

# Winchendon in review: 2017

**COMPILED BY  
JERRY CARTON AND GREG VINE**

The year just concluded dealt the town of Winchendon an unusual mix of good news and bad. Local officials and residents from all walks of life were faced with issues that almost no one had anticipated in 2016. Still others had been foreseen but nonetheless came as a bit of a shock once they had become reality.

One such issue reared its

head almost as soon as calendars had been flipped to January 2017.

Throughout much of the previous year, residents and town officials had begun anticipating the loss of Winchendon's only "supermarket." Grocery store would probably be a more apt designation for the Central Supermarket IGA since, in the minds of most, there was little "super" about it.

The store had, after all, been cited for several health code

concerns – including the presence of rodents – in late 2016.

Still, while prices were high compared to those at the Market Basket and Hannaford stores in Rindge, the little market on Central offered something its larger competitors did not: convenience. Lower-income residents living near Winchendon's downtown, particularly those lacking reliable transportation, came to depend on the IGA as their main source of food. Many people also

found it a convenient spot to pay electric bills or purchase money orders. And more than a few service organizations and youth groups – from Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts to the Salvation Army – found the location ideal for soliciting donations.

But this little engine of commercial and social activity came to a screeching halt on the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 16, when owner Mike Szelest locked the store's doors for the last time. Some food stocks were

donated to the Winchendon Community Action Committee, while much of the equipment and store fixtures were sold off.

Rumors swirled for months that Tops, the grocery store chain that moved into the old Stop & Shop supermarket in Gardner in 2016, might move into the vacant IGA. That rumor died pretty quickly once it was learned Tops was folding its tent and leaving the Chair City due to poor sales. Talk that

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Scott LaPrade photos

The house was fully engulfed within minutes.

## Family loss inspires community support

**BY KEITH KENT  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT**

The community rallied with full support as the Michelson family lost everything in a fire just four days before Christmas.

Winchendon dispatch received a call for emergency aid at 4:10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, as a home located at 26 Front Place belonging to the Michelson family was in heavy fire, necessitating assistance from nine communities in an attempt to contain the blaze, which resulted in a complete loss of the residence.

The Winchendon Fire Department, according to a release, was assisted by Gardner, Templeton, Royalston, and Ashburnham, along with the New Hampshire towns of Troy, Jaffrey, and Rindge, and Westminster providing station coverage.

The home located at the top of a small hill and last on its side of a dead end street, was also surrounded by trees, bushes, and a fence, which according to both chief's and deputy chief's added to complications.

Police, who were on scene in just a few minutes, reported the home was already engulfed. With Winchendon Fire Engine 3 also quickly arriving on scene, the department evaluated the need for additional water pressure, adding a 4 inch feeder line according to Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni.

Both Winchendon and the Gardner fire departments attacked the fire from above the roof of the home with their respective tower trucks, while boots on the ground attempted to contain the blaze from the front, sides, and rear of the structure simultaneously. Due

to the intensity of the fire, department members were ordered out of the structure just a quarter hour in.

With the temperature down to just 20° by 6 p.m., and water pouring from both the home and over-pressure release from Engine 3, the property and street quickly began forming dangerous icy conditions, causing multiple firefighters to take hard falls on slippery surfaces with several firefighters taking minor injuries.

Due to this additional complication, members of the Winchendon DPW worked quickly to transport sand from the highway department to the Front Place site, and then manually by use of wheel barrels to the end of the street and the site, as the as it was completely blocked and filled with nec-

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## BOS shoots down proposed abatement change

**BY GREG VINE  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT**

Members of the Winchendon Board of Selectmen at the meeting just before Christmas had mixed reactions regarding a proposed change in the abatement process relative to water and sewer bills. Town Manager Keith Hickey presented the board with a proposed policy that would have continued to allow ratepayers to seek abatements on sewer bills, but would have done away with the same for those seeking relief on their water bills.

"What we're really doing in the abatement application process," said Hickey, "is eliminating the water abatement because, typically, water abatements aren't issued. The water is used, they're billed. We haven't abated water bills in the past. So, we want to refine the policy a bit to reflect that."

"I feel that there have been times when we've had times when we've asked people to trickle water to prevent freezing," said board Chairman Barbara Anderson. "We have had serious cold snaps where that has been necessary."

"It may have been necessary," said Hickey, "but we have not had a request for an abatement for the trickling of water...in a considerable amount of time. That's something that may have been done years ago, but is no longer current practice. I think it's staff's opinion that if you use the water you've got to pay for the water."

"I think the last time I can remember something like that happening was during the ice storm of 2008-2009 because there was not electricity," said

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## Murphy: cannabis regulations a 'moving target'

**BY GREG VINE  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT**

When Massachusetts voters approved the legalization of the sale and consumption of recreational marijuana in November 2016, they may not have realized just how complicated implementation of the new law would become. While many may simply have visualized the establishment of retail cannabis stores where consumers could purchase the product for home use, it turns out there will more places to sell and consume marijuana than first envisioned.

Winchendon Development and Planning Director Tracy Murphy says the development of regulations governing the sale and consumption of pot in this community remains "a moving target."

It was first thought the town, which voted 60 percent to 40 percent in favor of legalization, would be required to grant one pot license, based on the number of local liquor licenses. The law requires that the number of cannabis licenses in any community equal 20 percent of the number of liquor licenses in effect. Winchendon currently has eight such licenses.

"At first," said Murphy, "we thought we'd only be required to grant one marijuana license, but it looks now like we'll have to grant at least two. With eight

liquor licenses, if we only grant one we'd be below the 20 percent threshold. The state wants us to round up."

In addition, in recent weeks the state's Cannabis Control Commission has voted to allow the sale of marijuana over a variety of venues. This includes the establishment of so-called "cannabis cafes." These are essentially bars where customers could purchase and consume marijuana on site. What hasn't been determined is whether the smoking of pot would be allowed in these "pot bars" or whether customers would be limited to consuming edible forms of marijuana.

The commission also voted in favor of allowing mixed use licenses for businesses that may want to make pot available to customers in one form or another. This would include restaurants, movie theatres, and yoga studios; even massage parlors that could use or sell marijuana-infused lotions.

Murphy says at this point she's unsure exactly how the new rules governing the sale and consumption of cannabis will affect the town's efforts to craft bylaws regulating marijuana commerce. She does, however, feel confident the town can craft and pass local regulations by the time a

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## Accused killer of Winchendon native due in court

**BY GREG VINE  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT**

The man accused of killing a Winchendon native is due back in court next Tuesday for a pretrial hearing.

Matthew Vanier, age 33, of 50 Nichols St., #3B, Gardner was arraigned Dec. 21 on a charge of murder in the death of Randy Vaillancourt, age 56, who lived downstairs from the defendant. An autopsy

conducted by the office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined that Vaillancourt had died from blunt force trauma.

Gardner police, responding to a call reporting a homicide on the afternoon of Dec. 9, found Vaillancourt's body in his home.

Vanier was first arraigned in Gardner District Court on Dec. 11 on a charge of mis-

leading police who were investigating Vaillancourt's death. Prosecutors said at the time that a fingerprint found in blood at the scene of the homicide matched Vanier's. In addition, Assistant District Attorney Anthony Melia told Judge Arthur Haley that a search of Vanier's parents' home uncovered blood-stained clothing and a pair of

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LOCAL

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SPORTS

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WEEKLY QUOTE

And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.

Rainer Maria Rilke



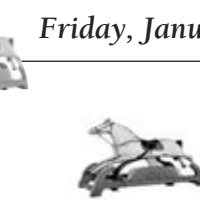
## Thursday, January 11

**BOOK DISCUSSION:** Beals Memorial Library has a book club that meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Thursday each month, the next meeting is Thursday Jan. 11. Books are available at the library.

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

## Saturday, January 27

**ANNUAL BONFIRE & FIREWORKS:** as you take down your decorations, bring trees and wreaths to the American Legion and pile them as the annual bonfire is already stacking up for Saturday, Jan. 27. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with hot dogs and burgers available; the fireworks go off at 7 p.m. and then the bonfire is lit! No admission charge for this family friendly event, and we need



your tree!

### ONGOING PROGRAMS

**SUNDAYS**  
**INDIVISIBLE WINCHENDON:** The Indivisible Winchendon group meets every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. to discuss and organize creative, effective resistance to the Trump administration over the long term. We are liberal/progressive but non-partisan. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/381174492262359/>

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

## CLYDE'S CORNER

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

### FRIDAY

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

## COURIER CAPSULES

**DEMS OPEN HOUSE**  
The Winchendon Democratic Town Committee invites Winchendon Democrats and unenrolled voters to an open house on Wednesday January 10 from 6-8 p.m. at 108 Ipswich Dr. Meet committee members and discuss plans for the 2018 election cycle. For more information, please contact Michael D'Intinosanto. Contact information above.

**QUABBIN QUILLS BOOK LAUNCH**  
On Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Athol Public Library, 568 Main St., come and meet the authors from around the Quabbin area (including Winchendon residents) who have pooled talents to publish Time's Reservoir, an anthology of creative short stories, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The event is open to the public and copies of the book will be available

for sale. Proceeds from sale of the publication will go into future educational programs, scholarships and other publications. Refreshments provided by Friends of Athol Public Library. Register by calling (978) 249-9515. Snow date Jan. 30.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**  
**AMHERST** — Approximately 426 students received bachelor's degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst this past September. Among them was Cassandra Nelson of Winchendon.

**SPEAKER SERIES**  
**ORANGE** — Harry Sharbaugh, MD, of Farley will be guest speaker Jan. 8 at the monthly gathering of the North Quabbin Trails Association, focusing on the region's geology.

His talk is entitled, ""My Incredible Geological Drive to Work." The pro-

gram , open to the public free of charge, will take place on the third floor of the Orange Innovation Center (OIC), 131 West Main St., Orange.

Dr. Sharbaugh will present a slide show and will display a large quantity of rocks that illustrate the region's geological features. The event starts at 6 p.m. with a potluck supper.

**TEMPLETON HISTORIC**  
Happy New Year! The Narragansett Historical Building, located at 1 Boynton Road in Templeton is now closed for the winter. Monthly meetings are generally held the fourth Wednesday of the month, now through April at the Templeton Senior Center, 1 Senior Drive in Baldwinville. We welcome all members and potential members to attend. Our next meeting is Jan. 24, at 7pm.

Our next event will be the Cabin

Fever Collector's Showcase, held on Feb. 24 from 12-5 at the American Legion #373 in Baldwinville. We can use YOUR help, by showcasing your display. Not a collector? Come see what others are collecting and excited about, enjoy some great company and food (did someone say chowda?) to beat away the winter blues. Email the address below for an application. (there is no fee).

We are a thriving volunteer organization ready to expand and always looking for new ideas and hands to chip in and have a good time. We are planning our vibrant 2018 Spring and Summer schedule and need your help. Volunteering is good for your soul and we take students who need to work off community service hours too!

To learn more, follow us on Facebook or send us an email at [nh1924society@gmail.com](mailto:nh1924society@gmail.com).

# Future students get early familiarization with school

BY KEITH KENT  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

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

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

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

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

Michel said, "We are able to make those early connections with the children and the families. What we want to do is build those ties and bridges so that by the time students are ready to walk through the

doors, no matter if they come in for Pre-K or Kindergarten, they will have already established a rapport with the school."

The CFCE grant according to Michel also allowed for the hiring of an "Outreach Liaison" who is available to answer any questions about a child's development, give them access to resources in the community, and provide an (ASQ) or Ages and Stages Questionnaire. "The liaison helps parents connect with where their children are at and where they need to go developmentally" explained Michel.

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

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

As Preschool is ultimately a formal foundation of education, and it addresses children ages 3 to 5, the established "Play Groups" under the program target children ages birth and up, providing a significant advantage to children who previously would have never entered the school. Now, these

children and future students through the grant funded program can achieve hands-on experience in an early classroom setting, become familiarized, and established personal relationships with both the school and its teachers.

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

One other significant advantage of the play group program as explained by Michel is providing an opportunity for children who are an only child to interact with other children and learn social skills. Also as networking is provided for parents of future students, it allows the school and district to partner with the parents before the students even come through the door for formal education, and help identify any social, developmental, cognitive skills or other the child may need early or proactive assistance with.

Michel said, "Parents have been very positive, they have been very receptive, to coming in and working with us and engaging with us. All of the feedback has shown tremendous interest. This allows us



Photo by Keith Kent

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

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

Michel went on to say, "Parents also gain a deeper understanding of developmental milestones, and a better understanding of what their child needs. It's all research and networked based."

In closing Michel said, "There are many advantages

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

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# Greetings readers and Happy New Year!

The middle school and high school concert bands and choruses, directed by Aly Galipeau, put on a very entertaining concert entitled “Festival of Peace.” The evening began with two numbers performed by the combined middle school and high school band. This was followed by a rendition of “How Far I’ll Go” performed by the unique “Booms of Anarchy” band who used plastic tubing of various thicknesses to elicit various tones. Tiana Graessle and Abigail Guerra played a piano duet of “Heart and Soul” and Jack Newbrough (vocals) and Dustin Ready (guitar) performed their original composition entitled “Pretty Girl.”

