

WE GO TOGETHER...


Staff photo

Danny Zuko (Aidan Provost) and Sandy Dumbrowski (Kaileen Dibble), getting' up close and personal in the Murdock Friends of Music production of Grease. The production starts tonight at 7 p.m. and is on again tomorrow night, March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Murdock auditorium. More photos page 5

Murdock Boys punch ticket to second round

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The Murdock boys' varsity basketball team chalked up a big first round win in Division 4 playoffs Monday as LJ Hicks and Jared Nelson combined for 29 points in a convincing first round district win over visiting Lenox by a score of 57-36 in front of a crowd of over 200 fans. Murdock dominated both ends of the court for the entire game. Lenox, an undersized but scrappy team hustled with all its might, but ice cold shooting from the floor, missed free throw attempts, in addition to 14 air-balls did little to help the visitors, who took a nearly 100 mile bus ride from deep inside western Massachusetts to arrive in Blue Devil territory. The game started with Murdock's Ryan Kaminski scoring on a fast break just a few seconds in to the first quarter. From the opening tip and those very first points the Blue Devils never looked back quickly jumping out to a 7-0 lead just two minutes in, and keeping the lead the entire game. Lenox shortly after being down seven then responded with a few quick hoops of its own actually making it look like a competitive game coming back to make it 7-6. It was then with a Kaminski steal and hoop, a Jared Nelson bank off the glass, and John Murphy basket, Murdock went up 13-6. LJ Hicks then next drained a crowd pleasing 3-pointer making it 16-6, and Lenox was forced to take its first time out. The Blue Devil run didn't stop there. Murdock forcing a quick turnover immediately after the time out with three men trapping the Lenox ball handler, lead to Nelson scoring on a short jumper, followed by Nick Roy finding the mark for two. Kaminski continued the run with his first quarter 3-pointer



Jeff Millman and Mat Plamondon photos

LJ Hicks into the air. More photos page 8

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Brandywine Farms withdraws from TIF

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Brandywine Farms Inc., after requesting approval for a Tax Increment Financing agreement from town voters at a special town meeting on May 18, 2015 along with approval from the state, has now legally informed Town Manager Keith Hickey in writing it no longer desires to be in the agreement. The agreement allowed

Exemptions as previously approved by the town and state to help jump start the project for the Giovanoni's were calculated as follows. The first year of the exemption period would be 85 percent of the increased value, followed by decreasing rates for fiscal years 2017-23 in the percentage amounts of 70, 55, 44, 33, 22, 11, and then finally zero percent in 2023.

Turn To **BRANDYWINE** page **A11**

Good news in management letter, sobering news in CIP

WINCHENDON — Tony Roselli, of the accounting firm of Roselli, Clark and Associates, told members of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee Monday night the town's finances and accounting practices are moving in the right direction. Those attending the tri-board meeting were given copies of the fiscal year 2016 management letter which was given to members of the town's Audit Committee last week. Generally speaking, the tenor of the letter was positive. Roselli told Monday's conclave the town has made strides toward improving its cash reconciliation process, payroll reconciliation, the reconciliation of withholding accounts, and tax collections. The management letter did say calculating compensated absences of town and school employees continues to be an issue. "The town is consistently unable to provide an accurate listing of hours of vacation owed to its employees," the

letter said. "(This is) important from an operating standpoint as the town is never sure exactly how much time is owed to its employees, which could become a budget issue." Returning to the positive, Roselli noted that, while free cash was in the negative for FY13 through FY15, the town "increased its fund balance by almost \$1.4 million and in doing so increased its free cash to almost \$1.7 million." Because the free cash picture has improved, according to Roselli, the town will make an accelerated payment on the loan, approved by the Legislature, being used to pay down the town's \$3.5 million deficit. As a result, Town Manager Keith Hickey said the loan will be repaid two years earlier than anticipated. The letter cited three areas where school department operations needed improvement: grant reconciliation, the assignment of ineligible payroll costs to some grants, and the timely filing of financial reports related to grants

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Staff photo

Setti Warren made a brief visit to Winchendon, stopping for a meal at the Hometown Café and talking to owners Rebecca Conner and Jesse Alagarin.

Warren makes swing through Toy Town

WINCHENDON — Newton Mayor Setti Warren, a likely candidate for the 2018 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, visited Winchendon Saturday. Warren was not here for a big campaign rally, but specifically to visit with Jesse Alagarin, the owner – along with his partner, Rebecca Connor – of the Hometown Cafe on Central Street. Warren, who mounted a short-lived campaign for U.S. Senate in 2012, said he wanted to meet with Alagarin specifically because the small business owner supported Donald Trump in November's presidential race. The Newton Democrat reportedly said he believes it's important that people of differing viewpoints start communicating in order to solve the problems faced by

Warren makes swing through Toy Town

all residents of the state. Warren added that opponents of Trump need to understand that the vast majority of people who supported the Republican nominee, now president, are not racists or sexists but people with legitimate concerns about the future. The Newton mayor said he wants to expand the robust economy of the metropolitan Boston area into other parts of the state, where job creation and business expansion are still lagging. He also said he supports a more robust public transportation system, free community college for in-state students, and a higher state income tax rate for those earning a million dollars a year or more.

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WEEKLY QUOTE

Always do right; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

– Mark Twain



Library also part of technology push



Courtesy photos

The students find themselves creating without boundaries with the variety of materials provided and no rules.

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes are all the rage these days in a society which is becoming ever more complex and the “makerspace” area of the library at Murdock High School reflects a commitment to help students navigate their way through the maze of changes.

“The makerspace is intended to be a creative and inspirational area for students to create, play, tinker and learn outside of the structured classroom,” explained school librarian Jenna Morin, who added the fact there are no grades attached to participation might help ease some fears.

“This is a place where failing is okay. In fact, it’s encouraged and expected because we want kids to be creative, to think outside the box and to have fun,” she stressed, adding, “my hope is this becomes a safe area for students to learn how to fail, evaluate and persevere through challenges. Trial and error is how we learn.”

Makerspace was funded partly through the Capital Skills grant the school received last year and as part of a Donors Choice project and those have enabled Morin to begin to expand the program which in turn has triggered what she hopes will be continued increased interest among high school and middle school students alike.

“It’s really taken off,” she enthused.

One project which immediately stands out are the ‘green screens’ (walls were painted green) which can be used for a variety of purposes, maybe even a small studio somewhere down the road from which school news and announcements can be broadcast. That’s potentially in the future. For the here and now, Morin said she “started small with some art supplies, weeded library

books, Legos, play dough and figures for stop motion, puzzles and games.”

“You have to start somewhere,” she observed but the two grants enabled makerspace to grow and the array of offerings now includes items like knitting needles, bare conductive paint, button makers, batteries and a tool chest.

“We want them to be creative,” said Morin, who showed the Courier a fold-out lighted ‘paper circuit’ valentine students put together for last month’s holiday. While high school technology teacher Mike Fontaine has brought his classes to the library, it’s otherwise been a process to convince students to use makerspace.

“I found the space wasn’t being utilized regularly by students so in the second semester I started hosting ‘Maker Challenges’ to get students in and help with awareness of what’s available.”

That effort has begun to pay off as high school students have come in during study halls and middle school students arrive with passes from teachers.

Being a school librarian with a tech corner isn’t what Morin once envisioned for herself. The original plan at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia was to focus on elementary education, but plans have a way of changing and by the time she was in grad school at Simmons College in Boston, it was clear to Morin she could combine a love of literature with working with students but not necessarily in an elementary school classroom.

“I was looking for a job. There was a small, really small,” she laughed, “ad in the Courier and here I am.”

Morin has marveled at what she’s been seeing unfold. “It’s been a lot of fun seeing what students are interested in, seeing their curiosity. This is very hands-on. It’s fun to watch this grow,” she said.





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NEWS STAFF DIRECTORY
EDITOR
RUTH DEAMICIS
(978) 297-0050 x 100
ruth@stonebridgepress.news

TO SUBSCRIBE, OR FOR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
KERRI PETERSON
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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
508-909-4101
frank@stonebridgepress.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
RON TREMBLAY
508-909-4102
rtremblay@stonebridgepress.news

OPERATION DIRECTOR
JAMES DINICOLA
508-764-4325
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR
RUTH DEAMICIS
508-909-4130
aminor@stonebridgepress.news

ADVERTISING MANAGER
JEAN ASHTON
508-909-4104
jean@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
julie@villagemewspapers.com

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COURIER CAPSULES

HONORING BREWER
On Tuesday, March 7, The Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement at Mount Wachusett Community College will be named in honor of Senator Stephen M. Brewer. The dedication of the space will take place at the North Cafe from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The celebration will highlight the impact the Senator and the Center have had on the region. This will be followed by a ribbon cutting and refreshments. In attendance will be a number of area governmental representatives, some of whom will speak about Senator Brewer's wide-ranging influence along with students and faculty from Mount Wachusett Community College.

Memorial School Kindergarten Registration
If your child will be 5 years of age by Aug. 31, 2017 then he/she is eligible for Kindergarten in the fall of 2017. Kindergarten is a full-day, NAEYC accredited program. Open enrollment will begin on Monday, March 20 and run through Friday, April 14 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For those parents that unable to register their child during the day, an evening registration will be held on Wednesday, April 5 from 5-7 p.m.
Registration packets will be mailed* home on Friday, March 3. If you do not

receive a packet and your child is eligible, registration forms will be available on the school website at www.winchendonk12.org or you can call the school at 978-297-1305 for more information.
***Mailing is based on the town census RMV HELP**
The Old Murdock Senior Center is able to assist elders with several common, on-line registry transactions. We will be able to help you renew your driver's license, replace a lost or stolen disability placard, request a duplicate license, renew your registration, or change your address. You can renew your license on line if you are 74 or younger, have an email account, have a credit card or checking account, and have no unpaid tickets or fines (including unpaid outstanding excise taxes). Appointments are required and can be made by calling the Center at 978-297-3155.
EARTH DAY:
On Saturday, April 22 in Winchendon, roll off dumpster will again be sited on Pleasant Street 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Seeking volunteers and donations toward drinks and snacks for workers. Clean up a street, clean up an acre, help keep our town green.
REMINDER: NO SMOKING MEANS YOU
The Board of Health is reminding everyone the no smoking ban is in

effect outside of any public buildings, including public housing, restaurants, town buildings, retail stores and other establishments within 50 feet of any entrance. People seem to have been inching much closer to colder weather, time to pay attention.
CLEAN UP AFTER FIDO
The Board of Health is also reminding residents the town has a law on its books requiring pet owners to clean up after their pets defecate. Several bag dispensers in prominent areas such as GAR Park and the bike path have made it easier for people to do so. It could mean a \$50 fine if you leave it behind, please think of others.
GOLDEN AGERS MEET
The Golden Agers will have their first meeting of the spring on March 8 at 2 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. New members and those wanting to know more about the group are encouraged to attend.

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.

NEWS BRIEFS

Four Shakespeare productions planned

JAFFREY — The River Street Theatre, a project of The Park Theatre, announced the complete schedule of four new Royal Shakespeare Company productions that will be presented in HD screenings at the theatre in 2017.
The plays of William Shakespeare will be: The Tempest (March 12 & 13), Julius Caesar (May 28 & 29), Antony & Cleopatra (July 2 & 3) and Titus Andronicus (September 24 & 25). They are produced at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, the birthplace of Shakespeare.
“We are so proud of our new relationship with the Royal Shakespeare Company. The RSC's productions are heralded for their caliber of quality and unmatched creativity. The plays are masterfully produced in high definition for cinemas and performing arts centers around the globe. The River Street Theatre is lucky to be the exclusive presenter of these productions in the Monadnock Region.” said Steve Jackson, CEO and managing director of The Park Theatre.
Acclaimed actor Simon Russell Beale returns to the RSC after 20 years to play Prospero in the first RSC presentation at the RST, The Tempest, on March 12 & 13. This production is a bold reimagining of Shakespeare's magical play and is directed by the RSC's artistic director, Gregory Doran. The Tempest is a perfect introduction to Shakespeare for younger theatregoers and families. The production has received rave reviews from the British press.
Tickets for The RSC presentations are \$20 each. There is a discount price of \$15 for students and teachers. The River Street Theatre is located in downtown Jaffrey at 6 River St. Due to the intimate size of the River Street Theatre, it is highly recommended tickets be purchased in advance. Call the box office at (603) 532-8888 or go to www.theparktheatre.org to purchase tickets with any major credit card.
The River Street Theatre is sponsored by: Grove Street Fiduciary, Coca-Cola, the Board of Trustees of the Park Theatre, Janet S. Grant, Betty Locke, Owen Houghton and the James F. & Fernande Kelly Charitable Trust. The Park Theatre is seeking additional sponsors for the RST.

