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SCULLY RETURNS



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In 1998 the Lawrence School Committee fired Superintendent Jim Scully for misspending school funds. Spending that the committee itself voted to let Scully spend. Now, thirteen years later, Scully has returned as the Superintendent of the Haverhill School System and in an EXCLUSIVE interview with The Valley Patriot says he feels vindicated!

See Exclusive Interview: Page 17

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH In Memory of CPL. Harvey Gibeau

Dr. Charles Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO COLUMNIST

In November of 2005 The Valley Patriot honored CPL Harvey Gibeau as our Valley Patriot of the month. Harvey has since passed away and our editors would like to honor his memory by republishing his Valley Patriot of the Month Honor. Harvey was not only an American Hero but as a Methuen resident he was also a friend and avid reader of The Valley Patriot.

Harvey Gibeau was born in Lawrence in 1923 and after high school he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. He vividly remembers the ever-present sense of patriotism that prevailed. Patriotism was a common household word and was an expected personal trait in his family.

tism was a common household word and was an expected personal trait in his family.

In July of 1942, Harvey enlisted in the Army with the fervent hope that he would be assigned to an anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) unit. He felt fortunate when his wish came true. He was sent to Ft. Eustis, Virginia for the standard 13 weeks of basic training and then shipped to Battery Park, New York for anti-aircraft defense of the city while awaiting an overseas assignment.

As part of the 414th AAA Battalion in New York, Harvey manned 40 mm anti-aircraft guns that were set up to defend the Squibb and telephone company buildings. His unusually good stereoscopic vision was invaluable in using specially designed

equipment to estimate the range of targets, and this became his specialty.

Although the accommodations in New York City consisted of army-issue tents, it was a relatively peaceful assignment since German warplanes never made it to the U.S. Harvey's stateside duty came to an end in June 1943 when he received orders for Iceland – a temporary duty station prior to shipping out to Europe to fight the Germans.

The trip began with an 18-day voyage to Liverpool, England and ended up at Keflavik, Iceland. Harvey knew he wasn't in Lawrence any longer. The summer days at 65 degrees north latitude were nearly 24 hours long with the sun only dipping

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EDITORIAL

Public Information Belongs to US!

Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua seems to think he owns the City of Lawrence.

Since taking office in January of 2010, the Boston Herald and The Valley Patriot have reported Lantigua refusing to comply with Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. Those are requests to turn over public information and documents to the "public" and must be fulfilled required by law.

City Attorney Charlie Boddy actually told the Boston Herald that Lantigua has ordered them not to turn over public documents or information until he could verify whether or not those making the request were on Lantigua's "enemies list".

Sound Familiar? It should. Republican President Richard Nixon once had an "enemies list" of people whom government employees were told not to cooperate with.

In addition, Lantigua has ordered city employees not to talk to the press about public information concerning Lawrence city government. He doesn't want the Valley Patriot or other media outlets on his "enemies list" to find out what he an elected "PUBLIC" official is doing with all those millions in PUBLIC dollars he is spending, as if they belonged to him personally.

Lantigua also threatened city employees with retaliation if they pass along such public information or public documents to members of the public without his personal approval through his Chief of Staff Lenny Degnan.

You remember Degnan don't you? He was acting mayor the last time Lawrence had a fiscal-oversight board, practically bankrupting the city in the few short weeks he was mayor. He also took one of the most popular mayors (Mary Claire Kennedy) and turned her into the most hated mayor in the history of the city.

Lantigua and Degnan both say that these new dictatorial policies are simply to make sure the "right" information is given to the public. But anyone who knows these two and have seen them in action over the years knows that it's much more about hiding what they are doing with public dollars and preventing members of the press from exposing it.

For more than 200 years public employees were trusted to handle information in their own departments and give public information to the press as needed... that is... until now.

We at The Valley Patriot want to remind Lawrence City workers that there IS a Whistle Blower Law in Massachusetts. Anyone who faces retaliation for passing along public information to the press is protected from retaliation and can sue the city under the Whistle Blower statute to get relief from any such retaliation.

It's time that Degnan and Lantigua realize that holding a PUBLIC position means you work for the public. Information, documents and money being spent by temporary elected officials like Lantigua do not belong to him, they belong to us. And we have every right to know what he's doing with OUR city.

Especially those who live outside Lawrence who are and have been paying their bills forever... with nothing to show for it.

News tips

Phone in news tips to (978) 557-5413, or you may email tips to us at valleypatriot@aol.com. We respect the anonymity of our sources if requested.

Letters to the editor, columns and op/eds

can be submitted to valleypatriot@aol.com. The Valley Patriot is not responsible for the opinions expressed in submitted letters or columns. It is the policy of The Valley Patriot not to edit or exclude submitted material based on content.

Corrections; Please contact the editors at valleypatriot@aol.com

The Valley Patriot is not responsible for, nor do we necessarily share the opinions of columnists and contributors that are published in the paper. Columns, by definition are opinion pieces.

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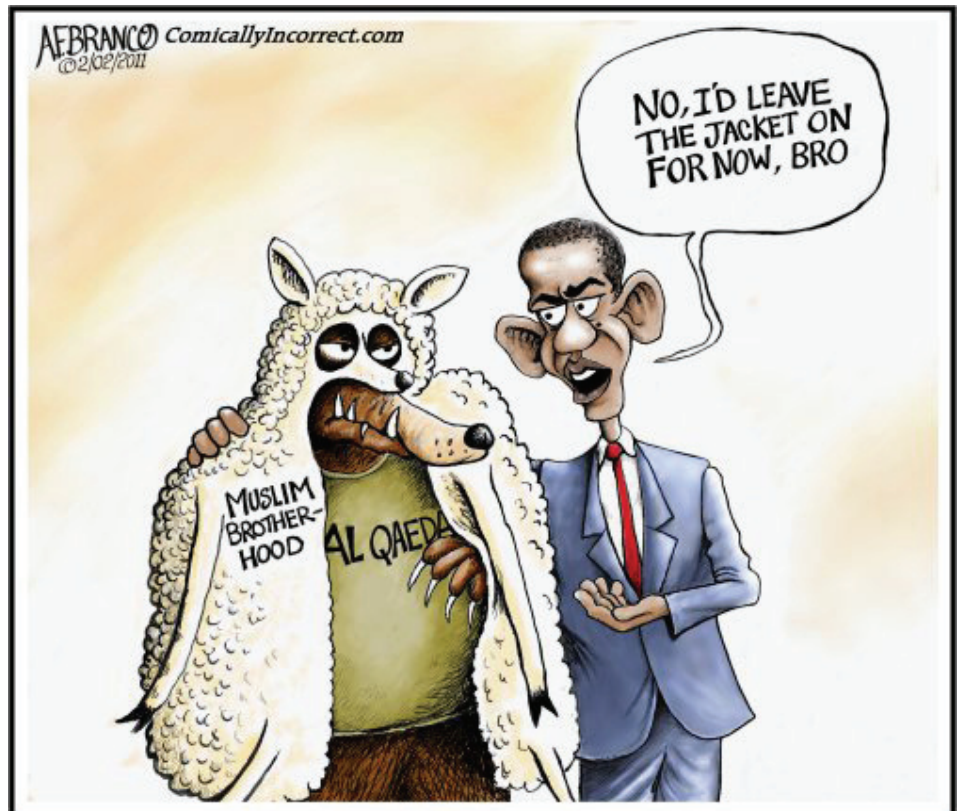
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Editorial Board:

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To the editor:

As the son of a Boston police officer who was killed in the line of duty, I am outraged by the circumstances leading to the death of Woburn Officer John Maguire, a married father of three who was planning to retire after 34 years of distinguished service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

How did Dominic Cinelli get paroled? He was a violent career criminal serving three concurrent life sentences and had shown complete disregard for the law by going AWOL on a one-day furlough in 1985 and committing five armed robberies during that time, including the attempted murder of a security guard. Wasn't this a huge red flag??? We can't find better candidates for parole among the Massachusetts prison population than a habitual violent offender like Cinelli??? Governor, there are some individuals who are just plain evil. Not everyone can be redeemed.

Why wasn't the DA's office notified? How do you get six supposedly well-informed, knowledgeable Parole Board members not to have any disagreement? Why didn't one of them inquire whether the DA's office had been notified, especially in light of the fact that there weren't any victims there to testify against his release?

In 2005, a state appeals court ruled he should be eligible for parole, according to a record of his parole hearing. The Parole Board released him in February 2009. The board noted: "Cinelli's release to community supervision at this time is not incompatible with the welfare of society." I heard the same words at the commutation hearings for the man who killed my dad, Patrolman James O'Leary, who was shot to death in 1963. I remember the public attorney pleading that keeping him in prison wouldn't serve any further penal value. It certainly provided comfort to my family

knowing that he would be spending the rest of his life in prison. Fortunately, my family and the police unions generated enough public outrage so that the commutation was overturned in 1984 by Governor Michael Dukakis.

After a week of being mum on the death of Officer Maguire, you were quoted recently as saying, "I think the thing that for me that gets lost in this-and I was thinking about this at the funeral-we jump immediately to the recriminations" Governor, is this what you were really thinking about at Officer Maguire's funeral??? You were thinking about why the public was outraged with the preventable murder of a police officer while you had his grieving family and 2,100 police and law enforcement officials seated all around you!

You don't get it Governor. It's not recrimination, it's ACCOUNTABILITY. What you call recrimination is what I call a strong outpouring of community support for Officer Maguire, his family, friends, fellow members of the Woburn Police Department, and law enforcement.

Governor, this was an egregious mistake by the parole board and they should all be fired. I look forward to seeing the results of the fact finding report and more importantly, the leadership actions which should follow responding to the report. If we don't see resignations followed by serious reform then you have totally disregarded the public's outrage... shame on you. Let's help protect and support those who are willing to sacrifice their lives on our behalf each and every day.

Sincerely, Jim O'Leary

P.S Let me also ask how does a guy like Kevin Dingwell-who was charged with being an accessory after the fact in the Woburn case - get bail of \$1,000? What an insult to law enforcement and their families.

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The day the mask slipped off the American news media

Jeff Katz

RADIO TALK SHOW HOST ON RUSH RADIO 1200AM

The last few weeks have provided an interesting look into the minds of many Americans. Start with the shooting of Arizona Congressman Gabby Giffords. The charges and accusations have flown hot and heavy and what has been a rather conspicuous casualty in all of this has been the truth.

Almost immediately after Giffords was shot, the publisher of the Daily Kos put out a twitter message which read “Mission accomplished, Sarah Palin.” There was no indication that the shooter had any connection to the former Alaska Governor but of course that simply did not matter. Kos’s tweet was followed by a tweet from Jane Fonda who blamed Sarah Palin and then blamed Glenn Beck, apparently just for good measure. The problem with that was there was no connection to Beck. As the weekend progressed blame was also laid at the feet of Tea Party members, Republicans, Conservatives, FOX News and

talk radio hosts. By the end of the weekend, the left wing Sheriff of Pima County where the shootings took place announced that it was all Rush Limbaugh’s fault. Strangely, none of these left wing voices ever blamed the shootings on the shooter.

How could the chief law enforcement officer, the man charged with investigating the murder, put forward such a thoroughly insane theory, and then expect that anyone would trust him to conduct a professional investigation? Once the crackpot cop’s rantings had been released, all manner of left wing activists came running out to blame talk radio, and of course the gun. Once again, none of these hot air machines ever bothered to allege that the shooter was responsible for the shootings.

What we are seeing is a prime example of mob mentality combining with the instructions of President Barack Obama’s former Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel to never let a crisis go to waste. And so, as decent people are praying for the full and speedy recovery of those injured and also

asking that those murdered, including a nine year old, be remembered the left is in full attack mode.

The man who brought you the Tawana Brawley hoax Al Sharpton is leading the charge to silence Rush Limbaugh. He is joined by members of Congress demanding that guns be banned and that access to the internet be restricted. None of these draconian measures have anything to do with what really happened though. The shooter was by all accounts a deranged individual who maintained an altar in his backyard which contained a human skull. He loved The Communist Manifesto and Mein Kamp, two books that are among the most uber-leftist publications of all time. But I don’t believe that he was someone acting on behalf of super secret left wing messages. I think he is a demented murderer who could just as easily thought he was getting messages from his Rice Krispies. Snap. Crackle. Pop.

We will need to stand up against the efforts to silence talk radio, seize guns and



Jeff Katz, a former police officer, is heard daily from 5AM to 9AM on WXKS-AM 1200 in Boston.

shutter the internet. Above all, we should remember the words of President Ronald Reagan who said, “We must reject the idea that every time a law’s broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions.”

The Global Islamist Revolt is Here

Joseph Farah

VALLEY PATRIOT SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

In case you didn't notice, and few have, there is a global Islamist revolution under way. The world's press doesn't see it. The talking heads on cable TV don't see it. Washington doesn't see it. It's a case of not noticing the forest for the trees.

With revolts going on in Egypt, Tunisia, Pakistan, Yemen, Lebanon and Jordan, most of them clearly orchestrated from Iran, it's easy to believe these are unrelated, disconnected uprisings.

But if you have been observing the Muslim world like I have been for 35 years, what's happening right now is as big a development — maybe bigger — than what happened in 1979 when backers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, with a push from Jimmy Carter, overthrew Iran's Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in one of the most tragic and unfortunate international developments of the late 20th century. We, in the West, have been paying the price for it ever since.

This is the work of the Muslim Brotherhood, with the aid and encouragement

of Tehran. And the ripple effect of what we're seeing is hard to overstate. As the leader of Jordan's powerful Muslim Brotherhood, Hammam Saeed, warned over the weekend that the unrest in Egypt will spread across the Middle East and Arabs will topple leaders allied with the United States.

I've done my part to alert the public to the insidious work of the Muslim Brotherhood, including right here in the United States. But again, most Americans don't get it. They've been hoodwinked by the media and government school system into believing there is no active conspiracy for a worldwide caliphate, and certainly no threat to the U.S. from what the brotherhood refers to as the Muslim Mafia.

An amazing book by the same name, "Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underground That's Conspiring to Islamize America," was published more than a year ago by WND Books with the intention of exposing the secret international cabal working on behalf of Saudi-style Shariah law right here in America.

Again, the book, a work of daring and courage and enterprise, got a collective

yawn from the politically correct establishment news media.

Now, as Rev. Jeremiah Wright would say, the chickens are coming home to roost.

Imagine if Egypt falls. It's true that Hosni Mubarak is nothing but a dictator. But he is a dictator who is holding the line on Islamic radicalism. If his regime goes, it will be replaced by something similar to what we see in Iran today — a government run by zealous mullahs hell-bent on bringing about a worldwide Islamic revolution.

Egypt is the largest and arguably most important Arab country in the Middle East. For decades now, it has been at relative peace with its neighbor, Israel. How long will that last if Mubarak is replaced with a Muslim Brotherhood leader? Keep in mind it was the Muslim Brotherhood that assassinated Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, for making peace with Israel.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is still in the midst of a quagmire in Afghanistan, while still engaged in Iraq. It can ill afford an explosion of violence and revolution and

instability through the Middle East and the Islamic world. But that appears to be just what is coming.

The U.S. is also mired in deep recession. Try to imagine how that economic dislocation will be exacerbated by a disruption of the flow of Middle East oil, as happened in the 1970s.

Remember, the U.S. and Israel are the primary targets. Europe has already capitulated to Islam. Israel and the U.S. stand virtually alone, and the U.S. is in denial of the threat.

What you see happening around the Islamic world today is big. It's dangerous. It's explosive.

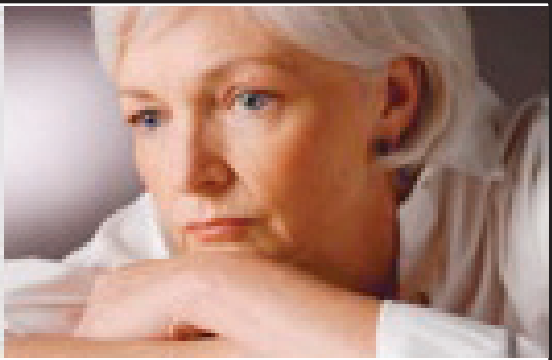
If you think America, which has arrogantly and ignorantly refused to develop its own energy sources, is somehow immune, you are in for a rude awakening.

To find out more about Joseph Farah and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Dr. Charles Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST/EDITOR

In my article last month ("It's Time to Take Out the Meat Cleaver!") The Valley Patriot, January 2011), I outlined a downsizing of the federal government that would reduce spending by \$1.2 trillion in the first year. The proposed plan, if implemented, would reduce the federal government's share of our Gross Domestic Product from 25% in 2010 to 17% next year and to 10% to 12% within ten years.

This plan would avoid the highly probable collapse of our economy caused by the criminal irresponsibility of our elected officials. It would replace this collapse with a new era of economic expansion and prosperity.

Of course this plan, to substantially reduce the size of government, is an anathema to liberals. Their appetite for control over our lives and our fortunes is unbounded. If permitted, they would grow government until we are all bankrupt. Well, we have permitted it and that is precisely what is happening.

Some have said that the plan I outlined to reduce spending by \$1.2 trillion is too drastic. Is it?

President Obama has suggested savings of \$450 billion over ten years – a measly \$45 billion per year. Even these savings are an illusion since they represent reductions in planned increases. He cannot be taken seriously. The emperor has no clothes.

Newly elected, libertarian-leaning Senator Rand Paul has suggested immediate budget cuts totaling \$500 billion. That sounds like a good start, but it is also inadequate. The problem created by the last 60 years of liberal spending is bigger than this. The disease needs even stronger medicine. Much stronger medicine.

As substantial as my original prescription may seem, I'm now concerned that even it may be inadequate ... or, if one is optimistic, barely adequate. An immediate cut of \$1.2 trillion is inadequate or barely adequate? How can that be?

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) just reported that the current federal budget

will run a deficit of \$1.48 trillion. That's right. My suggested budget plan will still leave us with a CBO-projected deficit of \$280 billion!!! That is nearly \$1,000 for every man, woman and child in the U.S.!

On the bright side, if we committed to \$1.2 trillion in immediate cuts, it is likely that the economy and stock market would react very favorably which would, in turn, lead to somewhat larger than expected tax revenues. With luck, this might result in a balanced budget in FY2012. The bottom line is that \$1.2 trillion in immediate cuts is the very least that should be considered and that nothing less than this should be accepted in trade for any relaxation of the federal debt ceiling.

Talk of economic collapse seems like hyperbole. It is hard to imagine life in America taking a dramatic turn for the worse. Unless you are over 90 years old, you have never lived through times as tough as what we will face, along with our children, if we don't right our economic ship.

It is uncomfortable to think about the

prospect of a downward spiral into poverty. But it is better to think about it, in a serious way, and insist on tough corrective measures than to cover our eyes and be blind-sided by reality.

The government-induced financial/economic problems we face are enormous. Our elected officials, even those that are conservative-minded, will shrink from this task unless the public demands strong medicine.

But the public will probably not demand that medicine since it will cause some short term pain, unless the substantially greater pain that is just over the horizon is clearly understood.

To that end, I turn this article over to the eminent economist Walter Williams.



Dr. Ormsby is an ex-member of the N.A. School Committee. He is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate from MIT. He is currently a Professor of Mathematics at UMASS, Lowell.

You can email him at: ccormsby@comcast.net

Can Our Union be Saved?

Walt Williams

VALLEY PATRIOT SYNDICATED COLUMNIST



National debt is over \$14 trillion, the federal budget deficit is \$1.4 trillion and, depending on whose estimates are used, the unfunded liability or indebtedness of the federal government (mostly in the form

of obligations for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and prescription drugs) is estimated to be between \$60 and \$100 trillion.

Those entitlements along with others account for nearly 60 percent of federal spending. They are what Congress calls mandatory or non-discretionary spending. Then there's discretionary spending, half of which is for national defense. Each year, non-discretionary spending consumes a higher and higher percent of the federal budget.

The spending path that Congress has chosen for the last half-century is unsustainable and will end up with economic collapse but little or nothing can be done

about it unless I'm grossly wrong about the American people. Americans who detest our country and those who love our country are hell-bent, wittingly or unwittingly, on destroying it.

You say, "Williams, that's not only insulting but shows little trust as well. Explain yourself!"

For the past 30 years, federal tax revenues have averaged 18 percent of the GDP. Federal spending, nearing 30 percent of our GDP, is the problem. To get our economic house in order, there must be large spending cuts, not only in so-called discretionary spending but in non-discretionary spending as well.

To put this in perspective: Defense spending is called discretionary and totals \$685 billion. Our deficit is \$1.4 trillion. Defense spending could be entirely eliminated and we'd still have a massive deficit. Any congressman unwilling to make cuts in entitlement spending is not to be taken seriously about sparing our nation from economic collapse.

Millions of Americans don't want their entitlement touched, many of whom are senior citizens. Seniors will tell you that they were forced into Social Security and

Medicare, and any congressman talking about cutting those and other entitlements will face their wrath at the ballot box. By the way, according to one study, "Until recent years, Social Security recipients received more, often far more, than the value of the Social Security taxes they paid. For workers who earned average wages and retired in 1980 at age 65, it took 2.8 years to recover the value of the retirement portion of the combined employee and employer shares of their Social Security taxes plus interest."

Seniors are not the only group who can put the fear of God into politicians. There are massive corporate handouts through programs like the Export-Import Bank, Agriculture Department business and farm subsidies, and the Small Business Administration. Then there's massive Department of Education spending on K-12 education and higher education. The list of federal programs, described as taking the earnings of one American and giving them to another, numbers in the thousands.

Everyone who receives government largesse and special favors deems his needs as vital, deserving, proper and in the national interest. It is entirely unreason-

able to expect a politician to honor and obey our Constitution and in the process commit political suicide. What's even worse for our nation is that voters ousting a politician who'd refuse to bring, say, aid to higher education back to his constituents is perfectly rational. If, for example, he's a Virginia politician and doesn't bring higher education grants back to his constituents, it doesn't mean Virginian taxpayers will pay a lower income tax. All that it means is that Marylanders will get the money instead. Once legalized theft begins, it pays for everyone to participate. Those who don't will be losers.

That's the nation's dilemma. The most important job for people who want to spare our nation from economic collapse is not that of persuading politicians to do the right thing but to convince our fellow Americans to respect the limits of our Constitution. In his speech to Virginia's ratifying convention, James Madison said, "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it."



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An Interview with North Andover Selectman Tracy Watson

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

North Andover Selectman Tracy Watson was interviewed by Valley Patriot owner Tom Duggan on the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WHAV radio (WHAV.NET) which airs on Thursday nights from 6-9pm.

Duggan: How long have you been a selectman?

Watson: I am finishing up my first term.

Duggan: Which is how many years?

Watson: Three years

Duggan: They are staggered terms, correct?

Watson: Correct, yes they are.

Duggan: Tell me the two or three key major accomplishments you've had in your term.

Watson: I have to say working towards re-doing downtown and getting that accomplished. It's been talked about for years and years, but within my first 18 months we actually saw that project come to fruition. I'm also very proud of being a founding member of the newly established North Andover Merchants Association that has grown by leaps and bounds over the last year and a half to two years. I'm also very proud of the negotiations that we have been able to complete with our police department, I was the sitting selectman who did the negotiations.

Duggan: You guys also built a new police station, correct?

Watson: Yes, we did and I am very proud of that building as well.

Duggan: You have taken a position that was against the prevailing wage law, because locally, it was going to cost the town a lot of money to put a roof on one of the buildings?

Watson: Absolutely, that's where it became a forefront issue with us [the board] and I forget the exact numbers for repairs on the fire station, but that should have cost us in and around \$15,000 ... under prevailing wage it would have doubled.

Duggan: Explain to people in layman's terms what prevailing wage means, why would it have cost you more money?

Watson: Because of this law, it means

that you basically pay double because you have to use union workers. I have nothing against using union workers, however, it limits the projects that we can get done. You know, instead of one project eating up all of the money, we could maybe get two or three done. Prevailing wage forces municipalities to spend more than they really need to. In my opinion, I think that it also takes money out of local contractors and business's pockets.

Duggan: So, when at the end of the day, did you guys end up having to go through this prevailing wage? Did you have to spend the extra money?

Watson: Yes we did and we do on every project that we do.

Duggan: I think the North Andover Board of Selectmen is one of the most effective government bodies in The Valley. Would you agree with that?

Watson: I agree with that as well. We are the only community in the Merrimack Valley that has not suffered any layoffs or cuts to services over the last three years, either.

Duggan: Now, do you see this continuing, because Governor Deval Patrick is now talking about cutting more funding for local aid

Watson: Well, we definitely will be the first to get hit, but what people sometimes don't understand is that North Andover gets a very small amount of our money under local aid, [from the State] and every dollar counts. Don't get me wrong, we need every dollar and cuts to local aid will hurt us, but there are a lot of other things that we have our differences on. Our union contracts, health insurance that we also look to our State house to help us with. Plan design, that's what every leader in the valley and really across the State and MMA, we are all begging for is Plan Design. Deval has made some movement, but not enough.

Duggan: So, you and [Rick Nardella] have an easy win this year right?

Watson: An easy win? There is never an easy win my friend, are you kidding me? If you haven't noticed, this is politics! You never go into an election thinking it's an easy win.

I am confident in my record over the last 3 years, I think I was an effective chairman. I think I've been a very effective selectman. I grew up in this community, raised my son in this community. I love this community, I work in this community and I want to continue to give back to this community and again, like I said, I think I've been very effective, but that is up to the voters. Hopefully they view my record as I do.

~Tracy Watson, Board of Selectmen



I am confident in my record over the last 3 years I think I was an effective chairman. I think I've been a very effective selectman. I grew up in this community, raised my son in this community. I love this community, I work in this community and I want to continue to give back to this community and again, like I said, I think I've been very effective, but that is up to the voters. Hopefully they view my record as I do.

Duggan: If you get re-elected what do you see being the issues that are going to be most important. What are the things that North Andover residents are going to be most concerned about over the next three years?

Watson: I think 2012 is going to be a really difficult budget. I think we are probably going to be faced with some tough, tough decisions. There was a teacher's contract that was recently signed that I am not 100% behind, not by any stretch of the imagination, because I think it is going to end up hurting programs there and I think you will see layoffs there with the additional cuts from the State Unfortunately revenues are very flat. The question is, are there going to be cuts to services, are there going to be layoffs and how are we going to do that while still keeping our community strong as it has been?

Duggan: What about all the additional money that is coming in from all of that development in Route 114 area alone? Is that bringing more revenue in?

Watson: It's kind of balancing out.

Right now, revenue seems to be flat. For me, our #1 project needs to be sewer services up on Rte. 125 so that we can develop that. It is one of the last areas here in this community. In order to get the commercial development that we want up and down Rte. 125, we really need to get that sewerage up and done. You know, there have been a lot of negotiations. The biggest property down there is Ozzy Properties and we are working with Orit Goldstein. She has been a wonderful partner to this community and I am sure will continue to be, but we need to look at more revenue, more tax revenue, not necessarily just on the backs of our residents. Part of our job is to develop, but maintain the character of this community and Rte. 125 is a perfect place to do it. So, I think that's going to be a main focus over the next few years as well.

Duggan: How well do you guys work together on the board?

Watson: First and foremost, I think that even though you have a board of selectmen that are five very different people with very different ideas, we work together for the community. I give a lot of kudos to our Town Manager, Mark Rees, I give a lot of Kudos to our employees. We have been able to negotiate contracts over the last three years with the majority of them being 1% and 1 1/2 %, our employees have been incredible in working with us. This has been by design, not by mistake. We attempt to forecast the future and we

TRACY WATSON, page 29

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From the N. Andover Senior Center

During the holiday season many businesses in the community extend support to the North Andover Senior Center. I would like to thank Home Instead Senior Care through their Giving Tree program that provided 25 gifts for older adults in the community. This was a tough year with job layoffs and the struggles for so many families in the community. Two week before delivery The Giving Tree was still filled with tags for suggested donations for elders in the community. A special Thank You to Stonewedge Corporation of Andover and the Friends of the North Andover Senior Center for recognizing the need and helping support this great program. The gifts were delivered by our Outreach Coordinator Donna Delaney and one of our Council on Aging board members Patricia Long. It was an eye opening experience for Patricia; her comment was "I had no idea that so many older adults were isolated and alone in the community." One of our goals at the North Andover Senior Center is to educate the community on the importance of our Outreach Program. The isolation of older adults in the community is a major concern. There are many reasons why elders become isolated, including lack of family nearby, lack of affordable transportation, health and safety issues that impair mobility, etc. With the additional contributions made by Home Instead Senior Care we were able to provide special gifts for the frail and isolated seniors within the community.

We need Volunteer Medical Transport Drivers! Call the North Andover Senior Center for more information. Speak with Barbara at 978-688-9560 for an application and assistance.

THE FIX – IT SHOP: (New Hours) The first and third Monday of the month from 12-3:00. We repair almost as good as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything not listed; we will give it a shot! Your cost is \$2 - \$4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the

Senior Center.

LECTURE SERIES: Every Monday at 10:00, speaker TBA.

ZUMBA, ZUMBA, ZUMBA with Tal-lie: Monday and Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:30 and Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:30. Punch cards are \$40 for 10 classes.

YOGA: Yoga Class Monday mornings at 9:00 with Cheryl Cronin. Please call to register.

TAI CHI: Class is Tuesday mornings at 9:30. Please call to register.

Wii Sport Bowling: Stop by the Senior Center on any Thursday morning between 9 and 10 am and try your luck at Bowling with the Wii System. Its fun, good exercise and easier than you think. A volunteer will be on hand to show you the basics.

WALKING GROUP: Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9. Meet at the Youth Center and walk for an hour at your own pace.

MAHJONG: Come in and learn to play Mahjong, Mondays, 12:30 – 2:30 and will run every Monday as long as there is interest.

Foxwoods: Next scheduled trip, Tuesday, February 15, \$25 includes lunch buffet, transportation and Keno. Bus leaves from St. Michael's parking lot at 6:30 am.

VALENTINE LUNCHEON: At the Senior Center on Monday, February 14th, 2011, 12 – 2 pm. Tickets are \$8.00 and the menu is Chicken Cordon Bleu, dessert, tea and coffee. Sign up by February 9. DRESS CODE IS RED!

