

TM warrants presented to BOS

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon selectmen Monday night got their first look at the final version of the warrants for a special town meeting and the annual town meeting, both scheduled for May 21 at the Murdock High School auditorium. The warrant closed Monday morning. The board will vote on its recommendations for passage or rejection of each article on both warrants at its next meeting

April 23. The warrant for the special town meeting contains three major articles, two of which call for spending money from the town's free cash account. Both expenditures have been recommended by the town's Capital Planning Committee. Article 2 calls for spending \$80,000 for the removal of the abandoned water tank on High Street, which was built in 1906 and is in a deteriorating condition. Town Manager Keith

Hickey explained that, once the tower is razed, the town would like to swap the property on which it sits for a nearby parcel currently owned by Heywood Hospital. In obtaining the Heywood property, the town would also take ownership of a broadcast tower from Comcast and convert it to use by the town's public safety departments as a radio communications relay. Public Works Superintendent Al Gallant said the water tower

is currently about two-thirds full. Water has been kept in it, in part, to keep it from collapsing in on itself. Hickey said the structure presents a risk to public safety. A second article would use \$70,000 in free cash for a lead abatement program in all three Winchendon school buildings. Tests conducted by the state last detected higher than recommended levels of lead in some water bubblers and sinks at all three schools. A number of

drinking fountains have signs covering them and announcing the drinking water is off limits. "The school superintendent and myself, along with Capital Planning, felt this was a priority," said Hickey, "so we're seeking free cash...to address the issue." The final article for the special town meeting asks voters to rescind a 2017 vote that approved spending \$50,000 to reconstruct the sidewalks on Grove Street, Turn To **BOS** page **A7**



Photos by Keith Kent

Former WCAC Director Colleen Laperriere turns over her keys to the director's vehicle at the police department to Sgt. Gagne as mandated by the CAC BOD and chairman William Stewart

WCAC era ends as Laperriere and volunteers leave

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Only notified by an email dated Friday, April 6, and sent at 10:17 a.m., Colleen Laperriere was notified by the WCAC Board of Directors that by a unanimous vote, the board voted to place her on paid administrated leave, effective immediately pending a future mutually agreed separation.

The letter in part said the BOD was requesting the return of the director's vehicle, security pass codes, software pass codes, keys, lock combinations, and-or property of the WCAC in her possession by 5:00 p.m. the same day of the notice.

Laperriere, who stopped in at her office not knowing of the notice on her way to a funeral for her aunt, had let her daughter borrow the family vehicle, thus effectively stranding her at the CAC with no way either home or to the funeral, according to

Laperriere. Additionally, the email stated, "You and any other current or previous volunteers, that you have previously provided keys and/or access codes to, are prohibited from the property and forbidden to enter the building without at least two WCAC BOD members present."

This notice not only effectively terminated five of the current six WCAC volunteers who recently spoke out in the press, threatening to leave against their alleged theft of food and using WCAC vehicles for personal use calling it unfounded and not true. It was discovered by the now former director the loss of those five former volunteers' files, who were also clients. Additionally, the now former director said to her surprise all three food pantry doors were padlocked shut.

The email letter was signed, Bill Stewart, President, WCAC.

Laperriere, who immediately requested the attendance of the press upon opening the email, said, "This is retaliation for how I have been standing up and taking a stand against the many wrongdoings which have been going on at the CAC by the Board of Directors."

"This agency receives \$18,000 annually from the town of Winchendon, along with both federal and state funds, and not only have they denied the press the right to attend meetings, but even shut me out from meetings as the director, only allowing me to attend the parts of the meetings that they say involved me, and then making me leave per order of the BOD. I get no copy of any meeting dates, or agendas, I get no minutes of the meetings to even review if what they have me down as saying is correct, and when I told the BOD that

Turn To **WCAC** page **A9**

An icon at Murdock: it's Mooch

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

His real name, for the many who have no idea, is David Elliot, but of course he goes by "Mooch", and that's that for Murdock High School's bearded morning custodian.

By any name, Elliot/Mooch is unfazed by whatever mother nature decides to throw at this New England community.

"I've seen it all" in the course of 19 years, observed Elliot. "I'm ready for anything."

Elliot's on the grounds at 6 a.m., and if it's the morning after a snowstorm, what he sets out to do depends on the severity of the storm and he has to be there whether school is open or not and sometimes earlier than 6:00.

"I'm usually the first one here. Usually. Ralph (principal Olsen) gets here pretty early too and sometimes some teachers do too. But if there's snow, we've got to get it moved and the walks and parking lots ready."

"We get the main walk cleared first and use salt on that and we sand the parking lot," he explained.

"The night crew can be a big help depending on the timing of the storm, too," he noted.

Most winters, between one and two tons of salt are enough, though inevitably that varies depending on the intensity of the winter and the amount of snow the region gets. On snowy days when school is open, a lot of snow/salt/sand gets tracked into the building on both the high school and middle school sides.

"You can't keep it out," he nodded and that requires inside as well as outside work. It helps, too, that Elliot and his



David "Mooch" Elliot

Turn To **MOOCH** page **A5**

She's shooting for the stars

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

It almost feels like Winchendon School junior Alexi Malecki comes from a different era - a time when space was all the rage and so many kids wanted to grow up and be John Glenn.

Malecki, you see, does in fact want to be an astronaut. Trips to NASA's headquarters at the Johnson Space Center in Houston and to the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, FL cemented that even though her parents, who had seen her as a future lawyer, assumed the whole astronaut thing was "just a phase," and now Malecki is gearing her academic life towards her goal.

"I've always loved space," she recalled. "The second I walked into the Kennedy Space Center I was enamored. I had already learned about the Mercury 7 astronauts and thought it was so cool what did, so when I was in Florida, I knew that's what I wanted to do too. It was life-changing. It was like a fantasyland. I was like, 'oh, my God. I'd found my passion,'" she enthused.

That enthusiasm has been on display in the classroom, too.

"My freshman year, my science teacher, Mr. Harrington would have us do projects on Fridays. Some kids would do their three to five minute presentations and I'd get up there, and I'd done lots of research for them, and take the rest of the period," she laughed. "He (Harrington) was really sup-



Alexi Malecki

portive" of Malecki's ambition, which will include becoming an astro-physicist as what she hopes will be a way station on her way to, well, space.

Earlier this year Malecki was out in Prescott, AZ doing an internship at Embry-Riddle, funded by a NASA Space Grant and came away even more committed.

"I loved the research," she said.

Malecki said NASA has historically tended, though not exclusively for prospective candidates with military backgrounds, pointing out the original astronauts were primarily test pilots.

"I'm definitely going to get my pilot's license and I'm planning on doing ROTC too," she

Turn To **ALEXI** page **A9**

Town awaits word on Green Communities grant

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The town of Winchendon continues to wait for word on a state Green Communities grant it applied for earlier this year. Planning and Development Director had anticipated a decision from the state Department of Energy Resources by now. The DER oversees the Green Communities program.

The town is seeking \$250,000 to undertake a number of projects in the school department and at Beals Memorial Library which would result in an esti-

mated annual savings in energy costs of more than \$52,000. The quarter-million-dollar request is the maximum the town can seek.

The savings are based on projections that weatherization projects at Murdock and Beals would allow the town to use about 5,200 fewer gallons of heating oil each year. It is also estimated the two weatherization programs, coupled with a changeover to LED lighting at all Winchendon schools and a BAS expansion at Murdock, would decrease the town's

consumption of electricity by 198,000 kilowatts annually.

The town was accepted into the state program last year and received a grant of more than \$176,000 to undertake energy saving projects at Beals, Murdock, town hall, and the fire station. However, after receiving its first grant upon acceptance as a Green Community, Winchendon must now compete with other cities and towns for funding. Projects deemed most worthy

Turn To **GREEN** page **A6**



LOCAL

PAGE 5



SPORTS

PAGE 8



WEEKLY QUOTE

Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward.

Victor Kiam



Parents create new group to continue Summit

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

A dozen parents of students met to discuss a current petition regarding the use of the Summit Personalized Learning Platform, the legality of the signing of its contract, time requirement concerns, and other concerns at the Beals Memorial Library.

A four page petition addresses an alleged violation of Massachusetts Department of Education Laws & Regulations, 603 CMR Section 23.07 - Access to Student Records, Paragraph (4) - Access of third parties: "No third party shall have access to information in or from a student record without the specific, informed written consent of the eligible student or the parent."

The petition also addresses a recommendation from the National Academy of Pediatrics regarding children 12 years of age and older only have two hours or less of screen time

daily. It continues that the Summit framework was initially designed for California public schools which does not align with Massachusetts frameworks, if a student needs to stay late, the WPS district does not provide a late bus for transportation, topics and materials contained in the platforms objectives and activities which students use to prepare for assessments do not always align with assessment questions claim petitioners.

The petition, which according to the group now has over 100 signatures ends with, "We, the undersigned, therefore respectfully request that Winchendon Public Schools suspend their use of the Summit Learning Platform immediately until such time as a more detailed assessment of the appropriateness and the effectiveness of its content, the legality of Summit's tracking of student data, and the effort and resources needed to

correctly implement the platform, can be completed. This exercise must be transparent including input from teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community members."

Opening the meeting of parents of students, Wendell Spivey advised the group that after a request he had obtained a copy of a 14 page participation agreement between the school district and the Summit Learning Program.

Spivey began saying, "Opening it and going through the agreement it started opening my eyes. The schools have to be vetted and have to fill out paperwork prior to enrolling in Summit. This contract was signed by the Summit chief legal officer on March 29, 2017. The School signed it April 29, 2017. This means from the time Summit signed the contract to the time the school district signed the contract was 4 weeks, and during that time there was no parent noti-

fication. The contract has a start date, and does not list end and end date."

It was then Spivey alleged the way the district is getting around the parental consent form is in Section 6, State of Privacy, Part C, which in part read "The partner school and Summit agree that Summit is a school official as that term is used in FERPA (Family Education Rights & Privacy Act) and its implementation and regulations. The partner school shall not take any action or fail to take any action which could cause Summit or any 3rd party to violate any of the laws, rules, or regulations, governing the privacy and security of the partner school confidential including but without limitation to FERPA."

Spivey then referred to Mass Laws under section 23.02 which as explained by WPS student parent and Narragansett Middle School teacher Chad Dufour who said, "What this generally means is that by state law the people who are entitled to this information are the school district, or people who have a contract with the school committee serving the district and serving the students."

Spivey clarified, "It's my point being that Middle School Principal Jessica Vezina did not have the legal authority to enter in to a contract by signing it with Summit. I looked back through the school committee meeting minutes for all of 2017, and the first time Summit was mentioned was September 7, 2017 meeting. Looking

back, she had 5 months to get ready for that meeting to answer our questions."

Renee' Eldridge followed with, "So the training took place the summer of 2017, and still nobody knew. Eldridge went on to say, "We want our children to have a better education and we don't want to stop that, we just to make sure Summit has been researched and implemented properly."

Spivey added, "I am no lawyer. I did contact an individual who wrote 2 articles in the Washington Post, 2 regarding student privacy. I sent her the contract and asked her about Mass state law regarding the signature. She recommended contacting a lawyer, contacting the ACLU, and contacting the Mass Department of Education. I have done 2 of the 3, by sending a letter to the ACLU, and the Mass Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. I have not heard back from either of them as of yet as it was only a week ago."

Student parent Steve Sroczyński, who early on in the meeting clarified that he was not yet taking a stand either way on the issue as he was attending to better learn and understand both sides of the discussion, said, "I am trying to understand. To what point on this particular end are you trying to push this?"

Replying first Dufour said, "We want them to get parent permission for all this data first, period. If you look at what is happening in the news right now with Mark Zuckerberg and the whole privacy thing with Facebook it raises questions, as it was heavily designed by Facebook engineers."

"Look at how many of Zuckerberg's people were involved on creating this Summit Learning Platform. How secure is it really, and are they not really marketing this stuff and information out? Based on the fact

that Facebook engineers designed much of this platform, and that they are so busy pushing out their agenda to public schools, it just seems to me that there are possible back doors for farming information and there is possibly another agenda behind it," added Dufour.

Spivey added, "Mr. Zuckerberg contributes a lot of money to Summit, and over time there was a transition where his employees who were assisting with Summit, transferred and now work directly and exclusively for Summit."

The group was asked to clarify if a strong concern with the program was the fact that employees, who now work for Summit and designed it, previously working with Facebook which now faces strong allegations of data mining and information farming, could be selling student information they are not legally entitled to? The group responded, "Yes."

Spivey read a detailed list of information gathered by the Summit platform as described ranging from student data, data that identifies specific users, names, addresses, student ID numbers, phone numbers, gender, DOBs, email addresses, race, disabilities, schools, GPAs, grade level promotion, school assessment, school discipline history, communications with other students, notes and feed backs about other students, employment, and more.

"It's all in the contract. All that data can be gathered by this platform," said Spivey.