38 members of the Middle School Chorus sang “Need a Little Christmas,” “Hashivena” and “Once Upon a December.” The High School Chorus (23

members – 10 of whom are male!) sang “Rocking Around the Christmas Tree,” “Dreams,” “I Am but a Small Voice,” “Ose Shalom” and “White Christmas.” The Murdock Chamber Singers rounded out the evening with their performance of “Celtic Noel,” “Deck the Nutcracker Hall,” “Ding a Ding a Happy New Year,” “White Winter Hymnal” and “Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy.”

The evening ended with all high school chorus and chamber singers and alumni chorus members singing their annual rendition of “Carol of the Bells.”

In November, the Chamber Singers participated in Veterans Day programs at the American Legion and Broadview Assisted Living Facility. They also recently sang at the Wreaths Across

## VIEW FROM THE TOWER

SUE POLCARI

America program at the Veterans Cemetery.

The first home JV and Varsity boys’ basketball games were held against Lunenburg on Wednesday, Dec. 20. The teams at both the JV and Varsity levels were evenly matched, with the Murdock JV team finally succumbing to Lunenburg by a basket in a contest that went into overtime. The varsity boys also fell to Lunenburg in a contest which saw the lead switching back and forth frequently throughout the entire game.

The Varsity girls’ basketball team faced Trivium at home on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, defeating their opponent quite handily, resulting in their third win of the season!

This week’s events:  
January 3: Middle School basketball (Boys/Girls) 3:30

and 4:30 at Murdock  
January 3: Girls JV/Varsity basketball 5:30/7:00 at Murdock  
January 3: Boys varsity Basketball at Ayer-Shirley 7:00  
January 3: Indoor Track Meet at Fitchburg High School – 5:00  
January 4: Middle School Basketball (Boys/Girls) 3:30/4:30 at Narragansett  
January 5: Girls JV/V and Boys JV/V Basketball vs. Narragansett at Murdock  
Girls JV: 2:30, Boys JV 4:00, Girls Varsity 5:30, Boys Varsity 7:00: Bake sale, half-time games, etc. to help raise money for cancer research  
January 7: Indoor Track Sophomore/Freshman Meet at the Reggie Lewis Center 9:00  
Have a great week! Go Blue Devils!

## 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](mailto:ruth@stonebridgepress.news).



# Memorial School celebrates Grinch Day

BY KEITH KENT  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Memorial School students who attend the first grade enjoyed a unique spin on completing their assignments as all classes enjoyed spending time with Dr. Seuss’s very own Grinch on Thursday, Dec. 21 shortly before the beginning of holiday winter recess.

The Grinch’s heart must have had already grown three sizes in Whoville, for there was no shortage of love in the classrooms while visiting with students. Walking around from desk to desk, and class to class, every first grade student who spent time with the Grinch, truly had a blast.

The Grinch who was seen all over Memorial School attended the classes of Jordan, Bailey, Mizhir, Flemming, and Lyons. Each teacher celebrating the special visit by using multiple parts of the story of the Grinch in hands on classroom practical application. Placing Grinch words in ABC order, counting, find the missing numbers, Grinch sequencing, crafting, directed drawing, and even a Grinch “Diaper Experiment” was just part of the fun filled day celebrated by students while the famous childhood story was incorporated in to their educational experience.

Jordan discussing Grinch Day said, “I am on line all the time and I started

reading other teachers blogs, and I read how one teacher down south had done a Grinch Day so I got some ideas from her, and then I viewed more ideas on the site Pinterest along with others and it all started coming together. I am also on a site called ClassDojo with my students’ families and asked things like would anybody be willing to do Grinch cupcakes, necklaces, small green candies like Tic-Tac’s and M&M’s, Kabobs, Popcorn, and more. We even were able to get a mystery reader who is the parent of our student Mason and teachers at Worcester State College. Many parents were more than happy to help out.”

In a “Diaper Science” experiment teaching the qualities of absorbency, students received diapers which were cut in to pieces, placed in to baggies and shaken until polyacrylate crystals came out. Once out the crystals were placed into large cups with water treated with green food coloring. Students could watch the crystals grow as they absorb the green water, and then tip the cups to show no water would come out as all fluids were absorbed.

Upon completion of all their combined Grinch studies, students were given signed certificates signifying their completion of Grinch studies in “Grinchy math and combined literacy activities.” Students also crafted Grinch Santa’s, hearts with sayings on them, and even enjoyed healthy Grinch



Photo by Keith Kent

Students attending the first grade class of Cheryl Jordan enjoy time with their friend the Grinch as they work on multiple Grinch related assignments.

Kabobs made of Strawberries, Bananas, and Grapes.

Variations on the theme took place from class to class. Color by Sight Word, Grinch Poinsettia, and even hearts which read, “It’s not about presents, it’s about giving” could be seen all around. Additionally, a special thank you to Sheila Hebert for her efforts in allowing the students to meet and interact with the Grinch.

For completing various Grinch related classroom exercises, student received “Grinch money” as positive motivation. Jordan smiled and laughed saying, “I have never seen them more driven.”

As school closed early for the winter and Christmas break due to impending weather on Friday, Dec. 22, the timing of the event could not have been more perfect. Students completed their tasks and exercises, and all five first grade teachers shared in the joy of watching the Grinch ignite a new spark in students for academic success.

In the end, it seemed only fitting one of Dr. Seuss’s most popular characters be tied to early education studies as one of Seuss’s famous quotes reads, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

## MURPHY

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town-wide moratorium on the granting of cannabis licenses expires at the end of next June.

“I feel confident that if the state completes the draft regulations by the end of the year, and it looks like they might, we will get a feel for what the regulations may contain,” said Murphy. “Of course, we need to proceed cautiously and with the understanding that changes may occur after the public comment period.”

“We have a start,” Murphy said, “with how some community members feel about the issue from the first public forum. That, along with the proposed regulations, gives

us a good start. While there is a lot of work to be done, the Planning Board aims at presenting regulations by the spring 2018 town meeting.”

Murphy said the state isn’t, at present, offering any guidance on how communities should address the issue of regulation.

“I haven’t seen anything specific that the state is offering,” she said, “but numerous organizations offer insight into commission developments. Additionally, Kopelman and Paige (the town’s law firm) has been proactive in offering its client towns assistance on interpreting the statutes and any amendments, proposals, etc. I have confidence in the resources available to

the town.”

Winchendon Police Chief David Walsh is watching developments at the state and local level, but has not been critical of the moves by the Cannabis Control Commission.

“Look, we’re required to have two retail establishments,” he said. “I favor what’s required, but I think it’s wise to proceed cautiously. Ultimately, I’m supportive of anything that was approved by

the voters.”

Walsh said state and local officials seem to be attempting to follow precedent.

“Yes, I do have some concerns,” he said, “but I think they’re trying to make it similar to alcohol. I don’t think that there is enough regulation at this point.”

While Walsh said he’s received very little, if any, feedback on the issue, such is not the case with Murphy.

“Numerous people have approached me,” she said, “whether it’s when I’m out and about town, or they come into my office and offer their opinions. The Planning Board plans to offer additional public forums and any proposed bylaws – both zoning and general – need to go through the public hearing process. Once we are through the holidays we will be better able to gauge the timeline for these events.”

# Mermaid seeks actors

Mount Wachusett Community College’s Theatre at the Mount in Gardner announces auditions for the children’s musical *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*

Director Emily Smith, music director Katrina Baer and choreographer Amanda Lawton are looking for a large ensemble of children and teens (age 8 - 18) with singing, dancing and acting ability.

Auditions will be held by appointment only on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. for ages 8-12 and 1 p.m. for ages 13-18. To schedule an appointment, call the Theatre at the Mount Box-office at 978 630-9388, or e-mail your appointment request to [box-office@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:box-office@mwcc.mass.edu). Auditions will be

held in room 182.

Auditions will consist of singing and dancing auditions. Vocal selection and dance combination will both be taught at the audition. Some performers will also be asked to do cold-readings from the script.

Performances of Little Mermaid are April 10 at 9:30 a.m., April 11, 12, 13 at 9:30 a.m. and noon (for school groups); April 8 at 2 p.m. (for the general public.) Tentative rehearsal schedule is Sunday afternoons, Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 11.

For more information contact Professor Gail Steele at 978 630-9162 or visit the Theatre at the Mount web site at [www.mwcc.edu/tam](http://www.mwcc.edu/tam)



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# VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

## EDITORIAL

### Everything old is new again...

As in, new year of course. Why the Gregorian calendar chose to turn the year in the dead of winter is mysterious; perhaps to give people a reason to celebrate a mite. Most likely to adapt to the solstice holidays and continue that vein of thinking.

Janus, the god for whom January is named, is the one looking both backward and forward; two faces and neither of them looking terribly happy. So that too plays into the mythology. Let's put the year change right...here... where we can say Janus is watching over the change and decrying what happened the last few months and is upset about what might happen coming up.

Yeah, that makes sense.

January isn't much fun. It's usually dark, and dreary and cold and snowy. There are no holidays in January. It's a full 31 days long, no slack there.

Bears and several other smaller mammals hunker down and just sleep through it. Smart.

We don't have any comedy relief this year with politics either.

It's the same old, same old there too. We do have government still paying its bills for a few more weeks at least, the highly lauded tax cuts included all kinds of hidden agendas that got approved as well with no debate and no one the wiser.

Those who approve and think the government is going great are happy.

Those who don't are grumbling and trying to figure out how to change it.

This was part of why 200+ years ago the debating founders attempted to put safeguards in place for the republic. Making certain there would always be debate, no one would ever have complete control, and despite the present

climate of big money controlling the vote, no, ultimately the people will still eventually take it all back because they will realize their VOTES are what have the power. The candidates put up by the machines and the money get the publicity of course, but if the people truly wanted to vote their minds, they could easily defeat any of them; starting locally and working their way through the milieu.

They just haven't figured out that power yet.

They did in Alabama earlier. It worked right there. The people voted. And their choice is now in the Senate.

See, we have all been fed the pabulum a long, long time. We don't realize what we are capable of at all. There are ways to get what we want, locally, state and federal levels. But it takes attention and work.

And we can't wait for someone else to take the lead on it. We have to do it ourselves. In small groups, in local Democratic or Republican town committees; local grassroots organizations for local causes, independent ventures. Don't wait for someone else, and don't decry what happened already; don't be Janus. He is only a talking head, talking out of both sides of his double mouths and never accomplishing a thing.

One final note as you take down your decorations, bring trees and wreaths to the American Legion and pile them as the annual bonfire is already stacking up for Saturday, Jan. 27. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with hot dogs and burgers available; the fireworks go off at 7 p.m. and then the bonfire is lit! No admission charge for this family friendly event, and we need your tree!!!

## Good Riddance

For this columnist, the end of the year 2017 could not come soon enough. Between medical issues, moving, selling and buying residences, and a list too long for this column of other calamities certainly of little interest to my readers, I am happy to start a new year.

Happily, almost all my concerns in 2017 are resolved, and I do embark on 2018 with optimism. It will be the 50th year of my marriage, our children are happy and well, our nine GRANDS continue to bring a lot of joy to our lives, and we have plans to see old friends and continue to enjoy making new ones.

For those of you who responded to my last column regarding my 7-foot bird feeder pole and its effectiveness in keeping squirrels away, I must tell you that the day after I submitted that column, the squirrels had a meeting and visited *en masse*. They tried everything. They tried to reach the food by jumping from a low shrub. They tried getting onto the windowsill and giving me a signal universally known to all as a certain finger and then tried jumping. All of the jumpers ended up missing the feeder and falling to the ground.

Finally, they resorted to their usual practice of trying to climb the pole. A couple got pretty close to the top, but in every attempt, they either fell down or slid down the pole. My conclusion from watching this circus was that the additional height of the pole simply exceeded their ability to hang in there to reach their goal.

So the Christmas spirit sent me outside, and I placed some food for them on the ground. Now I am happy to report I am entering a new year as a friend to both birds and squirrels.

We went to Pennsylvania between Christmas and New Year's where my



### NOTES OF CONCERN

• • • • •  
**JACK  
BLAIR**

wife officiated at a wedding ceremony. It was a beautiful event and provided us with an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and family. The day we were to drive back to Virginia it snowed and, while beautiful,

added a good bit of extra driving time to our trip.

New Year's Eve began for us at church where we attended a program of music that included a renowned trumpet player, a great organ, and a wonderful choir. From there we met friends at a lounge for cocktails and then went on to a multi course dinner. We were home comfortably and safely ensconced by 10 p.m.