Old Murdock Senior Center March activities

Please find below the activities listed for the month of March 2017 for the Old Murdock Senior Center. At this time of year, any activity can be cancelled at the director's discretion. All activities are weather dependent (if the weather is bad, we'll

cancel an activity). In the case of inclement weather, please call the center before venturing outside.
March 6: Market Basket – 12:15; Wii Bowling-9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00
March 7: Bowling – 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard
March 8: Market Basket Shopping 9:15; Wii Bowling - 9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard; BINGO 12:30
March 9: Wii Bowling – 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard
March 13: Wii Bowling – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard
March 14: Wii Bowling - 9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard;
March 15: Market Basket 9:15; Wii Bowling – 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard; BINGO 12:30
March 16: Fallon Rep, 10-12; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard
March 17: Wearin' o' the Green – Happy St Patrick's Day! Peanut Auction 10:30
March 20: Market Basket – 12:15; Wii Bowling-9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00
March 21: Senior Whole Health Rep 10-12; Wii Bowling - 9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard
March 21: SHINE REP (appointments required) 9-12
March 22: Market Basket 9:15; Wii Bowling, 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard; BINGO 12:30
March 23: Wii Bowling-9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00
March 27: Market Basket – 12:15; Wii Bowling – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard
March 28: Wii Bowling - 9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard
March 29: Market Basket 9:15; Wii Bowling – 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard; BINGO 12:30
March 30: Wii Bowling-9:30; Chair exercise – 9:30; Yoga – 10:00
March 31: Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard



Accepting new patients!

Stephanie Oliva, MD
Obstetrics/Gynecology and Pediatrics

Welcoming Stephanie Oliva, MD, to the Winchendon Health Center!

Dr. Stephanie Oliva, Board Certified in Family Medicine, has joined the care team at the Winchendon Health Center and is currently accepting only new obstetrical and pediatric patients.
Dr. Oliva earned her medical degree from Rutgers University-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, NJ and completed her residency at Swedish Family Medicine, CO. Her clinical interests include Family Medicine, Obstetrics, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Dermatology and Wound Care.

For more information contact:

Winchendon Health Center
55 Hospital Drive, Winchendon, MA 01475
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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Celebrating milestones

It seems to run in some sort of cycles, suddenly everyone is celebrating an anniversary. Businesses have been in business successfully for several years, historical societies or churches or towns are marking significant dates... it seems as if the year turned and everyone noticed its significance.

We are actually inordinately pleased so many have recognized such milestones...it means they have been successful in their endeavors. And whether that is as a non-profit entity, a business or a social group of some sort, we can only say hurray.

Hurray you've made it to 20, or 50 or 80!

That you have active members. You still have a viable mission.

It is exciting to be part of something like this.

So many have fallen by the wayside because people have lost interest, or there weren't enough members, or business failed. To be able to still celebrate such milestones is more significant than the passage of years.

It is lives spent.

Time away from other activities.

It has been the life work of some people, a respite for others.

And when we then see another group like Quaboag Historical in turn intending to honor people who spend their time and resources at the volunteer positions, we are even more humbled.

It is one thing to spend intense amounts of time at a paying position, to hold a job and spend your life industriously trying to make a better life for yourself and your family through a business...your own or one you work with...it is another to spend hours attempting to right wrongs or do good things entirely because you want to, you feel you can contribute and want to make a difference and be part of something beyond yourself.

So, as these milestones are acknowledged, let us add our good will as well. Know that the local newspaper does indeed take notice of the hours spent, the deeds done, and the fact it is done not with the intent of being recognized, but with an intent of devotion.

The best thing to say is thank you, and congratulations on jobs well done. Raise a glass to many more years of good work.

Montachusett Veteran Outreach Center receives \$35,000 grant

BOSTON — Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik (D-Gardner) are pleased to announce the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center in Gardner has been awarded a \$35,000 grant to support legal aid for military veterans.

The organization will use the funds to expand its current level of services for veterans including enhancing its outreach efforts to connect with veterans with legal aid organizations. The funding will allow MVOC to provide legal representation to 44 veterans.

“Congratulations to the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center on being awarded these funds,” said Senator Gobi. “There is always more work we can do to help our veterans. MVOC provides a variety of support services and these funds will allow them to expand their reach.”

“The work the MVOC does to support veterans in our community is first class, and this grant will let them deepen the scope of their incredible work,” said Rep. Zlotnik “I’m very pleased to see these funds awarded to such a deserving organization; congratulations.”

MVOC mission is to “[provide] support to military veterans and their families in need of services to develop a resilient, self-sufficient lifestyle essential to succeed in today’s environment.” Since 1988, the Center has provided veterans with alternative low-income housing solutions, mental health counseling, employment training, medical transportation and so much more. MVOC is an important part of the community and has been achieving incredible progress and work for our veterans.

The Legal Assistance for Our Veterans grant is designed to fund legal aid groups, legal clinics, or nonprofit organizations who will focus on helping Massachusetts veterans, including those with a less than honorable discharge status, gain access to veterans’ services, including, but not limited to: discharge status upgrades, health benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”) healthcare system, housing & education assistance, general legal representation, and veteran-specific employment. The grant program utilizes funds received by the Attorney General’s Office from a settlement with Sprint and Verizon. Special consideration was given to applicants who can prove that the grant will be used to serve underrepresented veterans, including women, minorities, and LGBTQ veterans.

Many Democrats spent the evening pouting



ANYTHING
NEAR &
FAR
.....
KEITH
KENT

Many including myself have cried out for our new President to be “Presidential.” Yes I know he won’t put down the Twitter account but here was President Trump’s chance to finally act Presidential on a national stage. Thankfully he finally did.

Our President opened with marking the conclusion of Black History Month, and reminded citizens there is still plenty of work left to be done in our nation’s path to civil rights. He also openly condemned the threats targeting Jewish Community Centers, and vandalism of cemeteries as well as a recent shooting saying, “While we may be a nation divided on policies, we are a country that stands united in condemning hate & evil in all

of its very ugly forms.”

This was the type of statement many on both sides have been waiting for. Yes, talk is cheap but he now deserves the proper chance to prove his words. We owe every president this no matter what the party.

As I watched the recorded speech over again, I noticed something I was extremely let down by as an Independent voter. As a citizen who openly admits I voted for neither of the “Big Two” candidates for the first time ever, I take solace in the true ability to call out both sides with a clear conscious and no party loyalty.

During the speech, I noticed time and time again, Dem’s just sitting in their chairs pouting like little children and often times not even clapping. Yes, make no mistake, this congress is just as divided, if not more, than the last one. It just seems to get worse with every passing year.

When our President spoke of “Enforcing our Laws” very few Democrats stood up. I say, shame on the majority of you who did not show support for being a nation of laws.

Our President announced a list of companies who agreed to invest billions in American jobs to create tens of thousands of new jobs in our nation. Republicans stood up and clapped, and Democrats again stayed seated with Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) looking the worst pouting profusely. Really? Have you checked the stock market?

During the speech, our President announce he signed on the dotted line for enforcing with every new regulation passed, two old regulations must be cancelled. Democrats sat there and pouted again. I can tell you as a member of a family that owned a small business, this was long overdue. Regulation, while necessary in many forms, has too many antiquated laws on the books binding the hands of small businesses which need to go the way of the dinosaur.

President Trump announced, “Our allies will find that once again America is ready to lead.”

The video told it all as Republicans stood up, and team blue stayed firmly planted

in their seats. I am sorry but after 8 years of a lack of, and failed, foreign policy, again shame on you. Almost every single veteran I have spoken with has conveyed to me when asked, a complete feeling of a lack of foreign policy while serving. This speaks volumes.

Now here is a great one where Democrats really dropped the ball. When our President spoke of newly signed laws which “Impose a five year ban on lobbying by Executive Branch officials and a life time ban on officials from becoming lobbyist for foreign governments,” Republicans stood and clapped with great applause, and to my utter disgust, only one Democratic member had the courage to stand and clap. Seriously, just one? As an independent voter who votes for the person and not the party I was very let down. I voted for Democratic candidates many times in the past when I felt it was the right thing to do and watching this made me sick to my stomach. To the one Democrat who had the courage on video to stand, “I thank you with all my heart.”

After it was all said and done, Democrats accused our President of being a Wall Street insider, for appointing many business leaders and top executives to posts in Washington. I guess they have seemed to forget about President Obama’s monstrous bailout of Wall Street not long ago, and Hillary Clinton’s main source of campaign funding.

Democrats also accused our President on television of making it harder for middle class families to own new homes. May I remind you it was famed Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank himself who said there was nothing wrong with Fannie May & Freddie Mac. What happened shortly after, we had a monstrous home loan default and housing crisis which was also the banks fault for approving shady loans they knew people couldn’t afford.

Democrats had a chance to look much better on recorded video last night and sadly they blew it, and still don’t get why they lost the election.

600 episodes of memories

You can, as has been so often said, look it up. On March 24, 2005, this newspaper published a column I had written about the heart attack I’d suffered in the airport in Philadelphia several weeks earlier. That’s where it began. It wasn’t my first byline of course — I’d been working for the Courier for about three years, but my then-and-now editor Ruth DeAmicis thought writing about the experience might be cathartic for me and serve as one of those human-interest stories papers like to publish because all the research says folks like to read them. So, I sat down and started to write.

It wasn’t easy.

My emotions were still all over the place and I was so tired those weeks it took me almost a week to finish it. I was, after all, only able to put in an hour or so every morning before I needed a nap. And then another nap. Anyone who’s had a heart attack or any serious illness can relate. There were, in the beginning, no guidelines nor any guarantee whether there would be even a second column. It wasn’t discussed at the time and hasn’t been since. The next week I simply wrote another one. The week after that, I wrote a third one, and, well, here we are.

In time, the only and obvious rule for the column was I couldn’t opine on local issues I might be covering while wearing my reporter’s hat.

To state the obvious, it’s been quite a ride. Today’s column is, amazingly, somehow the 600th in the series. To put it in perspective, the oldest of my

JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART
.....
JERRY
CARTON



three children was still a teenager when that first column appeared and now he’s in his 30s. My middle kid turns 30 this year. The youngest of my three children was in sixth grade that early spring. Five months from now she’ll receive her Masters in social work from Smith College. Young athletes I was covering then are in many cases now parents themselves. I’ve gotten old!

There have been a few weeks when Journey of the Heart (more on the title in a minute) hasn’t shown up in its customary place on page 4 but since that was because I was in a coma I suppose I earned a pass. Fair enough?

As for the title, Journey of the Heart. Ruth came up with it and to be sure it was appropriate. I was on what for me was an uncharted journey as I began cardiac rehab therapy, the first step on the road to recovery. I wrote about the physical and emotional roller-coaster I was riding. There were moments of euphoria when I’d reach this benchmark or that one. There were days of overwhelming depression when I didn’t. But after six months I was really tired of writing about myself and I was absolutely certain people were beyond tired of reading about me so I pivoted and began writing about whatever might pop into my head any given week. I’d write about vacations. I’d write about being admonished about the ever-growing collection of water bottles in my car. I’d write about the music I could tolerate with kids in the car. And I wrote, you might have noticed, about politics.

