=03430000&orgtypecode=5&fycode=2017

If you would like to learn more about the Next-Gen MCAS standardized testing, visit the MCAS Parents Page at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents/> or visit the MCAS Parents Guide which is available in several languages at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/Back-to-School/>.

Monty Tech continuing ed program provides bridge to successful career



Courtesy photo

Summer LaFortune, a 2016 graduate of Monty Tech, completed a course in phlebotomy through the school's Continuing Education Program. She is working in the lab at Heywood Hospital in Gardner, under the supervision of Julie Holly (left).

FITCHBURG — Summer LaFortune, a 2016 graduate of Monty Tech's dental assisting program, didn't want to be like many of her classmates who were working minimum-wage jobs and borrowing money to get a college degree.

She is a bright and ambitious young lady who figured there had to be a better pathway to getting a college degree and securing a successful career.

Although she enjoyed studying dental assisting, and planned on becoming a dental hygienist, as graduation got closer, she decided she wanted to try something else.

A friend suggested she con-

sider becoming a phlebotomy technician. Summer was intrigued and looked into taking a course offered through Monty Tech's Continuing Education program. Not content to take the easy way out, she enrolled in the course, while completing her senior year in the dental assisting and working a part-time job.

The course requires students successfully complete 51 hours of classroom work, followed by 120 hours of hands-on training in a clinical setting.

"I figured I would try it and see how I liked it. I like to educate myself and try new things. If I didn't want to pur-

sue it full time, I could do it while in college and make a lot more money than working in retail or fast food. So many of my friends are struggling to get through college, working minimum-wage jobs," Summer said.

After completing an externship working in the lab at Athol Hospital, Summer was offered a full-time position at Heywood Hospital. She's been there a little over a year and works with both inpatients and outpatients. She also travels to area nursing homes.

She stressed that the three and a half years she spent studying dental assisting has helped her in her current job.

"The certifications I earned in the program have helped me a lot in this job." She is certified in infection control, CPR, AED (automated external defibrillator) and OSHA. She also studied medical terminology.

She was offered a full-time dental assistant position the same time she got the job in the lab at Heywood.

Currently, she is working at the lab full time and studying criminal justice full time at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner.

"I like the work very much, and I'm good at it," she said.

She plans to continue with it while studying, full time at the Mount, and then go on for her bachelor's degree. She wants to make a career out of working as a corrections officer.

"I was told it would be much

easier to get in the door if I started there as a phlebotomist," she said.

Julie Holly, her supervisor at Heywood, said Summer was doing a great job.

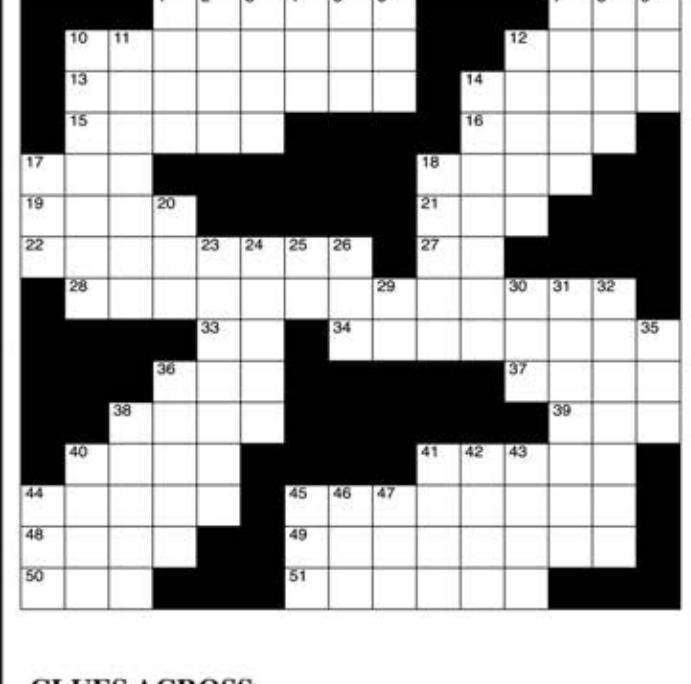
"Summer is an excellent representative for our department. She was very wise to get phlebotomy training so early on, allowing her the flexibility she needs to further her education. Summer was very well prepared for the field, and has quickly become a 'go to' member of our team."

Sarah Frediani and Ravin Glaude, phlebotomy instruc-

tors at Monty Tech's continuing education program, said they take pride in knowing their students are job-ready and succeeding in the workforce.

"You want your students to be successful and achieve their goals," Sarah said.

For more information about the phlebotomy technician course, or any course offered, contact the School of Continuing Education at Monty Tech at (978) 345-9200, ext. 5220, or go to www.monty-techniques.com.



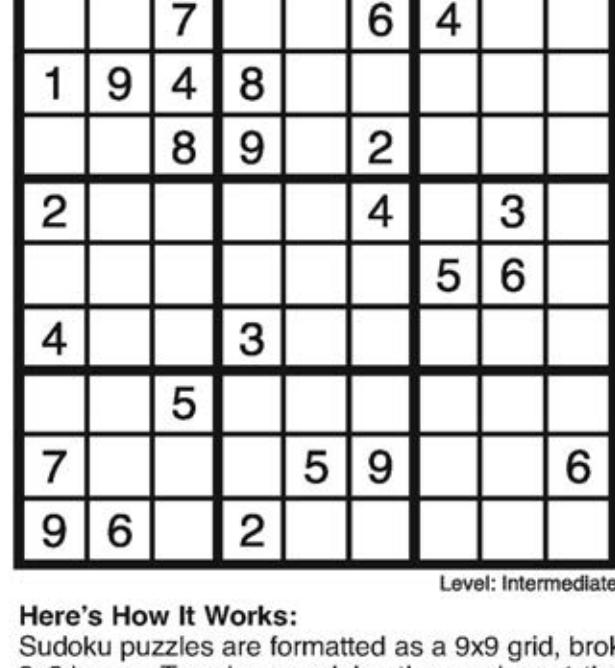
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Holds candles | 33. Milliliter |
| 7. In possession of | 34. Open |
| 10. Rodents | 36. Health physics concept (abbr.) |
| 12. Type of cofactor (Brit. sp.) | 37. Tantric meditation |
| 13. Hard candy on a stick | 38. Where golf games begin |
| 14. Animal of the weasel family | 39. Birth swine |
| 15. Things that should not be overlooked | 40. Rip |
| 16. "Silence" author | 41. Remove |
| 17. Dried, split lentils | 44. Puts together in time |
| 18. People native to Ghana | 45. Rotary engines |
| 19. Barros and Gasteyer are two | 48. Skeletal structure |
| 21. British thermal unit | 49. Member of a labor organization |
| 22. Large oblong hall | 50. Japanese classical theater |
| 27. Ethnic group in Asia | 51. Undergarments |
| 38. Holiday decoration | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. "Snake Tales" cartoonist | 24. Man and Wight are two |
| 2. Religious group | 25. Type of scan |
| 3. Singer Redding | 26. Atomic mass unit |
| 4. ___ and tuck | 29. Article |
| 5. Head honcho | 30. Incriminate |
| 6. Second sight | 31. Passes by |
| 7. Composer | 32. Most nerve-inducing |
| 8. About aviation | 35. David Alan Grier sitcom |
| 9. Senior officer | 36. Achieve |
| 10. Forecasts weather | 38. Freshwater fish |
| 11. Seasoned Hungarian soup | 40. Beginner |
| 12. Town in Hesse, Germany | 41. Dark brown or black |
| 14. Thought to derive from meteorites | 42. A newlywed wears one |
| 17. Hit lightly | 43. DiFranco and Vardanyan are two |
| 18. Seemingly bottomless chasm | 44. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo |
| 20. Title of respect | 45. Ancient Egyptian King |
| 23. Warms up | 46. Old name (abbr.) |
| | 47. Brazilian city (slang) |