For most of our married life we have avoided large, noisy New Year celebrations. For decades, we went out for early dinner at a nice restaurant, no hats or horns, with the same two friends, and then returned to sit by the fire and watch the ball drop in Times Square. When we were younger, we dressed formally for this singular event, our accommodation to the tradition and the occasion. Lately, we have chosen to dress comfortably and forget about the formal tradition.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy and prosperous 2018. The many dark clouds on the horizon around the world do not make me optimistic in this area. But there are signs of improvement in the economy, and if former President Bill Clinton was right with his famous "It's the economy stupid!" then we may well have a better year than we expect.

I want to end with a special thanks to those of you who respond to my columns with your ideas, compliments, and criticisms. They are very much appreciated.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Legion: annual bonfire in the works

To the Editor:

The annual bonfire and fireworks this year will be held on Saturday night Jan. 27.

The Legion invites all residents of Winchendon to bring their wreaths and Christmas trees to our Post before the above date so they can be properly added to the pallets for our bonfire.

A change this year, there will not be any dinner being served, but the Legion will be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and sausage, peppers & onions starting at 5:30.

Please plan on eating at the post; besides donations from the community

this is our only means of raising money to purchase fireworks for 2019 during this event. The banquet hall will be open so you can comfortably sit and enjoy your sandwiches.

Children under 14 can receive a free glow stick, bracelet or necklace.

Food: 5:30 p.m.

Fireworks: 7:00 p.m.

Bonfire: Immediately after Atlas Fireworks truck clears the parking lot (safety reasons)

Hope to see you there!

MARK DESMARAIS – CHAIRMAN  
JOHN CYGANIEWICZ - COMMANDER

### GALA announces 2018 events

To the Editor:

This year will be a very exciting year for GALA. We are planning to have an open house this year in our new Arts Gallery. We continue to work on the inside. We have applied for a few grants to help with construction materials and for programs throughout the year.

Congratulations to Arlene Ferrier! We have chosen Arlene's artwork, "Wyoming Backyard View" to be on our 2018 membership cards. Each year we take the first place winner from all the media categories from our Spring Show and decide which piece will be chosen for the membership card.

The highlight of our exhibition year is the GALA Spring Art Show. We are looking forward to seeing your work in our 2018 GALA Spring Show! This show will again be held at the Winchendon American Legion. We received many positive comments that the Legion had great lighting and people loved the layout, and our musicians liked being on the stage. The dates for the show are May 4-6. The show is open, which means that artists of all levels may participate. A panel of outside judges will award ribbons in various media and a ribbon for Best in Show. We invite musicians to perform during the artist reception and at other times during the weekend. For art lovers and participating artists, the weekend is a highlight of the art show season in North Central Massachusetts. The Call for Artists will be available about six weeks before the show. Guests can participate with

popular choice voting, the raffle, and by purchasing original art.

We are looking forward to seeing your work in our 2018 GALA Spring Show! This show will again be at the Winchendon American Legion. We had received many positive comments that the Legion had great lighting and people loved the layout, and our musicians liked being on the stage.

On July 27th, GALA and Gallery Sitka are collaborating on a themed show called, "Paint the Town!" We will be accepting all media including photography. The challenge is to paint or shoot anywhere or anything in Fitchburg. There will be awards and the exhibit will be held at Gallery Sitka West, 454 Main Street, Fitchburg. Watch for a Call for Entries for this event soon. We look forward to seeing what artists create and how the community responds!

If you would like to give us a New Year's gift towards finishing our Arts Gallery you may donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/gala-arts-gallery-project>. Your donation is tax deductible.

This year we are looking for talented people to give classes and workshops. If you are interested in teaching let me know. We are also looking for a volunteer event coordinator to help schedule these classes and art exhibits. I will be working alongside of you, so come and join our fun team. We do provide unlimited coffee.

DEB GIORDANO, PRESIDENT  
GARDNER AREA LEAGUE OF ARTISTS

### Dansereau: thanks for the understanding

To the Editor:

I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the wonderful police officers of Winchendon, for going above and beyond their regular duties, being compassionate, caring human beings.

I have a six year old "special needs" grandson who lives with me, and during the first four years of his life, he's had to be rescued, or taken care of, by police from several towns, as his mom has been in and out of drug treatment facilities, and he suffered much, to say the least.

He is fascinated with the police, they are his true and only superheroes. He attends Memorial School, and every day, he asks if he might see Officer Flagg there.

Officer Flagg and two other officers, Officer Derek Blair, and Lt Kevin Wolski recently showed up at the

school during recess, and let him sit in a cruiser, wear a real police hat, and have his picture taken with them. He looks at the pictures every day, it was the best day of his life.

Needless to say, he wants to be an officer when he grows up.

Last week, Officer Flagg invited him to go to the police station to show him around. He met other wonderfully good natured officers, got to see the whole workings of the station, from kitchen, to jail cell, to locker room, and interview several of the officers.

At the end of his tour, Officer Flagg gave him Christmas gifts which included a badge, which he wears every day.

I just don't know how to thank these amazing people.

SUSAN O'NEILL DANSEREAU  
WINCHENDON



Avery with, from left, Lt. Kevin Wolski, his favorite Officer Tracy Flagg, and Officer Derek Blair.



Officer Tracy Flagg pins a badge onto Avery as part of the his day at the police station.



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# Thoughts as the year begins

And so it is 2018. Come July I will turn 65. That seems impossible if for no other reason than I think it's commonly agreed I rarely act 65 and you can interpret that however you wish. Nonetheless in six months I will reach that milestone. People used to retire at 65. I'm not ready to retire, at least not at the moment. I still very much like getting up and going to work every morning and I hope that passion comes across every week in the stories I write and sometimes even in this weekly essay. I love covering education. I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of amazingly creative and energetic educators, administrators and faculty alike, and a whole lot of really bright kids. They give me some optimism about the future. That doesn't just go for students I've met at Murdock or the Winchendon School. That goes as well for Courtney's cohort from Smith — young adults who chose social work not for the money God knows, but to make some small difference in their little corners of the world.

I'm looking forward to covering the race to succeed retiring Rep. Nikki Tsongas and who knows what else might come up. The great thing about being in the newspaper business is

that you truly don't know. Speaking of newspapers, I'm elated to see digital subscriptions soaring at both the New York Times and Washington Post. Readers are responding to the courage, integrity and insistence on printing the truth from the nation's flagship newspapers.

So it is 2018 and come July I will turn 65. As I learned in the most horrifying way possible last year, there are no guarantees for any of us. Parents aren't supposed to outlive their children and given my checkered (to be kind) medical history, I certainly never for an instant thought I would outlive any of mine. We always knew Courtney had her own very serious health issues — the diabetes, the neuropathy, the blood pressure which refused to respond to multiple treatment efforts, but still, you know?

Seven months after her passing, I remain beyond awed and beyond-articulation grateful for the continued outpouring of love and support. I've often written I truly had no idea how many lives she touched however briefly and I've been so appreciative of everyone who's rallied for me in the last few weeks since I messed up my ribs by falling at of all places,



JOURNEY  
OF THE  
HEART  
• • • • •  
JERRY  
CARTON

physical therapy. Go figure. To everyone who contributed to her memorial scholarship fund, there aren't enough words with which to say thank you. To everyone who stopped by with food these last couple weeks (Tony, Penny, Lauren, Miranda, Aly, Seth, Carol), I can't thank you guys enough. Believe me.

So it is 2018. Throughout 2017, I was gratified by the resiliency of the Resistance. The greatest threat to American small-d democracy is indifference. If you care more about who wins the Super Bowl than who sits on your local school board or your local town councils irrespective of where you're reading this, you better rethink what really matters. Yes, it actually does take a village.

We can't afford complacency in the face of threats, insidious and otherwise, to the institutions of democracy. That's why it's so important to vote on

every line of the ballot. During that steamy Philadelphia summer of 1787, Dr. Franklin was reportedly asked what kind of government the Founders were creating. Franklin's reported reply - "A Republic, if you can keep it." 231 years later, those words still resonate. It's up to us. Are you going to play your part? The more of us that do, the more we increase our chances of keeping our disagreements civil. We've lost too much of that and unless we do something about it, we might never recover.

Ah, civility. I'm so sick of those who are dismissive of education, who sneer at intellectualism. Uneducated societies are far more likely to dissolve into emotion-based tribalism than those which are educated and reasoned. Increasingly uneducated or undereducated societies are a lot less likely to be civil. We all know that. Let's support candidates who are thinking creatively about education, shall we? Don't we owe that to that proverbial future generation? In a society with massive income inequality, a growing opioid epidemic, and dealing with a terrifying rise of hate, we better figure out ways to cope. Education is, as Aaron Sorkin once wrote in The West Wing, truly the silver bullet. It

feels too often that rationality is slipping away. An educated citizenry can help reverse that.

So here we are, the start of 2018. To be sure, this will be a genuinely critical year for the future of democracy and that's not overblown hyperbole. It's the truth. I think we all know that. So, yes, we've all got a responsibility to participate. There's more than that, though. I feel like the most important thing I have learned as I reach this alleged ancient age, and especially over the last seven months is this: kindness matters. I like to tell myself I've always been reasonably kind and thoughtful, not always of course but often. That said, I've reached the conclusion that I can do better at that. Courtney was really good at it. She was simply instinctively kind. I suppose that's at least in part why her death drew such an emotional reaction from so many people. I'm going to try to emulate that better than I have in the past. Maybe that's a legacy we can all work on. If we're kinder to one another, just maybe we can begin to bridge at least a few differences? Worth trying, isn't it? Thanks for letting me ramble. See you next week.

# Where will we shop as real stores go under

We all know it's true. The majority of Americans want their goods fast, easy, and they practically want it yesterday. We want convenience, we want it our way, and we really like to shop on-line. Just one little problem, what will we do someday if and when everything from a local hardware store to small department stores have gone belly up, and you lose the ability to be able to purchase that hard to find item "On demand."

We already know projected Christmas shopping was about \$680 billion this holiday season. But what about the rest of the year? The fact is, there are so many different estimates regarding internet shopping that numbers can vary widely. So let's look at some of the marketing trends.

Internet giant Amazon mails out 608 million packages annually, or a staggering 1,600,000 packages per day to our currently 320 million U.S. citizens. People working for the USPS, have been working incredibly hard just to keep up, and that doesn't even count world shipping Goliath UPS or its rival FedEx. Even more staggering, UPS which



ANYTHING  
NEAR &  
FAR  
• • • • •  
KEITH  
KENT

delivers just under 16 million packages a day, was projected to have delivered over nearly 21 million on Dec. 20.

A solid 80 percent of the online population has purchased something using the internet, with 50 percent of the same population purchasing online more than once. It is estimated by the year 2021; online shoppers will have increased here in the USA by 20 million to 230 million, shopping in the convenient E-commerce fashion.

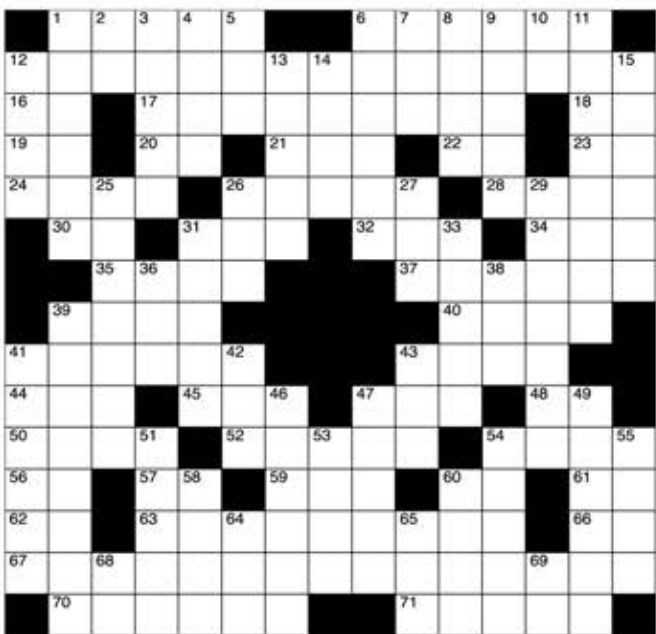
We could go on and on with nearly endless online facts. However, in this ever increasing electronic economy I find it amazing how many don't see the downside of enthusiastic electronic efforts, "disappearing jobs."

No matter if you go to a super-market, BJ's Wholesale Club,

or now even a McDonald's, jobs have been and are becoming more automated. I personally "NEVER" go through a self-checkout line, no matter how tempting. Sure, call me old fashioned, it's my personal choice. I will not contribute to the automation of a person's job which only serves to help increase the great division of wealth in our nation between those who have and those who have not.

We have witnessed many story closures locally over the years, most recently with K-Mart at the Fitchburg/Leominster town line. I enjoyed buying birthday gifts for children there, as I never had to worry about giving a child the same gift as another who shopped at Wally World. As more and more shop online, traditional "Brick & Mortar" stores are going the way of the dinosaur. Sears, K-Mart, J.C. Penney, and many others have again spent their year downsizing nationally, and they are far from the only ones.