“Write what you’re passionate about.” That’s what every journalism teacher tells students. It’s what I was told by Jean Warfield, my first and beyond amazing journalism teacher at Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County, whose campus as an aside, sits directly across the street from the Social Security Administration’s national headquarters. A little trivia there.

It’s what I was told by profs on the third floor of Mary Graydon Center at American University, and it’s what I told my students at Beth Tfiloh Day School in Pikesville where I was naturally enough also the newspaper adviser.

“Write what you’re passionate about.” I’m passionate about politics because it’s through the electoral system we codify into law the principles and policies we believe in so getting to combine my love of politics and writing has been pretty cool indeed.

Feedback? Oh, yes, there’s been feedback, frequently from folks who detested my ideology. One guy, who subscribed from Virginia apparently thought I was a commie pinko, used to write lengthy letters to the editor about my stuff. On the other hand, when I dissed Occupy Wall Street when some participants ironically claimed elections don’t matter, I was told I was obviously a Bush, maybe-even a Reagan apologist.

I was appreciative. When people are moved enough to respond to what you write, that’s a very good day’s work.

You never know what’s going to touch people’s hearts and minds. While my own favorite column has been the whimsical fluffy piece I penned in the summer of 2007 about falling in love

with creamsicles, the one which to this day sparked more response than any other was the column I wrote in the spring of 2011 when Courtney was about to graduate high school. Second to that was the one where I talked about life with a bi-polar disorder, which I might add, is never boring.

I heard a lot about a column several years later in which I wrote about the impressive individual activism of some of my peers. There was widespread response to the piece I wrote earlier this year thanking Barack Obama for his presidency. Many people wrote or told me how much they liked a column about how families are impacted by addiction and I heard a lot when I wrote about my father’s 90th birthday.

When I wrote about Riley crossing the Rainbow Bridge in November ‘14, there was an outpouring of response, some of which made me cry, and of course I tend to hear a lot back when I’ve written about my myriad of health issues.

Next Tuesday will mark 12 years since that heart attack which became the catalyst for this column. The opportunity to do this, 600 times now, is one I’ve cherished and I’m really grateful Ruth has let me run with it for so long. Thanks, boss. I’m glad too that people have seemed to enjoy reading it and it goes without saying I hope that will continue to be the case for however much longer I’ll be writing it. I have no idea how long that will be but for now, thanks to all of you and again, don’t hesitate to let me know what you’re thinking. Civil dialogue isn’t easy these days. Let’s continue to prove we can provide it. See you next week.

Tsongas addresses needs of smaller community hospitals

GARDNER — Heywood Healthcare hosted Congresswoman Niki Tsongas at Heywood Hospital in Gardner on Thursday, February 23rd for a frank discussion on how the repeal or replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) could impact healthcare in the North Central and North Quabbin Regions.

“I have felt, as a strong supporter of the ACA, as someone who was able to vote for it, that we needed to hear from people and get their stories of how they have benefited from it and what the problems have been,” Tsongas stated as she addressed hospital administration, physicians and leaders of local health care partners. Tsongas stated her goal was to learn how the ACA helped Heywood Healthcare and its partners provide care to patients and communities and their concern if it’s repealed.

Heywood Healthcare President and CEO Win Brown pointed out that the ACA has provided financial benefits for the hospital.

“With more and more residents having access to health insurance, we as a health-care system have been able to reduce our free and reduced care by half over the past five years. This lessens the financial burden we carry as a community-owned health care system, allowing us to grow, expand and offer other need-

ed services,” said Brown. “We have some very serious health-care needs in our region and our primary goal is to continue to provide high-quality care locally in a cost-effective manner.”

Heywood Healthcare leadership shared many stories about how both Athol and Heywood Hospitals have been able to expand medical and behavioral health services to local residents and in area schools, and all agreed that the prospect of a future without the assistance of federal funding for health care would impact many in the region.

Heywood Healthcare Vice President for Community Health Rebecca Bialecki highlighted that repealing the health-care legislation would be a blow to staying off the opioid epidemic. “Today, young adults from middle-class families are the new face of addiction. It often starts as a result of injury, becomes a prescription dependence on opiates to facilitate a speedy return to school or work, then quickly spirals to more affordable opiates like heroin,” stated Bialecki. “Many facets of the ACA have been critical to the treatment of these young people who do not have their own insurance or are covered by their parents’ insurance,” she continued. “We’re concerned that if this coverage was to be eliminated, many of these people would be



Congresswoman Niki Tsongas in conference at Heywood Hospital

Courtesy photo

left stranded without any treatment access at all.”

Also in attendance was GVNA Healthcare, Inc. President and CEO Elaine Fluet, who shared her organization’s belief of the importance of expanding Medicaid coverage and noted most pressing concerns of her and her staff are the new pre-claim review initiative by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services becoming costly and ineffective.

“Collecting documentation for pre-claim review on every case redirects our nursing staff away from patient care and threatens the ability of the VNA to respond in a timely fashion to hospital referrals,” she said.

Pediatrician and Medical

Director for Heywood Medical Group, Sari Miettinen, MD, stated the ACA has had a major impact on the way she practices medicine, referring to the now 95 percent of children in the country who currently have access to health insurance and that the increase in federal funding has allowed providers to track community health issues and improve preventative-care services, vaccination rates, and manage chronic diseases in children, including ADHD, obesity, and asthma.

“The Affordable Care Act has allowed us as providers to implement patient-centered medical homes, population health management, and continuous quality improvement

in our practices, so we are not just treating the patient as a person, but also looking at our entire patient population,” she said.

Although Congresswoman Tsongas shared many concerns about the uncertainty surrounding the ACA moving forward, she shared her belief that members of the Republican Party are now realizing that repeal without replacing would not best serve their constituents and she urged those present to continue to weigh in on the conversation surrounding the ACA.

“Change is coming,” Tsongas said in closing. “We’re just going to have to stay in touch on what that change means.”

It’s ram-a-lam-a-ding-dong!

Grease is the word this weekend at Murdock High School as this year’s musical takes to the stage with the Thunderbirds and the Pink Ladies.



Sonny Latierri (Tom Aho) and Marty (Molly Murphy), dancin’ up a storm on the set of Grease!



The Pink Ladies and the T-Birds sing and dance their way through a number of well-known tunes in this weekend’s production of Grease.



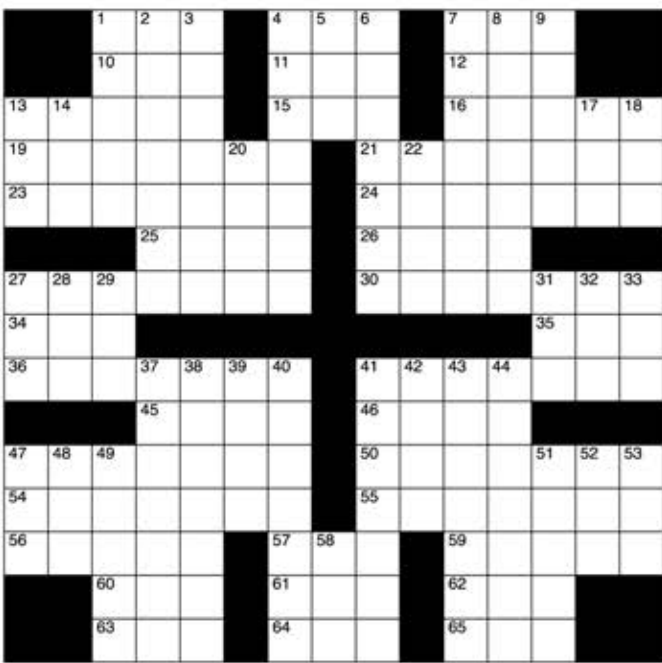
The T-Birds...lookin’ tough!



The Pink Ladies, showing a little attitude.



The cast and crew of Grease, this year’s production sponsored by Murdock Friends of Music. The hit musical will be staged at the Murdock Middle/High School auditorium Friday, Mar. 3, and Sat., Mar. 4 beginning at 7 p.m.



CLUES ACROSS

1. __ fi (slang)

4. Carolina Panthers’ Newton

7. Documented organizational practice

10. A way to change color

11. Boxing legend

12. Football coach Parseghian

13. Rewards (archaic)

15. Colbert’s network

16. Palm trees

19. Capital of N. Carolina

21. L.A. ballplayers

23. Does not sit

24. A way to intensify

25. Penny

26. Elements’ basic unit

27. Muscular weakness (pl.)

30. Makes sense

34. Helps little firms
35. Go quickly

36. Found at the end of books

41. A way of carving

45. The back of one’s neck

46. Israeli dance

47. They help golfers

50. Western landmass

54. Evokes

55. A Big Easy hoopster

56. Small valleys

57. Water in the solid state

59. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)

60. Don’t let this get too big

61. Motor is one type

62. Negative

63. A hiding place

64. Negative

65. Excavated

CLUES DOWN

1. Upright stone

2. Beat

3. Intestines (informal)

4. Distinguishing marks

5. Clerical vestment

6. Give cards incorrectly

7. Underground construction worker

8. Japanese art form

9. Franz van __, German diplomat

13. Wife

14. Consume

17. Curve

18. Midway between south and southeast

20. Unit of heredity

22. Upon

27. Pressure unit

28. Australian TV station
29. Cool!

31. A person’s guardian spirit

32. French river

33. Body part

37. Gratify

38. Watertight chamber

39. Dueling sword

40. Term

41. Having an attractive shape

42. Togo capital

43. Island nation

44. Arctic deer with large antlers

47. Dishonorable man

48. Equal to 100 sq. meters

49. Administered

51. Cake topping

52. Car for hire

53. Autonomic nervous system

58. Intelligence organization





Wonderful world of numbers... by someone who loves them

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — 30 years. That's how long Chris Ricard has been teaching math at Murdock High School. That even pre-dates the current building which is about 20 years old.

"I'm the mother hen," she laughed.

And across the decades, Ricard thinks she's developed a pretty solid theory as to why math seems so intimidating to so many students.

"Their parents," she opined. "When they're young a lot of kids seem to get their fear of math from parents who probably didn't like the subject. Who likes math other than us math nerds?"

She chuckled, adding in a more seri-



ous vein, "So it becomes easy for parents, even without realizing it, to pass that fear along."

That poses an immediate challenge for elementary school teachers, many if not most of whom weren't math majors themselves and might have had their own less than pleasant feelings about the subject, so by the time students reach middle school to say nothing of high school, a lot of them aren't exactly enamored with the topic.

"We understand what we're dealing with," acknowledged Ricard. "We do try to make it fun but math isn't a subject where every part of it can be fun. Sometimes we're having to do basic drills and skills and it's understandable that some students find that boring."

Math, though, is a key component when it comes to college admissions. Many schools want students to have completed four years of high school math but graduation requirement is just three years.

To that end, said Ricard, schools have had to adapt and of next year's Murdock seniors, almost all will be taking a fourth year.

"The kids are getting the message," she noted.

One of the strategies Ricard and the other math teachers use is attempting to relate math to real-life situations.

"You always hear kids saying, 'why do I need to take this? I'll never use it.' We try to show them how they will. If you can bring real-life concepts into math, there's a better chance of engaging them," she said.

There are, of course, the students who love math and those who despise it and then there's the large group between those two extremes and Ricard noted while there's a "soft spot for fellow math nerds," seeing other students "work really hard and solve problems" makes teaching a rewarding profession.

"I love teaching," she reflected.

Some people know early what they want to do and Ricard, who got her degree from the University of Indiana, was among them.

"I knew in kindergarten that I wanted to teach and later on math was my favorite subject. In college, at first I was going to do elementary education but I realized I actually hated it and changed my major."