Supper Club: There will be no supper club in January.

SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Attorney George White: Available to meet with you to discuss your legal issues. Please call the Senior Center to make an appointment.

SHINE Counseling: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays from 12 – 3 pm. Call the Senior Center to make an appointment.

Here's how you can get involved in your community

Clubs Caring for the Community

Gil Bechtel
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST REPORTER

Communities all around the nation are faced with various problems or challenges that need to be addressed to help those in need. In this article we will highlight some of the clubs in the valley area that do just that. We have all seen the club placards usually posted near the town or city line welcoming you to the community but how many of you actually know what these clubs are about and what their members do for the community.

Lions Club - The Lions Club is probably best known for their mission on sight. The Lions provide free eye exams to



hundreds of thousands of people every year. The operate eye banks that provide eye tissue for sight-saving surgeries and run seven-teen Eyeglass recycling centers worldwide to provide those in need of eyeglasses. The Lions say that whenever a Lions Club gets together, problems get smaller. Your local Lions Club provides much more than sight services, they assist seniors needing transportation, school children needing schoolbooks and so much more.

With more than 1.3 million members strong the Lions are there to ready to help communities tackle just about any issue that needs attention.

NORTH ANDOVER LIONS CLUB contact Leonhard, Byron (Cathy) (978) 689-9802, byronleonhard@verizon.net

Susan (Hans) Christensen, (978) 683-7642, doguser53@yahoo.com

METHUEN LIONS CLUB contact Fred Hardy, 978-688-7757, Mark or Charlotte

Battle (978) 685-0949

LOWELL LIONS CLUB contact Brian (Charlene) Muscato (978) 649-6583 or 978-459-7933 or Deveau, Donna (978) 788-7189, ddeveau@lowellgeneral.org

LAWRENCE LIONS CLUB Charles Beaudette, (978) 688-0995 James Hajjar, (978) 683-0981

Kiwanis Club - Your local Kiwanis Club is a part of Kiwanis International whose members are dedicated to "Changing the World One Community and One Child at a Time", and improving the lifestyle of poor and destitute in the valley area. Kiwanis Club members perform vol-



untary service and provide assistance to those in need, including children and seniors. Kiwanis Club is a grass roots organization who conduct fund raising projects to provide programs that support and assist those in need. The money Kiwanis raise from the community is returned to the community through various outlets. Kiwanis pride themselves on being a proficient group of caring and involved volunteers doing for the disadvantaged what they cannot do for themselves; that persons working as individuals cannot accomplish; and that the government is unable or unwilling to do.

Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs—nearly 600,000 members strong—annually raise more than \$107 million and dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours to strengthen communities and serve children. Celeste Begley is the president. www.greaterlawrencekiwanis.org.

CLUBS, page 44



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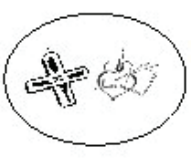
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Fire Chief Murphy exposes treatment by Mayor Lantigua

Chief Resigns at Council Meeting, opposes taking job out of Civil Service... Council Backs Mayor

After months of personal attacks and shoddy treatment by the Lantigua administration, Lawrence Fire Chief Murphy spoke out at a Lawrence City Council meeting last month saying he opposed taking the Chief's job out of Civil Service. He also exposed how badly he has been treated by Mayor Lantigua and announced that he will be stepping down as Fire Chief. Here is, in part, what Murphy said in his address to the Lawrence City Council.

"If this fire department's not broke, don't try to fix it. I have been in the chief's position since January 4, 2010, just over 1 year. I have a very good perspective on what it is to be a fire chief in Lawrence, to date. That is what I am basing my opinion on what Lawrence needs, not ___ town, not Manchester by the sea, but what Lawrence needs. I believe that, at least, we all agree that Lawrence is unique. By law and by design, the authority of the fire chief is quite extensive. Decisions on a day to day basis can and do impact the safety of the citizens and their property. The fire chief is responsible for all fire suppression activities, the actions of plans associated with those activities, all hazardous material incidents and all other emergency incidents including flooding and other related natural disasters. The fire chief is, also responsible for management in the department. The fire chief is responsible for enforcement and interpretation of all

fire codes and regulations. The chief is required by law to enforce all codes and regulations equally.

The fire chief must have the ability to enforce the regulations and codes without limitation, without exceptions and without the fear of threat of repercussions. The protection for the chief to perform his required duties comes from civil service. I do not believe civil service is perfect, but I do believe protections from civil service are necessary for a fire chief in Lawrence. I believe there are positions in the administration that should be hand picked. For example, the chief of staff. I do not believe that the position of fire chief is one of those positions. There is just too much at stake for this position to be political. I have heard several attempted arguments to support removing the fire chief from civil service. One example sites "The police department did well by removing the chief from civil service. I clearly remember when that occurred and it was not because the police department was running like a well oiled machine, but it was because the police department, at that time, was in total disarray with numerous internal and external problems. Although the police department and fire department are both public safety departments, the fire department has, historically never suffered from the turmoil that has previously occurred in the police department. This was not by accident, but was the direct result of prop-



Former Lawrence Fire Chief Murphy talks with reporters at the So. Canal St. fire last summer explaining the lack of fire protection in the city after Mayor Lantigua laid off 24 firefighters and closed two fire houses. More than a dozen communities had to respond to Canal Street because of lack of fire protection at the hands of the Lantigua Administration

erty management in the fire department

The Lawrence fire department has been managed and managed well by civil service fire chiefs for 71 plus years. Another argument attempting to support taking the fire chief out of Civil Service is look at the good job Chief Romero has done at the police department. I agree, Chief Romero has done a good job, but if you remember, the first several police chiefs that were picked out of civil service did not fair

quite as well. What I suggest before voting to remove the position from civil service – look at the 13 civil service fire chiefs. The job they did over the past 70 plus years and managing the Lawrence Fire Department, the result will be that they did an excellent job. We have a history of job performance on the Fire Department from Civil Service fire chiefs that is unmatched.

I have been a member of the Lawrence
MURPHY, page 21

Where are the women leaders in the Lantigua administration?

Bob O'Koniewski

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Just over a year ago then-state representative William Lantigua made history as Lawrence's first elected mayor of Hispanic descent. Immediately the mayor was confronted with a fiscal situation that required a \$35 million bailout provided courtesy of the taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as he battled criticism of his efforts to keep both his day jobs. And as he finally shed the state representative appellation in a well-publicized press conference, he finally focused on putting together the team that he hoped would support his strive for excellence during his mayoral tenure. One of the things noticeably absent from the team of top tier postings that are the underpinnings of our city government is the complete lack of women in any role of measurable import.

Let's start at the mayor's right hand, Lenny Degnan. The male North Andover resident ably worked his way in record time from Israel Reyes campaign supporter to solidifying his role as chief of staff, and by some estimations chief bully at 200 Common.

The titular heads of our public safety bulwarks – Police Chief John Romero and Fire Chief Brian Murphy (at least for a few more days) – both men, have done yeoman's duty under very difficult fiscal circumstances created by the inexperienced mayor and his staff.

Need a pothole filled or a sidewalk repaired – DPW director John Isensee is the man to call. And by the way, he and his team actually ably and professionally respond.

You just buried your uncle at Bellevue Cemetery – thank you, Thomas Ferris – and you need to pick up his birth certificate at city hall, the guy to see would be city clerk Bill Maloney.

Suing the city? The legal eagle with all the paper chief city counsel Charles Boddy.

One night you're out getting liquored up at one of our fine establishments and you get the crazy-ass idea you want to work for the city, but just as you are about to bite into your meal the S.S. Cockroach saunters across the bar. The next day after you fill out your application and give it to Personnel Director Frank Bonet, the man of the short-lived school commit-

tee career, you can stroll over to Inspectional Services and ask for director Peter Blanchette, he of the famed Blanchette clan that so desperately wants to rule our fair city.

Speaking of which, you want to open your own restaurant, albeit cleaner and safer, you may want to seek out Economic Development Director, and Peter sibling, Patrick Blanchette, who can help you with all the paperwork and zoning variances and the like. Good luck to ya.

Maybe you've served our country honorably in the armed forces and you've been inspired to volunteer to help after attending one of the respectful veterans events put on Veterans Services director, and local manly man, Francisco Urena, who the mayor has actually been trying to get rid of over the past year. Go figure – trying to get rid of a guy who actually does his job every day.

Soon it will be CDBG application time and the man to answer all your questions, Jim Barnes, actually tried to leave once but the feds wouldn't let him and his expertise go. Another true all-star toiling away amidst the chaos.

Although, one would think that a city

like ours with all its fiscal lunacy would need a Budget and Finance director – alas, we have none – the money questions can be answered by comptroller Dave Camasso and, lo and behold, City Treasurer and Tax Collector Patricia Cook, the lone female in the panorama of key city department heads currently controlling our city and a Sullivan holdover to boot.

There you have it. Hardly a woman amongst them, and only the mayor can tell you why. All speculation is a waste of time. For now, these are the men of our community we have come to depend on in all their glory. At this point giving the fairer sex an equal chance certainly wouldn't do any worse.

Well, it's time to grab my satchel of cash and head across the river to our airport. As I board my Piper Cherokee I wave a hearty bye-bye to airport manager Michael Miller; I'm off to warmer climes where the women are warm and so are my libations. See you all after the next storm. Ta-Ta.

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PAYING ATTENTION! with TOM DUGGAN

A review of Lantigua's first year in office

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Well, the Willie Lantigua administration celebrated its one year anniversary last month and a quick review of his first year in office has proven to be one of the most disastrous years for the City of Lawrence.

Lantigua came into office last year claiming that the previous administration under Michael Sullivan left him with a \$9.5 Million ... no wait it was a \$17.5 Million ... not wait it was a \$24.5 Million deficit!

And when he was done inflating the debt that he claimed Sullivan left him, he ran to his friend the governor to borrow \$35 Million dollars (even with my math that still doesn't add up).

Within days of taking office Lantigua spent more than \$10,000 on curtains and flooring for the mayors office. He also spent countless thousands on furniture and assigned himself a police officer to be his personal driver and another police officer to be his personal bodyguard.

One of Lantigua's first official acts as mayor was to fire Myles Burke the city's Inspection Services Director, Tommy Schiavone the city's Economic Development Director and Michael Sweeney the city's Planning Director.

The firing of Sweeney and Burke needed a vote by the city council to be legal but while the council voted in favor

of firing Burke, they voted NOT to fire Sweeney.

That didn't matter to "I do it my way" Lantigua who had a Lawrence Police Lieutenant waiting for Sweeney when he arrived for work the next morning to escort him off city property in violation of the law. He then illegally laid off Sweeney three days later after telling the council "I will not work with those who cause a the problem."

For a time, Lantigua refused to give up his seat in the legislature pulling down two salaries totally more than \$170,000 a year, plus benefits. He eventually did resign as a state rep. when the legislature said they wouldn't approve the governor's \$35 Million borrowing measure unless he gave up his seat on Beacon Hill.

Next, Lantigua illegally hired as his new planning director, former council President Patrick Blanchette. Blanchette replaced the laid off Mike Sweeney even though state law says you cannot hire someone to fill a position while someone is laid off from that position. Blanchette was eventually made the Economic Development director even though he's a tax cheat with a tax lien filed against him by the IRS for refusing to pay taxes three consecutive years while he was the City Council President.

In February, the Democrat dominated legislature (of course) voted for the Lanti-

gua borrowing measure and almost immediately the new mayor gave raises to his pals in city hall including: Chief of Staff Lenny (De Da Dee) Degnan, Comptroller Dave Cumasso, Treasurer Patty Cook and a plethora of other pencil pushers in city hall.

But what happened next was nothing short of disgraceful.

Lantigua, even with \$35 million in borrowed money, decided to lay off 25 police officers, dismantle the auto theft task force, nearly depleted the drug task force, laid off 24 firefighters, closed at least one fire station, and laid off a dozen or so DPW workers.

He then elevated his friend, campaign manager and (then) police Sergeant Melix Bonilla over the rank of Lieutenant and Captain to make him the Deputy Chief, demoting Deputy Mike Driscoll back to Captain.

Within a few short months, Lantigua began to publicly attack members of the fire department, accusing them of purposely taking their time responding to fires in the city. He accused Fire Chief Murphy of "scaring the hell out of people" because he was speaking to the press about how being short staffed was affecting response time. At one point, Lantigua even accused the firefighters of setting fires and urged members of the public to follow firefighters with video cameras.

Mayor Lantigua ordered City Attorney Charlie Boddy not to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (see editorial, page 2) and deny public records and public information to anyone asking until he could determine if they were on his "enemies list".

He rehired the fired law firm of Di-Adamo and DiaDamo to handle the city's worker's compensation cases.

Lantigua hired more than a million dollars in new city employees (no cops, firefighters or DPW workers though), dismantled the city's Internet Technology department and the illegally tasked school employees to run the city's internet and technology without reimbursing the schools.

He eventually did fire Wilfredo Laboy, a man who was his confidant and whom he had supported for years prior to becoming mayor.

He appointed Frank Bonet to be the city's personnel director even though he sat on the school committee (Bonet resigned from the school committee last month). The new mayor also rehired School Committeeman Gregory Morris who was also a laid off DPW worker and was last on the list to be rehired. But he didn't just bring Morris back as a laborer, he gave him an \$85,000 supervisors job to ensure Morris would vote his way on the

school committee, which Morris apparently had no problem with.

Willie and his Chief of Staff Lenny Degnan wasted no time playing the race card accusing one of the least racist people we know, City Councilor Marc LaPlante of being "a racist" for not approving Lantigua's proposals to the city council. He targeted city workers who had either campaigned for Dave Abdoo (his rival in the 2009 mayors race) or were considered "enemies" of Blanchette or Degnan.

He even pushed people off city boards to get rubber stamp votes.

And that's not the half of it.

Yes, with just a year under his belt as mayor, Willie Lantigua has blamed everyone but himself for the condition of the city (remember he was a state rep. for at least six years) and created more turmoil in the City of Lawrence than every previous mayor combined... even Mary Claire Kennedy.

He left the city unprotected from fires and crime and has given the city a black eye by having his shenanigans routinely chronicled by the Boston media.

We know that Lantigua walked lock-step with former Mayor Mike Sullivan and had Sullivan fill city boards and positions with his "supporters" years before he announced he was running for mayor.

Yet he continues to this day, to blame the Sullivan administration for all the ills of the city while white washing history of his involvement in everything from Wilfredo Laboy's reign in the School Department to his puppet mastery of the city council for the previous four years.

In the end, whomever history blames for Lawrence's problems, Lantigua is now in his second year of a four-year term and whatever happens now (for better or worse), is unarguably owned by Mayor Lantigua.

But blame is not all that important to the residents of Lawrence or the tax-payers of the commonwealth who are paying all of Lawrence's bill. What's most important is how Lantigua improves the city. So far, we have seen Lawrence go backwards by about 40 years. And if this first year of Mayor Lantigua and Lenny Degnan are any indication of future performance, the next three years are going to be great for The Valley Patriot... not so much for the poor people of Lawrence who are stuck with a dictator who thinks he owns the city and doesn't have to follow the law.



Tom Duggan is president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, a Police Survivor and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WHAV.NET, Wednesdays from 6pm-9pm. You can email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com.

June is Just Around The Corner Relay For Life Celebrating 17 years



The American Cancer Society's signature event, Relay For Life, will be celebrating its 17th year in Haverhill on June 10th and 11th, 2011 at Northern Essex Community College.

With a long and seemingly endless winter upon us, it's hard to think about summer. To get everyone in the spirit of Relay, let's take a look back at last years event and how we celebrated our survivors, remembered those we lost, fought back against a disease that never sleeps and helped 44 nobel prize lauriats continue to find cures.

We are in search of families, friends, co-workers, organizations, cancer survivors, those who want to remember and those who want to fight back. Our mission is clear - to help celebrate more birthdays. You can join us in the fight by attending one of our team captain meetings held at Pentucket Bank, 1 Merrimack

Street, Haverhill, MA, by calling Jennifer Wasan, Community Executive, Development at 781-314-2677, or by logging on to www.relayforlife.org/haverhillma

Donations of gift certificates, food and drink, and sponsorships at all levels are always welcome and encouraged by contacting Relay For Life via phone, website or in person at one of our meetings.

Our Kickoff meeting for current and prospective team captains, committee and volunteers will be held on Wednesday, February 2nd, 2011 at the location listed above. All are encouraged to attend. Please join us to learn how you can help in the fight against cancer.

Nathan Webster, Publicity Chair/Ream Captain, Relay For Life Of Haverhill
www.relayforlife.org/haverhillma

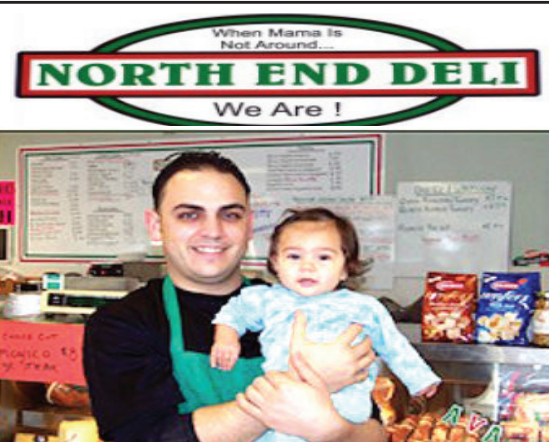
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Representation and Voting Rights

Everything comes back to the City of Lawrence

Jamison Tomasek
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

A group of Republicans and former Republicans are stepping up and forming a new organization, FairDistrictsMass (www.fairdistrictsmass.org) that is promoting the idea that this year's post-2010 US Census redistricting in Massachusetts should be done by an independent commission rather than the State Legislature. They also believe that Boston deserves its own unique US Congressional representation, with the goal to help enfranchise its underrepresented minority populations. This idea should be extended to the Merrimack Valley and the redistricting of our State Legislature that will also occur this year.

Most would agree that in 2011 the right to vote is protected, but what is not protected is the right to fair representation, and gerrymandering impedes fairness of representation. Gerrymandering is a word that was coined in 19th century Massachusetts to denote legislative districts that are purposely constructed to achieve certain electoral goals (like keeping a particular person or party in office, or keeping a group of people from being a majority in a district), rather than having districts that group people around some similar demographic theme.

Beside political junkies most people typically don't follow this, though newspapers perk up when districts are re-configured to accommodate population shifts for the election the following year. For the US House of Representatives, whose 435 members must be apportioned

amongst all 50 States, States gain or lose Congressional seats based on population growth. After the recent census Massachusetts will be losing one Congressional seat, as growth here was slower than in States of the South and West, where seats were added.

For the people in the Merrimack Valley, where the 6th (Tierney's) Congressional district meets the 5th (Tsongas') district, the border between the two districts (currently Andover, Haverhill and Methuen are the edge of the 5th) could shift westward. Either of these two Districts could be dissolved or merged (as Massachusetts needs to lose one) though at this time this is considered unlikely. The bet is that the two Congressman West of Worcester will get the short end of the stick, because, well.... they're West of Worcester.

A Congressional district in Mass should have approximately 728,000 people, yet two Congressmen represent the city of Boston, with only about 600,000 people (they also represent other communities). Maybe this is a good thing but it reduces the chances of a minority candidate from Boston when their voter base (meaning similar urban people) is split. An Italian guy from Somerville represents part of Boston, so maybe that is okay, but an Irish



guy from Southie not only represents the rest of Boston, but also represents Bridgewater. Something is not right there.

For us in the central Merrimack Valley, everything comes back to Lawrence. Lawrence now has a Latino Mayor. I think the vast majority of

politicos surveyed would believe that every mayor into the foreseeable future will probably be Latino based on the fact that the city is overwhelmingly Latino. Maybe that seems wrong but it's the way politics work in our country, and indeed worldwide.

Going with some generally accepted principles in districting, districts should be compact, not split governments like towns, and group together similar people, meaning socio-economically, ethnically, or geographically such as urban or suburban. These people tend to have common interests and more importantly common governmental needs.

Massachusetts Senate district consists of approximately 160,000 people, and a House seat is about 40,000. Lawrence should have at least two House seats that are predominantly or entirely within the city rather than only the one currently held by Marcos Devers. Lawrence should be in a Senate district with other area La-

tino populations and urban dwellers such as Haverhill and Methuen and not with Andover, Tewksbury, and Dracut. It's hard to find anyone in those last two towns who feel any affinity with Lawrence, and even Andover might be included in that assessment. This would allow the people of Lawrence and similar people in the other two cities to potentially elect one of their own.

A note about Republicans and voting rights.

Efforts to redistrict should be (but are not in Massachusetts) bi-partisan activities. This note is included as part of a little personal PR as Republicans are often misunderstood, particularly in this State

Republicans have long championed the voting rights of African Americans, first by winning the Civil War and then by passing subsequent Constitutional amendments that allowed the former slaves and their descendants to vote. Democrats post-Reconstruction, when they got back in power in the South, reversed this with discriminatory local voting restrictions, commonly called "Jim Crow" laws. Women in the US got the vote in 1919 only after Republicans took control of Congress and passed the 19th amendment after the previously Democrat controlled Congress voted it down on four separate occasions. More recently, in the early 1960's, northern Republicans were solidly supportive of the 1964 Civil Rights Act- it would have not passed without the help of almost all the Senate Republicans to break a filibuster lead by southern Democrat segregationists.

The definition of the word "Extremism"

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

According to Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, 2nd College Edition, extremism is the quality or the state of going to extremes, esp. the extreme right or extreme left in politics- extremist. Extreme = Outermost, at the end or outermost point; farthest away; most remote; utmost. In or to the greatest degree; very great or greatest (extreme pain), to an excessive degree; immoderate; far from what is usual or conventional, deviating to the greatest degree from the center of opinion as in politics, very severe; drastic; (extreme measures); last; final, either of two things that are as different or far as possible from each other.

What got me thinking of this and why I took the time to look up the definition of extremism was this most recent group of extremists protesting at Military

Funerals. A group of Fundamentalist at the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas where members believe the death of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan is God's Way of punishing the United States for tolerating homosexuality. They hide behind the First Amendment holding signs at Military Funerals that say, God Hates You; you're going to Hell, and Thank God for Dead Soldiers. I am of the opinion that most "real Christians" would agree that these are very extreme, and the farthest away from God's Heart. These are not the first extremist wachos thinking that they are doing God's work. I am reminded of Reverend Paul Jennings Hill (Army of God, A Christian Terrorist anti-abortion organization), who in 1994 killed Abortion Doctor John Britton and his bodyguard James Barrett. At Hill's execution by lethal injection, he had no remorse and said, "He is expecting a great reward from heaven". Next I am also reminded of what happened on April 19, 1995,

destructive act of terrorism on American soil until September 11, 2001. He was motivated by hatred of the Federal Government and hoped to inspire a revolt against what he considered to be a tyrannical government, he was eventually executed by lethal injection June 11, 2001.

He was quoted as saying that, "he didn't believe in hell and that science was his religion". Another extremist act was this past September 11, 2010 where the Reverend Terry Jones announced his plan to build a bon fire to burn 200 copies of the holy Koran between 6 and 9PM, in Gainesville, Florida. This was his way to honor the 9th Anniversary of the September 11 attacks and protest the building of a Mosque near ground zero.

Now what did all these people and their actions have in common? I would say that it was their extreme, excessive points of view and their corresponding actions that were far from what we would call the center of opinions.

For myself, what I use as a center of reference is scripture. All of the above folks mentioned along with their belief systems, are at the opposite extreme end of center. For example I turn to 1 John 1:5, "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all". Plus 1John 4:7-8, 16, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 16, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him". Just in these few verses we read that God is light and in him is no darkness at all and that God is love.

So when someone is undeniably motivated by hatred, or encourages a message that God hates and that God is punishing the United States of America or that killing doctors who perform abortions or even suggest that burning the Koran is God's Will, clearly they are at the extreme opposite end of what God is really all about which is love!

Now, in the realm of politics and the exchange of ideas we can have a difference of opinion. We can disagree and have the right to disagree and debate, but I don't have the right to cross the line and go into extremism on either side of center and become unkind, or unloving to my fellow man and cause hurt or destruction to anyone. I'm supposed to be an imitator of God, not become God with a sick twisted doctrine that encourages hatred of any kind.

As a Christian, I openly admit that there are those who call themselves Christians but their actions suggest otherwise, that they are extremist and way off the mark.

Now I challenge those of the Muslim faith to step up and please do the same, admit that Muslim Extremist exists and that their whole purpose for their existence is to kill Americans! The amount of incidences that collaborate this over the last 20 to 30 years speak for themselves. Separate yourselves from them and denounce them because as of late there are far too many of you who have been silent! A silence that is deafening!

God Bless



Peter Larocque is a former member of the Lawrence School Committee. . You can call him at 978-682-0900, email him at peterlarocque@hotmail.com

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The Curious Case of Lowell School Supt. Chris Scott

Gerry Nutter

VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

By a vote of four to two on March 24 2008, the Lowell School Committee elected Dr. Chris Augusta Scott to be the superintendent of the Lowell public schools. Current members Jackie Doherty, Jim Leary and Connie Martin led the way with then Mayor Bud Caulfield serving has her fourth vote.

Dick Howe Jr. in a column he wrote for this paper stated that: Doherty felt that Scott had the vision and skills needed for the job and was particularly impressed with the improvement in academic performance by special education students in Norfolk and the strong support Scott received from Norfolk public officials such as the police and fire chiefs. Jim Leary said that being the best urban school system was not good enough for Lowell. He wanted someone ready to compete with suburban schools. He said that Scott's demonstrated strength in building employee morale and being a leader in the community helped him decide to vote for her.

In May of 2008 in the Boston Globe Dr. Scott was quoted as saying "The thoughts that keep her up at night are whether she can navigate the politics of the job, and she fears that the politics could overtake the reason she got into the business in the first place - helping youngsters learn. Dick Howe said at that time that "he believes Augusta-Scott will be able to swim through the rough political waters of Lowell." But he said she should expect to face some resistance.

"Confrontations are inevitable in Lowell. There are a lot of competing inter-

ests," he said. "But she can't do her job by pleasing everybody."

Look at how correct both turned out to be.

Dr Scott was tested early in April of 2009 when she explored the possibility of privatizing Food Service for the School System. Then school committee member Regina Faticanti (who would remind anyone who saw the movie The Fighter of one of Mickey Wards sisters) allegedly made threatening comments to the Supt. and a couple of other school dept. employees. Supt Scott decided that she was not going to take that and brought criminal charges against School Committee member Regina Faticanti.

Faticanti lost her bid for re-election and in December of 2009 Superintendent of Schools Chris Scott received praise for her relationship with the community as well as for working collaboratively with the teachers' union and boosting staff morale during her first evaluation by the School Committee. Criticism came in the arena of Scott's skills in communicating with the committee.

Committee member Jackie Doherty said that of the 75 items listed on the evaluation, she scored Scott in the "exceeds" category for eight items and in "meets" for the remaining 67. However in Feb. 2010 signs where starting to emerge that maybe



Dr. Scott and the Lowell School Committee communication issues may have been more than they were willing to admit. On the Left in Lowell Blog Mimi posted that In a Sunday Lowell Sun political Column about the Headmaster Search it was noted "Speculation has been that the majority of the School Committee - John Leahy,

Connie Martin, Jackie Doherty and Jim Leary - have bigger plans for [Brian] Martin. They would have liked to have added 'Superintendent of Schools' to his lengthy resume. "Despite given School Superintendent Chris Scott a positive evaluation, the prevailing thought is that the committee majority has never been 100 percent behind her and would not be heartbroken to see her go." The comments go on to say how great the Superintendent is doing and how well schools are performing.

Dr. Scott in her 2nd evaluation in 2010 also scored high marks. Test scores were up in Lowell schools, the Murkland School was no longer failing and teachers felt empowered.

Her contract is set to expire in June of 2011 and in October of 2010 she presented the school committee with an offer to extend it for 3 years with no pay increase in the first year (she turned down increases in 2009 and 2010 along with bonuses of \$5,000) but going from \$170,000 in the first year to paying \$206G in the third year.

In November of 2010 the School Committee voted to begin negotiations with her in a timely fashion. Instead they did nothing until January 6th 2011 at which time they told her they had no offer and no counter.

Superintendent of Schools Chris Scott announced that she leaving Lowell when her contract expires on June 30. Why?

Local noted Blogger Cliff Krieger noted: The School Committee seems to have felt that the School Superintendent was operating outside of her charter from them. She was free-lancing and not doing a credible job of reporting back. It seems to me, at this point that she violated the concept of "It is easier to get forgiveness than permission" by being careless with the facts.

This has emerged only recently, and it gave the School Committee pause. Then it gave the School Committee purpose.

That purpose was to let a Supt. who worked well with Teachers, Administrators, UMass Lowell, Business people and parents in improving test scores and under-performing schools leave the city and up to today not explain to the public why. Current members Jackie Doherty, Jim Leary and Connie Martin who hired her all turned their back on her.

They instead chose to ignore her knowing she was and is a woman of principal and would leave on her own giving them the out of having to fire her or not negotiate a new contract.

The City of Lowell School Dept and students are the big losers here.



Read Gerry Nutter's Blog at gerrynutterslowell.com or email him at GNutter@docuserve.com



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2011 will be an exciting year for Dracut!

D.J. Deeb
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Nomination papers are out and rumors are rampant about the upcoming Dracut Town elections. Despite the political controversies, Dracut residents have much to be thankful for. 2011 promises to be an exciting year for the Town of Dracut, but we must not lose sight of the many positive things happening around us.

Late December and early January brought two significant snow storms. Each storm carried with it 1-2 feet of snow in most of the Merrimack Valley. I do a great deal of driving personally and I travel to several cities/towns on a regular basis. I must give KUDOS to our own Dracut Public Works Department and those who assist the department in snow removal. While many cities/towns fail to adequately plow their roads, Dracut certainly does a superb job keeping the roads clear.

Almost all of the roads in our Town are plowed to the pavement. When I drive through southern New Hampshire, Boston, Reading, and Wilmington, to name a few communities, the roads are often snow/ice-covered for days after a storm. This is not the case in Dracut. Keep up the great work, guys!