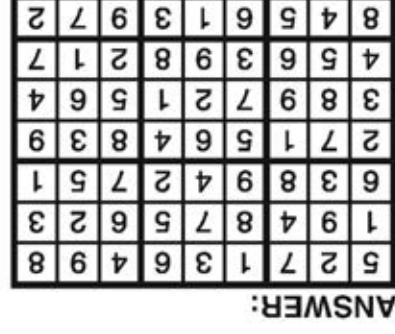
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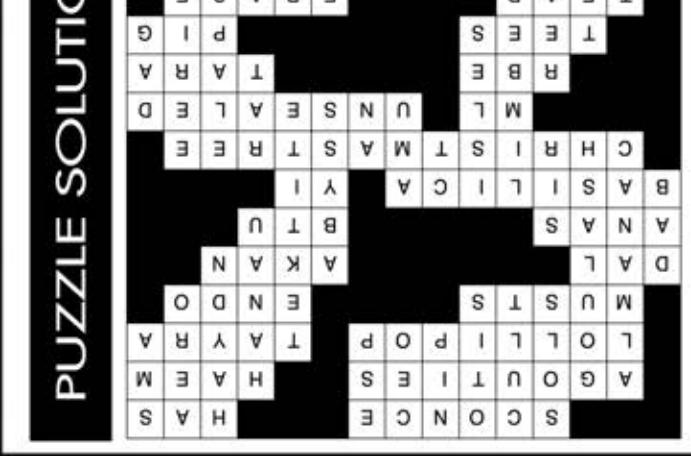
Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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



ANSWER:



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Email Us!

What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to: ruth@stonebridgepress.com

We'd Love To Hear From You!

Gobi has a challenger: Steven Hall

BY GUS STEEVES
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE – To Steven Hall, there's "a lot of nonsense going on" in Boston and we'd "have a lot more money for projects in the towns if we stop wasting money on the state level frivoulously."

He's hoping enough people across the region will agree with that and a list of other positions -- most of them fairly traditionally Republican -- to elect him state senator in November 2018. Recently, he threw his hat into the race against incumbent Democrat Anne Gobi.

During his announcement speech at the Publick House, he answered his own question about why he's running by saying "the health care system is a mess," with Obamacare "dictating care and taking away the patient-physician relationship," increasing insurance costs. At the same time, he argues, Medicaid costs have been rising "at an unsustainable rate," and there is "a severe shortage of health care workers" because many "won't commit to full-time employment" because they'll lose their current benefits.

Hall comes to that view from several years as a nursing home administrator. His LinkedIn profile states his current job (since October 2016) is as a consultant at Modern Healthcare Advisors LLC, but lists several long-term care administration posts before that back to May 2008. It also cites two wheelchair safety-related patents, one issued in 2002, one filed in 2016.

One aspect of his platform that is unusual is his intention to challenge the Registry of Motor Vehicles recent tightening of inspection rules and other issues, which he described as "overreach." He said the more stringent inspections, in which stations are installing more cameras "to make sure not even a little bit of rust gets through," will "hurt the poor and middle class," particularly in rural areas. While urban dwellers usually have access to public transit, "in our district a car is a vital requirement to get to work," Hall said.

Before his speech, he was blunt about how he sees the RMV: "They have no common sense."

In other areas, his views are conservative, particularly regarding business. He argues the state needs to reduce taxes and fees "that are making it impossible

to do business in Massachusetts," and states "small businesses, including our farmers, are the lifeblood of our state."

Overall, Hall says he'd like to work for "a climate where there's less despair and more hope," noting many people have turned to street drugs to cope with physical and/or emotional pain because they don't "feel like they're a valued part of society."

The system needs to recognize the difference between real pain and self-medication, and provide help to those who need it, he said. He didn't, however, explain how he'd do that.

"Everywhere I go, I meet people with a new optimism about their vote and the power of their voice," he said. "In Central Mass., people are tired of the politics of old, and politicians who see the people as serving their agenda on Beacon Hill."

His wife Janet is a supporter. She described Hall as having "an uncanny ability to listen" and come up with solutions and a "driven personality. He works on it until he accomplished his goal. During rough times is when his true character shines."

In the audience, long-time friend Tony Leary said he normally tries to avoid politics, "but Steve I know and I trust. We need to bring the good people from local levels up and bring them in."

Hall actually has no local government experience. He did serve for a while as recreation director in Wales, and has been involved in various community volunteer efforts as a coach, in Toastmasters, and other things.

Toastmasters membership seems to be a common thread among several of his supporters. One of them, Luba Sinigur, said this is the first time she's been involved in a political campaign; she migrated from Moldova in 1998 and became a citizen in 2012, and describes this as taking "baby steps" that might lead to local political activity.

"If we want to make a change in this country, we have to vote," she said. "Whatever you stand for, we have to find people to vote for."