What are parents going to do some day when they have to order all their children's cloth-



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Put within

6. Learned person

12. Resistance

16. Female title

17. Logical basis for a belief

18. Of I

19. Indicates position

20. Article

21. Insignificant organizational member

22. \_\_\_ route

23. Expression of disapproval

24. Microelectromechanical systems

26. Ponds

28. Satisfy

30. Dad

31. Spanish soldier "El \_\_\_"

32. Pouch-like structure

34. Obscure unit of measurement

35. Okinawa prefecture capital

37. Platforms
39. Jazz singer Irene

40. Benefits

41. Hellenistic governors

43. Brownish-green fruit

44. Needed to see

45. Political action committee

47. Fast plane

48. Bahrain dinar

50. Urgent request

52. Raccoon genus

54. Millisecond

56. Atlanta rapper

57. Rural delivery

59. Intrauterine device

60. The Wolverine State

61. Free agent

62. For instance

63. Reduces

66. Lincoln's state

67. Quit

70. Midsections

71. Bullfighting maneuvers

### CLUES DOWN

1. The arch of the foot

2. Canadian peninsula

3. Koran chapters

4. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

5. Youngster

6. Burns

7. Comedienne Gasteyer

8. Valley

9. Belongs to sun god

10. Nickel

11. Great in salads

12. Leader

13. Forced through a sieve

14. Entryway

15. Support pillars

25. Aquatic mammal

26. \_\_\_ Farrow, actress

27. Unhappy

29. Holds molecules

31. Thrifty
33. French dynasty

36. Scottish port

38. Irish militant organization

39. Dawn

41. Musical group of seven

42. Used to fry things

43. Carrot's companion

46. Rough stone landmarks

47. Fourth son of Jacob and Leah

49. Goes against

51. Passion

53. Hard white animal fat

54. Soybean pastes

55. Beckon

58. Mountain and morning are two

60. Self-referential

64. Data executive

65. Retirement plan

68. Star Trek character Laren

69. You and I



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## SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

### 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!

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

ANSWER:

### Fun By The Numbers

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

## PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	E	S	V	P		S	O	S	H	O	T			
T	E	M	O	T	E	H	I	N	I	M	O	R	H	I
I	L		S	E	S	V	E	R	C	E	D		G	
V	F		I	M		D	U	I		D	R	I	T	
C	E	S	M	V	U	S	V	N	V	E	L	P	E	
	D	B	T	E	J		C	V	P	E	A	E		
		R	V	E	P			P	V	A	T	R	A	S
	S	O	R	P				E	V	A		D	A	
S	E	S	I	V	D			V	H	V	A	N		
L	O	D		C	V	S		D	I	C	I	P	A	
E		S	A	T		S	E	R	E	M	S	M	E	M
M	V		N	E		G	O	C	N	V	A	T	A	T
E	M	E		A	L	E	N	O	I	A	T	R	A	S
N	O	I	T	V	N	I	D	R	O	B	U	S	N	I
	T	N	V	A	V	S			E	T	S	S	N	I

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# OBITUARIES

## Lucille A. (Lovett) Butkiewicz, 94

GARDNER — Lucille A. (Lovett) Butkiewicz, age 94, of Gardner, died peacefully Saturday, December 23rd, 2017 in Life Care Center, Leominster, with her family at her side.



She was born in Greenfield on July 18, 1923, daughter of the late Earl and Nellie (O'Brien) Lovett and had lived in Gardner for many years.

Lucille was a graduate of Greenfield High School. She had worked many years ago as a receptionist at a local Greenfield establishment and then as a sales clerk at Giant of Gardner. She was an avid reader, cat lover and loved spending time with her family especially her grandchildren. Lucille was a member of Holy Rosary Church of Gardner.

She was the wife of the late Felix Butkiewicz. She leaves a son Paul D. Butkiewicz and his companion Carol Oakes of St. Augustine, FL.; grandchildren Deanie Harris (Tory) formerly

of Winchendon, Tracey Kraskouskas (Michael) of Marlborough, NH, Warren A. Harris IV(Jamie) of Latham, NY, Christopher Butkiewicz (Laura), Hawkin Butkiewicz (Ariana), of Palm Coast, FL, Felicia Butkiewicz (Judy) of Cape Coral, FL, Paul F. Butkiewicz of St. Augustine, FL; and 16 grandchildren & four great great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by daughters, Beverly Rose Harris and Gloria Jean Butkiewicz, a son Sgt. Thomas E. Butkiewicz; a sister June Wend and two brothers, Dennis and Edwin O'Brien.

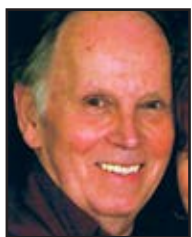
Funeral services were held Thursday, December 28, 2017 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon. The Rev. Francis A. Roberge officiated.

Burial will be held in St. Stanislaus Church Cemetery in Deerfield in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to Island Cat Feral Rescue Inc., PO Box 860321, St. Augustine, FL 32086. To make an online donation go to [www.ferals.info](http://www.ferals.info)

## George J. Girard Jr., 83

WINCHENDON — George J. Girard Jr., age 83, of 115 Morse Ave., died peacefully at his home Friday morning, December 29, 2017 with his family at his side, after a brief battle with cancer.



He was born in Winchendon on Aug. 22, 1934, son of the late George J. and Gertrude R. (Aiken) Girard and was a lifelong resident of Winchendon.

George proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War. He had owned his own roofing and siding business with his brothers and had worked as a repairman. At one time, he had worked for 13 years at Decatone in Westminster. He was a member of the United Parish and Lt. Frederick Wilder White Post #2158 VFW.

George loved spending time with his family and particularly enjoyed apple picking with his entire family. His favorite time of year was Christmas and he spent a wonderful holiday with his

family on Christmas Day. George also enjoyed watching movies with his wife and soul mate, Pauline, woodworking, gardening and bird feeding.



He leaves his wife of 60 years, Pauline M. (Belletete) Girard; daughters Laurel Tavares and her husband Paul of Winchendon and Kim Astles and her husband Bertram of George's Mills, NH; a

son, Mark Girard and his wife Maureen of Gardner; three brothers, Larry Girard of Baldwinville, Gordon Girard of NC and David Girard of Winchendon; eight grandchildren, two great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by brothers, Dennis Girard, Richard Girard and James Girard and two sisters, Linda Basso and Barbara Girard.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 3, 2018 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon. The Rev. F. Calvin Miller officiated.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to GVNA Hospice, 34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA 01440.

## Sheila L. (Desmond) Goodwin, 69

GARDNER — Sheila L. (Desmond) Goodwin, age 69, of 883 Pearl Street, died peacefully Monday morning, December 25, 2017 in Life Care Center, Leominster.



She was born in Worcester on November 24, 1948, daughter of Ernest W. Desmond Jr of No. Fort Myers, FL and the late Charlotte A. (Lucies) Desmond.

Sheila grew up in Winchendon and was a 1966 graduate of Murdock High School.

Sheila worked in data processing at Simplex Time Recorder and later worked at Harrington and Richardson. She then worked in the banking field and in the mortgage field as a mortgage officer in both Gardner and Leominster. She retired at the age of 63.

Sheila loved square dancing and was

co-owner of Claudia's Square Dance Shop in Gardner. She loved traveling and made many trips to Aruba with her husband Dick. Her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her family and her grandson.

In addition to her father, she leaves her husband of 47 years, Richard A. Goodwin; a daughter Marcy E. Foreman and her husband Scott of Lunenburg and a grandson Nathan Foreman of Lunenburg. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Keith Desmond and Dennis Desmond.

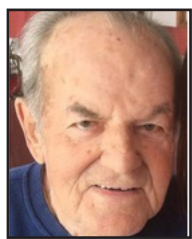
Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon were Friday, December 29, 2017.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Winchendon in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

## George W. Griffin, 78

LUNENBURG — George W. Griffin, age 78, of Lunenburg, formerly of Groton, died December 16, 2017 in Health Alliance Hospital, Leominster with his family by his side.



George was born in Leominster, June 29, 1939, son of the late James T. Griffin and Phyllis M. Griffin-Lima. George was predeceased by his first wife Jeannette Griffin-Lloyd and his second wife Barbara

Gadomski-Griffin.

George leaves one daughter, Wendy O'Connell and her husband Paul of Clinton; three sons, Randy Griffin and his wife Deidre of Phillipston, Ricky Griffin of Leominster and Daniel Griffin and his wife Cindy of Winchendon; two stepsons: Rev. Stephen Gadomski and his wife Noreen of New Hampshire and David Gadomski and his wife Lisa of New York; one step daughter, Karen Evans of New York; nine siblings: James T. Griffin Jr. and his wife Sharon of Arlington, TX, Beverly Griffin, John Griffin and his wife Thea and Paula Blonde all of Leominster, Patrick Griffin, Ronald Griffin and his wife Sharon, Robert Griffin, Patricia Matthews and her husband Gary all of

Leominster and Kathleen Rollo and her husband Brian of New Hampshire; 20 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews, and his life-long friend and companion Beatrice Heffner of Lunenburg and all her family with whom he shared many happy memories.

George worked for 49 years for Hollingsworth and Vose in Groton, retiring in 2007 as the oldest union member. He enjoyed life to the fullest and always had a great sense of humor. George had a large family and many friends with whom he loved to spend time. He enjoyed summers at Lake Winnepesaukee and at home. He loved taking boat rides, sitting by the lake, golfing and watching the Red Sox and Patriots play.

There are no calling hours. Interment will be in Pine Ride Cemetery, North Chelmsford at a later date. A celebration of George's life is being planned by the family. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

The Lunenburg Chapel of Sawyer-Miller-Masciarelli Funeral Homes, 763 Mass Ave. Lunenburg is directing funeral arrangements.

Please visit [www.masciarellifamilyfuneral-homes.net](http://www.masciarellifamilyfuneral-homes.net) for further information.

John F. Masciarelli, Walter C. Taylor and James M. Hebert, funeral directors.

## Frank M. Lema, 88

WINCHENDON — Frank M. Lema, age 88, of 88 Mill St., died Tuesday morning, January 2, 2018 in UMass Memorial Hospital, Belmont Street, Worcester.



He was born in Provincetown on September 6, 1929, son of the late Manuel and Mary (Andrews) Lema. He grew up in Provincetown and had lived in Winchendon for many years.

Frank worked at the former Walter E. Fernald School in Baldwinville for many years as a truck driver. He proudly served in the Korean War as a member of the United States Army.

His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family.

His wife of 55 years, Rose A. (Duplease) Lema, died in 2009. He leaves

six children, Nancy M. Guzman and her husband Ariosto of Winchendon, Frank M. Lema Jr. and his wife Barbara of Gardner, Diane M. Shirley of Winchendon, Jennifer A. Lema of Warwick, RI, Jonathan E. Lema of Gardner and Charles Lema of Worcester; a sister, Ruth White of Provincetown; nine grandchildren, many great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three sisters, Dolores Roderick, Mary Souza and Palmeda Cabral.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Friday, January 5 at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce Street, Winchendon.

A calling hour will be held Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon, preceding the mass.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to St Jude Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

## Viola F. Theroux, 93



SARASOTA FL — Viola F. Theroux "Vi", age 93, of Sarasota, FL formerly of Winchendon, MA, passed away on December 20, 2017. Viola was born in Winchendon where she was the co-owner of the Pineault Furniture Company with her husband, Wilson.

She was an avid golfer and a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Viola is survived by her husband of

73 years, Wilson; a son and daughter in law, Gregory and Laurie Theroux of Nokomis, FL; a daughter, Paula Theroux of Charleston, SC; a granddaughter, Stacie Conyers and a great granddaughter.

A funeral mass was held Friday, December 22, 2017 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Sarasota.

The family asks in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The American Cancer Society or The Humane Society in her memory.

Guestbook: [www.wiegandbrothers.com](http://www.wiegandbrothers.com)



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## Ann M. (Brown) Lepkowski, 72

RINDGE — Ann M. (Brown) Lepkowski, age 72, of 22 Tervo Road, died peacefully Friday morning, December 29, 2017 in Bay State Medical Center, Springfield, with her family at her side.



She was born in Westfield on July 13, 1945 daughter of the late Robert and Ruth (Henson) Brown and was a graduate of Westfield High School. She moved to Gardner during her young life and then lived in Westminster for many years after marriage before moving to Rindge.

Ann worked for 33 years as a nurses' aide in Heywood Hospital, Gardner until her retirement. She especially enjoyed working in pediatrics. She loved animals and her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her fam-

ily and grandson. Ann was an avid Patriot's fan. She also enjoyed dining out with her husband and family. Her greatest pleasure was doing for others.

She leaves her husband of 52 years, John P. Lepkowski; two sons, Mark C. Lepkowski of Rindge and Scott J. Lepkowski of Baldwinville; a daughter, Keri A. Lepkowski of Gardner; a grandson Erick S. Lepkowski of Phoenix, AZ and two stepsisters, the late Melanie Sears, formerly of Leominster, and Denise Sears of Fitchburg, along with several cousins, nieces and many friends.

