

No break for students at MAS

STAYING INVESTED TO KEEP AN EDGE

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Yes, it's summer vacation, technically at least and for most students that means a nine week or so break from academics. Not for everyone, though. At the Murdock Academy for Success, it's business as usual.

Six Academy students graduated last month and if they get their work done, three more

will be on track to finish next month. So far the Academy has, in its four year history, graduated more than 20 students who otherwise probably wouldn't have finished high school.

"We don't judge here," said teacher Becky Benedict. "We're just here to help. They need to be invested in what they're doing but if they are, the opportunity is here all year."

MAS director Kris Provost isn't really getting a full summer vacation either. He's been in school every morning.

"We're a year round program. That was the idea," he said.

The mantra is that every student learns differently, which helps largely explain why the Academy was launched in the first place. The last two years, or since the MAS has been on the main campus,

the perception of the program has changed, too. Mainstream students have utilized its services to wrap up a few last credits they need to graduate. Mainstream faculty have become part of the Academy's teaching rotation and MAS students mingle with peers in the cafeteria and other activities including sports and music.

Provost said he's appreciative of the support the Academy has received from soon to retire Superintendent Steve Haddad and just retired

MHS principal Ralph Olsen.

"Steve was the first director of the Academy so this is kind of his baby, and Ralph was great," noted Provost.

He added he anticipates similar support from acting superintendent Rich Ikonen and new Principal Thad King.

"We've talked a little," said Provost.

This isn't the first summer MAS students have taken advantage of being able to finish up beyond June.

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Photos courtesy Winchendon Fire Department

Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni during the Mr. Mike's fire in Gardner.

Deputy Ruschioni announces retirement from the WFD

SUBMITTED
BY CHIEF TOM SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

After nearly four decades of honorable and exemplary service, Winchendon Fire Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni has announced he will officially retire on July 3, ending a vast career which has seen countless changes in both the fields of Fire Service and EMS.

First joining as what was then called a "Substitute

Firefighter" for the WFD in July of 1979, and earning a place on the full time employment list June 2, 1982, Ruschioni has faithfully answered the call for the town of Winchendon for 14,250 days. Throughout his career, Ruschioni has served under four chiefs beginning as a new hire for Richard Williams, then following with Dennis Dowd, Allen Lafrennie, and retiring under current Chief

Thomas Smith.

During his 39 years, Ruschioni had served as a union representative for 26 years negotiating 13 contracts with what he describes as roughly a dozen town managers, additionally serving for 12 years as a Training Officer along with another 12 years as a Fire Investigator, and five years as a certified International Fire Investigator.

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Local business still sizing up 'grand bargain'

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Massachusetts lawmakers last week passed a so-called "grand bargain" which would raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour over five years. There would be no "training wage" for teenage workers and the minimum hourly wage for tipped workers would rise from the current \$3.75 to \$6.75 over the five-year span.

In addition, the bill establishes up to 12 weeks of paid family leave, 20 weeks of medical leave, and up to 26 weeks of total leave in a year, beginning in 2021. To pay for it, lawmakers established a 0.63 percent payroll tax, with contributions

coming from both workers and employees. Companies with fewer than 25 employees would not be required to pay into the fund. The total yearly cost of the leave program is pegged at around \$775 million.

Workers would be paid 80 percent of their salary up to a certain limit; around \$670/week.

The bill would also phase out so-called "premium pay" – time and a-half for working Sundays and holidays – and establish a permanent once-a-year sales tax holiday.

"The minimum wage has been going up a dollar a year for three straight years," said Rick Laperriere, owner of Mylec

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IKONEN SERVING AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon Public Schools business manager Rich Ikonen is now serving as the district's acting superintendent, a post he will hold until Steve Haddad returns or an interim superintendent is hired.

Committee Chair Greg Vine was joined by Danielle LaPointe and Dawn Fronte' in confirming Ikonen. Felicia Nuremsen dissented. Larry Murphy was not in attendance.

Nuremsen complained there had not been a wide-enough search.

"There must be other candidates out there," she argued but that concern while noticed, was subsequently set aside as Vine stressed the

urgency of filling the acting superintendent's post immediately in the wake of the illness which has compelled Haddad to step aside until at least July 18 before his retirement August 31.

"We need someone in the position now," said Vine.

Nuremsen also expressed concern about how Ikonen would be able to juggle both responsibilities, but he pointed out that since school is not in session there are fewer pressing issues, adding he has handled both briefly in the past.

Applications for membership on the interim and permanent search committees closed last Friday. Fronte' will chair the interim search committee.

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Winchendon Winds kicks off summer series



Greg Vine photos

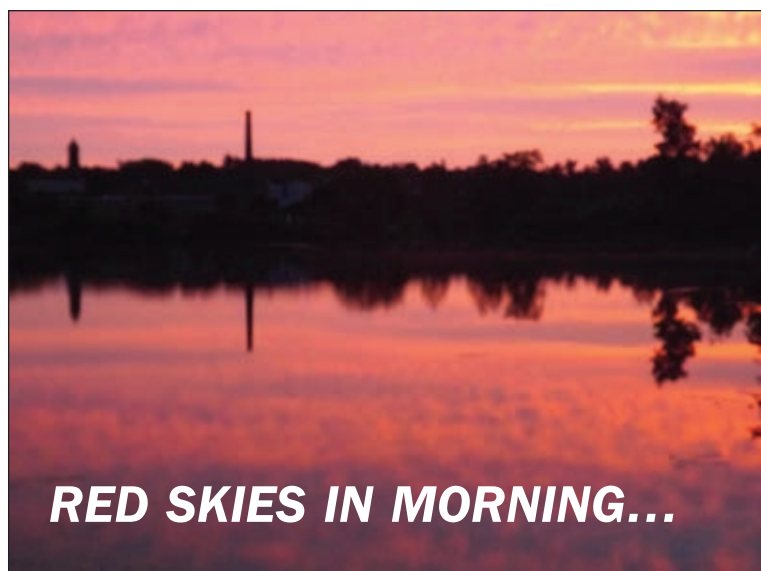
This musician has eyes intently focused on his sheet music at Sunday's Winchendon Winds concert.

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

With temperatures approaching the century mark Sunday afternoon, it was decided to move Winchendon Winds first concert of the summer from the lawn of Winchendon's Unitarian Universalist Church into the sanctuary. Despite the heat, more than 100 people enjoyed "America," the orchestra's kick off of Independence Day celebrations.

The program featured a "best hits" of patriotic and singularly American music, beginning with "America the Beautiful." As conductor

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Greg Vine photo

Whatever the nursery rhyme may warn, the skies are indeed red, and yellow, and anything but blue during a recent summer sunrise. A beautiful sunrise over Whitney Pond on a recent summer morning.



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WEEKLY QUOTE

When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat.

Ronald Reagan



What do buyers and sellers need to be aware of this summer?



HOME MATTERS

DARLENE ROSSI

Today's Ask the Expert column features Dan Steward, president of Pillar To Post Home Inspectors.

Q: As summer approaches, what do buyers and sellers need to be aware of?

A: With the summer season right around the corner, here are a few critical components that can't be overlooked by buyers and sellers alike.

Insulation is often lacking in a home's attic, leading to excessive heat loss or gain and high energy bills. Consult a professional to determine if more insulation should be added.

Soot builds up in chimneys quickly, which can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, in addition to posing a fire hazard. A certified chimney sweep should be hired to routinely clean your chimney to prevent build-up.

Deterioration and rot can remove caulk and grout around a bathtub, which can cause leaks and lead to extensive damage to the surrounding walls. You can determine if there's insufficient

grout by checking between tiled enclosures for voids. Caulk integrity can be determined by gently pressing and checking for any sponginess, a sign of weakened integrity.

A loose toilet seat, while uncomfortable, may be a sign of a bigger issue. In fact, a seat that rocks could indicate that the seal at the base has failed, which can allow water to leak to the floor below, causing significant damage. If the seat feels loose, have the toilet inspected by a professional—and have the seal replaced if necessary.

The electrical outlets in our homes are sometimes incapable of handling the large number of gadgets we now throw at them. To pre-

vent problems from overloaded outlets, consult a certified electrician to install additional outlets to handle the increased load.

Plants too close to a home's siding can cause moisture damage and premature wear. Make sure to keep vegetation in control by keeping plants neat and trim.

Downspouts often release against walls, which can cause the foundation to deteriorate, causing water to enter the basement. Redirect these downspouts away from the structure.

Like chimneys, oven or range filters can become clogged, posing a major fire hazard. Check filters for built-up grease, and consult a profes-

sional to check the connections to determine if the model needs exterior exhaust.

Seals around kitchen and bathroom sink fixtures can become loose, leading to water damage in cabinets below. Visually examine seals and test them to see if they feel loose. If so, repair or replace them immediately.

Roofs don't last forever. When purchasing a home, consult a professional home inspector to determine both the age and condition of the roof. Failure to do so may result in a significant amount of expensive damage to the home.

For more information, please visit www.pillartopost.com.



CLYDE'S CORNER

Friday July 6

SUMMER CONCERTS ANNOUNCED: The Winchendon Recreation Committee hosts its annual concert series at GAR Park every Friday from June 15 to July 29. All shows run from 6:30-8:00 p.m. In case of rain, shows go on at Winchendon Town Hall Auditorium, same date and time. July 6: The Terrifics: Keytar and piano rock group.

Saturday July 7

SHADES OF GRAY...AND MORE! Spend the evening at the Winchendon History and Culture Center as an evening yard sale kicks off 4-8 p.m. at the Murdock Whitney Museum (including spare artifacts and ephemera); Seppi's Ice Cream is open and from 6-8 p.m. the Civil War era brass band Shades of Gray will play in an open air concert. Great way to spend an evening!

MARKET IS OPEN! Toy Town Outdoor Market open for the season. Produce, baked goods, crafts and more! Thursday's 4-7 p.m. and Saturday's 10 a.m.-1 p.m. next to the bike path parking lot at the corner of Rt. 12 and Rt. 202, Winchendon.

Thursday July 12

Sunday, July 8

SUMMER CONCERT: Winchendon Winds, a 40-piece professional concert band, holds the second of three summer concerts at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 126 Central St. This concert, titled "The Greatest Hits of 1918" is themed around significant events in music history exactly 100 years ago. Lickity Splitz will be selling homemade ice cream on the lawn an hour before the concert. Come for ice cream; stay for the concert! The concert is free and open to the public.

OPEN HOUSE: come sit on the porch and relax at the Murdock Whitney

House museum 6-8 p.m. Tour the house, walk across the street and get ice cream at Seppi's. Free evening, every Thursday throughout the summer.