Fellow parent Kimberly Gahagan said, "I think it's pretty naive to even begin to think that they are not farming out this information. They are rolling out all this for free, while investing lots of Zuckerberg's money. Does he really care about our kid's information, or is he just in it for the money to use

Turn To **SUMMIT** page **A9**

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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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COURIER CAPSULES

NEW PARENTS GROUP

Families for Empowering Education, a group of Winchendon families who have concerns regarding the recent changes at Murdock Middle School, will be meeting Thursday, April 26 at the Beals Memorial Library in the upstairs hall. Any families who have concerns regarding these changes are welcome to attend. For more information visit our Facebook page: suspend-summit. You may also contact us at familiesforempoweringeducation@gmail.com. We look forward to address-

ing and getting answers to everyone's questions.

Preschool Screening packets have been mailed.

For Winchendon public schools, child must be age 3 or 4 by Aug. 31, 2018. Screening looks at a child's development in the areas of language, fine and gross motor skills, cognition, and social emotional skills. Screening Dates: May 9 & 16. If you have any questions or did not receive a packet please call the Winchendon Pre-K Program office at 978-297-3436.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

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CLYDE’S CORNER

Friday, April 20

DINNER & A SHOW: Eugene M Connor Post Auxiliary Unit 193 offers a dinner and a show, with a spaghetti dinner at 6 p.m. and Comedy for a Cause featuring local comedian Jerry Caruso & Friends at 8 p.m. Dinner and show \$20; show only \$15. Tickets for the show will be available at the door. Proceeds to go toward the Charland Children Education Fund.

Saturday, April 21

BLUESATITSBEST: the Winchendon Lions present the Souled Out Show Band at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 8 p.m. \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. 50/50 raffle and 30 minute live auction. To benefit local activities of the Lions.

Saturday, May 19

OWC: Operation Winchendon Cares - Remembering Our Current Military - to be held on Saturday, May 19, at the American Legion Post 193 on School Street, Winchendon from 9-11 a.m. For updates please visit our Facebook page or our website www.winchendoncares.com.

Sunday, May 20

CHEESE CHASE: Smith’s Country Cheese is sponsoring a 5K charity run-walk to benefit the Winchendon police and fire departments. \$20 entry fee now,

price increases after April 1. Route will begin and end at picturesque Otter River Road location; visit runsignup.com.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

WINCHENDON NA MEETING: Hosted by UUCW and led by Winchendon residents, in collaboration with the Central Massachusetts area/New England Region of Narcotics Anonymous. This is an open meeting with general discussion and support, for anyone who is in recovery or wants

to be. Please pass on this information to anyone you know who might be interested in, or benefit from, a meeting. We’re working hard to get the word out! At the UU Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St, downstairs in the parish hall. Begins at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

KIWANIS: the Kiwanis of Winchendon meet every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Carriage House

Restaurant. Come be part of the service club that concentrates on helping local children with the Backpack Program at the public elementary schools, the Recycle-A-Bike program, Breakfast with Santa and yes, the Family Fun Day with the Massachusetts state level chili cook off every summer. We need your help. Stop in any Wednesday, we’d love to meet you!

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.

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’20 candidates already making the scene in New Hampshire

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Lindy’s Diner in Keene NH has for years been a traditional stop for presidential candidates who make their way every four years in advance of New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation primary, the next of which is slated for February, 2020.

That seems like it’s a ways off , after all, the midterm election is still seven months away, but all the volatility we’re seeing these days has accelerated the timetable of visits to the Granite State and for one prospective candidate, it will be a short journey.

Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton certainly hasn’t announced he’s running for President, but he hasn’t said he’s not, either and so Moulton will be making at least one trip and maybe more over the next month or so, though it’s unclear whether Lindy’s is on his agenda. That’s true also of other candidates who are making earlier-than-usual visits. Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan will soon be making the trek, as will a number of Democratic Senators including Kirsten Gillebrand (New York), Chris Murphy (Connecticut) and Jon Tester (Montana).

Maryland Congressman John Delaney, who is an announced candidate, has a visit planned as well, but his office wasn’t sure whether Keene or Rindge would be part of the itinerary.

Former Missouri Senate candidate Jason Kandler will headline the state party’s major spring fund-raiser later this month.

The flurry of activity might

even prompt Franklin Pierce University to rev up its polling operation earlier than ever. Last cycle, FPU’s numbers not only had Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump steadily ahead prior to the primary, the final FPU poll was close to the actual results. FPU also hosted eight candidates during the 2016 primary campaign, though the future President Trump was not among them. One who was, Ohio Governor John Kasich is also scheduled to make a return to New Hampshire this year, as he mulls whether to challenge Trump two years from now.

NH Democratic party chairman Ray Buckley is enthused by the energy, but he’s not happy that the Democratic National Committee hasn’t followed through on its supposed promise to deliver a portion of \$10 million to state parties.

“What our fear is, no matter how high the wave this year, we’re afraid we won’t have the ability to take advantage of that,” he lamented.

But when it comes to the next presidential go-round, Buckley is bullish.

“Strong crop,” he said of the first Democratic campaign in more than a quarter-century where a Clinton will not be center-stage or close to it.

Meanwhile at Lindy’s they wait. Every President since Jimmy Carter in 1976 has made their way to Keene, so it’s likely the next one will too. The question that remains is, who and when. Stay tuned.

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WINCHENDON COURIER

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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Another look at a freedom

We are fast approaching a unique process in Americana. Open town meetings are rapidly becoming an anachronism. It is more and more difficult for towns to encourage enough people to take time to actually show up and be part of the political process.

Norman Rockwell, famous for his Saturday Evening Post covers and slices of life; using his own neighbors as models to create his realistic paintings of what now seem idealistic ways to be; is famous for one of those called Freedom of Speech.

It was part of a series of four, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear were the other three. They were used as part of a campaign to encourage the purchase of bonds to help pay for World War II.

Freedom of Speech shows a middle aged man standing before his fellow townsmen (there is one woman, but she is nearly hidden by all those men); speaking his piece. He is surrounded by rapt listeners. Whether they are agreeing or not is hard to tell, but they are listening.

In a day when actually listening to someone else without shouting them down if you don't agree with them, this is refreshing.

The ideal of free speech, which many often forget, is that everyone has the right to do it, and you don't have to agree with what you hear. You have the right to what you wish to believe, but they have the right to what they wish to say.

The political correctness people have it wrong.

It isn't that our delicate ears can't deal with the possibility of hearing something that strains our egos or casts aspersions on our beliefs; it's how we respond.

No, we don't want people running around screaming horrible "nicknames" for other people, we would hope good manners would enter in there somewhere. But how people respond to such language is much, much more important than if someone says it.

Which is why the removal of any monuments or statues or plaques or com-



Norman Rockwell
"Freedom of Speech"
©1943

memorative information worries us.

Because where does it end? See, we understand that the interpretation of a statue can be in the intent of the person who placed it there, or in the resulting impact it has on those who view it many, many years later.

Was the statue placed because the people wanted to commemorate a person whose values they also valued? Most likely; and they also wanted others to remember that person for those things, and perhaps others were not as enamored of them. But it was most likely the person with the money to pay for the statue that got it erected; and over the years, different values may have been attributed to both the original guy AND his statue.

It happens.

Flags represent many things; statues represent many things. Are we going to, as an old saying points out, cut off our nose to spite our face? Will we give in to the haters who point out in spite that even our founding fathers owned slaves? Yes, they did. It was common practice, in many countries. Including Great Britain until laws were passed abolishing it.

Vikings held slaves so we can count Norway and Sweden in there too.

Even some Native Indians had a bound servant system for their captured enemies.

Are we going to tear down buildings built with slave labor? Harvard University buildings? The White House? The Capitol building?

Societal systems change. We can understand we were wrong. We can apologize and make amends but we can't "undo." It happened.

We can only hope that somehow, the rant to tear down statues, abolish the flying of flags and otherwise destroy artifacts of what happened whether we like it or not will stop, as people realize the reminders won't erase the history.

And it shouldn't. Because we shouldn't forget the history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Firefighters: annual event

To the Editor:

The Winchendon Firefighter's Relief Association is currently preparing for its fourth annual Golf Tournament fundraiser. The event will be held on Saturday, May 19 at Templewood Golf Course. We are actively seeking sponsors, golfers, and donations. With funds raised from past tournaments, the Relief Association has been able to support worthy causes in town throughout the year including:

Scholarships to graduating Murdock High School seniors,

Fire Prevention educational materials & training for all Memorial School students,

Wearable Halloween lights for trick-o-treaters,

Clark YMCA sports program sponsorships, and

Support of the annual Christmas gift drive.

There are two levels of sponsorship: Gold \$100 and Platinum \$500 (includes golf foursome). Any donation amount is gladly accepted, and gifts of product or service will be used for raffle baskets.

Currently, sponsors and donors

include: Hole-In-One Tournament Sponsor: Mathieu Ford; Platinum Sponsors: Eastern Propane Gas and Athol Savings Bank; Gold Sponsors: Belletete's, Brooks Automotive, Chair City Oil, Cornerstone Church of the Assemblies of God, EZ Automotive Services, Horse & Buggy Feeds, Meineke of Gardner, Salvadore Auto Group, South Side Grille, and Valorie Miller; and Donors: Gardner Ale House, Lowe's Home Improvement of Leominster, and The Baldwinville Pizza Barn Restaurant. To play, the cost is \$100 per person.

The Winchendon Firefighter's Relief Association would like to express gratitude to all businesses and residents who join us in our effort to make a positive difference in the community we serve. For more information on becoming a sponsor, gift donor, or tournament player, please contact me at wfdrelief@gmail.com, or visit the station at 405 Central Street. Your support is critical our success!

ANDREW HARDING
PRESIDENT

Haddad: thanks for support

To the Editor:

The Toy Town Elementary School Drama Program would like to thank a wonderful group of family, friends and supporters for their recent support of our program. Our presentation of *101 Dalmatians* was a huge and fun event.

The success of our Drama program is because of the generosity and assistance from The Murdock Friends of Music, The Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, To Each His Own Design, MHS Student Council and Honor Society students, Principal Mary Aker and Superintendent Steve Haddad. Also our thanks to Ms. Kristi Iannacone, Drama Director; Maureen Provost, Artistic Director; Student assistants: Kaileen Dibble, Arie Dibble, Alex Marshall, Morgan Eldredge, Domenic Iannacone; Staff Volunteers: Cindy Darcy, Chris

Cormier, Sam Vendt, Elaine Jandris, Suzanne Michel, Danelle Mallard, and Carolyn Hendricks.

Very special thanks to the parents that generously provided food for our concession stand.

We are also grateful to our TTE custodial staff and secretaries. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated.

If anyone was inadvertently forgotten, I apologize and I do appreciate everyone's assistance.

Our afterschool programs are an important addition to the education and success of our students.

We look forward to next year's production!

JENNIFER HADDAD
EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The written word

Is a picture worth a thousand words?

I think not.

A picture allows us to determine our own explanation of what is shown. It is a very helpful tool in creative thinking. It adds often beauty to our lives and often exposes us to that which we have not viewed with our own eyes.

But give me a good book anytime.

Immersing oneself in something written by another, who fully tells a story or lays out an idea is my idea of pleasure. Good books present all sides or possibilities. A writer who can spin a tale that captures the reader and his mind is the gold standard for me.

Most books present ideas. Some books present alternative ideas to the one being more fully explored. All books permit the reader to use his own mind, to reflect on what is written, to consider arguments from his own experience in favor or against the thrust of the story.

A lot of people in my generation love to own and to keep

books that have meant a great deal to them. Often, they return to books they have read, only to find in the re-reading even more discoveries than the first time through. They create personal libraries in their homes.

For those who cannot buy books or build personal libraries, public libraries fulfill their desire to read. One reads to relax, or to grow intellectually, or to be challenged by new ideas, or just to escape for a short time the vicissitudes of life.

During our lifetimes, we have seen the inventions of the world make hard copy books seem more cumbersome. The internet has championed electronic books. Various devices have enabled readers to carry as many as 700 books with them wherever they go, in a small handheld device.

I am going to resist the usual lament of the older folks: things were better in the past. Further, I can remember as a young student having to go to the local library, sign in, check the card catalogue to find the location of



NOTES OF CONCERN

.....

JACK BLAIR

the book I sought, get it from the stacks, sit at a cold steel table in an uncomfortable chair, and search the book for what I sought. Of course, I could take the book home if I had a library card, and if I failed to return it in the required period of time, I would be fined.

Once had a very large collection of books. My library was something I enjoyed. However, over the years I have given away almost all of my books. In so doing I have learned first hand how times of change.

In one instance, I gave a number of books away to a school. Thinking that their library would appreciate such a gift. Imagine how surprised I was to find all my books in a local second hand store being sold

cheaply. I was able to accept that the books would eventually reach someone who would read them and appreciate them. But getting there took me a while.

