

Dealership donates shuttle bus for snowy conditions

BY TARA VOCIÑO
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — When Ford Mathieu heard that employees experienced slips and falls while walking into an icy main entrance at Heywood Hospital, the company decided to do something about it.

“Tighe (Mathieu) talked to Director of Development Dawn Casavant, and said, ‘I may be able to help you. I’ll work on this,’” Heywood Vice President Mike Grimmer said. “A couple weeks later, he came back to us with a new car on Dec. 16, 2016.”

The 12-passenger shuttle bus will transport employees, patients and visitors in inclement weather, especially in snow, from the parking lot to the front door. Security workers will be on the lookout for drivers to turn on their flashers, which is their queue that they’d like to be transported to the front door by the main entrance. Grimmer said employees park the furthest away – about a five-minute walk, adding that slips and falls became costly with worker’s compensation and insurance. The shuttle bus reduces slips and falls by 75 percent. He went on to say the hospital

encourages employees to be safe and to wear appropriate footwear for plowing, sanding, and snow.

Mathieu said he donated the shuttle bus as an act of community service.

“This is a great way to help out our community by donating for the winter — a 2015 Ford Transit wagon with transportation for Heywood Hospital,” Mathieu said.

Previously, the hospital used a pre-owned airport shuttle that he said was in rough shape. Since the Gardner campus has 1,200 employees, Grimmer called parking “one of our biggest challenges.”

“We have a ‘patient first’ parking policy,” Grimmer said. “Patients get the parking spots closest to the door, which means staff and physicians park further away. Our patients and visitors are our most important people.”

Marketing and communications specialist Marissa Torres said she helps to broadcast the shuttle donation via the staff newsletter and Intranet.

“The good news spread fairly quickly by word of mouth,” Torres said. “Staff is

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Courtesy photo

From left to right, Win Brown, president and CEO, Heywood Healthcare; Tighe Mathieu, owner of Mathieu Ford; Dawn Casavant, vice president, external affairs and chief philanthropy officer, Heywood Healthcare; Mike Grimmer, COO Athol Hospital and vice president, support services for Heywood, Mathieu Ford office manager Megan Mathieu; and Neil Desai, director of security.

Two projects get planning approval

WINCHENDON — At its meeting Tuesday night, the Planning Board approved so-called “ANR” applications for two projects in Winchendon’s downtown.

The initials ANR stand for Approval Not Required. Such applications are submitted for projects not likely to require a visit by members of the planning board to view the location where work is to be carried out. Site visits are often necessary before the board can take a formal vote on a particular proposal.

The board voted 4-0 in support of the project which will bring Beals Memorial Library into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At present, patrons in wheelchairs – or suffering from other mobility issues – find it difficult, if not impossible, to access the library. Once inside, these same visitors are forced to navigate stairs to the basement, where the library holds its weekly book sale, or to the second-floor auditorium, which is quickly becoming the site of more special programs.

“This has been going on for 15 years,” said board member Burton Gould Jr. “The architect, as well as the trustees, are to be commended. They won’t be, but they should be for an awful lot of work. They’ve spent a lot of time on this and they’ve worked for nothing. And kudos to the trustees, especially Ron Muse, who had to put up with me years ago. Good job people. It’s about time. It’s a hundred years overdue.”

The first book was checked out of
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Beaman’s making a leap into 21st century



Morgan St. Pierre photo

Just what you need if you’re planning a trip to the lake, or the shore; winter ice or summer boating. Let’s go fishing.

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Reaching new customers and keeping old ones. That’s the lifeblood of every business and in this second decade of the 21st century small businesses are increasingly turning to social media as a way to market their brand.

Take Winchendon-based Beaman’s Bait Shop, located on Glenallan off Maple Street headed towards Rindge. A couple weeks ago, Beaman’s 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, not just my generation,” said 23 year-old Saraya Underwood, daughter

of store manager Laurie Turner. “Things you put on Facebook or other social media sites can go viral really fast. It’s a great tool to promote the store and to keep up with customers’ interests.”

It was Underwood’s idea to create a Facebook and business page for Beaman’s.

“Bob (store owner Beaman) was all about it and thought it was a great idea,” she enthused. “It took me about six hours to put it all together, taking the pictures and editing, making the pictures clearer,” she estimated.

Saraya credited her mom for her interest in joining the bait shop team

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Course closing impacts entire community

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Last week’s decision by the Winchendon School to close the golf course on its property has had repercussions beyond the 18th green.

Numerous local annual events are impacted by the decision including the Winchendon Firefighters Relief Association, the Charlie Grout Memorial tournament, a tourney hosted by the Eugene Connor Post 193 of the American Legion, and one hosted by Murdock High School girls basketball coach Jim Abare.

Grout’s daughter Coral, who along with her mother has run the Grout tournament for a dozen years, said they’re finished.

“We’re not going to continue it. This has been a local tournament. I’m not sure how many people would drive out of town to play. It’s not like we’re five or six handicappers. We’re weekend golfers and it just doesn’t make sense anyway to take a local tournament and move it somewhere else.”

Grout was outspoken in her disappointment at the closure.

“I understand the Winchendon School is losing money on the course but it was ridiculous to give Sterling just one year to turn it around. That’s just unacceptable to me. Sterling did an excellent job. This is a golf course that’s been in town since the 1920s. It’s a terrible shame to let it go,” she said.

Grout said she knows her father and his contributions to Winchendon will be remembered but pointed out last year the event raised some \$12,000 for the Clark Memorial YMCA.

“It’s really sad this decision to close has put us in a position where we can’t do it anymore,” she lamented.

The town’s deputy fire chief Ricci Ruschioni, told media outlets, “I’m a little disappointed we didn’t get an earlier notification. We were moving very positively toward another event this year. One of our committee members talked to the pro there (Tom Borden) a couple of weeks ago and there was no mention of the place closing. I think we should have at least been notified there were discussions taking place.”

It’s not just charity tournaments who could be impacted. Zoe’s restaurant has been on site since July 2014, and owner Todd Antoniac is taking a wait-and-see attitude. “We’ll adapt. We’ll see how it goes in the spring. For now, we’ll keep doing what we’ve been doing. Some

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School Committee part of request to examine Monty Tech agreements

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Superintendent Steve Haddad read a letter delivered from the office of Town Manager Keith Hickey which was originally sent by Mayor Hawke of Gardner to Monty Tech School Committee Chair Barbra Reynolds, regarding updat-

ing the old district agreement with Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District agreement.

The letter by Hawke addressed a significant change in laws over the past fifty plus years, with laws being both passed and repealed, policies

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Family has to keep on keeping on

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Resiliency. Without it, we couldn’t cope with much of anything because life tends to knock us down and the test becomes how we cope and respond. You have to be resilient.

Last September, 18-year-old Courtney Simmers-Swanson, a softball player and cheerleader was

severely injured in a cheering accident that has left her in a wheelchair and on top of that dad Chris, already a type 1 diabetic, is suffering from a neurological condition suspected by at least one physician to be multiple sclerosis and is unable to work. Additionally, a couple other children in the family are autistic and so

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WEEKLY QUOTE

A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week.

George S. Patton

NEWS BRIEFS



Courtesy photo

The Winchendon School Theater for Change Group will be facilitating a free, ten-week theater program for children at the Beals Memorial Library beginning Friday, Feb. 24. Group members are, left to right, top row: Richard Jueptner, Linet Cardoso, Michael Mills, Kathryn Adinolfi, Teagan McGuire, and Isabella Whitney. Bottom row: Sofia Abril Canovas, Abigail Lambert, Cassandra Burdick, and Mason Schnieders.

School theater group planning program for children

WINCHENDON — The Winchendon School Theatre for Change Group will be offering a free, ten-week theatrical after school program for children ages 6 to 12 at the Beals Memorial Library in Winchendon. The goal of the program is to introduce the performing arts to kids in the community and give them an experience to remember. No previous acting

experience is necessary, just the desire to learn and have fun.

The program will meet once a week on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. beginning Feb. 24 in the auditorium of the Library. At the end of the ten weeks, on Saturday, April 29, the children will present a showcase performance that they will help write.

For more information contact Abigail Lambert at abigaillambert19@winchendon.org, or Isabella Whitney at isabellawhitney18@winchendon.org. To sign up for the program, please drop by the

Beals Memorial Library at 50 Pleasant Street in Winchendon or call the Library at 978-297-0300.

Tsongas meets with local hospital about ACA

GARDNER — Congresswoman Niki Tsongas joined local hospital officials, doctors, nursing representatives, health care advocates and others at Heywood Hospital in Gardner for an in-depth discussion about how the Affordable Care Act has impacted our health care system here in Massachusetts and across the country, and what a possible repeal of the law could mean.

Congresswoman Tsongas has strongly opposed the GOP efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, speaking out against it on the House floor last month. The Congresswoman has also been actively communicating with residents of the Third District to hear firsthand how the ACA has affected them and what a repeal of the law could mean for individuals, the health care sector, the Commonwealth and our economy. Last month, she met with officials from the Lowell Community Health Center and participated in a rally in Boston with other elected officials to highlight the widespread benefits of the ACA.

“As I work with my colleagues in Congress to guard and strengthen America’s health care system and economic security, it is important to hear directly from the people I represent. This hospital forum will be an opportunity to clarify and highlight many of the ACA’s widespread benefits, discuss the impact it has had on the Third District with doctors and local health care officials, and allow experts to share stories about how the ACA has helped local families. I look forward to a robust conversation, which I will bring with me back to Washington,” said Congresswoman Tsongas. “Repealing the ACA without a viable alternative, as President Trump and the Republican Congress have begun to do, will have harmful ramifications for every single American. It would increase premiums and would put Medicare and Medicaid at risk. It would eliminate critical changes made to the health care system, such as allowing children up to the age of 26 to remain on parent’s plans, preventing women from being charged more than men, providing free preventative care, closing the prescription drug donut hole for seniors and preventing companies from denying coverage due to preexisting conditions. Simply tossing aside the ACA is unwise and irresponsible.”

As Republicans continue their efforts to undermine and repeal the Affordable Care Act, Democratic House members are holding events around the country to highlight the many positive aspects of the Affordable Care Act and to oppose repeal.

Fuel aid applicants sought

WINCHENDON — Anyone who needs help covering the cost of heating their home or apartment should get in contact with either the Winchendon Community Action Committee or the town’s planning department.

Tracy Murphy, Winchendon’s development director, says she has \$16,500 in fuel assistance to distribute and, thus far, very few people have applied to receive the benefit. Murphy’s office is located at the town hall, at the corner of Front and Pleasant streets. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, closed on Friday.

The address for the CAC is 273 Central St.. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

To receive assistance, applicants must meet income eligibility requirements. Income guidelines range from an annual income of around \$55,000 for a family of three, up to just over \$94,000 for a family of 10.

This is the first year the town is offering fuel assistance. The money was made available in the fiscal year 2017 Community Development Block Grant the town received from the state. The town of Ashby, which was the co-applicant, received \$8,500.

During recent public hearings, Murphy said the town intends to ask for more home heating assistance in its FY18 CDBG application. This year, Winchendon will be applying on its own.

Murphy said it’s important that people apply for the benefit. She said if the town doesn’t expend most or all of the grant money set aside to help people heat their homes or apartments, the state may look askance at a similar request for the next fiscal year. Murphy said the \$16,500 currently available must be spent by March of 2018.