Friday July 13

SUMMER CONCERTS ANNOUNCED: The Winchendon Recreation Committee hosts its annual concert series at GAR Park every Friday from June 15 to July 29. All shows run from 6:30-8:00 p.m. In case of rain, shows go on at Winchendon Town Hall Auditorium, same date and time. July 13: Midnight Sharp: Classic and alternative rock and blues.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

WINCHENDON

\$199,500 115 Bayberry Cir, MTGLQ Investors LP, to Lugo, Susan.

\$193,500 706 Central St, Leavens, Jane D, to Nguyen, Henry.

\$169,900 191 Laurel St, FNMA, to Bourassa, Dawn E.

\$165,000 16 Mill Glen Rd, Race, Russell L, to Donnelly, Raymond P, and Donnelly, Brenda L.

\$136,542 339 Maple St, Robuccio, James A, and US Bank NA, to US Bank NA Tr.

\$115,000 97 Baldwinville Rd, Lucier, Casey E, and Athol SB, to Scribner Properties LLC.

\$18,000 167 Mill Glen Rd, Iozzo, Joseph N, to Vega, Ruth A, and Vega, Diane F.

\$15,000 Gardner Rd J&B Hldg LLC, to Barkley Enterprises LLC.

SHADES OF GRAY...AND MORE!

Spend the evening at the Winchendon History and Culture Center as an evening yard sale kicks off 4-8 p.m. at the Murdock Whitney Museum (including spare artifacts and ephemera); Seppi's Ice Cream is open and from 6-8 p.m. the Civil War era brass band Shades of Gray will play in an open air concert. Great way to spend an evening! All on Saturday, July 7.

PHILLIPSTON PLANNING EVENTS

We'd like you to visit our museum at 80 State Road, Phillipston – right next to the Phillipston Fire + EMS building. Our museum does have the typical museum artifacts that one

COURIER CAPSULES

might expect BUT it has 3 very unusual (and large) items that are worthy of some "awe". These include:

a huge antique egg incubator which is a 7 foot wide, deep and tall. It used to incubate 3000 (that's "3 thousand") eggs + chicks at the former Ward poultry farm in Phillipston.

a large LEGO project about 6 foot square which replicates the Phillipston town common as it was in 1890, made by the Society's youth members.

a large custom made dollhouse (about 6 feet) which is a replica of a historic Phillipston home which burned down many years ago. The dollhouse was made by its former owner.

Plan to attend a grand reopening of our museum on July 21st which is free and open to the public. The museum has been officially closed since the building itself was moved up the street about 1500 feet on to a new foundation (next to the Fire Station) a few years ago. We now have an occupancy permit and can once again open to the public on a weekly basis as we had done before the building was moved. The grand reopening day will have numerous special events on display for the public. Senator Anne Gobi and Rep. Susannah Whipp's will be attending the July 21st event at 1:00 PM when there will be the official grand reopening ceremony.

The July 21st day is ALSO the day when we will be having our annual antique tractor, engine, car and truck show. The museum grounds will be filled with these antiques vehicles and their owners. This is available from 9 – 4 on July 21st.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

PLYMOUTH, NH — 820 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Spring 2018 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or

better for the Spring 2018 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Among them were Dominique Tarr, Lindsey Coolidge, and Joshua Warner of Rindge; Julia Thibaudeau, Alexandra Dunn, and Riley Drew of Jaffrey.

PLYMOUTH, NH — 224 students have been named to the Plymouth State University Dean's List for the Spring 2018 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69 during the spring semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Among them were Emma Handy of Fitzwilliam, Ryan Carey of Rindge, and Hannah Sage of Jaffrey.

NORTHFIELD, VT — The following students from the local area have been recognized on the dean's list at Norwich University for the spring 2018 semester: Ethan Miller, Baldwinville.

WORCESTER — Becker College recognized graduates during the College's 230th Commencement Ceremony on May 5, 2018. Amber Angelos, of Winchendon graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice; Brianna Rogers, of Winchendon graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice; and Renee Rogers, of Winchendon graduated Highest Honors with an Associates and a Bachelor of Science degree in veterinary science.

ROCHESTER, NY — Joe Yeiter of Rindge graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BS in industrial engineering. RIT conferred 4,747 degrees this academic year at all its campuses-including in Croatia, Dubai, Kosovo and China. The university held its 133rd annual commencement celebration in May.

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With an exhale, Vezina looks back

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

It has been to say the least, an interesting year at Murdock Middle School, and while a discussion of the Summit Leaning Platform is another story for another time, Principal Jess Vezina reflected this week on a variety of other topics.

“Middle School is so different from fifth grade,” said Vezina, looking ahead to next year.

“We kind of look on using sixth grade as something of a bridge to middle school even though sixth grade is part of our school. We have a transition night. We have mentoring. We offer private tours if that would make parents and incoming students feel more comfortable. We’ve got survival tips for parents. We have that barbeque before school starts. Especially for parents who are going through having

their first child reach middle school, we understand the experience is going to very different. Kids go through a lot of changes when they get to middle school. Their brains are growing, just like brains grow between birth and three years old. They’re figuring out where they fit in the world and we have expectations for behavior as they grow.”

“That’s why we focus on things like stressing standing in lines the right way, taking hats off, doing the things you do in society and in school but at the same time we want to make the transition as comfortable as we can,” said Vezina, adding in reassurance, “we have a very clear line between our school and the high school. We know who’s in our building.”

At the other end of the journey, “we have a big transition ceremony, celebrating the accomplishments of our eighth graders who are moving on to

high school. The auditorium is packed for that, and we’re happy to see that,” noted Vezina.

“We hand out a lot of ‘superlative’ awards. We’re really excited to see what these kids can do in high school. We’ve always been looking for ways to help them reach their potential,” she remarked, pointing out the middle school has, among other projects, revamped its technology curriculum under the direction of Mike Fontaine, who came over from the high school to do just that and enhanced its sixth grade science program as well.

Vezina said the extracurricular middle school program provides an opportunity for students to start to participate in programs like student council and sports as well as band, chorus and other activities.

“They can take that right to high school,” she reminded.

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.

Lions roar into downtown Winchendon



Mat Plamondon photos

The Winchendon Lions Club spread out a bevy of goods on the lawn of the Clark Memorial YMCA last weekend to raise funds for its local service projects. Pictured include Lions members Mark Desmarais, Ken LaBrack, Curt Fitzmaurice, Joni LaPlante, and Linda Tenney. Notice too, the Lions have an eyeglass collection box in downtown Winchendon and yes, they do take the glasses on a regular basis.



Music and arts festival planned

TEMPLETON — The Estelle R. Ford Future Nurses Scholarship Fund is hosting its second annual Music & Arts Festival at the Templeton Fish & Game Club on July 21 from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Each year they hold the Festival to raise funds for the scholarship fund.

Admission is free for the Art Festival and a \$10 donation is suggested to attend the benefit concert at night. The event is held at 200 Partridgeville Road., East Templeton.

The Estelle R. Ford Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is completely dependent on donations and volunteers.

Proceeds go to the scholarship fund to provide community-service-based scholarships to nursing students. Established in 2016 by John Ford and Marjorie Fischer, the fund awards scholarships to qualified second, third or fourth year students from local nursing programs.

“This is our major yearly fundraiser and we are thankful for the support of our volunteers, artists, and musicians,” said Marjorie Fischer, co-chair for the Scholarship Fund.

Some of the artists participating include Fiber Frolic, Ben Dworski-Riggs, Jean Christine Crafts, Miloto

Concessions, Paulmark Greeting Card Company and more. Musicians include Michael McDermott, Jesse Terry, and Connor Garvey along with other local musicians. We have “Pay It Forward” vendors such as Team Unstoppable, Samaritan’s Purse and J.M. Sheridan, all of which stand behind noble causes and assist others in raising awareness for people with autism, physical disabilities, children in need to name just a few.

Web: <https://www.erffuturenurses-scholarshipfund.org/events>

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Tenant Coordinator Search Committee
Mr. David P. Connor, Executive Director
Winchendon Housing Authority
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WINCHENDON COURIER

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VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Self centered sons and daughters

We had in the past two weeks the largest sporting events on the planet. Millions of people around the globe were tuned into televisions and radios; glued to the internet and cellphone podcasts, double checking Twitter feeds during dinner to keep up with scores.

Everywhere except in America. Because we are separated from the rest of the world by miles...or kilometers...of interest.

We as a nation don't seem to understand the intense sport of 'real' football.

Most people don't even know the terms. A pitch, midfielder, offsidess, striker...foreign words even though they are English. The game is straight forward enough. You can't use your hands, you can use your head or your feet only, or your torso. Only certain people can run past the mid-line on the field. Only the goalkeeper can touch the ball with their hands. And you score by getting the ball into the net past defenders and the goalkeeper.

You can't purposely trip anyone, or push them anyone out of your way with your hands, though you may block them with your entire body as long as you don't touch them with your hands. It's FOOT-ball, people.

It is a game that can be played by poor people in the streets and in fields, on grass or on asphalt or sand. It takes something round to kick and bunch of people to run and that's it.

Which is part of its appeal. It is a game of the masses. Anyone can play. No fancy equipment, no particular intense skill set. Being able to run, and learn the rules. A ball or ball-like object and a goal...that's it.

But Americans just never bought into it. We just never seemed to understand the finesse, the skills it takes to dribble between the feet, to pass with accuracy to better positioned teammate, to control the entire field while still moving at that speed. And the endurance to run for more than 90 minutes with small breaks.

We've heard soccer called a 'sissy' game.

Really? American football is played once a week, with huge stops, between the actual plays which last a few seconds

each. The players are padded, the runs are seconds long. Yes, there is pretty heavy duty body contact, but very little time endurance. And lots and lots of breaks (for TV commercials if nothing else).

Basketball does have more running, and is pretty physical. But also has more 'rest' time between plays and more timeouts. And is split up into four quarters with rest in between.

We won't even talk about baseball, interminable with only short bursts of running at all.

So why this innate prejudice about soccer? Why do Americans turn up their collective noses at it?

Maybe it's because we haven't fielded a good, competitive team. We have had really good players at times, but if they are good enough, they play for another, better team somewhere else. They are snatched up immediately by a pro team in England, Ireland, elsewhere. America is not the home of a soccer franchise to entice a great player.

And because we, the "America is the Greatest" self centered group we are, can't abide thinking we aren't the best at something, instead downgrade the sport itself. We, being the innate bullies we are tear down what we are actually jealous of; make fun of what intimidates us.

We can't measure up. How dare they.

We, this editor at least, has thoroughly enjoyed the games. We are secretly rooting for one or two teams (sorry, not telling which ones), and as the games wound down one of our picks was still there! Hurrah!