I also watched as schools closed their libraries completely and used the space for something else, often technology. Clearly, around the country some were trying to recognize the changes taking place and accommodating the needs of their students who resisted the old way of finding material, or doing research or just expanding knowledge.

Some years ago, I knew a Headmaster who loved books. He was an avid reader. As this new trend was developing his school decided to build a library and name it for him. He agreed to let them use his name but on one condition: that there be set aside a room, with a roaring fireplace and comfortable leather chairs which could only be used for pleasure reading.

It would be interesting to know today, decades later, if students still use that room but

can be found looking at their Kindles or iPads rather than actually reading a hard copy book.

Now I sit in my comfortable chair, go to a search engine, type in my question, and hundreds of possibilities appear on my screen. I select the one most applicable, click on it, and the material appears immediately on my computer. So I acknowledge that I have accepted the new ways to read and I acknowledge that they save a great deal of time and make access to good stories so much easier

So I acknowledge that this kind of change makes sense. I do not want to be like the horseback rider who refuses to give up his faithful horse in favor of the new Model T Ford. If I were to take that position, it would be silly. No matter one's preference, one has to acknowledge that things do change and that progress continues to move us forward.

When I retired, I set a goal to read 40 books a year. I have

Turn To **BLAIR** page **A5**

Don't Forget Puerto Rico

"Grant us more powers, not less; grant us more democracy, not less; grant us the tools to move forward because, I can assure you, Puerto Rico will move forward. We did it in the past; we will do it again." – Anibal Acevedo Vila, Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (2005-2009).

Last week a gala was held at the Winchendon School to raise funds to assist Puerto Ricans affected by Hurricane Maria, the megastorm that devastated much of the Caribbean in September and October of last year.

The National Hurricane Center's final report on the devastation, released on Monday of this week, estimated the amount of damage done by the storm at around \$90 billion. Some 70,000 homes were destroyed and about 150,000 still have no electricity. The Miami Herald reported that "while the official death count stands at 65, hundreds more will likely be added in an official government

review."

In February, Congress passed – finally – a \$90 billion disaster aid package, but that amount also is meant to cover recovery costs for those parts of Texas ravaged by Hurricane Harvey and for costs associated with the wildfires that tore through California.

Unfortunately, the federal government simply doesn't have the money to cover all costs related to rebuilding Puerto Rico. And that is why events like that held at the Winchendon School are so crucial. The money raised certainly is important but, equally as important, they also help to prevent the dire needs of fellow Americans from fading from our minds.

And Puerto Ricans are indeed – let



...AND ONE MORE THING....

.....
GREG VINE

me emphasize – fellow Americans.

To those of you who may be inclined to believe otherwise, for whatever crazy reason, read your history. It was a general, born and raised in nearby Westminster, who commandeered the island from the crumbling Spanish empire during the Spanish-American War of 1898. Lieutenant General Nelson Appleton Miles completed the conquest of Puerto Rico in a little under three weeks. Ruled under various types of government for several decades, the island officially became a commonwealth in 1952.

For some reason, however, the rebuilding of Puerto Rico, didn't seem to be a priority to the Trump administration – or the GOP-controlled Congress, for that

matter – in the immediate wake of the disaster.

Yesiree, the president gave one heck of a pep talk when he visited the island shortly after the storm clouds had passed: "I hate to say it, Puerto Rico, you've thrown our budget out of whack. We've spent a lot of money in Puerto Rico."

Well, let's see. A month after Marie's visit, the Federal Emergency Management Agency had committed \$35 million to hurricane relief. A lot of money? Sure...I guess. But at that same time FEMA had approved \$691 million in grants for Hurricane Irma victims in Florida, and \$323 million for Texans recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

Congressman James McGovern was right when he told a crowd at a fundraiser for Hurricane Maria relief held at the Winchendon School last week: "I person-

Turn To **VINE** page **A5**

Groups formulating strategy to address local nutrition needs

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

More than two dozen people gathered at the Clark Memorial YMCA Tuesday to begin developing strategies for meeting the food and nutrition needs of Winchendon residents. The meeting, organized by the Community Health Network for North Central Massachusetts, was attended by representatives of local and state government, social service agencies, health care providers, and members of the community.

Other organizations involved in the event included Leominster-based Growing Places and the Community Health Improvement Program's (CHIP's) Healthy Eating Working Group. It was facilitated by the Y's Stephanie Simon.

Food insecurity and access to healthy nutrition became issues of greater relevance to Winchendon early last year

with the closing of the Central Supermarket IGA. While not technically a "food desert," access to healthy, nutritious food has become problematic for many residents who lack transportation to the Hannaford or Market Basket supermarkets in Rindge, NH – the closest such stores – or to stores in Gardner. The Rindge businesses are approximately 6 to 7 miles from most Winchendon residents.

Ann Yeagle, executive director of Growing Places, said the definition of "food desert," as the term relates to rural areas, are those communities where a well-stocked supermarket is 10 miles or more from most consumers.

While Tuesday's meeting discussed issues specific to Winchendon, the overall effort is, according to Growing Places' website, designed to "create a regional community food assessment (CFA) for North Central using available regional data as well as

input from community members, organizations, policy makers, and other stakeholders and develop and begin implementation of a regional community food access plan based on the assessment." The first cities and towns falling under this initiative – Tier 1 Communities, they are called – include Athol, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster and Winchendon.

The assessment will examine food needs, production, and distribution in those six communities. It will also look at "residents' perceptions of the food environment, and their food shopping, preparation, and consumption behaviors."

Once the information has been compiled and assessed, the intent is to develop strategies for better serving the food and nutrition needs of residents in each community.

Old Murdock Senior Center Executive Director Sheila Bettro noted that – since the

closure of the IGA – the center had added a third weekly van trip to the stores in Rindge. While two of the trips are exclusively for seniors, the additional trip is for any Winchendon resident who needs it.

Beth Hunt, owner or Not Just Produced, bemoaned the hoops small business owners must jump through in order to offer service to residents availing themselves of WIC (Women, Infants and Children) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. She also said that, even though she sells food produced on 11 local farms, she is unable to participate in the state's Healthy Initiative Program. The HIP program provides discounts to SNAP recipients who spend some of their monthly allotment on food produced by participating farmers and those who sell at local farmers markets.

"More people around here

would have easier access to healthy food if I could participate," said Hunt, "but the state says I can't."

Several people noted the Winchendon Community Action Committee food bank provides help to many residents, while some local churches and the Winchendon School host monthly community dinners.

Winchendon School student Kylee McCumber said the school also offers food assistance to those students who may need it. However, she added, many students fail to avail themselves of the program because of what they see as the stigma attached to asking for help.

Yeagle said information gleaned from Tuesday's discussion will be compiled and distributed to attendees of the event, along with a survey asking them to rank suggested strategies for improving community access to healthy foods.

MOOCH

continued from page A1

team have a new tractor which can be used on the sidewalks surrounding the complex. That tractor is a multi-season vehicle and will be used as well on the football, baseball and softball fields. And if it snows om the weekend?

"We rotate schedules for three-four hours. We get rid of it all as fast as we

can," he assured.

Specific details aside, Elliot, who finishes his 8-hour shift around 2 p.m., acknowledged he "tends to be something of a weather-watcher," something he certainly never had to do while living in Arizona, at least not for snow.

"I watch the same channels as everyone else," he said.

But if school is closed, why does Elliot have to be the one to show up?

"The building has to be accessible no

matter what," he remarked, reminding the high school has been used as a shelter, most famously during the December 2008 ice storm but was open for the same purpose as recently as last week.

"I won't ever forget the ice storm. That's probably the thing I remember more than anything else" during his almost two-decade tenure at Murdock.

"I hope we never see anything like that again, either," he added.

Despite the travails that accompany dealing with Winchendon winters Elliot isn't ready to retire yet.

"Maybe in a few, maybe five years or so. Not now, though."

Winter is presumably over for this year and Elliot is grateful for that, but you know it'll be back down the road and when it rears its ugly head again, Elliot will be waiting.

"I'll be ready," he promised.

BLAIR

continued from page A4

successfully done so over these past years. I understand that this would have been harder if I had tried to access books and read them in the old way. I have my iPad with me everywhere and I find even during the night, if I awake, I have only to push the "on" button and whatever I am currently reading is available to me. Certainly when I travel the new methods are much more convenient. When I was younger I would take paperbacks with me on trips, ones that I could simply discard when I finished the book and replace it with another discardable paperback bought in various cities while I traveled.

It saddens me to see libraries close, especially in schools. But they are being replaced by the ever-present laptops that young people have available today.

Towns across the country continue to try to fund their local libraries, but I fear it will ultimately not be feasible.

I have friends who refuse to give up reading hard cover books. These are people who can understand change is happening; they can even accept that it is inevitable. But they reserve to themselves the right to continue their own practice of reading.

Word crafting is a very special art. Authors who master it develop large followings. I can see that the readers of the future will continue to value the written word, but they will receive it in a different form.

This does not lessen the importance of being well read. It does not require those of the older generations embrace the change. But they must also realistically understand that just as the primary mode of transportation went from horses to auto-

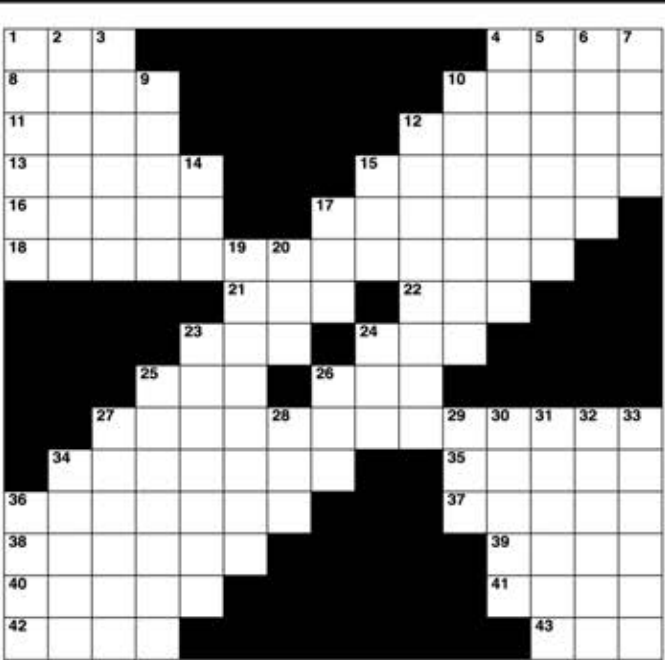
mobiles, the reading of books appears to be racing toward the online versions, not the hard-back collectibles.

Let me go back to my comment on pictures lest it be thought I do not appreciate art in its various forms. I have had the opportunity to visit many of the largest and most significant art galleries in the world from the Louvre to the Uffizi to the Prado. Impressive canvases and sculptures. Well worth the time and effort.

But in no way do these treats for the eyes match the challenge of a good book. In the past, they have survived side by side. Renaissance man appreciates and learns from them both.

Hopefully this will continue. But the delivery of art and the written word is changing rapidly. It is wise to accept and master these changes.

It is called progress.