Congratulations are in order for Dracut Town Manager Dennis Piendak who recently announced his retirement intentions effective April 6, 2012.

This date carries significance since it will mark 25 years for Piendak as Town Manager. Dennis Piendak is one of the longest-serving managers in the State of Massachusetts. He has guided our Town through the good times and the difficult periods as well.

This early announcement gives Town leaders ample time to begin the process to

search for a new Town Manager. Best of luck to Dennis as he begins to make plans for his retirement!

Dracut voters are going to be asked soon to approve a \$61 Million high school renovation project.

The details are being finalized and although the project is needed, the timing could not be worse. Dracut has been one of the towns hit hardest by the current recession and unemployment hovers over the state average of 10%.

This project will likely cost Dracut homeowners an average of \$274 annually in additional property taxes for the next 20-25 years if voters pass a debt exclusion. Keep in mind that property owners are currently still paying for the debt exclusions on the new Town Library and Police Station.

Dracut Town Elections are fast approaching. Elections for Town of Dracut offices and the Dracut Water Supply District will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011. Nomination papers for the following positions will be available beginning Tuesday, February 1, 2011:

- Town Moderator (1)
- Selectmen (2)
- School Committee (1)
- Reg.-Voc. Sch Com. (1)
- Library Trustee (2)
- Water Commissioner (1)
- Water District Clerk (1)
- One Yr term
- Three Yr term
- Three Yr Term
- Three Yr Term
- Three Yr Term
- Three Yr Term
- Three Yr Term

The last day to obtain and file nomination papers with the Dracut Town Clerk's office is Monday, March 14th. In order to be eligible to run candidates need to obtain signatures from at least 50 registered voters in the Town of Dracut.


So far, the race for Selectmen is proving



to be most contentious. Incumbents John Zimini and Bob Cox have both announced that they plan to run for re-election. Former Dracut Officer and Union official Tony Archinski has already announced his intentions to run for a seat. Rumors are circulating that former Selectman Jim O'Loughlin may run as well.

The Dracut School Committee race will also be interesting as Matt Sheehan attempts to run for re-election after coming off a devastating loss after running for State Representative this last Fall, capturing less than 10% of the vote. In that race, Sheehan spread vicious lies about Representative Colleen Garry and her voting record. It is expected that many Garry supporters will be actively working against Sheehan this Spring.

More on the upcoming Dracut Town Elections in the next issue of The Valley Patriot as events unfold.



D.J. Deeb is a member of the Town of Dracut Committee on Government Rules and Regulations. He served as a member of the Dracut School Committee from 2005-2008 and the Greater Lowell Regional Voc-Tech School Committee from 1997-2009. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He teaches Social Studies full-time at Reading Memorial High School.

December single family home sales outpace December '09 by 28%

The Northeast Association of Realtors - which represents more than 1,200 Realtors in the local area — reported today that single family home sales in the Merrimack & Nashoba valleys rose by 28.4 percent in December compared with December of 2009, while the median price during the period dropped by 7.2 percent versus last December. Sales of condominiums last month were down by 4.1 percent during the month in comparison with those sold during the same period a year before, and the median price of condos sold during December dropped by 6.6 percent. Multi-family property sales also dropped by 5.5 percent when compared with the pace set in December of 2009, and the median price of multi-family properties sold was up by 1.4 percent compared with last December.

For the entire year of 2010, single family sales volume in the local region was down by 2 percent versus 2009, and the median sales price rose by 5 percent to a median of \$316,000, compared

with a median of \$301,000 in 2009. Also throughout 2010, condominium sales locally were 8.3 percent below sales in 2009, dropping to 1,004 sales from the previous year's total of 1,095 sales, while the median price dropped by 1.4 percent to a median of \$175,450 compared with the median of \$178,000 posted in 2009. Meanwhile, multi-family sales volume in the region dropped by 19.3 percent in 2010 versus 2009, to 590 sales compared with 731 sales posted in 2009, and the median price increased by 11.1 percent. Average days on market for all three property types also dropped during 2010 compared with 2009, with single family sales averaging 106 days in 2010, versus 120 days in 2009. The average days on market for condominium sales dropped to 128 days in 2010 from the 158 day-average set in 2009. And multi-family properties averaged 86 days on market last year, versus the 109-day average in 2009. NEAR's report is based on data from MLS Property Information Network based

in Shrewsbury.

NEAR President Tom Courtney highlighted the continuing highly favorable interest rate environment that has served to perk buyer interest throughout the past year, saying, "The market is especially favorable for first time buyers who don't have a property to sell, and there is a ready supply of mortgage money at historically low interest rates. And those with a house to sell can also take advantage of these conditions when they go to buy." He added, "The median price increases we are seeing during a time of relatively low sales volume can be attributed to a reduced inventory of homes for sale in the region. Fewer properties for sale typically mean less downward pressure on prices due to basic supply and demand fundamentals. As of January 15, there were just under 1,200 single family homes for sale in the region, down significantly from the peak of 2,200 single family homes for sale in September of 2006. The federal home-buyer tax credits helped clear lots of our

inventory last year, and our region avoided the overbuilding that was so prevalent in places like Florida and Arizona."

The Northeast Association of Realtors represents more than 1,200 Realtors and 200 affiliate members in the Merrimack and Nashoba valleys. NEAR is one of 1,500 local chapters of the National Association of Realtors. Officially, NEAR covers 15 cities and towns from Boxford to Littleton, though it has members from more than 50 cities and towns in the Merrimack and Nashoba valleys as well as southern New Hampshire. The term, Realtor, is a trademark for use exclusively by members of the National Association of Realtors, whose members subscribe to a strict Code of Ethics.

For more information, contact NEAR CEO Anne Rendle (978-577-6138 x11 or Rendle@NortheastRealtors.com). For comment, contact NEAR President Tom Courtney (978-692-9292 or TCourtney@RemaxPrestige.com).

Dec 2010 vs. Dec 2009	# Sold Dec 2009	# Sold Dec 2010	Yr over Year Change	Median Price Dec 2009	Median Price Dec 2010	Yr over Year Change	Avg. DoM Dec 2009	Avg. DoM Dec 2010	Yr over Year Change
Single Family	183	235	28.4	305,000	283,000	-7.2	124	121	-2.4
Condo	73	70	-4.1	149,900	140,000	-6.6	131	161	22.9
Multi Family	55	52	-5.5	180,000	182,450	+1.4	78	122	56.4

January to December	# Sold 2009	# Sold 2010	Yr over year Change	Median Price 2009	Median Price 2010	Yr over year Change	Avg. DoM 2009	Avg. DoM 2010	Yr over year Change
Single Family	2,693	2,638	-2.0%	\$301,000	\$316,900	+5.0%	120	106	-11.7%
Condo	1,095	1,004	-8.3%	178,000	175,450	-1.4%	158	128	-19.0%
Multi Family	731	590	-19.3%	162,000	180,000	+11.1%	109	86	-21.1%

Territory: Andover, Billerica, Boxford, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lawrence, Lowell, Methuen, North Andover, Tewksbury, Westford

GEORGETOWN TODAY!

Override will cost you \$60 to \$110/month

Lawrence "Lonnie" Brennan
VALLEY PATRIOT GEORGETOWN COLUMNIST

Georgetown Winter Happenings

There's a lot happening between school events, the upcoming February school vacation week, and the various fun events in town. Top of the list: snow-shoe season!

There are several great places in Georgetown to get out and explore including great scenic treks across Rock Pond (weather permitting), Pentucket Pond (be careful, stay away from the spillway), the various conservation areas off West Street, Andover Street, and the Georgetown/Rowley forest. But, perhaps the best place and time for a little trip will be on Sunday, February, 20, 2011. From 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, seasoned snow-shoers and outdoorsmen, Bob Goodwin and Bob Gibb are running a program at Camp Denison (84 Nelson Street). The following is their invitation:

Discover Camp Denison Conservation Area's dynamic landscape under a quiet blanket of snow. Located at the Georgetown and Boxford border, this property offers forty-four acres of conservation land and a variety of features for visitors to enjoy including: views of Baldpate Pond, a beaver hut, remnants of 17th century human settlement; cellar holes and stone walls; as well as access to a well marked trail system and an acre of demonstration forest used for education and interpretation. We plan to cover about a mile of trail. Afterwards warm up with some treats next to the wood burning stove at the Camp Denison nature center! What better way to spend a winter Sunday afternoon? Please bring your own snowshoes and poles, dress appropriately for your comfort and the cold weather (hats, gloves, etc.) Wear sturdy shoes, walks could be on ice, snow and uneven surfaces. We can recommend rental facili-

ties, cross country skis are optional. RAIN DATE: February 27.

Would you like to join us? This event is open to the public. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please RSVP with payment by Friday, February 18. Essex Heritage members \$5/Non members \$7. Please register in advance, online at www.EssexHeritage.org/membership, call 978-740-0444 or send checks to Essex Heritage, 221 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970.

Speaking of outdoor winter activities, the Georgetown Fish and Game meet the second Monday of every month at 8:00 p.m. All gun owners should join the Gun Owner's Action League (www.GOAL.org), and anyone local might want to check out the club. Trap shooting takes place every Sunday afternoon.

The PTA will be meeting Wed., Feb. 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Penn Brook Cafeteria. Schools break for winter vacation the week of Feb. 21-25.

The High School Frolic Date is set for Friday, March 4. Parents and extended family show up for the "Grand March" which will be held in the auditorium from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. for photos!

For more events, just send them along or view them at www.GeorgetownToday.com. Oh, and before I end this column, here's a Valentine's hug to the love of my life, girl of my dreams, Dianne Brennan. Enjoy the last few weeks of winter everyone. Stay warm and shovel out a neighbor's walkway. Best wishes to all.



Lonnie Brennan is a former Georgetown Selectmen. He can be reached at Lonnie@just-lonnie.com.



MOVING HAVERHILL FORWARD

with Mayor Jim Fiorentini

City and Steward Healthcare Reach Hospital Agreement

Hospital agreement Steward makes "long-term commitment for a full-service hospital" in Haverhill; Mayor to support proposed hospital purchase

Mayor Fiorentini, State Senator Steven A. Baddour [D-Methuen], State Representatives Brian S. Dempsey [D-Haverhill] and James Lyons [R-Andover] and officials from Steward Healthcare System LLC ("Steward") today announced that they have reached an agreement, subject to approval of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, concerning Steward's proposed purchase of the Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill.

Under the agreement, Steward Healthcare System, LLC will make a long-term commitment to keep a full-service hospital, including inpatient services, outpatient services and emergency room services in the city of Haverhill. The City will advocate for Massachusetts Department of Public Health approval of the pending Determination of Need application filed by Steward seeking a change of ownership of Merrimack Valley Hospital so that Steward may purchase the hospital from Essent Healthcare of Massachusetts, Inc.

The City's previous agreement with Essent, negotiated as part of the closure and sale of the former Hale Hospital, was set to expire on August 31, 2011, ten years after the sale.

Steward will agree to invest a minimum of \$10 million in new capital funds into the present Merrimack Valley hospi-

tal facility located at 140 Lincoln Avenue in Haverhill. It will also guarantee that a full-service hospital remain in the City for a minimum of five years after which time any changes, if any, would have to be reviewed by the Department of Public Health.

Mayor Fiorentini called the commitment to keep a hospital here for the long term "a huge victory for our city and for the people who desperately need a hospital here in the city. We are particularly happy with the commitment to put a minimum \$10 million investment into the facility and into our local economy."

Steward will also agree to work with the City and the City's healthcare provider to establish a new healthcare network for city employees. This new healthcare network would allow the City to save money on healthcare costs for its employees and allow employees to save money that would lower their costs. Mayor Fiorentini said that the addition of an additional healthcare network would have the potential of saving the City millions of dollars over the long term.

"This proposed sale of the hospital would make the Merrimack Valley Hospital part of the second-largest hospital chain in Massachusetts. This sale will not only keep a hospital here in Haverhill, it will help to improve healthcare for our citizens," Fiorentini said.

"The five-year commitment to keep a full-service hospital with improvements

HAVERHILL, page 19

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ESSEX PHYSICAL THERAPY & CHIROPRACTIC OF ANDOVER

Dr. Michael Provenzano is pleased to announce the opening of Essex Physical Therapy and Chiropractic of Andover located at 16 Haverhill Street in Andover.

Dr. Provenzano, the areas only doctor of chiropractic and physical therapy has been providing care to the residents of the Merrimack Valley for over 10 years. His unique clinical and academic experience affords him the ability to treat all your musculoskeletal needs including neck and back pain, as well as shoulder, hip, knee and ankle conditions.



Dr. Michael Provenzano

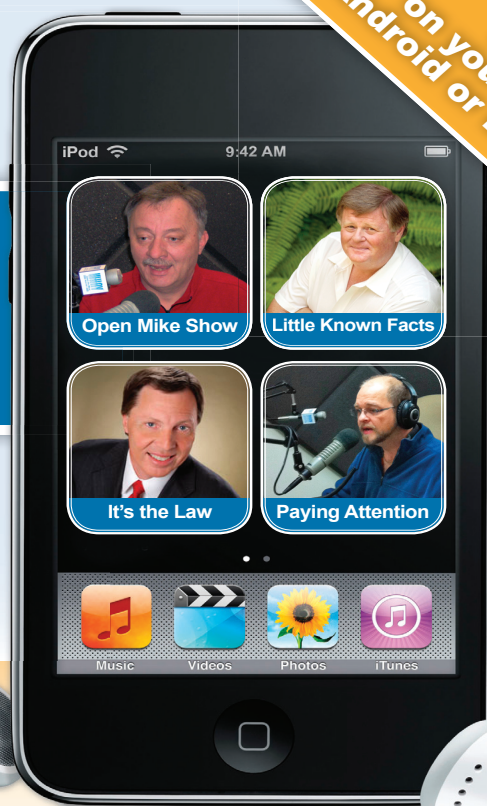
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New Superintendent Jim Scully on the record

Scully talks of his departure from Lawrence in 1998, the challenges Haverhill faces and the controversy on his salary

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Former Lawrence School superintendent Jim Scully has been hired as the new superintendent in Haverhill.

Valley Patriot president Tom Duggan interviewed Scully on WHAV last week about his departure from Lawrence in 1998. Scully had been fired by the School Committee under former Mayor Mary Claire Kennedy for buying bagpipes for the school band, laptops (which saved the schools money on paper) and ice skates for “Latino” kids even though the School Committee had approved every one of those purchases.

Scully was asked if he felt vindicated now that he has been hired as the Haverhill Superintendent after a very public and humiliating firing in Lawrence [editor’s note: Scully sued for breach of contract and the City settled the case by paying out his contracts]

“First of all I worked in Haverhill as a principal [for the last five years] and I really love the Consentino School and the families and students there. It was a great five years, and doing that is when I felt vindicated.

Looking back at Lawrence it wasn’t just the pressure I received to hire two people who were politically connected [by Mayor Kennedy]. The fundamental issue was; Coopers and Lybrand, which is now Price Waterhouse, did a financial review of what the City was doing in the schools. And it was Coopers who found some irregularities. When I raised those issues with the Commissioner of Education Robert Antonucci, I asked him if he was going to side with the children of the City or the politicians. His response was the politicians. He wasn’t going to put his support behind [increasing] the finances that was due for the school system. So, at that point what they did was, [they] made issues in the Boston newspapers. And ultimately in the Eagle Tribune they

made references to bagpipes and they never once mentioned things like the new marching band and how we brought back things that had died in Lawrence. So the rhetoric centered around the bagpipes not the band.”

Scully admitted that the public rhetoric surrounding why he needed to be fired in Lawrence back in 1998 turned racist when [then] Education Commissioner Antonucci objected to the purchase of bagpipes and ice skates for “Latino children” saying Scully had “misspent” the money and questioning why “Latinos” should be playing bagpipes or ice skating.

“But he wasn’t the only one,” Scully revealed. “We had a State Senator [John O’Brien] making those comments too. But, that wasn’t the only issue it was the same thing with laptops. A full four years later [after he was fired] they were bestowing bouquets on Superintendents in the State that were buying laptops because [they] were putting laptops in the schools cheaper than PC’s.”

Scully said he loved being the Superintendent of Lawrence and had many great years in the City. “I really was happy there. I learned a lot there and many of the minority families were very supportive because it was the first opportunity their children had to participate in sports and hockey and things that Latino children weren’t accustomed to. I’m very proud of that.”

As the Superintendent in Lawrence, Scully built three schools: the South Lawrence East, The Frost and the Arlington despite political pressure not to do it, “those schools by the way, were built on-time and under-budget.”

Scully said that it was bad enough having politicians lying to the public about his management of the Lawrence Schools back then but that members of the press were adding fuel to the fire by publishing half truths and accusations from “unnamed sources”.

“The Globe writer [Kate Zernike] who

“There are issues that need to be addressed as any school system, but we are addressing them. Most of the people are pitching in. We have come a long way in five months, we have a long way to go, but you have to set your expectations high and hold the rudder so you have a steady course and develop the right leaders. Those leaders who cannot climb on board... those leaders you have to cut loose.”

~ Haverhill School Superintendent
Jim Scully



happened to go on to the New York Times was admonished there for printing stories with unnamed sources, and all through my case it was always ‘unnamed sources’ that were making allegations, none of which stood up. And after extensive audits it was found that there was no money misspent [but the politicians and press] framed it in the context that money ‘could have been spent better on other things,’ but it wasn’t misspending. As the story goes on all those people who were involved in my firing were replaced by the voters including the Mayor at the time [Mary Claire Kennedy].

With respect to being away [from education] for a while I worked at the Holy Family for a number of years before coming back the Consentino Middle School.”

The Consentino Middle School was plagued with violence, low test scores and low morale prior to Scully taking over the school. Asked how he turned it around in such a short time, Scully gave credit to the faculty and the families.

“It wasn’t just me it was a great group of teachers who really had deep concerns for the students. We all worked together, and the families pitched in. We were very definite with the students about their behavior. We were honest with them and

we were firm and within about a month or so we brought the behavior incidents to a minimum and then we started working on the academic issues. I had wonderful people working with me. The whole group of teachers sincerely cared about the children and did a tremendous job I was just the fellow with the steering wheel but they were the ones who put their oars in the water and getting the ship in line.”

Scully said the key to running a successful school system is listening to the students.

“One group of people you can’t kid is the students. I just had a group of students here at Haverhill High School and if you sincerely listen to students you pick up a lot of things. They tell you the truth. They tell you what is going on. Nobody ever complained to me about the schools being dirty when I assumed the role last summer except for the students who said ‘Mr. Scully, can you get the schools clean?’

And by the way, that’s how we started the hockey program in Lawrence. Because I had my own two children skating in Haverhill and a young Spanish boy came to me and said ‘Mr. Scully, how come they can skate in Haverhill and we can’t skate in Lawrence?’ That’s why I started the skating program in Lawrence.”

SCULLY, page 35

Tim Coco announces: WHAV radio goes Non Profit

Stopping just short of spinning off WHAV as a public charity, COCO+CO. Inc. this week reorganized WHAV’s on-air, Internet and cable television operations as a separate not-for-profit unit.

The decision does not affect programming or advertisers, but rather it reassures the public any surplus revenues are used solely to expand community benefits. WHAV continues its 24-hour-a-day schedule.

“Serving the public interest, convenience and necessity was the aim of restoring WHAV seven years ago this month. It has remained a community service project with all revenues committed solely to this purpose. No one has ever personally benefited

financially,” said COCO+CO. President and Chief Executive Officer Tim Coco. WHAV is not seeking tax exemptions, Coco said.

Coco began his communications career at the original WHAV in 1978. He helped organize a reunion of WHAV personalities in 2007, bringing together Tom Bergeron, Gary LaPierre and Phil Christie. Last year, the station dedicated WHAV’s newsroom in honor of Edwin V. Johnson, a 34-year-employee of the station and Haverhill High School instructor who passed away in 2003. The station also restored the popular Open Mike Show with its last host, Jack Bevelacqua, and brought back former on-air personnel Christie and Marc Lemay. Chris-

tie got his start at WHAV in the late 1940s, while Lemay served as news director during the 1990s.

The WHAV call letters have been associated with local broadcasting since 1947. For seven years, the WHAV call has served the Merrimack Valley’s pioneer Internet radio station at WHAV.net and a number of public access cable television stations in Andover, Haverhill and Methuen, and Plaistow and Sandown, N.H. The station is also heard over AM 1640 in northern Haverhill and Plaistow, N.H.

To listen, or for more information, visit www.whav.net.

Answers to Several Common Questions
What prompted the change?

It is more of a statement of truth rather than an actual change. There is an irrational belief — held by too many locally — that another’s success somehow comes at their expense. WHAV staff has witnessed outlandish jealousy, even rage, by some who think WHAV one way or another competes with their interests. Making this move is a step toward taking WHAV out of the perceived competition.

Will advertisements still be heard on the station?

Yes. Not-for-profit organizations may raise revenues by any legal means. However, any “profits” must be used to support

the operation rather than enrich stockholders.

Isn’t public broadcasting prohibited from airing ads?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) places commercial advertising restrictions on non-commercial radio and



television stations regulated by the agency. WHAV is not regulated by the FCC except for certain technical rules on its AM transmitter at 1640 kHz. Most people listen to the radio station’s digital feeds over the Internet and cell phones or

cable television.

In this multimedia age, what is WHAV’s reason for being?

There is a proliferation of media choices. No entity, however, has committed itself to presenting local news, weather, community announcements, emergency messages and related content 24-hours-a-day. WHAV is addressing this vital community need.

Isn’t this ‘digital stuff’ over the heads of most people?

Admittedly, WHAV was ahead of its time. More and more people though are discovering how easy it is to listen to CD-quality audio — and frequently video — over their computers or cell phones. Listening usually requires no more than pressing a single button.



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From the Desk of Mayor William Manzi

William Manzi III
METHUEN MAYOR

Here are some random notes about things happening in Methuen.

Municipal health care continues to be a much debated issue, with both the Governor and the House Speaker stepping forward to endorse reform that would give municipalities' additional authority over health care costs. The Governor announced his plan at the annual MMA Conference, and he has already filed legislation on the subject. The plan would create an expedited negotiating period between labor and management over health care plans. The choice would be between entry into the state GIC, or the adoption of a local plan that costs no more than the benchmarks established by the GIC. If these negotiations are not successful then the municipality would have the right to enter the GIC without union approval.

The stakes with Municipal Health care are large indeed. At that same MMA Conference Governor Patrick announced that he would recommend a 7% cut in local aid. For Massachusetts cities and towns

this latest cut brings total aid cuts to about 38% over 4 years. The hope is that the new health care authority the Governor is talking about giving to municipalities will offset the local aid cuts, and in Methuen that would be true. While our employees in Methuen are not the norm statewide (they have agreed to health care plan changes that have added higher co-pays and deductibles) we could have collectively saved \$2 million dollars on health care this year if we were enrolled in the GIC. It is past time for action on this matter, and we applaud the Governor for taking this important first step.

The "Appleyard" project has begun in downtown Methuen. This project will remediate the environmental problems on the site, and then beautify the parcel



while creating new parking for our downtown. It is an important project for our downtown, and we appreciate the help of Rep. Niki Tsongas in securing the funding for this project.

The Bea's site continues to advance towards a boat ramp, with one outstanding permitting issue left for resolution. We hope that construction on this project

will begin in the spring.

In the month of February I hope to bring contracts to the City Council for the construction work that is set to begin at the Central School, which will house our freshman class in September. I will also bring forward the awarding of the first contract for the construction at Methuen High School, which will be for the Construction Manager at Risk. Methuen's

Building Committee has recommended Dimio Construction of Boston. Our building project continues to move forward expeditiously under the leadership of Building Committee Chair Suzanne Lamoureux, who has devoted much time and energy to keeping our project on time and on budget. She has done a magnificent job. Look for construction to begin at the Central School within 30 days or so.

I had the pleasure of having Michael Widmer on my cable show in January. Mr. Widmer is the head man at the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, and is considered by many to be the preeminent expert on fiscal matters in Massachusetts. We discussed the upcoming state budget, the crisis in Medicaid funding, pension reform, and of course municipal health care reform. You can see the full interview at my blog, www.billmanzi.com/?p=3706.



Bill Manzi is in his third, two year term as the Mayor of Methuen. You can read his blog at billmanzi.com or email him at billmanzi1@comcast.net

Nathaniel Connors Wins SOAR Award

Congratulations to Nathaniel Connors, who was recognized with the December 2010 SOAR Award.

METHUEN HIGH SCHOOLS.O.A.R. AWARD - Nathaniel Connors . 11/16/10
METHUEN HIGH SCHOOL- Social Studies

Parents: Scott and Janet Connors

Honors: Currently enrolled in four Advanced Placement Course, including European History. Has made the Honor Roll every quarter the past three years. Scored a qualifying score of 3 on the Advanced Placement United States History Exam
National History Honor Society.

Student Activities: High School golf, basketball and baseball, Relay for Life,

Dutch Foreign Exchange Program,

Community Involvement: Volunteer at the Brue Blood Tournament, Assistant coach for the Massachusetts Elite AAU basketball team, Volunteer coach for the Methuen Youth Basketball Program, Participates in the Methuen Youth Baseball Program, Plays for the New England Storm in AAU basketball

Work Experience:

Referees for the Methuen Youth Basketball program

Referees in various Methuen basketball tournaments

Reasons for Recognition:

Nathaniel was chosen as the Social Studies Department's recipient of the

S.O.A.R Award because; he truly loves Social Studies and in particular United States History. Nathaniel has been an excellent social studies student who has distinguished himself academically in all four of his high school years at Methuen High School. He has been intellectually inquisitive and involved in all his social studies classes. His passion for history is evident because the time he spends on his own to learn more about subjects discussed in class. As a student, Nathaniel is not just a receiver of knowledge; he is an active contributor. Based on his credentials, there is no doubt he has a bright future ahead of him.



He is a fine young man who is a credit to his family, friends, and teachers. For all of these reasons the Social Studies Department feels that Nathaniel Connors is most deserving of this month's S.O.A.R Award.

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Trivia Nights Wednesdays

RONNIE’S RANTS

Random Thoughts

Ronnie Ford
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Civil Service was initiated for one main reason. That being the protection of positions charged with the oversight of the people’s government. What we don’t want is a system where one person be it a Mayor, Alderman, Councilor, or Selectman, has the power of the last word. This could turn out to be very devastating in some situations. They are tempted to put their “friends or contributor’s” in place, even if they are not qualified. Now I grant you that the system of the Civil Service needs some changing or amending, but certainly not complete destruction. This should require an independent study. The head of a department has to be able to tell it like it is, not worrying what the Mayors and other people, are going to say or do. I am all in favor of it. Let us stop the grandstanding and “let’s get it started”.

In the same vein as the above: that display of ungentlemanly behavior on the part of a director for Lawrence, at the Lawrence council meeting, was typical of the mentality of the “Big Three” governing the city. Why would you make a remark to the Fire Chief’s wife? She wasn’t the one who went before the Council. I think you three should go to charm school and learn how to act in public; not show your ignorance in public with a hissy fit! I would expect a written apology in the newspaper and a personal one to Mrs. Murphy. Grow up! The City of our youth is going to ruin on the fast track!

In Windham, NH a father is doing time in prison for breaking six of his infants son’s ribs and a bone near his tail bone; the baby was seven months old. A Federal judge cleared the way for Gurrie Fandozzi to pursue overturning his sentence. His defense lawyer says

his right to a fair trial was compromised after a jury returned a split verdict. A jury found him guilty of seven counts of first degree assault, but found not guilty of breaking another NINETEEN bones, arms, legs, fingers and so on! He was a Mr. Mom, a lawyer who stayed home while his lawyer wife went to work. Did the baby break all his own bones? Where was the Mother during all this? Did she not notice her child when she returned home? Fandozzi is serving a fifteen to thirty year sentence. They should make him serve his sentence and put the mother in jail with him. It doesn’t matter what position people hold, child abuse can happen in any household and our littlest citizens have no one to hear them!! It doesn’t matter if you win or lose in anything, but how you place the blame or credit.

The price of gas keeps creeping up and up. Are our elected officials doing or saying anything about it? Of course not! The liberals have no one to blame. When Bush was president you could hear them yelling from coast to coast! Now that Obama is president, nary a word. How about putting pressure on the ones who cause the rise in gas? Do you really think sitting next to someone while the President gives his State of the Union speech, who is not of your party, is going to solve anything? It is just grandstanding!! Business as usual. But now Americans are watching everything, so the elected officials have to step up and do their job. I think Congress should wear uniforms like NASCAR drivers, so we can identify their sponsors!

May the good Lord take a liking to you, do something nice for someone today. And we wish you enough.

Ronnie may be reached at radiotalk@comcast.net

The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection



The Story of John Watts

Jack Doyle, County Sligo
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

A mummified body of a young fair-haired man, clad in khaki trousers and khaki shirt, of the type used by the British Army around 1920, was discovered by turf workers between two and three feet under the surface in Mount Town bog, Geevagh, around mid-day on Saturday, June 2nd 1962. While the Tivnan brothers, Dominick and Michael, of Rinnatruffan, Geevagh were cleaning the surface of a turf bank in the bog, preparatory to commencing cutting, they hit while prodding the turf with their spades, what struck them as being a rather peculiar patch. Curiosity got the better of them and they went three spits down to investigate the matter.

After a portion of the surface had been cut away one of the turfs spade bared a black boot, toe pointing upwards and further cutting brought to light a second similar boot. Convinced that they were about to make a gruesome find, the brothers continued their work and after some further effort they had the entire mummified body of a man laid bare in its two to three foot deep grave.

compained by Dr. TJ Taheny, Ballymote, visited the scene of the discovery. The remains were examined by Dr. Taheny who came to the conclusion that they were those of a male person and probably in his early manhood.

He was clad in Khaki shirt and trousers, khaki socks and black army-type boot, still laced on the feet, while one of them was also secured by a lace wound under the arch of the foot presumably to support a broken boot sole, and with a web belt around the waist supporting the trousers. In his further examinations of the remains Dr. Taheny found that the condition of the skull bones might suggest possible fractures of the occipital region, while the left parietal bone was incomplete as if perhaps, shot away. Under the supervision of Mr. Thomas Lavin, Home Assistance Officer for the area, the remains were shortly afterwards re-interred in Corrig graveyard, near to St. James Well, over a mile distant from where the body was discovered.