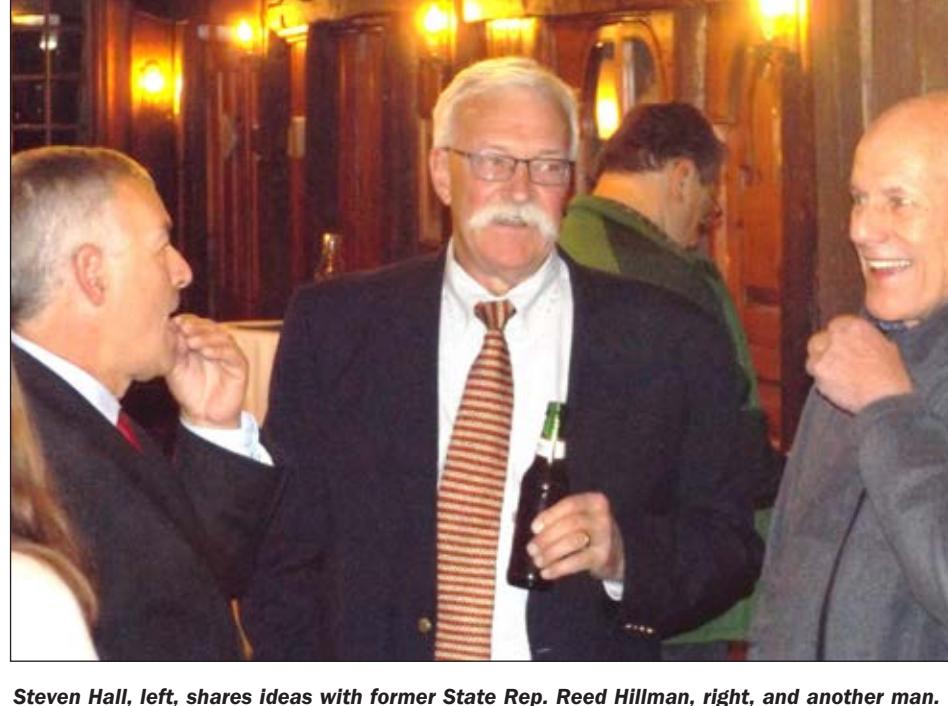
Hall's son-in-law Josh Paydos said Hall has been talking about the idea "a number of years."

"Steve likes to succeed at whatever he does," Paydos said. "I'm sure this won't be any different. He'll give it his 110 percent."

The Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire & Middlesex senate district is a sprawl-



Gus Steeves photos
Republican senate candidate Steven Hall chats with a visitor at his candidacy declaration party at the Publick House.



Steven Hall, left, shares ideas with former State Rep. Reed Hillman, right, and another man.

ing one, including all or part of 28 towns running from Sturbridge to the New Hampshire line. In this area, it includes

Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland, Wales, Spencer, Charlton and all of the Brookfields.

Police help in rescue

On Nov. 17 at approximately 7:54 p.m., Winchendon Police received a report from a female party that her ex-boyfriend had called her and told her that he was lost in the woods. She reported that she believed he was intoxicated.

Obtaining a scent article from the male subject's home, K9 Clyde

was able to track the male party to a ditch in the woods next to an abandoned railroad bed in the area of Rt. 140 and Old Gardner Road.

The male party was found unconscious, partially unclothed, and highly intoxicated. An ambulance was called to the scene where the male party was checked out. He was later trans-

ported home and left in the care of a sober person.

The total track took approximately 30 mins and covered approx. 1 mile.

"Had it not been for K9 Clyde, he may have died from exposure," reported Winchendon Police Lt. Kevin Wolski.

Vehicle spins off road

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon dispatch reported a call received at 3:09 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16 for a motor vehicle reported off the road in the vicinity of 500 School St.

Winchendon police, fire, ambulance and Engine 2 were immediately dispatched with both departments arriving on scene in less than five minutes.

Upon arrival, it was discovered a 2005 Mazda 6 operated by Cera Harris of Oak Street, Winchendon and owned by Cheila Spotti of Leominster, had spun off the road coming to rest in a

small clearing on the southerly side of Route 12 and School Street after suffering damage to both the front and rear of the vehicle, with the rear passenger side wheel completely missing among other significant damage.

A right of refusal of medical treatment was exercised by the operating party with a signed waiver, and the vehicle was towed by Brooks Automotive shortly after to clear up road traffic as the vehicle was inoperable.

The WPD reports a citation was issued.

The event is still under investigation.

VINE

continued from page A4

get to the victims?

Yemeni children are being starved to death by Saudi Arabia with the tacit approval of the Trump administration. But the civil war has been going on for three years, so the Obama administration does not escape its share of responsibility for this atrocity.

Unfortunately, many peo-

ple abide by the old saying that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." And because the Houthis are supported by Iran, our enemy, we turn a blind eye to the sins of the Saudis.

In this case, it turns out, the enemy of our enemy is just as vile as our enemy.

Americans must speak up and urge our leaders to send a clear message to Saudi Arabia that we won't stand for the carnage it is inflicting upon the innocent

of Yemen. Letters and e-mails should be sent to our representatives and senators in Congress urging them to cut off military aid to the Saudis if they fail to abide by civilized norms.

If not, says Beasley: "You keep going like you're going, there's not going to be anybody left. All the children are going to be dead."

Thanksgiving dinner this year, for me anyway, was a whole lot less appetizing.

CARTON

continued from page A4

around the country, literally coast-to-coast, who have "been there" throughout this nightmare. I cannot possibly thank them, (and some of you reading this know who you are), enough.

That support has been especially important the last week or so. It was on November 17, 1996 Courtney was originally diagnosed. This month is National Diabetes Month. The arrival of this Thanksgiving weekend has been especially difficult for me. People who've endured this unspeakable awfulness warned me "the holidays" would be very tough but because we're Jewish and don't celebrate Christmas, "holidays" don't resonate the same way.

In truth Chanukah's a minor holiday on the Hebrew calen-

dar. Sure, we exchange gifts and eat latkes and light the menorah, but it's importance on that aforementioned calendar pales in comparison to other holidays. That's my long way of saying Thanksgiving was inevitably going to be the most emotionally stressful and if the way I've been feeling over her unimaginable loss, combined with the sudden loss as well of Annie earlier this month is any indication of how I'd be feeling this weekend, I'd venture to say those who've warned me were spot-on.

But you try to go on. What other choice is there? I'm thankful for my own proverbial village. I really am, more than I can really articulate. I hope your Thanksgiving yesterday was joyful and peaceful. God knows even a brief respite from the insanity "out there" is well-earned. See you next week.



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Your Mind?
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OBITUARIES

Dean C. Paige Sr., 80



TEMPLETON — Dean C. Paige Sr., age 80, of 152 Main St., Baldwinville, died peacefully at his residence Sunday, November 19, 2017, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Francestown, New Hampshire on October 12, 1937, son of the late Fred and Alfreda (Piper) Paige and spent his early years in New Hampshire. Dean moved to this

area as a teenager and began working at Travis Welding Company in Gardner at the age of 15.