A private funeral service (immediate family) will be held in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon.

There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Monadnock Humane Society, 101 W Swanzey Road, Swanzey, NH 03446.





# OBITUARIES

## Christine A. (Swanson) Lorion, 74

TEMPLETON - Christine A. (Swanson) Lorion, age 74, of 99 Bridge St., died unexpectedly Sunday evening, December 24, 2017 in Heywood Hospital, Gardner.



She was born in Templeton on June 26, 1943, daughter of the late Phillip and Lydia (Mattson) Swanson and was a 1961 graduate of Narragansett Regional High School. Chris worked many years ago at Simplex as an office clerk and at Temple Stuart Furniture Company. She later worked at S. Bent Brothers for 16 years and her last job was working in housekeeping at Cushing Academy. Chris attended Cornerstone Church of the Assemblies of God. Her hobbies were photography doing jigsaw puzzles, writing poetry and sending greeting cards. She was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox. Her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She particularly enjoyed Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve fam-

ily gatherings and the annual Swanson water gun fight.

She leaves two sons, Chad M. Lorion and his wife Rebecca of East Templeton and Shawn S. Lorion and his wife Christina of Clinton, Iowa; two brothers, Phillip Swanson of Townsend and James Swanson of Skowhegan, ME; two sisters, Arlene White of Templeton and Elizabeth Knowlton of Otter River; nine grandchildren, three great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by brothers, George Swanson, Eddie Swanson and Richard Swanson and a sister, Ingrid V. Mylykangas.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 30, 2017 in Cornerstone Church of The Assembly of God, 122 Gardner Road, Winchendon. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery, Templeton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Cornerstone Church of The Assembly of God, 122 Gardner Road, Winchendon, MA 01475.

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

## Martha C. (Rotti) Donnini Magrini, 96

CLINTON — Martha C. (Rotti) Donnini Magrini, age 96, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 23, 2017, after a brief illness.

A devoted and loving mother, Martha is survived by a daughter, Patricia M. Innamorati, and her husband, Richard, of Clinton; a son, Philip M. Donnini, and his wife, Cheryl, of Winchendon; her brother, Bernard Rotti and his wife, Shirley, of Sterling; four adoring grandchildren: Christopher Innamorati, and his wife, Shari, Jeffrey Innamorati and his wife, Jeannie, and Nicholas and Justin Donnini; five great-grandchildren: Anthony, Rachel, Gianna, Sofia, and Brooke Innamorati, all of whom will miss her dearly; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband, Napthew Donnini, who died in 1968, and her second husband, Ernest Magrini, who died in 1988. Seven siblings, Charles, Geno, Peter, Mario, Theresa, Catherine, and Emma, also predeceased her.

Martha was born and raised on the family farm in West Boylston, daughter of Peter and Louisa (Malabalia) Rotti. She attended local schools, and resid-

ed in Clinton for her entire adult life. Following the death of her first husband, Martha worked in various capacities at area supermarkets, including the former A&P, while raising her family. She was a hard and dedicated worker, who enjoyed her job, as it afforded her the opportunity to interact daily with coworkers and shoppers.

She most cherished time spent with family, and vacationing at York Beach, ME for many years. Clipping coupons, shopping for others, and sending inspirational notes to family and friends were some of her simple pleasures.

She was a member of the former Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

Martha's funeral was held on Thursday, December 28, 2017 from the McNally & Watson Funeral Home, 304 Church St., with a Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church, 80 Union St. Burial followed in St. John's Cemetery, Lancaster.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to a charity of one's choice.

[www.mcnallywatson.com](http://www.mcnallywatson.com)

## Frances E. (Hook) Pierce, 79

ASHBURNHAM — Frances E. (Hook) Pierce, age 79, of 11 Packard Hill Road, died peacefully Thursday morning, December 21, 2017 in Quabbin Valley Healthcare, Athol.



She was born in Templeton, MA on October 17, 1938, daughter of the late Henry and Letina (Seeley) Hook and was a member of the last graduating class of the former Templeton High School. She had lived in Ashburnham for many years.

Frances worked as a waitress many years ago. She was a member of Ashburnham Community Church and its Women's Auxiliary and Holiday House. For many years, she made the laurel wreaths, which hung on the front doors of the church. A former Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader, she loved spending time with her family, making crafts and spending time at Moosehead Lake in Rockwood, Maine.

Her husband, Robert W. Pierce, died

in 1981. She leaves three children, Susan E. Miganowicz and her husband Jeffrey of Templeton, Ellen K. Bridge and her husband Michael of Ashburnham and John M. Pierce and his wife Christine of Ashburnham; seven grandchildren, Ashley Sperling and her husband Mason, Lindsey Draleau and her husband Timothy, Casey Bridge, Samantha Jane Pierce, Laura Miganowicz, Andrew John Pierce and Cody James Pierce; two great grandchildren, Charles Sperling and Oliver Sperling; a brother, Henry Sargent of Wells, Maine and several nieces and nephews. A son, James R. Pierce, died in 2008. She was also preceded in death by two sisters, Anne Chalmers and Pearl Beaman and a brother, Harold Hook.

Calling hours were held Saturday evening, December 23, 2017 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home ([stone-ladeau.com](http://stone-ladeau.com)), 343 Central Street, Winchendon.

Funeral services in the funeral home followed with the Rev. William Ault officiating.

Burial will be in New Cemetery, Ashburnham in the spring.

## Eileen C. Ruo, 80

WRENTHAM — Eileen C. Ruo, age 80, of Wrentham, passed peacefully on December 23, 2017 in the Maples Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Wrentham. She was the beloved wife of the late Richard M. Ruo who passed in 2000.



Born in Boston on December 23, 1937, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Angela (Flynn) Coppinger. Eileen was a graduate of Roslindale High School. She was a long-time dedicated employee of Roche Brothers Supermarkets prior to retirement. She was an avid Patriots fan and loved Major League baseball. Her greatest joy was in spending time with her family, who will miss her dearly.

Eileen is survived by her children: Kathleen Errante and her husband Paul of Winchendon, Richard Ruo and his partner Cheryl Valof of Norfolk, Eileen

Segalman and her husband Joel of Ridgefield, CT, Elizabeth DiBona and her husband Richard of Poway, CA, and Angela Harrington and her husband William of Wrentham; a brother, Francis (Cathy) Coppinger of West Roxbury, and a sister, Kathleen (John) Slattery of Duxbury. Also survived by 16 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

She was the sister of the late John (Marjorie) Coppinger, James (Teresa) Coppinger, Edward (Eleanor) Coppinger, Joseph (Kay) Coppinger, Mary (Joseph) Minahan, and Daniel Coppinger.

Relatives and friends were invited to attend visiting hours on Wednesday, December 27th, in the RJ Ross Funeral Home, 135 South Street, Wrentham. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, December 28th in St. Mary's Church, 130 South Street, Wrentham. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, West Roxbury. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Online guestbook may be found at: [rjrossfuneralhome.com](http://rjrossfuneralhome.com).

### KENT

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ing online and the don't fit because their child grew and they couldn't try them on? Or how about you actually fix things yourself and you break a tool and there are no hardware stores around? Nobody cares yet. Know why? Because we are still in the early stages of the Brick & Mortar demolition game.

Now don't get me wrong. I am not assassinating those who shop online, not by a long shot. It's part of the evolution of shopping with our ever rapidly technology. But if you don't try to split it

up and find the happy medium between punching keys on your smart phone, and making sure an actual store has to pay person to punch a few keys at a register, you won't like the future results coming down the road, especially its addition to class warfare.

A few weeks ago, while attending a small holiday craft fair I heard a child say, "But mom, can't we get that online?"

The mother replied, "No son, these are handmade and much better quality."

It was then I realized, "There is still hope."

### REVIEW

continued from page A1

Family Dollar planned to move into the larger space next to its existing store was quickly put to rest by officials for the discount chain.

Yet, while one Central Street mainstay was bidding Winchendon good bye, another was firmly cementing its place as an anchor for the town's traditional retail core.

After some opposition arose to the initial design for a new Cumberland Farms store at the corner of Central and Front streets, the convenience store chain redesigned its new facility to mimic – to some degree – the old Josephs Variety store. Cumberland Farms purchased Joseph's and the neighboring Fairbank House with the intention of razing the two buildings to make room for the new "Cumby's." The architects for the project worked with the Winchendon Historical Commission to come up with an acceptable design and historically accurate amenities for the project. As a result of cooperation between the company and local official, Cumberland Farms awarded the commission a \$10,000 grant, to be used to help establish a local downtown historical district.

Demolition of the two old buildings began in April, and the new Cumberland Farms store held its official grand opening in October.

Other events that took precedence included:

### COPPER/LEAD

Steps were taken early in the year to fix 19 of the district's 181 school water taps after tests revealed levels of lead or copper higher than what is considered acceptable by the state. Superintendent Steve Haddad stressed neither copper nor lead were in the water system itself. All the taps, 13 in Memorial, three at Toy Town, two at MHS and one at MMS, were taken out of service. Haddad added that after flushing for 30 seconds, all levels were found to be safe. The school system subsequently implemented a sampling plan for future tests, including daily flushing.

### STAY IN PLACE

School officials were satisfied after a long-planned Stay in Place exercise went flawlessly at MHS and MMS in January. Police from Winchendon and five other area jurisdictions, including local K-9 Clyde and his Westminster counterpart took part in the drill and while students had interaction with neither officers nor canines, Haddad and police Chief Dave Walsh said they were "pleased with the efficiency" of the event.

"The police wanted to be familiar with the layout of our buildings," said Haddad, who added he had been approached by Walsh and school resource Officer Tracy Flagg to ask that WPS take part in the exercise.

### BEAMAN'S

Reaching new customers and keeping old ones. That's the lifeblood of every business in this second decade of the

21st century and in 2017, Winchendon-based Beaman's Bait Shop on Glenallan off Maple Street took the leap into social media thanks to the hard work of a member of the generation most adept with evolving technology.

"Everyone's on social media now," said Saraya Underwood, daughter of store manager Laurie Turner. Underwood created a Facebook and business page and it made a difference. "Take a Kid Fishing" is the store's unofficial motto and Underwood built the social media site around that theme.

### MAKERSPACE

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes are all the rage these days in a society becoming ever more complex. The "Makerspace" area of the library at MHS is intended to be "a creative and inspirational area for students to create, play, tinker, and learn outside of the structured classroom," explained school librarian Jenna Morin who added the fact there are no grades attached to participation might ease some fears. Funded partly through a Capital Skills grant and as part of a Donors Choice project, Morin hopes Makerspace will encourage more students to pursue interest in

STEM. "This is a safe area where failure is okay. In fact, it's expected and encouraged. We want students to evaluate and persevere through challenges."

### HEYWOOD SOLAR

Heywood Hospital covered 350 parking spaces on its main lot with solar panels which is expected to save the facility \$2 million throughout the course of the 20-year lease reached with financier Prairie Gold Solar. The hospital's deal is about 20-percent cheaper than what Heywood was paying in its deal with National Grid, according to VP Michael Grimmer. The building is also using electricity from the project.

### OUT OF DARKNESS –

The second annual Out of the Darkness walk to raise awareness about suicide kicked off in Winchendon with a fund-raising night of music before the trek around the MWCC track the

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# SPORTS

## Football & 8s

I don't have any idea what's going to happen in 2018. Nor do I have any particular interest in trying to guess. But here's what I do know - whoever wins the Super Bowl a month from now should take a moment to thank the Baltimore Colts and New York Football Giants for what they did 60 years ago last weekend.

Pro football wasn't all that big a deal in 1958. The NFL consisted of 12 teams. Home games were blacked out. There was no AFL. And then came December 28, 1958.

I don't know if the championship game at, yes, Yankee Stadium that afternoon is really "the greatest game ever played" as it has come to be known but it surely remains the most important game in the history of professional football. Had the Colts 23-17 victory come in regulation, it might be remembered as a good, perhaps even very good game, but it almost certainly wouldn't have propelled the NFL into the broader consciousness of American sports fans. No, it took the fact that it was the first-ever overtime game to launch pro football towards the stratosphere. Well, that and the fact it was fortuitously played in New York.

Within two years, there was a new league riding the wave, having secured a TV deal with NBC. Within eight years, the salary wars had triggered the merger (to be consummated four years hence) and what would become the "Super Bowl" was contested at a

maybe 70-percent full Los Angeles Coliseum. A couple years later, the New York Jets gained credibility for the AFL when they beat, ironically enough, the Colts in the third AFL-NFL title game and the first to actually be called the Super Bowl. Once more it helped that a New York team was a participant and no doubt the fact the Jets had a brash and controversial quarterback mattered as well but all of the sudden, the home TV blackout was lifted (in exchange for exemption from anti-trust laws) and the newly reconfigured NFL was off and running.

That was less than 50 years ago. The NFL has issues now but while the predictions of its demise are premature there's no question the bubble has, if not burst, certainly deflated (sorry, couldn't resist).