Murphy also pointed out that

the money available through the town is considered supplemental. In other words, applicants need to exhaust all other forms of fuel assistance before seeking the town’s help. She said primary assistance usually comes through the New England Farm Workers Council, which receives funding from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP. The CAC distributes funds provided by the United Way’s Emergency Food and Shelter Program. This year those monies, which come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, only amounted to around \$1,500.

Murphy stressed Winchendon residents shouldn’t be shy about applying for help. She said the process is strictly confidential.

Anyone with questions can call the Planning Dept. at (978) 297-1415, or reach the CAC at (978) 297-1667.

Black History part of speaker series Monday

GARDNER — Mount Wachusett Community College’s Tea Time Speaker Series will be celebrating Black History Month with the presentation “Woman in Power: A multicultural perspective” on Monday, Feb. 27 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Kimberly Jones, Esq. will discuss barriers of woman of color in the workplace, education, and politics. Jones serves as the vice president for public policy and communications at the Council for Opportunity in Education. Jones maintains various professional memberships, including the Committee for Education Funding,

of which she served as president in 2014; the National Bar Association, for which she chaired the Legislation Standing Committee in 2014-15; Women in Government Relations; and the Washington Government Relations Group.

Jones is a graduate of Yale University and the Georgetown University Law Center. In 2016, she was named one of the “40 Under 40 Nation’s Best Advocates” by the National Bar Association and received the organization’s Excellence in Activism award.

Created this past spring by MWCC Gateway to College Senior Resource Specialist Sharmese Gunn, the Tea Time Speaker Series fosters conversation among the college community and greater community on social and cultural issues and awareness. The Tea Time Speaker Series is a recipient of the 2016 MWCC Foundation Innovation Grant and will be sponsored by: Gateway to College, Mount Wachusett Community Collaage’s Diversity Consortium, Massachusetts Education Opportunity Association (MEOA), New England Opportunity Association (NEOA), and TRIO alumni.

The event will take place at MWCC’s Gardner campus in the North Café. The event is open to the public and registration is available at mwcc.edu/teatime.

Another dam meeting in the offing

WINCHENDON — A meeting is scheduled for March 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the state Dept. of Environmental Protection office, 8 Bond St., Worcester, to discuss the possibility of conducting a controlled breach of the White’s Mill Pond Dam. The owners of Brandywine Farm at White’s Mill, John and Amelia Giovanoni, this week sent an e-mail to Winchendon Conservation Agent David Koonce, notifying the town of their intention to “restore and maintain” the headwaters of the North Branch of the Millers River.

Town officials and the Giovanonis have been wrestling over what to do with the dam ever since the issue of the safety of the structure arose during a meeting of the Conservation Commission in November. At that time, the Winchendon Springs Lake Association asked the ConCom for permission to lower Lake Monomac about a half-foot more than it had been lowered at the beginning of the month. Citing two engineering reports compiled on the White’s Mill Pond Dam - one done in 2007, the other in 2015 - Koonce balked at the request.

Koonce told the commission that both reports categorized the condition of the dam as “poor,” further stating the condition of the dam posed a risk to life and property. Because White’s Mill Pond lies downstream from Lake Monomac, he said, lowering the level of the lake would cause the water level of the pond to rise, thus putting additional strain on the dam.

The WSLA had sought to lower the lake level in the hope that below freezing temperatures over winter would kill much of the milfoil that has infested the manmade body of water. Officials with the organization also argued that dropping the lake level would reduce the amount of property damage caused by ice.

Town officials, including Town Manager Keith Hickey, say they plan on attending the March 9 meeting.

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

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We'd Love To Hear From You!

A Message From "Doc"

As many of you already know, **DR. WILLIAM MATEIK** and his staff at **TOY TOWN VISION CARE** have joined in practice with the **EYE & LASIK CENTER.**

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William Mateik, OD

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A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION

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

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CLYDE'S CORNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
SKATE CLUB: Winchendon Skate Club invites all ice skaters to join our club. We skate from 8-10 a.m. every Saturday at the Winchendon School on Ash Street. The 2016-17 season is right around the corner. The Winchendon Skate Club provides educational lessons that teach proper techniques. We offer learn to skate programs for beginners of ice skating and hockey. Find us on Facebook-Winchendon Skate Club or Winchendon skateclub@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
GREASE IS THE WORD: Murdock High School presents the musical Grease beginning tonight at 7 p.m. A second performance is scheduled tomorrow night also at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9
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 March 9 Books are available at the library.

OUR NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN: Our Neighbor's Kitchen, Winchendon's

Community Supper, is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen meals are cooked home-style from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door, contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations, and many hard-working volunteers.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12
BLUE & GOLD BANQUET: the Winchendon area Boy Scouts celebrate their year with the annual Blue & Gold banquet at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
SIGN PAINTING EVENT: Join the Crafty Cauldron and your friends for a paint event for a good cause, \$35 a person at 2 p.m. Paint 2 wooden signs in your choice of color and design. Fundraiser to benefit the Kiwanis of Winchendon backpack program. Register

in store or online prior to the event, no space will be sold that day. The Crafty Cauldron, 91 Central St., www.thecraftycauldron.net/events.html. Email: thecraftycauldron@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
OPEN MIC: at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Beginning at 9 p.m. Like to sing? Play an instrument? Willing to jam with a few other musicians? Then come on down and join us at the lower level. Always a good time. Open to everyone! Non-smoking venue.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
DEADLINE DAY: GALA 2017 spring photography exhibit, calling ALL photographers!!
 Entry deadline: Sunday, April 2. Register: www.galagardner.org
MEAT SHOOT: American Legion

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.



Puppy Love Day supports veterinary science program

FITCHBURG — It was "Puppy Love" day at Monty Tech recently, where the school community showed their support for the school's new veterinary science training program. The school cafeteria took on a festive atmosphere on Valentine's Day with teachers bringing in their puppies for students to meet and have their pictures taken with in a special "Puppy Love" photo booth.

Culinary arts students baked cupcakes, cookies and special doggie treats. An online fundraising campaign was held throughout the day to raise awareness and funds to help support the new 7,500 square-foot facility, that is being built on school campus and will house the school's newest vocational-technical program, focusing on veterinary science.

Special visitors for the event were six service dogs-in-training brought to the school by their handlers from the National Education for Assistance Dog Services Program (NEADS), based in Princeton. Students and staff were able to interact with the dogs and ask questions about their training and some of the services they provide. Fund-raising efforts are continuing throughout the year.

School officials hope to have the building completed and the program up and running by winter of 2018. The facility will feature a community pet-care center.



Courtesy photo
 Chelsea Teto of Gardner, a junior in the health occupations program, cuddles with Finn, who belongs to Emily Bedard, cosmetology teacher.

winchendon community dinner

Please join us at **The Winchendon School** for a free meal- All are welcome!

Dinner will be in the main Dining Hall. * Park & Entrance at Main Building*
 For more information contact Miranda Jennings at 978-521-4534

Where: 172 Ash Street, Winchendon
When: Monday, February 27th
Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Organized in partnership by the Winchendon CAC & The Winchendon School

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A TOUCH OF THE IRISH

The Cocoa Shamrock Martini is a refreshing drink to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. A nice accompaniment is a Grasshopper cookie courtesy of the little elves.



Recipe
 Finely grate chocolate onto a saucer
 In another saucer pour Creme de Cacao
 Dip Martini glasses into the Cacao then into the chocolate to run the glasses. Fill a shaker with ice. Add 1/3 cup of Creme de Cacao, 1/3 cup Creme de Menthe and 1/3 cup Half and Half. Shake vigorously and strain into the prepared Martini glasses.

Beannachtai na Feile Pdraig oraibh! (Blessings of St. Patrick Day on you!)

Anne James is a local gourmand and aficionado of all things drinkable

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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Choosing a road

This weekend was the beginning of the dreaded spring mud seasons...and the newest crop of potholes.

We know it comes with the territory, and towns, including Winchendon, have a tough time keeping up with it. States have a problem keeping up with it, as a trip through Worcester attested last weekend.

Whether it is a state road or a town road, having a bloom in your road is no fun. And it seems to grow even as you watch it. You drive away in the morning and it's a few inches across, so you maneuver around it and remind yourself to remember where it was if you don't get back until after dark.

By the time you're back, it seems to have spread half way across the road.

How does that even happen? We know the science behind it, the frost heave underneath that breaks up the asphalt, the "air bubbles" theories, the ice and water stuff, and even the rocks that push up. We know, we know.

And once a hole gets started the edges just keep crumbling. The weight of the vehicles keeps right on adding to the problems.

So we get it. But we don't want it. And we do sympathize, we really do, with the beleaguered DPW guys who must hate this time of year even more. The threats of lawsuits over flat tires and bent rims are enough, let alone all the other phone calls.

But there are a few things to take into consideration, like just how much time and number of men available to work in a day, and how much material there is to do repair (it's usually Chapter 90 money, a limited fund at best), and too, there is the question of just how much traffic your road gets.

A quiet residential street isn't going to get attention as quickly as a major thoroughfare. That's just reality. A big

hole in front of the town hall compared to one in front of your house...which gets attention first? We thought so.

And speaking of the town hall, there are jurisdictional issues too. We have issues with 140 and 12, is that a state DPW road or local DPW road? Or are pieces of it one or the other? Some roads are obviously local roads, numbered roads, there may be a question.

At any rate, as the mud bubbles up and the holes continue to bloom, as the frost heaves roller coaster the roads we can only say, take a deep breath, hope for the crocus instead and realize it at least signals spring is on its way... eventually.

One last note, the Kiwanis Recycle-A-Bike program is in desperate need. The program has been most fortunate to have capable volunteers repairing the bikes for several years. But these people are moving on with their lives and no one else has stepped forward.

The bikes are in the basement of the Old Murdock Senior Center. There is an entire bike shop there with tools and replacement parts. Kiwanis will continue to provide any necessary funding to keep the program going, but we need mechanically inclined bodies to do the work.

Is there anyone interested in doing a little community service volunteer work to help?

The bikes usually need fairly minor repairs, new tires or pumped up, perhaps brakes or occasionally work on gears. We won't give the bikes away without a thorough going over for safety.

Please contact the Kiwanis through the Courier at ruth@stonebridgepress.news or on the cell phone (978) 869-1472 or the president Bruce Cloutier if you would like more information.

"So, you really want Trump Impeached?"

As many diehard liberal extremists around our nation are already crying out for the impeachment of newly elected President Donald Trump, they clearly do not see the bigger picture about how if they could even somehow pull it off, it would solve virtually nothing.



ANYTHING NEAR & FAR KEITH KENT

of "Exon/Mobil fame." 5-Secretary of the Treasury, Steven Mnuchin. 6-Secretary of Defense James "Mad Dog" Mattis. And finally at number 7 and a liberals personal favorite "Enter sarcasm" Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Why would it solve nothing some would ask? Well there is a simple answer; it is called the Presidential Line of Succession.

The last President to become Impeached was our 42nd President, William Jefferson Clinton. Since then there were calls for the impeachment of President George W. Bush involving false claims leading to the Iraq War, and President Barack Obama for a number of incidents ranging from guns to Mexico all the up to but not limited to the lack of a response regarding the Benghazi Embassy attack. Now there are calls to impeach President Donald Trump for his attempted ban on restricting people from 7 nations and keeping them from entering our country for a multitude of reasons, while many try to label it an all out discriminatory Muslim ban even though it only involves 7 of 46 nations which are predominately Muslim in religion.