Dean was a well known welder, who owned and operated Dean C. Paige Welding for many years. He bought his current building in 1978. Dean proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He enjoyed traveling, taking trips in his recreational vehicle, playing horseshoes, fishing, playing pitch and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a member of Otter River Sportsmans' Club, Templeton Fish and Gun Club and Royalston Fish and Gun Club. Additionally, he was a member of American Legion Posts

in Baldwinville and Gardner and the VFW.

His first wife, Jacquelyn A. (Robie) Paige, died in 2002. He leaves his wife, Joyce M. (Hurd) Paige; three children, Dean C. Paige Jr. of Hubbardston, Timothy A. Paige of Winchendon and Cheryl M. Rota of Winchendon; three grandsons, Jacob A. Rota and his wife Sarah, Jeffrey D. Rota and his girlfriend Jill and Benjamin P. Rota and his girlfriend Ashley; 2 great grandchildren, Henry and Eloise Rota; two sisters, Pauline Gilman of Hillsboro, NH and Eleanor Bennett of Antrim, NH; his wife Joyce's children James Hanlon of Albany, NY and April Haugen and her husband Keith of Albany, NY and their

children Dylan and Ashley Brozowski; as well as nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Maurice Paige and sisters, Edna Mercier, Rena Johnson and Barbara Johnson.

Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, Baldwinville. There are no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made to Simonds-Sinon Regional Cancer Center, Burbank Campus, 275 Nichols Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

Stone Ladeau Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.



CLYDE'S CORNER

Thursday, November 9 - Saturday, December 2

IT'S COMING: Annual Festival of Trees at The Gardner Museum, 28 Pearl St. Nov. 9 to Dec. 2. Open Wednesday & Thursday: 1-4 p.m.; Friday 1-7 p.m.; and Weekends: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Limited hours Dec. 2: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to allow for drawing at 2 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day.

Holiday Coffee with free refreshments Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to noon; Santa visit Nov. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., take your own photos.

Over 100 trees, baskets, quilted, wood-craft, dollhouse and more to be raffled to benefit The Gardner Museum a non-profit. Need not be present to win. Admission \$3, children under 12 free. Raffle tickets available. For information (978) 632-3277, www.gardnermuseuminc.com or email: info@gardnermuseuminc.com

Thursday, November 24

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 home style from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations and many hard-working volunteers.

Friday, November 24

TOY DROP OFF: noon to 4:00 p.m. Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive at Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. Drop off unwrapped, new or gently used toys

with our "elves" for distribution to families in need. Brighten a child's holidays on "Black Friday!"

Saturday, December 2

WINTERFEST: the annual display of decorated holiday tables, a decorated wreath raffle, basket raffle and bake sale all take place at Old Murdock Senior Center, 52 Murdock Ave., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission and lunch available

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: the annual buffet breakfast with Santa, sponsored by Kiwanis of Winchendon is scheduled 8-11 a.m. at the Carriage House Restaurant. Adults \$8, children under 12, \$1. Bring your camera for a photo with the jolly fellow himself. Every child receives a gift courtesy of the Kiwanis.

Thursday, December 7

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 home style from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations and many hard-working volunteers.

Saturday, December 9

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR: the Winchendon History and Cultural Center hosts its holiday house tour with nine places to visit in full holiday regalia this year. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., \$15 per person. Don't miss this excellent holiday event.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: On Saturday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m. a Brass Quintet Holiday Concert presented by Winchendon Winds. Come enjoy a special holiday concert at Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St.! A brass quintet will play seasonal music interwoven with holiday themed poetry and readings by Rev. Inanna Arthen. At the concert's conclu-

sion, the tree of lights on the front lawn will be lighted, and you'll be invited to join in some informal carol singing. The concert is free and open to all.

Thursday, December 14

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 home style from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations and many hard-working volunteers.

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 Dec. 14. 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/bealmemorialslibrary

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 5¢, and the community is invited! Anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to join in. We'd love to have more players.

BINGO! 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.

Monad Knock-Knock series debuts

JAFFREY — The River Street Theatre's ongoing Monad Knock-Knock live stand-up comedy series turns to improv this month. On Monday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m., the Jaffrey theatre will present an interactive evening of improvisational theatre. The program will be hosted by actor-director-producer, as well as founder of the Matchbook Players (and RST's own), Paige Johnson.

What is Improv? Improvisation, or improv, is a form of live theater in which the plot, characters and dialogue of a game, scene or story are made up in the moment. It is joyful fun and requires no memorization or theatrical training.

What happens in an Improv Workshop? A collection of games and exercises to help everyone say yes, and while the game is played: follow the rules; turn mistakes into gifts; & fail

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.

Community Foundation elects trustees and officers

FITCHBURG — The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts elected trustees and officers at its recent annual meeting.

Reelected as trustees to three-year terms: Thomas Bagley III of Anderson, Bagley and Mayo Insurance, Leominster; John Barrett of the Law Office of John Barrett, Townsend; James Garrison of Acton; David McKeehan of GB Products, LLC, Westminster; and Henri Sans of LeBlanc & Sans, Gardner.

Elected as new trustees to three-year terms: Ben Urquhart of New England Wooden Ware, Gardner; and Tina Griffin of Athol Hospital.

Elected as officers to one-year terms: Sans, as chair; Jan Cochran of Groton, vice chair; Steven Stone of Sterilite Corporation, Townsend treasurer; Jay Drake of Royal Steam Heater, Gardner clerk; Philip Grzewinski, Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, Fitchburg, president and recording secretary; William E. Aubuchon IV of

W.E. Aubuchon Co., Inc., Westminster, grant making committee chair; and Bagley, development committee chair.

The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, www.cfncm.org, is a nonprofit organization that serves the charitable interest of donors in Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Barre, Bolton, Clinton, Devens, Erving, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Littleton, Lunenburg, New Salem, Orange, Pepperell, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Warwick, Wendell, Westminster and Winchendon.

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SPORTS

Who deserves the award?



TALKING
SPORTS
• • • • •
JERRY
CARTON

the Marlins nor Reds came particularly close to making the playoffs. The D-Backs did reach the post season and without Paul Goldschmidt probably wouldn't have. I think you can argue Stanton (or Votto) was the most OUTSTANDING player in the NL in 2017, but the most valuable? Not so much. Semantics matter.