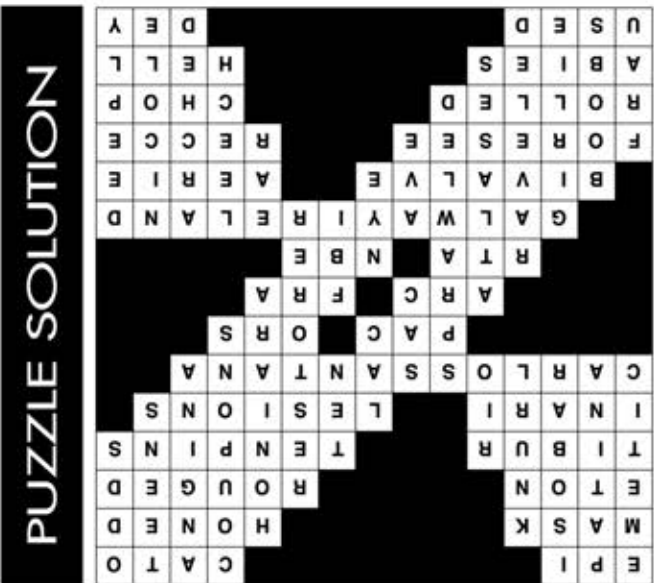


CLUES ACROSS

1. Upon
4. Roman Statesman
8. A protective covering worn over the face
10. Perfected
11. British school
12. Colored with red powder
13. Tivoli
15. What bowlers hope to knock down
16. Finnish lake
17. Damaged regions of tissue
18. World-renowned guitarist
21. Political action committee
22. Oxygen reduction system
23. Part of a circle
24. Italian monk's title
25. Kidney problem (abbr.)
26. One point east (clockwise) of due north
27. Home to a world famous bay
34. Mollusk
35. Large nest of a bird of prey
36. Predict
37. Reconnaissance
38. Move in a particular direction
39. Cut with a tool
40. True firs
41. Heaven's opposite
42. Employed
43. "Partridge Family" actress Susan

CLUES DOWN

1. Induces vomiting
2. Gloss or sheen on wood furniture
3. Meteorological line
4. Help shoppers save money
5. Heart condition
6. What tweens become
7. ___ and ends
9. Small knob
10. Island capital
12. Refinisher
14. Brazilian city
15. Pearl Jam's debut
17. Resinous substance of an insect
19. Stretched out
20. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
23. Reference works
24. Hoover's office
25. Confused
26. The Science Guy
27. A young woman
28. Used to express good wishes
29. Body part
30. Draw blood
31. Curved
32. ___ Kidman, actress
33. Profoundly
34. Fools
36. Wife (German)



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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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



POLICE LOG

TUESDAY, APRIL 3
2:10-2:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:16 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:48 a.m.: info/general (Central Street), info taken; 6:07 a.m.: ambulance (Old Centre), transported; 7:32 a.m.: fraud (Spruce Street), spoken to; 7:45 a.m.: summons service (Spruce Street), served; 7:57 a.m.: summons service (Academy Street), served; 8:08 a.m.: summons service (Hale Street), served; 9:25 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 9:27 a.m.: DPW call (Brown Street), referred; 10:12 a.m.: noise complaint (Metcalf Street), spoken to; 10:25 a.m.: animal complaint (River Street), referred to ACO; 10:30 a.m.: officer wanted (Royalston Road North), assisted; 10:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Baldwinville Road), assisted; 10:56 a.m.: welfare check/general (Post Office, Fitchburg), spoken to; 11:04 a.m.: juvenile/general (Grove Street), report taken; 11:13 a.m.: juvenile/general (Grove Street), transported to hospital; 11:18 a.m.: ambulance (Grove Street), transported; 11:43 a.m.: threats (Baldwinville State Road), referred to court; 1:21 p.m.: fire/mutual aid (Middle Winchendon Road, Rindge), services rendered; 2:01 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), Jacob Scott Holmes, 22, 27 Pleasant Street, Apt. C, Winchendon, arrest based on warrant; 2:29 p.m.: animal complaint (River Street), returned to owner; 3:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Juniper Street), assisted; 4:08 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Baldwinville State Road), 209A served to defendant; 6:43 p.m.: mv stop (Juniper Street), Christy Sue Atwood, 29, 334 Maple Street, Winchendon, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, citation issued; 8:39 p.m.: burglar alarm (Walnut Street), secured bldg.; 10:26 p.m.: ambulance (Walnut Street), transported to hospital.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4
12:50-2:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:35 a.m.: suspicious/other (River Street), spoken to; 7:51 a.m.: suspicious mv (River Street), spoken to; 8:29 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), report taken; 8:41 a.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street), transported; 10:33 a.m.: ambulance (Spring Street), transported; 12:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Benjamin Street), referred to ACO; 12:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), spoken to; 1:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Otter River Road), referred to ACO; 1:10 p.m.: ambulance (West Street), transported; 3:13 p.m.: assist citizen (Hale Street); 4:01 p.m.: mv stop (Poplar Street), written warning; 4:56 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), written warning; 5:17 p.m.: disabled mv (Central Street), removed; 5:21 p.m.: property found (Cortland Avenue), info taken; 5:40 p.m.: assist other PD (Elm Street); 6:00 p.m.: DPW call (Woodlawn Street), referred; 6:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Houde Drive, Ashburnham), referred to other PD; 6:23 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 7:26 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Glen Road), written warning; 7:29 a.m.: mv stop (Mill Glen Road), written warning; 9:09 p.m.: erratic operation

(Spring Street), unable to locate; 9:51 p.m.: fire/unknown type (Baldwinville Road), referred; 9:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Linden Street), spoken to; 10:06 p.m.: tree down (River Street), removed hazard; 10:45 p.m.: tree down (New Boston Road, Templeton), removed hazard; 11:38 p.m.: tree down on wires (Brooks Road), referred; 11:49 p.m.: tree down on wires (School Street), assisted; 11:56 p.m.: burglar alarm (Glenallan Street), secure.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5
12:02 a.m.: tree down on wires (Royalston Road North), referred; 12:13 a.m.: fire/CO incident (Spring Street), services rendered; 12:21 a.m.: fire alarm (Glenallan Street), services rendered; 12:25 a.m.: FD call (Converse Drive), services rendered; 12:52 a.m.: tree down on wires (Murdock Avenue), referred; 12:52 a.m.: ambulance (East Monomonac Road), services rendered; 1:01 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), services rendered; 1:01 a.m.: tree down on wires (Central Street), referred; 1:05 a.m.: tree down on wires (Otter River Road), referred; 1:05 a.m.: tree down on wires (Baldwinville Road), referred; 1:10 a.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), secure; 1:10 a.m.: tree down on wires (Mill Street), referred; 1:41 a.m.: tree down on wires (Town Farm Road), referred; 1:54 a.m.: tree down (Teel Road), referred; 3:06 a.m.: fire alarm (First Street), services rendered; 3:25 a.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive), services rendered; 4:16 a.m.: transport (Front Street); 5:08 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Tolman Road), secure; 5:26 a.m.: fire alarm (River Street), accidental; 5:52 a.m.: burglar alarm (Teel Road), secure; 6:04 a.m.: officer wanted (North Ashburnham Road), assisted; 6:25 a.m.: alarm/type unknown (Hyde Park Drive), services rendered; 7:00 a.m.: info/general (Central Street), assisted; 7:08 a.m.: FD call (Central Street), services rendered; 7:21 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Baldwinville Road), spoken to; 7:26 a.m.: tree down on wires (Prospect Street), referred; 7:29 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road), services rendered; 7:44 a.m.: transport (Central Street); 8:12 a.m.: ambulance (Summer Street), transported; 8:28 a.m.: fire alarm (River Street), false alarm; 8:42 a.m.: burglar alarm (Railroad Street), spoken to; 8:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Highland Street), spoken to; 8:56 a.m.: FD call (First Street), service rendered; 9:00 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Lakeshore Drive), spoken to; 9:15 a.m.: wires down (First Street), referred; 9:27 a.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), false alarm; 10:40 a.m.: tree down on wires (Orient Place), referred; 10:44 a.m.: wires down (Pearl Street), unable to locate; 11:09 a.m.: assist other PD (Otter River Road); 11:15 a.m.: burglar alarm (Central Street), secure; 11:33 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), spoken to; 1:23 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive), transported; 1:24 p.m.: fire alarm (Central Street), false alarm; 1:29 a.m.: info/general (School Street), info taken; 2:13 p.m.: VIN inspection (Front Street), assisted; 4:48 p.m.: sus-

picious person (Mill Street), spoken to; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Glen Road), written warning; 5:25 p.m.: DPW call (Woodlawn Street), referred; 5:46 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 6:53 a.m.: mv stop (Mill Glen Road), written warning; 7:02 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Glen Road), written warning; 9:20 p.m.: warrant check (Central Street), Krystal K. Hubbard, 31, 73 Monadnock Avenue, Winchendon, arrest based on warrant; 10:41 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:41 p.m.: assist other PD (Bridgeport, CT PD), info taken; 10:42 p.m.: building check, secure; 11:30 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6
12:35 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 12:43-1:15 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:24 a.m.: registration check (Central Street), secure; 8:47 a.m.: lift assist (Teel Road), services rendered; 10:19 a.m.: summon service (Maple Street), advised officer; 10:20 a.m.: summons service (Spring Street), advised officer; 10:43 a.m.: summons service (Ready Drive), served; 11:17 a.m.: traffic hazard (Spring Street), assisted; 11:27 a.m.: accident (Goodrich Drive), report taken; 11:29 a.m.: lift assist (Teel Road), services rendered; 11:50 a.m.: larceny (Alger Street), report taken; 11:53 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Hale Street), assisted; 1:44 p.m.: assist other agency (Otter River Road), info given; 2:39 a.m.: open door/window (Central Street), secured bldg.; 3:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), info taken; 4:45 p.m.: suspicious/other (Central Street), spoken to; 4:47 p.m.: assist other agency (Otter River Road); 5:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), assisted; 5:24 p.m.: traffic hazard (High Street), referred; 6:31 p.m.: assist citizen (Bosworth Road); 7:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Alger Street), spoken to; 7:56 p.m.: suspicious auto (River Street), gone on arrival; 8:11-8:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:21 p.m.: suicide threats (Mill Glen Road), spoken to.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7
12:28 a.m.: suspicious mv (Forristall Road), unable to locate; 12:51-2:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:19 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Street), transported; 10:27 a.m.: animal abuse (Goodrich Street), report taken; 11:59 p.m.: investigation (Elmwood Road), no service necessary; 3:17 p.m.: gunshots heard (Front Street), unfounded; 3:27 p.m.: narcotics/drug violations (Elm Street), unable to locate; 4:09 p.m.: FD call (Glenallan Street), referred; 8:10-8:20 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:23 p.m.: intoxicated person (Spring Street), transported; 11:30 p.m.: mental health issue (Linden Street), report taken.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8
12:36-1:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:07 a.m.: mv stop (School Street), spoken to; 1:13-1:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:33 a.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), verbal warning; 1:45 a.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), Justin Dennis, 20, 9 Liberty Street, Baldwinville, failure

to stop for police, negligent operation, speeding, summons issued; 6:24 a.m.: info/general (Uxbridge, MA), referred; 8:41 a.m.: mv stop (Lincoln Avenue), written warning; 9:14 a.m.: property found (Memorial Drive), services rendered; 10:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Orient Place), referred to ACO; 12:11 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 12:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Baldwinville State Road), referred to ACO; 12:59 p.m.: larceny (Converse Drive) report taken; 1:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Glenallan Street), no service necessary; 1:42 p.m.: threats (Whitney Street), report taken; 2:18 p.m.: burglar alarm (Memorial Drive), false alarm; 3:37 p.m.: summons service (Maple Street), unable to serve; 5:29 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), spoken to; 6:32 p.m.: alarm/type unknown (Memorial Drive), accidental; 6:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Alger Street), report taken; 6:54 p.m.: larceny (Webster Street), report taken; 7:08 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Glen Road), written warning; 8:16 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), written warning; 8:34 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), verbal warning; 8:50 p.m.: ambulance (Woodlawn Street), transported; 11:45-11:58 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

MONDAY, APRIL 9
1:52-3:11 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:13 a.m.: ambulance (Whitney Street), transported; 7:15 a.m.: DPW call (High Street), referred; 9:18 a.m.: investigation (Elmwood Road), services rendered; 9:24 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street); 10:26 a.m.: suspicious mv (North Ashburnham Road), secure; 10:35 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 12:25 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 1:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Boyce Place), referred to ACO; 1:39 p.m.: ambulance (Teel Road), transported; 2:33 a.m.: assist citizen (Belmont Avenue); 2:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Cross Street), report taken; 3:45 p.m.: animal complaint (Hyde Park Drive), referred to ACO; 4:05 p.m.: investigation (Spruce Street), unable to locate; 4:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Elmwood Road), info taken; 4:25 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 4:44 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), spoken to; 6:59 p.m.: animal complaint (Royalston Road North), referred to ACO; 5:11 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 5:43 p.m.: info/general (Murdock Avenue), info taken; 7:11 a.m.: animal complaint (Hyde Street), unable to locate; 7:22 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville Road), no service necessary; 7:59 p.m.: repossession of mv (West Monomonac Road), info taken; 9:00 p.m.: mv stop (School Street), written warning; 9:02 p.m.: mv stop (School Street), verbal warning; 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (Goodrich Drive), verbal warning; 10:37 p.m.: accident (Robbins Road), report taken; 10:42 p.m.: intoxicated person (Spring Street), protective custody; 11:58 p.m.: assist other PD (Ash Street), info given.

High winds shut down power throughout Winchendon

BY: KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Over 90 percent Winchendon residents lost power due to damaged transmission utility lines as a result of high winds beginning shortly before midnight on April 4 and continuing in some areas up to 13 hours until nearly 1:00 p.m. on Thursday. National Grid worked throughout the night and following day to restore services.

With wind gusts ranging from 40 to 50 MPH, and many roads littered with fallen branches, motorists out and about during the early hours of April 5 were struggling to see oncoming debris as street lights throughout the town were not functioning.

Police, fire, and DPW workers were extremely busy as radio frequencies for all three departments transmitted nearly constantly, as road after road was reported blocked due to either fallen trees, or large broken sections of debris laying across roadways.

At one point sections of Brooks Road, North Central Street, Town Farm Road, Baldwinville Road, Mill Street and others, were blocked while street lights

were out, creating dangerous situations.

WPD officers loaded and delivered reflective cones in multiple departmental vehicles to alert drivers of oncoming dangers hidden in the darkness where trees blockaded roadways.