You hear a lot of theories as to why and while you're free to choose your favorite, what is happening to the NFL (though plenty of other sports would love to have such problems given the revenue stream) is hardly unprecedented. Once upon a time, boxing was on top of the sports world. Horse racing once had a significantly wider following, though the vast array of wagering platforms has enabled handle to increase. The fundamental problem for the NFL though is quite simple — the



### TALKING SPORTS

JERRY CARTON

very nature of the game. There's no question that unless safety measures continue to evolve, fewer kids are going to play football. Dallas Mavericks (and occasionally rumored presidential candidate) Mark Cuban insists the NFL will be a shell of itself within a decade and gone in 25 years. Cuban of course is not exactly unbiased but I agree the NFL has peaked in popularity. This is just how it goes. How long until pitchers and catchers report anyway?

So here we are in a year ending in 8. Racing has had some fascinating seasons which ended in 8. Sixty years ago, Citation, generally regarded as one of the sport's three greatest along with Man O'War and Secretariat, was a Triple Crown winner. So was Affirmed 40 years ago, his earned only after surviving titanic duels with Alydar, whose own name will forever be linked to Affirmed's. It was 50 years ago when a Kentucky Derby winner was disqualified for the first and only time. You can believe the official story that the Maryland-bred and Boston-owned Dancer's Image was taken down because of the alleged presence in his system of then-illegal-in-Kentucky bute or you can, as I do, suspect the folks who were running Churchill Downs were none too happy when the Dancer's owner Peter Fuller announced he was

going to donate the winning purse to the NAACP, this a month after Dr. King's assassination. In 1988, Winning Colors became the third filly to win the Derby and in 1998, Real Quiet lost the Belmont Stakes and Triple Crown by a nostril. Ten years ago, Big Brown won the first two legs of the TC but, talk about medication abuse, his trainer was subsequently booted for life because too many horses in his care seemed to be, let us say, either over performing very suddenly or testing positive for a slew of illegal juices. The bad guys are always trying to outrun the good guys.

It was 50 years ago when John Carlos and Tommie Smith raised their fists at the Mexico City Olympics. No, Colin Kaepernick and others were not the first athletes to have a social conscience. It was also 50 years ago that Denny McLain won 31 games for the Tigers. You'll never see that again. In 1978, the Bullets won their first and only NBA title. I mention this only because I was a Bullets ballboy from 1969-71. And 100 years ago, the Red Sox won the World Series. They've won exactly three since. Please stop with the nonsense about a "rivalry" with a team who's won 27.

And ten years ago, well, ten years ago, Winchendon's junior level softball team won the first of what would become two state championships. I cannot even begin to tell you how bittersweet that is for me now. I'm sure you understand. See you next week.

## Sports in Review

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

MHS girls varsity begins 2017-18 basketball season winning three of their first four games, the best start to a season in a decade. Senior Molly Murphy averages 20+ points per game in that stretch. Murphy tallied what is believed to be a school record 38 points (MHS scored just 41) in the final game of the 2016-17 season.

### BOYS SOCCER

Andrew Burns is recipient of the Worcester County Superintendent's Award. Burns graduated in June after being the varsity soccer captain and goalie and said of all his wide-ranging school activities, soccer was his favor-

ite.

### WINCHENDON GOLF CLOSING

Local golf course closes, impacting a series of annual tournaments. Winchendon School, which owned the course, cited information from Sterling Management, that it would take several years to turn the financial picture around. The school said it had lost \$1 million over the last four years. Sterling had been given a two year deal but the school opted out after the first season.

### DEK HOCKEY

American Street Hockey, run out of Mylec Inc. received a \$1,000 grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, the first time a

Winchendon-based sports organization had been chosen.

### PRO SHOW

Lucky Pro Wrestling brings it's act to Winchendon, the first pro show in nearly 30 years as part of the Clark Memorial YMCA's fund-raising drive.

### FOOTBALL & CHEER

Billy Wright takes over as MHS varsity football coach; softball coach Mike Fontaine steps down; Lisa Paulitzky assumes head cheer coach position. BOXING PEP TALK

Former world welterweight and middleweight boxing champion Jose Rivera comes to MHS during National Hispanic Month to deliver pep talk and

encourage students to pursue dreams.

### RENOVATION

American Legion baseball/softball field undergoes renovation, including new dugouts for first time in 25 years. Grant from Robinson-Broadhurst is key to financing project. Fencing extended and audio system improved.

### FUNDRAISING MARATHON

MHS soccer marathon raises \$1,200 for program. Event runs 24 hours over first weekend in November.

### SOCCER FOR KIDS

United Sports program at Winchendon school inaugurates weekly soccer program for special needs youngsters.

## Fly fishing show upcoming

MARLBOROUGH — Anglers from throughout New England will head to Marlborough Jan. 19-21 for a first-look experience of everything new in the sport at the 2018 Fly Fishing Show; Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West. Parking is free.

The Marlborough Fly Fishing Show's annual edition features about 10 demonstrations or audio/visual presentations each hour plus wall-to-wall displays of

new fresh- and saltwater fly rods, reels, fly lines, boots, waders, clothing and flies during the three day mid-winter run.

In addition to tackle, lodges and exotic destinations, show visitors can view continuous fly-tying demonstrations, how-to-do-it seminars and presentations ranging from Atlantic salmon in Labrador to fly fishing Turneffe Atoll in Belize.

National Fly Fishing Show door prizes are valued in excess of \$40,000.

Casting demonstrations are scheduled by Joe Humphreys, Jeff Currier, Bob Clouser and Gary Borger.

Fly tying demonstrations are on tap from Ed Engle, Borger, Clouser, Nate Brumley and Tim Flagler.

The New England premiere of the 2018 Fly Fishing Film Festival will be held Fri. at 6:30. Tickets are \$10 in

advance or \$15 at the door.

Fly Fishing Show® admission is \$15 for one day, \$25 for two days and \$35 for three days. Children under age 5 are free as are Boy and Girl Scouts under 16 in uniform. Children under 12 are \$5. Active military with an ID are \$10.

For a complete list of fly-fishing films, classes, seminars, door prizes and demonstrations, visit [flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/](http://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/) or phone (814) 443-3638.

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## MWCC holding grand re-opening of Mount Fitness

GARDNER - A grand re-opening will be held at the fitness center at Mount Wachusett Community College's Gardner campus on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon to celebrate the new name of Mount Fitness.

"Our goal is to create a new energy and push for our fitness center. We want everyone to know that we are open to the public," said director of the Fitness & Wellness Center Jared Swerzenski as he explained the decision to rebrand the center as Mount Fitness.

"I want people to know that we are not only a fitness center, but we are a community center as well. We are open to the public and we welcome everyone who wants to better themselves through fitness."

The Mount Wachusett Community College Fitness and Wellness Center has been open to the public since 1995 and offers everyday low price memberships for individuals and families. Unlike other clubs, there are no fees for group fitness and yoga classes, pool use, or tanning.

"We pride ourselves on being a Community Fitness Center. I am proud of the staff we have. A center can have all the new equipment in the world, but without a friendly and knowledgeable staff it won't function right," said Swerzenski who said the fitness center offers something for all levels and interests. "We have the most options to provide members whether it be basketball, racquetball, competition pool, swim lessons, cardio and weight equipment, Silver Sneakers classes, 85 group exercise classes a week, kid care, summer camps, pickleball, and the friendliest and most dedicated staff in the region."

The grand re-opening will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 444 Green St. in Gardner and feature light refreshments. In honor of the new name and logo, free one-day memberships will be given out for use during the re-opening and there will be a bounce house and free childcare. The first 100 people to attend will also receive a free gift.

**READING  
NEWSPAPERS  
IS A QUEST  
LIKE NO OTHER**



## POLICE LOG

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

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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

12:23 a.m.: traffic hazard (Juniper Street), no service necessary; 12:32-2:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:22 a.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road), report taken; 8:28 a.m.: traffic hazard (Willow Street), assisted; 9:00 a.m.: summons service (Maple Street), unable to serve; 9:18 a.m.: larceny (Beaman Court), assisted; 9:57 a.m.: accident (West Street), report taken; 10:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Linden Street), no service necessary; 1:19 p.m.: larceny (Washington Avenue), spoken to; 1:58 p.m.: accident (Lincoln Avenue), info taken; 3:20 p.m.: sex offender registration (Front Street), spoken to; 5:21 p.m.: extra patrols (Glenallan Street), secure; 5:24 p.m.: ambulance (Morse Avenue), transported; 5:35 p.m.: harassment (Benjamin Street), referred to other PD; 6:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hyde Park Street), spoken to; 7:02 p.m.: warrant arrest (Mason Street), David P. Cartier, 35, 28 Country Meadow Drive, Rindge; 7:10 p.m.: burglar alarm (Pine Street), secure; 7:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 11:50 p.m.: building checked, secure.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:29 a.m.: fraud (Front Street), advised officer; 8:57 a.m.: sex offender registration (Front Street), assisted; 10:26 a.m.: larceny (Elm Street), advised officer; 10:30 a.m.: summons service (West Street), unable to serve; 10:34 a.m.: summons service (Mason Street), unable to serve; 11:05 a.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street), assisted; 11:25 a.m.: welfare check/general (Glenallan Street), unable to locate; 12:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Old Gardner Road), referred to ACO; 12:55 p.m.: mv stop (School Street), Jeffrey R. Roy, 21, 53 Sip Pond Road, Fitzwilliam, unlicensed operation, speeding, citation issued; 4:00 p.m.: assist other agency (Lincoln Avenue), info given; 4:20 p.m.: summons service (Beachview Drive), served; 4:24 p.m.: summons service (East Monomonac Road), served; 4:29 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), info given; 4:37 p.m.: fire/mutual aid (Birch Drive, Rindge), canceled; 6:03 p.m.: extra patrols (Glenallan Street), secure; 6:51 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), assisted; 6:58 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 8:06 p.m.: assist motorist (Otter River Road), unable to locate; 8:21 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road), info taken; 8:46 p.m.: mv violations (Central Street), info given; 8:53 p.m.: house checks (Front Place), secure; 9:03

In a release by Lt. Kevin Wolski, Winchendon Police have said on Thursday, Dec. 28 a head on motor vehicle crash resulted in the death of one person and serious injuries of at least four others.

At approximately 9 a.m. on Dec. 28, police and fire departments responded to the report of the crash involving a Honda CRV and Mercedes Benz Sprinter utility van. The operator of the CRV, identified as 32 year old Lindsey Sheldon of Winchester NH, was found unconscious in the vehicle.

The passenger was identified as 32 year old Christine Bemis also of Winchester, and Sheldon's three year old daughter located in the rear seat, were transported by ambulance to UMass Hospital in Worcester and are expected to recover.

Sheldon was transported by Life

Flight helicopter to UMass, where she later died from her injuries.

The operator of the Mercedes van was identified as 38 year old Scot Joy of Bellows Falls VT, and his passenger 49 year old Timothy Pitman of Winchester NH, were transported by ambulance to Heywood Hospital in Gardner, where they were expected to recover.

The preliminary investigation suggests the CRV was traveling northbound and crossed the center line crashing into the southbound Mercedes.

Responding officers found a quantity of suspected heroin in the Honda CRV, along with various drug paraphernalia.