Awards criteria tend to be subjective, whether in baseball or the movies. We've all seen arguments about Best Picture, right? Part of the fun of being a sports fan is getting to debate things like MVP awards. That's true in every sport. There have been plenty of seasons when the Horse of the Year has been announced and I've thought, "seriously?" So while everyone agrees Stanton is a terrific player who had a terrific season, Miami nonetheless

wasn't playing in October and Arizona was. That should have tilted the vote to Goldschmidt.

Meanwhile, Roger Goodell reportedly wants his new contract to pay him \$49.5 million per year. He also wants the use of a private jet for life and for the NFL to cover he and his family's health insurance. Granted, a lot of big-time corporate CEOs make a ton of money. The gap between them and us has never been greater. Any wonder why a slew of them backed DJT? Jerry Jones, though he has his own agenda with Goodell over Zeke Elliott's six-game suspension, isn't wrong to suggest the owners, Goodell's employers, take another look.

In response, the league is threatening JJ with all sorts of possible sanctions if he won't just shut up. The whole thing

is almost comical. Goodell currently makes about \$31 mil a year. Ratings are down. Concussion debate rages. The league is being accused of trying to weasel out of a payout deal it reached with retired players. A contentious labor battle looms. And for that, the commissioner believes he's earned about a \$20 million raise and it appears most owners agree and yes New England fans that most assuredly includes Bob Kraft who put on a nice show for your benefit but who, like his 31 business partners, likes winning at the bank a whole lot more than he likes winning on the field. Let's be real here. You don't honestly believe the owners care all that much about you, do you?

Patriots fans remain livid with Goodell over the whole Deflategate nonsense, but

Goodell was really just doing what his bosses, the owners, wanted when he sat Tom Brady for four games. Fans sometimes forget he's the public face but not necessarily the "Decider" as 43 used to call himself. The owners call the shots. It was understandable the owners would back a big raise if things were going swimmingly. Yes, I know the money is obscene to most of us, but what can I tell you? It is what it is.

Anyway, since things aren't going well at all so even in the world of bazillionaires, that kind of raise seems absurd. Agreed? I know you do. But they live in a different world. The NFL mirrors society's economic imbalance and that, as a certain tweeter might say is indeed sad. How many of you are still rabid fans of that league?

Winchendon School men's varsity hoop ready to hustle

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Coach Papa Lo and the Winchendon Schools men's varsity basketball team may have an all new look this upcoming season but make no mistake, the discipline both on the court and in the classroom will remain the same. Steadfast, dedicated to academics, and an honest requirement to excel at being the best you can be.

Of last season's entire roster, only two faces remain, both as co-captains with Nino Hernandez, a 6'4" guard from Gardner and Rowan Niemela, a 6'1" guard of Jaffrey.

Gone are former big man and 7'0" center Dren Dedushaj who recently became a walk-on for Bryant University, and the teams former prolific scoring machine, guard Avelino Damoura who now plays for Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Now a roster composed of mostly new faces will have to step up and bring their A-game both in the classroom and on the hardwood, because there is one word Coach Lo says he has no tolerance for, "Lazy."

Hernandez, who is now in his second year at Winchendon, was just offered a full scholarship to Division 1 Bryant University, and will soon sign a letter of commitment. When asked about his coach, teammates, and preparatory school Hernandez said, "I have gained a lot here especially in time management. As it is set up a lot like a college, it's up to you on how to manage your free time and make sure you get your work done, and my favorite course is probably computer coding. Coach Lo is great. He is always there to make sure you're not slacking off in class, and that you're giving your best to do what's right."

Hernandez added, "It's going to be an awesome season. We are going to bring

a lot of excitement. Just come out and watch us play. You will enjoy it and we would like to see you here."

Fellow co-captain Niemala was also enthusiastic about this upcoming season on the hardwood. His decision to attend Winchendon was, "It was mostly academic. My old school was not as challenging, and I came here because I knew Winchendon has a rigorous academic schedule, and the men's varsity basketball team was great. The exposure to colleges was also huge. This is a great school."

Niemala expressed respect for the time management skills impressed upon him by the school saying, "You have so much to do here, and only so much time to get it done. However you have many resources to help you move on. Here you really have great help to assist you in moving on to that next level in college. It's really hard for you to do poorly in class, because the teachers are always there to help you and keep you from not doing well."

Both Hernandez and Niemala when asked which school has the strongest hoop rivalry, simultaneously said "Hyde" referring to the Hyde School of Bath, ME.

Niemala followed with, "Our goal is to bring home the NEPSAC (New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference) championship. We are ready to go, and everybody on the team can play. We wouldn't set our goal for anything less."

The new faces on this season's roster are many, and in true Winchendon fashion, provide a highly diverse and inclusive list from around the globe.

This season includes three players from Gardner, one player each from the Massachusetts cities of Lynn and New Bedford, three from New Hampshire,

one from Minnesota, two players from Turkey, and one player from Moscow, Russia. Ten members of the roster are 6'0" or taller, with five players ranging from 6'3" to 6'7". Have no doubts, this will be a "fast break" team and fans are likely see no shortage of Winchendon's version of a dunking highlight reel.

Coach Papa Lo, who serves as teacher of both higher math and financial mathematics, his emphasis is first on commitment to the classroom and secondly on dedication to being the best players possible.

Lo, who is entering his fifth season as head coach said, "The last time we had a player who had academic trouble was when I was an assistant, and since I have been the head coach I am happy to say I have not had to suspend a player for poor grades. My players know that the classroom comes first at Winchendon, and if they want to play on the court, they need to bring their very best game in the classroom. I check my player's grades every single week, and they know it. I promise you, I will shut down a player first before the school does. If you want the right to play, you have to earn it in the classroom."

Lo added, "I tell my players two things. You must be in the best shape of your life, and you have got to be able to play defense. If your team can score 100 points, and your opponent scores 102, you lose."

In closing, Lo emphasized his desire to meet in a friendly scrimmage with Murdock. He also expressed in the interest of having team members volunteer once a month at the Clark Memorial YMCA to run a clinic.

"We want to make sure the school is not isolated from the town, and we would love people from the town to come to the Winchendon School to



Keith Kent photo
Rowan Niemala and Nino Hernandez will co-captain the Winchendon Wapiti this season.

watch and enjoy our games with us. We want to be part of the community."

The team opens its regular season on the road at Vermont Academy of Saxon River, VT on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 4:00 PM. The first home game of the season will take place Saturday, Dec. 2, against Brewster Academy of Wolfeboro, NH at 4:30 PM. The regular season schedule will soon be posted on the school website at www.winchendon.org.