Would we root for America if we had a team in the running? Probably, but against the powerhouses that play in the European and South American leagues? We cannot fathom a USA making it very far. Not until Americans realize how serious this sport is, how athletic the players need to be, how intense the games actually are. And we don't see that happening any time soon. It is one very large blind spot indicative of our own America First idiocy. Especially this week, the week of the Fourth of July, full of hope and promise for our country, our own selfishness is so apparent and so strangely skewed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Committee: remember a veteran

To the Editor:
As many of you know, renovations and upgrades to the Legion Park on Front Street have been ongoing for several years.

Now in the final stages, the Memorial Brick program is now on the starting line.

A brick pathway will be started this fall for those who have or wish to provide a memorial brick for any veteran. Applications can be gotten from any of

the three listed committee members.
Deadline for applications is August 30, 2018. Bricks are \$50 for just names, \$75 for name and military logo.
See any one of the three committee members for an application
Committee members are:

DAVID JOHNSON
KEN LABRACK
BURTON GOULD JR.

Moon: this government won't do

To the Editor:
Jack Blair's most recent column (*Illegal Immigration*) seems reasonable and without the hyperbole that normally accompanies this topic. Certainly his explanation of sovereignty at a nation's borders is correct. I'll even applaud the Churchill quote, with some understanding that my hero Churchill was desperately trying to preserve Britain's colonial empire and stood in the way of history as new nations struggled to be born.

But Mr. Blair's continued request to trust our present government to "... find ways to bring balance to the issue" stuns me. He asks that you and I "... tone down the rhetoric," as if we have the Trump "bully pulpit" and fill the air with bigotry, unadulterated lies, and attacks on the Press every day.

I have a different take on immigration since my mother was a war bride from England that I helped prepare for the US citizenship test. That was an early grounding in civics and the Constitution. I also lived proudly for 40+ years in a sanctuary city (Somerville MA) and taught high school and middle school in two sanctuary cities (Somerville MA and Chelsea MA).

I made an extra effort to listen to my students as they described the chronic incidents of disrespect in their daily lives. I taught about the bloody Civil Rights movement and the underlying problem of white racism at the center of American history. I loved the country for its on-going struggle to right the wrongs committed against our fellow

citizens, reminding students that 400+ years of racism, even after a civil war, could not be erased overnight. But I was never as enamored of the government. You could love the country but not necessarily the government and mistaken policies.

"Be in in this struggle for the long haul," I said. "We will eventually live up to those words '...and Liberty and Justice for all.' even though we know that they apply only to some."

I urged my students to finish school, to travel, to see the world and compare democracy to other forms of government. Churchill had also wisely said: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others."

No Mr. Blair, the Trump Party is not the old GOP. There is no desire to govern responsibly, to search for compromise on behalf of all the people. There is only the desire to win. Party is more important than country. Snatching children from their mothers without any plan for safe return is just the latest display of Trump Party incompetence. Denying the right of the former president to have his qualified SCOTUS nominee get a hearing was ideological intervention in governing norms, and it has never stopped.

I do not trust this Trump government to do the right thing.

They are more inclined to do the Far Right thing.

PATRICK MOON
WINCHENDON

Employee of the Year

"If you don't know how great this country is, I know someone who does; Russia." - Robert Frost, American poet

On July 16, President Trump is scheduled to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Finland. I guess it's time for Mr. Trump's annual employee review. And it looks like it'll be a good one. After all, no American president has done more to advance the interests of Russia.

Even die-hard Trump supporters must be scratching their heads over Trump's over-the-top affinity for Mr. Putin and certainly should be questioning why he goes out of his way to stroke the Russian president's ego at every turn. At the same time, he does just about anything possible to undo the alliances, formal and informal, cultivated by every president since Harry Truman.

Most recently, Mr. Trump sent a letter to a number of NATO leaders, including

those of Germany, Norway, Belgium, and Canada, demanding they increase their nations' defense spending. If not, he says, he might consider withdrawing U.S. troops from Germany, a bulwark against an expansionist-minded Soviet Union/Russia since the 1950s.

Stop and consider that U.S. military spending sits at around \$600 billion per year. China, by comparison spends about \$200 billion on defense, while Russia shells out a paltry \$80 billion. Europe as a whole, meanwhile, spends about \$300 billion annually as part of an alliance that has greatly benefited not only Europe, but also the United States. They are not skimping.

Thanks to the security provided by our close alliance with the Europeans, America's Gross Domestic Product - and theirs - has been on a steady upward trajectory since 1945. Russia, at least until now, has remained on the outside look-



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

ing in. They do indeed know how great we are.

Earlier this year, Trump stunned the leaders of the global economic powers known currently as the G-7 when, before an economic summit in Canada, he suggested Russia should be allowed back into the club. He said that Russia had been kicked out of what had been the G-8 because of "some things" that happened a few years ago.

Some things? Some THINGS? Those "things" include the annexation of Crimea, long a part of Ukraine, the arming of Russian-speaking Ukrainian rebels in a civil war that has

cost an estimated 10,000 lives, and the shooting-down of a civilian airliner by those same Russian-backed rebels killing 298 innocent passengers and crew.

Some things indeed! Never mind that there is solid evidence, supported by all of America's intelligence agencies, that Russia meddled deeply in our 2016 election and are doing the same in 2018. This amounts to an outright assault on American sovereignty. But Trump chooses to ignore the facts because, in his insecure little mind, to recognize them would be to sanction questions about the legitimacy of his presidency.

In addition to splintering our military alliances with NATO, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere, Trump has also initiated a trade war that will accomplish nothing but the weakening of the global economy and America's place in it. American workers and their families will pay the ultimate

price.

As the saying goes, history may not repeat itself, but it rhymes. We would do well to remember the effect of United States' isolationism and protectionism following World War I. First, we disdained membership in the League of Nations, precursor to the UN. Then the Hawley-Smoot Tariff, meant to protect American industry and agriculture from foreign competition, only served to cut the legs out from under an already shaky world economy and helped plunge the industrialized world into the Great Depression. Trump says a trade war "is easy to win"; the words of a man who knows little of our history and cares about it even less.

So, when Trump leaves Helsinki later this month he will no doubt have a big smile on his face. He should, after all, receive a big pat on the back from Vladimir Putin and a nice little certificate declaring him Employee of the Year.

I am not the enemy

I am not the enemy of the American people. Neither are Greg and Ruth. Neither are my friends at the *Gardner News* or at the Portage Daily Register or a whole slew of other media outlets around the country.

DJT says we are. Whether we're at the *Winchendon Courier* or *CNN*, unless we're at *Fox*, or as I like to call it, FAUX, News, we in media are "the enemy of the American people". False. Wrong. We are not. Truth, it is said, can be inconvenient. Facts can be pesky. And since DJT abhors truth and facts, he reflexively calls us the enemy, fires up his base and helps to create a climate where it's easy for his dwindling die-hard supporters to point their proverbial finger at us and say we're the bad guys and girls and in some cases to hint, or more than just hint, that violence

against the media is just another perfectly acceptable tactic in this ongoing civil war, and make no mistake, we are indeed engaged in civil war. Civil, rational discourse? Seriously? You can't conduct civil discourse with fact deniers since there is no such thing as "alternative facts". Sorry, Kellyanne.

Here's what I know in our case and what I am equally certain is the case everywhere other than FAUX - we're going to keep doing our jobs, whether we work at local newspapers or national networks. That's our passion. We're committed to a dogged pursuit of the truth, to hold the powers-that-



JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART
.....
JERRY
CARTON

attack on journalists. I don't know if the alleged perpetrator carried out his evil act in part because of the anti-media venom being spewed by DJT and his minions or whether he really was simply angry at a story in that paper. What I do know is that the staff at the *Capital Gazette*, a local paper much like us but in their case owned by the *Baltimore*

Sun, pushed through the grief to carry out what they knew was their responsibility to the Annapolis community. That took incredible courage and steadfastness. They deserve our eternal gratitude.

Once again, though, we learned "it" can happen anywhere at any time. Through my 17-or-so years at the *Courier*, I, or more accurately, my positions on public policy have been the target of plenty of really nasty letters, though I will hasten to add I haven't gotten any since Courtney died 13 months ago. Before that, and particularly in election years, there was some pretty ugly stuff. But I never felt unsafe, never felt at all threatened. In fact, I often told people I must have done a good job that week if readers were moved to



I Remember



IN THAT
GREAT
TIME
PARTICK
MOON

I remember... or do I? How many times have I reviewed this scene in my mind and panned my eyes as if a film camera- first to the right, then behind, then to the left- always trying to “get” the scene from a different perspective. And if it is true that every time we recall a memory we change it in some ineffable way, what is the “real” scene...or the memory of the scene?

These thoughts puzzle me. An infinite hall of mirrors is memory...what is reflected may only be a reflection of a reflection.

I am standing at the gun rail of the USS Mitchell, a World War II troopship that has been my home and playground

since leaving Seattle weeks ago. We are docking at Yokohama- and somewhere on the crowded dock below, in the sea of khaki and waving arms and the noise of the ship and crew, and the colorful vendors and Japanese workmen everywhere, somewhere in that roiling crowd is my father, a 2nd Lieutenant posted to Japan six months ago.

“Does anyone see dad?”

My mother is straining to separate the faces in the colorful sea and the tone of her voice seems anxious. But there is a slight difference from the stress of the past weeks: there is a hint of excitement.

Only years later would I grasp the enormity of what my mother had just done.

A British citizen from a British military family, a “war bride,” she had moved my two sisters and me, all under the age of seven, from San Antonio, Texas, to Seattle, Washington, by train. She had weathered the mix-up in

Seattle causing a four-day lay-over and then stoically boarded the troopship with my sisters and me in tow for the last leg of the eight thousand mile journey to Japan.

And as I glanced from her face to the crowd one hundred feet below, fear clutched at my stomach. I could not help my mother. I did not remember what my father looked like.

Living in Japan was the formative experience of my life but until recently, I never wrote about it. I spent almost four years there and many memories are as vivid as if they happened yesterday. For example, nearly everyone I knew lived on one of the many military bases throughout Japan: Grant Heights, Sagamiara, Washington Heights, Camp Zama, Yokosuka Navel base. My father was worried that we would not really see Japan from a base and so early in our stay he bought a 1938 Packard, a black monster with running boards and a musty smell in

the huge cabin. It had belonged to the mayor of Shokugawa where we first lived. To this day, I can run mental films of the Japanese countryside, the exteriors of small restaurants, and shop stalls everywhere, through the framing of the rear seat window.