This is an ongoing investigation, with Officer Derek Blair in the lead.

p.m.: VIN inspection (Pinewood Drive), assisted; 10:17 p.m.: harassment (Mill Street), spoken to.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:35-12:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:58 a.m.: suspicious mv (Goodrich Street), spoken to; 1:12-3:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:46 a.m.: accident (Central Street), transported to hospital; 10:09 a.m.: 911 non-emergency (Gardner Road), no service necessary; 11:17 a.m.: lift assist (Lakeview Drive), services rendered; 12:00 p.m.: mv violations (Grove Street), no cause; 12:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Mill Street), report taken; 12:19 p.m.: ambulance (Spruce Street), transported; 1:20 p.m.: accident (Glenallan Street), report taken; 1:41 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 2:07 p.m.: traffic hazard (Gardner Road), removed; 2:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Cabot Road), assisted; 4:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Juniper Street), referred to ACO; 4:56 p.m.: welfare check/general (Spring Street), spoken to; 5:12 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Drive), transported; 5:27 p.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Street), no FD service necessary; 5:44 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 5:49 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 7:05 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street), report taken.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:05-2:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:13 a.m.: investigation (Central Street), spoken to; 6:29 a.m.: disabled mv (Central Street), services rendered; 8:51 a.m.: accident (Brown Street), services rendered; 9:16 a.m.: info/general (Central Street), spoken to; 9:25 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street); 9:39 a.m.: sex offender registration (Main Street), assisted; 9:51 a.m.: ambulance

(Lakeview Drive), services rendered; 9:59 a.m.: burglar alarm (Ash Street), secure; 10:17 a.m.: DPW call (Hale Street), referred; 10:55 a.m.: suspicious (other) (Town Farm Road), report taken; 11:06 a.m.: info/general (Central Street), info taken; 11:20 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mill Glen Road), mv towed; 12:04 p.m.: erratic operation (Spring Street), advised officer; 1:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Alger Street), spoken to; 1:17 p.m.: disabled mv (Gardner Road), spoken to; 3:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Washington Avenue), spoken to; 4:02 p.m.: accident (Forristall Road), report taken; 4:04 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), spoken to; 4:58 p.m.: welfare check/elderly (Cross Road), referred to other PD; 5:04 p.m.: keep the peace (East Street), assisted; 5:12 p.m.: threats (Juniper Street), spoken to; 5:58 p.m.: fire/structure (Town Farm Road), services rendered; 6:34 p.m.: animal complaint (West Monomonac Road), referred to ACO; 6:37 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), referred to ACO; 9:20 p.m.: runaway (Polly's Drive), returned to home; 9:51 p.m.: mv violations (Central Street), unable to locate; 11:38 p.m.: info/general (Central Street), spoken to.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

12:59 a.m.: accident (Teel Road), report taken; 1:41 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), secure; 3:04-3:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:43 a.m.: disturbance (Walnut Street), info taken; 8:34 a.m.: info/general (Central Street), referred; 9:16 a.m.: assist motorist (Central Street); 9:34 a.m.: assist citizen (Ash Street); 10:06 a.m.: assist citizen (North Street); 10:26 a.m.: accident (Teel Road), report taken; 12:51 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street); 1:21 p.m.: accident (Brown Street), report taken; 3:18

p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), report taken; 3:25 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), secure; 4:29 p.m.: info/general (Walnut Street), advised officer; 7:53 p.m.: officer wanted (Ready Drive), spoken to; 9:03 p.m.: harassment (Central Street), report taken; 9:18 p.m.: runaway (Polly's Drive), returned to home; 11:33 p.m.: fire alarm (Front Street), services rendered; 11:42 p.m.: assault (Walnut Street), report taken; 11:46 p.m.: suspicious mv (Emerald Street), spoken to.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

2:09 a.m.: investigation (River Street), spoken to; 2:22 a.m.: FD call (Route 19, Rindge), no service necessary; 3:43-3:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:57 a.m.: FD call (Main Street), services rendered; 9:30 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 9:41 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), spoken to; 10:09 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 10:52 a.m.: FD call (Linden Street), assisted; 1:05 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street); 1:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (Monadnock Avenue), no cause; 1:49 p.m.: erratic operation (Railroad Street), unable to locate; 6:48-6:49 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 6:58 p.m.: CO detector (Hall Street), services rendered; 9:30 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:32 p.m.: disabled mv (Lake Dennison Beach Area), spoken to; 9:39-9:51 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:23 p.m.: erratic operation (Front Street), unable to locate; 10:38 p.m.: intoxicated person, Joseph F. King, 46, 306 School Street, Winchendon, assault w/dangerous weapon, domestic assault, unable to locate.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

1:25-1:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:25 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), report taken; 2:29 a.m.: mv violations (Gardner Road), referred to other PD; 3:59 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 5:48 a.m.: fire/CO incident (Highland Street), referred; 6:07 a.m.: assist citizen (Mill Street), referred; 7:45 a.m.: fire alarm (Central Street), services rendered; 9:09 a.m.: burglar alarm (Maple Street), false alarm; 10:03 a.m.: welfare check/general (Glenallan Street), unable to locate; 11:10 a.m.: fire alarm (River Street), services rendered; 11:43 a.m.: officer wanted (Converse Drive), report taken; 11:48 a.m.: burglar alarm (Baldwinville State Road), canceled; 12:13 p.m.: fire/box alarm (Front Street), services rendered; 12:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), referred to ACO; 2:02 p.m.: property damage (Mellen Road), report taken; 4:24 p.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive), transported; 4:44 p.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Drive) transported; 4:46-4:52 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 5:13 p.m.: burglar alarm (High Street), secure; 7:33 p.m.: disabled mv (Spring Street), assisted; 8:38 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:27 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 11:09 p.m.: burglar alarm (Front Street), secure; 11:30-11:39 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

## LOSS

continued from page **A1**

essary emergency equipment.

As the home was nearly 150 years old and made of a balloon frame construction, there were no cross or horizontal fire stops in the walls to slow progress of the fire. While the home was a complete loss, all six family members and their dog were safe.

Ruschioni said, "We had a house which was surrounded by trees, shrubs, a fence, and in addition we had cold weather and very icy conditions. Access was limited. We had to knock down a lot of things before we could go inside. As conditions deteriorated rapidly with the structure, we had no choice but to pull everybody out and go in to defensive operations. This family lost everything. There is nothing left, and it's very sad."

While the fire was finally extinguished late in the evening, hot spots needed to be watched throughout the night. In an update by Ruschioni, it was confirmed that an appliance malfunction is under investigation as it was operational at the time of the fire, and will need additional examination.

One additional complication as explained by WFD Chief Tom Smith, was the lack of any ability of National Grid to disconnect power to the home in a timely manner, adding to the already

complicated and very dangerous environment for firefighters.

Smith said, "They (National Grid) were unable to get their bucket truck up the street due to all the emergency equipment needed on scene. I would hope emergency crews would be able to climb a pole, and they couldn't as they didn't have the proper equipment to do that in their truck, so they had to shut down the entire street for the safety. I will work with National Grid to try to make sure this is changed in the future."

In closing Smith said, "We were met with various challenges this evening, the need for a lot of water, icy conditions, and we thank the DPW for helping us get sand to the site to assist with how slippery the scene was, as well as the Water Department for being on scene helping us out with the demand for water. It was a good coordinated effort here by all fire departments, and we rotated crews here frequently due to the cold weather. Everyone worked together extremely well on scene, everyone stayed safe, and the family was all accounted for and that is what's important."

In an effort to quickly raise emergency funds to assist the Michelson Family, a GoFundMe page was created just hours after the fire. Showing true Toy Town support for the family, the page reached more than \$10,000 in donations

'due to circumstances beyond their control.' Yes, it does happen on the sewer side, but it can happen on the water side. So, I would hate to eliminate that language."

In answer to a question from board member Audrey LaBrie, Hickey said the town can't abate bills for water that has already gone through the water meter of a home or business.

"It's been staff's opinion and, I think, the board's policy – at least in the two years I've been here – that if the water goes through the meter people will not be granted an abatement for any of that water usage. With regards to water usage,

I'm not sure what an extenuating circumstance would be. If it comes out of the water main on your property and into the meter, that water has been used and will be billed for."

"Crazy things do happen," said Cyganiewicz, "especially in New England. I do see a potential circumstance where it goes through the meter and it's still a circumstance unforeseen by the homeowner."

"To be quite honest with you," said selectman Mike Barbaro, "we haven't abated anybody's water. To this point, there's been no legitimate reason to give anybody a water abatement. In the time we've

been in office, we have not abated anybody."

The board ultimately voted unanimously to reject the proposed change and to continue to allow property owners to seek water abatements.

Later in the meeting, Hickey reported to the board that the town had recently placed liens on past due water and sewer accounts.

"This year those liens totaled just over \$24,000," said Hickey. "A year ago, the liens in place totaled \$249,000. So, the adoption of our water and sewer shutoff policy has made a significant difference. It's helped the town out tremendously,

financially."

In other action, selectmen approved the appointment of Benjamin Hagemeyer, a senior at the Winchendon School, to the Ingleside Utilization Committee.

The board also approved a bonfire/fireworks permit for American Legion Eugene M. Connor Post 193 for January 26, 2019 and voted to allow Winchendon bars and restaurants that serve alcohol to extend their closing hours from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. New Year's morning.



Two tower trucks, one from Winchendon and one from Gardner, helped access the upper floors where the fire was suspected to start.

in just the first 24 hours, and \$15,000 in just three days. By Tuesday evening, Dec. 26, and only 5 days after the devastating fire, \$20,535 was reached. Additional funds were also being regularly donated to the Winchendon Fire Department in the forms of checks and gift cards.

If you would like to donate to assist the Michelson Family, you can drop off a donation in person at the WFD, or donate on the internet by going to the Michelson GoFundMe page and clicking on "Donate Now" at <https://www.gofundme.com/n8y3rp-help-the-michelson-family>.

## BOS

continued from page **A1**

Anderson, "and I just worry that something like that could happen again. Through no fault of their own, many homes didn't have electricity – some homes didn't have heat at all – and in order to save their pipes they had to let a trickle go through. I'd be afraid we're backing ourselves into a corner that we can't get out of."

"I'm not sure that I totally agree with striking out the word 'water,'" said board member Austin Cyganiewicz, "because the policy does say





REVIEW  
continued from page A7

next morning. “We want to erase the stigma regarding mental illness,” said local attorney Dave LaPointe, whose daughter Brittany founded the Silver Linings team which, along with Mariah Ackert’s Peace of Mind group, raised the most money. Suicide claims some 400,000 American lives yearly, one about every 13.5 minutes. “Chances are we’ve all been affected by suicide in some way,” noted Ackert. Silver Linings carried the lead banner, having raised the most money in 2016.

**COMMUTER STATION**  
Ridership is continuing to grow at the Wachusett MBTA commuter rail, the closest site to Winchendon. There is also a shuttle bus from the facility to City Hall in Gardner. “Using us is much easier than taking Route 2 with all the traffic there,” encouraged MART administrator Muhammad Khan, who said several hundred riders are utilizing the service every day. The facility at 55 Authority Drive off exit 28 has room for 400 riders and about 360 parking spaces.

**INDIVISIBLE**  
After Donald Trump was elected President, some 6,000 local “Indivisible” groups, dedicated to oppose the Administration’s policies sprung up around the country, and one is in Winchendon. Co-founder Lucinda Ellert said part of the organization’s work is to inform residents about cuts to programs which have local impact but members have also contributed to campaigns out of state. So Sunday afternoons find the group meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Central Street. Ellert attended the Women’s March the day following the inauguration last year and that, she said, sparked her “need to do something.” The group began a Facebook page and hosted forums for issue debate.

**POLICE HISTORY/911 DISPATCH**

**CENTER**  
In May, the Courier ran several articles recounting the history of policing in Winchendon, including first-hand accounts from retired and current officers. The series included descriptions of one-time headquarters, old equipment, the evolving of a modern-day force, transport vehicles and a summary of chiefs dating back to the 1800s. The Courier also ran a story on how the 911 dispatch center runs. Located at the police station, the center handles EMS and fire emergency calls as well as those for police with a full-time staff of five and another five per diem workers.

**OLSEN, VEZINA AS PRINCIPALS** –  
Ralph Olsen returned to MHS as interim principal when Josh Romano departed for Douglas High. Olsen held the same post during the 2013-14 school year. During the first quarter of his second stint, attendance was averaging 95-percent in part because Olsen, along with school counselor Jane Greenleaf and resource Officer Tracy Flagg were pro-active in checking on tardy students. “You can’t learn if you’re not here,” said Olsen, who stressed community ownership of the school system. Middle School Assistant Principal Jess Vezina was promoted to full-time principal as MMS launched the Summit learning program.

**ES**  
The “Blue Hands” United Way Youth Venture project created by Hannah Turner and the “Benches” project designed by Lily LeBlanc were green-lighted for funding during 2017. Blue Hands, for which Turner credits teacher Chris LeBlanc as a driving force, seeks to make it safe to talk about mental health issues and recruited teachers to participate by allowing their classrooms to be used as safe places to have discussions and open up about issues which historically have had stigmas attached. LeBlanc’s team was designing actual benches where students and adults alike could sit and

talk about similar issues. MHS Youth Venture champion Kris Provost said it “took a lot of courage” for Turner and Lily LeBlanc to “create an atmosphere of trust and openness.”

**TSONGAS RETIRES**  
US Rep. Nikki Tsongas, whose congressional district includes most of Winchendon announced she will not seek re-election this year bringing an 11 year career to a close. Tsongas first won her House seat in a 2007 special election and has faced only nominal opposition since. “It’s a good time to go,” said Tsongas who cited her work on veterans’ affairs and sexual abuse in military as her key projects during her tenure on the Armed Services committee. More than a dozen Democrats and three Republicans either announced their candidacies or indicated they were planning to enter the race.