Do we see a pattern here my fellow citizens? Once after we impeached President Nixon "For far less than anything close to what has gone on for some time now" there was a bit of a presidential break. Then the "Well you know" hit the fan and now since 1993, there have been calls for our last four Presidents to all be impeached.

Well folks, we have this little thing called a Presidential line of succession. So even if you could find a way to Impeach President Trump and get him out of the Oval Office, I would suggest maybe you should be careful what you ask for. Let's just review the next seven you get if you believe your so called "Elitist Think Tank" can pull off your prized agenda.

If your President either passes of natural causes, is impeached up to being forced to step down, suffers an assassination, or lord knows what else which could cause the President's absence this is how it goes, and may I suggest if you're a hard core liberal that you may want to sit down for this.

The line of succession is 1, Vice President Mike Pence. 2- Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan. 3- President pro-tempor of the Senate, Orrin Hatch. 4- Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

it gets even better. If our great nation by some chance made the list all the way down to ten positions deep, we get Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in the Oval Office. Now to all this I ask based on just her strong support alone for charter schools are you sure you still want impeachment yet, and if you have made up your mind about impeachment still being what you want, how deep based on the above would you want to go with this process?

For any of us to believe the cry for the Impeachment process would stop with President Trump would be just foolish. It would go on and on and many know it. Even more ridiculous is that both Republican and Democratic voters have been crying for the President of the opposite party to be Impeached since 1993. Yes, nearly the last quarter century.

What I know is this. False claims about reasons to go to war do not get you Impeached. A total lack of respect for our existing laws, law enforcement, lack of response for our embassy being under attacked and much more does not get you impeached. Trying to temporarily stop people entering from 7 nations will without a doubt not get you Impeached. But do you really want to know what does get you Impeached? A simple stupid blue dress. Yes, my friends you read correctly. Only in United States of America could all the other listed above be not nearly as important as what took place involving a blue dress in the Oval Office as evidence for Criminal Presidential Impeachment.

I keep telling myself I will wake up from this nightmare to a nation of citizens and political parties which actually know how to get along, and get its priorities straight.

False war claims, nope. Benghazi, not a chance. Being blocked by Federal Judges, no big deal. But a blue dress? Oh yes, you can bet in the USA, that gets you criminally impeached.

I am so glad we have our priorities right as a nation and a people. Again, enter sarcasm.

LETTERS POLICY

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

VARIETY

As I write this column I am sitting in 70 degree weather in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Outside my windows, I am watching folks playing golf at the Ironwood Country Club.



NOTES OF CONCERN JACK BLAIR

As the same time, I am reading about a snowfall between 1-2 feet at our former home in Winchendon.

I understand that some would wish to be where I am. I also understand that

I loved it all. I loved the different experiences. All of them had their pros and cons. But it was

some would wish to be in Massachusetts.

I am fortunate to have lived in Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Vermont, Virginia, Ohio, Connecticut and other places. So, my family has experienced pretty much every possible weather consideration.

wonderful to experience life in so many ways.

When I am in VA, I am wishing I was skiing in Vermont. When I am in PA, I am wishing I was enjoying the wonderful weather in Vero Beach, FL.

When I am in MA, I am wishing to be enjoying the north Georgia mountains.

But most of all, I realize that many people never have the chance to enjoy the wonderful differences we can have in our climates and the opportunities offered.

When I visited Alaska, I was amazed at how well they handled harsh winters

and how instead of parking meters they had block heaters for your cars.

When I visited Wyoming, I found that being in a dogsled was an incredible experience.

When I visited Texas, I found it outstanding that the Alamo was right in the middle of town.

There are so many experiences available to us in this wonderful country of ours, I regularly hope more and more Americans experience the wonderful diversity of our country.

Treat Yourself!

It needs a courageous handling, this political thing

Yes, I know. I write this as a member of the profession which Donald Trump has labeled an "enemy of the American people". Trump was talking specifically about our national TV and print counterparts, but I have no doubt he happily tosses all non-fawning journalists at any level into that category as well.



JOURNEY OF THE HEART JERRY CARTON

Here's the thing, though. It's sometimes impossible to know what to make of our enigmatic President. Is the outrage genuine or is it just a show aimed at his true-blue believers? The answer? Who knows, but we do know this. Words and actions alike matter and when the President of the United States goes out and says the

"fake media" is the enemy of the people, that widens the already huge gulf between different segments of society. Either way it's repulsive.

But that's not the worst of it. Whatever Trump may or may not actually believe, and my guess is that he has in fact morphed from a middle-of-the-road New York businessman into a genuine right wing wacko bird (to steal a phrase originally coined by John McCain) there is absolutely no doubt the White House is populated by authoritarian-minded ideological zealots who are driving extremist policy and personal decisions. In the meantime, reality TV star Donald holds a 77-minute presser that

seemed chaotic on the surface but which I believe was a very calculated effort to deflect from the enormous crises engulfing the Administration, above all of course, Russia. Oh yes, the Russians. Who else agrees that we'd be able to unravel a lot about Russia if we could see those tax returns? Everyone, and that's why so many congressional Republicans are so skittish about insisting on their release and so reluctant to push the Russia question. Not all Republicans are so unpatriotic of course but at the moment enough are stonewalling in order to prevent a real look at what was going on with Donald, his team and that nasty former KGB thug in Moscow.

It's true there's an entirely separate laundry list of issues to be livid about from that swatted-down-by-the-courts immigration order to the rollback of a bunch of environmental

regulations to the preposterous Cabinet nominees and so on and as citizen activists, it's our responsibility to keep on top of those and to lobby our representatives about them while we organize for the next election cycle.

But those issues, important as they are, simply aren't fundamental national security issues. It's the Republicans in Congress who are enabling Trump to bob and weave his way through circuses like the aforementioned presser and that re-election rally last Saturday while giving him a pass on Russia. Why? What are they thinking? Are they really only concerned with feeding and placating the right-wing base? To have to ask the question answers it.

I get this isn't 1973-74. I get the hyper-partisanship of our era might well preclude a serious bi-partisan investigation of this President and that's utterly ter-

rifying. The cowardice of those enablers on the Hill is breathtaking in its scope. The absolute fidelity to party above country is in a word, treasonous, and that's not a word to be used lightly. But here we are.

This is why the Resistance is growing. The media's not backing down, in fact, exactly the opposite is happening. When's the last time we saw a President so directly challenged on facts in real time? Town halls are jammed. Congressional phone lines are swamped. I don't know how this will all end but I do know ordinary folks, many of whom have never been politically active, are not rolling over. Those Republicans on the Hill who like to prattle on about how they represent "the people"? Perhaps it would be a good idea if they actually do that and take a serious look at the Russian connection. Where are their 'profiles in courage'?



Local SkillsUSA competition advances students

FITCHBURG — More than 225 students qualified to advance to the next level of competition at the annual SkillsUSA local skills and leadership competition held recently at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School.

Competitions were held in all 20 career and technical programs offered at the school, where students put the skills they are learning to the test. Events covered a wide range of disciplines including: 3D animation; robotics and automation technology; cosmetology; medical terminology; architectural drafting; collision repair technology; internetworking; principles of technology; digital cinema production; mobile robotics; precision machine technology; web design, and more.

Students also tested their leadership and job-readiness skills in events such as prepared speech, promotional bulletin board, job interview, and job skill demonstration.

Professionals from business, industry and education assist with judging.

A school-wide assembly was held recently to recognize students' efforts and to present medals to top finishers and district qualifiers.

As a SkillsUSA 100 percent participation school, all Monty Tech students are eligible to compete in the local competition.

Gold, silver and bronze medal winners, along with fourth-place qualifiers, in the career and technical skill events advance to the district-level competition to be held in March.

Top winners in the local leadership contests go directly to

the state conference to be held in April.

The following local students were among those advancing:

ASHBURNHAM: Thomas Graham (silver, 3D animation technology), Ian Bickford (silver, restaurant service), Allison Lind (gold, masonry), Brendan Pinaard (gold, mobile robotics), Makaylah Vaillancourt (bronze, photography and silver, digital cinema production), Brian Johnson (gold, urban search & rescue), Tanner Eberlin (bronze, web design), and Ashley Chicoine (no medal for teamworks, teamworks electrical).

BALDWINVILLE: Benjamin Rush (bronze, collision repair technology), and Zachary Roy (bronze, related technical math).

EAST TEMPLETON: Sebastian Simpson (District Qualifier, web design).

GARDNER: Nicholas Caron (bronze, 3D animation), Harris Khan (district qualifier, 3D animation), Benjamin Berkes (bronze, advertising design), George Keith (gold, auto service), Connor Ryan (bronze, auto service), Jack Coyne (district qualifier, auto service), Colby Greenwood (silver, cabinetmaking), Tyler Davis (silver, information technology), Eden Bushee (bronze, computer office applications), Scarlet Bridges (silver, culinary arts), Devan Kumar (gold, engineering), Ziola Wilder (gold, employment applications process), Selina Leslie (gold, restaurant service), Skylar Morlock (bronze, restaurant service), Canaan Bushee (gold, graphic communications), Samuel Poulin (gold, principles of technology), Kelsey Dilling (gold, early childhood education),

Adrianna Hartman (gold, early childhood education), Jacob Chiasson (silver, electrical construction wiring), Nathaniel Sandoval (gold, screen printing), Conner Garrity (bronze, digital camera production), Damian Oakes (gold, web design), Ethan Lauricella (silver, web design).

PHILLIPSTON: Denver Meunier (silver, CNC milling), Kade Vatour (gold, HVAC/R), Pacey Vaillancourt (silver, internetworking), Cameron Koivula (bronze, internetworking), Nick Couture (no award for teamworks, teamwork electrical).

ROYALSTON: Marnie Anair (gold, job skill demonstration), Mackenzie Mastaler (district qualifier, technical drafting).

TEMPLETON: Connor Green (gold, action skills), Lauren Saunders (silver, architectural drafting), Jacob Shepard (gold, CNC milling), Matthew Taylor (gold, information technology service), Savannah Green (silver, computer office applications), Sabrina Nogueira (district qualifier, cosmetology +500 hours), Noelle Johnson (bronze, industrial motor control), Grady Burke (district qualifier, industrial motor control), Erin Davila (silver, promotional bulletin board), Alexander Gilbert (district qualifier, electrical construction wiring), Adam Shenk (silver, screen printing), Ethan Miller (bronze, technical drafting), Tynan Hollyer (bronze, web design), Brian Gallant (no medal teamworks, teamworks plumbing).

WINCHENDON: Cameron Sparks (silver, advertising design), Hannah Gaunt (gold, aesthetics), Jordan Ramsay (gold, architectural drafting),



Courtesy photo

Travis Hull of Winchendon, a senior, won the gold medal in the culinary arts competition. Here, he is preparing the marinade for the entrée he was making as part of a five-course meal.

Troy Paradise (gold, cabinet-making), Thomas Becotte (bronze, CNC milling), Bradley Parks (gold, CNC turning), Andre Brady (gold, collision repair), Michael Winter (district qualifier, collision repair), Clarissa Simmers-Swanson (silver, commercial baking), Joshua Lemmer (district qualifier, commercial baking), Travis Hull (gold, culinary arts), Hannah Krantz (district qualifier, culinary arts), Leon Gaulin (gold, engineering), Joshua Ramsay (gold, electronics), Jady Fletcher (bronze, electronics), Cameron Sparks (bronze, graphic communications), Rachel Spivey (bronze,

job interview and gold, photography), Emily Semenza (bronze, masonry), Aiden Helie (gold, mobile robotics), Alexis Arsenault (district qualifier, nail care), Kevin Mackie (gold, web design), Ryan Forgues (no medal teamworks, teamworks masonry).