Watt was a lieutenant from the forces from Drumdoe, near Ballinafad. He turned up in the Geevagh area in September, 1920, according to himself having deserted. He got into the clutches of the local I.R.A. and, according to local tradition concerning the incident, he admitted his errand was that of a spy for the British Forces and to take information on I.R.A. activities back to his headquarters. He was promptly court-martialed in Gleann’s old hall. Among the officers involved in the court-martial were Alec McCabe, Tom O’Donnell and M.J. Marren, he was found guilty of being a spy and was executed. *In the shadows of Carran Hill pgs 169, 170, Arrow Community Enterprise Research Project.

 Jack Doyle is an author and has published two books: *Echoes of My Past*, and *Medjugorje, Heaven on Earth*. To sponsor Jack’s Irish Craic” in *The Valley Patriot* contact: Jack5772@comcast.net



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HAVERHILL: FROM PAGE 16

in services is the longest commitment given for any such hospital purchases.

“That commitment, and the commitment to infuse a minimum of \$10 million into the hospital, indicates to the city that Steward Healthcare is making a long-term commitment to improve healthcare in the city of Haverhill,” the Mayor added.

“Merrimack Valley Hospital is a local institution and is one of Haverhill’s largest employers,” said Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen). “The Hospital is a vital piece of our regional economy and this agreement helps ensure that the citizens of our area continue to receive high-quality locally-based healthcare; for this reason alone, we need to keep the Hospital vibrant and growing.”

“I am pleased with the agreement that was reached today between Steward Healthcare Systems and the City of Haverhill” said Representative Brian S. Dempsey (D-Haverhill). “This announcement signifies a long term commitment to our community and assurance that the

citizens of Haverhill will continue to receive essential services and quality care.”

The Steward agreement adds an incentive for City employees and retirees to receive care at the Merrimack Valley Hospital.

“We are particularly happy that Steward Health Care will work with us to establish a new tiered healthcare network as an option for our City employees,” noted Mayor Fiorentini. “This new tiered network will give us the opportunity to work with the hospital to lower the healthcare costs for our City employees, saving them money and saving the City taxpayers money. Assuming we are able to work out the details, it will be presented to employees as a non-mandated option, but not a replacement, to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Value Plan which most city side employees have accepted. Employees will still be able to choose the hospital or medical center of their choice, but co-pays will be discounted at Merrimack Valley Hospital or any facility in the Steward Healthcare network.”

DiNuccio; Take Chief out of Civil Service

An Interview with Mayoral candidate Al DiNuccio: what he will do as your next Mayor

Former candidate for mayor and state representative Al DiNuccio has announced that he is running for the open seat for mayor when Bill Manzi's term expires this year. Manzi is restricted by term limits from running again. DiNuccio sat down with Valley Patriot president Tom Duggan on WHAV's Paying Attention! radio program last week to talk about his campaign and what he will do if he is elected to succeed Bill Manzi as the mayor of Methuen.

TERM LIMITS

"It's an incumbents race the way it is now," DiNuccio says. "There's a tremendous advantage. I am 100% for term limits but I'm also 100% in favor of having the question go before the voters. I'm not afraid of the [ballot] question, I would like to see the question be on the ballot all by itself but I think the way it's going to be, is part of the over all charter question. If we wanted to have a special election with just that question that would solve the problem."

DiNuccio said that the ballot question before the voters this year will probably fail because it's an all or nothing charter change question. "If you don't like one thing on the list of proposed changes then people are going to vote it down," DiNuccio said.

Asked if he would commit to term limiting himself if the voters did away with mandatory term limits DiNuccio said he would.

"People do need to move on, there are some dinosaurs in the Merrimack Valley. Do I want to be a politician for the rest of my life? Absolutely not! So, I would impose term limits on myself, absolutely."

Asked how long he would stay in office if elected without term limits DiNuccio replied, "Six years is more than enough time to get anything done."

THE UPCOMING MAYORAL CAMPAIGN

After running and losing for mayor and state representative in the last two years, DiNuccio says he is going to change his

campaign style and "take the gloves off this time."

"This is actually the gloves off campaign. You know, it took us two campaigns to realize it but I don't get the teacher vote, I don't get the firefighter vote I get the average guy vote. That's my base," he said. DiNuccio also admitted that trying to be a nice guy and be non-controversial in the last two campaigns probably cost him both elections.

CHIEF JOE SOLOMON

DiNuccio was asked how he would work with Joe Solomon and if he agreed with Mayor Manzi's efforts to fire the chief. Manzi fired Solomon three years ago but a Civil Service Commission Judge overturned his firing saying Solomon had not done anything worthy of being fired, though they did sustain a one year suspension and ordered the city to pay Solomon for two of the years he was out of work while fighting his case.

"I agree with you on the decision to fire Joe Solomon, Tom," DiNuccio said. "He shouldn't have been fired."

"Should he have been reprimanded or some kind of punishment? Absolutely! And civil service said that too. The termination went too far. I've known Chief Solomon since he was a patrolman. I watched him go up the ranks. I'm still an intermittent police officer there for 25 years, which is a part time police officer. So, I know him, he's easy to work with. He is a very smart person. He's a smart cop and a very smart administrator."

DiNuccio said he would have no problem working with Solomon but as soon as Solomon leaves or retires he plans on taking the job out of civil service.

"It's going very smooth there right now, and I don't think there is a better police department in the valley today . When he [Solomon] came in there was a lot of crime going on. The recession had jacked up the crime in the valley, an increase in house breaks were rampant, he put a task



force in place, and he made a lot of bold moves from day one. And it's paying off today. Crime is coming back down he's got it under control."

"I'm not saying anything about Chief Levigne, she did the best she could do under the circumstances. But there was a lot of turmoil under her administration just having the fact that Solomon could come back hanging over the department's head every day... I guess the question is, can I work with Chief Solomon? YES! Should the job be in civil service NO!"

WHY?

"That position is a department heads positions. None of the other department heads have a Civil Service agreement. It's kind of like a CEO of a company or managing a private company. They are not part of a union. It's tough to manage as a mayor if you have that." "Look what just happened with Bill Manzi. Lets say he just didn't want to renew that contract. Lets say they just couldn't work together. Lets just say it didn't work out for the city. That's how it should be. You say we're just not renewing the contract. They did it with superintendents all the time. Lawrence just did it with Wilfredo Laboy. You've

got to be able to change your department heads if they're not working well with the government at the time. You just can't do that under civil service. It's a lifetime position. Asked how that squares with his position that he supports Joe Solomon who would have been fired by Manzi if there was no Civil Service Protection, DiNuccio scoffed.

"Let's look historically at the last three mayors. We have several departments and no department head under the last three mayors has ever been terminated. It's not like mayors go around firing people for no reason. It just doesn't happen. Would Joe Solomon have been terminated if not for Civil Service... probably."

BUT IS THAT GOOD FOR THE TOWN?

"I'm not defending Mayor Manzi. I agree with you, he should not have done what he did to Chief Solomon. But [with civil service in place] you're undermining the leader of the city. Manzi had egg on his face when this thing was all said and done because he [Solomon] was reinstated. How do you run the city? How do you get respect from your other department heads and employees when you make decisions

DINUCCIO: PAGE 39

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Source of Waste being Dumped into Shawsheen Traced Back to Local Businesses

Valley Patriot Staff

Valley Patriot readers will recall that last summer, residents living near the Shawsheen River reported the smell of raw sewage and a foul, cloudy discharge coming from a stormwater drain behind the South Lawrence East School.

In May of last year, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent a letter to Lawrence DPW Director Frank McCann informing the City of Lawrence that the EPA had first hand knowledge that the city was pumping wastewater (human waste) into the Shawsheen River. A story appearing in the June 2010 edition of The Valley Patriot detailing how members of the Shawsheen River Watershed Council and parents involved in the South Lawrence East Little League said the smell of human waste was often so strong as to overpower the children trying to play on the ballfields.

“The discharge was most prevalent after significant rain fall events indicating a “cross connection” between storm water and sanitary sewers existed somewhere,” Lawrence Conservation Commission chairman Tennis Lilly said.

“The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found itself short on manpower and unable to properly investigate the discharges and asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to step in. EPA field investigators found a significant discharge coming from the outfall pipe that was causing a bloom of bacteria along the floor of the river that resembled white cotton candy. The EPA ordered the city of Lawrence to take steps to immediately deal with the discharge and the city hired a contractor to investigate and locate the source of the pollution.”

A reporter from the Valley Patriot inspected the site in May of 2010 and took the photographs that accompany this story. Our reporter became physically ill before even gaining entrance to the area where the wastewater was freely flowing into the Shawsheen River.

“It poses a health hazard,” EPA enforcement official George Harding told the Valley Patriot. Harding said the contaminated water flowing into the Shawsheen could cause illness to anyone whose skin comes into contact with the water because of E-coli and other contaminants being dumped into the river. It was apparent that school children routinely use this area as

a shortcut.

“While everyone expected to find an illicit sewer connection somewhere in the storm sewer line, none could initially be found,” Lilly added. “The sporadic nature of the discharges frustrated efforts to find the source as Massachusetts entered a drought in late summer.”

The Shawsheen River runs through South Lawrence and into North Andover where it empties into the Merrimack River at Sal’s Riverwalk near Rt. 495. Harding said that as far as he knew, town officials in North Andover were not notified by Frank McCann or the City of Lawrence that human wastewater was flowing into the Shawsheen, posing potential health hazards running through North Andover.

Chairman of the North Andover Board of Selectman Tracey Watson audibly gasped when she was asked for a comment on the water contamination last June. “Are you kidding?” she asked after a long pause. When told that the human wastewater has been flowing into the Shawsheen since at least April, Watson was speechless and then became emotional.

“If the date of that letter is May 3rd like



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

you say,” Watson told our reporter, “we should have been notified that day. That river runs right through North Andover and by the way, it empties into the Merrimack.

So, this waste is flowing right into that

SEWAGE: PAGE 25

FIRE CHIEF MURPHY SPEAKS OUT: FROM PAGE 8

Fire Department for 31 years. I have worked my way up through the ranks, through the civil service process, because that is what we have to have in place in the city of Lawrence. I was appointed, acting chief on January 4, 2010 and have been in the chief’s position since that time. In mid march, I was notified by this administration that I will be made Civil Service Chief. I was called to the personnel office and signed the required paperwork. The next communication I received was approximately two months later. It was an e-mail copy that we all get for the agenda for the city council meeting that was going to be held on May 19, 2010. In the agenda, under the new business, there is a listing of homeroom petition exempting position of Fire Chief from Civil Service. No one from the administration informed me that this was occurring. My understanding from the administration, prior to this notice, was that the chief was going to remain in civil service and myself. I believe that my faults, at least as far as this administration is concerned are that I have been relentless and outspoken with regards to the cut backs in fire suppression and the predictable outcomes that will result. On Friday January 7, 2011, Mayor Lantigua issued a directive to me that in effect, forbid myself and fire department members from making public comments to the media at fire incidents. I would like

to know, when the fire chief is forbidden from making public comments with regards to fire fighting staff levels, mutual aid, adequacy of available equipment, who then, will inform the public of these deficiencies. Who will be at there if the fire chief can’t do it? I believe that if our fire chief was not relentless and outspoken with regards to fire suppression and the conditions in Lawrence, the fire department would have not received the \$6.6 million dollar grant that we were just notified that we are receiving yesterday, which allows the department to hire 38 firefighters for a 2 year period with no strings attached. This will bring us up to at least a base level fire protection, which is where we have to be at. At this time, I would like to acknowledge our grant writer Lt. Paul Macarone from the Lawrence Fire Department, who worked tirelessly putting this grant together and putting the narrative together. All of the data and costs associated with this grant for a successful grant. (applause) This grant is exceptional to the Lawrence Fire Department and it’s unfortunate that it had to be fought hard to get it through this administration. I believe that instead of continuously throwing road blocks in front of the fire department, if this administration had instead worked with the department, the end result would have been more advantageous to the city. I believe this decision to remove the chief’s

position from civil service was made in order that I have not made permanent fire chief. I fully believe that there will be disclaimers indicating “Oh no, it’s not personal, we just want to do what’s right for the city and we just want to be responsible. If that’s the case, can you explain to me why after working at the Lawrence Fire Department for 31 years, after having followed all of the requirements and being an active civil service fire chief why no one from this administration has even bothered to ask me for my resume to see what qualifications I have. Can you explain to me why after being on the fire department for 31 years and after actually have been fire chief for the last 381 days, why no one from this administration has even bothered to ask what I have accomplished in that time. I have just a few more items to go over. A few thank yous and a couple of other comments. I would, personally like to thank counselor Mark Laplante for his support and efforts to address the mutual aid response issues and his support to bring back fire suppression levels to, at least a baseline level. (applause) I would like to thank all of the citizens here tonight in support of the department. I would, also, like to thank the citizens at home who are in support of the department. I would like to thank all of the citizens who I have met at the neighborhood groups, group meetings and other events to express their support for the Lawrence Fire Department. It is truly appreciated. I would like to thank my wife, Judy, for her support. I would, es-

pecially like to recognize and thank each and every member of the Lawrence Fire Department. These department members have been subjected to unwarranted and uncalled for criticism of delayed responses to incidents, unwarranted calls for investigations of fire incident operations, unwarranted accusations about the causes of fires and bizarre threats of recruiting citizens to follow firefighters and spy on their operations. In addition to the above list, the work load for the remaining firefighters has increased to a point where we are seeing injuries to our firefighters. Even after all of this, the department members still put together a significant package that brought 8 laid off members back to work. These department members have remained professional throughout this ordeal. As indescribable as these last 381 days have been for the department, for my family, myself both physically and mentally, I will tell you, without a doubt, that this year will be the highlight of my career, because I will be able to say that I was chief of the Lawrence Fire Department during the most difficult year in its history and the Lawrence Fire Department performed in the highest honor and tradition of the Lawrence Fire Department. I just have one more item, is Mayor Lantigua still here? Mayor? I am officially notifying you at this time, I will be stepping down and go back to the position of Deputy Chief. As a professional courtesy, I will give you up to 30 days notice to find an effective date on February 20, 2011 at 08:00 hours. (8AM)”

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

LAWRENCE-NORTH ANDOVER, Awwwww.....Cedar Crest is Closing. Well if you have been reading my notebook faithfully for the last few years you know that I broke the story that Cedar Crest was closing in Lawrence and moving to North Andover before anyone else. I also reported that Cedar Crest was being replaced by a Burger King on Broadway in Lawrence. But then, former Lawrence Mayor Mary Claire Kennedy told the Tribune that my report of her leaving Lawrence and selling out to Burger King was "a lie"... only to have a Burger King show up on that very spot a few months later. Well, now Cedar Crest is closing in North Andover because, of course, Mary Claire Kennedy is running her business the way she ran the City of Lawrence. With a really good possibility that Shadi's of Methuen (which burned down on Christmas day) will be moving in where Cedar Crest is on Rt. 125 in North Andover, all I can say is that time always proves who's telling the truth. I am crossing my fingers because I live a few blocks away and Shadi's has GREAT food. Grape leaves anyone?

CONGRATULATIONS TO WRKO RADIO – When FM talk radio station WTKK summarily canceled the contract of talk host and author Michele McPhee, it was a devastating loss for the Merrimack Valley. McPhee has a keen interest and understanding of the shenanigans of Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua and his three stooges (Blanchette, Degnan and Bonilla) and for a month or so it seemed like Lawrence's biggest advocate in the Boston media had been silenced by corporate radio (I HATE corporate radio!). But WRKO (AM 680) has picked up McPhee and put her in their daily afternoon lineup from 1pm to 3pm. Michele didn't waste any time in her new gig talking about Lawrence on her very first show. You can listen to Michele's show on-line at wrko.com. You can also go to amazon.com and order any of her true crime books including her newest release "A Date with Death" the story of the Craig's List Serial Killer. Welcome BACK Michele! The people of Lawrence need you to help inform the rest of the State taxpayers who are PAYING for Lawrence



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how badly Lantigua is mismanaging the city and raping it blind with all his Richard Nixon paranoid delusions and his elite mentality that he "owns" the City.

NORTH ANDOVER ELECTIONS – With the North Andover town elections coming up at the end of March The Valley Patriot and WHAV radio will be partnering up to do candidate profiles and will be holding a debate next month with the candidates for selectmen and school committee. See my interview with Tracy Watson on page 6 of this edition and stay tuned to WHAV.NET each Thursday night for North Andover election updates as we will have one candidate on each week till Election Day! As soon as we have a date for the debate it will be posted on line.

DINUCCIO'S HONESTY – Methuen mayoral candidate Al DiNuccio appeared on the Paying Attention! radio program last week (see story on interview on page 20). During his interview, I asked DiNuccio who he "doesn't like" in Methuen politics. It is a question I usually ask all candidates at some point and most of them refuse to answer because they are all concerned with what people might think. But DiNuccio jumped at the opportunity to answer the question saying "I'm going to answer that question, I don't like Steve Zanni's politics, don't get me wrong I am not saying I don't like him personally, I'm just saying I don't like his politics." DiNuccio says that he LOVES Jeanne Papalardo the West District Councilor and her husband Joe and is committed to answering any questions asked of him during this campaign adding "this is the gloves off campaign." I admire DiNuccio's honesty and his willingness not to hide his real opinions on issues and people. It's a VERY

rare quality in a politician these days.

SPEAKING OF THE METHUEN MAYOR'S RACE – Our sources have been adamantly reporting back to us all of last month that Methuen Mayor Billy Manzi and State Senator Steve Baddour have been feverishly trying to convince former State Senator Jim Jajuga to run for Mayor. One thing for sure it promises to be a crowded field this November as Mayor Manzi is prohibited from running again because of term limits. Our sources also say that Councilor Steve Zanni may be running for mayor. If Zanni does jump in you can bet there will be lots of conflict between his campaign and the DiNuccio campaign.

FINEGOLD'S PRIORITIES – Spend, Spend, Spend! New State Senator Barry Finegold (who supported giving Lawrence a \$35 million bailout) sent out a newsletter this month out-

lining his "priorities" for the new legislative session on Beacon Hill. He lists as his top three priorities the "Jobs" bill which is actually a spending bill, pushing the Wind Siting Bill, which invests money in an ineffective and overly expensive industry which does nothing but makes people feel good and the Financial Literacy Bill, which will also spend more money on education. So, to summarize, Senator Finegold's priorities are; spending more money, "investing" in an industry which loses money and spending more money on education. What's not in his list of priorities? How about public safety? How about strengthening laws to protect public information from dictators like Willie Lantigua who routinely violates public information requests? How about CUTTING spending and investigating waste and corruption? NOPE, Barry is still a naïve ideologue but hey, you voted for him and you will now get more of the same... NOTHING!

THE MSPCA AT NEVINS FARM in conjunction with Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society will be holding an annual Spay Day event starting on Saturday February 19th and ending on Sunday February 20th. This event is for MA and NH low income residents that can demonstrate financial need. If you are aware of any local residents in your community that could benefit from this service please forward the following information to them. - Cost: Dogs - Pit bulls and pit bull mixes \$50.00 (male or female) - Female Dogs other than pit bulls \$100.00 - Male Dogs other than pit bulls \$75.00 All Cats (male or female) \$25 - Includes: Spay/neuter, microchip, distemper/parvo vaccination, rabies vaccination - Payment is required at sign up and no later than Tuesday February 15 (cash or credit) - Dogs must be less than 5 years old and under 100 lbs If interested please come to the MSPCA at Nevins Farm located at 400 Broadway in Methuen, MA 01844 to fill out an application, sign up, and pay (payment must be made before Tuesday Feb. 15 with cash or credit). Space is limited so please contact us as soon as



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possible. If you have any questions or need more information please call (978) 687-7453 press option 8 and enter extension 6101 or Methuen@mspca.org.

WCAP – It looks like Clark Smidt from WCAP radio is at it again! Smidt has filed a lawsuit against his partner Colonel Sam Poulton claiming that Poulton is running the station into the ground and whining that Colonel Sam isn't selling enough ads. You may remember, I used to do my radio show on WCAP and experienced Poulton and Smidt. In the time I did The Paying Attention! radio show at WCAP Smidt promised not to interfere with the content of my show and then routinely swore and screamed at me about things he did or did not want me to say on the air. He tried to micromanage the way I did my show, called me into "meetings" about what I posted on facebook and interrogated me about things I did in my free time outside the station.

In the two plus years I was at WCAP I had been treated very well by Colonel Sam Poulton who actually kept his word when he gave it and communicated with me about what was expected of me and what was going on at the station. This was in stark contrast to the way Smidt treated me and employees of the station whom he routinely berated in front of others, bullied, and turned against each other. Smidt also fired one of hardest working guys in radio Lou Blasi and after firing him he challenged Blasi's application for unemployment. In short Smidt is a real piece of work and now he is aiming his hatred and venom towards the only guy at that station holding it together: Colonel Sam Poulton. The Valley Patriot will be following this court battle VERY closely and next



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month we will be publishing an in depth story about the legal battles at WCAP.

CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ABANDONING SCOTT BROWN – In

the last few months there have been several stories in the media about conservative groups that donated to Senator Scott Brown's campaign now abandoning him for siding with the Democrats once in a while. Some have already said they will not only refuse to donate to his next campaign but will campaign against the conservative Republican. What a joke! Don't these single focused conservatives realize that if Scott Brown had lost the last election Marsha Coakley would be voting with Democrats 100% of the time? Instead, Brown has been voting with the Republicans about 80% of the time and with the Democrats about 20% of the time. So, what they are saying in effect is that because Brown doesn't tow the party line 100% they would rather have a Democrat



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who always votes against their agenda. This is the very reason why Republicans lost the White House and for the last two years lost both Houses of Congress. Senator Brown is doing a fantastic job in Washington and anyone who thinks that having him defeated to a Massachusetts liberal Democrat next year will HELP advance the cause of conservatism is completely delusional.

THE MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT will be holding its annual Spring Plant Sale on Friday April 22 (3-6 pm) and Saturday April 23 (8am - noon) at the 4H Fairgrounds, Westford, MA. All items are available to order in advance via our website, or by calling 978-692-9395 to request a brochure. Items include tree and shrub seedlings, perennials, fruits, groundcovers and garden supplies (cow manure, rain barrels, compost bins, TickTubes, etc).

THE 3RD ANNUAL AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY BICYCLES BATTLING CANCER - Informational Sessions set for February 16, 25, and 27 in Belmont. Beginner and veteran cyclists are invited to make their miles more meaningful by participating in the third annual American Cancer Society Bicycles Battling Cancer set for Sunday, June 12. Choose a ride option right for you, the Century Ride - 100 miles starting in Worcester; the Metric Century Ride - 100 km/ 62 miles starting in Northborough; or Bicycles Battling Cancer Lite - 30 miles starting in Holliston. Bicycles Battling Cancer allows participants the opportunity to get fit, have fun, and make a difference, all while raising funds to support Society's critical mission to save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well and get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back. Informational sessions will be held at Belmont Wheelworks, 480 Trapelo Road on Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, February 27 at 10:00 a.m., anyone wanting to learn more is encouraged to attend. For more information, or to register for Bicycles Battling Cancer, please contact your American Cancer Society at 1.800.227.2345 or visit cancer.org/bicyclesbattlingcancer.

LINCOLN DAY CELEBRATION - The Chelmsford Republican Town Committee will hold its annual Lincoln Day Celebration at the Chelmsford Country Club, 66 Park Road Chelmsford on Friday February 11th at 7PM. We will also be celebrating the 100th birthday of Ronald Reagan. There will be visits and a few words from Abe Lincoln and Ben Franklin as well as other speakers. A buffet and beverages will be available. The donation is \$15/person and \$25/couple. Please join us for a patriotic, enjoyable evening. Contacts: Tom Gilroy at tmgilroy@comcast.net, or Kelly Curran at leftfreedomring@live.com.

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The Methuen Exchange Club recently mounted and dedicated a FREEDOM SHRINE at the Greater Lawrence Technical School on River road in Andover, MA. The Freedom Shrine is a collection of 20 historical documents chronicling numerous significant events in our country's history. Examples of some of the authors are George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, The Founding Father's in The US Constitution, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

Present at the dedication were (left to right) Exchange Club members Arthur Hutton, Project Chair Brad Jones and Kathy Jones, followed by school members George Tsekrekas (History Teacher/Department Head), Kimberly Matute (Junior/Class President), Adolfo Acevedo (Senior/Information Technologies) and Superintendent John Lavoie.

Thousands of Freedom Shrines have been dedicated throughout the United States and Puerto Rico in universities, libraries, schools, state capitals, city halls and American outposts scattered throughout the world. The documents have been reproduced and permanently laminated to individual plaques. They are used by teachers, students and other groups to study American history.



No need to cut through or tunnel under when you can just walk over the fence. This photo from inside the Middleton Jail depicts the lack of understanding the Sheriff and his administration have of facility security. "The Sheriff is running a dangerous facility," says Damien Ankatel, former candidate for Sheriff. "Plowing and piling snow against a house of corrections fence is not only unsafe but is stupid. Might as well just give them the keys."



Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4, Haverhill MA donated 17 of the "For Which It Stands" flag education DVDs to the Haverhill School system. Starting on the left: Joe Bevilacqua, President School Committee, John Lenotte Post 4 Commander and Dept. Vice Commander, Mayor James Fiorentini and James Scully, Superintendent of Schools.

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Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi (center) with Methuen’s Police Officer of the Year, Detective Michael Blanchette (right) and Firefighter of the Year Michael Firth, (left). Both public safety officials were honored last month by the Methuen Exchange Club. Detective Blanchette has created and oversees the Merrimack Valley Loss Prevention Network, an innovative way to combat retail loss. The network has grown to 117 members. Firefighter Michael Firth, while off duty and coaching Methuen Pop Warner, applied CPR to a 9 year old player who had collapsed and had no pulse. The boy was revived and brought to a hospital where an internal defibrillator was implanted and the boy’s life was saved. Thank you to the recipients for their work in protecting the public.

RAW SEWAGE: FROM 21

river that we worked so hard to clean up.”

Selectman Dan Lanen echoed Watson’s concerns. “I’m shocked that nobody from Lawrence bothered to pick up the phone and let us know that we had contaminated water running through our town. Town officials should have been notified.”

Selectman Watson said last week that neither she nor the the Board of Selectmen have ever been notified as to the status of the raw sewage being dumped into the Shawsheen “nobody has informed us that they have found the problem or that they are solving it,” she said. “We don’t know anything because nobody over there is communicating with us.”

But the City of Lawrence has, indeed found the culprits. Finally, after inspectors worked their way “up the pipe”, the culprits were finally discovered.

Conservation Commission Chair Tennis Lilly says that two businesses on South Union Street were found to be the culprits.

“The Bagel Boy bakery on South Union Street was found to be disposing its’ wastewater into stormwater drains instead of the sanitary sewer as required by law. Bagel Boy’s wastewater is rich in organic waste including flour and yeast which would provide a smorgasbord for bacteria to feed on. And, while DPW workers were investigating the Bagel Boy bakery, the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant was

observed dumping grease and cleaning products into their storm drains.

Lilly says that the DPW and Inspectional Services “met with both businesses and required them to take immediate steps to stop their illicit disposal of waste. Since these enforcement actions took place in early fall of last year, the outflow to the Shawsheen has been largely free of pollution, but more work needs to be done.”

“It remains a mystery why the worst discharges occurred after rain events, something that would usually indicate a cross connection between storm and sanitary sewers. Storm and Sanitary sewer lines run very close together at the Kane School site [where the South Lawrence East School is now located] and the possibility of another damaged pipe leaking into the storm sewer hasn’t been ruled out. More importantly, Bagel Boy and KFC need to keep their waste out of the storm sewer system. As with many environmental problems, the solution isn’t found in more regulation, it requires ethical decision making by stakeholders. Often, education is just as effective as punishment in solving problems,” Lilly said.

North Andover Selectman Watson said that she was “very concerned about the people of North Andover” and added that had she known about the situation when it occurred she would have taken steps to make sure the public was aware of the



PHOTO: DEBBIE PAPALIA

Abby Johnson, former leader of the abortion group planned parenthood and author of “UnPlanned” holds up her copy of the Valley Patriot at the “March for Life” in Washington DC last month. The march for Life is held every January in protest of Roe V. Wade the Supreme court ruling which stated that Abortion was a “constitutional right. Many at the rally held signs saying “Roe V. Wade: a Constitutional WRONG!”



Lawrence’s “Mill City Junior Maulers” football team hold up their trophies from “Fifth Grade Trophy Night” at the Lawrence Public Library last month.



PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN

An unknown white foamy substance collects on the rocks directly downstream in the Shawsheen River. The substance is flowing from a drainage pipe that empties into the river directly behind the South Lawrence East School. This pipe also flows just a few short yards from the baseball fields where the South Lawrence East, Little League plays ball. Kentucky Fried Chicken and Bagel Boy have been found to be illegally dumping into the Lawrence sewage system.

problem.

“When is the insanity [in Lawrence] going to stop,” she asked, with desperation in her voice.

“We had the illegal dumping down there (last year) and now this? When is someone going to go into that city and put a stop this kind of stuff? All I want is for

Lawrence to succeed and be a vibrant city, but I don’t see it happening. I see it going backwards, it’s frightening. They need to inform neighboring communities when things like this happen and as of right now we still have not been informed by the Lawrence what is going on with our river.”

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... and We're STILL Waiting for an Apology

Christine Morabito
MERRIMACK VALLEY TEA PARTY

The Tea Party and conservative talk radio survived another unwarranted character assault after last month's horrific shooting rampage in Arizona. While conservatives prayed for our country, others cast stones.

There will always be unscrupulous opportunists who attempt to advance their political agenda at every turn. But, to politicize a national catastrophe, in order to silence the opposition, is about as sleazy as it gets. The progressives' knee-jerk reaction bears an uncanny resemblance to their initial response to the Ft. Hood shooting and the plane crash into the Texas IRS building. Then, as now, they were dead wrong.