**WPS/WINCH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP**

The Winchendon School and WPS began their third year of collaboration on a variety of programs. “This is our community. It’s not the community only of our school or only of the public schools. It’s all of our community and its important people understand that,” stressed Miranda Jennings, director of service learning at the Winchendon School. Jennings pointed to after-school projects in drama and the backpack program, the latter of which sends some 90 students home every weekend with healthy foods, a project sponsored by Winchendon Kiwanis. “It’s encouraging to see everyone working together. I think there’s some understanding we’re all in this together,” said Jennings.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**  
“We look at the number of days out and then decide if a home visit is warranted,” said Olsen of the stepped up efforts to boost attendance figures. Olsen said he understands there are root causes for chronic absences but he’s relentless in pushing the urgency of good attendance. “It’s a grind but I don’t

go away,” he said.  
**YOUTH VENTURE**  
Turner and LeBlanc acknowledged it’s a long process to get the projects started but both added they were encouraged by the support they received from faculty and administrators. Turner attended the fall YV kickoff at MWCC and met students from other schools who were developing projects related to mental health fields. “Our kids, the ones who are involved, are enthused and excited. They’re making a real impact on the community,” said Provost. Additional YV projects were launched by Julio Rodriguez, who will be rebuilding old games to give sick kids and Michalea Benedict, following the demise of her BandBuddies project after the override vote. Benedict redirected her attention to an upcoming venture with the Gardner Rotary Club.

**SAFETY**  
In September, MHS staff participated in an ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) for how to deal with potentially lethal building intruders, especially active shooters. The training session was run by Greenleaf and Flagg and consisted of a mock exercise about what to do and not to do in emergencies — was created by a Dallas, TX SWAT officer and is used by many schools around the country. Greenfield stressed the urgency of “being aware” before anything happens. “You never know,” noted Flagg.

**BACKPACKS**  
Winchendon, led by the school’s Key Club and the Kiwanis organization, joined a national effort to make sure elementary school students had healthy foods for the weekend and the program, which began at Memorial, expanded to Toy Town last fall. Kiwanis hosted a mystery tour dinner theatre in October to help raise funds for the program. The backpacks are filled after school every Thursday and distributed before dismissal on Fridays.

KILLING  
continued from page A1

sneakers with soles that appeared to match footprints left in blood at the crime scene.

Vanier was ordered held on \$7,500 cash bail. Prosecutors, arguing that Vanier was a flight risk based on

text messages referencing a move to Florida, had sought bail of \$10,000 cash, while Vanier’s defense attorney had asked that bail be set at \$1,000 cash.

Vanier, unable to post bail, remained under lock and key at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction until prosecutors decided to charge him with murder.

At his arraignment on the murder charge on Dec. 21, Vanier was ordered held without bail and ordered back to court Jan. 9.

Vaillancourt was born in Winchendon and lived in the Winchendon area for most of his life. The motive for his killing remains unclear.

LEGALS

(SEAL)  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**  
2017 SM 009580  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:  
**CAROL ANN GORMLEY**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. ch. 50, § 3901 (*et seq.*).

**TRIFERA, LLC**  
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 151 Pleasant Street, given by CAROL ANN GORMLEY to CitiFinancial Mortgage Company, Inc., dated June 30, 2004, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 34081, Page 150, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has 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 **January 29, 2018** or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, Judith C. Cutler, Chief Justice of this Court on December 13, 2017  
Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
January 5, 2018

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

The Winchendon Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8th 2018 at 6:35 p.m. at the Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium, 109 Front Street, Winchendon MA 01475 to receive comment from the public on Winchendon’s application to the FY18 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Applications can be for up to \$792,665 for eligible activities as follows: housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, public facilities, public services, and planning services. Interested persons and organizations are encouraged to attend, and will have the opportunity to comment and be heard on the proposed application. Reasonable accommodation will be attempted upon written request to the Selectmen’s Office prior to the meeting. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.  
By: Winchendon Board of Selectmen  
December 22, 2017  
January 5, 2018

### A LITTLE BIT OF SCOUT CHRISTMAS



*Cub Scout Pack 193 Cubmaster Kevin Fuller reads a story to his troop at last week's Christmas party at the local American Legion.*

*A member of Cub Scout Pack 193 tries his hand at bowling over some soda bottles at last week's Christmas party at the Winchendon American Legion.*

# Winchendon Courier Classifieds

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

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Courier Classifieds  
**MASONRY INC.**  
Construction laborers or mason laborers. Must have a vehicle and a phone. Company is out of Jaffrey. (603) 532-8471. TFN  
**JOB SEEKERS**  
Job Seekers Networking Group hosted by North Central Career Center and Greater Gardner Chamber

of Commerce. Meetings are open to all job seekers and are held on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Chamber conference room, 29 Parker St. 2nd floor, Gardner. Contact the Chamber at (978) 632-1780.  
**EMPLOYERS**  
These help wanted ads are FREE! Contact the Courier to find out how to get help for your business by calling (978) 297-0050 x 100 or email [ruth@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:ruth@stonebridgepress.news).

**FOR RENT**  
**G O O D R I C H**  
**APARTMENTS**  
Now taking applications. Call for guidelines. (978) 297-0231. TFN

**WANTED**  
**MUSICALINSTRUMENTS**  
Drum teacher Leon LaPlante seeks used instruments and drum stands to

help out high school students. (978) 297-1250.

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

## “Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper”

[www.TheHeartOfMassachusetts.com](http://www.TheHeartOfMassachusetts.com)



Renewal

by Andersen

WINDOW REPLACEMENT



an Andersen Company

Window Special!

Patio Door Special!

Special ends on

January 21<sup>st</sup>

SAVE \$700

on every patio door<sup>1</sup>

SAVE \$325

on every window<sup>1</sup>

WITH

NO NO NO

Money Down Payments Interest

FOR 1 YEAR<sup>1</sup>

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



Andersen

AW

WINDOWS • DOORS

- Our patio doors will continue to slide smoothly for years using **Andersen's dual ball-bearing engineering**
- Our **5-point locking system** on our patio doors provides top-of-the-line security and peace of mind
- Our composite Fibrex® window material is twice as strong as vinyl so our weather-tight seals stay weather-tight
- We handle the entire process; **we sell, install and warrant our windows and patio doors**, so if you ever have an issue, you're covered

We handle every part of the replacement process

 **Sell**

 **Custom-Build**

 **Install**

 **Warrant**



“ I would highly recommend Renewal by Andersen. The installation was performed by friendly and professional installers. They arrived on time and answered all my questions. They did an outstanding job and cleaned up after themselves. They gave detailed instructions on operating the windows and made sure I was completely satisfied. ”

– Mark A., Renewal by Andersen customer, Attleboro, MA

Renewal

by Andersen

WINDOW REPLACEMENT



an Andersen Company

The Better Way to a Better Window™

Call for your **FREE Window and Patio Door Diagnosis**

**1-800-209-2746**

<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER – Offer expires 1/21/2018. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$325 off each window and \$700 off each patio door and 12 months no payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 1/1/2018 and 1/21/2018. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2018 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2018 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.





# GRAND OPENING

# HOBBY LOBBY®

Now Open in Athol • 223 Reservoir Drive

FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU OR SHOP ONLINE AT [HOBBYLOBBY.COM](http://HOBBYLOBBY.COM)  
STORE HOURS: 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. • CLOSED SUNDAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY AT 5:30 P.M.



## Adhesive Vinyl Wall Art

## Ceramic Decor

Tabletop decor, salt & pepper, plates, serving dishes, pitchers and cups

Does not include decorative drawer pulls

## Clocks

Wall and table

# HOME DECOR 50% OFF

Categories Listed

Does not include Seasonal Department

## Lamps & Lampshades

## Mirrors

Wall and table

## Decorative Spheres

## Decorative Crosses

Wall and table

## Pillows, Rugs & Throws

## Polyresin & Pottery Decor

Finials, candle holders, boxes, bowls, floral planters and vases

## Candles, LED Candles, Fragrance

## Warmers, Potpourri & Diffusers

Priced \$4.99 & Up

Does not include Candle FX®, tealights, votives, value packs or oils

## Men's Resin & Ceramic Decor

Wall and table



Valentine's Day and items labeled The Spring Shop™ are not included in Home Decor sale.



## Items Labeled THE SPRING SHOP™

# 40% OFF

Statuary, Garden Planters, Gazing Balls, Garden Wall Decor and More



## Select Group of HOME DECOR

NOW MARKED

# 75% OFF

Selection will vary by store



## FURNITURE

ALWAYS

# 30% OFF

THE MARKED PRICE\*



## FLORAL 50% OFF

Most Categories Listed

Does not include Seasonal Department or items labeled "floral accents"

## Potted Trees & Floor Plants

4 ft - 8 ft

ALWAYS

# 30% OFF

THE MARKED PRICE\*

## Floral Stems

Floral and greenery stems

Does not include feathers

## Stem Naturals

Bouquets, sticks, pods, grains, fillers and grasses

Does not include feathers

## Flowering & Greenery Bushes

Does not include potted trees



## YARN & NEEDLE ART

## I Love This Cotton!™

3 & 3.5 oz

## Artiste® Floss & Threads

Cotton floss & craft thread packs, nylon crochet threads and crochet cotton

## Premium Poly Foam, Nu-Foam® & Smart Foam

## Yarnology® Knit & Crochet Tools and Notions

# 2.66

# 30% OFF

# 30% OFF

# 25% OFF



## FRAMES 50% OFF

Categories Listed

## Ready-Made Open Frames

## Photo Frames

Always 50% off the marked price\*

Our entire selection of basic & fashion tabletop frames and wooden photo storage

## Posters

Always 50% off the marked price\*

## Shadow Boxes, Display Cases & Flag Cases



## CRAFTS 30% OFF

Categories Listed

## All 2 oz Craft Paint

DecoArt®, Ceramcoat®, FolkArt® and Anita's™

## Children's Activity Kits, Paint & Pencil by Number Kits and Fuzzy Posters

Priced \$4.99 & Up

## Mosaic Tile, Gems, Chips & Stones

## Candle Wax, Candle Gel, Soap Blocks & Bases

## T-Shirts

Always 30% off the marked price\*

Youth & adult t-shirts, sweatshirts, infant & toddler t-shirts, creepers and dresses

## PAPER CRAFTS 50% OFF

Most Categories Listed

## Scrapbook Papers

Packs, Pads, Single Sheets & Page Kits

Over 1300 styles

Does not include Art Department

## Scrapbook Ribbon & Fibers

by the Paper Studio®

Over 300 styles

Ribbon Trends®

## The Paperie Shoppe™

by the Paper Studio®

Roller paper, paper ribbon and gallery art

## Rubber Stamps & Sets

Over 900 styles

Clear and cling stamps

## Planners and Planner Kits

# 40% OFF

# 30% OFF



## ART SUPPLIES 30% OFF

Most Categories Listed

## 32 x 40 Acid Free Matboards

White core

# 7.99

\$9.99 Regular price

Black core

# 9.99

\$11.99 Regular price

Metallic

# 9.99

\$11.99 Regular price

## 2-Pack Canvas

8 Sizes available

# 3.99

# 5.99

# 7.99

## All Sets

Includes marker, pencil & pen sets

Priced \$9.99 & Up

## Foam Boards

All colors

## Art Brush Sets

Priced \$5.99 & Up



## JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF

Categories Listed



## Explorer by Traditions™

Pendants, beads and filigrees inspired by world travels

## Beads

Color Gallery™, Brilliance, Bead Treasures®, Traditions™ and Czech Glass Beads

## Metal Gallery™

Does not include sterling silver

## Swarovski® & Create Your Style™

Includes beads, flatback stones and charms

Does not include hotfix stones

## Bead Stringing

by On-A-Cord®, On-A-String® & On-A-Wire®

## Timeline by Bead Treasures®

From the Gilded Age to the Pop Age

Includes Components by DC Comics®



## Home Decor Fabric

Prints, solids, sheers and laminated fabric

## Fleece

Prints, solids and microfleece

## Calico Prints & Solids

Apparel prints and batiks

# 30% OFF

THE MARKED PRICE\*

## FABRIC

Warm & Natural® or Warm & White® Batting by The Warm® Company

90 wide

## Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day & Easter Fabric

Home Decor & Apparel Trim by the Yard

# 8.99 p/yd

# 30% OFF

# 30% OFF

## CUSTOM FRAMES 50% OFF

Always 50% off the marked price\*

Applies to frame only. See Store for Details.

We Guarantee Our Prices Are Lower Than Our Competitors' Larger Discounts!

See our Great Selection. Satisfaction Guaranteed.



# 40% OFF

One Item at Regular Price

COUPON CODE: 92472

## HOBBY LOBBY®

Offer good for one item at regular price only. Limit one coupon per customer per day. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Offer is not valid with any other coupon, discount or previous purchase. One cut or one bolt of fabric or trim "by the yard" equals one item. Online fabric & trim discount is limited to 10 yards, single cut. Excludes CRICUT® products, Gemini Machine™ Crafters Companion, Silhouette CAMEO® Machine, candy & snack products, gum & mints, helium tanks, gift cards, custom orders, labor, rentals or class fees. Cash Value 1/10¢. VALID THROUGH JANUARY 6, 2018

Coupon For In-Store or Online Use!



PRICES GOOD IN STORES MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018 – SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018. PRICES GOOD ONLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017 – SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018. SOME ADVERTISED ITEMS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE. SALES SUBJECT TO SUPPLY IN STOCK. SELECTION AND QUANTITIES VARY BY STORE. AD DOES NOT APPLY TO PRE-REDUCED ITEMS. \*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products.