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA chapters help students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations excel. SkillsUSA has more than 300,000 students and instructors as members nationwide.

District thanks teachers and families

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — It was a fun filled afternoon on Saturday as Winchendon public school teachers and families skated to music and enjoyed refreshments at the Winchendon School's Jason Ritchie Ice Arena as part of a tribute and thanks organized by Superintendent Steve Haddad for all their hard work during the first half of the school year.

The Superintendent and the WPS has been steadily working to "Build a bridge" with the Winchendon School as both have exercised a sharing of resources through facilities, with the district offering a use of a school stage to the elite and well known private school, and in return being granted the use of its beautiful arena in a collaboration which has the potential to both grow and shine in the future for both educational entities.

Haddad explained, "The town and the school have had so many tough years. We are working really hard to get along and we are doing a good job, and now the relationship has smoothed over and I am happy to also say we have a real good relationship with the town manager, and the teachers feel that as well. Sixty percent of our teachers have now been here 12 plus years, and they love both the community and the schools. There was a challenge and when I became the Superintendent, I wanted to do things which would turn the culture of the district positive. I really believe when you do things together like this, you can come together, talk, and have a fun time."

Summing up the coming together viewpoint Haddad said with a passion, "We have teachers working all over town in different schools. It is time we quit working in separate silo's and start working together!" Haddad went on to say he plans more events such as this for faculty and family in the upcoming future.

Discussing Memorial School Haddad added, "We have some really neat things going on there. We have progress monitoring, watching the students scores and testing them a couple of times a year, monitor them, and while we know who the children are who are doing well, we truly want to know who the children are who need that extra help. I also want Toy Town and MMHS teachers to know that. Haddad again said, "We are going to do more of these events. As the weather gets nicer I want to have barbecues, and get teachers out to talk and laugh in celebrating all the wonderful things we are doing."

Understanding educational demands Haddad went on to say, "I was a teacher and I know just how hard that job is. It's not just 'You're off all summer' because your not off all summer." From materials to updates and even training, teachers are far from having all the summers off like many believe they do. Haddad described it also as, "I think the top priority it to improve their skill. Teachers are constantly involved in professional development. We have a new MCAS test coming out, and teachers need to be prepared and they are all working hard to do so."

Haddad then followed up with, "I know how important it is for us as a school system to come together and work as a team. To often it is all to easy to get in to our silo's and 'My little kingdom' and we want to promote it is all Winchendon Public Schools. I want people to know how important they are, how much they are appreciated, and to be able to fun things like this today where they can relax a little bit because it is such a grueling job."

Before entering the profession of education,



Superintendent Steve Haddad photo bombs Joan Michel and Angie DeMeulle at the faculty and family skate event

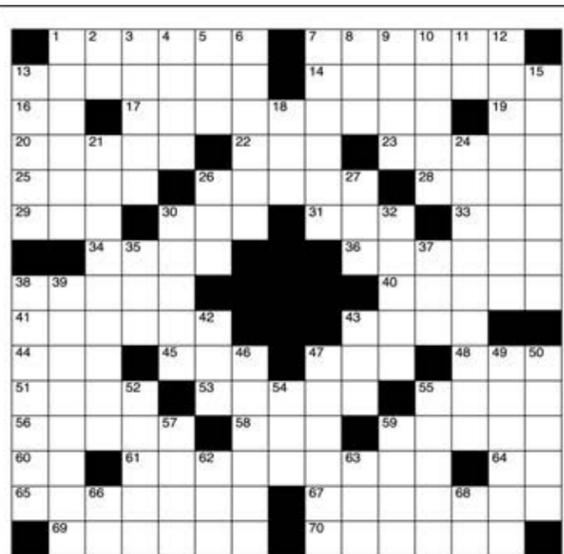
Haddad previously worked in plastics manufacturing for 18 years at various levels of leadership and responsibility including serving as a Human Resource Manager. Expanding on his career, Haddad began teaching locally at MWCC in 1990 where Haddad said, "I taught just about every business course they had. I really understand marketing, and I know how important it is to build good relationships." Haddad also worked as Director of School to Careers, Director of Cooperative Education, and Director of Corporate Training & Education at MWCC where the classroom was brought to the company. Moving to public education in 2,000 Haddad was a business teacher until 2012, when he then started with 6 students as the Director of the Murdock Academy before finally moving on to become the Superintendent of the WPS District.

Pointing out others who work on building relationships Haddad mentioned Winchendon School Head, John Kerney. "John has invited us several times to the community dinners they have. Their faculty, staff, and even members of the community are there. It is a great way to build relationships, and help people to know what is going on in their schools."

"Our teachers work so very hard" Haddad said, with again emphasizing, "I want them to be able to come back from vacation, and I thought a faculty and family skate day would be a fun thing to do."

When asking Haddad about "Teacher Stress" Haddad replied, "That's a really good question. Students and children are very different from when you and I went to school. If I let my little 4 year old grandson use my phone, he can navigate it and find his games. Our teachers in the class room with all these advances have to be not just educating, but motivating and inspiring all at the same time. Teachers have a variety of skills they all have to use to keep each student motivated. In a class of 20 students, there are so many different learning styles and abilities, and a teacher has to be able to hit them all, and there is no excuse for not hitting them all. Teachers work very hard to make this all happen."

Also in attendance was Director of Pre-K & A.L.L. Programs, Suzanne Michel. When briefly discussing

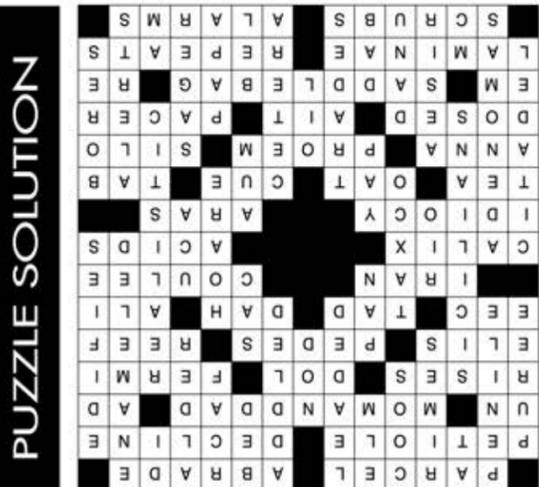


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Package
- 7. Wear away
- 13. Joins a leaf to a stem
- 14. Worsen
- 16. Promotes international cooperation (abbr.)
- 17. Your folks
- 19. Publicity
- 20. Moves up
- 22. Dept. of Labor
- 23. Physicist Enrico
- 25. Whitney and Manning are two
- 26. Human foot (pl.)
- 28. Coral is an example
- 29. Extended error correction
- 30. Small amount
- 31. Dash
- 33. The greatest of all time
- 34. Middle Eastern country
- 36. Ravine
- 38. Cup-like cavity
- 40. Chemical substances
- 41. Extremely stupid behavior
- 43. He built Arantea
- 44. Beverage beloved by Brits
- 45. Cereal plant
- 47. Signal
- 48. A bar bill
- 51. Comedienne Faris
- 53. Preface to a book
- 55. Stores grain
- 56. In a way, medicated
- 58. Small island (British)
- 59. An Indiana-based hoopster
- 60. Measures width of printed matter
- 61. Riders use this to transport goods
- 64. Once more
- 65. Thin layers
- 67. Says again
- 69. Cleans thoroughly
- 70. Warnings

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Relating to male organ
- 2. Indicates position
- 3. Covers with frost
- 4. Makes a soft murmuring sound
- 5. Wood
- 6. Type of fuel
- 7. Confused
- 8. Where you go at night
- 9. Canadian flyers
- 10. Type of birch tree
- 11. Beloved Welsh princess
- 12. Coated
- 13. Smooth substance of crushed fruit
- 15. Improves intellectually
- 18. A sign of assent
- 21. Island-based Italians
- 24. Pragmatic
- 26. Peter's last name
- 27. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Mexican city
- 32. Sir Samuel __, Brit. statesman
- 35. Summer Olympics were just here
- 37. Fiddler crabs
- 38. Southern military academy
- 39. Tumors
- 42. Speaks incessantly
- 43. Sacred sound in Indian religions
- 46. Transactions
- 47. Et-
- 49. Reminders
- 50. Doesn't interest
- 52. Norse gods
- 54. Canola is one type
- 55. Beloved sportscaster Craig
- 57. Irish mother goddess
- 59. Daddy
- 62. Press against lightly
- 63. Sound unit
- 66. Master of Ceremonies
- 68. Morning



PUZZLE SOLUTION

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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

1:28 a.m.: unknown alarm (McDonald's) secure; 1:29-2:54 a.m.: building checks, secure; 4:54 a.m.: general info (Hyde Street) info taken; 7:05 a.m.: parking violation (Walnut Street) spoken to; 7:32 a.m.: general info (McDonald's) info given; 8:04 a.m.: town bylaw violation (C&S Pizza) spoken to; 8:17 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 9:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Metcalf Street) spoken to; 10:51 a.m.: automatic fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive) accidental; 10:58 a.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) transport; 11:12 a.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street) transport; 11:14 a.m.: property lost (walk in) info taken; 11:16 a.m.: tree down (Alger Street) refer to DPW; 11:32 a.m.: ambulance (Pearl Street) refer to other agency; 11:46 a.m.: private property tow (Oak Street) call canceled; 12:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Spring Street) refer to ACO; 1 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Drive) refer to other agency; 1:53 p.m.: town bylaw violation (Beachview Drive) spoken to; 2:28 p.m.: tree down (Baldwinville State Road) 3:30 p.m.: fire alarm (Vaine Street) services rendered; 3:55 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 4:12 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Brown Street) assisted; 4:24 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 4:25 p.m.: lift assist (Central Street) services rendered; 4:40 p.m.: investigation (School Street) report taken; 5:03 p.m.: assist citizen (School Street) transport; 7:21 p.m.: open door (Glenallan Street) secure; 7:36 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 7:57 p.m.: traffic hazard (Prospect Street) no cause for complaint; 8:56 p.m.: MV stop (Elmwood Road) verbal warning; 9:44 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 10:52 p.m.: repossession of MV (Main Street) info taken; 11:19 p.m.: investigation (Glenallan Street) info taken.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

12:48 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 1:22 a.m.: suspicious person (Hill Street) transport; 4:04-4:31 a.m.: building checks, secure; 9:30 a.m.: assist citizen (Metcalf Street) report taken; 9:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Webster Street) advised officer; 10:02 a.m.: FD call (Highland Street) services rendered; 11:13 a.m.: ambulance (Lakeshore Drive) transport; 11:19 a.m.: general info (Lincoln Avenue) info given; 11:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Royalston Road North) spoken to; 11:56 a.m.: officer wanted (walk in) assisted; 12:03 p.m.: property found (Baldwinville State Road) message delivered; 12:38 p.m.: harassment (Murdoch High School) report taken; 1:02 p.m.: larceny (Murdoch Avenue) property returned to owner; 1:20 p.m.: MV stop (Main Street) verbal warning; 2:49 p.m.: accident (School Street) report taken; 3:59 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 4:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Highland Street) refer to ACO; 4:55 p.m.: burglar alarm (Hillside Terrace) accidental; 5:29 p.m.: larceny (Hill Street) refer to other agency; 6 p.m.: investigation (High Street) spoken to 6:08 p.m.: assist motorist (Blair Square) assisted; 7:43 p.m.: alarm, type unknown (Hyde Park Drive) assisted; 8:16 p.m.: custody dispute (Baldwinville Road) referred to court; 9:16 p.m.: burglar alarm (Oak Street) secure; 10:54 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) removed to hospital.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