It all began when Pima County Sheriff, Clarence Dupnik (D-AZ) admitted he was in possession of very few facts, yet blamed the shooting on "vitriolic rhetoric" and those who "mistrust government." He called Arizona "the Mecca for prejudice and bigotry," referring to American citizens who oppose illegal immigration. This drew progressives like piranhas to a feeding frenzy. Now they named names. New York Times columnist, Paul Krugman, unmatched in his knack for stepping in it, accused Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh of creating a "climate of hate." MSNBC's Chris Matthews recklessly vilified conservatives Michael Savage and Mark Levin, and Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) offered the harebrained suggestion that we "re-think our parameters on free speech."

Before long those pathologically obsessed with Sarah Palin began to emerge from the woodwork like cockroaches at sundown. Palin was actually accused of promoting violence by using political metaphors and crosshairs on her website. While it is true, she used the term "reload," clearly, she was not referring to shooting anyone—any more than we would literally throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Remember our own President promising "hand to hand combat" if Republicans won the majority in Congress? When referring

to political opponents he also remarked, "If they bring a knife to the fight, we'll bring a gun." According to author, Ann Coulter, "Obama is the first American President to advocate gun fights since Andrew Jackson."

It should be crystal clear to anyone with an IQ over 50 that Arizona shooter, Jared Loughner, is the very antithesis of a conservative. His obsession with the Congressman notwithstanding, those who knew him admitted he would rather talk philosophy than politics. He is an alleged atheist, a fan of Karl Marx and lists the Communist Manifesto and Mein Kampf as his favorite books. He believes George Bush was responsible for 9/11, the Mars Rover landing was faked and that we should use marijuana as currency. Somehow, I can't picture this fellow listening to AM talk radio. Finally, Loughner's affinity for flag burning, belief in mind control and the fact that he was rejected from the military for drug abuse, leads me to believe the young man was probably not a regular visitor to Sarah Palin's website. It stands to reason that attending Tea Party rallies was not on his agenda either.

For nearly two years, the left has been tripping all over themselves (metaphorically speaking) to link the Tea Party to some violent act. They crash our parties and attempt to provoke us, but the infiltrators rarely succeed. At a rally last summer, I noticed an attendee who was—shall I say—not like the others. He wore black, had a shaved head and was adorned with a myriad of tattoos, with piercings out of every discernible orifice. At the height of the rally, this miscreant marched into the middle of the street, and with an enormous smirk on his face proceeded to set fire to an American flag. The scene might have turned ugly, had cooler heads not prevailed. Several Tea Party members were restrained from delivering what they considered a well deserved pummeling to the flag burner.

It is pure hypocrisy for progressives to accuse conservatives of promoting violence. Michelle Malkin's article entitled:



"The progressive 'climate of hate:' An illustrated primer, 2000-2010" exhibits this point brilliantly. Her examples will shock and amaze.

I'm no conspiracy theorist, but I'm astonished by the mainstream media's consistent failure to report violence perpetrated against conservatives. Recently, ABC News Anchor, Christiane Amanpour hosted a Tucson town hall, gathering together victims and witnesses to the shooting. Eric Fuller, a shooting victim, took a picture of Tea Party leader Trent Humphries and threatened him, shouting, "You're dead." Fuller was escorted away and subsequently arrested. When Amanpour mentioned the incident, she seemingly forgot to mention that the threat was made against a Tea Party member. In 2009, when conservative activist Kenneth Gladney was badly beaten by SEIU members, FOX News was the only network to cover it. Coincidence—or something more?

Evidence now suggests that Sheriff Dupnik may have been motivated by self-preservation when he recklessly blamed conservatives for the senseless shooting. Loughner's history includes arrests for possession of a controlled substance and for drunkenness. These and other run-ins

clearly indicate that he was well known to Dupnik's department. Loughner had also made threats against staff at his former college and members of the media. Had these threats been taken seriously, perhaps this horrible event could have been avoided.

Reports that Loughner legally purchased a firearm are false. According to civil rights activist, Rob Doar, Loughner committed a felony when he lied on his ATF form, used to purchase the handgun. Question 11-E deals specifically with drug use, and had it been answered honestly, would have made Loughner ineligible to own a gun. If the shooter was willing to commit a felony to obtain the weapon and in turn violate the most sacred of all laws—Thou shalt not kill—then all the gun laws in the world would not have stopped him.

Please join our next Merrimack Valley Tea Party meeting:

February 16th @ 7 p.m. - VFW Hall 32
Park Street N. Andover, MA



Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and a member of the Merrimack Valley Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@hotmail.com

Res Publica Color Blind

by David Trumbull

On January 11th Evergreen Solar, Inc., a manufacturer of solar power products announced its intent to shut down operations at its Devens, MA., manufacturing facility. According to an Evergreen Solar press release, the company intends to completely shut down the Devens manufacturing facility by the end of the first quarter of 2011. In total, the company expects that approximately 800 employees will be affected by this action.

In announcing the loss of jobs in Massachusetts the company cited the difficulty of competing saying, "Solar manufacturers in China have received considerable government and financial support and, together with their low manufacturing costs, have become price leaders within the industry."

Evergreen will continue to make solar power panels, but the company will do so in China.

So much for the, "new green energy economies that can create countless well-paying jobs." That line is from President Obama's speech on the occasion of the February 17, 2009 signing of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Remember that more than \$800 billion "stimulus" package? It took money from hard-working Americans suffering during the economic slowdown and redistributed it to well-financed and politically-connected special interest groups. Kudos again to the Republicans in the House

for hanging together and opposing that Obama-nation. Obama and the Democrats in Congress got to play Santa and give out favors to every left-wing group in town. You and me—and our children—will pay for years to come with a lower standard of living and weakened economic prospects for America.

Now we see the results here in the Bay State. Governor Patrick committed the taxpayers to an assistance package for Evergreen Solar to the sum of tens of millions of dollars. Now the company is relocating production to China. No jobs were created—at least not in Massachusetts. According to news accounts the Commonwealth can recover but a fraction of the money lavished on this fashionable green technology.

I'm not the first to note that the so-called "green" movement looks, to those of us who are not color-blind, as just the latest version of the old "red" movement, and with the same effect—money is re-distributed from the earners to some more "deserving" class. "Deserving" class, one may observe, just coincidentally—I'm sure there's no connection—is largely over-lapping with the class known as Democrat voters and contributors to left-wing causers.

David Trumbull is the chairman of the Boston Ward Three Republican Committee. Boston's Ward Three includes the North End, West End, part of Beacon Hill, downtown, waterfront, Chinatown, and part of the South End.

Take Action! Being Pro-Life is more than just "saying" you're pro-life

Debbie Papalia

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

"Being pro-life is more than just saying you're pro-life... you must take action." Seeing these words on a t-shirt has changed my life.

I took baby steps at first by saying a few prayers then I began taking part in an international pro-life movement called 40 Days for Life. I found myself praying outside an abortion clinic in Haverhill that is run by Dr. Marcus Gordon.

Seeing Marcus arrive at 10am in his shiny Mercedes to perform abortions caused me to take another step toward ending abortion by going to the 38th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC. It started in 1974 with about 20,000 people and on January 24, 2011 in the bitter cold an estimated 500,000 came to march for the 50 million aborted babies since Roe v Wade legalized abortion in the U.S. in 1973.

While in DC, my friend and co-patriot Tove Muller attended the March for Life Convention to get information on the growing pro-life movement. A 2009 Gallup Poll revealed that 51% of Americans call themselves "pro-life" and 42% "pro-choice." This is the first time a majority of U.S. adults consider themselves pro-life since Gallup first asked this question in 1995.

We also went to a screening of Blood-Money, a documentary exposing the abor-

tion industry. The film's most eerie part is when a former owner of clinics in Texas hauntingly says, "We would give them [young girls] a low-dose birth control pill they would get pregnant on or a defective condom. Our goal was 3-5 abortions for every girl between the ages of thirteen and eighteen."

In BloodMoney, Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had two abortions, reveals how African Americans have suffered disproportionately; making up just 12 percent of the population, African Americans account for 36 percent of abortions.

I met many women carrying signs saying "I regret my abortion." 5,000 of these brave women are apart of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. They give courageous testimonies about how they regret their abortion so other women won't fall into the trap of believing that abortion is their only choice.

It was amazing to meet Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood Employee of the Year who assisted with an ultrasound guided abortion and saw how a 13 week baby in the womb was trying to escape the probe. She recently wrote a book called Unplanned and speaks out on how this abortion giant has hoodwinked the taxpayers into thinking that they help women when in fact they only profit from them; in 2009, they received \$350 million from

LIFE, page 34



So, You Want to Have Sex?

And you want to have it before you are married. Let's talk about that

Kathleen Laplante
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Why do you want to have sex? Why do you want to have it before you are married? Why don't you just wait until you are married? Ok, you want to have sex now. With whom do you want to have sex? Do you want to lose your virginity with someone you most likely will not marry? Do you mind losing your virginity in the backseat of a car, or in some basement? What if the girl gets pregnant? No birth control is 100% effective.

With the Pill, there is a 1%-4% chance it will be unreliable and you will conceive a child. With the condom, there is a 2%-13% chance. It is like Russian roulette. You never know when you will get the bullet.

She won't get pregnant? Do you know how many teenagers were using artificial contraception and got pregnant unexpectedly?

Are you ready to take on the responsibility of becoming a parent?

Where will you live? How will you pay rent? What about health insurance for the baby?

Who will get a job? Will you leave school?

She might have to live in a shelter. What will you do if she breaks up with you? If she leaves town?

Oh, you won't have to worry about any of that because she will get an abortion.

How do you know she will want to get an abortion?

What will you do if she decides to carry the pregnancy to term?

Do you even know what an abortion is?

Do you know that it involves killing an innocent child?

Don't be fooled by those who say it's just a zygote, or embryo or fetus. Science confirms that human life begins at the moment of conception, so that zygote, embryo and fetus make up stages of a person's life. One stage is as important as another. In fact, if I chose to have an abortion and kill

off the zygote, embryo and fetus that you came from, you wouldn't be here today. No zygote, no toddler or teenager. Our lives are a continuum, deserving of dignity at all stages.

Do you know the risks associated with the abortion procedure?

Who will pay for it?

What if she gets sick after. Will you take care of her?

What about the fetus? Will you bury it? Women who have miscarriages do that.

Will you invite your friends to the funeral?

Will you visit the grave site after?

How will you pay for counseling when you struggle later in life with grief, anger and sorrow?

What will you do if your baby survives abortion?

That will never happen? Gianna Jessen survived abortion. A chemical solution was injected into her mother's womb. It was supposed to burn Gianna inside and out, until she died, and was then expelled. But she did not die. She came out alive. An attending nurse saw her and got her to safety. Gianna is now an adult who speaks out against abortion. This is what she said in her 2008 address to the Parliament House in Victoria, Australia. "There was not a radical feminist, standing up and yelling about how my rights had been violated that day. In fact my life was being snuffed out in the name of women's rights."

Imagine if this exchange took place before parents handed their children a condom or a prescription for the Pill. The discussion might be so revealing and so exhausting for the child that they change their mind about having sex before marriage.

It's definitely worth a shot.



Kathleen Laplante is a member of the Catholic Church. She has two sons and can be reached at klaplante2@yahoo.com

A day of mourning; a day of hope

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

This year's annual March for Life in Washington, DC was held on January 24th, the Monday after the 38th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Since that ruling in 1973 one-third of all pregnancies in the U.S. have ended in surgical abortion. Busloads of people made the journey to Washington from all over Massachusetts and New England. They included college groups, youth groups, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Atheists, and men and women from all walks of life. They have in common that they all began as embryos and believe everyone should have the opportunity to live out their lives.

Two things struck me about this year's march. One was the age of the nearly half million marchers on this very cold day. Most of the sea of humanity assembled from the Washington Mall to Constitution Avenue was under 30 years old. On the one hand this is no surprise, for they are representatives of the survivors of the abortion age, the lucky two-thirds that survived their first nine months in literally the most dangerous place in America today (the womb). On the other hand their presence in such great numbers was a little surprising since they are a generation that has been bombarded with an onslaught of propaganda about the acceptability of abortion as a way of life from both the media and academia. (Predictably the secular media took their annual vacation from this monumental grass roots event.) And these

young adults and teens have no memory of a time when killing preborn children was not legal. Although there was much optimism in the air, marchers were also mourning their missed peers, whom they never got to know.

Before the march thousands of young pilgrims descended upon the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC to first gather and receive their Lord sacramentally at mass. They recall Jesus Himself was conceived of a young teenage girl who had little support, and who may have been killed if she was discovered by authorities. They recall the embryo Jesus at the Annunciation with the angel Gabriel and the fetus Jesus at the Visitation when from the womb His presence made John the Baptist jump in his mother Elizabeth's womb. Both events are recorded in the first chapter of Gospel of Luke.

The second thing that struck me about the march was the amount of women wearing their "Silent No More" sweatshirts and holding signs stating, "I regret my abortion". There was a rally at the end of the march in front of the Supreme Court, as there is each year, with woman after woman coming up to the microphone to tell their stories about the deep pain and regret they have due by their own past abortion. There were also men in this group with signs saying "I regret my lost fatherhood". They too came up to speak. A common theme for those who have personally experienced abortion is their need to seek forgiveness from two parties: God and their

MURANO, page 31

Liberty at a Price: the path to regaining American Exceptionalism

by **LISA MARIE CASHMAN**

If you have ever picked up a history book, then you'll agree that the Jeffersonian triune espousing "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is what defines and sets the United States of America apart from all other nations. Surely, it is the cornerstone, the backbone and the benchmark for excellence in execution. Since the inception of our great nation in 1776 to the present, examples of "American Exceptionalism" are based on those "inalienable rights" contained in the Declaration of Independence. Americans have expressed these rights in a number of profound and meaningful ways including: invention, writing, scientific breakthroughs, industrial and capital commercialism, sports, the arts, altruistic endeavors and leadership. Yes, let's not forget the latter: an important tenant, leadership both domestically and abroad.

A time-held honor throughout the centuries, American Exceptionalism has bore on its wings a new generation aspiring to reach further for the benefit of others while helping our nation to prosper as well. Our forefathers envisioned a life which sought to reduce government's stranglehold on free enterprise, to create freedoms including worship of religion and to foster growth of "one nation under God." In the early 1800's, Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America further recorded the progression of this movement as the United States embarked on its first acquisition led by Jefferson resulting in the Loui-

siana, Purchase of 1803. de Tocqueville likened America's "ardent fervor" to an insatiable hunger for freedom and equality to find a common ground. Of course, the French government bore some resemblance to this model through its egalitarian system, but the uniqueness of the American ideals was a continued preoccupation for de Tocqueville and so many others who sought to replicate the countless successes and accomplishments. He marveled at the passion our early forefathers had for freedom, but remarked it was not always in step with liberty on a political, socio and economic level. Perhaps his inference looked to the issue of slavery which would soon come to an end.

Territorial expansion and filibustering marked the first outgrowth of passing on the precepts of liberty continentally. Fast forward to post WWII, and ingenuity picked up tremendous steam ushering in the Industrial Revolution in the early 1920's the pre-cursor to the Golden Ages for America. With the formidable and painful lessons of the Depression left behind, leaders in both the political and business world moved ahead creating, inventing, and manufacturing some of the great firsts in the history of the world. Electricity, diesel fuels, cars, airplanes...you name it we were on a roll. As the outpouring of genius and generosity expanded to help rebuild not only America, so did the hearts and minds of Americans reach across the borders and seas to help rebuild our allies torn apart from the war. Not only did this have a pro-

found impact on free market enterprise and the ability to rise from the ashes to become a super power nation, but it played into our leadership in pivotal policy implications both here and abroad. The most striking examples are in our leadership role as "honest broker" in international disputes. This unique view of us and the world's perception of the USA, has given Europe in post WW II its longest sustained period of peace in its history; it defeated communism, and the entire movement for human rights, has its roots in American Exceptionalism.

For the next two decades, the United States would enjoy comfort and leisure. Our government became not only a moniker for other countries but also a lending institution abroad for other governments rebuilding and fashioning nascent democracies. As the pressure mounted to be "the" absolute role model to the world, it pushed the envelope beyond the comfort level of our nation fiscally. Chinks in the armor became apparent. Democratic control of the Congress and White House slowly began to shift fiscal responsibility back into the federal government's hands. More tax and spend legislation put the government back into people's pockets and businesses with regulations. A culmination of years of prosperity soon gave way to an impending and growing deficit, largely ignored by incumbents as more money poured out of the U.S. and exports slowly became less than our imports with the onset of trade agreement with China. Globalization of the economy was whispered in the backrooms by Liber-

als and Conservatives, but the former forgot to maintain control of ownership making decisions that would ultimately play into a homogenous effort. The 60's reared a different concept of freedoms which took hold of the next generation and the values and morals that our nation was built upon, started to fray.

Despite these subtle but undeniable changes in the American fabric, American Exceptionalism still persevered despite the trajectory path of overt consumption and endless wars. We not only traveled to the moon but touched its soil before the Soviet Union in a race President John F. Kennedy was hell-bent on winning by the close of the 1960s. Perhaps one of the most reveled quotes: "That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind," delivered by U.S. Astronaut Neil Armstrong as he walked the moon and lived to re-tell it again and again, re-ignited in many of us the faith and sheer determination that Americans can do anything if they set their minds to it. Make no mistake, however, the path leading to the erosion of the American fiscal fitness still moved forward.

The end of the Kennedy era ushered in more foreign policy angst as the baton was passed to his immediate predecessor, Lyndon B. Johnson.

By the early 1980s, President Ronald Reagan redirected fear mongering and pessimism by the Carter Administration to uplift Americans once again with his remarks upon accepting the presidential nomination.

LIBERTY, page 39

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THE DOCTOR IS 

Rotator Cuff Injuries, Part I

Rami Rustum, M.D.
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Rotator Cuff Injury

The rotator cuff is the group of four tendons that stabilize the shoulder joint. The tendons hook up to the four muscles that move the shoulder in various directions.

There are four muscles whose tendons form the rotator cuff: the subscapularis muscle, which moves the arm by turning it inward (internal rotation); the supraspinatus muscle, which is responsible for elevating the arm and moving it away from the body; the infraspinatus muscle, which assists the lifting of the arm during turning the arm outward (external rotation); and the teres minor muscle, which also helps in the outward turning of the arm.

This condition is one of the most common causes of shoulder pain.

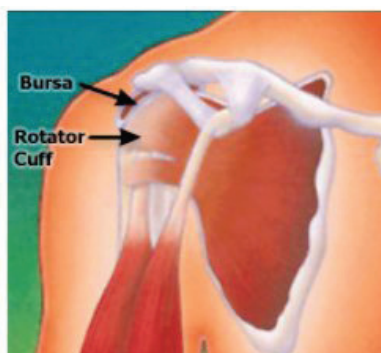
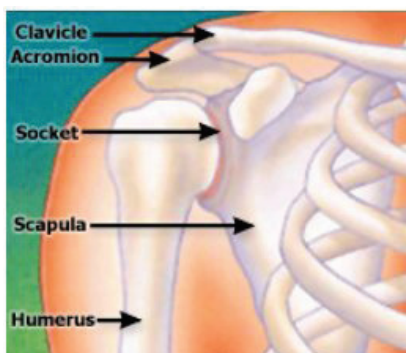
How is the rotator cuff injured?

The rotator cuff can be torn from a single traumatic injury. Patients often report recurrent shoulder pain for several months and a specific injury that triggered the onset of the pain. A cuff tear may also happen at the same time as another injury to the shoulder, such as a fracture or dislocation.

Most tears, however, are the result of overuse of these muscles and tendons over a period of years. People who are especially at risk for overuse are those who engage in repetitive overhead motions. These include participants in sports such as baseball, tennis, weight lifting, and rowing.

Rotator cuff tears are most common in people who are over the age of 40. Younger people tend to have rotator cuff tears following acute trauma or repetitive overhead work or sports activity.

Rotator cuff tear may often happen as a result of wear and tear as a result of degeneration with aging or inflammation due to tendinitis, bursitis, or arthritis of the shoulder.



What are the symptoms of rotator cuff disease?

The most common symptom of rotator cuff disease is shoulder pain. The pain is often noticed gradually and may be first noticed even a day after the actual event which may have caused the injury. Sometimes, a sudden pain occurs during a sport activity. The pain is usually located to the front and side of the shoulder and is increased when the shoulder is moved away from the body. The pain is usually noted to be more intense at nighttime and sometimes increases when lying on the affected shoulder. The pain can diminish and result in a frozen shoulder. There can also be tenderness in the area of the inflamed tendons of the injured rotator cuff.

People with rotator cuff disease usually find it difficult to lift the arm away from the body fully. If the rotator cuff disease involves severe tears of the rotator cuff tendons, it can be impossible for the patient to hold the arm up because of pain.

How is rotator cuff disease diagnosed?

Rotator cuff disease is suggested by the patient's history of activities and symptoms of pain in the shoulder

described above. In making a diagnosis, the doctor can observe increased pain with maneuvers of the shoulder. The pain is due to local inflammation and swelling in the injured tendons of the rotator cuff. Additionally, with severe tendon tears of the rotator cuff, the arm falls due to weakness (positive drop sign) when moved away from the body.

The diagnosis of rotator cuff disease can be objectively confirmed by radiology testing. Sometimes plain x-rays can show bony injuries

which suggest long-standing severe rotator cuff disease when it has been present for some time. An arthrogram involves injecting contrast dye into the shoulder joint to detect leakage out of the injured rotator cuff. The MRI is a noninvasive imaging test which uses a giant magnet and computer to produce fine images of the tissues of the shoulder. An MRI has the added advantage of providing more information than either X-ray or an arthrogram, especially if a condition other than rotator

cuff disease is present.

How is rotator cuff disease treated?

The treatment of rotator cuff disease depends on the severity of the injury to the tendons of the rotator cuff and the underlying condition of the patient.

Mild rotator cuff disease is treated with ice, rest, and antiinflammatory medications (such as ibuprofen and others). Generally, a gradual exercise rehabilitation is instituted. Exercises are used that are specifically designed for rotator-cuff strengthening.

Patients with persistent pain and motion limitation can often benefit by a cortisone injection in the rotator cuff. Sometimes, repeat injections are necessary.

More severe rotator cuff disease can require surgical repair.

Subacromial decompression is the removal of a small portion of the bone (acromion) that overlies the rotator cuff. This removal can relieve pressure on the rotator cuff in certain conditions and promote healing and recovery. This procedure can be done by arthroscopic or open surgical techniques. Both methods have been reported to be equally successful.

The most severe rotator cuff disease, complete full-thickness rotator cuff tears, usually requires surgical procedures

for the best results. These procedures, which can also be done by either arthroscopy or open surgery, involve mending the torn rotator cuff by suturing the tissues back together.

References: 1- Emecinehealth.com, 2- Medi-

cinenet.com, 3- American Academy of Family Physicians, 4- American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, 5- Sports injuries. National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. 6- MayoClinic.com



Rami R. Rustum, M.D. is the Director of Merrimack Pain Associates at 50 Prospect St. in Lawrence. For any questions or concerns, please email Dr. Rustum at: ramirustum@comcast.net

AN INTERVIEW WITH NORTH ANDOVER SELECTMAN TRACY WATSON: FROM PAGE 6

make cuts early and we tend to make them across the board and work with department leaders and if we say "OK, 10% across the board. To date, we have been pretty successful and I think that our main claim to fame is that we try to avoid being contentious with our employees and they work better for us.

Duggan: How come you guys get so much done and get along so well on the board?

Watson: It is funny, because we do joke around about the fact that there's really not much politics in our politics. As five individuals, (two Republicans, three Independents), our goal is always community based. It's not personal, I always say "Ok, you think I'm wrong, enlighten me, change my mind!" We've all been able to, oddly enough, keep our minds open enough for them to be changed from time

to time to benefit the community. I tend to not push my own agenda if I know that in the end, it's not going to be right for the community. I don't look at any of us as politicians, I am a community volunteer and I am very proud of that.

Duggan: Was anyone really concerned about the illegal dumping into the Shaw-sheen that was exposed by the Valley Patriot last summer?

Watson: All the selectmen were concerned and pushed the City of Lawrence to give us more information and we thank you, Tom, for bringing it to light because if you had not, we would have never known. We would have never been formally notified from the city nor from the EPA, so I thank you, Tom, to bringing it to light and for us to be able to find out what was going on. We have not been updated as far as I am concerned.

Duggan: What is your campaign message?

Watson: My message three years ago is the same today, it's simple. I consider myself the right voice, the right choice. I love this community. I am very proud of my record, I've been very effective and I want to continue that. We have new contracts that will be coming up. There is a lot of work still to be done and a lot of work that's been done. I think that I've been very approachable over the last three years. I like to consider myself as a sidewalk politician. You can come to my house, you can call me. We've had issues with billing, we attack those. It's not just the big picture that concerns me, that is a huge thing that is the main focus. But at the end of the day, it's all of the folks in town, too... and they have issues. A lot of times, what happens is, those in charge,

forget about the little things that are going on, too. Like I said, the right voice, the right choice. I tell people to look at my record. I've been able to maintain and not increase taxes ridiculously. There have been no overrides, which I still do not support. I am very, very proud of the contracts that we've been able to do negotiate. I, also, think that I bring the folks' messages to the Statehouse as well. I know what the folks in North Andover want changed there and I am not afraid to go to Boston and let them know what the folks in town want. I feel that I've been a good representative for the people here in town and I'd like to continue that.

There are two open seats up for grabs in the spring Town Elections. There are four candidates: Tracy Watson, Rick Nardella, Don Stewart, and Joe Edward Smith.

Know the “TRUE” Blood Sugar/Blood Glucose Ranges!

Lab testing ranges are EXTREMELY BROAD!

Dr. Jin Sung

VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC COLUMNIST

From a medical standpoint, normal blood glucose levels have a broad range of 70 to 105, while functional or optimal blood glucose level ranges are 85 to 99. According to the American Diabetic Association, a blood sugar level reading of 106 to 126 is termed “insulin resistance” or “pre-diabetes,” and anything above a reading of 127 is diabetes.

Granted, those are fasting blood glucose levels and it is important to note that because many times I will see patients who have been tested and I’ll ask them if they’ve fasted before their test and they will tell me, “No.” You need at least a 12-hour fast, which means absolutely no food, no drinking orange juice or coffee or anything! All that you should have is just water for 12 hours before your test, so you can get an accurate reading of your blood glucose levels.

Supporting hypothyroidism is futile if your blood sugar level is too high or too low.

A reading below 85 would be termed hypoglycemia and a reading above 99 would be termed hyperglycemia. This is called dysglycemia and this is a stepping-stone to diabetes. Diabetes is becoming so prevalent in the United States that authorities are predicting that it may bankrupt the healthcare system.

Hypoglycemia is a condition in which the blood sugar level repeatedly drops too low in response to high carbohydrate foods. Refined sugar is a good example of a high carbohydrate food. Hypoglycemia can also be a result of going too long without eating: and too many Americans are skipping breakfast.

It’s important if your blood sugar is below 85 that you eat every two to three hours. You should have a breakfast, a snack, lunch, a snack, dinner and a light snack before bedtime. The snack can be vegetables, fruit, nuts, and/or seeds but it SHOULD be something healthy.

Insulin resistance is high blood sugar that hasn’t yet reached the point of dia-

betes. It’s called “pre-diabetes” and is a result of the cells becoming resistant to insulin, so that no glucose can enter the cell to make energy.

You need glucose in your cells to make energy. It’s a vital, important part of life. Your brain and nervous system need two things to survive: fuel and activation. Fuel is oxygen and glucose. You see glucose travels in the blood stream until it’s turned into triglycerides for fat storage.

This is why it’s important to monitor triglycerides as well as glucose. The process of turning glucose into triglycerides demands an increased amount of energy causing you to feel tired after eating. So when you are eating a high- carbohydrate diet filled with white bread, pasta, and refined sugar, you cannot keep your blood sugar level stable.

If you feel sleepy or you crave sugar after eating, you know you just ate way too many carbohydrates. If you feel sleepy after a low- or no-carbohydrate meal, you are most likely insulin resistant.

It is literally impossible to support hypoglycemia or insulin resistance unless you eat a healthy breakfast with ample high-quality protein. You need to eat protein in the morning, not carbohydrates. You need to eat eggs, you need to eat lean meat such as turkey or chicken sausage. You need to eat protein in order to support your blood sugar levels.

Even if you feel nauseous first thing in the morning upon waking, eating breakfast is critical and eating a breakfast of high protein will most likely relieve your nausea. Finally, if you have hypoglycemia you should NEVER fast. It will make matters much worse!

Dr. Jin Sung is a chiropractor and the owner of Functional Chiropractic, Inc. He treats patients both neurologically and metabolically to achieve the best outcome. He can be reached at 978 688-6999. Or visit his website at www.DrJinSung.com



Asthma during pregnancy

Dr. Thomas Johnson

VALLEY PATRIOT ALLERGY COLUMNIST

Asthma is a fairly common health problem for pregnant women, including some women who have never had it before. During pregnancy, asthma not only affects you, but it can also cut back on the oxygen your fetus gets from you. But this does not mean that having asthma will necessarily make your pregnancy more difficult or dangerous to you or your fetus. Pregnant women with asthma that is properly controlled generally have a normal pregnancy with little or no increased risk to themselves or the fetus.

Many asthma treatments are safe to use when you are pregnant. After years of research, experts now say that it is far safer to manage your asthma with medicine than it is to leave asthma untreated during pregnancy. Talk to an allergist specializing in asthma and your doctor about the safest treatment for you.

If you have not previously had asthma, you may not think that shortness of breath or wheezing during your pregnancy is asthma. Diagnosis is easily made with adequate lung tests. If you know you have asthma, you may not consider it a concern if you only have mild symptoms. But asthma can affect you and your fetus, and you should act accordingly.

If your asthma is not controlled, you could also be at increased risk for high blood pressure and preeclampsia, a condition that causes high blood pressure and can affect the placenta, kidneys, liver, and brain.

If your asthma is not controlled, your fetus could be at risk for low birth weight, premature birth, and even death. The more control you have over your asthma, the less risk there is.