For my 8th birthday celebrated in Japan, I asked for a radio. Not only did Armed Forces Radio (AFR) do “America’s Top Twenty,” a run down of pop music with commentary every Saturday night, but on different week-nights, there were radio dramas. Gunsmoke was not a TV show to me (there was little Japanese television, let alone access to a TV), and William Conrad’s sonorous voice as Matt Dillon, US Marshal seemed both tough and intelligent. I knew Frank Sinatra not only as a singer but also as Rocky Fortune, a tough private detective, and I could identify Humphrey Bogart even on quiz shows. AFR was my connection to “the

States,” a nebulous geographic place far, far away, which soon became “foreign” even as Japan became my home.

Lying in bed in the dark as voices and sound effects made a movie in my head was a creative experience. I learned to mimic any voice or speech pattern and often amused my friends with dead on interpretations of teachers and fellow students. Had I lived in the United States, I would have missed the hot medium of AFR.

The strangeness of language, architecture, modes of transportation, all rapidly became the “norm” in my life. They unconsciously affected later choices in everything from reading material and favorite colors, to the love of martial arts. Japan was like a mysterious box covered in a beautiful design. I discovered that if you are open to difference, if you are open to surprise, then the beauty of the contents is the beauty of the world.

ENEMY

continued from page A4

respond with such vehemence. I was glad folks insisted on having their say. That’s the way it should be. I have no doubt the men and women in Annapolis feel just as strongly about people’s right

and even responsibility to speak up but they’re for sure not going to be cowed by another senseless act of violence.

None of us should allow ourselves to be, whether we’re journalists or teachers or nurses or social workers or whatever it is we go to work and do every day. We’re stronger than that, aren’t we?

What happened last Thursday in one of my favorite cities in America was despicable and terrifying. The words and behavior coming almost daily from the strange and dangerous man occupying the White House are despicable, terrifying and to my mind frequently bordering on traitorous. But none of it should deter our mission as journal-

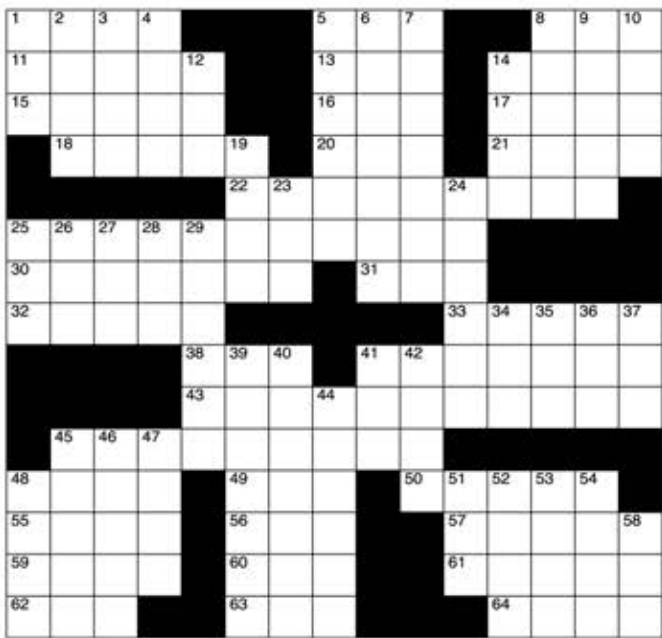
ists - to tell the stories accurately and objectively, to be stewards of the truth and to never be intimidated be it by violence or political power. The Annapolis *Capital Gazette* is going to keep going. So is the very-much not-failing *New York Times*. So are we. Count on it. See you next week.

LET’S DANCE!



Mat Plamondon photo

A tiny music lover is enjoying the evening with the Ashboys last Friday at the Smith Community Pavilion as it seems it may be her grandfather who is encouraging her enthusiasm. This week it is the Terryfics, a pop and rock group who play beginning at 6:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the concert moves to the town hall. In addition, tomorrow evening, Saturday, Shades of Gray will be playing at the Winchendon History and Cultural Center.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Guinean seaport
- 5. They __
- 8. Electromotive force
- 11. “McVicar” director
- 13. Monetary unit
- 14. Mother of Hermes
- 15. Broadway actress Daisy
- 16. Tobacco mosaic virus
- 17. Expression of surprise
- 18. African financial intermediaries
- 20. Fully ripe egg
- 21. Soothes the skin
- 22. Editors write them
- 25. Nashville-based rockers
- 30. Surgical tube
- 31. Lasting records
- 32. Member of Ghanese tribe
- 33. Being in a vertical position
- 38. Spasmodic contraction
- 41. Cartilage disks
- 43. Domestic help
- 45. A way of drying out
- 48. Small sponge cake
- 49. Distinctive practice or philosophy
- 50. Sword
- 55. Type of missile (abbr.)
- 56. Home to various animals
- 57. American comedian Tim
- 59. Scores perfectly
- 60. A major division of geological time
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Unhappy
- 63. Unit of force (abbr.)
- 64. Door part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Academic degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Romanian river
- 5. Stellar
- 6. A way to change
- 7. Surround completely
- 8. A Philly footballer
- 9. Dinosaur shuang__aurus
- 10. Slowly disappear
- 12. Large antelope
- 14. Not nice
- 19. Piece of footwear
- 23. Newt
- 24. Seriously mentally ill
- 25. Kilogram force (abbr.)
- 26. Terrorist group
- 27. Negative
- 28. Time zone
- 29. A blacksmith’s workshop
- 34. Baked dessert
- 35. A way to perceive uniquely
- 36. Breeze through
- 37. Dry white wine drink
- 39. Treated with iodine
- 40. Not thorough
- 41. Famous museum
- 42. Supplements with difficulty
- 44. Polynesian language
- 45. Bangladesh capital (var. sp.)
- 46. __ and flowed
- 47. Excessively theatrical actors
- 48. Prejudice
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Nonsense (slang)
- 53. “Luther” actor
- 54. Resist authority (slang)
- 58. Pinch

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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



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POLICE LOG

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

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

12:03 a.m.: noise complaint (Monadnock Avenue), advised officer; 12:07 a.m.: noise complaint (Spring Street), spoken to; 1:33-3:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:17 a.m.: summons service (Polly's Drive), served; 8:22 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Glen Road), transported; 8:33 a.m.: harassment order service (Royalston Road South), unable to serve; 8:44 a.m.: summons service (Linden Street), served; 8:46 a.m.: summons service (Willoughby Avenue), served; 8:52 a.m.: summons service (Glenallan Street), served; 9:47 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Glen Road), transported; 9:55 a.m.: suspicious mv (Baldwinville State Road), spoken to; 10:19 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 10:24 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 10:40 a.m.: mv theft (Royalston Road North), report taken; 10:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Juniper Street), no cause for complaint; 11:00 a.m.: erratic operation (Ash Street), unable to locate; 11:06 a.m.: suicide threats (Main Street), transported to hospital; 11:36 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:51 p.m.: illegal burn (Glenallan Street), extinguished; 3:06 p.m.: threats (Central Street), spoken to; 3:57 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), spoken to; 3:58 p.m.: accident (Central Street), report taken; 4:24 p.m.: assist other PD (Baldwinville State Road), services rendered; 5:15 p.m.: assist other agency (Baldwinville State Road), Andrew David Constant, 34, 195 Oak Hill Road, Fitchburg, assault & batter on family/household member, arrest; 6:17 p.m.: larceny (Hill Street), report taken; 6:27 p.m.: burglar alarm (Central Street), false alarm; 7:16 p.m.: FD call (Linden Street), services rendered; 8:22 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), written warning; 9:14 p.m.: mv stop (Pond Street), written warning; 9:39 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), unable to locate.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

1:11-1:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:58 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 6:26 a.m.: info/general (Goodrich Drive), info taken; 8:35 a.m.: assist citizen (High Street); 10:50 a.m.: info/general (Central Street), spoken to; 11:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), report taken; 11:33 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street), transported; 12:10

p.m.: larceny (Central Street), report taken; 12:30 p.m.: vandalism (Glenallan Street), report taken; 1:09 p.m.: threats (Central Street), report taken; 2:16 p.m.: loitering (Main Street), spoken to; 2:17 p.m.: property found (Highland Street), info given; 3:02 p.m.: traffic hazard (River Street), unable to locate; 3:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Juniper Street), report taken; 3:43 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville Road), transported; 4:16 p.m.: mv stop (Railroad Street), Rachel J. Day, 48, 208 Lincoln Avenue Extension, Winchendon, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, arrest; 5:04 p.m.: keep the peace (Goodrich Drive), assisted; 5:16 p.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), info taken; 7:19 p.m.: power outage (River Street), info taken; 7:24 p.m.: erratic operation (Baldwinville State Road), info taken; 10:26 p.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Road), transported; 11:28-11:55 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:44 p.m.: welfare check (address not printed), spoken to.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

12:12-12:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:22 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 12:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Glenallan Street), secure; 1:22 a.m.: suspicious/other (Spruce Street), secure; 1:46 a.m.: suspicious person (Central Street), spoken to; 1:52 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:20 a.m.: burglar alarm (Gardner Road), secure; 3:18 a.m.: ambulance (Goodrich Drive), transported; 7:32 a.m.: unwanted party (Pond Street), transported; 7:47 a.m.: fire/mutual aid (Mountain Road, Jaffrey), assisted; 10:26 a.m.: keep the peace (Pond Street), assisted; 10:36 a.m.: tree down (Baldwinville State Road), removed; 10:54 a.m.: ambulance (Pond Street), transported; 11:01 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), transported to hospital; 11:06 a.m.: fire/box alarm (Hyde Park Drive), services rendered; 12:20 p.m.: summons service (Laurel Street), unable to serve; 12:21 p.m.: summons service (Laurel Street), unable to serve; 12:22 p.m.: summons service (Laurel Street), unable to serve; 1:47 p.m.: burglar alarm (School Street), false alarm; 2:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Vaine Street), referred to ACO; 3:18 p.m.: mv violations (Pearl Drive), info taken; 4:37 p.m.: disabled mv (Spring Street), removed; 6:37 p.m.: assist other PD (Bemis Road), unable to locate; 6:41 p.m.: FD call (Hyde Park Drive), referred; 7:10 p.m.: assault (Central Street), report taken; 7:32 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), verbal warning; 8:11 p.m.: investigation (Baldwinville State Road), spoken to; 8:57 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwinville State Road), citation issued; 9:07 p.m.: traffic hazard (Baldwinville State Road), removed; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (Grove Street), verbal warning; 10:19 p.m.: alarm/type unknown (Central Street), secure; 11:28 p.m.: burglary/b&e (Maynard Street), unfounded; 11:35 p.m.: mv repossession

(Maynard Street), info taken.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