1:02 a.m.: suspicious MV (Rite Aid) secure; 1:32 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street) accidental; 1:51-2:57 a.m.: building checks, secure; 6:17 a.m.: ambulance (Front Street) transport; 7:30 a.m.: general info (Hyde Park Drive) message delivered; 8:43 a.m.: animal complaint (Juniper Street) returned to



Mat Plamondon photos

Winchendon Firefighters responded mutual aid to Gardner Feb. 20 for an horrific two car head-on crash. The crash was just over the Winchendon line into Gardner on Route 140. When Gardner firefighters arrived on the scene they found one patient heavily trapped in a vehicle. Gardner requested mutual aid for more extrication tools to assist at the scene. Multiple tools were used to extricate the seriously injured patient with the extrication taking over an hour. The patient was transported to UMass medical.

home; 10:31 a.m.: general info (School Street) advised civil action; 11:14 a.m.: missing person (Spruce Street) report taken; 11:55 a.m.: disabled MV (Spring Street) assisted; 12:14 p.m.: general info (Maple Street) assisted; 12:28 p.m.: general info (Baldwinville Road) spoken to; 1:05 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 3:51 p.m.: summons service (Walnut Street) refer to other PD; 4:02 p.m.: general info (Liberty Drive) assisted; 4:09 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street) report taken; 4:16 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Baldwinville Road) unable to locate; 4:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street) refer to ACO; 5:11 p.m.: vandalism (Elmwood Road) report taken; 5:17 p.m.: 911 call non-emergency (First Street) spoken to; 5:46 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 6:04 p.m.: suicide threats (Ready Drive) assisted; 6:04 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 6:07 p.m.: traffic hazard (Brown Street) no PD service required; 6:18 p.m.: suspicious MV (Teel Road) unable to locate; 7:12 p.m.: open door (School Street) report taken; 7:21 p.m.: general info (Elmwood Road) assisted; 7:57 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) spoken to.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

12:13 a.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville State Road) transport; 1:21-2:40 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:24 a.m.: registration check (Railroad Street) info given; 3:01 a.m.: suspicious MV (Franklin Street) spoken to; 8:30 a.m.: general info (Baldwinville Road) info taken; 9:07 a.m.: missing person (Spruce

Street) report taken; 9:16 a.m.: animal complaint (East Street) refer to ACO; 10:13 a.m.: investigation (Beech Street) verbal warning; 11:13 a.m.: ambulance (Walnut Street) transport; 11:17 a.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) advised officer; 11:36 a.m.: general info (School Square) refer to DPW; 2:04 p.m.: investigation (Spruce Street) spoken to; 2:12 p.m.: general info (Hyde Park Drive) info taken; 2:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Spring Street) refer to ACO; 3:29 p.m.: suspicious MV (Alger Street) unable to locate; 3:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Crosby Road) advised civil action; 4:03 p.m.: suspicious other (Brown Avenue) report taken; 5:27 p.m.: property lost (Goodrich Drive) info taken; 5:41 p.m.: extra patrols (86 Front St.) secure; 6:09 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) spoken to; 6:21 p.m.: automatic fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive) refer to FD; 6:27 p.m.: parking violation (Pleasant Street) no cause for complaint; 7:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Academy Street) spoken to; 9:46 p.m.: ambulance (Old Centre) transport; 10:01 p.m.: ambulance (Maynard Street) refer to other agency.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

5:15 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 6 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 7:13 a.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 9:49 a.m.: investigation (Ash Street) report taken; 10:33 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive) transport; 10:39 a.m.: investigation (East Street) message delivered; 11:03 a.m.: threats (Winchendon School) report taken;

11:31 a.m.: larceny (Linden Street) report taken; 3:03 p.m.: trespassing (Pearl Drive) services rendered; 3:16 p.m.: general info (walk in) info taken; 4:37 p.m.: noise complaint (East Street) no PD service required; 4:46 p.m.: traffic hazard (Franklin Street) assisted; 4:47 p.m.: MV stop (Front Street) traffic citation; 6:34 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) assisted; 6:36 p.m.: runaway (Pearl Drive) assisted; 6:46 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Central Street) advised officer; 7:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Baldwinville Road) spoken to; 8:26 p.m.: structure fire (Town Farm Road) services rendered; 10:01 p.m.: accident (Ash Street) info taken; 11 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 11:31 p.m.: ambulance (41 Juniper St.) transport.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

12:28-3:20 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1 a.m.: officer wanted (walk in) assisted; 3:45 a.m.: noise complaint (Elm Street) spoken to; 5:50 a.m.: parking violation (Academy Street) traffic citation; 7:02 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) transport; 9:29 a.m.: suspicious person (School Street) area search negative; 9:35 a.m.: FD call (West Street) assisted; 10:15 a.m.: general info (Grove Street) no PD service required; 10:23 a.m.: investigation (Main Street) spoken to; 10:45 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street) assisted; 11:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Hall Road) info taken; 12:59 p.m.: larceny (Rite Aid) info taken; 1:33 p.m.: property lost (Central Street) info taken; 1:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Metcalf Street) report taken; 2:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Royalston Road North) spoken to; 2:38 p.m.: suspicious MV (Mill Glen Road) advised officer; 2:45 p.m.: disabled MV (DPW garage) info taken; 3:24 p.m.: assist other agency (Central Street) assisted; 3:42 p.m.: suspicious MV (Hyde Park Street) unable to locate; 3:50 p.m.: ambulance (East Street) transport; 3:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street) report taken; 4:07 p.m.: fraud (Cabot Road) no cause for complaint; 4:17 p.m.: investigation (phone) refer to ACO; 4:24 p.m.: harassment (Cedar Street) report taken; 5:19 p.m.: accident (Maple Street) report taken; 6:52 p.m.: assist other PD (WPD) report taken; 7:58 p.m.: ambulance (Benjamin Street) transport; 8:28 p.m.: fire unknown type (Central Street) services rendered; 9:20 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 9:27 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 9:53 p.m.: assist other PD (Jackson Avenue) unable to locate.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

12:15 a.m.: fight (Chick's Tavern) removed to hospital; 1:30 a.m.: structure fire (Spring Street) no FD service required; 1:32-4:15 a.m.: building checks, secure; 5:49 a.m.: harassment (Hyde Park Drive) report taken; 6:43 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Drive) transport; 7:23 a.m.: dog bite (Baldwinville State Road) removed to hospital; 8:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Valero) unable to locate; 10:24 a.m.: officer wanted (Goodrich Drive) report taken; 10:43 a.m.: animal complaint (bike path) refer to ACO; 11:31 a.m.: disabled MV (Front Street) assisted; 12:17 p.m.: wires down (School Street) report taken; 12:17 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Forristall Road) advised officer; 1:05 p.m.: suspicious MV (Hitchcock Road) spoken to; 1:56 p.m.: road rage (Irving Gas) assisted; 3:18 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 5:22 p.m.: loitering (Play-a-way) dispersed gathering; 6:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street) info taken; 7:37 p.m.: suspicious MV (Winter Place) verbal warning; 8:32 p.m.: suspicious MV (Water Street) no PD service required; 8:56 p.m.: MV stop (Front Street) written warning; 9:29 p.m.: ambulance (Mechanic Street) no FD service required; 10:03 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning; 10:11 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 11:46 p.m.: building check, secure.

Winchendon Courier
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CLYDE

continued from page A1

Auxiliary Post 193 hosts a meat shoot beginning at 2 p.m. Side raffles, including lottery, 50/50 and a gift basket. Never been? Come learn how to win with just a trio of cards, a handful of markers and a bit of luck.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
MAY BASKET WORKSHOP: FREE workshop, open to everyone. Keep the tradition going! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the GALA Arts Gallery, 135 Front St. Please register so we have enough materials: www.galagardner.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
GALA ART EXHIBIT: opening reception and art awards at Old Murdoch Senior Center 2nd floor auditorium, 52 Murdoch Ave. 2-5 p.m. More Info: www.galagardner.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
ANNIVERSARY BLOW OUT: the 10th anniversary of Fire & Iron will be celebrated with the annual spring blow out at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 7 p.m. Come help us celebrate!

FRIDAY, MAY 19
OPENING NIGHT: GALA 2017 annual spring Art Show with live music opening reception and art awards 6-9 p.m. Show and reception at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Show runs May 19-21. More info and to enroll, www.galagardner.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11
COLLAGE WORKSHOP: Instructor: Jill Pottle will teach a class on collage 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the GALA Arts Gallery, 135 Front St. For more information and to register visit www.galagardner.org.

www.TheHeartOfMassachusetts.com

OBITUARIES

Karen A. Baldwin, 55

FITZWILLIAM — Karen A. Baldwin, age 55, of 82 NH Route 119 East, died peacefully Tuesday morning, Feb. 14, 2017 in Cheshire Medical Center, Keene.

She was born in Winchendon on July 3, 1961, daughter of the late Charles A. and Virginia (Arnold) Baldwin, and grew up in Jaffrey.

Karen was a 1980 graduate of Conant High School. She had worked for Brookstone and CCM in Peterborough and later worked for 19 years as an inspector at New Hampshire Ball Bearings. Her most recent employment was at McDonalds in Hillsborough. Karen had lived in Rindge for over 20 years and then

moved to Antrim, where she lived for nine years before living in Fitzwilliam.

She leaves two sons, Edmond C. Therriault and his wife Michelle of Fitzwilliam and Nathaniel D. Baldwin and his wife Brittany of Jaffrey; five grandchildren, a sister Janet Minckler of Winchendon and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made to Jaffrey Fire Fighters Company Incorporated at 138 Turnpike Road, Jaffrey, NH. 03452.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon, MA 01475 is directing arrangements.



William 'Bill' L. Crane, 92

WESTMINSTER — William "Bill" L. Crane, age 92, died with his family at his side on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, at Leominster Crossing. His wife, Betsy Ford Crane died on Aug. 7, 2016.

He leaves two daughters, Candilou Hitchcock of Gardner and Sammi C. Dawley of Westminister; three grandchildren, Nathan Hitchcock of Germantown, MD, Jessica Hitchcock, of Gaithersburg, MD, and Eric Dawley of Hubbardston; two great-granddaughters, Natalie and Sophia Hitchcock of Germantown, MD; a sister, Mary Jane Cragun of Vero Beach, FL; and several nieces, nephews and extended family members. He was predeceased by his brother, ENS James Lawrence Crane, USN killed in action in World War II.

Bill was born in Attica, IN a son of the late Jack and Marie Queeney Crane. He graduated from Hillsboro High School, in Hillsboro, IN; he then graduated from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN, and from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. He served in the US Navy during World War II as an aviation radioman third class in the African Theater of War.

Bill was the vice-president of sales for Southwest Forest Industries/ General Box Co. He was a committee member

of the U.S. Navy Memorial and the V-12 Reunion Committee, the Masonic Order of Free and Accepted Masons in Hillsboro, IN and Toledo, Ohio, the High Twelve International in Toledo, Ohio, the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity of Wabash College and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3310, Sylvania, Ohio. In addition, he was a volunteer at the Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio. During his time in Westminister, he was a member of the Board of Directors for Heywood Hospital and the Winchendon Savings Bank. In addition, he was a member of the Oakmont Regional High School, School Committee, the William S. Miller, American Legion Post 174, the Kiwanis Club, and was a program manager for Junior Achievement. Bill was a Deacon for the First Congregational Church of Westminister.