Pregnant women manage asthma much the same way non-pregnant women do with the exception that special attention is directed at the health of the developing baby.

Like all people with asthma, pregnant women should have an asthma action plan to help them control inflammation and prevent and control asthma attacks. Part of a pregnant woman’s action plan should



also include recording fetal movements. You can do this by noting whether fetal kicks decrease over time. If you notice less fetal activity during an asthma attack, contact your doctor or emergency help immediately to receive instructions.

I personally advise the use of a finger SaO2 meter to monitor oxygen levels. As asthma increases in severity SaO2 (blood oxygen) levels drop and when a woman is expecting the one who suffers the most deprivation of oxygen first is the unborn baby. For severe asthma supplemental oxygen may be supplied to treat periods of low blood oxygenation.

Feel free to consult our practice newsletter and webpage (newenglandallergy.com) for medication alerts, advisories updates and further advice for more information or with concerns regarding asthma and your pregnancy.

Five ways to care for and love our elderly

Terri Crow Mercier

VALLEY PATRIOT SENIOR COLUMNIST

The best ways to show your love for the elderly in your life can often be the simplest and least expensive. Most people in their elder years treasure the small actions, tokens and acknowledgements we give to them. The costly, materialistic things have become less significant in their lives. They have reached that place where the simple acts of love from those they care about are some of the richest gifts they could receive. I have put together a list of five significant ways to show your love for those in your life who have reached this stage, and perhaps this list will guide you or inspire some new ideas. If you have withdrawn from their lives, these suggestions may help to empower and motivate you to take action to make a difference in their lives.

Before we begin with the list, take a few moments to reflect upon the personality, limitations, and emotional needs of your loved ones. When interacting with them, avoid asking them what they need, for usually they will not want to be a bother, and will not admit to needing anything. Be gentle, yet assertive, with decision

making. Always keep their best interests at heart and show tender loving care. Now let’s consider the five suggestions:

1) Remember their birthdays. While all holidays are important, this day is probably the most special to most. Sometimes elderly suffer from some form of dementia. You can start by reminding them the week before their birthday and then a couple of times leading to it as well. Once the day has arrived, do something special for them. Think about things that held meaning in their lives-- a day at the bowling alley... maybe a special lunch... a home-made favorite dish they always enjoyed ... a meal from their favorite restaurant they no longer are able to attend.

2) Visit them on a regular basis. All too often they are no longer able to stay connected with their friends, and visitors are mostly family members. Visit often and do it consistently. Visits do not have to be lengthy. Even a short time shows them that you are thinking of them, and this gives them a sense of continuity. They look forward to these visits so very much. You can read the heartache and longing in the eyes of those who rarely have a visitor. This can even be worse emotionally on

those who have family who do not visit, than for those who have no one in their life.

3) Bring them gifts, but keep it simple. For example, many people make the mistake of replacing older kitchen appliances with new items that work differently. New technology can become overwhelming. Stick with the simplest, easiest models to use and things that they are familiar with for a positive gift-giving experience. Take note of their surroundings to judge what may make their life easier. When buying clothing remember that clothes may not go on or off as easily as it once did. They may need looser fitting clothes due to arthritis. Zippers and buttons may be difficult for their swollen hands. Sweat suits are often popular even if they never wore this type of clothing previously. Sometimes it could be as simple as a new pair of slippers or shoes. Stocking them up on some of their favorite foods or personal items that will keep for a period of time is a welcomed gift. Observe their surroundings and take note of what is worn out, or something that would enhance their well being.

4) Pay Attention! Do you notice a

change with them? Maybe they are not as well groomed or neat in appearance as they usually are. Do they see their doctor regularly? Encourage proper fluid and food intake, and monitor their weight. Check and make sure they are taking their medications correctly. Watch their behaviors and anything that you feel appears different. Elderly are often under diagnosed for serious illness and do not get treated early enough for a positive outcome. We tend to dismiss many things with them as part of the normal aging process. Remember the little things could mean big things medically. Report any concerns to the right source.

5) Provide field trips. This is a big favorite. Physical limitations must be considered and adaptations may have to be made. While the less ambulatory may not be able to walk the beach as they once did, they might still love a car ride along the coast and a stop off for a little seafood snack in the car. An afternoon trip for an ice cream closer to home is also a popular hit. Trips into Boston for a sports event may be too chaotic for them these days, but there are many different

Live the WOW!

THIS is the Moment! THIS is the Time. THIS is the Reason for your very being here on earth. Learn to Love everything about whom and where you are!

Thomas Connors
VALLEY PATRIOT WOW! COLUMNIST

WOW "Living for the Future" has an important place in our lives if we use that philosophy as a motivating force to prepare ourselves for the opportunities that will surely come our way. Its purpose is to guide us in goal setting and measuring how far we can go with our deliberate actions to get ahead. Too often, though, "Living for the Future" becomes something much more sinister and debilitating.

The huge risk we run is "Living for the Future" at the expense of the Present. When that happens we allow ourselves to become Dreamers rather than Doers. Wishful thinking overwhelms us at the expense of meaningful action. We get stuck in a rut. And that rut holds us back from enjoying and loving the present. In fact, in the end, it paralyzes our ability to attract and experience a fulfilled life; of Living the **WOW!**

Wishing your Life Away will Get you Nowhere ...Fast!

Too many of us fall into the trap of wishing our lives away. We want so much out of our lives and put so much hope in our futures that we skip over the wonderful moments that fill the present.

Challenge yourself to refocus your thinking and efforts. Start identifying and recognizing what is happening in every aspect of your life at the present. Your well-being. Your working life. Your Spiritual Life. Take inventory and make note of all the amazing and wonderful things that have been a part of your life to date. You will be surprised at the list of good things you are able to put together.

Grab Hold of the Present and Love it for all it's Worth! Count Your Blessings each and every day.

Learn to appreciate, REALLY appreciate, all you do have. You will be amazed

when you look at your Life through a different set of glasses; ones that are positive and glowing with gratitude.

Take the time to be honest with yourself and count your blessings. Avoid the temptation to see the grass as always greener on the other side. Most times that tempting grass is colored with pigments that run and wash away the very first time it rains.

Rather, take stock of your own Life. Forget about how it compares to others'. Worry about you.

Appreciate the Life you ARE living. Focus on the Job you DO have. Pay Attention to the Prayers that HAVE been Answered.

Put LOVE into every thing you do. That way you won't simply go through the motions. In fact, you will put real MEANING into all your efforts!

Measure your appreciation for Life according to the effort and desire you give to it. Cherish each moment you spend with family and friends. Don't be distracted and let your mind wander when your kids need your attention. Take full responsibility to pursue those things that will help you lay a solid foundation to Living the **WOW!** for the rest of your Life.

When it comes to work, put your heart and soul into every minute you labor. Keep in mind that no job or responsibility is too menial. Use your effort as a prayer to the God above. When you truly learn to Love the work you do, you will never consider it work again. It will be your reward for Living the **WOW!**

And always make time to pray; thanking God above for giving you the chance to do His work here and now. You were put here for a purpose. How you fulfill it is up to you!

Get over the fact that your life is not perfect. Nobody's is. From God above

to each one of us, we all have our ups and downs.

All you have to do is read the Bible to realize not everything went the way Our Lord would have liked. It would have been wonderful if He never had to suffer or see suffering by others. It would have been easier if He never had to throw the money changers out of the temple. It would have been a thankful moment if the "cup" passed and He never had to die on the cross.

But Jesus knew it was all part of His Father's Plan. He knew it was part of His Life on Earth. And despite these less than perfect moments Jesus Loved us and life so much that over two thousand years later we still remember this Man who was Love.

Come for a tour of programs at American Training. I'll show you lives that are not perfect by any stretch either. But, I will also show you how each of our Guests works to bring out his or her best by putting their efforts on the things that bring them joy, satisfaction and fulfillment. I'll show you how motivated people are learning to Love Life this very day!

Love Life and I Guarantee it will Love you back!

Going through the motions as you face each new day is something anybody can do. In fact, that is exactly what most people do. It is also the reason most

people never get to Live the **WOW!** and fully experience and enjoy life. They focus on the wrong things.

Too many see life as a burden and challenge. They focus on the negative in their lives; those little and big bumps in the road that toss them off course and divert their attention elsewhere. You will never see the great things about your life and those golden opportunities out there if you have blinders on and get caught up with the not so good stuff. Save your energy and Love for what is good in your Life.

Once you begin to Love Life and throw yourself into appreciating and enjoying the things you have at this very moment, you will begin to also feel Life Loving you back. At that point, you will know for certain you are on your way to Living the **WOW!** It's a law of nature. Love Life and it will Love you back! Many times over. Now, that's a **WOW!**



{Tom Connors is President/CEO of American Training, a diverse collection of companies committed to "Bringing Out the Best in Everyone They Touch". He believes in living life to the fullest by making the WOW! a regular part of your personal, spiritual and working life. You can reach Tom at Tom@AmericanTrainingInc.com or by writing to him at Tom Connors, American Training, 102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843} © 2011

ELDERLY: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

sports that are played here by Merrimack Valley youth leagues, and most don't even cost a thing to attend. An enjoyable event would be a trip to your home for the day, and spending it doing something that always held meaning in their lives--baking their favorite cookies, gardening, or craft projects with the kids. Hosting a card game or dominoes night and including some of their friends whom they have not been able to see in awhile is especially popular with the men. If they are truly unable to get out, remember, where there

is a will there is a way. If they can't go to the beach, bring the beach to them! Seashells, sand, smooth beach rocks and a little picnic hamper full of goodies are the next best thing. If they can't go out for the ballgames, again bring it to them with baseball cards, books and hotdogs. This will surely put a smile on their face. Be creative and adapt as needed, involve the kids and pets!

May all the love in our lives help melt this never ending snow!

Happy Saint Valentine's Day to you all!

MURANO: FROM PAGE 27

unborn child. Sometimes this comes after years of denial and reckless behavior due to their unconscious attempt at covering the pain. Another commonality is the peace they feel afterwards and the determination they have to stop others from experiencing the awful truth about abortion.

While it was a day to celebrate life with hopes that the new congress will do something legislatively about America's

shameful holocaust, it was also one of deep mourning of lost peers from the marchers under 38, and the missing children, grandchildren, and siblings of those who are, as they themselves put it, silent no more.

Paul Murano is a professor of ethics and theology and the co-host of the Paying Attention! radio Program on WHAV.NET.

You can Email Paul Murano at pjdm@aol.com.



Dave Guselli
Realtor
Office: 978-689-8006
Fax: 1-866-284-2733
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In Wake of Officer Maguire’s Murder by a Deval Patrick Parolee ...

Senators Tarr and Baddour Lead Parole Reform Effort

Flanked by a bipartisan coalition of Senate supporters, Senate Minority Leader Bruce E. Tarr (R-Gloucester) and Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) held a State House press conference today to announce the filing of comprehensive legislation reforming the State’s parole system.

The bill, which has drawn strong support in the Senate, would create new minimum sentencing guidelines before individuals who are serving a life sentence can qualify for parole, while eliminating the prospect of parole for anyone serving more than one life sentence. It also establishes a process for removing parole board members and requires district attorneys, law enforcement, victims and the families of victims to receive advance notice of parole hearings so they can have an opportunity to testify before the parole board.

The reform package was filed in response to the December 26th shooting death of Woburn Police Officer John “Jack” Maguire, who was killed by parolee Dominic Cinelli, a violent career criminal who was serving three concurrent life sentences before he was released in 2008.

On January 6th, Tarr, Baddour and 18 other Senators called for a moratorium on parole hearings pending the outcome of an investigation into the Cinelli case, with many of the Senators demanding the parole board members resign. Exactly one week later, on January 13th, the five board members who had voted in favor of paroling Cinelli submitted their resignations.

“The resignation of the parole board members was a necessary first step for addressing the gross miscarriage of justice that failed Officer Maguire and his family, but the process of implementing meaningful and lasting reforms to restore the public’s faith and trust in our criminal justice system has only just begun,” said Senator Tarr. “The reforms contained in this bill will move us that much closer to creating a parole and sentencing system that emphasizes public safety and accountability.”

“This bill blends a tough-on-crime and commonsense approach towards those convicted of violent crimes by implementing immediate changes and reforms to the Parole Board and the parole process,” said Senator Baddour. In addition to banning parole for individuals serving multiple life sentences, the bill would also require those individuals who receive one life sentence to serve a minimum of 25 years before becoming eligible for parole, rather than the current 15. A two-thirds vote of the seven-member parole board would be needed to grant parole to lifers, and those who are denied parole would need to wait a minimum of five years before they get another chance at parole, unless they can show a genuine change of circumstances. The reform package also:

- * Requires habitual offenders to serve the maximum sentence for their third felony, with no chance at parole (currently, those receiving a maximum sentence are eligible for parole after serving only half their sentence);

- * Mandates that three members of the parole board have at least five years of state law enforcement experience within the previous 10 years (although one board member can have the equivalent amount of federal law enforcement experience instead);

- * Establishes a procedure for removing parole board members for cause;

- * Requires the outcome of parole hearings to be posted on the Internet;

- * Allows for temporary moratoriums on the holding of parole hearings by providing the parole board with the flexibility to suspend the current requirement of holding a hearing within 60 days of eligibility; and

- * Creates a commission to conduct a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis of adopting the federal system, which would eliminate parole and replace it with a system that provides a maximum sentence reduction of 15 percent for good behavior and other mitigating factors.

Bill Summary of parole reform

SECTION 2:

Paragraph 1:

- Parole board members cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms or 10 consecutive years.

- Provides removal procedure for board members: governor may remove them, for cause, with advice and consent of council.

Paragraph 2:

- increases number of people on nominating panel from 5 to 7, and requires that those two be: a law enforcement officer and someone nominated by the Mass District Attorney’s Association.

- Allows the panel to nominate up to 6 people per vacancy, rather than the current minimum of 12 nominations regardless of the number of vacancies.

- removes the requirement that nominees have a 4 year degree.

Paragraph 3:

- requires that at least 3 members of the parole board have 5 years law enforcement experience: 2 must be local, one may be fed.

- Must have at least 2 law enforcement officials in order to have a hearing (to deal w vacancies).

SECTION 3

- requires the outcome of any parole hearing, including a tally of the votes, to be posted on the internet.

SECTION 4 (this section applies only to lifers)

Paragraph 1:

- more than one life sentence not eligible for parole

- ups minimum for life sentence from 15 years to 25 years before eligible for parole.

- can dispense with 60 day hearing

requirement and postpone hearing upon finding of need (to allow moratoriums, etc.)

- Must notify the AG, DA’s, chiefs of police and victims/next of kin at least 60 days before hearing.

- Can’t hold hearing without written certification that notice was received by officials.

Paragraph 2:

- Reiterates that can only hold hearings if have at least 2 law enforcement members on board.

- requires 2/3 of board approval to grant parole for lifers

- If parole denied to lifer, MAY have another hearing NOT MORE than once every five years (previously REQUIRED AT LEAST every 5).

SECTION 5

- Repeals the section of law that allowed parole for habitual offenders (those convicted of 3 or more felonies, each of which had a sentence of at least 3 years).

SECTION 6

- Allows board to dispense with 60 day hearing requirement for non-lifers

SECTION 7

- provides that habitual offenders (those convicted of 3 or more felonies, each of which had a sentence of at least 3 years) are not eligible for parole, they must be sentenced to and serve the maximum penalty for the 3rd felony.

Attached Resolve:

- creates a commission to study the feasibility/cost/benefit of adopting the federal system, which gets rid of parole and provides a maximum of 15% reduction of sentence for good behavior, education etc. See the sentencing reform act of 1984.

SOURCE: STATE SENATOR BRUCE TARR’S OFFICE

Lawyers support change in alimony laws

The Massachusetts Bar Association has voted to support The Alimony Reform Act of 2011, landmark legislation that will enact fair and equitable alimony in Massachusetts. The MBA, a long-time proponent of improving the state’s alimony laws, will advocate for the passage of the act, which will bring long-sought time limits on alimony orders.

The bill was crafted by the Legislative Task Force on Alimony Reform created by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary under the leadership of Sen. Cynthia S.

Creem and Rep. Eugene L. O’Flaherty. MBA President Denise Squillante was both a member of the task force and co-chair of an earlier committee of MBA and Boston Bar Association leaders that issued a report on alimony reform in the spring of 2009.

“There is a critical need for more consistent and predictable alimony orders in Massachusetts,” said Squillante, who operates a family law practice in Fall River. The MBA’s House of Delegates voted unanimously to support The Alimony Re-

form Act of 2011, which has already been filed, at its Thursday, Jan. 20 meeting at the DCU Center in Worcester. The MBA’s Family Law Section has closely monitored the topic of alimony since the early 1990s, and has in the past filed a series of proposed legislation to improve alimony laws.

Among its provisions, the 2011 legislation recommends: Establishing separate alimony categories with clear definitions and set limits on duration; Opportunities to terminate alimony at retirement; Altering alimony when ex-spouses cohabitate with

new partners; Adding factors to consider in an alimony order; and

Allowing judicial discretion to deviate based upon particular case facts

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.

It’s Groundhog Day, 6:00 AM and the election results are in

Tom Weaver

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The results are in – Peter Durant won the election on November 2nd by 4 votes, then he won the recount on November 18th by 1 vote. And now, Superior Court Judge Tucker said in his decision that the result is in doubt, so he ordered a new election, as there was a failure to elect.

Judge Tucker pointed out that there was no fraud. A ballot storage bin was improperly sealed; but there was no evidence of fraud. Two ballots were rejected by the vote machine; but the voters had left the area. The ballots were set aside; again, no evidence of fraud only of two voters that did not complete the voting process. An eligible voter came forward claiming he had not been allowed to

vote. Even though he had voted previously at his precinct and numerous times when he was a resident of another State, he claimed he left the voting area and did not pursue his privilege of voting until later. There were ballots subjected to the “Voter Intent” standard, but there was no indication of fraud. Peter Durant is a Republican....

It’s Groundhog Day

The results are in – Peter Durant won the election on November 2nd by 4 votes, then he won the recount on November 18th by 1 vote. And now, Superior Court Judge Tucker said in his decision that the result was final, Peter Durant won the election by a single vote.

Judge Tucker pointed out that there was no fraud. A ballot storage bin was improperly sealed; but there was no evi-

dence of fraud. Two ballots were rejected by the vote machine; but the voters had left the area. The ballots were set aside; again, no evidence of fraud only of two voters that did not complete the voting process. An eligible voter came forward claiming he had not been allowed to vote. Even though he had voted previously at his precinct and numerous times when he was a resident of another State, he claimed he left the voting area and did not pursue his privilege of voting until later. There were ballots subjected to the “Voter Intent” standard, but there was no indication of fraud. Peter Durant is a Democrat....

It’s Groundhog Day

The results are in – Peter Durant won the election on November 2nd by 4 votes, then he won the recount on

November 18th by 1 vote. And now, Superior Court Judge Tucker said in his decision that the result was final, however, he strongly advises the Great and General Court to modify the rules regarding voting and the voting process.

In his statement, Judge Tucker recommends

- that all voters show a government issued photo Identification to vote;

- that additional material be presented to all voters so that they understand the procedure to be taken if they show up and are denied the right to vote;

- that educational material be created which informs the voter that their right to vote is not final until the vote is counted by the machine;

- that cities and towns be fined if the

GROUNDHOG DAY, page 34

Valentines Day!

Who's your special someone? I don't have one because I'm not allowed to. But I do have a crush on someone. Your special someone can be your boyfriend, girlfriend, wife, husband, or fiancé. No matter who your special someone is, show them how much you love them on Valentines Day this year! Valentines Day is about spending time with the person you love. And if you don't have a special someone, just spend time with another person that doesn't have a special someone. Like a best friend, or a family member (like a sister, brother or cousin!) At my school they are selling Valentine Lollipops. Black and white, the black ones are sour and the white ones are sweet! I am going to get my bff one, (one for me too!) they are \$1.00 a lollipop. That's a lot of money for a lollipop right?! But it's worth it because it is showing someone you love them. Ok, this next part is for GIRLS ONLY!!! Girls, if you have a special guy, they won't want to see like a mushy gushy movie. They will want to see something with action in it. But it's Valentines Day for crine out loud! Fight for that mushy gushy movie you want to see! But get one with



some adventure in it, so your guy will be interested. Ok, so, you got the movie you wanted to see, now let him decide the place to eat! But if it is some place that has food that you don't like just tell him you don't like it there. He'll pick a new

EMILY, page 34

Federal money hasn't bought better schools

Michele Malkin
VALLEY PATRIOT SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

"We're going to have to out-educate other countries," President Obama urged this week. How? By out-spending them, of course! It's the same old quack cure for America's fat and failing government-run schools monopoly.

The one-trick ponies at the White House call their academic improvement agenda "targeted investing" for "winning the future." Truth in advertising: Get ready to fork over more Cash for Education Clunkers.

Our government already spends more per capita on education than any other of the 34 wealthiest countries in the world except for Switzerland, according to recent analysis of data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Overall inflation-adjusted K-12 spending has tripled over the past 40 years, the Michigan-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy points out.

Yet American test scores and graduation rates are stagnant. One in 10 high schools is a dropout factory. And our students' performance in one of the most prestigious global math competitions has been so abysmal that the U.S. simply withdrew altogether.

Obama's fiscal 2011 budget already represents "one of the largest increases" in federal education spending history, and hikes total discretionary spending to nearly \$51 billion. Toss in an additional \$35 billion for mandatory Pell grants. And add another \$4 billion for the illusory "Race to the Top" charade to improve academic standards.

Then there's the \$10 billion for the Education Jobs Fund signed into law last August — a naked payoff to the public teachers union, which also includes \$50 million for the Striving Readers comprehensive literacy development and education program; \$82 million for Student Aid Administration; and \$10.7 million for the Ready to Teach program.

Oh, and don't forget the \$100 billion in federal stimulus funding for school programs and initiatives administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

As he extols the virtues of "innovation" and "accountability," the last thing Obama wants you to think about is the actual results of these profligate federal ed binges:

- As education analyst Neal McCluskey accurately described the real impact of the \$4 billion Race to the Top paperwork theater: "States must say how they would improve lots of things, but they actually have to do very little. It is decades of public schooling — from the Great Society to No Child Left Behind — in a nutshell."
- You need a chain saw to cut through the bureaucratese of the winning state applications, but the bottom line is that the "race" is "won" only when school reformers get buy-in from the teachers unions — the most stalwart enemies of introducing choice and competition to the atrophying system.
- Despite massive multibillion-dollar "investments" in teacher training, America's educators are horrifyingly incompetent. Explaining why American grade-school students can't master simple fractions, one math professor confessed: "Part of the reason the kids don't know it is because the teachers aren't transmitting that."
- Instead, they've ditched "drill and kill" — otherwise known as the basics — for costly educational fads ranging from "Mayan Math" to "Everyday Math" that substitute art, self-esteem and multiculturalism for the fundamentals of computation.
- Among the supposedly cutting-edge programs funded by Obama's federal stimulus program is the \$49 million technology initiative for the Detroit Public Schools. The urban school system is overrun by corruption, violence and incompetence. The teachers union sabotaged classroom instruction and denied school-children an education through an apparent illegal work stoppage.
- Yet Washington went ahead and forked over a whopping \$530 million in federal porkulus funds to reward yet more Detroit government school failure and bail out the reckless-spending boobs who mismanaged the DPS budget and engineered a fiscal crisis.
- The \$49 million technology program distributed some 40,000 new (foreign-made) Asus netbook computers, plus thousands of printers, scanners and desktop computers to teachers and kids.
- One teacher was caught late last year trying to pawn his shiny new booty. No

EDUCATION, page 34

Separation anxiety for mom when dad stays home.

Pete Baylies
VALLEY PATRIOT DAD COLUMNIST

Just as you thought you'd love your new life role as an at-home dad, most likely your wife was thinking about the same thing about rejoining the workforce. Unfortunately this is rarely the case for mothers at first because they are dealing with guilt and separation anxiety. While you are dealing with people calling you Mr. Mom and other interesting job titles, your wife has to cope with others' doubts of how good a mother she could be if she is going back to work. Or for that matter, she might have to live up to co-worker's doubts about her competence in her new job, especially if she has been away from it for some time. "The first year was definitely a transition period...and not always rosy," described Janet Reynolds, a working mom. "Both of us were feeling our ways in our new jobs each feeling a bit like strangers in a strange land. Interestingly, I think the adjustment was more difficult for me; feeling a little like an interloper returning home to a day of shared experiences, a new way to do Sloppy Joes, and a dishwasher packed in a pattern that only Picasso could create."

Often working mothers experience intense jealousy issues, wishing that they were the ones at home with the kids. Just as you might feel resentful of her for getting out of the house, your wife may feel some resent toward you for getting to be with the children all day long. One dad summed it up this way, "My wife is insanely jealous that I am at home with the kids, and I'm jealous that she gets to go to work everyday." In some cases moms may be jealous that you are spending time at the playground with other moms as well as dads. To relieve her of her fears, take her to the playground and have her meet the other moms. Maybe she can help you get in with some of the women who may be

wondering what you are like. Seeing you with your wife might soften them up.

To help your wife feel that she is not being ripped apart from her children, you may need to work extra hard to make her feel like she is part of the family. Here are a few suggestions to let mom know she is still loved:

Have the kids do projects for mom, like write 'Welcome Home' cards and signs, or draw pictures. This achieves two purposes: it will keep the children occupied and quiet for a few hours and make your wife feel good.

Schedule Mommy time. Again, another suggestion with a dual purpose. By allotting a day or a morning or evening each week for your wife to spend with the kids, you not only are giving her the quality time she wants with the children, but you are giving yourself a break as well.

Make sure to involve your wife in all your child rearing decisions. Even though you are the one home with the kids all day, make an effort to include your wife in every aspect of child rearing decisions. Parenting, no matter who spends more time with the children, is a team-effort, and she will feel better to know that you still rely on her judgment.

Send e-mails to your wife if she is working late. If your wife uses e-mail, send your wife a picture of the kids of what they are doing that day. Take a photograph of your kids holding their school art projects and fire off that .jpg file to her. It will create a nice moment for your wife at work and she will thank you when she gets home even if she does come home late.

Schedule a date night. It doesn't have to be front row seats to the Rolling Stones (but that would be ok), just an opportunity for you to talk in a dining area that doesn't have applesauce on the floor.

HOW MEN THINK... or do they?

A hilarious peek inside the male mind.
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Doug Blay David Ratigan Mike Cote Jimmy Dunn Alvin David

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D. B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

My wife and I are very fortunate to live in Massachusetts. I have no worries about being able to visit her or her being able to visit me when and if either of us ends up in the hospital for any amount of time. Three years ago, I missed the first week of school because I was brought down with a kidney infection. At no time, was my wife ever questioned about what her relationship was to me. She came and went as she pleased and I was comforted by the fact that we had that luxury. Considering the fact that she has MS and I have arthritis, I imagine one of us will end up in the hospital sooner or later. My only hope is that it will be in a State or Country that is not ass backwards when it comes to same sex couples.

On Tuesday, January 18, 2011 Federal regulations finally went into effect that requires all hospitals that participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs, pretty much all hospitals in our country, allow patients to designate their own visitors. Visitors cannot be discriminated against due to their sexual orientation or relationship to the patient. If the patient wants to see them, they can see them.

This new regulation was fueled by the story of Janice Langbehn and her partner of 17 years, Lisa Pond. They lived in Washington State with their three adopted children. While vacationing in Florida in February 2007, Pond collapsed from a brain aneurysm and was taken to a Miami hospital. While Pond lay dying in her

hospital bed, Langbehn pleaded with the doctors and nurses for hours to be allowed to see her partner. At the very least, she asked that their children be allowed to see their mother. Langbehn was given no updates about Pond's condition. She was not even informed when they moved Pond into an intensive care unit. Langbehn had all of their legal documentation faxed to the hospital including adoption papers and medical proxy and yet she was still not allowed in to see Pond until Pond's sister arrived six hours after the paper work arrived. At that time, Langbehn and her three children were allowed a five minute visit with Pond, just in time to learn that she was brain dead and watch the Priest administer her Last Rites.

Why does someone have to die for regulations to take effect that should have been in place simply because we are human beings? I have to think, if you are traveling with another adult, that it is quite obvious that you have a relationship with them. Even if it is a working relationship, they should be allowed to be by your side even if it is for something as simple as human contact with a familiar face, touch or voice. Shame on those hospital workers for leaving their sense of human decency and sense of compassion at the hospital entrance.

Langbehn and her children have to live with the fact that, while their partner and mother lay dying in a hospital bed, thousands of miles away from home, she did it alone. She had no familiar face, no soft touch from the hand of someone who

NO BRAINER: PAGE 42



LIFE: FROM PAGE 26

government grants/contracts.

I attended a Mass, along with 11,000 young people at the Basilica of the National Shrine where Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life, encouraged the youth: "you have been, have become and remain the genuine leaders and pioneers of the March for Life...we your elders become exhausted just watching you! May you never cease to give your beautiful witness to the gift of human life."

On the day of the March at the Rally on the Mall, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) rallied the crowds by saying, "the new Republicans are the biggest and the most pro-life freshman class in memory." Just last week, they introduced the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act." As Neil Armstrong put it, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Once the March started we proceeded to the U.S. Supreme Court. The major networks were no where to be found. Yet at a 1963 march with 250,000 people, CBS aired it live and millions watched Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech. EWTN carried the March for Life live and had a 40 percent increase in visits to their website proving that people want pro-life news coverage.

Taking that first baby step has started me on a journey that will last a lifetime. What an unbelievable experience it was. If anyone would like to take action and be apart of the next 40 Days for Life vigil from March 9 - April 17 go to www.40daysforlife.com or prolife-methuen@aol.com.

Resources and useful websites: 40daysforlife.com, silentnomoreawareness.org, blood-moneyfilm.com, ewtn.com, 1060AM, Catholic radio station serving the Boston area

GROUNDHOG DAY: FROM 33

voter rolls are not updated and scrubbed on an annual basis;

- that penalties be levied for improper handling of ballots and storage bins;
- that the voting standard be modified to a simple – do it right, do it correctly, or the vote will not be counted standard.