1:45-3:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:25 a.m.: fire alarm (Hyde Park Drive), services rendered; 7:29 a.m.: warrant arrest (Goodrich Drive), unable to locate; 7:34 a.m.: warrant arrest (Goodrich Drive), unable to locate; 9:27 a.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning; 9:51 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), report taken; 10:25 a.m.: warrant of apprehension (Spring Street), transported; 10:44 a.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 12:23 p.m.: dog bite (Front Place), report taken; 12:47 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), citation issued; 1:15 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), citation issued; 1:52 p.m.: DPW call (Alger Street), no cause for complaint; 4:31 p.m.: disturbance (Maynard Street), spoken to; 4:35 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street), transported; 4:38 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 5:36 p.m.: ambulance (Spring Street), transported; 9:22 p.m.: noise complaint (Otter River Campground), unfounded; 11:36 p.m.: intoxicated person (Robbins Road), assisted.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

12:46 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street), transported; 1:15-1:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:38 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Glen Road), report taken; 5:42 a.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Road), transported; 5:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Goodrich Drive), transport; 11:20 a.m.: larceny (Pond Street), report taken; 11:27 a.m.: animal complaint (River Street), referred to ACO; 11:47 a.m.: bolo (Gardner Road), advised officer; 12:29 p.m.: holdup alarm (School Square), false alarm; 2:31 p.m.: illegal dumping (Lincoln Avenue Extension), report taken; 4:27 p.m.: welfare check/general (address not printed), info given; 5:01 p.m.: ambulance (Ash Street), transported; 5:57 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Teel Road), spoken to; 6:25 p.m.: noise complaint (Lakeview Drive), spoken to; 6:39 p.m.: erratic operation (School Street), Justin Allard, 20, 16 Caltha Road, Brighton, MA, OUI drugs, negligent operation, arrest; 8:12 p.m.: info/general (Central Street), services rendered; 8:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Monadnock Avenue), referred to ACO; 8:56 p.m.: animal complaint (Cedar Terrace), referred to ACO; 9:36 p.m.: noise complaint (River Street), spoken to; 9:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Banner Place), spoken to; 10:20 p.m.: abandoned mv (Spring Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, JULY 1

12:07 a.m.: disturbance (Goodrich Drive), spoken to; 12:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Wendell Drive), advised officer; 12:33 a.m.: officer wanted (Cross Road), referred; 1:04 a.m.: officer wanted (High Street), secure; 2:09 a.m.: mental health issue (Linden Street), spoken to; 2:09-2:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:57 a.m.: animal complaint (Hyde Park Drive), unable to locate; 6:35

a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive), accidental alarm; 6:39 a.m.: suspicious/other (Glenallan Street), no cause for complaint; 8:31 a.m.: burglar alarm (Royalston Road North), secure; 11:07 a.m.: mv stop (Central Street), Daphne M. Bateman, 29, 86 Front Street, #3A, Winchendon, unlicensed operation, miscellaneous mv equipment violations, citation issued; 11:37 a.m.: noise complaint (Teel Road), unable to locate; 11:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Cedar Terrace), referred to ACO; 11:51 a.m.: mv violations (Spring Street), gone on arrival; 12:05 p.m.: tree down on wires (Benjamin Street), services rendered; 12:31 p.m. larceny (Walmart, Rindge), referred; 1:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Alger Street), report taken; 2:23 p.m.: ambulance (Otter River Road), transported; 5:17 p.m.: ambulance (Otter River Road), transported; 5:42 p.m.: mv stop (Lincoln Avenue), citation issued; 6:14 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 6:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), referred to ACO; 6:35 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 7:24 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), secured bldg.; 7:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:27 p.m.: mv fire (Lakeview Drive), report taken; 8:30 p.m.: mv stop (Cedar Terrace), written warning; 9:03 p.m.: harassment (Laurel Street), no cause for complaint; 9:40 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville State Road), report taken; 11:59 p.m.: welfare check/general (address not printed), unable to locate.

MONDAY, JULY 2

12:45-2:56 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:12 a.m.: burglar alarm (Franklin Street) accidental; 5:28 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:39 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 5:59 a.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), citation issued; 7:17 a.m.: fire alarm (Ipswich Drive), false alarm; 8:00 a.m.: disabled mv (Spring Street), assisted; 8:29 a.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street), assisted; 10:31 a.m.: burglar alarm (School Street), false alarm; 10:32 a.m.: summons service (Central Street), served; 10:35 a.m.: investigation (Mason Street), spoken to; 10:52 a.m.: harassment (Central Street), report taken; 11:40 a.m.: sex offender registration (Central Street), spoken to; 12:50 p.m.: suspicious person (Front Place), no cause for complaint; 1:18 p.m.: burglar alarm (Goodrich Street), false alarm; 2:14 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), citation issued; 4:37 p.m.: erratic operation (Ash Street), unable to locate; 6:03 p.m.: FD call (Otter River Road), services rendered; 7:09 p.m.: accident (Spring Street), report taken; 8:57 p.m.: intoxicated person (Cedar Terrace), unable to locate; 9:17 p.m.: mv stop (Central Street), verbal warning; 9:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 9:37 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning

WE PROTEST

Greg Vine photos

While hundreds of thousands of people from Los Angeles to Boston marched Saturday to protest Trump administration immigration policies, locally about 200 people from the Monadnock region gathered in front of the Peterborough Townhouse to send a similar message.



Protesters gather to decry family separations

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

People in the hundreds of thousands gathered in America's biggest cities last weekend to protest the Trump administration's policy of separating migrant families at the U.S. border. The explicit policy was reversed by an executive order signed by Pres. Trump last week, but many children remain separated from their parents, often in locations thousands of miles apart.

But, in addition to large protests that took place from Los Angeles to Boston, from Seattle to Miami, there were many smaller gatherings around the country. One of them was in Peterborough, NH last Saturday.

More than 200 sign-carrying protesters from the Monadnock region, led by colorful state Rep. Ivy Vann (D-Peterborough) and District 9 state senate candidate Jeanne Dietsch of Peterborough, decried the ongoing separation of children from their parents after making their way into the U.S.

Vann led the receptive crowd in singing several well-known protest songs, including "We Will Not Be Moved" and Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land."

"The only way that we win," said Vann, "is if we show up. The only way we turn this around is by showing up at the polls."

Kate Gordon of Jaffrey was among the protestors. Gordon said she has been active in protesting administration policies since the Women's March on Washington the day after Donald Trump's inauguration in January 2017.

"This administration is ruining the country," she said.

A man from Dublin who would not give his name said he opposes many of the president's policies but said this is among the worst.

"There have been many that we can complain about," he said, "but this is atrocious. It is immoral, and it should stop. The fact they can't locate children

Turn To **PROTEST** page **A7**

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OBITUARIES

Esther H. ‘Terry’ Johnson, 96

WINCHENDON — Esther H. “Terry” Johnson, age 96, of New Durham, NH and Winchendon died Wednesday, June 27, 2018 in Broadview Assisted Living, Winchendon with her family at her side.



She was born in Needham on September 28, 1921, daughter of the late Lloyd C. and Ethel (Ferdinand) Herring and was a 1939 graduate of Needham High School and a 1941 graduate of the former Academy Moderne. Terry lived in Needham for many years and later lived in Malden, Saugus and Danvers. Following retirement, she lived in West Yarmouth, New Durham, NH and Inverness, Florida. Two years ago, she moved to Winchendon.

Terry worked as a school bus driver from 1970 to 1978 for the town of Danvers. She attended the United Parish Church in Winchendon and was a former member of the Alton NH Community Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness, FL. She enjoyed knitting and was known for her knitted Christmas stockings and baby Irish knit sweaters, which had won 1st place at the Topsfield Fair (MA), Rochester

Fair (NH), and the Citrus County Fair (FLA). Terry especially treasured time with her family for 60 plus years, at her home on Merrymeeting Lake in New Durham, New Hampshire.

Her husband of 54 years, Eric G. Johnson, died in 1996. She leaves four children, Joyce L. Moreschi and her husband Richard of Middleton, MA, Carolyn W. Smith and her husband Lance of Inverness, FL, Eric R. Johnson and his wife Virginia of Salem and Merrily B. Stone and her husband Douglas of Winchendon. She was very proud of her 11 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren and is also survived by several nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, L. Curtis Herring and her sister, Virginia Shiebler.

The family would like to give special thanks to all the staff at the Broadview Assisted Living home in Winchendon for their love, kindness, and support they provided during this difficult time.

Funeral services were held on Monday, July 2 in the United Parish, 39 Front Street, Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to United Parish, 39 Front Street, Winchendon, MA 01475.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home was entrusted with arrangements.

Leona E. (Buman) Tate, 78

WINCHENDON — Leona E. (Buman) Tate, age 78, of 7 Colonial Lane, died peacefully Sunday morning, July 1, 2018 in UMass Memorial Healthcare, University Campus, Worcester.



She was born in Lynbrook, NY on February 9, 1940, daughter of the late Leonard and Margaret (Ball) Buman and had lived in Hubbardston for many years before living in Winchendon.

Leona was the former owner and operator of Candlelite Cafe in Templeton. In her younger years, she was a model and had been a model for Rheingold Beer. Her hobbies were cooking and baking. Leona was a

graduate of Lynbrook High School. She was a member of Wachusett Fitness Center, where she had won a few baking contests. Leona had also worked as a hostess at Holden Hills Country Club and Hubbardston Inn.

She leaves four sons, Douglas J. Tate of Rindge, John Tate of Gardner, Robert L. Tate of Gardner and Stephen J. Tate of Hubbardston and one granddaughter, Amber LeBlanc.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 5, 2018 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Winchendon.

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

Marie E. (Lambert) Williams, 92

CAMP VERDE, AZ — Marie E. (Lambert) Williams, age 92, of Camp Verde, Arizona and formerly of Winchendon, Massachusetts, died Saturday, June 30, 2018 in Carefree Assisted Living in Cottonwood, Arizona.

She was born in Jaffrey on October 14, 1925, , daughter of the late Camille and Mary Y. (Toupin) Lambert and grew up in Morrisville, VT. Following her high school graduation, she moved to Winchendon where she lived for most of her life until moving to Arizona five years ago.

Marie had worked many years ago as a seamstress at the former Dress Shop in Winchendon. She later worked as a clerk at the former Slavin’s Pharmacy.

She enjoyed playing the organ and singing.

The widow of Howard Williams, Marie leaves a daughter Diana M. LaFalam and her husband David of Camp Verde, AZ; a son, Bernard Connors of Winchendon and a stepson, Kermit Williams of North Platte, Nebraska; a sister, Irene Chaisson of Walpole; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 11 A.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon.

Burial will follow in Riverside Cemetery, Winchendon.