Bill's funeral was held Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Westminister, 138 Main Street Westminister, MA 01473. Bill was buried in the Rosehill Cemetery in Hillsboro, IN.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Bill's name to the United States Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20004, Attention General Gift.

Sawyer-Miller-Masciarelli Funeral Home, 123 Main Street, Westminister, MA 01473 was entrusted with arrangements.



Eleanor B. (Cohen) Feldman, 90

WINCHENDON — Eleanor B. (Cohen) Feldman, age 90, died on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017 at the Jewish Nursing Home of Western Massachusetts in Longmeadow.

Her husband of many years, Samuel Feldman, died in 1983. She leaves two sons, Bernard Feldman and his life partner, Ginger Parkhurst of Fitzwilliam, and Ronald Feldman and his wife, Piamarie of Fitchburg; two daughters, Shelley Feldman and her life partner, Juan Lopez Jr. of Brookline, Marjorie Feldman-Wood, wife of James Wood of Granby, CT; nine grandchildren, Ella, Francesca, Samuel, Tiffany, CaSandra, Juan, Justina, Aubrey and Kiley. She was predeceased by her two brothers, Martin Caine and George Cohen and by her sister, Sylvia Rosenthal.

Her heart was filled with many others who came into her life: her daughter-in-law Pia Ballerin Feldman, her son-in-law Jim Wood, life partners of her children Ginger Parkhurst and Juan Lopez Jr. Her love also encompassed children of her heart, so close they seemed adopted, children and grandchildren alike Michele Feinstein, John Callahan, Kathy Crane, Tiffany and Cassandra Parkhurst, Kiley and Aubrey Wood, Juan Lopez III, and Justina Pina.

She was born in Worcester, the daughter of Myer and Rose (Glazin)

Cohen where she had a very happy childhood and met her beloved husband Sam, living 60 years in Winchendon, the town she learned to love and call home, before moving to Fitchburg, then Worcester and lastly to Longmeadow.

She was a bookkeeper for New England Wooden Ware of Gardner for 20 years and she also worked for her husband in a tax preparation company in Winchendon. She was contributing member of the Winchendon Women's Club and worked long hours alongside her husband in many of the businesses at 190 Central St.

So many people were people were lucky enough to call her their friend in both Worcester and Winchendon. We'll miss this beautiful and beloved Mother and Grandmother.

Graveside funeral services will be held 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19 in B'Nai Brith Cemetery on St. John's Road in Worcester.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter, 480 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA 02472 or to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, 222 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60606.

Richard Perlman of Miles Funeral Home of Holden is honored to be helping with arrangements.

Edward C. Trombly, 80

GARDNER — Edward C. Trombly, age 80, of 125 Connors St., died peacefully Friday morning, Feb. 17, 2017 in the Blaire House, Worcester, with his family at his side.

He was born in Gardner on Nov. 14, 1936, son of the late Ernest H. and Hazel B. (Blake) Trombly and lived in Winchendon for most of his life. In 2010, he moved to Gardner after living in Largo, FL for several years.

Ed had owned and operated his own garage in Florida for several years and later worked in the direct care staff at Templeton Developmental Center for eight years until his retirement. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1955-59. His hobbies were collecting watches and clocks and riding his motorcycle. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family.

He leaves his wife of 27 years, Alice

T. (Lafreniere) Dempsey Trombly; his children Cindy Hite and her husband Carlos, Michael Trombly and his wife Sara, Marie Randazo and her husband John, Karen Davis and her husband David and Lisa Brightman and her husband Sam, all of St Petersburg, FL; two stepsons, William Dempsey Jr. and his wife Susan of Shirley and Wade Dempsey and his partner Pam of Bradford; 19 grandchildren, six great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Hazel "Pat" Cloutier, a brother Ernest Trombly Jr., a stepdaughter Theresa Dempsey Howard and a grandchild.

Funeral services will be held Friday, February 24, 2017 at 10 a.m. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon. Burial, with military honors, will follow in Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to Tribute Program, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, PO Box 1000 Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908.



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

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

THANKS

continued from page A5

the advantages of Pre-K with Michel she was quick to point out, "There is a clear and noticeable difference in both social and learning ability, between children and students who took part in Pre-K versus those who did not. Those who took part not only do better in the classroom, but have clearly in many other ways such as socially and beyond, benefited from the program."

Asking about current target points for the district, Haddad emphasized, "We are entering the testing period for students. We make sure they have had breakfast first. There is always an assembly ahead of time, and we talk to the students about how important this test is, but to also help them relax and don't put the pressure on them so they freeze up, but for each to be able to think thoroughly."

In closing when asked to clarify the districts main goals for graduation Haddad said, "To do the best we can to make sure every one of our students show they can and have worked through a very systematic problem solving process. We don't care so much about the numbers as we care about when they graduate from High School, that they are able to go out



Middle School and six grade teacher Cheryl DuFault extends a helping hand to her grandson Colton while he is learning how to skate

and solve problems and be able to communicate, be able to do the things they need to be successful no matter if they go to college, go in to the work force, or even the military. We want them to graduate knowing they ready for life."



A young lady demonstrates she is losing the need for the walker while learning where her feet are on the ice

PLANNING

continued from page A1

the library on Sept. 21, 1913. Businessman Charles Beals provided \$25,000 to build the facility, which was named in honor of his wife, Harriet.

Vice Chairman Robert O'Keefe also took a moment to thank the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, which contributed a large portion of the cost of the project, "as well as, of course, the people of the town of Winchendon."

Just over three years ago, voters passed a Proposition 2-1/2 debt exclusion that provided \$300,000 for the project. At last November's fall town meeting voters approved

spending \$140,000 out of the town's stabilization fund to cover some higher-than-expected materials costs.

In all, the project is costing around \$1.4 million. It includes the construction of a new main entrance and installation of an elevator on the south side of the building, the addition of handicap accessible bathrooms, and a new grand staircase.

The board also approved the application of Kwik Buy Realty to undertake the nearly complete reconstruction of what is known locally as the RHI Building at 212 Central St.

(The realty company has no association with Kwik Stop Package Store, which lies behind the RHI Building, on Railroad Street.)

Built in the early 1900s, the

building has housed a pharmacy, a dry goods store, and a jewelry store. Rural Housing Improvement, a non-profit organization which works on such issues as affordable housing, preventing homelessness, and workforce development, occupied the building from 1979 until 2005, when it moved to Gardner. The group has since changed its name to RCAP Solutions.

Plans call for seven housing units, one on the first floor and six on the second floor, several of which will be set aside for affordable housing. There will be room for four commercial tenants on the first floor.

The town's Planning Dept. is hoping to secure a state grant to help cover the cost of overhaul of the building.

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SPORTS

Duly impressed: UConn women at 101 and counting

100. Well, actually more than 100 now. As I write, the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team has won 101 games in a row. 101. I don't care what league you're in, who you play (the Globetrotters aside), or what gender we're referencing. 100-plus wins in a row is absolutely stupefying. Period.

John Wooden's Bruins won 88 straight before losing on a Saturday afternoon at Notre Dame in the winter of 1974. UCLA had won seven straight national titles and nine of the last 10 going into that season, a campaign that nearly began with a loss which would have snapped the streak at 77. The Bruins escaped with a one-point home opening night win over a Maryland team that was just beginning to attain national prominence. That was on a Saturday night and the game started at 11:30 eastern time. A very different era. UCLA would lose



TALKING
SPORTS

JERRY
CARTON

once more that year, the national semi-final game to eventual champion NC State, but their mark of 88 consecutive wins remains the men's record four decades-plus later.

While it's obviously impossible to go unbeaten in MLB, the NBA or the NHL, it's not easy in football either. As we all know, the '72 Dolphins remain the only team to throw a perfect. Earlier than year, the Lakers reeled off 33 straight wins on their way to the NBA title but 33 and even 88 aren't triple digits.

The critics, of course, will tell you — ah, it's women's basketball and aside from Baylor or Maryland or Stanford or South Carolina, where are the competitors? Each of those schools are hoops powerhouses and they've all fallen short of the Lady Huskies multiple times. Who has UConn beaten? I remember 1977 and Seattle Slew's unbeaten Triple Crown season when the

same question was being asked and not in a friendly way. The answer in both cases is the same. Everyone who challenged them. What's even more impressive about UConn's streak is in college teams tend not to stay together for too long. This was reportedly going to have been a so-called rebuilding year. Not so much. We'll see if Geno's team can keep it going or whether, with even a loss or two, they win yet another national championship, which would be their fifth straight. Yes, the game is played below the rim unlike the men, and maybe that's why UConn makes it all look like poetic ballet. In any event, 101 straight wins? If you aren't impressed by that, you're not impressed by anything in sports.

Arguably just as impressive was the stunning fact that two weeks, Maryland and Northwestern completed a game in an hour and 51 minutes real time. Amazing. This seems to never happen. The NFL used to start games at 1 and 4 on Sunday afternoons. Now it's 1 and 4:25. College

football games have sometimes reached the 4-hour mark. Baseball is talking about ways to speed up the game too, given the era's need for speed rather than reflection. I like the idea of eliminating the intentional walk ritual of throwing four pitches. After all, how often does a ball go astray? Games could also be shortened with the jettisoning of the designated hitter, but the union will never buy into that. Too bad.

Finally this. Global Air Media is creating drone racing leagues and before you sneer, the Baltimore-based company is gearing the league towards kids, hoping to spur interest in science and technology. They're partnering with schools and planning workshops and while the league would be run like other youth organizations like AAU (actually, let's hope it's run better than AAU) and similar travel leagues, much of the focus will be on STEM education. Different twist for sure. Good luck to them.

Ready to take the world by storm: Murdock cheer squads

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Re-energized and revitalized, Murdock High School's very young varsity cheer team returned to competition this month, claiming one runner-up and a pair of third place finishes in one dizzying, whirlwind weekend.

Snow compressed the schedule and when it was all done, coach Becky Robillard was delighted.

"It was really very rewarding. I saw these girls come together as a team, support, motivate and love each other. There is an energy level at these competitions that is unlike anything I've ever seen," she enthused.

It was Friday when the team, performing competitively for the first time since Robillard took over a moribund program last fall and rebuilt it with significant help from middle school coach Lisa Paulitzky, who turned her best eighth graders over so the varsity squad could essentially start from scratch began the marathon weekend.

"The girls were nervous but confident," said Robillard, "at the beginning of a difficult and stressful weekend."

Apparently not too nervous, though as MHS placed second in their division in the competition

at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence.

A day later, Murdock was at Chicopee where a change in the stunt routine, practiced before the team hopped on the bus, resulted in improved scoring and a third place finish.

The trip to Regionals was on the line Sunday at Shepherd Hill high in Dudley but while that was asking a bit much for a newly reconstructed team, Robillard was upbeat.

"I'm very proud of what this team has accomplished this season. I've seen every girl improve her skills and become more confident. My captains, Ally Cobiski and Bekah Bergeron have shown incredible leadership skills," said Robillard.