Additionally, WPD members, due to alarms being electronically tripped by the loss of power, were needed to attend service calls for burglar alarms set off at Saloom Furniture, the Carriage House Restaurant, and other locations.

WFD received a call for all and any available firefighters to report to the station for service, as their department was also receiving many calls for aid, both legitimate and false alarms due to power outages causing false positives. Three full time, 10 on call firefighters, both Chief Tom Smith and Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni reported for duty; some 15 strong.

Around town fire alarms, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and even life alert calls were triggered by the loss of power, demanding WFD members quickly respond to many calls. Two of the life alert calls triggered by the outage were reported for 96 and

98 year old residents; along with one ambulance taking a person to UMass Worcester, and others to Heywood Hospital. One caller reported a pellet stove back flowing into the building due to the force of the high winds.

With temperatures dropping fast due to the high winds, and no electricity available to heat many homes, BOH agent and Director of Emergency Management James Abare to confirm options with Chief Smith before 2:30 a.m., as National Grid posted power to return times of 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and later; depending on location.

It was decided the best course of action due to the outages and loss of ability for many to heat their homes, was to open a warming center shelter at the Murdock High School gymnasium. It was shortly after also decided by Superintendent of School Steve Haddad to cancel school district wide for the next day due to various complexities caused by wind storm around the district.

Abare, with a few others, opened the temporary shelter for any residents in need shortly after 3:00 a.m., first setting up 11 cots, and opening any more as needed. Along with Abare working a

sign in desk at the gym. Large totes containing various EMS necessities such as bandage wraps, bandaids, diapers, toilet paper, sterile gloves, portable radios for communication, and much more including credentialing for volunteers were located in the gymnasium.

“Most homes will hold heat for a couple of hours, but after that if the heat isn’t able to turn on home temperatures can start to go down quickly, especially often times with the older ones, so with power being out as long as it is projected in some areas, we decided to open the temporary warming shelter” explained Abare.

Abare added, “After consulting with the Fire Chief and the dispatchers on duty, we decided it was prudent to open up a shelter, and have a place for any of our residents to have a warm place to stay until the power was restored.”

Beginning at 8:00 a.m., power was restored to sections of the town one by one, with the Central Street business district powering back up around 11:00 a.m. An official call was placed by Abare to close the shelter at 1:00 p.m. as town wide power was restored and homes could again be heated.

GREEN
continued from page A1

by DER land the cash.

“I know that it’s highly competitive,” Murphy said.

Murphy explained that last year’s grant was awarded, and the town welcomed into the program, because it had devel-

oped a five-year energy savings plan. To qualify, the town had to pledge to reduce its energy consumption by 20 percent over that span. More than half of the Commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns, representing about two-thirds of the state’s population, have joined the program.

All of last year’s grant had to be expended before the town could apply for more funding, “and we just did that under the wire,” said Murphy.

“We weren’t sure that we were going to get it spent, but we did,” she said. “The projects we applied for this year will keep us right on track to reach our 20 percent reduction after five years.”

“That’s not including the energy reduction that we will experience from the round that we just got,” she continued. “This is a reduction in energy use from prior to those projects.”

While energy savings from the retrofitting with LED lights of all streetlights in Winchendon were not included in the town’s five-year plan, they can still be count-

ed toward the 20 percent goal, according to Murphy.

“The street lights being done wasn’t in our original energy reduction plan as a job,” she said, “but because we’re doing it we can use that energy savings toward our goal. We just take the energy use of everything, so the energy savings from that can be factored into our reduction. We could have applied for those under this program if we wanted to. We were just able to fund it another way.”

When asked about one of the Murdock projects, Murphy said, “There’s a BAS expansion on their heating system for the gym area. It kind of just segregates out their heating system so they don’t have run it all at once. They can separate it out into zones.”

BAS stands for building automation system, which allows the school to heat only those areas of the building that need it at any given time, rather than having to heat the entire building.

Most of the weatherization work at Murdock and Beals will cover work on windows.

“Our energy audit brought up a lot of the windows,” said Murphy. “A lot windows had breaks in the seal, problems like that. So, mostly all of that work is for windows.”

While the Green Communities programs was set up to cover a span of five years, Murphy said it appears it may be extended.

“Thar’s what they bayed it on – five years,” she said. “But it’s so popular it looks like it will go beyond the five years.”

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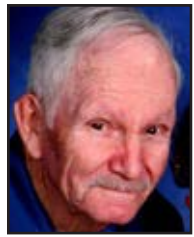
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OBITUARIES

Ernest W. Desmond, 90

WINCHENDON — Ernest W. Desmond Jr., age 90, formerly of Winchendon, died Tuesday April 3, 2018 in Hope Hospice, Cape Coral, FL with his family at his side.



He was born in Winchendon on November 14, 1927, son of the late Ernest W. and Mildred E. (Mayhew) Desmond. Ernie was a resident of Winchendon for most of his life until moving to No. Ft. Myers, FL.

His wife of 68 years, Charlotte A. (Lucies) Desmond, died in 2015. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by three children, Keith Desmond in 1986, Dennis Desmond in 1951 and Sheila L. Goodwin, who died December 25, 2017. He leaves a granddaughter, Marcy E. Foreman and her husband Scott of Lunenburg; a great grandson Nathan Foreman and a son-in-law, Richard A. Goodwin of Gardner.

Ernie proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army

Air Corps during World War II. He was awarded the World War II Victory medal. He later served for 15 years inactive in the Army Reserves.

Ernie worked many years ago at Temple Stuart Furniture Company. For many years, he worked as a carpenter for the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners from 1977 until his retirement. During that time, he worked on projects at Northfield Hydraulics, Cushing Academy, Groton School and various other facilities.

For 25 years, he and his late wife lived seven months of the year in Florida and five months of the year in Hampton Beach Trailer Park, which he managed. Ernie was known as a jack of all trades and enjoyed cars, bicycling and polka dancing.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon are Saturday, May 19, 2018 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Graveside services, with military honors, for Ernie and services for his daughter Sheila Goodwin, will follow Saturday at 2 P.M. in Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Salvation Army, 8 Union Street, Gardner, MA 01440.

Marsha R. (Courtemanche) Lemieux, 68

WINCHENDON — Our mother, Marsha R. (Courtemanche) Lemieux, age 68, of Winchendon, passed away on Monday, March 26, 2018 surrounded by her loving family.



Mom was born in Winchendon on June 20, 1949 to Russell J. and Ruth E. (Haynes) Courtemanche. She graduated in 1967 from Murdock High School and through the years held many jobs, among them deputy tax collector for the town of Winchendon. If you asked her though, she considered herself first and foremost a wife, a mother and a grandmother. She sacrificed everything for her family.

She married our dad, Daniel P. Lemieux on August 24, 1968 in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. They began their life together in Winchendon and 9 months later welcomed their first child, Lori. Four years later they welcomed their son, Chad. We moved around a bit, Gardner, back to Winchendon, Ashburnham and our adventures took us as far south as Florida. It didn't matter where we were though, as long as we were together.

There was nothing in this world that our mom loved more than her family. All of her life's activities were focused solely on her love for us. She enjoyed our vacations in Maine more than anything because we could all wake up in the same house together. She was an amazing cook and loved taking down anyone willing to play Words with Friends with her. Sunday afternoons were her favorite because it was when family was always together.

Marsha leaves behind her husband of 50 years, Daniel P. Lemieux; son, Chad D. Lemieux, and his companion, Donya Haven and her son, Nathan Kane of North Attleboro; daughter, Lori L. Nelson and her husband, Michael and their children, whom she adored, Alexander, Callie, and Daniel Nelson all of Leominster and two dogs, Sassy and Topo. She also leaves behind her lifelong friend, Charlene Lyesuik of Athol.

Services are private. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations in her memory to UMass Cancer Walk, 333 South Street, 4th Floor, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Lamoureux-Smith & Poliks, A Mack Family Funeral Home, 105 Central St. Gardner is assisting with arrangements.

Ian Mosher, 24

WINCHENDON — Shawn Marland, age 32, of Winchendon, walked into glory and was received with open arms by his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Monday, April 2, 2018.



Shawn gifted the world with three beautiful children, Gabriel, Trinity and Timothy. He is also survived by his mother, Sharon; his father, David; his brother, Danny; his maternal grandmother Chris and his paternal grandfather James. He also

leaves his best friend and caregiver, Johnny Kowaleski.

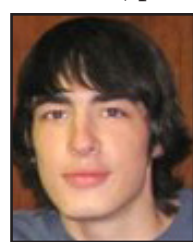
Shawn enjoyed drawing, break dancing, skateboarding, camping and four wheeling.

A Celebration of Shawn's life will be held Friday, April 20, 2018 at 2 P.M. in Higher Ground Ministries, 186 Central Street, Gardner.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Shawn's memory to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

TEMPLETON — Ian Mosher, age 24, a smart and caring young man, formerly of Holden, passed away at his home in Templeton unexpectedly on Friday, April 6, 2018. He was born in Worcester, the son of William and Viki (Ots) Mosher and had lived in Holden and Nashua, NH before moving to Templeton last year.



Ian is survived by his mother, Viki (Ots) Mosher of Sterling and her partner, Bill Schott; his father, William Mosher and his wife, Stephanie of Nashua, NH; his brothers, Patrick Mosher of Worcester and Michael Mosher of Nashua, NH; his sister, Sarah Mosher of Nashua, NH; his maternal grandmother, Jacqueline Ots and deceased grandfather, Vello Ots of Winchendon; his paternal grandparents, William and Mary Mosher of North Dartmouth; aunts and uncles, Susan and Peter Lafortune, David Ots, John and Kelly Mosher, Anne Marie and Gene Labonte, Peter and Lynne Mosher and Christopher and Patty Mosher; and many cousins. Ian was predeceased by his girlfriend, Gabrielle Bryan, whom he cherished, in 2018.

Ian was a bright and loving yet fiercely independent and motivated young man.

He attended Wachusett High School and graduated from Nashua High School North with the class of 2011. From an early age his love and knowledge of computers and electronics was evident in the projects he worked at home. With an independent spirit and clever mind Ian began working at Puritan Printing at a young age, carefully saving his money and planning a bright future for he and his future family. He had just had the best year. Spending time with the love of his life and buying a home with a large yard in Templeton which he had looked forward to renovating and truly making his own. He especially looked forward to installing a vegetable garden to tend to. Ian had been working as a book binder at Curry Printing in Westborough where he will be greatly missed.

Relatives and friends were invited to attend calling hours on Wednesday, 11th at Miles-Sterling Funeral Home and Tribute Center, 100 Worcester Rd., Sterling. A funeral service was held at the Funeral Home on Thursday, April 12th. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, www.afsp.org. To share a memory or offer a condolence, bring a picture to hang on the memory board or visit www.milesfuneralhome.com

Ronald Harry Rogstad

JAFFREY — Ronald Harry Rogstad passed away Thursday, March 28 at the Elliot Hospital after a protracted illness. Ron was born on February 3, 1934 in Winchendon.



He was the son of Harry N. and Harriet Cross Rogstad and the great-grandson of Morton E. Converse, founder of the Converse Toy Factory.

Ron was predeceased by his beloved wife of 50 years, Janyce A. Mielke and his sister, Barbara Rogstad Wiseman.

Ron is survived by his loving family: brother Barry Kent Rogstad (Lorraine) of Potomac, MD; niece Aimee Rogstad Guidera of Orono, MN; nephew Erik Nils Rogstad of Potomac, MD; great nieces and nephews Jane, Anne, Katherine, Jack, William and Christopher; and brothers-in-law Fritz Mielke and George Wiseman.

Ron graduated from Murdock High

School and Clark University where he studied chemistry. He spent his professional life as a research chemist with Uniroyal. All his life, Ron was a passionate naturalist, fly fisherman, hiker and rower. He was blessed with enduring friendships throughout his life. To the end, friends from kindergarten Steve Skelton, Burton Gould and cousin Louis Cross gathered routinely and regaled in reliving their youthful exploits. Once Ron and Janyce relocated to Jaffrey, they found great comfort in being active in the church family offered at Christ Lutheran Church in Troy. All Ron's friends and caregivers helped to make his final years joyful.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday April 24 at Christ Lutheran Church, Route 12 in Troy at 11 a.m. A social hour will follow the service. Internment will be in Meriden, Connecticut on April 25.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to your favorite charity in Ron's memory.

Frank A. 'Red' Murray Jr.

BALLSTON LAKE NY — Frank A. "Red" Murray, Jr. died March 23, 2018 after a long illness.



He was born on November 17, 1929, in Winchendon. He was a proud veteran enlisting in the United States Navy in 1948 and retired after 20 years as a Chief Petty Officer in 1968. He was a Yeomen, qualified to wear dolphins insignia in the submarine service; crewmen on USS Cubera, USS Medragill, USS Treda and USS Atule all in the Atlantic fleet. After leaving the Navy he started the Red Murray Enterprises Insurance Company and worked there until his second retirement in 2006.