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

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

MWCC and Monty Tech benefit from Skills grants

SALEM — The Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$10.9 million in Skills Capital Grants to 33 high schools and educational institutions, enabling the schools to acquire the newest technologies to educate students and expand programs. The awards were announced as part of Governor Charlie Baker’s visit to Salem High School with Mayor Kim Driscoll. With this announcement, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$48 million to 157 different programs over the past three years.

Skills Capital Grants are designed to help high schools, colleges and other educational institutions invest in the most up-to-date training equipment to give their students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or particular area of study. Skills Capital Grants cover a broad array of fields, from construction and engineering to healthcare and hospitality.

“The equipment purchased by high schools and colleges over the past three years through Skills Capital Grants has directly impacted the educational experience for thousands of Massachusetts students to better prepare them for the workforce,” Governor Baker said. “This program has had a positive impact on students in the Commonwealth and we look forward to working with the Legislature to include \$75 million worth of funding for Skills Capital Grants as part of the Economic Development bill

we filed in the spring.”

“By giving our students the opportunity to learn on the newest technologies, we are ensuring they will be better prepared to succeed when they graduate from high school,” Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said. “We look forward to continuing our work with these 33 high schools and previous awardees to enhance their programs and develop a skilled workforce ready to meet the needs of the Commonwealth.”

The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as align curriculum and credentials with industry demand, in order to maximize hiring opportunities in each region of the state.

“Schools that receive these competitive grants are giving their students a head start by creating relationships with local employers who provide input and expertise about the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in the future,” Education Secretary James Peyser said.

“Massachusetts’ continued low unemployment rates, coupled with job and labor force gains, has also created a tight labor market in which more and more employers are finding it difficult to recruit workers with the skills necessary to fuel their growth needs,” said Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta. “The Workforce Skills Capital grant

program has had great success in closing those skills gaps and ensuring that the next generation of workers in the Commonwealth has the training necessary to access our high demand job sectors.”

“Massachusetts is a national leader in life sciences, healthcare, technology, and manufacturing sectors,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash. “These grants will help ensure a strong pipeline of talented workers throughout the Commonwealth to support these key industries. A skilled workforce is essential for Massachusetts to have an edge in attracting employers in these sectors to locate and expand here, and for adding great jobs now, and in the future.”

The Skills Capital Grants are awarded by Governor Baker’s Workforce Skills Cabinet. Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito created the Workforce Skills Cabinet in 2015, bringing together the Secretariats of Education, Labor and Workforce Development, and Housing and Economic Development in order to align education, economic development and workforce policies, and to strategize around how to meet employers’ demand for skilled workers in each region of the state.

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School received \$500,000 – Monty Tech will create a state-of-the-art A.R.M. (automation, robotics, and mechatronics) lab, replicating working

environments in advanced manufacturing and automation. The A.R.M. Lab will include a variety of equipment and technology used to train students (both high school and non-traditional) interested in careers in advanced manufacturing and automation. Students will prepare to become manufacturing technicians, robotics technicians, automation technicians, moldmakers, and CNC machinists at local corporations. The high school will collaborate with Mount Wachusett Community College to provide education and training opportunities.

Mount Wachusett Community College received \$439,850 – Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) will upgrade equipment in two of its simulated health science labs (SIMS Labs) which support the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Practical Nursing Certificate (PN), Paramedic Technology Certificate (PAC), and the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) non-degree training pathway. By updating the two SIMS labs, MWCC Health Sciences students will have improved access to industry standard equipment and authentic learning scenarios. Each SIMS lab will receive functioning headwalls, IP cameras/microphones, MedDispensing software, EKG; and SIMMan simulators.

PROTEST

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that were taken from their children is disgraceful, it’s immoral, it’s illegal. You want to add anything else to that? It is evil. That’s why I’m here.”

Asked if the issue of family separation could motivate voters to cast ballots for Democrats in November, the Dublin resident said, “I believe the key to this next election will be how we motivate women and how we motivate young people between the ages of 18 and 35. Both groups will be decisive in this election. The Trump administration is so egregious with their positions that I don’t know what else people

are going to do.”

Luis Rosa of Hancock is the son of Cape Verdean immigrants who came to the U.S. in the 1930s.

“I would certainly say that this issue has carried the greatest emotional value,” said Rosa. “I don’t know, however, if this is THE issue that has caught the attention of people. Overall, Trump and his agenda has not really resonated with the people in my sphere. A number of his positions have raised the ire of my friends and colleagues.”

“This issue is of huge relevance to me,” he continued. “I am a first-generation American. I was raised by folks who immigrated here. I know the trials and sacrifices they made to

come here. This particular issue and the way this administration has dealt with immigrants I find offensive and abhorrent. If my parents were still alive I don’t know that they’d recognize this country.”

At last count, more than 2,000 children separated from the parents of asylum-seekers and undocumented immigrants were in the care of the federal Dept. of Health and Human Services. However, on Monday officials with HHS indicated the agency would no longer provide specific figures on how many such children are in its care. The agency is also caring for several thousand minors who crossed the border unaccompanied by an adult.

STUDENTS

continued from page A1

“That’s been an important feature,” remarked Benedict.

“You know, sometimes they have something of an epiphany,” reflected Provost “And that motivates them to get it done.”

“It’s really a lot about commu-

nication, too. Being year-round gives us something of a luxury in terms of communication. We’re not constrained by the calendar and so we can take a ‘whole person’ approach to what we do here,” he said.

And what they do there, they do 12 months a year so Provost and Benedict are in constant jug-

gling mode. When the regular academic year begins late next month, they’re thinking they might have around 40 students to start with. A couple different teachers will be signed on. Bottom line - at the Academy the calendar is a blur.

“It’s a path of hope,” said Provost.

IKONEN

continued from page A1

Nuremson questioned how the district could afford to hire

an assistant business manager but Ikonen explained the pupil personnel services director’s job will not be filled.

Haddad became superintendent in 2015. Whomever becomes

interim will be working with a new high school principal in Thad King and a new MHS ssistant principal in Charlie Keene. They assumed their new roles this week.

Auditions for Rumors soon

Mount Wachusett Community College’s Theatre at the Mount announces auditions for the upcoming production of Neil Simon’s Rumors.

The action is set in a large home just outside of New York City. As the guests arrive to celebrate the 10th wedding anniversary of the deputy mayor and his wife, they find he is in bed with a gunshot wound and she is missing, and so is the kitchen staff. The story gets bigger, weirder and more hysterical with each arriving guest in a frothy mix of cover-ups, deceptions and mistaken identities. It’s what Neil Simon does best, creating great characters and making

the mundane...insane!

Director Craig Cormier is looking for a small adult cast of five men and five women. For detailed character descriptions visit the TAM web site at <https://mwcc.edu/campus-life/tam/auditions/>

Auditions for Rumors will be held in room 182 at Mount Wachusett Community College on Monday, July 9 and Tuesday, July 10 at 7 p.m. sharp. No appointment is needed.

Rumors runs Oct. 5, 6, 12, 13 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 14 at 2 p.m.

For additional information contact Professor Gail Steele at (978) 630-9162 or g_steele@mwcc.mass.edu



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SPORTS

Their football? Our football?

Let's start with a question. How many of you are watching the most important football tournament on the planet? Yeah, me either, though a little bit seems to be filtering through. I know some guy named Harry Kane is carrying England and defending champion Germany became the first reigning champ to rally from a halftime deficit to stay alive. Beyond that, admittedly not so much. I do know Bubba Watson won the Travelers PGA tournament for the third time, leaving the multiple Masters champion one shy of tying the all-time record for wins in a single event. I know who won the third at Santa Anita last Friday. Or at least who didn't. I know where the kids from Maryland went in the NBA draft.

The World Cup? I know what I read in headlines. I'm not alone. We're pretty clueless about soccer, as we call it. Or maybe a better way to put it is we're disinterested if we're not part of the World Cup. Anyway, it's the biggest sporting event in the world and

while there are to be sure pockets of intense interest here in the States, the tournament isn't resonating the way it did four years ago. Maybe eight years hence when the US is part of the host consortium?

A lot of us are paying attention to the AL East where the Yankees and Red Sox are both on pace for well over 100 wins and yet one will be forced into a single-game elimination contest come October. Of course, that beats not making the post-season at all but even as June ends, we all know one of these teams, following one of the best regular seasons in their storied history, are going to be on the precipice. If whomever finishes second in the division loses that wild-card game, will that ruin a great season? It says here no. Sports can fairly be divided into two parts - regular seasons and a comparatively short tournament, especially in baseball where a team can get hot for two weeks and be crowned champion. If you have the best record over the 162 game marathon, you're the best overall team. Period. The



TALKING SPORTS

JERRY CARTON

history books might not say so, but that's the team which will pass the eye test. Yes, baseball is different.

At the other end of the AL East spectrum sit the weebegone Orioles who are on a pace for more than 100 losses, the second worst record in the franchise's 65 years in Baltimore. The O's have enough talent to do a lot better than that but as Bill Parcells once famously and accurately said acidly, you are what your record says you are. They'll presumably trade Manny Machado in the next 30 days rather than just get a draft choice in November but 2018 has been a disgrace. There was even a story floating last week about the team's future in the city. They're not going anywhere but really bad losing seasons tend to breed

rumors ad while all this is going on, the reigning champion Astros are serenely sailing along. With all due respect to the titanic struggle in the AL East, good luck beating the 'Stros. The NL is much more interesting. The Nats and Cubs and Dodgers have yet to take command of their divisions. The young Braves and Phillies haven't yet backed down from Washington. The Brewers and D-Backs are proving 2017 was no fluke. While you can pencil in four of the five AL playoff teams (New York, Boston, Cleveland, Houston), the senior circuit remains in flux and that's good. NL baseball is more fun anyway and I write that as someone who has lived my entire life in AL regions.

There was an interesting story in the *Times* last week describing the differences in how the NFL and NBA handle their respective workforces' involvement in public affairs. While we all know the NFL is very uncomfortable with activism and the NBA less so, the article argued the primary reason for that is the NBA is all

about individual players while the NFL is about the "brand", pointing out the football logo looks almost like a flag whereas the hoops one features a single player, Jerry West. It said even the hapless Cleveland Browns are a bigger "brand" than Tom Brady but LeBron is a larger "brand" than, say, the Sacramento Kings. A plausible argument? Some may say so. But how's this? Even though they're also really rich and also very much mostly if not exclusively white, NBA owners have more of a social conscience than do their NFL counterparts. Maybe?

Finally this. The US Open announced the other day it's going to revise seeding for this summer's tournament after the controversy at the French where Serena Williams was unseeded because she'd been out so long following her pregnancy. The spectre of the world's greatest player not being seeded just because she had a baby was absurd. The USTA isn't going to look equally ridiculous. Happy Fourth. See you next week.