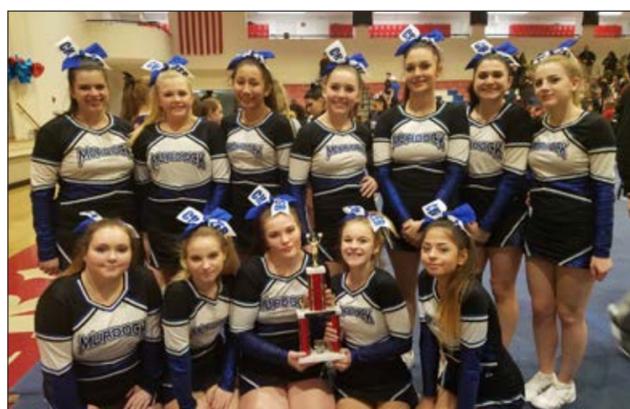
Bergeron offered her own take. "This season has definitely been crazy and chaotic but it's a season I will never forget. Varsity hasn't had a cheer team in a long time and this season we only had three high schoolers willing to cheer so we asked the eighth graders if they would like to join to help us make a team."

"We gave them a week or two to decide if they wanted to come up and nine 8th graders said they wanted to join." That meant a lot to Bergeron because she had to miss last year.

"Everything was crazy" as



Enjoying one another's company is part of the aura of cheerleading



Courtesy photos

The entire cheerleader team is ready for a new commitment

the younger athletes joined the few older ones, but "we went from not knowing some of our names to becoming so close," she reflected, adding, "the best comp was the last one" of the long weekend.

"We hit everything and the girls were all in sync. We didn't move on to regionals which was obviously devastating, but we did our best and I was so proud."

Cobiski looked at it this way. "Murdock hasn't really had a varsity cheerleading team that competed in a very long time so it was an amazing experience

to be able to make a team and compete. Becky decided to step up and coach this team which was amazing because without her we wouldn't be able to get the team back to its original standard. I could clearly see that each individual had improved greatly throughout the season. It was great to finally go to competitions with two teams (varsity and middle school) like the other schools and be able to cheer each other on like we are one big family," she said.

Down the road, Robillard

noted fund-raisers are planned this spring and summer with details to be forthcoming. At season's end, she mused, "the love, trust and support that these girls have for each other is wonderful. I have yet to see it in any other form."

Kenzi Drouin was given the team's Academic Award for having the highest gpa. Cobiski and Meghan Knight shared the athletic award.

In sum, "I can't wait to see what next season brings," exclaimed Robillard.

Devils cruise over rival Wildcats

BY CHRIS MARTIN
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Last Friday the Murdock Blue Devils traveled to neighboring Gardner to take on the Wildcats in the season finale. The Devils were looking to end the season with a victory and head into the Districts on a high note. Murdock did just that, cruising their way to a 77-54 victory over the rival team.

The game would be tied early in the first quarter 6-6, with under six minutes in the quarter, then the Devils would go on a 14-0 run to end that quarter and take a 20-6 lead at the end.

After that first quarter tie, the Blue Devils would control the game the rest of the way in every phase on both offense and defense.

To lead the way in scoring was Jared Nelson with 24 points, Nick Roy with 21, LJ Hicks had 18, Ryan Kaminsky had six, Spencer Pelkey and Ross O'Toole con-

tributed three apiece and John Murphy added a bucket.

Coach Matt O'Malley said, "It was a great win for us, a little bit of redemption for the early season beating they gave us. And always good to head into the playoffs with some positive momentum."

Heading into the Districts offensively, "Hopefully, we can play like we did tonight, I mean we shot the ball very well, drove it great, shared the ball; that's the way we want to play offense!"

"Everybody being a threat out there, so, hopefully we can keep this rolling," said O'Malley.

As of now, the Devils are unaware of the team they will face.

"The seedings come out the 25th, so we won't know until then who we've got. Some pretty solid teams out in western Massachusetts, so whoever we play, we have to bring our 'A' game," said the coach.



Courtesy photo

Ryan Kaminsky goes up for a hook.

Murphy makes a record

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Junior Molly Murphy scored what is believed to be a school-record 38 points last Friday as the Murdock Lady Devils closed out their 2016-17 season with a 50-41 loss at Bromfield.

Murphy capped the night with an 18-point fourth quarter for the very young Lady Devils, who had a single senior on the roster this winter. Jocelyn Garner (2) and eighth grader Kaleigh Lauziere (1) scored Murdock's other points. Murphy had 12 field goals, including several three-balls and converted nine free throws.

Things had gone better team wise the previous Friday when Murdock held North Brookfield to just 18 points, allowing just four in the first half in earning their third triumph of the campaign.

"We played good defense," said Coach

Jim Abare.

Murphy, by far the Lady Devils leading scorer all season, matched Brookfield's entire output by tallying 18 points of her own. Garner and Lauziere both scored four points while Kelly Murphy contributed two.

In between, the Lady Devils dropped a 44-22 decision at Gardner where they were held scoreless the first half (another, though dubious, school record) as the Lady Wildcats opened a 27-0 advantage at the break.

The second half was better and while the game was out of reach, Murdock outscored the home team, 22-17 over the

final 16 minutes.

"They were really aggressive in the first half and turned us over a lot. We weren't ready for the press but give our kids credit because they hung in there."

"We just didn't come out ready to play in the first half but we played better in the second. We ran into a hot team." observed Abare, who likely never saw a scoreless from his team's half during his two-decades plus coaching the Gardner girls. Molly Murphy had 15 of those 22 second half points while Garner had the other seven.

Murdock finished Abare's fourth season at 3-17.

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Indoor track raises the roof



Jeffrey Millman photos

The indoor track team was in a multi-school competition recently, and local photographer Jeff Millman managed to catch several athletes hard at work.



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GOLF

continued from page A1

people have thought we were a private restaurant for members so this might bring us new opportunities," he said.

Borden, who works for Sterling Golf Management and will remain as pro at the Shattuck course, told the Courier he believed the decision was sudden.

"We've been working on finding an operating plan that works for the last five years," said Head of School John Kerney. In the letter making the announcement, Kerney wrote,

"Sustaining the golf course has resulted in a cumulative operating loss of more than \$1 million in the last four years for the school, including \$200,000 in the 2016 season when Sterling operated the course. There is no sign of relief looking forward. Over the last decade, the cumulative losses from golf operations to the school is far greater than the \$1 million loss from the past four years. The Sterling team's assessment was that it could take another four years, more operating losses for the school and a significant capital investment to potentially execute a turnaround.

"In recent meetings of the School's Trustees, as we discussed this, there

was a clear sense of the loss in having no option but to close the course. However, there was an even greater sense of responsibility to the community."

Kerney said the school "provides more than 100 equivalent jobs in the town," adding, "continuing to drag along a loss-producing golf operation not only puts unneeded financial pressure on the school, it distracts us from delivering an exceptional education.

"A weakened Winchendon School would be bad for the whole town."

He said it's possible "we may work to preserve a handful of holes right around the campus for limited play,"

but acknowledged that would be a long-shot.

Sterling golf CEO Kevin Osgood said last Wednesday his organization had "just been informed" of the school's decision to close the course.

"After all our efforts and hard work to revitalize its operation and conditions of the course, we are extremely disappointed this Donald Ross course will no longer be in business."

Osgood added Winchendon golf members would be offered discounted membership at Jaffrey-based Shattuck.

"We'll also be offering refunds" to local members if they choose that option.

SCHOOL

continued from page A1

implemented, and newer regulations among other changes put in to place.

Addressing the District Agreement for the MRVTSD, the letter read by Haddad said, "The Agreement has only been amended four times since its original passing. These amendments did not involve policy changes as they dealt with the addition of seven towns in the structure of the district school committee. In order to account for the changes in time I would like your support for the creation of a committee composed of members outside the district school committee to review, update, and revise the district agreement."

The letter additionally said many of the policies in the old agreement were antiquated, not being followed, in conflict with, or in need of adoption of current Massachusetts state law, or in need of replacement of, since the document was originally created.

Haddad then skipped through the letter to read its

main proposal which Mayor Hawke summarized as proposing the district agreement be amended or redrafted to bring the MRVTSD Agreement up to date, suggesting a sub-committee be formed to work with an outside agency on the process allowing for a review of the document in an unbiased manner.

School Committee Chair Danielle LaPointe immediately responded, "My initial thought was absolutely I am on board with this. I would like us to write a letter and say yes, we are on board, and vote on it at our next meeting."

Vice Chair Janet Corbosiero responded, "I think it's a marvelous idea."

Member Lawrence Murphy added, "I think the idea of reviewing is an awesome idea, but to leave out school committee members or other educators who deal with the Monty Tech situation every day I think is a mistake. I think outside representation should be part of the committee, but to specifically rule out having school committee members or anyone from the school, I don't think it's a

great idea at all."

Murphy went on to say the issue will need stake holders such as parents, community members, along with school committee members and others.

After brief discussion, it was agreed to place the issue on the next agenda allowing all committee members a chance to read the letter and proposal in its entirety so opinions and ideas could be formed on how to properly move forward.

Parent Information Session: Haddad informed the committee, "We're inviting everyone to learn more about the changes made for MCAS Spring 2017 testing."

A reviewing of sample test questions will be offered in ELA and math in grades 3 through 8. The first session will be Tuesday, March 7 at 6 p.m. at the Toy Town auditorium, and then secondly again Tuesday, March 14 at 6 p.m. at the Murdock Auditorium. Parents and guardians of students in grades 3-8 are welcome to attend either of the two sessions. There is no registration required.

District Secretary Contract: A motion was made and

accepted to vote for the new secretary's contract with all voting unanimously. The contract was ratified and signed at the meeting.

Back Pack Program: Haddad informed committee members that nearly 60 students at Toy Town Elementary would receive a back pack on Friday, Feb. 17. Haddad informed committee members that Memorial School faculty members requested why the same was not being done at Memorial. Haddad explained it was simply a logistics issue, and working with the local Kiwanis Club, it was decided to expand the program to the Memorial School. Details are being worked out, with a program starter level of 20 to 30 students and the process is now under way.

Read Across America: As part of the celebration of the March 2nd birthday of the late Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel, who is more popularly known as Dr. Seuss, children at the Memorial Elementary School will be reading Dr. Seuss books all day taking part in the nationwide program known as Read Across America. Haddad added, "It's

always a fun day and the kids love it."

Murdock Trust: Haddad advised committee members that he had a previous meeting with the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation in December, and has now been able to agree to meet with the Murdock Trust in April to discuss what funds have been used for, and allocations in the future.

Audit Report: Business Manager Richard Ikonen informed the committee the audit had been completed. A draft of the management letter has been completed. Ikonen stated he previously served as a business consultant, and would be making changes to streamline and make things more efficient. Ikonen informed committee members they would not be encountering any issues such as oversights or surprises such as have occurred in the past with over dues bills or other items.