He was an avid golfer for many years. He and Lucille loved to travel especially to Charleston, S.C.

Red was the son of the late Ella and Frank Murray Sr. He was predeceased by his siblings, Mary (Arthur) Beane

and Kathy Kendall. He is survived by his siblings Gertrude (late Joe) Szymcik, JoAnne (late Dave) Pandiscio, Alice (Charles "Skip") Hodges and brother-in-law Bob Kendall. He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Lucille (Ott), his son Kevin (Barbara), daughters Kathleen, Marlene (Joseph), Alison, Susanne (Efrain), Loretta (late Kevin), and his son Stuart (Julie); grandchildren Ryan (Rachael), Kelly (Brian), Phillip (Ashli), Meredith, Emily, Duncan, Nicholas, Vincent and Tessa and his great-grandson Joseph.

The family would like to thank all the caring staff at Baptist Health and Nursing Facility in Scotia, N.Y.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, March 27 at Armer Funeral Home, Inc., 39 E. High St, Ballston Spa, NY. Funeral was held Wednesday, March 28 at St. Mary's Church, 167 Milton Ave, Ballston Spa N.Y., where Red and Lucille were communicants. Interment will be held at Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online remembrances may be made at www.armerfuneralhome.com.

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.

BOS

continued from page A1

between Central Street and School streets, and on Central Street from Maple Street to Memorial Drive. The expenditure was meant to supplement an anticipated Complete Streets grant which was ultimately turned down by the state. Hickey said the town is re-applying for the grant. If approved, he said, the town could be asked again for the \$50,000.

The annual town meeting seeks approval for a proposed FY19 general government budget of just over \$14.6 million and an education budget topping \$16.6 million. The town's Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School assessment for the next fiscal year is \$929,000.

Hickey said the figure for the municipal budget represents a 5 percent decrease from fiscal year 2018.

The proposed budget for the Water Enterprise Fund is nearly \$927,000, that of the Wastewater Treatment Department

Enterprise Fund has been set at just over \$1.2 million, and the proposed transfer station budget is \$155,000. There will be no increased cost to ratepayers.

Articles likely to generate the most discussion and debate are those governing the sale and cultivation of marijuana. The Planning Board is proposing changes in the town's zoning bylaws that would allow for the establishment of three retail recreational marijuana businesses and the creation of a "marijuana facilities retail overlay district" covering five specific areas in Winchendon. Those areas

include Route 12 approaching the New Hampshire border, Waterville, Hillview Industrial Park, Winchendon Springs, and a small stretch of Baldwinville State Road in the vicinity of the now-closed Stuff 'n' Things. A previous proposal to include Central Street in the overlay district was dropped.

A total of 24 articles face the voters at the annual town meeting.

The Finance Committee meets on April 24 to vote its recommendation on all warrant articles.

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GOOD NEWS

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SPORTS

The REAL weekend stars

Let's forget, for a moment at least, about Patrick Reed, the less than universally popular winner of the Masters. The Georgia native, who went to college right there in Augusta after leaving the Bulldog program in Athens for unknown reasons, was definitely not the fan favorite. When Sunday's final round began, the patrons, as the pooh-bahs like to call fans, were squarely behind Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy and later on, very much, did I say very much, in the corners of Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler. We'll get back to that.

So, the real stars of the weekend? Let's start with Shohei Ohtani. After a so-so spring training there were plenty of doubts about the Japanese expatriate. A week and a half does not the marathon of a baseball season make, but so far Ohtani, admittedly largely against the woeful Athletics has had jaws dropping and not just in Anaheim. For example, Ohtani's first two starts on the mound have resulted in two wins, including seven perfect innings last Sunday. At the

plate where he works as the Angels' DH, Ohtani blasted home runs in each of his first three home games.

Want to know who else homered in three straight games while pitching at least one game with double digit strikeouts? Yes, it was indeed Ken Brett in 1973 and some guy named George Herman Ruth a century ago. But here's what Brett and Babe did not do. They did not accomplish the feat in less than a week, yes, a week, as Ohtani has done. There's a bit of season left, just a bit and who knows how this will all play out, Ohtani, who plays for the team which already has the game's best player, has been the biggest story of the opening salvos. He is at least the biggest story on the positive side.

On the negative Giancarlo Stanton has struck out 20 times as of Monday. That, however, is what sluggers do - they go yard or they go K with very little in between. The O's have learned to live with Chris Davis fanning almost 200 times a year as long as he homers 35 times. Stanton and



TALKING SPORTS
JERRY CARTON

Aaron Judge, as was noted on PTI, might each strike out 200 times but they might well combine that with more than 100 blasts. This is baseball circa 2018.

Sunday night, ESPN analyst Alex Rodriguez marveled when the Mets successfully laid down a sacrifice bunt. When's the last time we saw that in the American League and especially the AL East? That's why NL ball is so much more fun to watch.

I suppose you could in a perverted way call the opening week weather a star too. It surely commanded center stage while causing snowouts and forcing some games to be played with temperatures below 40, and yes that's the air temperature, not the wind chill. Play all these games

in domes or warm-weather cities? Commissioner Rob Manfred threw cold water on that idea, saying even those warm weather towns prefer to have more home games after school lets out.

"We're trying," he said.

Maybe if the owners and players could actually agree on returning doubleheaders every once in a while the season could start a bit later. Frigid weather impacts the quality of play.

Another weekend star was a horse. His name is Justify and he's about to attempt a feat that's never, ever, been done - win the Kentucky Derby in the fourth start and second stakes race of his life, a career that began in mid-February. No horse has won the Derby without running at two since Apollo in 1882 and there are sound reasons for this - primarily because Derby winners, hell, Derby entrants tend to need a good foundation before running farther than they ever have with close to 200,000 raucous fans jamming Churchill Downs. Justify's talent, along with his win last

Saturday in the Santa Anita Derby, California's big prep race, is likely to make him the favorite on May 5. He might well be a freak. Maybe, but I'm not counting on him wearing the Roses. It seems he just has so much to overcome. Then again, I'm arguably the very worst Derby handicapper on the planet.

Let's skip Patrick Reed entirely, okay. A couple times last week I was asked if I'll be covering Murdock softball when the season eventually starts, as I've been doing since 2003. The answer is no. The last time I was on the field was in June when Courtney's one-time teammates did a balloon release from, appropriately, the mound immediately after her memorial service. I'm sure readers can understand and appreciate why I simply can't go back there. The Legion field holds more positive, happier memories. I wish the Lady Devils all the luck in the world in their quest for a 9th playoff berth in 11 years but someone else will be writing about it. See you next week.

Ending season on a high note

The varsity cheerleaders officially ended their winter season with an awards ceremony on Friday, April 6 in the high school auditorium. Coach Lisa Paulitsky thanked the girls and their families for a "fabulous season" before deferring to Tamara Hayes who was the head coach for the varsity squad. Tamara thanked Lisa for contacting her and asking her to coach the girls as she was very impressed with the skills that the girls demonstrated. Tamara was assisted in coaching by Samantha Shepard. The girls had a very successful season, ultimately placing 6th in the State in a very competitive Division 4, and 24th out of 62 teams in all divisions combined!

The Murdock varsity squad received the MSAA Academic Award for achieving a cumulative GPA of 2.5-2.99. Ms. Hayes said a few words about each member of the squad as they were

VIEW FROM THE TOWER
SUE POLCARI

awarded a cheer medal, team picture, certificate of participation and letter/pin. Allison Cobiski was recognized as "Most Improved" due to her diligence and hard work in improving her skills. The "Coach's Award" was given to Meaghan Knight for attending all practices and competitions without any complaints and "quietly shining through".

Maria Polcari was recognized as the MVP of the squad primarily due to her tumbling and "flyer" skills, as well as her leadership as co-captain. The lone senior, Ariana Berman, also a co-captain, was given special recognition for her leadership qualities, maturity, and "setting the standard" for the team.

Opening day for Murdock baseball and softball was Tuesday, April 10th, despite light snowfall throughout the day. It was the first time actually out

on the playing fields for both teams. The varsity baseball team opened on the road at Nashoba Tech with a 6 to 4 loss. Jack Polcari started and pitched 4 1/3 innings allowing 6 runs prior to be relieved by Zach Richards who pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Coach Bob Polcari, assisted by Stephen Brown, reported that the Blue Devils were competitive, but didn't get the clutch hits in order to manufacture enough runs for the win. Offensively, the Blue Devils were led by Alec Barrows, 2 for 4 including a double and run scored, Jack Polcari, 1 for 2 with 2 RBI and a run scored and Sam Drake, 1 for 2 with 1 RBI and a run scored.

The varsity softball team opening day was at home against North Middlesex. Emily Smith pitched a complete game, striking out 8, walking 3, and allowing 7 hits in a 6-8 loss. Maria Polcari (catcher) had 2 put-outs at 2nd base when runners attempted to steal. Offensively,

she went 1-3 with a triple and a walk. Ashley Sevigny went 2 for 2 with 2 walks. Jocelyn Garner was hit by a pitch and walked twice. Emily Smith went 1 for 3. After a rough 3rd inning, the Blue Devils found themselves trailing the visitors by 6 runs. They stayed in the game, however, holding the North Middlesex team scoreless for the final 3 frames. With runners on 2nd and 3rd in the bottom of the 7th, the Blue Devils threatened to tie the game, but were unable to produce a run that inning.

Upcoming events at Murdock: Wed. 4/18 Varsity baseball (rescheduled from 4/12)- 3:30

Thurs. 4/19 MS baseball & softball (rescheduled from 4/13) - 3:30

Saturday 4/21 - Can & Bottle Drive (Class of 2020) - Rite Aid Parking Lot

Have a great week! Go Blue Devils!

YMCA to hold Kids Day and Fun Run Fundraiser

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

The Clark Memorial YMCA is happy to announce it will be holding a Healthy Kids Day, and 5K Fun Run fundraiser on Saturday, April 21 for children and adults of all ages.

Beginning with the Spring Fling Fun Run fundraiser and an 11 a.m. race start time, participants will leave the Clark YMCA lower parking lot and proceed down Beech Street, crossing Spring Street o to Lake Street. At the end of Lake, they will go left over the Front Street bridge, and then again turning

left proceed up Water Street where they will turn right onto Ash Street. Participants will follow Ash past the Winchendon School all the way to its intersection with Woodbury Road where they will follow its loop, come back down Ash, turn right on to Hall Road, again cross Spring Street, and follow the bike path all the way back to the YMCA and the finish line on Summer Drive.

The fundraising event is open to both runners and walkers of all ages who want to participate to help benefit the Clark YMCA annual support campaign.

Registration for the Fun Run fundraiser is \$10 for pre-registration until April 19, and then \$15 on Race Day for those who did not preregister. Participants can register at the YMCA, on line at www.active.com/winchendon-ma/running/distance-running-races/spring-fling-5k-fun-run-2018?int=

In addition to the family friendly daily festivities, multiple events free to the public will be held during the hours of noon-2:00 PM.

Starting at noon time, a Kids Zumba class will be held. From 12:30-1:00 PM, there will be an

Earth Day Clean Up. Beginning at 1:00 and continuing to 1:45 PM, a Department of Conservation and Recreation Earth Day Program will take place.

Children will learn about wildlife habitats and why it's important to stay on marked trails when hiking. In another program, children will learn about the many different responsibilities of a park ranger and their jobs. Each 20 minute program will run two times, back to back, allowing children to start one, and go to the other.

Program Director Kyle Scrivines said, "This is a national YMCA initiative. Over 1,500 YMCA's in the nation from coast to coast will be running this. The idea is as we move to warmer weather, to try to kick of the summer by enjoying going outside. Keeping kids active and healthy."

"We will also be doing a little something regarding gardening, as we have a community garden out back," said Scrivines.

Discussing eating healthy Scrivines said, "We will have snack available. We will be talking about nutrition and eating healthy food. One of the things studies have shown is leading in to summer you would think children would be more active and more engaged. However, while we know most are less intellectually active, we are finding that research has shown chil-

dren on average are gaining twice the weight in the summer than they are gaining during the school year. This would mean many are not eating healthy at home when not attending school, and not getting enough exercise."

"We want to show kids it's good to get outside. Get moving, get active, get healthy, and that it's fun to do that," emphasized Scrivines.

When asked about how important fundraisers and events of this type are to take part in Scrivines said, "One of the things about us which makes us and the YMCA who we are, is the importance of fundraisers to our mission. 'Nobody is turned away for the inability to pay.' We offer youth programs, camp, before and after school child care, swimming, gymnastics, youth sports, all that and more, along with membership."

In closing Scrivines said, "The YMCA offers many positive programs for the community. Our membership is 'Income Based.' Imagine if this YMCA wasn't here. Not only what would down town look like, but what would many of these children have to do? You come in and show proof of what you make, and you will get a rate based on that. Fundraisers like the Spring Fling Fun Run go towards supporting our mission, so please come out, sign up, and support the event so we can continue our mission to provide many great programs and support the community."