Colcord shines as a frosh

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

FITCHBURG

Everyone knows the unwritten rules: freshmen sit on the bench. You wait your turn, right?

Most of the time, yes, but not always. Every once in a while, a freshman comes along and breaks the rule.

Amber Colcord is from Winchendon. She played Little League here, but when high school beckoned, Amber and her family opted to school choice at Monty Tech and Lady Bulldogs coach Dave Reid is glad they did.

Helping lead Monty Tech deep into the post-season, Colcord's numbers are staggering for any freshman, pretty much for any player period. In a 23-game season, she batted .438, fourth highest on an experienced team (Fellow Winchendon resident Cassie Skinner compiled a .533 average.). Colcord

struck out just seven times and was second on the Lady Bulldogs in hits (35), homers (4) and RBI (27), finishing top five in the Colonial League in hits and RBIs.

That's not all. On the mound, Colcord went 5-0 with a 1.61 ERA, best on the team and third lowest league-wide.

So sure, the numbers are impressive. But numbers rarely tell the whole story.

"Amber is one of those gems who shows up every few years," marveled Reid. "Right away I knew we had a good one."

Did being a freshman intimidate Colcord? Let her explain:

"I was nervous during tryouts," she acknowledged. "I felt I had to work and try harder than other people to prove I deserved a spot on the varsity roster. When I was told I would be a starter, I was so excited as I never thought I would be, even more so when my coach had me

as a starting shortstop after starting a few games in right field."

"They (older players) treated me as a teammate from the get-go. The coaches made me feel welcome as well and joked with me like they did the rest of the team," recalled Colcord.

There were adjustments along the way. For her U-16 travel team, Colcord's primarily a center fielder so moving to short for school ball took some work. So did being moved up to the two slot in the batting order.

The Lady Bulldogs had an outstanding season, reaching the district finals before losing to Hopedale, but Colcord was able to take away a sweet personal memory from the semi-finals against area rival Narragansett when she belted a two-run homer.

Amber knows you don't make it on talent alone and was quick to credit coaches Reid and

McNamara at Monty Tech and ASA coach Josh Koziol.

"And my hitting coach 'Toner' (longtime Winchendon coach and former Little League president Tony LaPointe) and mostly my mom (Julie, herself a former player and local coach). She's there for me always."

There's always work to be done to improve and Colcord noted she will need to improve defensively with her backhand fielding, especially playing shortstop. At the plate, "learning how to place the ball better, hitting it to right or center more."

After an exceptionally impressive first year, Colcord, like every player in every sport on every level, knows she can get even better, but for now Reid had this to say.

"Her talents are outstanding. I am excited she will be with us for three more years."



Courtesy photo

Amber Colcord during a game

Triathlon speeds through Winchendon this weekend

One of the biggest sporting events in the state returns to Winchendon this weekend with the running of the Mass State Triathlon, organized and directed by MaxPerformance of Waltham. More than 200 competitors are expected to participate in hopes of conquering the more than 29-mile long course. The race consists of a .9-mile swim, 22 miles of cycling, and a 6.2-mile run.

The nearly mile-long swim course is laid out by a series of buoys covering much of Lake Dennison. There's plenty of room on the beach for family, friends, and other interested spectators.

After the swim, cyclists jump on their bikes and traverse a large, single loop course that heads through the center of Winchendon and the city of

Gardner. The loop begins when competitors enter onto Route 202 at the Lake Denison entrance. One of the most challenging legs of the course is the climb up Tannery Hill into Winchendon center. From there, competitors head south on Route 12, then face another pair of uphill climbs, one to the Gardner-Winchendon line and then again up Green Street past Mount Wachusett Community College. The route then moves into the center of Gardner, where cyclists head out Route 68 through West Gardner, Otter River, and back to Route 202 in Baldwinville. From there it's back to where they started.

The 6.8-mile run begins back at Lake Denison, where runners jump onto New Boston Road. They then turn onto

Royalston Road South, where they stay until veering off onto Main Street. The runners then traverse Krantz Road, Metcalf Street, and Phyllis Road until again following Royalston Road South as far as Sibley Road. They then turn around and follow the same course back to Lake Denison.

Last year, the top men's performer was Eric Kirouac, age 21, of Williamsburg, who finished in a time of 1:43:43 in the competition's Elite division.

The top women's finisher, competing in the 20-24 division, was Darby Middlebrook, age 22, of Ludington, Michigan, who clocked in at 2:03:45.1.

The best local finisher, competing in the men 40-44 division, was Jesse Marquardt, age 44, of Gardner. Finishing

15th overall, Marquardt recorded a time of 2:06:08.8.

The best local finisher for the women, competing in the 20-24 division, was Gabrielle LeBlanc, age 23, of Leominster, who finished at 2:29:20.2.

The triathlon kicks off when swimmers from the Elite men's division enter the water at 8 a.m.

Police departments from Winchendon, Gardner, and Templeton, and the state Environmental Police assist MaxPerformance in the planning of this yearly event and help to ensure the safety of its competitors. EMTs from all three towns and Wood's Ambulance also stand by to respond in the event of an emergency.

BARGAIN

continued from page A1

Corp. The dek hockey equipment manufacturer is located in Winchendon's Hillview Industrial Park.

"What isn't taken into consideration is that a third of any increase comes out of that pay for taxes," he said. "And what else happens? You end up paying more for a cup of coffee at Dunkin' Donuts, or for a pizza at the local pizza restaurant. So, between taxes and higher costs, workers end up with fewer disposable dollars or, at best, it's a wash. Most of my workers tell me they'd rather see lower prices for the things they buy just about every day, rather than seeing a little bit more of a raise; especially since the raise

is seen mainly on paper and not in their pockets."

Laperriere said hiking the minimum wage can also impact people who hold jobs requiring fewer skills.

"If the pay goes up, say, for workers that do general cleaning, for example, some businesses won't find it makes financial sense to keep them on," he said. "Production jobs, office jobs, that's a different story."

"Grocery stores get whacked hard, in some instances," Laperriere continued. "A lot of them depend on high school kids; kids who are still living at home and don't really have a responsibility to anyone but themselves. That may not be in all cases, but in many instances, they can't afford to pay more to a single mom trying to make

ends meet because they're being made to give the same wage to kids saving up for a new iPhone or video game."

Laperriere said other costs also come into play with hikes in the minimum wage.

"A company has to match the FICA and Medicare payments deducted from workers' paychecks," he noted. "That means more overhead is being pushed onto the company. That, then, is pushed on to the consumer in the form of higher prices. And the payroll tax goes up as well."

As far as sick leave is concerned, "We can get by if someone is out for a few days, even a week. But if someone is going to be out for three or four weeks, we not only have to pay them, we also have to find someone to fill that void - to do that job

- while they're out. We have to hire temps. So, the cost to the company goes beyond any contribution they may make to a sick leave 'bank.' It all looks good on paper, but the reality doesn't usually present such a rosy picture."

Governor Charlie Baker had urged the Legislature to pass the "Grand Bargain Bill" in order to stave off several questions that would have appeared on this year's state general election ballot.

The group Raise Up Massachusetts is pushing a question that would hike the minimum wage to \$15 an hour over four years, instead of the five included the bill. The group also wants increases in the minimum wage tied to inflation, an issue not addressed in the legis-

lation.

Raise Up is also behind a question which would establish more generous family and medical leave.

Inclusion of the permanent sales tax holiday in the measure has led the Retailers Association of Massachusetts to drop its ballot measure, which would have dropped the state sales tax from 6.25 percent to 5 percent.

While the vote on the bill was mainly along party lines, Republican state Sen. Dean Tran of Fitchburg joined with his Democratic colleagues, including Sen. Ann Gobi of Spencer, in supporting the measure. State Rep. Jon Zlotnik (D-Gardner) also voted in favor.

As of deadline, Gov. Baker was still deciding whether to sign the bill into law.



WFD

continued from page A1

“I have always been more comfortable with just going out in the field, and have seen so many changes in the profession during my career,” said Ruschioni

“When I started here, there was only one person per shift.”

“When responding to an ambulance call, we used a 1968 Pontiac; much like a station wagon, which could only fit one person in the back with the patient, and was driven by a Winchendon Police Officer and dispatched from the Police Station.”

“The fire service has really come a long way since I first started. When responding to fires back then, we even rode on the tail steps on the back of the trucks. I can remember almost falling off a few times. “Riding the tail step when it was 20 below zero is something I will never forget,” said Ruschioni when reminiscing about the early days.

Ruschioni also remembers what it was like working without a 911 service for his first 12 years on the job.

“I have seen the fire service change drastically over the decades. From training, to your turnout gear, breathing apparatus and even infrared cameras; there have been too many changes to list. One of the biggest changes has been the hiring of firefighter/paramedics which has certainly saved a lot of lives.” “When you learned to go out all by yourself back in the day, it was a totally different animal. The structure technology was a far cry from where it is today with addition of sprinklers, along with fire and carbon monoxide detectors. We had at least one large structure fire every single month and sometimes more back in the 1980s. There were a lot of operating factories in Winchendon and today almost all of them are either vacant or burnt down and gone.”

“One of my most memorable calls from years ago was a box alarm that came in at 1:30 a.m. from box 43 at the intersection of Mill and Mechanic Streets while I was working by myself on the night shift. I opened the doors from the station, and the sky was like orange daylight from the massive fire at the former Old Colony Bucket Company on School Street. The building was 162’ long by 84’ wide with the top two floors totally engulfed and seven buildings on fire when I arrived. I watched three transformers blow right off the utility poles as I laid my water line. It was like it was Fourth of July” said Ruschioni.

“I struck five alarms in five minutes and it ended up going to seven alarms. We brought 18 fire departments into Winchendon to assist. It was a night I will never ever forget and I am sure a top five fires for the town. The Fitzwilliam Fire Department said they could see the glow when they pulled out of their station, and we had reports of people who could see the glow all the way to the intersection of Route 2 and 495,” Ruschioni recalled.

Ruschioni also says the most powerful memory during his career was the tragic fire which killed six firefighters at the Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co on December 3, 1999.

“For many of us who have served for a long time, we relate to it as the 9/11 of our area as it brought many changes to the fire service. I



Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni in full gear at a fire.

worked two 12 hour shifts with a ladder and engine company as the Worcester firefighters were digging through the rubble for their fallen brothers. I will never ever forget the feeling of what took place as long as I live, attending three of the funerals and the memorial service where many dignitaries including President Clinton were in attendance. Even though it was so tragic, it was a proud moment to be a firefighter when you watched the outpouring of support. It changed us forever, and we will take it to our graves.”