Legislature passes bill to expand language opportunities for students

BOSTON — Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) announced the Legislature passed bipartisan legislation that updates the existing statute relative to English language education in the Commonwealth's public schools. The bill promotes research-based best practices for programs serving English learners (EL).

Since the year 2000, the number of EL students in Massachusetts has doubled to more than 90,204 students, or 9.5 percent of the student population. While statewide graduation rates for students have risen over the past ten years, the achievement gap between EL students and their peers persists.

This bill expands on the current mandate requiring schools to use Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) as the default English learner program model by giving schools the flexibility to establish programs based on the diverse needs of their students. Under this legislation, school districts can maintain current SEI programming or choose to implement an alternative instructional program that meets federal and state standards.

"Given the globalizing world in which we live, this bill highlights the

importance of providing students with the skills necessary to succeed in the twenty-first century job market," said Senator Moore.

This bill supports parental choice and involvement by expanding the role of Parental Advisory Councils and allowing parents the flexibility to choose programs that best meet their child's needs.

To better identify and assist English learners, this legislation requires greater tracking of academic performance and enhanced review of programs. Furthermore, this legislation directs the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop additional guidelines and supports for school districts.

The legislation also establishes a state Seal of Biliteracy that will be awarded by participating school districts to students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English, and one or more foreign languages.

This bill will now move to the Governor for his signature. To continue tracking the bill, H.4032, please visit the Legislature's website, www.malegislature.gov.

KOH MAKES RUNNING STOP IN WINCHENDON



Dan Koh, with his wife and Rebecca of the Hometown Café.

Dan Koh, candidate for the 3rd District Congressional seat, continued #RunningForThe3rd – a 12-leg run through all 37 communities of the district – on Oct. 29 from Ashby to Winchendon.

Running through Ashburnham, Koh kicked off from Ashby Town Hall. Joined by his wife, Amy, for the 15.5 mile run, they refueled at Hometown

Cafe in Winchendon.

Over the coming weeks, Koh will be traveling across the 3rd District on foot, covering more than 140 miles meeting and listening to voters along the way. He kicked off #RunningForThe3rd Thursday morning, running from Andover to Haverhill.



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AREA HOLIDAY FAIRS

November 9-December 2

IT'S COMING! Annual Festival of Trees at The Gardner Museum, 28 Pearl St. Nov. 9 to Dec. 2. Open Wednesday & Thursday: 1-4 p.m.; Friday 1-7 p.m.; and Weekends: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Limited hours Dec. 2: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to allow for drawing at 2 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving Day.

Holiday Coffee with free refreshments Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to noon; Santa visit Nov. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., take your own photos.

Over 100 trees, baskets, quilted, woodcraft, dollhouse and more to be raffled to benefit The Gardner Museum a non-profit. Need not be present to win.

IMPRESSION

continued from page A1

moved the business to 206 Central St. It's a smaller but much more quaint location. Labarge said she and her husband George worked about three weeks to get the space ready before moving in some inventory, which took another three days. A quick glance around the store reveals it is now amply stocked.

"I've always had a dream of running a country store," says Labarge.

The store actually opened its doors for the first time on Oct. 7, the day of the annual Fall Fest. This weekend will mark the store's first Small Business Saturday.

"A lot of the clothing we have come from Michelle's because it was consigners," she says. "We've also had a lot of new consigners come in since we've opened, so that actually has helped to build the store. Some consigners will also bring in small furniture, decorations and stuff like that, too, so it's great for variety. And we purchase and make things ourselves and bring stuff in, too."

"We have to watch what we bring in,"

Admission \$3, children under 12 free. Raffle tickets available. For information (978) 632-3277, www.gardnermuseuminc.com or email: info@gardnermuseuminc.com

Saturday, November 25

HOLIDAY FAIR: The VFW Post 5613 Auxiliary will be hosting their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. It will be held at the VFW Hall on Hathorn Road (off Route 202) in Jaffrey.

Saturday, December 2

WINTERFEST: the annual display of

decorated holiday tables, a decorated wreath raffle, basket raffle and bake sale all take place at Old Murdock Senior Center, 52 Murdock Ave., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission and lunch available

Sunday, December 3

TEMPLETON EVENTS: Come celebrate the Holiday season with the Templeton Historical Society's annual Jack Frost Festival on Dec. 3 from 3-5pm right on the Common in Templeton Center. You will see the Narragansett Marching Band, the Grinch, Buddy the Elf, and everyone's favorite—the Jolly Old Elf himself: Santa! We hear he will take visits from children and if every-

one is good boys and girls, maybe he will pose for pictures taken by you!

Inside the Historical Building, at 1 Boynton Road, walk through and experience both Early American and Victorian style Holiday decorations, our amazing collections and a fun and festive Bake sale. Purchase a treat and hot drink to take out to watch the annual Templeton Tree Lighting at 4:30 p.m. and join us if you will for a few festive carols. Holidays have never been happier than with this free, fun event on the Common. If you have any questions, stop by the museum on one of our open Tuesday nights from 6-8 p.m. or email us at narragansetthistoricalsociety@yahoo.com OR follow us on Facebook!



The interior of the new 2nd Impressions, which recently opened its doors at 206 Central Street, Winchendon.

Frost's amendment to protect police officers passes in House criminal justice reform bill

BOSTON — State Representative Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn) and State Representative Kate Campanale (R-Leicester) announce they successfully passed their amendment to protect police officers in the House Criminal Justice Reform Bill debated Tuesday, Nov. 14. The amendment makes assault and battery with serious bodily injury on a police officer a felony charge, rather than a misdemeanor charge as designated by current Massachusetts law. The Frost and Campanale amendment, adopted by the House of Representatives, featured language used by Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito in a bill the administration had filed earlier this year.

After Auburn Police Officer Ronald Tarentino Jr. was shot and killed on Rochdale Street in Auburn on May 22, 2016, local law enforcement and beyond called for a change to the law regarding how assault and battery on police should be treated. Officer Tarentino's killer had several prior assaults on police officers. Legislation to address these issues was filed by Representative Frost, Representative Campanale and Senator Michael Moore, as well as the Baker/Polito Administration in the wake of Officer Tarentino's tragic death.

The language of the amendment not only seeks to make it a felony charge for A&B with serious bodily injury instead of a misdemeanor, it also contains language allowing District Attorneys to ask the court to hold someone for committing an A&B on a police officer

for a dangerous hearing. This option would be aimed at keeping those who are extremely dangerous in custody longer instead of releasing them on bail and risking them hurting or attacking others.