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School Raises Funds for Maria Relief

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

A fundraising gala was held at the Winchendon School last Thursday, April 5, with monies raised going to assist Puerto Ricans affected by Hurricane Maria. The storm devastated the American commonwealth as it tore through the Caribbean in late September of last year.

In the wake of the catastrophe, tens of thousands of islanders have migrated to the U.S. mainland – economists at the University of Florida estimate some 50,000 have resettled in that state alone – and those still living on the island continue to struggle to rebuild. The Washington Post reported in early March that only 2 of every 5 residents who have applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for help in rebuilding their homes have thus far received assistance.

Rebuilding is a difficult enough task under the best of circumstances, but more than 10 percent of the island remains without power; and the cost of recovery can be daunting given the median household income of just over

\$18,000 a year, half of what it is in Mississippi. The poverty rate is close to 45 percent. The unemployment rate is just shy of 11 percent, nearly three times the national average.

Two students at the Winchendon School know first-hand what it's been like living through the third-most costly storm (in economic terms) in American history. Khalyl Lopez and Bianca Ortiz, who are attending the school on scholarships, are among the 2,400 displaced Puerto Rican students who have enrolled in Massachusetts schools since the storm. Lopez related to the school community how Maria destroyed the building that he, his mother, and grandmother called home. The family was forced to live in a car and without electricity and running water. On Thursday night, Bianca Ortiz spoke to an attentive audience, relating the suffering she and her family have endured.

"I'm a believer that when bad things happen to our neighbors and to our friends we all, as a community, ought to come together and help out," said U.S. Rep. James McGovern, another of

Thursday's featured speakers. "What happened in Puerto Rico, as Bianca mentioned, was awful."

"I was in Puerto Rico in January, along with Sen. Warren and Sen. Markey and others from our delegation. This was several months after the hurricane and the devastation was just overwhelming. It is not going to take weeks or months for recovery in Puerto Rico; it is going to take years. It is important that we are all there as a community to ensure that that recovery is full."

The crowd applauded when McGovern took the federal government to task for what he sees as its feeble response to the Category 5 hurricane.

"I personally believe that our government, in the aftermath of this terrible hurricane, failed our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico," said McGovern. "The response has been totally inadequate, and I saw that even in January. I can't explain it."

"As terrible as it is," he continued, "I believe you can't change the past, but we can help shape the future – and that is what you are all doing here today."

"What gives me hope and what makes me proud is when I come to events like this that are energized by young people who get it," McGovern concluded, "and who understand that this could have happened to us. Washington is kind of a frustrating place right now. But amid all the dysfunction and all the chaos... and you then come to an event like this, you just get this burst of energy and burst of hope that things are going to get better; not just for Puerto Rico but for our country."

Last Thursday's gala, entitled "Yo Soy Boricua" (I am Puerto Rican), was hosted by the Winchendon School Service Learning Group, led by Service Learning Initiative Director Miranda Jennings. It included live, music, dancing, and Puerto Rican food. All of the proceeds went to the Spanish American Center in Leominster to provide aid to victims of Hurricane Maria living in both Massachusetts and Puerto Rico.

Donations may be made online at spanishamericancenter.org/donate or by sending checks to: Spanish American Center, 112 Spruce Street, Leominster, MA 01453.

WCAC

continued from page A1

they were and are in violation of Massachusetts open meeting laws as they and the CAC as an agency accept public funds, they disagreed and began having closed door meetings while accepting those public funds. I have spoken up against all this and more. My being let go in this manner is retaliation for these and other issues I took a stand against!" said Laperriere.

Emails were provided by Laperriere as proof of her allegations.

In an email dated Jan. 16, 2018, Laperriere contacting BOD President Stewart wrote, "I requested information from the BOD secretary of the WCAC earlier today and she told me that the Board has decided that all communications between me and the Board need to be directed to you."

The email by Laperriere continues, "I don't know what the hell is going on here and what the Board is trying to accomplish but the lack of transparency among other things is suspect, at the least. Boards as a whole along with every one of their members are NOT autonomous. All are answerable and accountable to a higher authority, to agency donors, to the people meant to be served and to the community at large."

Stewart in part responded, "After meeting with Attorney Glennly the Board decided to change the way we communicate to the person in the position of executive director of the Winchendon CAC. We know this is a big change/departure from how we've communicated in the past. We believe these changes better serve the best interest of the Winchendon CAC. Two major changes going forward are: 1. Any and all information moving forward regarding board meetings, and their minutes, will be retained solely by the Board. 2. Board Meetings

will begin with your Directors report. After your report is discussed, we will respectfully ask that you excuse yourself from the meeting and leave the building."

Laperriere after reading the email said, "Right here I address the lack of transparency by the BOD, and their response is to have closed door meetings by board members or invitation only and for me to leave the building."

In another email provided by Laperriere dated Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, Laperriere reached out to Stewart regarding being contacted by a local member of the press asking for information. On Feb. 13 Stewart replied, "Please do not give them any information what so ever. Any and all questions should be directed to our counsel, Keith Glennly."

Other emails range from addressing a CAC BOD member making racist comments, to attacking a local resident and client who applied to the Board for membership as a member of the "Local In-Need Population" and even conversations with Stewart, and Laperriere refusing to sign the check for a purchase of a Toyota minivan with a grant provided by Robinson Broadhurst Foundation as she said Stewart's personal friend was the salesman and it would be in her opinion a clear conflict of interest.

An email provided by Laperriere addressing these issues with the board reads in part, "At the August, 2017 meeting I was questioned about why bread was not available at 12:30 one day. When I explained that bread not fit for human consumption was pulled from the shelf and given to a family here from Africa to feed their chickens, I was taken aback by a BOD members comment that, 'Those people will eat anything.' This kind of talk does not go in the work place and certainly should not go on in the board room."

Going on in the email

Laperriere address BOD comments made about an applicant to be on the board, who is also a CAC client. Laperriere wrote, "The comments you made about Mr. Barjum while reading his member application, 'This guy is lazy, scum, and a sponge' was among other remarks repulsive and truly beneath the dignity of a Board President."

Laperriere went on to defend Barjum in the email by saying, "This man and his wife are dealing with medical conditions on almost a daily basis, yet he can still be called upon to help the CAC whenever assistance is needed. Further he saves the agency hundreds of dollars each year by allowing the CAC to utilize his dumpster."

In an dumped email chain beginning Oct. 31, 2017 to both Laperriere and BOD members and ending on Nov. 10, 2017, heated discussions and various accusations are levied.

However, in one email dated Sunday, Nov. 5 by Laperriere to Stewart regarding the desired purchase of the Toyota minivan through a salesman who is Stewart's personal friend Laperriere in part goes on to state, "This is a serious conflict of interest on your part! You went to your friend, tied my hands on negotiating the best vehicle at the best price for the WCAC and even had the dealership put the vehicle on hold. Your negotiated price is higher than the quote that I received for the same vehicle and you only went to one dealership where your friend is employed!"

In the same email chain also on Nov. 5, LaJoie replies, "I do not think trying to get a great deal on a van for the CAC is in any way a conflict. These emails are becoming very dramatic and unprofessional."

Laperriere clarified she went on to find a new Honda minivan with the grant which she says guaranteed no conflict of interest, and allowed enough money remaining to be able to pay for

the vehicle's insurance for a year in the same grant.

Regarding the boards appointments to its board Laperriere said, "People need to know. In my humble opinion they are slowly stacking the Board with public paid employees. You have a person who works at a school in Nancy Romanowski, another new member in Brian Croteau who works for the water department, and now town rep to the BOD and town clerk Judy Lajoie is the new CAC treasurer who reports back to the town manager."

Laperriere was asked if it was a possible or potential conflict of interest having LaJoie being the CAC treasurer while also the town rep. Laperriere replied, "Yes, I sure do, you bet. I voiced a concern about that also to both the BOD, and the town manager. I even went as far as saying she has been extremely disruptive and should be removed. The town manager told me he did not believe that was necessary at this time."

"This 'LaJoie' is the same person who said Stewart wanting to purchase a grant funded vehicle from a personal friend was not a conflict of interest even though that was the only dealership he went to," added Laperriere.

As BOD President Stewart by his own email, stated all questions from the press are to be directed to Attorney Glennly, the press previously reached out to Glennly April 2, whose office said he would be leaving for vacation April 3 and was not available for comment.

April 2, just two hours the interview with the now former CAC volunteers; Laperriere previously reported a proposed separation agreement was forwarded to her by Glennly, which included a clause not allowing her to speak to any electronic or printed media. Laperriere reported she was not interested in signing the proposed agreement the same day.

By Friday, April 6, Laperriere

was placed on paid administrative leave with pay, pending an agreement to terminate services. Laperriere says she is not sure how long that will last.

Laperriere, sitting at her former desk for what would be the last time said, "I have taken a stand against board racism. I have fought with the BOD against large grant funded purchases which are a conflict of interest, and I have fought for the rights of our clients whom I have grown to love very much. The board also told me they wanted access to all clients' files. I told them I could not allow that as that would violate client medical information and their HIPPA medial rights. They told me they completely disagreed. Now I and my fellow volunteers are out the door for speaking up, and for defending those who should not have to be defended."

In closing an angry Laperriere went on to say, "In my opinion there is no transparency at the CAC. They have closed door meetings, cherry pick who they want on the Board of Directors, make very disparaging comments about clients, and accused my volunteers of theft of food and other allegations. Now I am gone, and my volunteers who worked very hard are gone for speaking up. I honestly thought I would retire from here after making so many positive changes over the last nearly seven years. They wanted me to be silent and wanted to shut me up. We are gone, and now you know why."

Laperriere met with two members of the BOD present on Monday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m. to retrieve the rest of her belongings. Laperriere reported she was going to request to have a police officer present.

A second contact was attempted with Attorney Glennly via email on Saturday, April 7 with a list of 12 questions forwarded. An out of office auto-reply was received.

ALEXI

continued from page A1

remarked. "I love flying."

She loves astro-physics too and that's why she's looking towards applying to Yale and Harvard, in that order, next year.

"I've kind of got this planned out," said the Templeton native.

While the Mercury 7 as well as the sub-

sequent Gemini and Apollo astronauts were white males, times have changed even since Sally Ride became the first American woman in space in 1983.

"I'm thinking my gender might be an asset," speculated Malecki who noted she's a fan of New England born astronaut Kate Rubins, who became the first person to sequence DNA in space while aboard the International Space Station in 2016. Rubins, incidentally is the 60th woman in space, emphasizing Malecki's

as being addressed, and information being collected about the students per the contract agreement, they each currently have zero trust in the district.

Asked what the group's goal was at this point, Spivey immediately replied, "Speaking for myself, knowing what I now know about the contract and looking at Mass law, if DESE and the ACLU comes back and says Vezina was not allowed to sign the contract, then that would have to back to the school committee. I think the committee should have signed it, not Vezina. I think if they want to keep the program, and we get a legal opinion which agrees with that, they should go back, go through the vetting process, and roll it out the right way. Not the way it was done."

Spivey also said, "They signed a contract in April of 2017, and as parents they virtually let us know nothing until September of 2017 when they rolled it out. There was no district communication. I now have a total lack of faith in the district because of their lack of communication and how it was done."

The next meeting of parents concerned about the Summit Learning Platform will be held at the Beals Memorial Library, Thursday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m.

point about gender at the very least not being an obstacle.

"She also worked on Ebola," noted Malecki.

But even though space travel might not have the same hold on the public it did a half-century ago when the United States and the then-Soviet Union were racing to see who reached the moon first, becoming an astronaut, getting into the class,

remains highly competitive. Malecki is aware of that.

"I know the odds," she reasoned. "But I want to make a difference. I think I can do that as an astro-phycist even if I never become an astronaut, but being an astronaut is what I really want to do. I'm going to try. I want to go to Mars," she exclaimed.

SUMMIT

continued from page A2

the data to help fuel Facebook in the future?"

Other comments, such as Dufour saying, "As a teacher I can tell you Summit is not a one size fits all program," to Gahagen saying, "With Summit you are not really locked in to a grade as it goes back and changes grades." Spivey added, "Project due dates change with additionally aspects and projects being added. As a project manager, this is change of scope."

Tonya Dokulil commented how a WPS teacher at a 6th grade parent teacher conference stated that Summit was being taught and used at Monty Tech.

Crystal Maguy who is a parent of Monty Tech students immediately replied, "They are not using Summit at Monty Tech." Maguy also said, "Zuckerberg is in the news for selling 3rd party information. This raises serious questions about his association with Summit and students' information."

Both Dufour and Gahagan each said between the way Summit was rolled out, their concerns not seeming to them



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Republicans trying their best to find viable candidate

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Seeking the Republican nomination to face Senator Elizabeth Warren in November, a trio of GOP candidates were revving up the rhetoric and boasting about money as the first quarter of the election year drew to a close.