Fondly looking back on the family component of being a firefighter, Ruschioni said, “Way back in the day there was only one firefighter per shift. My children; my son Ricci Jr., and my daughters Randi and Traci practically grew up here at the fire department, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. It was a different time, and my children got to see why being a firefighter was so important not just to our town, but to me as their dad. They as my children highly respected the job.”

When asking Randi Arsenault about her father’s career she said, “It’s going to be hard to see him retire to be honest. I have seen my dad doing this for so long and my dad is my hero. It’s going to be awesome to have him around more during the day and he being able to see his granddaughter more, I look forward to this next chapter of having my dad around more. It’s well deserved.”

Area Fire Chiefs upon hearing the news of Ruschioni’s retirement were quick to speak up.

Chief Richard Ares (Gardner Fire Department) who began his career in 1973 echoed much of the same sentiment.

“Ricci and I worked a lot of the same fires over the years together. He started six years after me, and as I moved up in rank it was good to know he was on the way because I trusted his judgement and skills, and knew I was going to be getting another set of hands that were going to be really helpful to us.



Deputy Chief Ricci Ruschioni and Fire Chief Tom Smith.

We have known each other forever, and I am certainly going to miss having him around for his skills and his knowledge. It was always a good thing to have Ricci to count on when the help was needed, and I can tell you he will be missed.”

Chief Keith Newton of the Royalston Fire Department who has served for 43 years opened with an interesting fact.

“Deputy Ruschioni is retiring with 39 years of service. It seems fitting that the Deputy is retiring with the same amount of years as the WFD’s designation number, 39. It’s been a long time. Every time you thought of Winchendon and the WFD, certain people come to mind and Ricci is one of those because over the years when you received a mutual aid call, the Deputy was there most times. He will be sadly missed. He is one of the people who I looked upon and admired because of not only his professionalism, but his immense knowledge. When it came to not only training but producing, he was a true professional. The entire fire service industry will miss him.”

Chief Richard Stevens of the Phillipston Fire Department said, “Deputy Chief Ruschioni has been an exceptional firefighter, officer, and mentor to all who have worked beside him and under his command. Winchendon has been most fortunate to have this dedicated man, and we all (Area Towns) have benefited from his hard work, training, and commitment to excellence while assisting us at fire calls. I wish him many great years of retirement. I am so grateful for our time shared as colleagues and Brother Firefighters. You did your job well; now enjoy your time and your family.”

Winchendon Fire Chief Tom Smith has been Ruschioni’s fourth and last Chief working alongside Ruschioni since 2012, and some 20 years before that as a previous member and Chief of the Templeton Fire Department.

Smith said, “One of the things both I will miss the most is his knowledge of the town. Ricci has a vast knowledge of people, places,

resources and more, and it’s something that is just impossible to replace. I remember one time we were serving under mutual aid in Gardner, and we ended up serving on the same interior hose line as Chief and Deputy Chief at a structure fire. It didn’t make a difference because Ricci would never tell somebody to go do a job that he wouldn’t do himself. He was never afraid to do the work, or what was required. He has also made my job a lot easier because he mirrored my management styles, but at the same time if he disagreed with something he would pull me aside and discuss it. That is an important quality especially in this field of work as hearing honesty instead of always hearing just yes is an important thing.”

“I think the old saying about ‘You don’t know what you have until it’s gone’ is something both the department and town will be saying when they look back on Ricci as a Deputy Chief. You can take the firefighter out of the department, but you can’t take the fire department out of the firefighter. As we have major incidents in the future, it will be comforting to know he will be snapping photos or just a phone call away if needed.”

With his last message to his fellow firefighters Ruschioni said, “I would like my fellow firefighters to know my final advice is to protect yourself and look out for each other and have each other’s backs. Today more than ever it is so import to be there for each other.”

In closing Ruschioni said, “I have great support from my Chief and I could stay on the job for another year to reach 40 years if I hadn’t developed some health issues. The main reason why I am leaving is for the safety of my fellow firefighters who I would never endanger due to my illness. I am proud of what I have accomplished, and I can retire with no regrets. The only thing I ever wanted was my fellow professional’s mutual respect. I feel so privileged to have been able to be a firefighter in Winchendon for the better part of my life, and my entire career. I am incredibly honored to be able to say that.”

LEGALS

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Ramona M. Gilbert and Keith Gilbert to Mortgage Amenities Corp., dated October 29, 2005 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 37719, Page 38, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Mortgage Amenities Corp. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 37965, Page 134, subsequently assigned to US Bank National Association, as Trustee for SASCO Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-GEL4 by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 48516, Page 27, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Securities Corporation, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-GEL4 by Wells Fargo Bank N.A. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 56442, Page 318 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on July 27, 2018 at 199 Mill Street, Winchendon, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in Winchendon bounded and described as follows: Commencing on the Northerly line of Mill Street at a corner of land now or formerly of L. N. Hoar; Thence North 15 degrees East one hundred twenty-three (123) feet more or less to land now or formerly of Eben B. Ellis; Thence on said Ellis land South 77 degrees East forty-one and seventy-five hundredth (41.75) to a corner; Thence North 13 degrees 15’ East twenty-two (22) feet; Thence South 76 degrees 45’ East sixty-five (65) feet; Thence South 13 degrees 15’ West thirteen (13) feet; Thence south 76 degrees 45’ East eleven and five tenths (11.5) feet; Thence South 18 degrees 30’ West one hundred and

thirty-nine (139) feet more or less to the Northerly line of Mill Street; Thence Westerly on line of said Mill Street one hundred and eleven and one-half (111-1/2 feet to the place of beginning. Reserving to Charles D. Ellis, his heirs and assigns the right to pass and repass over a strip of land seven and one-half (7-1/2) feet wide and extending the entire length of the line above described as S. 18 degrees 30’ W one hundred and thirty-nine (139) feet and on the Westerly side of said line. Also conveying to the grantee his heirs and assigns the right to pass and repass over a strip of land seven and one-half (7-1/2) feet wide on the Easterly side of the line last named. The two strips forming a right of way fifteen feet (15) wide. Being the same premises referred to in a Plan entitled “Compiled Plan of Land of Andre P. Belletete, Winchendon, Mass., Scale: 1 inch = 30 feet, June 28, 1971 Michael S. Szoc, Surveyor”, said plan is recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 354, Plan. 48. For my title, see Book 34520, at Page 25.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

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

sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Securities Corporation, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-GEL4 Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS PC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 16-011281 July 6, 2018 July 13, 2018 July 20, 2018

LEGAL NOTICE

Community Outreach Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for July 16, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Winchendon Town Hall at 109 Front St. **The proposed Adult Use Retail Marijuana Establishment is anticipated to be located at 463 Maple St.** Any person wishing to participate or provide comment is strongly encouraged to attend where there will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Reasonable accommodation will be attempted upon written request to the Selectmen’s Office prior to the meeting. By: Winchendon Board of Selectmen Barbara Anderson, Chair (978) 297-0085 July 6, 2018

LEGAL NOTICE

Community Outreach Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for July 16, 2018 at 7:15pm at the Winchendon Town Hall at 109 Front St. **The proposed Adult Use Retail Marijuana Establishment and Cultivation facility is anticipated to be located at 703 School St.** Any person wishing to participate or provide comment is strongly encouraged to attend where there will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Reasonable accommodation will be attempted upon written request to the Selectmen’s Office prior to the meeting. The meeting room is accessible to persons with disabilities. By: Winchendon Board of Selectmen Barbara Anderson, Chair (978) 297-0085 July 6, 2018

LEGAL NOTICE

Community Outreach Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for July 16, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Winchendon Town Hall at 109 Front St. **The proposed Adult Use Retail Marijuana Establishment is anticipated to be located at 350 Baldwinville State Rd.** Any person wishing to participate or provide comment is strongly encouraged to attend where there will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Reasonable accommodation will be attempted upon written request to the Selectmen’s Office prior to the meeting. The meeting room is accessible to persons with disabilities. By: Winchendon Board of Selectmen Barbara Anderson, Chair (978) 297-0085 July 6, 2018



A new tradition continues



Mat Plamondon photos

The annual Winchendon Music Festival had its second weekend with blues, jazz and simply marvelous music held at the Old Centre Church. Groups included Muscari, Floyds Row and John Arcaro & Band in a three evening continuing event.



SERIES

continued from page A1

James Chesebrough pointed out, the patriotic song consisted of music penned by Samuel A. Ward in 1883 and words written by Katherine Lee Bates in 1895. First published in 1910, it was in the running to become our National Anthem. However, a resolution passed by Congress and signed by Pres. Herbert Hoover in 1931 determined once and for all that the orchestra's second offering, "The Star Spangled Banner," would become the official anthem of our United States.

These two patriotic melodies were followed by Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Sea Songs" and "American Overture" by Joseph Wilcox Jenkins.

The performance stopped briefly before the next offering, "Toy Town March" by David Maker, to introduce a number of people who have been responsible for keeping Clyde, the giant rocking horse located at School Square, in good shape.

Those involved in the 2011 restoration of Clyde included Irene and Fran Lambert and Janice Hautenen. The horse was refurbished again in 2017 with the help of Nancy and Wallace Willcox and Brian Spaulding. The clip-clop of Clyde could not be mistaken in the march written to commemorate Winchendon's toy-making heritage.

The first half of the program concluded with Morton Gould's "American Salute," "Nimrod" from Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar, and David Wallis Reeves' "2nd Regimental Connecticut National Guard."

After a brief intermission for refreshments and strawberry shortcake (which, by the way, sold out), the performance resumed with "Broadway Spectacular," arranged by John Higgins. Two compositions of the famed



French horns in play during Sunday's Winchendon Winds concert.

John Philip Souza, "Washington Post" and "Semper Fidelis," followed.

The orchestra then played "American Patrol," written by F.W. Meacham in 1885. A swing version of the song was recorded by the Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1942 and reached number 15 on the Billboard music chart.

The performance concluded with a rousing rendition of Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," a rendition that drew enthusiastic applause and a few cheers from the appreciative audience.

On Sunday, July 8, Winchendon Winds will present "Greatest Hits of 1918." The following week, Sunday, July 15, the final performance of the summer will be "Honoring Our Veterans." This special event will include a color guard and a roll call of veterans who are present.



James Chesebrough conducts the Winchendon Winds orchestra Sunday at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon. It was the first of three concerts to be performed by the orchestra.

Winchendon Winds was founded in 2015 by Winchendon resident John Nicholson, Ed.D. An accomplished music educator, music program developer and conductor with more than six decades of experience, Dr. Nicholson died in October 2015. Before his passing, he spent 20 years as conductor of the Townsend Military Band, retiring from that position in 2014.

Since his passing, his dream of establishing a flourishing local orchestra has been kept alive by his daughters, Jill Sackett and Rev. Inanna Arthen, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon.

The percussion section at Sunday's concert by W



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