Frost commented, "I'm pleased we were successful in having this included in the Criminal Justice Reform Bill as we are fixing an inequity in the law. Assault and battery on firefighters and even police dogs can be treated as felony charges, while the same actions against police officers are merely misdemeanors. This makes no sense, and we are making progress to make it right and fair. We, as a society, have an obligation to protect our men and women in blue when they are on our streets and in our neighborhoods protecting all of us."

"We owe this to the officers, men and women who put their lives on the line on a daily basis," said Rep. Kate Campanale of Leicester, who serves as the State Representative of Officer Tarentino's hometown. "I am proud to be a part of this amendment, which justly matches the punishment to the crime, while benefitting the safety of our officers."

The House version of the Criminal Justice Bill will now go to conference committee to work out the differences from the Senate version. In addition to Representatives Frost and Campanale, the House Amendment was co-sponsored by Representatives Donald Berthiaume (R-Spencer), Peter Durant (R-Spencer), Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden),

Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury), Kevin Kuros (R-Uxbridge), Joseph McKenna (R-Webster), David Muradian (R-Grafton), Timothy Whelan (R-Brewster), Keiko Orrall (R-Lakeville), Nicholas Boldyga (R-Southwick), William Crocker (R-Barnstable), Susan

Gifford (R-Wareham), Bradford Hill (R-Ipswich), Bradley Jones (R-North Reading), Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleboro), Alan Silvia (D-Fall River), Todd Smola (R-Warren), and Donald Wong (R-Saugus).

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LETTER

continued from page A1

ance with the Agreement and MGL. The law that should be reviewed and complied with is MGL Chapter 71. At a minimum, additional components of the MGL that should also be reviewed and referenced in an updated Agreement include Chapter 74: Vocational Education, and Chapter 568 of the Acts of 1964 as amended by Chapter 543 of the Acts of 1965.

"It is clear from the original agreement, the cities of Fitchburg and Gardner, and their respective mayors, were recognized as important stakeholders. Therefore, we respectfully request that a District Agreement Review Committee be created and make every effort to update and revise this

document. With the last amendment occurring 18 years ago, it is long overdue for a more comprehensive review of the document and potential amendments thereto should occur."

A three part motion was made to endorse the letter sent by mayors DiNatale and Hawke to the MVRTSD, ask the Winchendon BOS to also endorse the same letter, and that the WPS School Committee send a letter of its own, to be signed by both the chairs of the BOS and school committee.

During discussion, fellow member Felicia Nurmsen said, "I think this is a great idea. Thank you Greg," followed by member Dawn Fronte also expressing support for the motion made for the three items.

The motion passed unanimously, and will next be presented to the BOS.

bors as our self, and to give to those less fortunate than us is truly rewarding. We get to teach our members to become a light in their community, and show others love in any way we can. It is great to have a church that instills that at a young age, and to see our youth group members enjoy working in charitable causes. We also teach these values to children here in grades K through 6, and it's truly rewarding to see children even at that age learn how awesome it is."

BYG

continued from page A1

our church family."

Tony added, "They are just as involved in our mission in the community, and are just as important to us as the adults."

In closing when asked what the benefits of being a youth group leader are Tony said, "Being a mentor here and being able to teach young adults the command of Jesus to love our neighbor

Humans bring best friends to receive blessings

BY TRACY GAMBILL
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The rain stopped in time for the annual Blessing of the Animals at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church recently.

Furry friends gathered with their humans in the rectory yard as Father Michael Clements bestowed blessings upon them. A goat, two cats, three bunnies, and about 20 dogs attended the event in honor of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.

Some were cautiously curious; others were simply excited to play in the wet grass. After the blessing, each animal received a medal of St Francis and a treat before they went home.



Tracy Gambill photos

The rain stopped just before the Blessing of the Animals began.

LEFT: Houdini and JJ say hello.



Tommy Lee, an orphaned six-day-old South African Boer goat, sits comfortably in his "mom's" arms.



Father Clements blesses two small bunnies.



Father Michael Clements greets two dogs before the Blessing of the Animals.



Houdini, an eight-month-old Holland lop eared bunny, patiently waits for his turn.



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Collecting license plates



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •

WAYNE TUISKULA

ly desirable with collectors. Many collectors belong to the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association. Their website suggests 3 types of collecting options for beginning collectors.

"State runs" are when collectors try to obtain license plates from every year from a particular state.

Collectors may also collect "birth year runs" where they try to get plates from their birth year from as many states as possible.

"Type runs" are when collectors focus on specialized license plates such as motorcycle, ham radio, police and other unique license plates.

An article in Forbes from 2008 was titled "America's Most Expensive License Plates." In a Wendy's parking lot in Biddeford, Maine a 1921 Alaska license plate traded hands. The plate was 1 of 4 known to exist and sold for \$40,000. The editor of "PLATES" magazine estimated that it could be worth \$60,000 when the article was written in 2008. 1912 and 1913 Mississippi license plates were estimated at \$35,000 and \$50,000 respectively.

In more recent news, a 1918 Hawaii plate brought \$4,800 in a recent online auction. A 1912 Alabama plate sold

for \$2,000 and a 1910 low number "11" Vermont license plate fetched over \$1,500.

There are many license plates worth only about \$1. What makes some plates more desirable? The state where it was issued is an important factor. Alaska didn't issue many plates in 1921 and that's what made the plate that sold for \$40,000 so rare. New England states issued many more plates during that time and the plates typically aren't as valuable. There were also fewer plates for motorcycles, trucks and vehicles other than automobiles which makes them command a premium.

Other factors can also make license plates valuable. Preston Tucker's company only produced 51 cars when he met financial and legal issues that halted the project. His story was chronicled in the movie "Tucker: The Man and His Dream."

"1941 Illinois Manufacturer" license plates that were issued to Tucker's company sold for \$4,000 in a 2011 auction.

The "OUTATIME" plate that was on the DeLorean in the movie "Back to the Future" brought \$9,000 in a 2010 auction.

Finding a rare license plate could drive you to a better life.

We will be offering some low number Massachusetts license plates in the Northborough online farm auction ending on December 13th. Our next live



auction will take place in Worcester on January 25th. Other events are being planned. See centralmassauctions.com for details.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula
Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111), info@centralmassauctions.com

Moneysaving Tips



TAKE
THE
HINT
—
KAREN
TRAINOR

again. Typically, the electronic cables found at a discount department store or online can do the job just as well for a fraction of the cost. Ditto for appliance cords and cell phone chargers.