Turn To **NUMBERS** page **A7**

POLICE LOG

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

1:19-1:53 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:36 a.m.: disabled MV (School Street) spoken to; 5:05 a.m.: FD call (Cabot Road) services rendered; 6:11 a.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) verbal warning; 8:40 a.m.: traffic hazard (Franklin Street) spoken to; 9:39 a.m.: accident (Glenallan Street) report taken; 10:34 a.m.: ambulance (Holly Drive) transport; 12:25 p.m.: animal complaint (Vaine Street) refer to ACO; 12:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Highland Street) refer to ACO; 1:17 p.m.: assist other agency (36 Spring St.) assisted; 1:53 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) advised officer; 3:07 p.m.: burglar alarm (Murdock High) accidental; 4:20 p.m.: accident (Central Street) report taken; 4:39 p.m.: fraud (Mill Street) report taken; 5:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Cabot Road) assisted; 5:30 p.m.: accident (Glenallan Street) report taken; 7:36 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Drive) transport; 7:45 p.m.: suspicious MV (Murdock High) spoken to; 7:54 p.m.: fire alarm (36 Spring St.) no FD service required; 8:50 p.m.: suicide threats (Mechanic Street) removed to hospital; 8:57 p.m.: animal complaint (West Street) spoken to; 9:44 p.m.: ambulance (Brown Street) transport.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

1:11 a.m.: accident (Spring Street) report taken; 2:22 a.m.: suspicious other (Affordable Motors) report taken; 2:49-5:03 a.m.: building checks, secure; 8:09 a.m.: officer wanted (Affordable Motors) assisted; 8:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Summer Street) spoken to; 9:38 a.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street) assisted; 10:52 p.m.: traffic hazard (Spring Street) assisted; 12:54 p.m.: summons service (Pearl Drive) unable to serve; 1:21 p.m.: ambulance (Hilltop Terrace) transport; 1:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Happy Hollow Road) refer to ACO; 1:41 p.m.: trespassing (Affordable Motors) assisted; 2:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Krantz Road) refer to ACO; 3:26 p.m.: summons service (Main Street) served; 4:22 p.m.: burglary B&E (Central Street)

spoken to; 9:37 p.m.: fight (Polly's Drive) removed to hospital; 11:02 p.m.: noise complaint (Central Street) spoken to.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

12:44 a.m.: repossession of MV (Munroe Street) MV towed; 1:35-2:47 a.m.: building checks, secure; 5:47 a.m.: burglar alarm (One Stop Plaza) accidental; 8 a.m.: MV stop (Old Gardner Road) verbal warning; 9:27 a.m.: summons service (Pearl Drive) unable to serve; 9:31 a.m.: investigation (Oakland Street) info taken; 9:44 a.m.: animal complaint (Polly's Drive) refer to ACO; 9:55 a.m.: MV stop (Ash Street) verbal warning; 10:05 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 10:24 a.m.: unwanted party (Linden Street) arrest; Edon Milburn Peters, age 35, homeless: eight outstanding warrants; 12:24 p.m.: vandalism (Krantz Road) report taken; 12:57 p.m.: summons service (Royalston Road North) info taken; 12:59 p.m.: summons service (Mill Street) info taken; 1 p.m.: summons service (Juniper Street) info taken; 1:01 p.m.: summons service (Juniper Street) info taken; 1:02 p.m.: assist citizen (Ash Street) assisted; 3:58 p.m.: registration check (Spring Street) report taken; 5:15 p.m.: fire alarm (Eli Drive) call canceled; 5:56 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Gardner Road) unable to locate; 6:14 p.m.: DPW call (Murdock Avenue) assisted; 7:07 p.m.: MV stop (Mill Glen Road) written warning; 8 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street) dispersed gathering; 8:18 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 8:29 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) unable to locate; 8:45 p.m.: registration check (Spring Street) dispersed gathering; 9:21 p.m.: MV stop (Railroad Street) verbal warning; 10:33 p.m.: building check, secure.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

12:27-12:30 a.m.: building checks, secure; 12:32 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 12:37 a.m.: group disturbance (Baldwinville State Road) summons: Christian Andre Vogel, age 22 of 121 Baldwinville State Road, Winchendon: furnishing alcohol for minor; 12:49 a.m.: unwanted party (41 Juniper St.) services rendered; 1:48 a.m.: accident (Maynard Street) arrest: Kristin M. Nazzaro, age 21 of 736 River St., Winchendon: OUI-liquor and negligent operation of MV; 1:49 a.m.: ambu-

lance (walk in) assisted; 5:42 a.m.: suspicious MV (Irving Gas) secure; 9:03 a.m.: animal complaint (Monadnock Avenue) refer to ACO; 10:51 a.m.: officer wanted (Winter Street) no PD service required; 11:38 a.m.: MV stop (Pleasant Street) verbal warning; 12:19 p.m.: assist other PD (Cottage Street) unable to serve; 12:48 p.m.: property found (Harvard Street) assisted; 12:51 p.m.: MV stop (Front Street) verbal warning; 12:55 p.m.: registration check (Elmwood Road) spoken to; 1:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Sibley Road) refer to ACO; 1:57 p.m.: suspicious person (Otter River Road) spoken to; 2:16 p.m.: drug, narcotic violation (Lincoln Avenue Extension) gone on arrival; 2:38 p.m.: MV stop (Mill Street) verbal warning; 4:03 p.m.: ambulance (Otter River Road) transport; 4:56 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street) services rendered; 5:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Woodlawn Street) unable to locate; 6:06 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 6:42 p.m.: MV fire (Teel Road) report taken; 7 p.m.: registration check (sand pits, Spring Street) dispersed gathering; 7:24 p.m.: lift assist (Pearl Drive) assisted; 7:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Spruce Street) advised civil action; 8:30 p.m.: tree down (Baldwinville State Road) unable to locate; 8:32 p.m.: tree down (High Street) assisted; 8:47 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Drive) transport; 9 p.m.: disabled MV (Tannery Hill) assisted; 9:35 p.m.: warrant check (Maynard Street) unable to locate;

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY, 26

12:35-1:15 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Cumberland Farms) report taken; 1:50 a.m.: power outage (Harrisville Circle) refer to other agency; 2:14 a.m.: noise complaint (41 Juniper St.) spoken to; 2:16 a.m.: suspicious MV (GFA) spoken to; 2:34 a.m.: suspicious person (Mill Street) spoken to; 2:53 a.m.: disabled MV (New Boston Road) assisted; 3:19 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive) transport; 5:50 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 6:04 a.m.: investigation (Cumberland Farms) info taken; 11:30 a.m.: general info (River Street) info taken; 1:15 p.m.: assist citizen ((Baldwinville Road) assisted) 2:12 p.m.: general info (East Street) info taken; 2:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Benjamin Street) call canceled; 2:28 p.m.: fire,

mutual aid (Main Street) assisted; 3:12 p.m.: DPW call (Water Street) referred; 3:18 p.m.: disabled MV (Clark Y) assisted; 3:25 p.m.: harassment (CVS) report taken; 3:38 p.m.: assist citizen (Glenallan Street) assisted; 3:54 p.m.: dog bite (Sunset Court) refer to ACO; 4:09 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 4:22 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) written warning; 5:12 p.m.: trespass notice (River Street) info given; 5:48 p.m.: flooding (Phyllis Road) refer to DPW; 6:08 p.m.: deliver message (High Street) delivered; 6:11 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 9:14 p.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) written warning; 9:40 p.m.: 911 call non-emergency (Main Street) advised officer; 10:07 p.m.: assist other PD (Baldwinville State Road) spoken to; 10:18 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

1:23-4:52 a.m.: building checks, secure; 6:16 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) written warning; 6:27 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 6:30 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) traffic citation; 7:30 a.m.: DPW call (Murdock Avenue) referred; 8:06 a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) false alarm; 8:11 a.m.: summons service (41 Juniper St.) served; 9:10 a.m.: summons service (Pearl Drive) unable to serve; 9:20 a.m.: summons service (Royalston Road North) unable to serve; 10:13 a.m.: suspicious other (Hitchcock Road) info taken; 12:39 p.m.: disabled MV (Central Street) assisted; 1:04 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) unable to locate; 1:04 p.m.: suspicious MV (Rite Aid) no cause for complaint; 1:42 p.m.: general info (Hyde Park Drive) assisted; 2:08 p.m.: smoke (Irving Gas) services rendered; 2:09 p.m.: ambulance (Christo's Place) transport; 2:16 p.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive) transport; 2:45 p.m.: general info (Maple Street) info taken; 3:24 p.m.: general info (Whitney Street) refer to other agency; 3:51 p.m.: 911 call non-emergency (Hale Street) spoken to; 5:25 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 5:41 p.m.: summons service (Pearl Drive) served; 5:50 p.m.: summons service (Royalston Road North) served; 6:05 p.m.: burglar alarm (Rivers Edge) spoken to; 6:47 p.m.: suspicious MV (Bayberry Circle) spoken to; 8:38 p.m.: summons service (Mill Street) unable to serve.

OBITUARIES

Clifford C. Harmon, 87

WORCESTER — Clifford C. Harmon, age 87, of Worcester, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving family on Monday, Feb. 20, 2017.

Born on Sept. 2, 1929, in Leominster, he was the son of William "Duke" Harmon and Lila Sherwin. Cliff grew up in Winchendon and graduated from Murdock High School in 1947 where

he was class president all four years. After graduation, he proudly served his country in the United States Air Force from 1950-54 as a cryptology instructor at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX during the Korean War.

After his service, Cliff attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and graduated with a business degree

in 1958. While studying at UMass, he married the love of his life, Carole Joan McGourty of Worcester, in 1957 and together they set off on an adventurous 60-year journey. Upon graduating from UMass, he began his accounting career at Kendall Corporation and held various managerial positions throughout the United States including Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Carolina and Illinois. In 1969, he relocated back to Worcester and continued working in the accounting field until retiring from Ferranti-Packard Ltd in 1993.

Cliff had many interests in life. He could always be found in the kitchen creating fantastic meals for not only the family but for plenty of friends as well. He was a lifelong Boston sports fan and followed all teams closely throughout every season. But most of all, he was fondest of being around his family whether it was watching his children's athletic games, taking family vacations on Cape Cod or grilling on the back

deck in the summertime. Cliff was king of the one-liners and always left a smile on both new and old acquaintances that crossed his path.

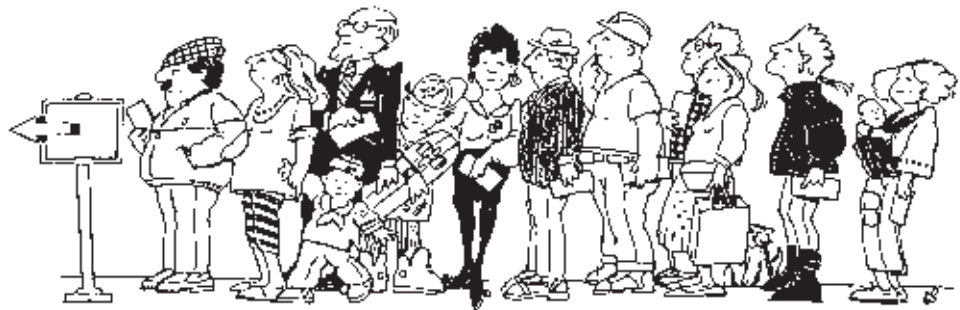
Cliff was an active member of Blessed Sacrament Parish since moving to Worcester in 1969 and served for several years on the parish council. He was also an active member of the Holy Cross Alumni Sodality of Our Lady.

Cliff leaves behind his beloved wife, Carole J. (McGourty) Harmon of Worcester; his son Clifford C. Harmon Jr. and wife Jeanne Harmon of Houston, TX; his daughter Amy C. Harmon and husband Robert Stefanic of Southborough; his son Christopher G. Harmon and wife Bobbie Harmon of Worcester; his son Neil A. Harmon and wife Rochelle Harmon of Annapolis, MD; and seven beautiful grandchildren; Rachel, Ford, Kelly, Brenna, Olivia, Caroline, and Kate Harmon. Cliff is predeceased by his brother, George F. Harmon.