There will be a joint committee meeting with the Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee, and Audit Committee on Monday, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Winchendon Courier Classifieds

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JOB SEEKERS
Job Seekers Networking Group hosted by North Central Career Center and Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce. Meetings are open to all job seekers and are held on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Chamber conference room, 29 Parker

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE Premises: 10 Roy-alston Road South, Winchendon, Massachusetts By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Suzanne L. Rocheleau to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation and now held by CIT Bank N.A., said mortgage dated December 14, 2006, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 40372 at Page 105, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 25, 2009, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 44930 at Page 62, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 12, 2016, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 55240 at Page 133, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of fore-closing the same will be sold at Public Auction on March 10, 2017, at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in the westerly part of Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows, viz: BEGIN-NING at a stake and stones (iron pin) on the Easterly side of the road leading from Winchendon village to "New Boston", so-called, and thence Southerly on a line of said road 316.39

feet more or less to an iron pipe driven in the ground at other land of the grantors; thence Easterly in a straight line on said other land of the grantors 431 feet more or less to an iron pipe driven in the ground at land formerly of Marvin Stoddard; thence On line of Stoddard land North 3° West, 297 feet more or less to a corner marked by a stake and stones; thence North 77° West, twenty-five and one-half (25-1/2) rods to a stake and stones on the Easterly side of the road aforesaid, the point of beginning. Being designated as Lot No. 1 as shown on a plan entitled, "Land of Bessie Emery and Henry Connors in the Town of Winchendon, Mass., drawn by N. T. Robichaud, Scale: 40" = 1', dated August 1, 1967, not recorded. Excepting that portion thereof conveyed to Kenneth W. Pelto et ux by deed dated October 22, 1990 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 13064, Page 393. The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 18, 1987, and recorded in Book 10317 at Page 245 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, as affected by Deed recorded in Book 13064, Page 393 in said Registry. TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens,

encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described. TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale. Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 275 West Natick Road, Suite 500 Warwick, RI 02886 Attorney for CIT Bank N.A. Present Holder of the Mortgage Telephone: (401) 234-9200 MLG File No.: 16-01040 A-4608913 02/17/2017, 02/24/2017, 03/03/2017 February 17, 2017 February 24, 2017 March 3, 2017

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO17P0377EA
Estate of:
ALBERT S. BOZZA
Also Known As:
SETTIMIO A. BOZZA
Date Of Death: December 17, 2016
INFORMAL PROBATE

PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner DONALD A. BOZZA of BILLERICA MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate DONALD A. BOZZA of BILLERICA MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. February 24, 2017



When Disaster Strikes: Helping Kids In The Aftermath

BY JAMIE SELIGMAN,
LMSW-C, BCD
PROGRAM PROJECT OFFICER
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION

(NAPS)

Hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, mass violence, or acts of terrorism—disasters can happen at any time, but you can help your kids deal with them. While adults focus on preparing for potential threats or trying to restore safety and resume a normal life in the aftermath, kids often try to make sense of what may seem utterly senseless. The trauma of a disaster or other type of emergency can bring up different feelings and emotions; it can also be a teachable moment for children and their families to come together to talk and support each other.

For adults, it's important to recognize the effect that traumatic events can have on mood, stress level, job attendance and performance, and routine. The disruption caused by natural and man-made disasters is common and often difficult to manage. Adults may try to cope with alcohol, by isolating themselves or by exhibiting outbursts of anger, which may be uncharacteristic. Because children often model adult behavior, self-care is especially important. Finding healthful ways to get through difficult, stressful experiences can set the stage for healthy dialogue and support for the whole family.

There are some key tips for parents, teachers and other adults on how to approach the conversation:

- **Talk.** It can be difficult to talk about what's happening but kids need to share what they're feeling, thinking, seeing and hearing. Children need to know there are no bad emotions and that it's normal to have a range of reactions. They may also bring up fears or concerns that are unrelated to the crisis. Staying connected with open communication will provide opportunity for deeper understanding and can help identify a need for extra reassurance and support.

- **Be honest.** While children look to adults for answers, during times of

crisis it can be difficult to know what's happening and when. It's important to be honest and open, while being reassuring and speaking at a level that the child can understand.

- **Balance with the positive.** While focusing on the loss, grief and distress experienced in times of crisis is normal in the aftermath, it will be beneficial to help children also identify and see the good that is happening around them. Emergency responders, volunteers and others in the community who mobilize are great examples of resilience and strength and can provide a sense of hope and healing.

- **Return to routine.** Getting back to a schedule, in which kids can engage with friends, teachers and other mentors, can be very helpful. People they interact with on a daily basis are a support network, so maintaining those connections and daily activities can keep children feeling connected and safe in familiar surroundings.

- **Limit media exposure.** It's normal to want lots of information during and after a disaster. Staying tuned in to the latest news can help to bring back a sense of control and awareness but it can also be a little overwhelming. For parents, it's especially important to limit exposure and to be present when kids are watching, listening or reading about an event. News coverage can often bring about new questions for children, so being there to discuss what's happening will be important.

- **Reinforce peace and tolerance.** Things can be chaotic during and after a crisis. While the news media or people interviewed may highlight or blame a particular ethnic or cultural group's actions, it is important to keep a peaceful and inclusive perspective with kids. Be sensitive to cultural, ethnic, religious or other experiences, as they can also influence how people respond differently in times of crisis.

- **Make a crisis plan.** Times of disaster or emergency can highlight what people might do differently or better to



stay connected, respond together and to feel prepared for the future. Developing a crisis plan for your family gives everyone something to do and participate in and will help you all feel on the same page about each person's role and responsibility. Kids should also be encouraged to discuss their safety concerns, including those they may have for extended family, friends and family pets.

Because each stage of a child's development offers new opportunities to learn and process stressful events, it's important to know what's manageable for a child at a specific age. To help, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

(SAMHSA) offers age-specific information on how kids respond to trauma and tips on how to talk about what's happening during a crisis. "Tips for Talking With and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event: A Guide for Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers" is at <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tips-for-Talking-With-and-Helping-Children-and-Youth-Cope-After-a-Disaster-or-Traumatic-Event-A-Guide-for-Parents-Caregivers-and-Teachers/SMA12-4732>.

Kids are resilient but some may need a little extra support to navigate through a difficult disaster or crisis. If kids are

struggling to sleep, aren't connecting with friends, having a difficult time talking about what they're feeling or have a sudden shift with their grades at school, the trauma of what's happened may require more attention. Seeking assistance from a counselor or mental health professional may be helpful.

"Crises can take a heavy toll on people and communities, including on their emotional health and well-being," explained Kana Enomoto, SAMHSA's acting administrator. "Although most people bounce back, others may need extra assistance to cope and recover." This is true for children, just as it is for

adults.

To learn more about some of the warning signs of emotional distress, visit www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/warning-signs-risk-factors. To help you find a nearby mental health provider, SAMHSA has a Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator at <https://find-treatment.samhsa.gov>.

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After a disaster or crisis, kids need to share what they are feeling, thinking, seeing and hearing. Staying connected with open communication will provide an opportunity for deeper understanding and healing.

FAMILY

continued from page A1

when you look at the big picture you inevitably wonder how anyone deals with all that and a problem roof besides. Oh yes, don't forget the ongoing bureaucratic battles with the insurance company.

"Day by day. Hour by hour. Minute by minute if we have to," says mom Amy Simmers-Swanson matter-of-factly.

"What else can you do?" she asked rhetorically.

A lot of people have for years seen Amy and Chris and their brood everywhere around town as Amy coached softball for a dozen years and the family kept up with walks, so it was perhaps no surprise a gofundme page was created a little more than a week ago.

"We really didn't want to ask for help," Amy said, despite years of helping others.

Added Chris, "we've always believed it's better to give than receive and we felt like if we took something, we'd be taking from people who needed help more than us."

Nonetheless, the page picked up \$575 in less than two weeks.

"It shows how much people care," he said.

The Clark Memorial YMCA has given the family six months of free membership since Courtney needs aquatic therapy.

"So thoughtful of them," said Amy.

The roof, too, is an issue.

"We have someone who can fix it, but we need materials," Chris noted without stating the obvious that covering a roof with a tarp is an awfully tough way to live.

Given all this, it's no wonder that "some days are really hard," Amy acknowledged, pointing out that with a bunch of kids in the house, you can't

ignore their needs either.

"If someone's having a meltdown, you can't wait 'til tomorrow to deal with it," she noted, adding she keeps a meticulous date book for each kid.

Amy said school officials at Monty Tech were very cooperative after the accident. Courtney, a senior, spent a month in the hospital and had the option of taking a medical academically but insisted on getting her work done and caught up within a week, missing her customary honors or high honors by one point.

"I thought we should have taken the medical at that point," Amy remarked, "but she said, 'no, mom, this is what I earned' and by the time the second quarter ended, Courtney was back in the academic stratosphere."

"She's a trooper," marveled her mother, who added Courtney is now able to push herself out of the chair into the van.

"That made my almost cry. I can't express how amazing she's been through all this," Amy reflected.

Little wins. Another little win? Monty Tech softball coach Dave Reid is keeping Courtney on the roster and she's continuing as a captain. Yes, little wins.

Amy's aunt Donna Williams is equally awed by the whole family.

"They're taking this so much in stride," she said, shaking her head.

Chris said he looks at the repeated body blows this way.

"Anytime I can get out of bed and do what I can, that's a good start to any day."

In sum?
"You get up," stressed Amy. "You say, 'let's go. Let's do this' and we do. Every day."

For those who want to contribute, click on gofundme, type in Simmers-Swanson and the page should pop up.

"We're so grateful," Chris remarked.

BEAMAN

continued from page A1

in the first place.

"We were really close while I was growing up. More like best friends. She gave me my love of fishing and nature. Nature's so beautiful. And fishing is so much fun. I've always been into photography so it feels like all that has come together. I loved putting all this together for Bob. He's family to us. He really is. He has such a passion for fishing, for this business.

Doing something to help grow the business was something really important to me. We want to keep this alive.

"I was really close with my uncle Ronnie," who passed in the summer of 2013. "He loved the shop too, it wouldn't be here without him, so maybe it was inevitable I'd wind up here," she reflected.

"Take A Kid Fishing" is Beaman's unofficial motto and it was that which Underwood had in mind as she developed the website.

"Fishing is something par-

ents and grandparents seem to pass down through the generations," she said. "It's something that families can do together."

"That's something that very much matters to us," interjected Turner, adding, "when you see a kid come in and see the smile on their face, and you help even a little getting them hooked on fishing, that's such a great feeling. We really appreciate our customers. We love hearing their fishing stories. The kids do too, I think."

How many of those youngsters and their parents

have come in because of Underwood's social media work?

"We've got 75 friends on Facebook in just a week and 30 followers and it increases every day," Saraya noted on Monday, and, "business has picked up," since the pages went up last week, added her mother, noting, "who knows, maybe it's the kids" who are seeing the pages.

Just because the pages are up and running doesn't mean they'll stay static, either.

"I'll make changes when

they need them. You don't want them to get stale," said Underwood.

"I'm here until they don't want me anymore," she remarked.

"After all," she added, referencing her efforts to promote the shop which means so much to she and her family, "we want to do everything we can to keep it afloat."

Beaman's is located at 196 Glenallan St. They can be found on Facebook or reached at (978) 297-2495.

SHUTTLE

continued from page A1

asked to check their email at least once a shift. People come to expect this service if bad weather is coming."

Torres said the shuttle is largely weather-dependent, meaning if the forecast is in the single digits, service will

adjust accordingly.

Heywood purchased the other shuttle, which seats eight passengers, from a used car dealer about seven years ago. Tips are not encouraged on either vehicle.

"It has butterfly doors," Grimmer said. "It's like a mini bus. The new shuttle has a great heating system and

stereo."

Valet parking is also available, where security officers also drop off passengers at the front door. Both services will travel to the overflow parking lot in Lot B at Mount Wachusett Community College, which is across the street, or along Green Street, which is the main street on which the hospital is located.

The new shuttle will be available next winter as well. Grimmer expressed his appreciation and thanked Mathieu for the generous donation.

"We're very proud," Grimmer said. "It's a beautiful vehicle. We are going to survey to use it on special occasions. We are very grateful. It is a great example of community service."



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