Shake, bake and save: It's a fact that packaged spice mixes make cooking a meal easier and tastier. But convenience comes at a cost. Here's a "recipe" for a chicken (or pork) baking coating that rivals the commercial brand for a lot less money. If you like it, plan to package up several batches at a time in zip-lock plastic bags and store in your cupboard. You'll save both money and time!

Ingredients: 4 cups flour, 2 tsp. Cayenne pepper, 1 cup bran flake cereal, crushed, 2 TB parsley flakes, 2 tsp. garlic powder, 1 TB onion powder, 2 tsp. chili powder, 2 TB taco seasoning, 1 teaspoon seasoned pepper, 1 t curry, sweet basil, oregano,

Directions: Mix all together into a plastic baggie and shake chicken or pork to coat before baking.

Through the years this column has periodically offered advice for saving money at

the gas pump. With fuel prices climbing there's never been a better time to review the many ways a conscientious driver can offset the latest jump at the pump!

Downgrade: Buy the lowest grade of octane that is appropriate for your vehicle. Why pay for more if you don't need it? Check with your mechanic or car dealer to see if it's safe for you to switch to a lower grade. You might save hundreds of dollars a year.

Spring Ahead: Be sure to remove snow tires in good weather. The deep tread and big tires use more gasoline than regular tires.

The Wheel Deal: Keeping tires properly inflated and aligned equals gas savings. Periodic wheel alignments and keeping tires inflated to

the maximum recommended pressure really does improve your gas mileage, according to experts.

Haste Makes Waste: Tests show quick starts and hard breaking reduces travel time by only four percent, but fuel consumption is increased by nearly 40 percent.

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast: The faster you drive, the more gas you use. Did you know lowering your speed from 65 to 55 mph can improve your fuel economy by two miles per gallon?

Also, traveling at fast rates in low gears can consume up to 45% more fuel than is needed.

Idle No More: Did you know ten seconds of idling actually uses more fuel than restarting the engine? Save gas by making it a habit to turn off the car when parked.

Rough Road Ahead: Opt for driving on smooth roads whenever possible. Rough roads with dirt or gravel rob you of up to 30% of your gas mileage!

Penny Pinchers: Make sure your gas tank is nice and snug. If not, buy a new one. Why? Gas easily evaporates from the tank

through lose caps. And don't top off the gas tank. Gas may seep out from expansion.

Win Dinner for Two

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint, c/o Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdrr@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

LEGALS

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Roseanna M. Nelson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Franklin Financial Corp., its successors and assigns, dated June 29, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 41410, Page 269, as affected by Loan Modification recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 48251, Page 11 subsequently assigned to Chase Home Finance, LLC. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Franklin Financial Corp., its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 46172, Page 93 and subsequently assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., S/B/M Chase Home Finance LLC by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 54657, Page 211; of which Mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on December 1, 2017 at 30 Cross Street, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: Two parcels of land with any building thereon situated on the easterly side of Cross Street, bounded and described as follows; Parcel I BEGINNING at an iron pipe at the northwest corner of the described tract, said iron pipe being 104 feet easterly from an iron pin in the easterly line of Cross Street, and in line of land now or formerly of one Quirk; THENCE Easterly on said Quirk land 57.70 feet to an iron pipe in line of land now or formerly by Toy Town Tavern; THENCE Southerly on said Toy Town Tavern land 66.97 feet

to an iron pin at corner of land now or formerly one Cahill; THENCE Westerly on said Cahill land 46.595 feet to an iron pipe being 104 feet easterly from an iron pin in the easterly line of Cross Street; THENCE Northerly 66.667 feet to the place of beginning. Together with rights of way to lay and maintain water pipes legally in force in the year 1950. Said right of way for ingress and egress being 12 feet wide and running easterly from Cross Street to the above-described premises. Parcel II BEGINNING at a point that is distant eighty-four (84) feet northerly from the easterly line of Cross Street, which point of beginning is on the southerly line of land now or formerly of Quirk; THENCE Easterly by said Quirk land twenty (20) feet to the northwesterly corner of Parcel I herein; THENCE Southerly by said Parcel I fifteen (15) feet; THENCE Westerly on land now or formerly of Fern E. Tuttle and parallel with and fifteen (15) feet distant from the first described course twenty (20) feet; THENCE Northerly by said Parcel I fifteen (15) feet to the point of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to me by deed of David M. LaFrennie date June 29, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 41410, Page 266. The mortgagor expressly reserves my rights of Homestead, if any, and does not wish to terminate my Homestead by granting the within conveyance notwithstanding my waiver of such homestead in paragraph 24 of the within mortgage. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, building and zoning laws, liens, attorney's fees and costs pursuant to M.G.L.Ch.183A, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND

DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale.

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae)

Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys,

ORLANS PC

PO Box 540540

Waltham, MA 02454

Phone: (781) 790-7800

16-006573

November 10, 2017

November 17, 2017

November 24, 2017

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL

COURT

17 SM 007652

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Wayne Thomas AKA Wayne A.

Thomas

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

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 32 Mechanic Street, given by Wayne Thomas aka Wayne A. Thomas and Lori B.

Thomas aka Lori Thomas to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., dated September 29, 2016, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56050, Page 161, 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 on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before December 18, 2017 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

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

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

(17-007125 Orlans)

November 24, 2017

THE COUNTDOWN TO Black Friday WINDOW SALE



**Our biggest discount
of the year ends ON
Black Friday.**

To help protect your home against leaking and cold drafts, strong windows and patio doors will be one of the most important home improvements you can make **BEFORE** the winter.

**Renewal
byAndersen**
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company

November 1st to November 24th only!

SAVE 20%

on windows and patio doors¹

Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full for 12 months. Minimum purchase required.

**PLUS
\$100 OFF**
every window and patio door¹

No minimum purchase required.

Plus, don't pay a thing for a year

NO NO NO for one
Money Down Payments Interest full year¹



We won't let new windows impact your holiday spending.

Why? Because you won't pay anything until **next** November. Breathe easier this holiday season with no money down, no payments and no interest for a whole year!¹

Don't take a chance on a vinyl window.

Vinyl windows can warp, leak and cause drafts, so trusting a poor-quality vinyl window is a poor choice. Our window's Fibrex® composite material is twice as strong as vinyl.

You've got enough on your plate this time of year; we've got this.

We build, sell, install and warrant all of our windows; that means there's no middleman to deal with, and as the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, we're about as trustworthy as you can get.

**Renewal
byAndersen**

WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company

The Better Way to a Better Window™



There are limited appointments available

Call for your FREE Window and Patio Door Diagnosis

1-800-209-2746