The funeral Mass was held at Blessed Sacrament Church, 555 Pleasant St. Friday, Feb. 24.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Athy Memorial Home, 111 Lancaster St., Worcester was entrusted with arrangements.



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OBITUARIES

Philip C. Mann Sr. 90

GLENS FALLS NY — Philip C. Mann Sr., age 90, passed away on Feb. 25, 2017 at the Glens Falls Hospital surrounded by his loving family.



Philip was born on May 25, 1926 in Winchendon he was the son of the late Chester Albert Mann and Ollie Talbot Stone. Philip graduated from Murdock High School in 1943, joined the U.S. Navy and served overseas in the pacific area with Patrol Bombing Squadron 205 until the end of the war against Japan. Honorably discharged in May 1946, he attended Cushing Academy where he played ice hockey and prepared for college. He attended Wentworth Institute and graduated with an associate's degree in machine construction and tool design. His football and baseball coach at Wentworth encouraged him to go to Norwich University on an athletic scholarship but he declined and decided on the University of Vermont. While attending UVM he was house manager and president of the Delta Psi Fraternity. He graduated from UVM with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering and would later become a licensed New York State professional engineer.

After one year with the Factory Insurance Association as an industrial fire inspector and three years with ALCO Products Co., in Schenectady he went to work as a project engineer for Imperial Paper and Color Company in Glens Falls. Phil remained there for close to 30 years through the transitions of Imperial to Hercules Powder Company to the Ciba-Geigy Corporation until his retirement in 1988. For the past 13 years Phil worked side-by-side with his daughter Heidi and her husband Don who greatly valued his total devotion and commitment with building Topnotch Self-Storage in South Glens

Falls.

Ever the outstanding athlete, Phil grew up playing hockey on the frozen ponds of New England. He played football, baseball and when the ice was good, hockey for UVM. He enjoyed downhill and cross country skiing well into his 80s. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed more than 30 years membership at the Glens Falls Country Club. He very much enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting events, the Friday Senior Men's golf league at Bend of the River in Hadley, country line dancing and biking along the Hudson River bike path in South Glens Falls.

Besides his parents, he is predeceased by his adoring big sister, Virginia "Ginny" Talbot LaDeau.

He leaves behind his four children, Philip C. Mann Jr. of Queensbury, Jeffrey D. Mann and wife Joanne of Queensbury, Caroline H. Barber and husband C. Richard of Queensbury, Heidi R. Vittengl and husband Donald of Queensbury and Naples, FL and 12 grandchildren; Kristina, Samantha, Katelyn, Zachary, Madeline and Gabriel Mann, Jeffrey Jr., Taylor and Kylie Mann, Ada Stone, Charles and Andrew Barber. He is also survived by the children's mother, Hildagarde Mann and his very dear friend Lorraine Birinyi.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to the nurses at the Glens Falls Hospital Coronary Care Unit, Dr. Sean Bain and Dr. Peter Gray for their dedication and compassion of their beloved father.

A Funeral service was conducted on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at Singleton Sullivan Potter Funeral Home, 407 Bay Road, Queensbury. Burial followed at Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, 200 Duell Road, Schuylerville.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Phil's name and in honor of Trooper Timothy Pratt to the South Glens Falls Marathon Dance, c/o South Glens Falls High School, 42 Merritt Road, South Glens Falls, NY 12803.

Singleton Sullivan Potter Funeral Home (sbfuneralhome.com.), 407 Bay Road, Queensbury is entrusted with arrangements.

Frank E. 'Junnie' Witkowski, 82

FITCHBURG — Frank E. "Junnie" Witkowski, age 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at Leominster Hospital on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017 following a brief illness. He is survived by his loving children & their spouses, Elizabeth Reichert & Gordon of Gardner; Frank E. Witkowski & Brenda of Winchendon; and Lynn Horton & David of Templeton.



He leaves his long time companion Jeanine Saunders, with whom he lived, of Fitchburg; his sister Maureen "Linda" O'Toole & Richard of Sterling; eight grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, sister-in-law Joanne Witkowski of Clinton; brother-in-law John Agnitti of Berlin; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. He is predeceased by his wife Elizabeth (Robinson) Witkowski, and his siblings, Paul Witkowski, Robert Witkowski, Arlene Hoffman, Patricia Wronski, Helen Mayou, and Barbara Agnitti.

Frank was born in Clinton to the late Frank & Helene (O'Rourke) Witkowski. He attended local schools before joining his family in business at Frank's Auto Sales in Clinton. As a heavy equipment operator, he later established his own company, and for many years owned and operated Frank's Trucking & Excavating in Berlin. Frank then went to work for Courier Printing in Westford, from where he ultimately retired after 15 years of employment.

Proud of his Polish heritage, Junnie was a long standing member of the Polish American Veterans in Clinton. Frank was happiest when buying, selling, or auctioning his many treasured collectibles that he has accumulated throughout his lifetime. He will be dearly missed and forever remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. Funeral services were held on Thursday, February 23, 2017 from the Philbin-Comeau Funeral Home, 176 Water St., Clinton, with a Mass of Christian burial celebrated in St. John the Evangelist Church, 80 Union St., Clinton. Burial followed in St. John's Cemetery, Lancaster.

Norman J. Desmarais

STOCKTON CA — Norman J. Desmarais passed away peacefully on Thursday Feb. 16. He was born in Winchendon on May 30, 1937, one of seven brothers.



Norman faithfully served in the United States Air Force for 21 years which included a tour in Vietnam. After retiring from the USAF, he became the superintendent of the San Joaquin County Motor pool until retiring in 1998.

Norman loved hunting and fishing as well as traveling and spending time with the love of his life Carol, for whom he was married to for 57 years.

Norman is survived by his three children Debbie Rettenmaier, Becky

Baleisis and Tom (Tad) as well as five grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Norman was an incredible father, a loving husband and a true patriot to his county.



Stockton CA.

DeYoung Shoreline Chapel 7676 Shoreline Dr. Stockton CA was entrusted with arrangements.

Mary Ellsworth, 53

WINCHENDON — Mary Ellsworth, age 53, of Winchendon died peacefully in her home on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017, surrounded by her family after a long illness.



Mary was born on Feb. 23, 1963 to Donna and James White of Wyoming, MN. She went to high school at Chisago Lakes High School and graduated in 1981. She met her beloved husband, Todd Ellsworth of Stow, and moved to Massachusetts in 1983. They married in 1984. Mary loved to read, play with her grandchildren, visit Pemaquid Point with her husband, and cook and bake with her family. Mary and her husband Todd lived in Winchendon for many years and had lived in Ashburnham for the last 10 years.

Mary worked, until recently, for over 20 years in Winchendon public school

system as a guidance secretary. Mary's sense of humor is one known well by many, and will be missed by all who have been blessed to know her.

Mary is survived by her husband of 33 years, Todd Ellsworth; three daughters: Amanda Norris (Ellsworth), her husband Ken Norris Jr. and their sons Avery and Finnley; Ashley Ellsworth, and Alyssa Ellsworth; her sister Diane Page (White), her husband Carl Page and their daughter Emma Page; sisters and brothers Linda, Carolyn, Anna, Pat, Kathy, Jason, Kevin, Alvin, James Jr. (Hony), and Teresa and Todd's brother Brad Ellsworth. She was predeceased by her parents Donna and James White, as well as her brother Walter White.

A celebration of life will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017 from 4 to 7 p.m. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Robert Donovan Jones, 86

UNIVERSAL CITY, TX — Robert Donovan Jones, age 86, died surrounded by family on Feb. 18, 2017. Born Sept. 20, 1930 in Bennington, VT Bob was an Eagle Scout and graduated from the Naval Academy, Class of 1953. He retired from the Air Force as Lieutenant Colonel in 1976. He played many instruments, sang with family and in choirs, and acted in musical theater.



He was a church organist throughout his life, beginning at age 16 in Winchendon, where he grew up, and

published a hymn a year later. Robert shared his love of all people everywhere, music, movies, theater, sailing, and the twinkle in his eye with his wife of 63 years, Phyllis. Bob is also survived by two daughters Wendolyn Eudy (and her husband Peter); Victoria Jones (and her partner Catherine Boswell); five grandchildren Peter and Matthew Eudy; Elena, Nika, and Anjelika Portzand five great-grandchildren, all of whom will miss him dearly.

Bob was preceded in death by his son Donovan.

His memorial service was Sunday Feb. 26, 2017 at St Matthew's Episcopal Church: 810 Kitty Hawk, Universal City, TX 78148.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: Fisher House (supporting military families in need) or ASPCA.

Ernest Leo Touchette, 83

OSWEGO, KS. — Ernest Leo Touchette, age 83 of Oswego, passed away at Freeman West Hospital in Joplin, MO at 6:55 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20, 2017.



Ernest was born in Fitchburg. on July 2, 1933 to the union of Eli Touchette and Georganna (L a m o u r e a u) Touchette. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the US Army and served from 1954-56. He spent the majority of his working life as a welder. He had worked for GE building generators and other industrial machinery, and also for Steelfab, where he was promoted to both superintendent and foreman.

Ernest was united in marriage with Nancy Ann Guenette in Fitchburg on

Oct. 5, 1957. Together they had five children. The couple moved to Oswego, KS. about seven years ago.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Touchette; one son, Michael Eli Touchette (wife, Penny) of Allenstown, NH.; four daughters, Kerin Brader (husband, David) of Parsons, KS., Linda Krapf (husband, James) of Winchendon, Denise Purell (husband, Gary) of Hubbardston, and Brenda Steed (husband, Robert) of Vernon, CT.; one brother, Roger Touchette of Leominster; one sister, Barbara Therrian of New Kent, VA; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eli and Georganna; and two brothers.

Mr. Touchette was entrusted to Derfelt Funeral Home for cremation. No services are planned at this time.

Homer J. Vaillancourt, 80

WINCHENDON — Homer J. Vaillancourt, age 80, of 140 Glenallan St., died peacefully Friday evening, Feb. 24, 2017 in UMass Memorial Medical Center, University Campus, Worcester, with his family at his side.



He was born in Peterborough, NH on March 12, 1936, son of the late Servulle and Marie (Valade) Vaillancourt and moved to Winchendon at the age of three. He was educated in Winchendon, where he lived for most of his life.

Homer was a woodworker and had worked at Winchendon Furniture, Patriot Industry, Sprague and Carleton in Keene, NH, and Temple Stuart Furniture in Baldwinville. He last worked at Ray Plastics until his retirement. Homer was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

His hobbies were photography and playing the guitar. Many years ago, he

belonged to a country band, "Rhythm Ramblers."

He leaves his wife of 59 years Claudette A. (Gauthier) Vaillancourt; four children, Joni Gorecki and her husband William of Winchendon, Homer J. Vaillancourt Jr. of Copperas Cove, TX, Steven A. Vaillancourt of Winchendon and Bruce W. Vaillancourt of Winchendon; a brother, George Vaillancourt of Winchendon; seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, three great great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce St.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St. will be Friday, March 3, 2017 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 480 Pleasant St, Watertown, MA 02472.

NUMBERS

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Her career began teaching eighth grade in Jaffrey where she developed a healthy respect for middle school teachers.

"God bless them, all those hormones," she marveled.

On the high school side, Ricard mentors some younger instructors and not only does she meet with them during common planning periods, a concept she likes a lot so teachers can compare notes, she goes into classrooms to watch

them at work.

"You get so much of a better feel for what they're doing and we get to see what's working and what's not," she said.

It helps too, to have a supportive administration and Ricard waxed enthusiastic. "Josh (Romano) is a fantastic principal. He knows how math fits into the college application process and has worked with us very effectively" to tailor curriculum to help MHS students meet the changing standards.

"We're always looking forward", she said.