In his final summary, Judge Tucker stated that enough is enough -- we must preserve the integrity of the voting process. Citizens must protect their right and privilege to vote by doing it correctly, by showing that they deserve to vote. Given

this one vote margin of victory, we can tolerate no fraud. Our democratic voting process keeps the Republic alive and vibrant. And it is important to note, that the volunteers who work the polls have an enormous responsibility -- they protect our freedom and liberty by working with all legal voters in protecting voter integrity. Peter Durant and Geraldo Alicea are Americans.....

Tom Weaver, www.ShowIDtoVote.com

EMILY: FROM 33

place to eat. Then after lunch or dinner, go shopping! Tell him you are going to some place REALLY girly, but actually go into a place he likes and get him a Valentine's present! Like a watch or a shirt! And if you hear him say he is going into a REALLY guyish store, he might be going to get YOU something! But don't expect it. Guys don't understand Valentines Day as much as we girls do! Ok, this next part is for GUYS ONLY!!! Guys, if you have a special girl, they won't want to see an action movie. They will want to see a mushy gushy movie. Let your girl decide. But make sure to tell them to pick something with a little adventure in it! Since your girl got to pick the movie it's your turn to pick

the place to eat! But don't pick somewhere that your girl doesn't like the food! Pick some place that both of you will like! Ok, so now that you picked the place to eat. Go shopping! Tell her that you are going some place REALLY guyish, but actually go to a place she likes and get her a Val present! Like a necklace or earrings! And if you hear her say she is going to a REALLY girly store she might be getting YOU something! But don't expect it! Girls might want to actually go some place REALLY girly! Ok, so this has been a Valentines Day article by,

Emily, Methuen Resident, Junior Reporter For The Valley Patriot

EDUCATION: FROM 33

doubt, he has company. Nationwide, in both urban and rural school districts, large and small, these technology infusions have turned out to be gesture-driven boondoggles and political payoffs that squander precious educational resources — with little, if any, measurable academic benefits.

Mark Lawson, school board president of one of New York state's first districts to put technology directly in students' hands, told the New York Times in 2007: "After seven years, there was literally

no evidence it had any impact on student achievement — none. The teachers were telling us when there's a one-to-one relationship between the student and the laptop, the box gets in the way. It's a distraction to the educational process."

That about sums up federal intervention in public schooling: It's a taxpayer-subsidized distraction to the local educational process that throttles true competition, rewards failure and mistakes blind government largesse for achievement.

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SCULLY: FROM PAGE 17

Scully says the job of turning around a troubled school system in Haverhill will be challenging.

“Here in Haverhill there are a lot of good things going on. There are issues that need to be addressed as any school system, but we are addressing them. Most of the people are pitching in. We have come a long way in five months, we have a long way to go, but you have to set your expectations high and hold the rudder so you have a steady course and develop the right leaders. Those leaders who cannot climb on board... those leaders you have to cut loose.”

Asked about the media generated controversy about his salary as the new Haverhill Superintendent Scully said he thought it was a fair salary given what Superintendents are making across the State.

“When I first came here I didn’t know what the State requirements were. Given the short notice of Dr. Buchanan leaving as suddenly as he did, they had to get an interim Superintendent so the State had decided that a retired individual could keep a pension and draw a salary at the same time. My retirement was based on my Superintendent salary so I was making about \$95K as a retired Superintendent. So, I received my salary on top of that. So, when the Mayor said the School Committee wanted me to stay on [permanently] what it meant was that I would have to give up my pension. I had to pay some money back to the State so I had to keep a balance so [that] I could keep about the same salary that I would have received last year absent a pension.

“So that’s why I asked my salary be raised from \$150,000 to \$185,000. The truth of the matter is that many of the Superintendent positions that are being advertised today are running around \$190,000 with a \$10-\$20,000 annuity and \$10,000 in benefits. So, agree or disagree, the going rate for a Superintendent is between \$190,000-\$200,000. I was just trying to be fair with my contract with the City. I thought \$185,000 was a fair figure.

“There are a lot of problems doing these searches for Superintendents and it costs about \$150,000, plus the advertisements and related expenses. It’s very expensive. So, I think the money I sought from the



The 1998 Lawrence School Committee fired Superintendent Jim Scully for spending money that they themselves had approved. Scully sued and the city which paid out his contract for wrongful termination. Left to right: Ralph Carerro, Carol Banon, Elizabeth Lacharite, Mayor Mary Claire Kennedy, Jim Scully, John Housianitis, Tom Duggan and Dr. Jim Sweeney. Only Committeemen Duggan and Bannon voted against firing Scully, Lacharite resigned before the vote. Scully was just hired to be the permemnant superintendent in Haverhill

School Committee was fair and reasonable and certainly less than they would be paying someone else to come in here. And I know the community I know the people and I have a grasp for the issues.”

Scully said he is not looking to be the Superintendent of any other community and will serve the rest of his days as an educator in Haverhill. He also said that his philosophy of reforming a school system from the lower grades up is one he is going to implement in Haverhill as he did in Lawrence.

“People may remember just a few months ago the State Department of Education came out with review of the school system. And what they found was something School Committeeman Bevilacqua has been saying and that’s that Haverhill is not one school system. It’s a system of school systems. There’s not a lot of continuity across grades from K to 12 with the academic programs and the State has made suggestions that we move some positions around and people and programs to try to wind things up. Just this past few weeks we have taken the curriculum people who were responsible for half the curriculum development and make them responsible for the English language instruction, for example; for the K-12 program. That is the exact way I approached this in the past and how I am approaching it now.

“You have a single strand for each sub-

ject area that runs with the students from k-12. The complication here in Haverhill is that there are a lot of little kingdoms that we have to somehow penetrate to get everybody on the same page and as I said most of the people have been terrific.

“One of the other things is we have to raise expectations. I think teachers need to set a higher standard. I have met with parent groups and even the students say we have to raise expectations and when we do that I believe you will have a better school system.

“Parents really want to know what the schools are offering their children. What academic menu are they serving? Are they challenging their children? Is their homework just to keep them busy or is it meaningful homework? I even think high school students are expecting more than they have from their teachers than they use to. I think if you say what’s different between now and ten years ago? They [parents] are better shoppers and are more critical and more aware and more demanding. They are more involved in their children’s education than in the past. After meeting with 300-400 parents, the same message keeps coming through over and over again. How are our kids being challenged and what are the expectations?”

Asked what his biggest challenge would be in Haverhill as he moves forward, Scully said; “Answering that specific cry from people as to what are the expectations? There are always financial issues

there are always going to be the building issues, but we need to make sure we are hiring the best possible teachers we can hire. We have to assure parents that the people we are hiring are the best people available to put in front of their children. We have to make sure that all of us from the Superintendent down to the custodian are doing the right thing by children so that whatever dream those kids may be harboring inside, the school can find a way to help them find that dream or achieve that goal.”

Asked about how he planned on making up the number of snow days this year, Scully said that he had two things under consideration. “There are two things in the early stages of discussion. We are not going to affect the February vacation. It’s a couple of weeks away. There seems to be a feeling that if we put in a few Saturdays it makes more sense than chopping off a whole vacation. In April we have another vacation and during that week there’s a religious holiday so there’s only four days we can grab there.”

Scully dismissed the idea of tacking an hour onto each school day to preserve vacations because of the number of athletic events and after school programs it would affect. “There’s directive from the Commissioner that we have to make up every single hour of school that has been missed. We need to see how this discussion matures and then we will have a direction to go in.”



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PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

What You Should Know About Adopting a Puppy

Kate Whitney

VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY COLUMNIST

Yay! February is here! That means it's almost Spring! I could not be more ready for Spring and then Summer. I am sick of this snow! Although my dogs do love the snow, I've had enough of shoveling out my car and slipping on ice!

I know I have written about this topic numerous times, but it's just so important that I want to make sure everyone has a chance to be informed about it. If you are one of my readers who have been with me for awhile, this might seem repetitive. If you are new to my column, then welcome, and enjoy.

After the holidays, those of us in rescue see an influx in dogs turned in to shelters. What appeared to be that adorable fuzzy puppy in the window of the pet store turned out to be a living creature that needs food, attention, lots of exercise, and visits to the Vet. So what do you do with a puppy or dog that you no longer want? Well, dump it at the local animal rescue or shelter of course, which adds to the ever growing number of dogs that will be euthanized that day. Only a very special few will make it out alive. First and foremost, the point I want to make is this: THINK before you bring any animal into your life (this goes for dogs, cats, horses, etc. but for this article I will be focusing only on dogs). Dogs can live up to 15+ years and very often need lots of extra care during those last few years. Are you prepared to take on this responsibility? Think about the next 15 years of your life...where do you see it going? Are you going to move? Have kids? Take a new job with more hours? You must contemplate these things (and others) before you get a dog. A dog is not disposable. You can't just give up this loyal creature because a new baby came along. Moving? Try a little harder to find a place that will allow dogs. Older dogs face hard times if brought to

the shelter. Very few people are looking to adopt a dog that has only a few years left. Most people want puppies or dogs under 5 years old. So think about these facts before you bring your best friend for the past 8 years to the local shelter. Think about him sitting in a barren empty cage, all alone, searching the faces of those who walk by, and hoping that his master who brought him here is coming to take him home again. I understand that this isn't a happy topic to think about it...but it's important to be informed.



The dogs in shelters are the forgotten, thrown away ones. They are the ones that long for the human touch, good food, and a comfy bed. But will they ever get these things? Most shelter dogs never will. And if you decide to buy your dog from a pet store or breeder, that's one less dog saved from the shelter. My question is this: why are puppy mills still legal and why are people still breeding dogs? I just don't understand it...if

people are truly dog lovers, why are they buying dogs at stores and from people who are breeding dogs instead of actually saving a dog from a shelter? An excuse I hear a lot is that someone wants a purebred dog. Well, it's estimated that 1 in 4 dogs at a shelter is a purebred. And besides, its 2011, Mutts are cool these days! So stop being picky about only wanting a purebred, and give a home to one of the millions of mutt shelter dogs! They are truly the best dogs.

Not only does a shelter dog give you unconditional love, but they remember you as the person who saved them from hell and literally from death, and this is something they will never forget. Adopting a shelter dog also allows you to just feel like a great person. When I look at my two shelter dogs, Dash and Honey, I think about how lucky I am to have found them, but I also give myself a pat on the back for saving them. It feels good. You should try it. I promise you, the feeling is unmatched.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Valley Patriot's PuppyGirl, Kate Whitney, Honey and Dasher say: "Please adopt a shelter dog or foster a puppy looking for a permanent home!" For more information you can email One Tail at a Time at onetail@comcast.net

There are millions of dogs in shelters across America (and many, many more across the world) that are looking for their forever homes. IF and when you think that bringing a dog into your home is the right step for you remember these things from this article; One: spend a lot of time thinking about the decision and make sure it's the right one. Dogs are not disposable. When you commit to having a dog, you are making a "life long" commitment. Two: ADOPT! Do not purchase dogs from pet stores, breeders, or puppy mills. Make sure you are going through a legitimate rescue organization or shelter. And remember, buying a dog from a pet store, does not count as "rescuing" a dog. Once that dog leaves the store, a call is made

for another one to replace it. As long as people are buying dogs, the puppy mills will keep breeding more.

For those of you reading this and think I am crazy because you think a dog is "just a dog", have you ever truly looked into the eyes of a dog? If not, try it sometime, and you will see that dogs, too, have souls.

I will not rest until puppy mills are illegal and shelters are empty. How do you feel knowing millions of puppies and adult dogs are carried out of shelters every year in plastic garbage bags? Those are the forgotten, the ones whose time ran out. They are the ones that never found their forever homes. Please adopt and remember - ALWAYS spay and neuter.

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Doggie Dental Month

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

SMILE ...February is Dental Health month in the veterinary world. That's right it is time for your family pet to go to your local vet for their annual teeth cleaning.

According to the American Veterinary Association; Oral Disease is the most frequent diagnosed health problem in our pets.

Just like humans, animals also experience tooth aches, plaque, cavities, and sore gums. And for that stinky breath, guess what? Yes, it is usually the beginning stages of oral disease. By definition, oral disease is a build up of bacteria in the mouth. Bacteria, combines with saliva and food debris between the tooth and gum, can cause plaque formulations that accumulate on the teeth. As bacteria grows in the plaque and as the salts are depleted, plaque turns to tartar. Now with that said, take a peak in your dog or cat's mouth. See that dark stuff around your pet's gum. Yes. that's tartar.

I reached out to Dr. Tracie Fountas, owner/operator and Veterinarian at River Road Veterinary Hospital in Andover, MA to answer a few more questions regarding our animal's oral health:

Why is maintaining an animal's dental hygiene important?

*Dr Fountas: Here is a scary fact...According to the AVDS (American Veterinary Dental Society) 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have periodontal disease by the age of 3! If left untreated this can lead to oral pain, tooth loss, and other systemic complications such as heart, kidney and pulmonary (lung) to name a few.

What is something an owner can do at home to keep up a routine?

*Dr. Fountas: Pets should have their teeth brushed every 24 hours, given ap-



propriate chew toys and have routine oral check ups with their veterinarian. Specifically formulated diets are available and scientifically proven to reduce dental disease. A VOHC (Veterinary Oral Health Council) seal will be noted on products that that meet defined standards for plaque and tartar control in dogs and cats.

What are some of the warning signs that an animal may be having a tooth problem?

*Dr. Fountas: Bad breath, change in eating or chewing habits, pawing at the face or mouth, tartar on the teeth, red inflamed gums and broken teeth.

Dr Fountas also mentioned that periodontal disease is the most common disease they see in dogs and cats. It is also one of the easiest to prevent. Brushing your pet's teeth daily, appropriate chew toys and treats and regular dental exams by your veterinarian can significantly improve your pet's oral health. During the month of February if you schedule an appointment at River Road to have your pet's teeth cleaned they will go home with a wonderful dental home care kit from the canine & kitty tooth fairy which includes a tooth brush, tooth paste, a sample of dental treats and information regarding the importance of proper oral care.

River Road Veterinary Hospital is located on 176 River Road, Andover MA 978.687.8400 or visit their website at www.riverroadveterinaryhospital.com

Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, tv and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units. Tracey may be reached at wigglegwalk@comcast.net, or traceythedogwalker.blogspot.com

Rub My Belly

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! What better way to celebrate this fun loving day than spoiling your dog with a "doggie massage".

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- *Promotes faster recovery from injuries and illness.
- *By reducing stress, massage can give a renewed sense of well-being.
- *Improves circulation of the blood and lymph system, thereby strengthening the immune system.



ing she continued her studies attending Northern Essex Community College and received Reiki I & II attunements from Pam & Roger Mailloux. In time, she went on to receive her Advanced Reiki attunement from them as well. Karen also achieved a certificate in Cranial Sacral therapy from the Upledger Institute and she also received a certificate Acupressure I from Tallgrass. Karen continuously develops her skills and has recently taken classes in flower essences as well as aromatherapy.

Karen performs all the animal massages in the comfort of your home. This allows the dog to be more relaxed in his familiar environment and enjoy all the benefits massage has to offer. Karen will travel throughout the Merrimack Valley and does most of her massages at night and on the weekends. For Valentine's Day why not consider purchasing a massage for your pooch. Guarantee he will love it!

For more information on Rub My Belly or to schedule an appointment please contact Karen at 978-452-4919, email at rbmybelly@yahoo.com and check out her website at www.rubmybellymassage.webs.com

Karen Lachapelle, from Lowell MA and owner of Rub My Belly decided to study animal massage and Reiki after adopting her dog Sparky from one of her husband's postal customers. She began to subscribe to all kinds of dog magazines. In one Dog Fancy article there was a poll asking readers what sort of holistic things they did for their dogs. The number one practice was massage. After doing some research Karen found Bancroft School of Small Animal Massage in Worcester MA, applied and was accepted. After graduat-

Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, tv and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units. Tracey may be reached at wigglegwalk@comcast.net



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Shawn Hansen's Comedy Corner: Chuckles Comedy Club

Every day, people go through different routines, and rituals getting ready for work, or school. Making up a scenario, say the average-Joe is at work writing for the Hansen Gazette, he may pick up a few more assignments than expected during the week. His son, who goes to Volpe University might have had a tough time with his presentation speaking in front of a class of 100 people about a subject he could care less about.

In those two different cases, the stress of getting something done might have been brought to mind. With that said, finish everything that is considered to be work, and then go out to a comedy club to laugh away the week.

At the China Blossom in North Andover at 196 Osgood Street this past month, Johnny Pizzi's Chuckles Comedy Club had their pre-grand opening with a room filled with 175 people.

"It was a phenomenal night," said Johnny Pizzi. "Everybody on the bill were top headliners from the Boston community."

Comedians who performed at the pre-grand opening of Chuckles included Tony V, Paul Gilligan, Mark Riley, Artie Januario, Christine Hurley, and Dave Russo.

"I'm probably forgetting a couple of names, but it was a fantastic show," said Pizzi. "Everybody that was there just raved about how much fun it was, and there was so much laughter. It was a great night."

At Chuckles, Pizzi said they want to have a variety of action where people in the Merrimack Valley can see comedians who they may have not seen in the past. Tickets at Chuckles cost \$20 on a Friday, and Saturday night. Special Shows that include Lenny Clarke, or Steve Sweeney in the lineup will go for \$27 each.

Pizzi said there is plenty of parking at the club, and that anyone can enjoy a fantastic buffet for a reasonable price at the China Blossom.

If anyone knows Johnny Pizzi, they may have known him as a friend, colleague, family member, comedian, or magician.

Performing at Giggles Comedy Club at 517 Broadway in Saugus is something he has been doing for 21 years, and looks at it the best comedy club in the country.

Transitioning into running his own room at the China Blossom, Pizzi said people may refer to it as the sister club of Giggles, and is going to run it the same way.

"We would love to run Chuckles the way Giggles is run first class," said Pizzi, explaining that Chuckles has Mike Clarke as a booking agent, who also works alongside Giggles.

"My status at Giggles will not change," said Pizzi. "I'll still be at Giggles roughly two weekends a month. My set at Giggles does not change. It's a place I've been at for 21 years, and then when I'm not there, I could be at Chuckles, then when I'm not there, I could be anywhere in the country."

Hosting shows every weekend, Chuckles Comedy Club will feature some of Boston's best headliners such as V, D'Angelo, Gilligan, Brad Mastrangelo, and Jim Lauletta.

"We're going to try to help the communities in the Merrimack Valley," said Pizzi, explaining that they will have fundraisers, and benefits for schools, and different organizations.

The Grand Opening of Chuckles will be held on February 11, and February 12 with Lenny Clarke, Graig Murphy, Pizzi, and a surprise guest. Doors will open at 8 p.m. as the show will start at 9. Tickets are \$27.

"That's going to be a great night," said Pizzi. "We're already getting reservations for that night, so that will be a fun night as well."

For more information about Chuckles Comedy Club, go to www.chucklescomedyclub.com, or email Pizzi at JohnnyPizzi@chucklescomedyclub.com.



Shawn Hansen is a graduate of UMass Lowell. He wrote for "The Campus Report," and was sports editor. Hansen now writes for "The UMass Lowell Connector," and the "Billerica Minute-man." To get in touch with sports journalist Shawn Hansen of The Valley Patriot, email him at smharticle@gmail.com

Waking Up with Niki & Sarah

Niki Smokes

VALLEY VIBE CONTRIBUTOR

Boston has a new web radio show on UNRegular Radio that is opening up the doors for mainstream listeners that are craving a local spin. 'The Early Show with Niki and Sarah' promises to bring listeners the latest on New England's Local Acts and Entertainment while injecting a refreshing new look at "Boston's Local Scene." Sarah Sparks, Early Show Co-Hostess says "Some musicians can be out of touch with their fans... You don't need a VIP pass to meet the bands performing in Boston."

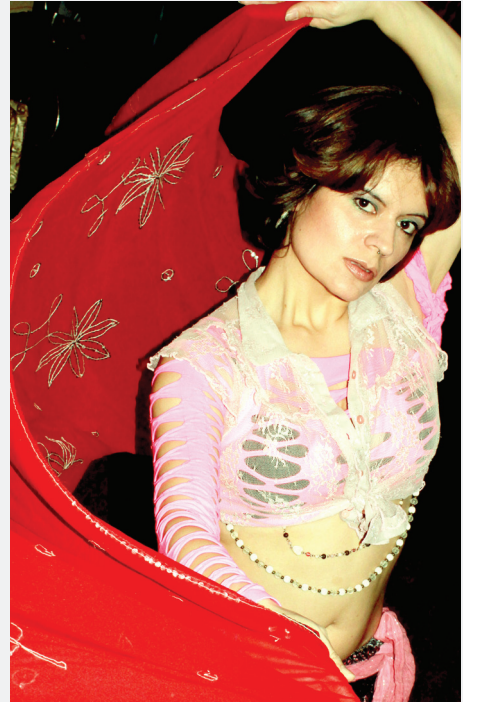
This month's Early Show listeners will get schooled in Belly Dancing and Modern Dance by "Baby Snake" Sara Lieberman and get a sneak peek on the upcoming Women in Comedy Festival (WICF).

Sara "Baby Snake" Lieberman

Always fun to have at the party or at a local music show is Sara Lieberman. When developing her performances she likes to use familiar melodies for the introduction of her belly dancing routine to keep it classical. Then Sara loves to add her twist with more upbeat and modern pop music like Prince and Madonna. Sara adds "being silly can work with the audience... it makes everyone relaxed and puts a more human element to the obscure style of dance I do." Sara loves to dance it up at local music shows in and around Cambridge. She will be performing at the Middle East, Sunday, February 20th, from 4:00-7:00pm.

The Women in Comedy Festival

The WICF Preview Show held at the ImprovBoston in Central Square on Sunday January 23rd, featured very funny women along with one very funny gentleman; Kelly MacFarland (Comedy Central), Carolyn Plummer (Boston Comedy Festival), Michelle Barbera (WICF co-producer, ImprovBoston Mainstage), Maria Ciampa (WICF co-producer, Magner's Comedy Festival semi-finalist) and Dana Jay Bein (MTV). Co-Hostess of the Early Show, Niki



Smokes, exclaimed "I laughed so hard my face hurt by the end of the night! The festival is going to be a great time."

The Women in Comedy Festival takes place March 9 - March 13 in Boston. This year's headliners include sketch duo Kristen Schaal (The Daily Show, Flight of the Conchords) and Kurt Braunohler (Aspen Comedy Festival, Edinburgh Fringe), Jen Kirkman (Chelsea Lately, HBO's Drunk History) and Morgan Murphy (Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel Live). Venues for the festival include ImprovBoston in Central Square, Cambridge, Mottley's Comedy Club in Boston's historic Faneuil Hall, and the Brattle Theatre in Harvard Square. Find out more at <http://www.womenincomedyfestival.com>

Listen to 'the Early Show with Niki and Sarah' every Friday morning from 6:30-8:30am beginning February 4th on UNRegular Radio. Check out <http://theearlyshowonline.com> for more information, videos, blogs, and interact with Boston's freshest fun loving duo! Listen to UNRegular Radio at UNRegularRadio.com.

DiNUCCIO: FROM PAGE 20

and others are overturning your decisions?"

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE MAYOR?

"In the last mayors race we went into detail on the budgets and what the city is doing and we look at the waste and all the things we can cut and what can be privatized. That's going to be a big part of this campaign. Privatization. You look at any department in this city and I can tell you where the waste is, and where we should be privatized. I don't mind paying my taxes and I know the citizens don't mind paying their taxes. But they don't want to pay taxes when they see what is going on here now. And I know how to correct all this stuff. I have a plan."

WHAT WOULD YOU PRIVATIZE FIRST?

"Well, lets look at the fire department, the ambulance services. Instantly privatize! We used to have a private ambulance service in Methuen, it worked very well and now it's run by the fire dept. It costs a fortune to run an ambulance service. Some say it makes money but once you add in overtime, pensions, health insurance, and

maintenance on the equipment all that stuff, we are losing money on our ambulance service."

"All the big cities run private ambulance service and they are very efficient, Fallon, Patriot ambulance, etc., they all do well. Do you lay the guys off? Absolutely not. What do you do with them is, the Methuen fire department has a one million dollar overtime budget. So what you do is you have them work as floaters who work straight time instead of overtime and work fill in shifts and we eliminate the cost of the ambulance.

Another example, it's not just privatization but how about janitorial services? We pay janitors huge overtime. It's serious cash, with pensions and overtime and health care. Every private company in America uses private janitor services. Do you get rid of them all? No? You keep four or five janitors, one in each school, they open for the basketball courts and do their thing and then at night the private janitors come in and they clean the schools! It saves a lot of money!

LIBERTY: FROM PAGE 27

In his speech, he recounted his belief that America's uniqueness was not lost. He touted our strength and undeniable placement in the world order as a "shining city upon the hill." Reagan knew then as we know now, that hard work, less government intervention and an independent streak would help reinforce the American way. The path to success was once again opened by lifting not only the American spirit, but also the Cold War ushering in new prosperity for America. No one could have ever projected a little over two decades later where our government and our people struggle now with stagflation and a hegemonic view of the economy.

We now have an Administration which rejects America having a unique place in the world, and argues we must submit to the will of the international community in the name of populism. Ironically, FDR shared that same view, firmly believing all that could be achieved, had been achieved, and multilateralism with the USA as a partner, was the proper course for us to chart.

That naiveté gave reign for National Socialism to take hold in Germany, and plunge the world into another Global Conflict, and gave rise to allowing expansionist Japan to go unchecked.

We are at a crossroads again: which America are we? Are we the America envisioned by FDR as this Administration believes, or are we the America of the post WW II Presidents? It is not for the Administration to decide; rather is a question for America to decide: shall we continue to be unique, or "just another nation?"



Lisa-Marie is the principal for The Cashman Group specializing in Crisis, Strategic and Political Communications. She is an elected member of the Ipswich Republican Town Committee since 1999 and political strategist to several congressional and state campaigns. She is a nationally-known political blogger on FB, featured on talk radio, and a contributing guest columnist and freelance writer. You can reach her at lisamariecashman@gmail.com

VALLEY PATRIOT TV REVIEW

Valley Patriot MOVIE REVIEW

House of Anubis

Nickelodeon, 7 p.m. Weekdays

Beth Daigle
VALLEY PATRIOT ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

I'd like to begin this month's column by briefly stating my disgust for MTV's "Skins" and support of the Parents Television Council to have this show immediately removed from the air. Without going into all the gory, graphic and highly inappropriate details, I will say that this show offers nothing of any value to its viewers whether young or old. MTV claims it is not intended for young audiences, yet the cast and content are all about the misguided teen generation. If tweens or teens are watching "Skins," they are getting nothing but bad ideas from it. If adults are watching, they shouldn't be.

Moving on to a program that is kid appropriate and something I, myself, have enjoyed watching; "House of Anubis" on Nickelodeon. Here is a program that I believe is interesting enough to hold the attention of the tween and even teen market while being acceptable to some younger and older viewers as well.

"House of Anubis" centers around 8 middle school aged students who live together at their British based boarding school in, none other, than a building named the House of Anubis. The American born character named Nina newly arrives to the school while existing schoolmate, Joy, mysteriously disappears. Solving the mystery of Joy's disappearance sets the stage for this "Hardy Boys,"-"Nancy Drew" inspired series.

The general concept of the program is intriguing, if not a bit scary at times. Meanwhile the characters are respect-

able enough that I am comfortable allowing my 8 year old to watch. She and my 10 year old enjoy the mystery, the slight bit of innocent romance that is incorporated into the plot and the silly antics displayed by the good-hearted classmates.

I like that it is a show we can watch together. It is such a welcomed relief from the drudgery of yet another episode of "The Suite Life on Deck" or the obnoxious new show "Shake it Up." The adorable British accents make "House of Anubis" even more enjoyable.

It has created such a sensation in my house that I now have a standing date with my girls each night to watch together. At the end of each episode, we collectively sigh in disappointment that we have to wait to see what happens next.

Call me old fashioned, but it seems that "House of Anubis" is the type of show we should be promoting to our youth. It has just enough of an edge to keep them interested, but the overall premise is decent television.

For more television reviews and other blog-worthy topics from Beth, visit www.bdbuzz10.blogspot.com.



Beth Daigle is a freelance writer for several area publications. Beth is a North Andover resident and happily reports on the good, the bad and the ugly in TV entertainment. Beth's background is in marketing having earned her BA from University of Mass., Amherst and MBA from Bentley College. Send comments to Bethdaiglevp@comcast.net

The Green Hornet

Ben Flagg
VALLEY PATRIOT MOVIE REVIEWER

Well another year has come and gone. There were a lot of good movies, a lot of bad movies, and A LOT of mediocre movies. So let's start off the year with something I expected the world of: The Green Hornet, starring Jay Chou and Seth Rogen. You may be asking yourselves "Mr. Critic Guy, why did you put the main character's name after the co-star in that last sentence?" Allow me to explain.

My explanation is also my biggest problem with this movie. The Green Hornet (Seth Rogen) ISN'T the main character. He basically plays a drunk frat boy whose mind-set is somewhere along the lines of "Wouldn't it be HILARIOUS if we became superheroes??" Meanwhile, his side-kick is the equivalent of Superman. He built an entire fleet of cars in 4 days, he creates weapons, he's an amazing artist, he's a martial arts expert, etc. But SOMEHOW the movie finds a way to make him take a back seat to Seth Rogen.



villain (played by Cristoph Waltz, who you probably know as the "Jew Hunter" from Inglorious Basterds) has nothing to do but just sit back and tell lame jokes. In short, the movie has no pacing and the characters are underdeveloped. This is made worse because it's bordering on disturbing watching Seth Rogen push Jay Chou around, just because Chou is OBVIOUSLY so much better than him, but Seth Rogen refuses to believe it, and the movie itself is trying to make you take Rogen's side.

But I have to admit, I had a lot of fun. Rogen and Chou really do have a "bro-mance," some of the jokes are actually

pretty funny, and the action is fast-paced and interesting to watch. Plus the twists at the end are enough to keep you on the edge of your seat. So I'm going to have to give this a VERY reluctant recommendation. But whatever you do, don't try to sit back and think about it, or else you'll be pulled out of the movie. But bring your friends, turn your brains off, and you'll have a good time watching The Green Hornet.