Beth Lindstrom, the former executive director of the state's Office of Consumer Affairs, crowed her campaign had raised over \$303,000 between January and March, significantly higher, she said than Republican rivals, state Rep. Geoff Diehl and John Kingston, a former AMG executive.

"I am grateful for the tremendous support for my campaign. The outpouring of donors from all 50 states has energized our campaign," exclaimed Lindstrom, who claimed she out-

raised Diehl by 36-percent and Kingston by 52-percent in the first quarter.

For his part, Diehl aimed to cut into Lindstrom's support among her gender by announcing the formation of a "Women for Diehl" steering committee co-chaired by Laurie Withrow of Scituate and Melissa Juarez of Quincy.

"As a father of two daughters, I want them to have every opportunity and equality of outcome. I want to promote female entrepreneurship and I will make it easier for women to launch new businesses," he pledged.

With the GOP convention set for April 28, Kingston spent last week delegate hunting. At an event on the Cape, he told supporters Republicans in Massachusetts "are looking for real change in DC and hoping to retire divisive politicians. Our

country faces a historic crisis of unity."

Meanwhile, the city of Cambridge announced it will be imposing a \$300 per day fine if Senate candidate Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai does not remove a sign from her campaign bus which reads 'Only A Real Indian Can Defeat the Fake Indian', a reference to Warren's claim of Native American ancestry.

A letter from the city's building inspector revealed that office had received "anonymous complaints" regarding the sign.

Dr. Ayyadurai responded by charging, "Senator Warren's actions are vengeful and an attack on the First Amendment and free speech. Our slogan expresses the deception of Warren."

The city brushed aside the response and said it expects the Ayyadurai campaign to comply.

July GALA art show plans in process

Plan now for entry into GALA's Paint the Town art show July 27 - September 27 at Gallery Sitka, 454 Main St., Fitchburg.

Opening reception is planned Friday, July 27, 6-9 p.m. with art awards at 7 p.m.

Our distinguished judges include: Jennifer Jones of Fitchburg Cultural Alliance; Susan Navarre of Fitchburg Historical Society; Susan Wadsworth, FSU art history professor; Kledia Spiro, marketing at The Fitchburg Art Museum (and an artist).

Two options for entering the show:

Option 1: Online entry, which submits your information & payment to GALA electronically.

Option 2: Paper entry form. A PDF Call for Entries which includes a form that you print & mail with payment to GALA, PO Box 664, Gardner, MA 01440. *****Please allow enough time for mailing so that your entry is received by the deadline.*****

With either option, your entry is due by July 16.

Please support GALA by donating a town of Fitchburg artwork to the show raffle.

Please consider demonstrating your creative process at the show. Indicate your interest on your entry form.

You will need to renew your GALA membership on your entry form unless you are a current member for the duration of the show. If in doubt, please email debgordano59@comcast.net. See the Call for Entries for more information.

TWO LOCAL ACTIVISTS HONORED FOR SERVICE

The Joseph J. Camarda is named in honor of past Lions International director Joseph J. Camarda of Leicester, who not only served his community but the entire Lions district, state and Lions throughout the world.

So to be honored with the award created in his memory is no small achievement.

In February, two Winchendon Lions were designated as Camarda Lions, Curt Fitzmaurice and David Walsh were honored at the district convention and presented with their awards.

Both have held local office and spent countless hours with service projects at the local level.

A donation to support the District Sight & Hearing Fund, a project close the heart of Camarda, is done by the local Lions in honor of the two new Camarda Lions.

Courtesy photo



ABOVE: Lion, and police chief, David Walsh, with his award.

LEFT: Lion Curt Fitzmaurice with his award.

Villager Homescape

Look no further, this is the one!



This young Colonial is located in a desirable Pomfret neighborhood, the large level corner lot is perfect for play and entertaining. Home features a brand new kitchen with hickory cabinets, granite counters, new black stainless appliances, and slate tile floor with a complimenting subway tile backsplash. With some charm of the exposed beams, the island fits 4+ and also a separate entraining bar. Kitchen leads out onto the huge screened in porch and the fenced in backyard with an above ground pool. This 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home has a master suite, large formal dining room, fireplaced living room, and library space along with first floor laundry! In addition, you will even find a finished basement too! A perfect space for an exercise room, TV room or craft room. Homeowner has recently installed energy efficient solar panels which dramatically cuts down energy costs and sometimes even pays you! Home has a newer roof & boiler, a large 2 car attached garage, and a nice paved driveway.

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claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Winchendon**, numbered **1135 Alger Street, AKA 543 Alger Street**, given by **Felix De Leon and Paulina Pichardo** to **AMCAP Mortgage, Inc.**, dated **December 1, 2004**, and recorded with the **Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds** in Book **35231**, Page **217**, and now held by plaintiff by assignment has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **May 7, 2018** or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.
Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of this Court on March 23, 2018
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
(17-017450 Orlans)
April 13, 2018

Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission

26 Belmont Avenue; Assessor's Map 5A-3, Lot 62
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 7:20 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner S. Mark Price for proposed work within an Intermittent Stream and associated 100-foot Buffer Zone at 26 Belmont Avenue; Assessor's Map 5A-3, Lot 62. The project entails removal of silt and stones from the bottom of the stream channel, followed by restoration of the stream banks' stone lining. The work also includes either clearing the blockage from an existing foundation drain pipe discharging into the stream, OR, if necessary, installation of a new drain pipe. The hearing will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-5402.
April 13, 2018

Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 7:30 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Kathleen VanDyke for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at Bayberry Circle. The project entails the completion of construction of Bayberry Circle from the current end of pavement to the intersection with Brown Street as originally authorized by (expired) Order of Conditions 345-0442. The work includes re-grading and adding a gravel base to the road surface/sidewalk area, followed by binder and top course pavement. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-5402.
April 13, 2018

Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission

15, 45, 64, 74, 75 Pinewood Drive, 156 Bayberry Circle;
Assessor's Map 4, Lots 217, 214, 209, 210, 211, 209, 220 resp.
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 7:40 pm to consider the Requests for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Kathleen VanDyke for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering and/or Isolated Vegetated Wetlands at 15, 45, 64, 74, 75 Pinewood Drive, and 156 Bayberry Circle; Assessor's Map 4, Lots 217, 214, 209, 210, 211, 209, 220, respectively. The projects all entail the construction of a new single-family house on each of the six lots listed. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-5402.
April 13, 2018

Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission

Lincoln Avenue; Assessors Map 2, Parcels 12 and 15
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 7:50 pm to consider the Request for an Amendment to Order of Conditions 345-0652 filed by Winchendon Lincoln Avenue Solar 2 LLC. The requested amendment pertains to the filling of an additional 600 square feet of Isolated Vegetated Wetlands for the installation of solar panels, with proposed compensatory wetland replacement of 750 square feet. The hearing will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Amendment and plans are available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-5402.
April 13, 2018

Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission

116 Island Road; Assessor's Map M-5, Lot 15
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 7:15 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Ken Wante for proposed work within Lake Monomonac and associated 100-foot Buffer Zone at 116 Island Road; Assessor's Map M-5, Lot 15. The project entails the seasonal placement and removal of a floating dock. The hearing will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-5402.
April 13, 2018

Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission

85 Beachview Drive; Assessor's Map M-10, Lot 53
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 7:05 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Lauren McNamara for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Lake Monomonac at 85 Beachview Drive; Assessor's Map M-10, Lot 53. The project entails re-grading to divert stormwater runoff for the purpose of preventing flooding of the property's basement and septic system. The hearing will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of

Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-5402.
April 13, 2018

Legal Notice
Winchendon Conservation
Commission

34 Pinewood Drive; Assessor's Map 4, Lot 206
Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 7:40 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owner Kathleen VanDyke for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering and/or Isolated Vegetated Wetlands at 34 Pinewood Drive; Assessor's Map 4, Lot 206. The project entails the construction of a new single-family house. The meeting will be held in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.
The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-5402.
April 13, 2018

MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Casey E. Lucier** (the "Mortgagor") to **Athol Savings Bank**, (the Mortgagee"), having a usual place of business at 112 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475, Worcester County, Massachusetts, dated February 2, 2010 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 45421, Page 92 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, and for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on the premises situated at 97 Baldwinville Road, Winchendon, Massachusetts, at 11:00 A.M. on the 26th day of April, 2018, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: the following described land with all buildings, equipment and fixtures now or hereafter placed thereon:
A certain parcel of land situated on the westerly side of Baldwinville Road, in Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:
Beginning at the southeasterly corner thereof, at an iron pin in the westerly line of Baldwinville Road, at a corner of land now or formerly of Dennis I. & Christine M. Ledford; thence S. 69° 20' 23" W., by said Ledford land, 350.83 feet to a drill hole in a stone wall in line of land now or formerly of Rayford R. & Arlene C. Parker; thence N. 2° 02' 42" W., 75.80 feet; thence N. 1° 55' 28" E., 137.55 feet to a drill hole; thence N. 3° 41' 56" E., 75.28 feet to an iron pin at a corner of other land of Emile J. & Anna M. Duclos, the preceding three courses being by a stone wall and said Parker land; thence N. 77° 21' 30" E., by said Duclos land, 365.39 feet to an iron pin in a stone wall in the westerly line of Baldwinville Road; thence S. 18° 43' 40" W., partly by a stone wall, 97.02 feet; thence S 8° 40' 36" W., 25.96 feet; thence S. 0° 43' 41" W., 91.53 feet, the preceding two courses being by a stone wall; thence S 1° 55' 46" E., 35.49 feet to an iron pin at a corner of land of the first mentioned Ledford and the point of beginning, the preceding four courses being by said road line.
Containing 87,382 square feet.
This instrument creates no new boundaries.
Meaning and intending to convey and hereby conveying the same premises conveyed to Casey E. Lucier by deed of Joseph E.J. Duclose, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of Lillian M. Greulich, Worcester County Probate Docket No. 09P2457EA, dated February 1, 2010, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 45421, Page 90
Said premises are to be sold and conveyed subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes to the Town of Winchendon Massachusetts, and to any unpaid liens and assessments thereon, and subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding liens, or claims in the nature of liens and existing encumbrances of record, created prior to the mortgage, if there be any. Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improve-

ments, covenants, leaseholds, tenancies, occupants, municipal or zoning regulations or requirements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage or to which the Mortgage has been subordinated, if any there be.
No representation is made as to the existence or non-existence of lead paint or UFFI at the premises and Buyer purchases subject to all requirements related thereto.
If the premises are not serviced by a public sewage system, Buyer will be solely responsible for compliance with all Title V Regulations, including but not limited to, any inspection and upgrade requirements set forth in 310 CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations) 15.300 through 15.305.
The Mortgagee will offer for sale the mortgaged premises as an entirety.
Terms of sale: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$5,000.00) DOLLARS, to be paid in cash, (U.S. Currency), Bank Certified Check, Bank Treasurers Check, Bank Cashiers Check or other official Bank Check, at the time and place of sale. Such deposit must be shown to the auctioneer prior to the commencement of bidding in order to be entitled to bid. The purchaser will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale containing the above terms and such other terms as may be announced at the time and place of the sale. The sale will not be complete until such deposit is paid and such Memorandum is signed.
The Purchaser will be required to deliver the balance of the purchase price to be paid within thirty (30) days of sale, upon the delivery of the foreclosure deed at the office of Richard A. Cella, Esquire, 65 Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 297, Leominster, Massachusetts, at which time the foreclosure deed and all related documents will be delivered to the Purchaser. The Purchaser will be solely responsible for completing the filing and recording of all foreclosure documents as required by applicable laws and for the payment of all deed excise stamps and all filing and recording fees.
The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.
In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclsure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the . Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorney, RICHARD A. CELLA, 65 Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 297, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder and title shall be conveyed to the said second highest bidder within thirty (30) days of said written notice.
In the event that the second highest bidder shall not be interested in purchasing the mortgage premises, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its sole election, to sell the premise by foreclosure deed to the other qualified bidders, Mortgagee also reserves the right, at its sole election, to assume the bid of any defaulting or declining bidder.
If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property. Except for warranties arising by operation of law, the sale of the mortgaged property and personal property is "as is", "where is" and with all faults, latent or patent, and subject to all prior encumbrances. The mortgagee expressly disclaims all warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose and/or regarding title to the personal property and/or any such fixtures or other personalty.
The description of the Mortgaged Premises contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographicalerror in this publication.
Subject to such other terms and conditions as may be announced at the time, date and place of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.

ATHOL SAVINGS BANK
Present Holder of Mortgage
By Its Attorney,
Richard A. Cella, Esq.
65 Pleasant Street
P. O. Box 297
Leominster, Massachusetts 01453
Telephone No. (978) 537-8214
March 30, 2018
April 6, 2018
April 13, 2018



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FOR 1 YEAR¹

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Sell



Custom-Build



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

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