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Little lasts forever in its original design. New Yorkers are attending games in the third Yankee Stadium. Cardinals fans flock to the third Busch stadium. Fenway, Wrigley, Soldier — all have had significant renovations. So too Lambeau Field.

Sometimes even extensive renovations might not be

enough. The middle jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown is run at a facility nearly 150 years old and Pimlico looks every day of that age. The first Preakness was run on that site in 1870.

My dad, born the year the Babe hit 60, the year of the legendary '27 Yankees, grew up in that neighborhood. For decades, the area was bustling with energy. Shops were thriving. I'm told the streetcars were still in vogue, though I have no memory of that. I vaguely recall his office, a massive one-time bank building I think, at a bustling intersection. I definitely remember my grandparents' house maybe three blocks or so from the entrance. For a couple months each year, the racetrack became the neighborhood hub, back when folks flocked daily to see the horses, culminating on Preakness Day when as many as 35,000 people would pack the joint in

the years before the infield was open and the crowd size skyrocketed to as many as 135,000.

The place never had the charm of Saratoga, the serenity of Delaware Park, the grandeur of massive Belmont nor the glitz of Hollywood Park. It didn't even have the bucolic feel of Laurel or Keeneland. It was and is after all, stuck smack dab in the middle of a residential neighborhood. So is Churchill Downs though the home of the Derby occupies a singular status.

Here's the thing, though. The neighborhood around Pimlico is, to be kind, a disaster. The primary commercial business? Narcotics. Some of the wiring in the plant dates back to the time of Benjamin Harrison's presidency (1889-93) and that's just for starters. Want to know how many racing days are held there now? Try 12. Time to close up shop and move the Preakness to Laurel, which has

the same owners as Pimlico and is situated between Baltimore and Washington? After all, a report came out the other day suggesting it might take as much as upwards of \$300 million to "renovate" the place, even though ownership would prefer an entire rebuild and insisted it wasn't going to bear the whole cost of any renovation, insisting on a public/private partnership.

Wouldn't moving be easier? That's where the politics comes in. The Preakness, you see, can't be moved without the okay from the state legislature and the Baltimore city delegation will obviously oppose that given the revenue the event generates from visitors every spring.

So, what's the solution? Who knows? In its current state, Pimlico's an unsustainable location but the legalities surrounding the Preakness essentially makes it impossible to

shut the facility's doors. This debate has been going on for years. There's consistently a lot of chatter and wailing but nothing seems to ever change.

Personally, I think the legislature will in time green-light moving the race because the reality is no one's coming up with \$300 million to fix Pimlico. In a perfect world, sure I'd like to see some deep pockets pony up the cash but what are the odds? Will the loss of the race hurt the city? Definitely. But life isn't fair. It's sad to see. Pimlico was one of the great venues of American sports and hosts one of the signature events in American sports. The fact this deterioration was allowed to happen in the first place is inexcusable but here we are. There is no realistic future for the facility. Time to let go, I'm afraid.

Abare looks both back and ahead

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — His fourth season coaching the girls varsity at his alma mater in the books, Murdock basketball coach Jim Abare acknowledged it was another rough year on the scoreboard but added it's possible the Lady Devils might have as many as 10 returnees for the 2017-18 campaign and that would be a first during his tenure. Also on the bright side — a bunch of those will be entering high school having already piled up a slew of varsity minutes.

"We're only losing one senior

(Gloryanne Andino). That's new for us," he said.

Ironically, the teams which the Lady Devils defeated this year (Sizer, Trivium, and North Brookfield) are all in the post-season by virtue of their finishes in their respective leagues.

"That's how it goes," he shrugged.

As for the coach's overall take?

"We survived," he reflected. "There were nights," he mused, leaving the sentence unfinished.

But Abare's record clearly demonstrates he knows how to win and while the challenge

at MHS has been significant in an era of school choice when many local youngsters opted for other options, he's enthused about the potential assuming some of the younger talent stays in town.

"Kelly Murphy and Jocelyn (Garner) can score 8-12 points a game. At least they have the potential to. Part of that is having the confidence to take the shot when it's open. They're capable," he said.

That's not an issue with rising senior Molly Murphy who's been Murdock's leading scorer throughout her career, finishing her junior campaign with a 38-point outburst which

is believed to be a school record for a single game.

"Molly is Molly," said Abare. "Julia (Shelly) helped when she was healthy and if we can get a full season from her, that would make a difference."

Murphy was named a league all-star and will play in that contest at Clinton March 16.

It is however the youngsters, including some soon-to-be freshmen who really excite the coach.

"Jasmine (LaRosa) and Hannah (Lowe) are intelligent players who understand the game more and more. They 'get it'. Kaleigh (Lauziere, an eighth grader this winter)

probably scored 30 points for varsity. She may have had 100 for the other (junior varsity) team. And she plays defense. Shae (Dupuis) came in. So did Julia (Lafrennie).

"We need consistency. Every program does. School choice is wreaking havoc at a lot of schools but that's the way it is now," he acknowledged.

Abare is hoping the Lady Devils will continue to compete in the summer league at Gardner but added details of that season, run by GHS coach Pete Gamanche remain unsettled.

MURDOCK

continued from page A1

and the faithful home crowd erupting. By the end of the first, Murdock held a commanding 23-8 lead including a strong 13-point unanswered run by the Blue Devils.

The second quarter started out much like the first. Murdock with a clear size advantage crashing the boards for rebounds quickly resulted in Nelson for two, who then followed up with another strong offensive rebound and two more making it 27-8. Lenox finally answered after a long drought from the field with a jump shot reaching double digits for the first time in the game several minutes in to the second quarter.

Murdock shortly after handed Lenox a strong response via a Kaminski 3-pointer, making it 30-10 game, and a solid 20 point lead early on, followed by Tyler Cota drawing a foul and sinking two free throws. After a Lenox free throw making it 32-11, the Blue Devils then answered again with a second 3-pointer by LJ Hicks with 2:35 remaining on the clock in the first half. Again crashing the boards just one play back up the hardwood later, Murdock followed up a miss with another strong offensive rebound resulting in two more on the board.

Finally ending the first half of play, Lenox's Shepard scored on a layup trying to limit the damage going in to the locker room shortly before time ran out, with the visitors trailing the host Blue Devils 37-16 at the end of two.

Starting the second half, Lenox came out aggressive early forcing a jump ball and then shortly after scoring. The Blue Murdock quickly responded again turning up the Blue Devil heat with another run consisting of a layup and another quick drive to the hoop making it a 41-18 game and Lenox down by 22. It was clear to fans and spectators the second half was quickly going the way of the first, with Blue Devils forcing turnovers, crashing the boards, and not letting off the gas.

Lenox's Downer tried picking up his teammates by breaking a drought and scoring for two, finally lifting the visitors to the 20 point mark at 43 to 20. Murdock called a timeout with 3:50 remaining in the third, and Lenox upon receiving the ball back a short time later threw up its 10th air ball of the game missing the mark badly. With three minutes left



in the third, the Blue Devils were still holding a commanding 45-20 lead.

After a brief official's timeout for safety purposes as food was accidentally dumped court side, Lenox's Steinman who accounted for six of his teams 14 shots not coming close to reaching the rim, again badly missed the mark. After both teams exchanged a few turnovers with each hustling for loose balls, Hicks forced a steal and drove to the hole putting Murdock up 47-22 after three periods.

The Blue Devils began the final quarter of play with a commanding 25 point lead. The clock was now becoming a bigger enemy than Lenox's cold shooting and many missed layups.

After an opening drive to the hole by Lenox, both teams again exchanged several missed shots and a few missed free throws. Nick Roy then took it to the hoop with a strong drive, followed by a deep Murdock three from the corner by number 55 along the baseline, and the Blue Devils now lead 53-24 and up almost 30. It was just a matter of time before Lenox would returned home on what was surely to be a longer ride back than the one taken in to the game.

With four minutes left Lenox showed it still had heart with Paradise driving to the hole for a deuce, and then an Illingworth bank off the glass doing their best to narrow the lead. However, it was too little too late. With roughly two minutes remaining, Blue Devil Coach Matt O'Malley cleared the bench and sent in the subs, with the starters getting a well earned ovation from the crowd.

In the end the Toy Town boys punched their ticket to the second round of the Western Mass Division 4 Playoffs with



a convincing 57-36 win over Lenox. Hicks finished with 15, Nelson 14, and Kaminski with eight to lead the Blue Devils. Lenox was led by Steinman and Shepard with 6 points each.

Murdock's other contributors included Nick Roy and Spencer Pelkey with seven; John Murphy with four and Cota with two.

After the game, O'Malley was very happy with how his team played saying, "It's a great feeling. I am even more happy for the upper classmen such as Jared Nelson and Ryan Kaminski, Nick Roy, John Murphy, and Tyler Cota. Guys who have been through the struggles of this program, and stuck with us and believed in the message we were preaching. They really put in the work this off season, really trusted us, and I am really happy they got to experience something like this. I also thought LJ played incredible as he showed great poise. The support was great. I can't even remember the last time I had so many people texting me or calling me. People were telling me good luck when I was out today and I didn't even know who they were, but I hope to see some of them Thursday when we are at Turners Falls to support us. I am just really happy our team members got to experience this.



He said, "It's been six or seven years since this has happened, so it's all we've been hoping for."

"Offensively, we played a great game, especially the first half. Second half, we got a little stagnant, a little too much on one, but a win is a win."

Murdock were scheduled play at Turners Falls on Thursday in the second round of the Western Mass Division 4 district tournament, who defeated Sizer by a score of 57-35.

O'Malley is looking forward to the match up, saying, "It's definitely nice that we've played both teams we could face, Turners Falls and Sizer, because we know a little more of what we are walking into, as opposed to what we had tonight. But we need to make sure we bring out game."

(Correspondent Chris Martin contributed to this story.)

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SBA holds hearing on nominee

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

NATION — A hearing for President Trump's nominee to head up the United States Small Business Association (SBA) was broadcast live Jan. 24 on CSPAN. Nominee, Connecticut resident and former Republican candidate for United States Senator Linda McMahon was questioned by both parties during what was a solid bipartisan hearing in Washington, DC.

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) opened with both high regards and strong support for his fellow state resident and Trump Republican nominee.

The SBA was created to help American small businesses, and to also make sure small businesses win a fair amount of government contracts vs larger businesses. As small businesses make up well over 95 percent of jobs on average, the position to head up the agency comes great responsibility as Senators time and time again stressed the importance of making small businesses successful.

Massachusetts small businesses make up almost 98 percent of all employment in the Bay State. Massachusetts businesses with under 20 employees make up 16 percent of all small businesses. Those with 20-99 employees make up another 16 percent. Companies with 100-499 employees make up another 14 percent, and businesses in Massachusetts with 500 plus employees make up 54 percent. There are over 615,000 small businesses in the Commonwealth, with over 135,000 with employees, 480,000 without employees, and nearly 1.5 million Massachusetts workers are employed by small businesses.

McMahon, who was picked by President Trump as the nominee to lead up the SBA, has vast business experience which spans from running a multi-billion dollar business, the WWE entertainment empire from 2010-12, to being the co-founder of Women's Leadership Live,

and also an additional company which helps veterans re-integrate into society after returning home from deployment.

Republican Senators Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma and Jim Risch of Idaho, both spoke of how under the two terms of the Obama Presidency the regulatory process and oversight of business regulation grew to what they called oppressive levels. It was stated by the senators there were 25,000 documented new business regulations passed and enacted under President Obama's two terms. The cost with all this regulation was reported to be \$727 billion ranging from employee staffing, hours worked, processing, enforcing, and feet on the ground, as well as all the paperwork hours generated in all 50 states combined.

"Small business is the backbone of job creation in our nation," said Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) as she also said it comprises 96 percent of all businesses in her home state, which Shaheen also said is highly based on tourism. In Iowa, Republican Senator Join Ernst said the number was 97 percent, and in the state of Illinois it was 98.

In agreement with Shaheen who is a ranking SBA committee member, McMahon confirmed the SBA needs to be a stand alone agency. Shaheen was also pleased to hear McMahon say there is a need to help more female small business entrepreneurs. Shaheen also added, "Since the economic reset, small business loans were down by 20 percent while big business loans were up by 4 percent." One of the reasons echoed by other multiple republican senators was, all the new regulation makes it much tougher for smaller companies to get loans to invest in and grow their business."

McMahon explained as the nominee she was given a unique understanding in her home state of Connecticut as she visited a small company with eight employees, "I met a small business owner who due to the many new regulations, could not handle the financial burden of lawyers needed to work through regulation

to help him to grow his company. He was also told he was asset rich, but cash poor by the banks. Due to the cost of lawyers needed, and newer regulations regarding his being classified as cash poor as a result of regulation, he would have had to mortgage his home. He wasn't willing to do that, so he chose not to grow his business due to the over regulation even though there was a strong market for his product."

Hawaiian Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) added, "Big business and the lack of regulation helped get us where we were in the economic reset, so some regulation is clearly needed. The questions is, what regulations are holding back small businesses, and how do we go about identifying them?"

McMahon responded, "We need to visit more small businesses across the nation, ask them the questions, and identify the common biggest regulatory problems they have. We need to find out what regulations are hurting them the most as a start."

McMahon added, "Wanting to make SBA tools easier to use as many small businesses don't have the money to hire people to explicitly use the often complicated tools" and then told Senator Ben Cardin (D-Maryland) "We need to get away from and stop bundling legislation which also hurts small businesses."

Cardin told McMahon, "I am very pleased to hear you say that, and I could not agree more." Cardin even went on to say, "I also thank you for creating a company that helps veterans returning home."

During the hearing McMahon added, "I never expected my employees to do a job I wasn't willing to do my self" and also said, "Our next generation of small business entrepreneurs need to be better understand financial economics. Many have great ideas, but do not understand how to build or grow a small business and we need to make it easier for them to have access to SBA programs and services." To the pleasure of

other Democrats, the Republican nominee also added, "We need to expand on and invest more in Small Business Innovative Research Funding program, and also improve the Small Business Disaster Relief Program to help get these businesses up and running after a disaster strikes."

In the end, the possibly the most powerful statement by McMahon was made earlier during her opening remarks when she said, "There one was a time as a small business owner when I had to decide if I should either lease a typewriter or purchase it. I have been through bankruptcy and know what it is like to lose everything including my home and my car. I understand the risks and pain small business owners go through. I want to be their voice and their advocate."

Locally, former Smith's Country Cheese owner and still current entrepreneur David Smith when asked said, "Regulation has gotten way out of control during the last eight years, especially Federal regulation under President Obama. It is killing small businesses. Regulation has become extremely oppressive, and makes it extremely hard try to be competitive and then even try to grow your business. The increased regulation I personally experienced in just the last eight years was more than any other time since I purchased the farm in 1969 and opened Smith's Country Cheese in 1985.

Beth Hunt, who owns Not Just Produced when asked about regulation and small business said, "The more regulation they pass the tougher it gets for small businesses. I understand some regulation is necessary. However, as an example, I can't sell something as simple as sliced watermelon. If I want to sell sliced watermelon at my store, I need to pay well over \$10,000 and install a commercial certified kitchen, and we are only talking about something as simple as selling a slice of watermelon."

The Spirit Of An Athlete Can Live In Everyone

(NAPS)

Whether you're an Olympian, a professional or a weekend warrior, you likely aspire to be the best you can be when presented with a challenge. To achieve greatness, all athletes, regardless of the level of competition, rely on others. These people are coaches, trainers, nutritionists, teammates, family, friends, mentors and heroes. That list can also include those who inspire and support anyone who tries to be better.

Take, for example, Special Olympics, a global movement that empowers people with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 5.3 million athletes and unified partners in 169 countries. With the support of more than a million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and over 108,000 games and competitions throughout the year.

Many inspirational stories come out of Special Olympics. One such story is that of Dustin Plunkett, of Paramount, Calif. Plunkett, a 20-year veteran of Special Olympics Southern California, has shared a stage with professional athletes such as Yao Ming, as well as professional sports commentators at ESPN. However, it didn't come easily for Plunkett to get to where he is. Born with a cleft palate and an intellectual disability, he had a tough family life. His parents, struggling to handle him, turned him over to relatives. Thus began a tumultuous childhood of being shuffled around from one relative to another, none of them quite sure how

to care for him. School life was even worse, where he was bullied daily. Then he was introduced to something life changing: Special Olympics. He thrived through training and competing in sports and became a leader and a voice for all individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Inspired by this type of dedication to health, fitness and competition, Herbalife Nutrition created a \$1 million sponsorship of Special Olympics to support the organization, focusing on physical fitness. Leveraging its global team of more than 300 staff scientists and 36 Ph.D.s specializing in nutrition and sports performance, the company has lent expertise and educational content including videos and other materials to coaches, athletes, caregivers and the broader Special Olympics community.

"Our mission is to bring nutrition to people around the world and to provide support to those seeking to embrace a healthy, active lifestyle," said Dana Ryan, Ph.D., Herbalife senior manager of Sports Performance and Education.

As part of the sponsorship, Ryan joined Special Olympics Global Fitness Task Force to bring additional perspective and expertise to support Special Olympics athletes, coaches and families. The Global Fitness Task Force is an international committee of fitness experts and athletes collaborating to improve Special Olympics athlete sport performance and health through the vehicle of fitness.

Having provided volunteer, product and financial support for the Special

Olympics Southern California Fall Games, Herbalife Nutrition looks forward to supporting the athletes and teams preparing for Special Olympics World Winter Games taking place in March 2017 in Austria. Austria will welcome almost 3,000 Special Olympics athletes from 110 nations to compete in

nine Olympic-type winter sports.

Learn More
For further facts on Special Olympics, go to SpecialOlympics.org. For information about Herbalife Nutrition, visit Herbalife.com.

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Special Olympics star Dustin Plunkett and ESPN hosts agree that athletic organizations can inspire people to be their best selves.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
Benefit Wines in Winchendon is accepting applications for a part time position in the warehouse. Tasks include labeling bottles and candles, preparing orders for shipment and basic warehouse tasks. Must be reliable, able to work independently, lift up to 50 pounds on a regular basis, pass a drug test and able to read and write English. Please email Stacey Ricard at stacey@benefitwines.com or call (978) 297-5477 for an application or for more information.

mation.

CARE GIVER

Support needed for a young male, no personal care needed. Needs assistance with daily living skills, cooking and community outreach. Overnights and weekend hours available. For additional information, contact Patrick at 603-532-8343.

PART TIME

Gas attendants at Valero. Inquire at Valero to fill out an application. On site. Flexible hours. For information call (978) 320-6375. TFN

CNA/LNA

Broadview is seeking enthusiastic, motivated,

and caring individuals to join our staff. Looking for CNA/LNA candidates to fill part time positions on our 3-11 shift and our 11-7 shift. We have a very unique, employee friendly environment that includes free meals during every shift! If interested email Lindsey at Lconnor@broadviewassistedliving.com.

JOB SEEKERS

Job Seekers Networking Group hosted by North Central Career Center and Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce.

Meetings are open to all job seekers and are held on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Chamber conference room, 29 Parker St. 2nd floor, Gardner. Contact the Chamber at (978) 632-1780.

EMPLOYERS

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

FOR RENT

ROOMS FOR RENT
D o w n t o w n
Winchendon, immedi-

ate occupancy: located on second floor in secured, peaceful, friendly, well maintained, quiet & drug free building. Independent group of older gentlemen to co-habitat, hallway & bath facilities are shared. 1 parking space, dumpster use, heat/HW included, electric included (except AC in summer). \$475 per month. References, income verification, first & last to move in. Applications available: Dick's Place Barbershop, 298 Central St. (978) 297-2281.

GOODRICH APARTMENTS

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

WANTED

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

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Drum teacher Leon LaPlante seeks used instruments and drum stands to help out high school students. (978) 297-1250.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Beverly A. Laprade to Option One Mortgage Corporation, dated August 16, 2005 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37079, Page 100 of which mortgage U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-10 is the present holder by assignment from Option One Mortgage Corporation to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for the Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust, 2005-10 dated August 30, 2007 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42111, Page 221 and assignment from U.S. Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust 2005-10 to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-10 dated January 8, 2013 recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50354, Page 207, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 115 East Monomonac Road, Winchendon, MA 01475 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00PM on March 24, 2017, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated on East Monomonac Road in the northeasterly part of Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the easterly line of the road leading by the easterly side of Lake Monomonac from East Rindge NH to said Winchendon and by the big dam, so-called, said pipe being at the land now or formerly of Joseph E. Roy et ux;

Thence southerly on said road fifty (50) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of one Horrigan;

Thence easterly by said Horrigan land two hundred (200) feet to an iron pin;

Thence northerly fifty (50) feet to said land of Joseph E. Roy et ux;

Thence westerly by said land of Joseph E. Roy et ux two hundred (200) feet to the place of beginning.
Also granting the right to pass and repass to Lake Monomonac over a strip of land 10 feet wide across Lot A on Plan 38, Plan Book 45 recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Lot A being the premises conveyed to Norman W. Estabrook et ux by deed of Emma Stevenson dated August 27, 1962 and recorded with said Deeds in Book 4310, Page

166; said 10-foot strip being bounded on the south by Lot B on said Plan, on the west by Lake Monomonac, on the north by a portion of Lot A on said Plan and on the east by the road leading from Winchendon to Rindge New Hampshire.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 37079, Page 98.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-10
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500

Laprade, Beverly A., 14-019561, March 3, 2017, March 10, 2017, March 17, 2017
March 3, 2017
March 10, 2017
March 17, 2017

Town of Winchendon - Planning Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 40A, The Winchendon Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6:35p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium (second floor), 109 Front Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 to consider the following proposed amendments to the zoning bylaw:

A. To amend Article 5.1 Basic Requirements by adding new section entitled Additional Requirements Adding the following: *Any proposed*

use may be subject to the Site Plan Review provision of this Bylaw per Article 12.

B. To amend Article 5.2.1 Residential Uses for the Planned Development District to allow the following as *a use permitted as a matter of right*: 5.2.1.A. Single family detached dwelling, 5.2.1.B. Two family attached dwelling and 5.2.1.H. Accessory dwelling unit.

C. To amend Article 5.2.2 Commercial Uses for the Planned Development District to read 5.2.2A Retail store or larger scale retail services *larger than 15,001 sq. ft. including sales room or market for sale of merchandise to the public and to be allowed by a matter of right*, 5.2.2B Small scale retail services *that does not exceed 15,000 sq. such as barbershop, dry cleaning, tailoring, shoe repair, caterer, print shop, photography, crafts and to be allowed by a matter of right*, 5.5.2.C. Convenience *without gas station and to be allowed by a matter of right*.

D. To amend Article 5.2.2 Commercial Uses for the C2 – Neighborhood District to allow 5.2.2P. Self-service storage facility as *a use permitted as a matter of right*.

E. To amend Article 12 2.1E to read: Any use requiring a special permit in accordance with section 5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations if required by the Board of Appeals *and does not qualify for an exemption under Article 12.3 of the Zoning Bylaws*.

Copies of the draft revisions are available to be viewed in the office of the Department of Planning and Development Room 17, Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street, Winchendon during normal business hours. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Alternative translation and accommodation for disabled persons is available by advance request to the department at (978) 297-5410
By: Guy C. Corbosiero
Chairman Winchendon Planning Board
March 3, 2017
March 10, 2017

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE Premises: 10 Royalston Road South, Winchendon, Massachusetts By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Suzanne L. Rocheleau to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation and now held by CIT Bank N.A., said mortgage dated December 14, 2006, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 40372 at Page 105, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 25, 2009, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 44930 at Page 62, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated April 12, 2016, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 55240 at Page 133, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of fore-

closing the same will be sold at Public Auction on March 10, 2017, at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: The land in the westerly part of Winchendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows, viz: BEGINNING at a stake and stones (iron pin) on the Easterly side of the road leading from Winchendon village to "New Boston", so-called, and thence Southerly on a line of said road 316.39 feet more or less to an iron pipe driven in the ground at other land of the grantors; thence Easterly in a straight line on said other land of the grantors 431 feet more or less to an iron pipe driven in the ground at land formerly of Marvin Stoddard; thence On line of Stoddard land North 3° West, 297 feet more or less to a corner marked by a stake and stones; thence North 77° West, twenty-five and one-half (25-1/2) rods to a stake and stones on the Easterly side of the road aforesaid, the point of beginning. Being designated as Lot No. 1 as shown on a plan entitled, "Land of Bessie Emery and Henry Connors in the Town of Winchendon, Mass., drawn by N. T. Robichaud, Scale: 40" = 1", dated August 1, 1967, not recorded. Excepting that portion thereof conveyed to Kenneth W. Pelto et ux by deed dated October 22, 1990 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 13064, Page 393. The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 18, 1987, and recorded in Book 10317 at Page 245 with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, as affected by Deed recorded in Book 13064, Page 393 in said Registry. **TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described. **TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale. Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 275 West Natick Road, Suite 500 Warwick, RI 02886 Attorney for CIT Bank N.A. Present Holder of the Mortgage Telephone: (401) 234-9200 MLG File No.: 16-01040 A-4608913 02/17/2017, 02/24/2017, 03/03/2017
February 17, 2017
February 24, 2017
March 3, 2017

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CLYDE’S CORNER

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

SUNDAY MARCH 2
SKATE SHOW: after all these weeks of practice the Winchendon Skate Club presents its annual skate show at 2 p.m. at the Ritchie Ice Arena at the Winchendon School.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7
LEARN: Computer classes for adults are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Beals Memorial Library and are open to adults ages 18 and older.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
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.

GOLDEN AGERS MEET: The Golden Agers will have their first meeting of the spring on March 8 at 2 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. New members and those wanting to know more about the group are encouraged to attend.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9
BOOK DISCUSSION: Beals Memorial Library has a book club that meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Thursday each month, the next meeting is Thursday March 9 Books are available at the library.

OUR NEIGHBOR’S KITCHEN: Our Neighbor’s Kitchen, Winchendon’s Community Supper, is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m., at the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St.

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
ST. PATRICK’S BUFFET: the annual buffet and entertainment at Carriage House restaurant to benefit the Kiwanis of Winchendon 4-9 p.m. with the Irish step dancers at 6 p.m. and Irish music all evening long with Garold Amadon. Buffet includes classics like corned beef and cabbage, Guinness fish & chips and Irish stew. \$20 per person.

JAMES MONTGOMERY: Join the Lions at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. for an evening of blues with James Montgomery beginning at 8 p.m. Mini live auction, \$20 in advance (available from Lions members or at the Legion), \$25 at the door.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
SIGN PAINTING EVENT: Join the Crafty Cauldron and your friends for a paint event for a good cause, \$35 a person at 2 p.m. Paint 2 wooden signs in your choice of color and design. Fundraiser to benefit the Kiwanis of Winchendon backpack program. Register in store or online prior to the event, no space will be sold that day. The Crafty Cauldron, 91 Central St., www.thecraftycauldron.net/events.html. Email: thecraftycauldron@yahoo.com.

BIG ORANGE MS BENEFIT: the Big RanDom will play at the annual benefit against multiple sclerosis at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 8 p.m. Dance the night away to the classic rock hits of the ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s! Admission \$5, dancing is free. BIG raffles with BIG

prizes! Wear orange and get 3 free raffle tickets. TBR Karaoke Fundraiser: pick a song for \$5, or sing with the band for \$10. See all you rockers there!

YMCA BOWLING EXTRAVAGANZA: at Playaway Lanes, two sessions to choose from: 1:30-3:30 p.m. or 3:30-5:30 p.m. \$12 per person or \$55 per lane up to five people. \$5 bowl off competition at beginning of each session. Pizza & drinks available for purchase. Supports the Clark Memorial YMCA annual support campaign.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
DEADLINE DAY: GALA 2017 spring photography exhibit, calling ALL photographers!!

Entry deadline: Sunday, April 2.

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

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY! At the United Parish from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Pack 193’s annual Pancake Breakfast! All you can eat pancakes plus sausage,

eggs, orange juice and coffee! Come visit with the Easter Bunny and have pictures taken. Adults - \$7 Kids 10 and Under - \$5 Families of 4 or more - \$20. All proceeds benefit local Cub Scouts.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
GOLDEN AGERS: the Golden Agers hold a meeting at 2 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. K9 Clyde, with Officer Jim Wirnonen and Chief David Walsh intend to be hand.

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

EARTH DAY: in Winchendon, roll off dumpster will again by sited on Pleasant Street 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Seeking volunteers and donations toward drinks and snacks for workers. Clean up a street, clean up an acre, help keep our town green.

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

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

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

BRANDYWINE

continued from page A1

Hickey explained, “At the end of the day there is no more TIF for them. They have notified the town they no longer want it, and have requested to have the TIF dissolved.”

The request to have the agreement dissolved comes on the heels of what have been perceived to be multiple violations.

Section 6-A read as, “Create a minimum of 100 permanent full time jobs after the commencement as outlined in the Certified Project Application.” At this time, the building is still fully locked down, and no jobs, which were to include hiring of town residents, have been created.

Section 6-B called for, “Invest \$6,500,000 in capital improvements to the Project, which improvement shall be in use by the first quarter of 2017 (estimated.) To this date, no improve-

ments have been made to either the property or existing structures.

Hickey explained, “If the owners hypothetically made a \$1 million improvement, they in 2017 would have only been taxed at 30 percent on that particular improvement.”

Section 6-E called for, “Pay all taxes and all other payments owed to the Town of Winchendon during the term of his AGREEMENT in a timely fashion.” Brandywine Farms and owners John & Amelia Giovanoni were, and still are, \$39,441 behind in back taxes due to the town. Those back taxes, forced the town attach four liens to the property.

The agreement also called for the “COMPANY submitting annual reports on job creation and job retention” among others, which according to Hickey in a previous meeting were never received..

Despite the town’s show of willingness and patience to help see the project succeed, the town was informed the agreement was no longer desired and the Giovanonis would like it dissolved.

Hickey said, “The Giovanonis have notified the town that their intention is to form a non-profit which will own and operate that property. I don’t know what their intention is, or what the final use of that property is going to be. I am assuming they are going to be seeking tax exempt status, however I don’t know that for sure at this time.”

Hickey also added, “After speaking with our town assessor, I was told that just because a property is a non-profit, doesn’t always mean it will qualify for a ‘tax-exempt’ status. There is a process that would have to be followed to prove to the assessor that the property would qualify for a tax exempt status.”

Hickey was then asked the question, “To this date have the Giovanonis submitted any kind of site plan?” Hickey respond, “No sir.”

Next Hickey asked, “Were any kind of plans submitted to the Conservation Commission, building, or any other departments?” Hickey again replied, “No sir.”

Under existing town rules and regu-

lations, even though the main building at 155 Mill Circle along with others on site are falling in to disrepair, “no building permits” can be obtained for the site until all back taxes are paid up to in full to date.

The Giovanonis have, on several occasions, accused the town of not working with them in both a previous letter, and multiple times in the media. They have also recently claimed they have been seeking documents for nearly two years.

In closing Hickey said, “I have said it before, and I will say it again. I would like to see this project succeed. We have tried to work with them as much as possible. It does the town no good to see the project fail. We are even working with them at this time on several formal public records requests they have submitted. Before that, they previously had never made a formal public records request. Ultimately we still want to see both they and the project to succeed.”

CIP

continued from page A1

received by the department. While the letter said each of these issues constituted a “significant deficiency,” Roselli said steps were now being taken to address the problems. He reminded those at the meeting that the management letter covered FY16, which ended on June 30 of last year, noting that improvements in oversight have been made since then.

Also at Monday night’s meeting, Hickey provided the committees members with a copy of his Capital Improvement Plan,

which covers FY18 through FY23. A number of costly items are included in the plan.

The most costly items include the replacement of the roof at each of Winchendon’s three schools. The estimated cost of each roof is pegged at \$2 million. The district is applying to the state School Building Authority for assistance in paying for the work. If approved, the state would chip in \$1.32 million per project, with the town covering the remaining \$680,000.

Under Hickey’s plan, the roofs at Toy Town Elementary School, Murdock Middle/High School, and Memorial School would be replaced in FY20, FY21, and

FY22, respectively.

Other costly items include: an addition to the fire station, \$850,000; one new pumper truck and one new pumper/tanker for the fire department, \$870,00; sally port for the new police station, \$700,000, and; replacement of the water supply line from Ashburnham, \$3 million.

In all, the estimated cost of all projects tops out at more than \$17 million, with just over \$5 million of that projected to come from Winchendon taxpayers.

Portions of some of the projects could be paid for through grants and other funding sources.

WARREN

continued from page A1

Warren graduated from Boston College in 1993, having earned a BA in history. In 2006, he received his Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School.

From 1996 to 2000, he held several positions in the administration of Pres. Bill Clinton. From 2000 to 2001, Warren was the New England Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Warren joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 2003, and in 2007 he became a Naval

intelligence specialist, serving in Iraq.

In the 2009 race for mayor of Newton, Warren defeated state Rep. Ruth Balser by fewer than 500 votes, out of 22,000 cast. Four years later, Warren beat challenger Ted Hess-Mahan, a city alderman, by nearly 6,000 votes. He announced last year that he would not seek re-election to the mayor’s office in 2017.

In August 2006, Warren married Elizabeth Tasker “Tassy” Plummer. The two met while working on Sen. John Kerry’s presidential campaign. They have one daughter and one son.

K–12 Education Savings Accounts And How They’re Changing Kids’ Lives



Valerie McMurray uses education savings accounts to customize her education in Arizona.

(NAPS)
If you’re like many American parents, you may not be aware of a way to give your children a better education at little or no cost to you.

How It Works
A program known as education savings accounts (ESAs) lets parents withdraw their children from a public dis-

trict or charter school that’s not working for them and get a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted

but multiple uses. Those funds—often distributed via debit card—can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized learning services and materials. Some ESAs can even be used to pay for a combination of public school courses and private services.

One Girl’s Story
Consider the case of Valerie McMurray from Arizona. Her birth mother was a heroin addict and an alcoholic all throughout her pregnancy, and because of that, she was born prematurely and with cerebral palsy—a muscle disorder caused by damage to the brain, normally before birth. McMurray was adopted and struggled to learn to walk and talk.

Growing up, she said school was never some-

thing that came easy for her, whether in public or private schools. She was not getting the one-on-one care she needed as a student.

Finally, her adoptive mother was approached about the ESA program in her state, through which she would get government grants to learn at home.

McMurray discovered she did best at visual learning. She said she enjoys learning now, at her own speed—it doesn’t scare her anymore. “I like having one-on-one attention from my tutors,” McMurray said. “I ask questions without the fear of being made fun of or feeling embarrassed. My tutors teach me at my own speed.” She also said she is happy she no longer has to sit still in one spot for hours at a time. She enjoys being able to go on field trips whenever her parents and tutor think it’s best for her lesson

plan.

Another thing McMurray loves about learning at home is that she doesn’t have to deal with bullies anymore. “In public school, kids can be really mean,” McMurray said. “At home, I am surrounded by people who are kind, understanding and actually care about my well-being. They don’t make me feel uncomfortable about the way I walk or speak.”

McMurray said the ESA program helped her self-esteem, not only through learning, but in the real world. She now has so much confidence in areas where she used to be confused.

Learn More
For more information about ESAs and to find out if your state offers families educational choice options, visit www.edchoice.org.



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