Ben Flagg is a freshman at Methuen High School. He participates in the JROTC and Drill Team. He also enjoys playing the bass guitar in his spare time



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Fri. Feb. 25, 8pm – DAVE MASON (\$45)

Sat. Feb. 26, 8pm – 2ND ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND WINTER BLUES FESTIVAL featuring: NICK MOSS & THE FLIPS TOPS, THE MATTHEW STUBBS BAND, THE CHRIS FITZ BAND, MR. NICK & THE DIRTY TRICKS (\$22 & \$26)

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Mar. 2011

Sat. March 5, 8pm – RAUL MALO (\$30/\$35)

Thurs. , March 10, 8pm – JOHN MCDERMOTT (\$40/\$45)

Sat. March 12, 8pm – MARTIN SEXTON (\$45)

Sun. , March 20, 7pm – PETER WOLF (\$30/\$35)

Apr. 2011

Fri. Apr. 1, 8pm – THE FOOLS – Special Apr. Fool's Day Show (\$20)

Fri. Apr. 8, 8pm – ENTER THE HAGGIS (\$15/\$20)

Sat. Apr. 16, 8pm – RONNIE EARL & THE BROADCASTERS (\$25)

Fri. Apr. 29, 8pm – COMEDIAN LENNY CLARKE (\$30/\$35)

About the Blue Ocean Music Hall - Showcasing national and regional bands and solo acts from today, as well as artists and musicians from the past who maintain a dedicated fan base, Blue Ocean Music Hall caters to discriminating adults and baby boomers ranging in age from their 30s through their 60s. The music hall presents artists in a wide range of genres, from rock and R&B, to jazz and country. Comedy shows and children's entertainers are also a focus of the show offerings. Featuring exceptional acoustics and a comfortable, relaxed environment with panoramic ocean views, Blue Ocean Music Hall has a seating capacity of close to 500 people, and a 750-person capacity for general admission shows. Most seats are within 50 feet of the stage and the versatile space can be configured as needed, including cabaret style with cocktail table seating, traditional theater style or open floor with limited seating for larger general admission shows.



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IN MEMORY OF HARVEY GIBEAU: FROM PAGE 1

below the horizon for a few minutes each day. Winter was a different matter: twenty-four-hour nights with howling winds and bitter cold. Ropes had to be strung between Quonset huts to provide handholds for soldiers trying to walk from hut-to-hut.

Harvey remembers the people of Iceland being relatively pro-German. The Germans had only recently left Iceland and they had been instrumental in connecting many Icelandic homes to the hot springs for winter heating. In that cold, anyone who helps you stay warm is probably appreciated!

Unbeknownst to Pfc. Gibeau, the Allies were planning an early June invasion of France at Normandy. Part of that plan included moving Harvey – and thousands of others – to England in preparation for supporting operations in Europe after D-Day. Training and gunnery practice were over. It was time to put Hitler back on his heels.

Harvey left Iceland in early March of 1944 and made stops in Glasgow, Hereford, and Camp Foxley before arriving at the White Cliffs of Dover. While there, Harvey’s unit tried to shoot down several German buzz bombs headed for London. Even though the soldiers hit them with several 90 mm anti-aircraft shells, the bombs kept flying. Eventually they were ordered to stop shooting to preserve ammunition. The buzz bombs kept flying overhead all night, but many were duds and didn’t explode when they came down on London. Some were found and carefully dug up decades after the war.

Harvey didn’t know when the invasion of France was scheduled to begin, but he had a hint in the early morning hours of June 6th when he looked up and saw the sky full of U.S. warplanes. Harvey noted, “I didn’t know the U.S. had that many planes. The sky was dark with planes. It was an amazing sight.”

Shortly thereafter, Harvey was on an LST bound for Normandy. He landed in France on D+8 days (June 14, 1944). Harvey remembers the backgrounds of the soldiers in his company. They were from Minnesota, Chicago, Arkansas, and Baton Rouge, plus a Quaker from Pennsylvania Dutch Coun-

try, and a full-blooded American Indian. Mix in a Lawrence boy and this company had some real variety!

As Harvey’s unit moved away from the Normandy beaches, he remembers seeing the pointed stakes the Germans put in the ground to impale U.S. paratroopers when they landed. French citizens buried many of the American paratroopers that died in the early part of the invasion, but kept the parachutes to make much needed clothing.

The 414th AAA Battalion moved with the Allied forces as they penetrated deeper and deeper into the French countryside. Harvey recalls that the lines between U.S. and German forces were disorganized and chaotic. It wasn’t a clearly marked boundary and, on several occasions, his group found themselves behind enemy lines. Once, he woke up to a real racket, only to find himself on the edge of a raging battle on an adjacent hillside.

Harvey’s tour of France included Marseilles, Nancy, and Rheims. His artillery unit, equipped with 90 mm anti-aircraft artillery, traveled in truck convoys and once was strafed by German fighters. It happened so fast that there was no time to jump in a ditch or take cover. Thankfully, the unit suffered no casualties.

As the last days of fall passed, U.S. troops became more and more confident that the war would soon be over. Some even spoke about being home by early 1945. The Germans had a different plan. On December 16, 1944 the Germans launched their Ardennes Offensive - what we call the Battle of the Bulge. Well over a million men fought in this battle consisting of three German Armies, three American Armies, and three British Divisions. The Germans suffered 100,000 casualties. We suffered approximately 81,000 casualties, including 23,554 captured and over 19,000 killed. Both sides lost approximately 800 tanks. The battle lasted for six weeks.

After the first few days of the battle, it was going very badly for Allied forces. We were losing men faster than we could replace them. Every soldier was needed at the front. Even though Harvey was trained in anti-aircraft artillery, his country needed him to take on the role of an infantry soldier. He remembers thinking at the time, “I have a lot of worrying to do!”

There was no time for training. Two weeks into the battle, Harvey joined the fight as an infantryman. His unit still had its 90 mm guns, but now they were not pointed up but, instead, were pointed at German tanks. He remembers four tanks probably less than a half-mile away that had their sights on his unit. The British troops that Harvey’s unit was supporting fired on the German tanks and they turned tail and ran.

On another occasion, Harvey was standing near a British military vehicle when, with no warning, a German armor-piercing shell hit the vehicle right between two seats. Fortunately for Harvey, the shell didn’t explode, but it did leave a nasty-looking hole right through two inches of steel armor

plating.

The weather during the first week of the battle was horrible. For over a week, U.S. aircrews couldn’t launch a strike or provide air cover. The first U.S. air operation in the battle occurred on Christmas morning. That same morning, Harvey volunteered for a mission to clear German forces from a section of a nearby town. He and two other soldiers approached a farmhouse and, not knowing if there were German soldiers inside, one of the men threw a grenade towards a window. It missed the window but made a pretty impressive explosion nevertheless.

There were, in fact, approximately half a dozen German soldiers inside the farmhouse at the time. They decided it was best to vacate the premises while they still had a chance. Harvey and his two comrades subdued and captured the Germans as they ran from the house. As this was taking place, Harvey noticed a group of German soldiers in a nearby field. U.S. warplanes strafed the field and Harvey and his two companions captured another dozen German soldiers ... making 18 prisoners in all. He has several souvenirs taken from the Germans captured that day – three medals and a small package of Chesterfield cigarettes – but he regrets not getting one of the German P-38 pistols that one of his fellow soldiers confiscated. For this operation, Harvey was awarded the Bronze Star.

Several days later, Harvey recalls witnessing the gruesome sights of dead German snipers still hanging in the trees and, on another occasion, seeing the burnt remains of several German soldiers in a pillbox who had been killed by flamethrowers several hours earlier. It is apparently the smell that makes the most lasting impression. “I really got to me,” he said.

With so many German prisoners taken in the Battle of the Bulge, the U.S. had to man numerous new prison camps. Harvey was assigned to supervise a section of a POW camp that housed captured German officers. They professed to not liking Hitler, but later Harvey found out that many of them had been members of the German Nazi Party since the mid-thirties – not exactly the makings of a pro-democracy group!

Harvey’s POW camp assignment continued until the end of the war in Europe. Shortly after victory was declared, orders came to free the German prisoners and allow them to walk back home to Germany. Many were reluctant to leave the camp, fearing they would be shot as they walked away. Maybe that is a reflection of what they would have done if the tables were reversed.

After VE-Day, Harvey went to Brussels to await return to the U.S. The magic day finally came in September 1945 when he boarded the Queen Elizabeth. The Queen Elizabeth was a fast ship and the return voyage took only 5 days. Harvey was discharged from active duty in November of 1945, after more than three years and three months of active duty. On the return voyage



Former Valley Patriots of the Month Francisco Urena, Lawrence’s Veteran’s Services Coordinator and CPL Harvey Gibeau when he was the Commander of the DAV Methuen Chapter 2 in 2009.

Harvey met another soldier from Lawrence and they became friends. Upon reaching New York, his new friend invited Harvey to his home to meet the family. Harvey took him up on the offer and, as he walked in the door, he saw his friend’s sister, Flora, for the first time. They were married 8 months later and have been together now for nearly 60 years! At first, they took up residence in Lawrence, but have now lived in Methuen for the last 32 years. Although Harvey worked for several employers, he spent over 30 years with Borden Chemical in North Andover. He and Flora have two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Harvey Gibeau, thank you for your service! May you rest in peace!

BRONZE STAR CITATION: Private First Class Harvey Gibeau, 11055053, Coast Artillery Corps, United States Army, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy on 25 December 1944. Private First Class Gibeau, together with a fellow soldier, volunteered to accompany a warrant officer of his battalion on patrol. Fully realizing the dangers they would encounter, he and his companions entered a town still partially held by the enemy and aided in clearing the area. After entering the town, Private First Class Gibeau and his companions assisted in capturing a number of enemy troops. By his courageous and voluntary actions, Private First Class Gibeau aided greatly in clearing the area of enemy forces. Private First Class Gibeau’s courage and devotion to duty are a credit to himself and to the Army of the United States. “Cpl. Harvey Gibeau was awarded the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the European Theater of Operations medal.”

If you would like to nominate a veteran to be honored as a Valley patriot of the Month please email us at valleypatriot@aol.com or call 978-557-5413



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TO OUR BRAVE VETERANS, THANK YOU!

valleypatriot.com

TOM DUGGAN’S NOTEBOOK: FROM 23

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR THRESHOLD CHOIR - Merrimack Valley Hospice is forming a Threshold Choir. Initiated in 2000 by Kate Munger of Inverness, California, a Threshold Choir honors the ancient tradition of singing to people at bedside as they near the end-of-life. The Choir service will also perform for patients in nursing homes and hospitals. Along with singing at bedside, a Choir service alleviates stress for caregivers and family members and can be included as part of a patient funeral or memorial service. Currently, Merrimack Valley Hospice is recruiting individuals to join their Choir. Interested individuals should be at least 18 years of age, enjoy singing and be willing to travel to sing at the bedside of patients in our service area. Choir practice is scheduled to begin in late February and will take place twice a month in Andover. For more info on the Merrimack Valley Hospice Threshold Choir, please contact Sheryl Meehan, Volunteer Services Manager, at 978-552-4522, or by e-mail at smeehan@homehealthfoundation.org. For more information about all our programs and services, please visit our web site at www.MerrimackValleyHospice.org

DEANS LIST - Hung Doan of Lawrence, has been named to the Dean’s List at Drake University. Doan achieved this academic honor by earning a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher during the Fall 2010 semester at Drake.

LAWRENCE GENERAL - Ready to shop? The board of Auxiliary at Lawrence General is getting their huge February sales ready. The price of all the merchandise at the Thrift Shop will be reduced 50% from February 1st to the 11th. More bargain deals will follow at the end of the month. All proceeds will benefit to our current pledge: The pediatric unit renovations. The Thrift Shop is located across the street from the Hospital. Enter by lot 2, look for the OPEN flag. We are open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 2pm.

METHUEN VILLAGE - Dave Caponigro Performs at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s care, invites

the public to a performance by Dave Caponigro on the electronic keyboard on Friday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. Dave plays all the old standards! Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit www.MethuenVillage.com.

ELVIS PERFORMS on Valentine’s Day at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s care, invites the public to a performance by Stan Anderson, Jr. as Elvis on Monday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. RSVP by February 11 if you would like to attend. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit www.MethuenVillage.com.

THE EASTERN SOUND ORCHESTRA PERFORMS at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s care, invites the public to a performance by the Eastern Sound Orchestra, who will perform for our Polish Party on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. RSVP by February 14 if you would like to attend. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit www.MethuenVillage.com. All events are free and open to the public.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE LOOKING FOR PART TIME WORK as a companion, will do light house work. Can help family with medications, and Medicinal decisions. Available Monday through Friday 4 hours per day. Salary can be discussed. Andrea Casey Mt. Vernon St. 978-682-6132

PAUL SPEIDEL WILL BE PERFORMING in a duo formation with one of Boston’s most renowned Blue’s ladies: Shirley Lewis, Regal Queen of the Blues, on Saturday March 19th 9:30pm-12:30am at Furey’s Café located on 51 Fletcher Street in Lowell. This is a very special occasion for Furey’s, and for all local and non-local residents. A must see show!!!

MERRIMACK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL - Feb 12, 2011 - Newburyport, MA - Merrimack River Eagle Festival - Sat, 8:30AM-4PM - free -- Mass Audubon’s Joppa Flats Education Center. Details Apr - MRWC Earth Day Celebration - details coming Apr 9 - Andover, MA -- 20th Annual Merrimack River Trail Race - 9AM - fee -- Andover, MA. Details Jun 11-12 - Various locations in the SUASCO Watershed region --

RIVERFEST 2011 - 10th Anniversary - a celebration of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers, sponsored by Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers Stewardship Council. More information to come Summer - MRWC Summer Festival - details coming

FROM TEAM HAVERHILL - Two Sparkling Events to Benefit Essex Gateway Mural. You have two great choices for an evening out while supporting Haverhill’s newest landmark, the Essex Gateway Mural. An Oscar Night Out mural-benefit event will be hosted by Archie’s Place, 46 Washington Street in downtown Haverhill. On Sunday, February 27, from 7-11 p.m., guests will walk the Red Carpet into Archie’s and watch the Academy Awards with neighbors and friends. Ticket-holders will enjoy free appetizers, compliments of Archie’s, accompanied by a cash bar. Tickets are \$20 in advance at NMTW Community Credit Union (20 Cushing Avenue, Haverhill) or by mail (see below). Tickets at the door are \$25. All proceeds will be applied to the Essex Gateway Mural.

A five-course Wine Dinner will be hosted by Keon’s 105 Bistro on Sunday, April 3 at 6 p.m., also to benefit the Essex Gateway Mural. As guests gather at the restaurant, located at 105 Washington Street in Haverhill, they will sip sparkling wine, then sit down to five elegantly designed food courses, paired with distinctive wines and commentary by Alan Boisvert, owner of the award-winning Keon’s restaurant. The ticket is \$80, including gratuity, so the cost is competitive for a fine dining experience. Seating is limited at this intimate venue, so early reservations (information below) are recommended.

Tickets by mail for these events: To purchase an advance ticket for Oscar Night, or a ticket for the wine dinner, please send your name, address and email address along with a check payable to the GHCC CAEF (this stands for Greater Haverhill

Chamber of Commerce Community Arts and Education Foundation, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization). Mark the memo line “Essex Gateway Mural”, and mail your check to: Essex Gateway Mural, c/o Tim Jordan, 167 Kingsbury Avenue, Haverhill, MA 01835. For more information: Email team.haverhill@comcast.net

HISTORY COMES ALIVE THROUGH STORY-TELLING - J.G. Whittier’s Birthplace and Calvary Baptist Church are teaming up to sponsor a free musical production of Anne Broyles’ Priscilla and the Hollyhocks on Saturday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m. in the Calvary Baptist Church sanctuary, 13 Ashland Street, in downtown Haverhill. Marie Rawlings, noted storyteller and musician, will tell this memorable story in words and songs, accompanied by Calvary’s Youth Choir and young members. Priscilla, a young slave girl, possesses a talent passed down from her mother--making dolls from hollyhock flowers. As Priscilla finds her freedom, you will hear her true tale of sorrow and of longing, and learn about the family who adopted her along with fifteen other children. This engaging production celebrates Black History Month. Whittier was one of America’s first abolitionists. When Marie Rawlings came to the John Greenleaf Whittier Birthplace last summer, participants of all ages were drawn into another American story (Little House on the Prairie) by singing songs Ms. Rawlings had taught them on the spot. Priscilla and the Hollyhocks will involve the whole audience in a similar way. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Haverhill Cultural Council, a local agency affiliated with the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In the event of snow, the program will be held on Monday, February 21st at 1:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, Ashland Street, Haverhill. Parking is available in the lot next to the building.

HOMES FOR TROOPS! - There are two events this April to raise awareness and support for Homes For Our Troops. On April 2nd a dinner will be held in Andover MA. The following day a 5k walk / run will be held in Andover. Web site are runforthetroops5k.com orhomesfortroops.org

TSONGAS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS - Congressman Tsongas to serve on Armed Services, Natural Resources Committees - Congressman Niki

NO BRAINER: FROM 34

loved her and no sound of a caring, compassionate and familiar voice. Langbehn says that she’s not sure if she will ever get over that guilt.

My daughter spent most of the first four years of her life in a hospital. I watched both of my parents die of colon cancer, as well as, my father-in-law of lung cancer. I know, for a fact that, whether or not they were conscious, having family near, blood related or otherwise, was an enormous comfort to them. I would be sickened if I couldn’t hold my wife’s hand if she became sick. And I’d want to die a whole lot sooner, if she couldn’t be by my

side. This new regulation is a no brainer.

Call President Obama what you may, but he has done more for human rights, equality and the embracing of diversity than any President I have voted for to date. If anything, with this one thing, he gets it. Do you?



Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at DaniBLangevin@aol.com

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Tsongas will serve on the Armed Services Committee as a member of the Military Personnel and the Tactical Air & Land Forces Subcommittees. She will also serve on the Natural Resources Committee as a member of the National Parks Subcommittee. Tsongas released the following statement. “The Fifth District has a long history of military service which is reflected both in the number of our residents who serve in the active duty military as well as in the number of veterans who call the Fifth District home. That is why I sought to remain a member of the Armed Services Committee and this assignment allows me to continue to be their voice and advocate in Congress. I also represent one of the largest concentrations of defense related employers in the country that manufacture the products, develop the technology and create the jobs that keep our nation strong and our service members safe. “I will continue to push for development of lightweight body armor and new measures to better prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault in the military. While significant progress has been made on both of these important issues in recent years, more work remains to be done and I look forward to working with members of the committee on a bipartisan basis. The Fifth District is also home to the Lowell National Historical Park and Minute Man National Historical Park which is why I sought to remain on the Natural Resources Committee and the National Parks Subcommittee. The transformation of the City of Lowell was launched with the revolutionary idea of creating the country’s first urban national park and the revitalization of the City is directly related to the park’s creation. Minute Man National Historical Park attracts thousands of visitors per year to the Fifth District and is one of the defining landmarks in the southern portion of the Fifth District.

“I am also fortunate to represent several leading research institutions and small businesses that are on the forefront of renewable energy development. I strongly believe that we need to continue to pursue an innovative and comprehensive energy security plan and I can better advocate for this plan as a member of the Natural Resources Committee.”

The House Armed Services Committee jurisdiction includes defense policy generally, ongoing military operations, the Department of Defense, acquisition and industrial base policy, joint interoperability, Department of Energy nonproliferation programs, and detainee affairs and policy.

The House Natural Resources Committee considers legislation about American energy production, mineral lands and mining, fisheries and wildlife, public lands, oceans, and Native American affairs.

VFW POST FUNDRAISER - Saturday, March 26 · 7pm - 10pm at the Methuen VFW Post 8349, 26 River St. Methuen. Comedian and impressionist Bob Gautreau, star of HBO and A&E’s “An Evening at the Improv,” will perform. There will also be some of your friends singing songs for your entertainment. The will be dancing also. So bring your shoes. A Spaghetti Dinner will be served to Benefit the Post 8349. The VFW is also in need of some equipment repairs and replacement. To help, contact Ebb Morris for tickets...978-314-2868. Tickets \$15.00 advance.....\$20.00 @ the door. Dinner @ 7pm.....Show @ 8pm

WRITING AWARDS - The American Legion expands categories, extends deadline for Fourth Estate Awards

The nation’s largest veteran’s organization announced today the expansion – and deadline extension - of its annual Fourth Estate Award program for excellence in journalism. “This year, The American Legion will award multiple prizes to recognize the outstanding achievements being made in print, broadcast and new media, or Online (Internet-based) media,” said Robert L. Morrill, national chairman of the organization’s public relations commission. “The winner in each category will receive a \$2,000 stipend to cover expenses and travel to accept the awards at the 2011 American Legion National Convention to be held in Minneapolis in August.” The deadline for 2010 submissions in all categories has been extended until Feb. 28 for the convenience of those who may have multiple entries. An entry form and updated rules and information have been posted on The American Legion web site at www.legion.org/media/fourthestate. Send questions to pr@legion.org anytime. The expansion recognizes

What’s Happening in Epping

Formerly said in jest, “Epping- the center of the universe” is now true. Due to its strategic position at the crossroads of Route 101 and Route 125, Epping is becoming a retail center. Although development is booming, Epping’s architectural history has been spared from redevelopment.

One of Epping’s signature restaurants, The Holy Grail used to be a former church. Open Tuesday through Sunday there is always a crowd. They have added an Irish Cottage which is used as a function hall and in the good weather, there is an outdoor deck. The new Market Basket located on Route 125 in the Waterstone Development complex is approximately 77,000 square feet with a food court. The food served at the food court is scrumptious. There is a 16 stadium movie theater scheduled to open in 2011 as well as other notable clothing, electronic and food names. Recently, the Phantom Gourmet has awarded the Oriental Pearl their “Dish Worth Driving To” award. The Oriental Pearl is located on Route 125 or 285 Calef Highway in Epping, NH.

Epping’s Town Meeting is fast ap-

proaching. One of the issues that voters will have to decide is a 2.5 million dollar bond to purchase wells to ensure that there is a sufficient water supply for current use and future development. With absolutely no Federal dollars flowing into the Granite state or any money flowing from the state to the towns, this may be a difficult sell to the voters. Other notable warrant articles that one would hope passes are the new police officer under the “Cops Grant.”

While the Epping Fire Department is currently searching for a new full time Fire Chief approved by voters at Town Meeting last year, the department is being led by a very competent Deputy Chief Bruce Chapman. On the other side of the building is the Epping Police Department. The men and women of the police department are second to none under the leadership of Chief Gregory Dodge.

The Epping School District is led by Superintendent Barbara Munsey. Barbara and her assistant Martha, work very hard to ensure the children of Epping receive a quality education. The Epping School District also has a hard working and dedicated School Board.

Internet journalism while affording print and broadcast achievements an opportunity to each be recognized in the annual competition. Submissions are judged on the quality of reporting that the journalist believes produced a positive effect on society. “We invite journalists who have made a difference for the better in their community, state or nation to send us their entry,” Morrill said. “There is no entry fee and no single medium is limited as to the number of entries.” Some past winners have included Newsweek Magazine, ABC News, Dateline NBC, USA Today and the Detroit News. The complete list can be found on The American Legion web site.

HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE - From State Rep. Paul Adams - As we enter the middle of winter and experience dangerously cold weather and yearly snowfall far above the average, please be aware that financial assistance provided by Federal and sSate Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEA) are available to help pay heating costs. Applications cannot be taken by utility companies, so you must contact your local Community Action Program (CAP) provider to apply. My office can help you navigate this process. Even if you have never been eligible for assistance, you may now be eligible due to recent changes in income eligibility guidelines. Fuel assistance grants do not have to be paid back and assistance is often provided on a first-come, first serve basis until funds run out. Therefore, it is a good idea to apply as soon as possible.

In Massachusetts, 22 regional and government non-profit organizations assist customers in qualifying for heating assistance, including several in the Merrimack Valley. Again, my office can be helpful directing you to the correct agency, as well as finding information on ways to save on energy costs. Representative Adams continued: “Targeted, temporary spending is available to low-income residents struggling to heat their homes. Those truly in need should take advantage of these home heating assistance grants. Regardless of the State’s toughest economic conditions in the Greater Lawrence area, no family should be left out in the cold.” For more information, please contact: State Representative Paul Adams, 17th Essex House District, Andover, Lawrence, Tewksbury, Office: (617) 722-2800 x6304, Cell: (978) 494-3262, Paul.Adams@mahouse.gov

LOWELL - FROM THE CHELMFORD ART SOCIETY - Applications are still available for Appleton Mills, the first

affordable housing project in Massachusetts specifically designed for artists. When it is completed in the April of 2011, this former textile mill in downtown Lowell will offer 130 affordably priced, modern loft-style rental apartments for artists of all disciplines. Monthly rents for tenants will range from approximately \$421 for a studio to \$954 for a two-bedroom townhouse.

The response to our project has been overwhelming; we’ve had 120 certified artists apply for an apartment. As with our initial round of applicants, artists will have a preference over non-artists in the application process. Artists are certified by interviewing with the building’s Artist Selection Board. Interview sessions are approximately 20 minutes in length and allow artists an opportunity to showcase their portfolio to the Artist Selection Board. The interview process is not a judgment of an artist’s work. If you’re interested in setting up an artist interview and submitting an application to Appleton Mills, please contact Winn Residential at appletonmills@winco.com or 978.458.0588. Applications are now being processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For photographs, maps and other information on the project, please visit <http://www.liveappletonmills.com>

DELAMANO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY DINNER - Please plan to join us for the Delamano International Women’s Day Dinner and Silent Auction to be held at the Andover Country Club, Andover, MA on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 form 6-10pm. This year’s event will honor retired State Senator Susan Tucker with our Woman of the Year Award for her remarkable contributions toward eradicating domestic violence. Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction will go to help fund Delamano’s bilingual domestic violence help line and emergency assistance program. Delamano is a 501c 3 nonprofit organization serving the Greater Lawrence area. Tickets for attending this dinner event can be purchased for \$50 per person. To purchase tickets call our office number: 978-975-3300 or email Eleanor Turke at ejthomes@comcast.net

Tom Duggan is president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, a Police Survivor and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WHAV.NET, Wednesdays from 6pm-9pm. You can email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com.

New Haven Symphony Orchestra Reruiting Musicians for Community Orchestra Weekend

NEW HAVEN CT - There is still plenty of time to join the New Haven Symphony Orchestra (NHSO) for the first ever Community Orchestra Weekend, to be held March 25-27, 2011 in New Haven, CT.

The Community Orchestra Weekend will bring together amateur musicians from across the Northeast to work with world-renowned conductor William Boughton and members of the NHSO. The group will perform an ambitious program of music that goes beyond standard community orchestra repertoire to challenge participants’ instrument technique and overall musicianship. After intensive rehearsals the weekend culminates with a performance of Mahler’s Symphony No. 1, on March 27, 2:00pm in New Haven.

The NHSO is recruiting 100 amateur musicians to participate. Participants must already perform with a community orchestra and/or band to be considered for this event. A fee of \$150 is required to participate.

In addition to rehearsals and performanc-

es, the weekend will create camaraderie and an exchange of ideas between adult amateur musicians from different musical organizations. A welcome reception provided by Temple Grille, a guided tour of Yale University, a New Haven Pizza Night, and visits to the Collection of Musical Instruments and the Beinecke Library at Yale are planned. Lodging options are be available at a reduced fee for participants travelling to the event at the La Quinta Inn & Suites in New Haven for \$60 per night, mention Group #2371 when you book.

Interested applicants are asked to complete a registration form which can be found under the Education tab on the NHSO website www.newhavensymphony.org. A fee of \$150 is required to participate. Deadline for application has been EXTENDED to February 21, 2011. For more information, please contact Education Director, Daniel Kinsman at dkinsman@newhavensymphony.org or (203) 865-0831, ext. 13 or visit www.newhavensymphony.org.



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Giving Thanks for what we have

John Lenotte
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

A time for vigilance.

The November elections have passed. New and existing elected officials have taken their places and are now getting down to business. With the many changes in the last election, it would seem that those who did vote “spoke” their mind. More of the same just is not working. Yet we must be vigilant at all levels: National, State and local. As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words. The economy is still not fixed but seems to be on an upswing. We continue to hear about the need for budget cuts and to trim deficits. It all makes sense but is a daunting task. One cannot cut into a budget without looking at the consequences.

At the National level, we hear about cuts to the Defense budget with many opinions on how to do so. Should it not be up to Secretary Gates and his team to at least make preliminary decisions? It is easy to say “just bring the troops home” without looking at the political and moral implications. At the end of January, the budget for FY 2011 had still not been finalized. How can real decisions be made when working under continuing resolutions? How do they figure out the FY 2012 budget? There has to be some serious thinking about consequences. With admitted bias, I and others are concerned about the VA budget. Thank goodness it has grown the last few years. I am not saying there is not room for improvements but it should not lie on the backs of our troops who are coming home with physical and psychological wounds of war. Nor should it impact those who served in previous eras.

And on the State level, we saw Governor Patrick trying to cut services and budgets at the Soldiers Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke. It took a crying out and protests from veterans and their families to reverse that decision. And as I have noted in previous columns, I know of no other State program that receives funding from license plate fees. I trust we will not go through that

again this year. Again, budgets need to be trimmed and we have to live with reality. But let logic play a part in these decisions.

On another note, February brings to mind a special, social holiday. Valentine’s Day. Hearts, flowers, chocolate and other candies. Love blooms for many. There is however another special day in February. It is called Four Chaplains’ Day, designated by Congress in 1948 and typically celebrated on the Sunday closest to that day.

The Four Chaplains were four U.S. Army Chaplains who gave their lives to save other soldiers during the sinking of the troop ship U.S.A.T. Dorchester during World War II. They helped other soldiers’ board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The Chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

Of the 920 men who left New York on the U.S.A.T. Dorchester on January 23, 1943 only 230 were plucked from the icy waters by rescue craft. In addition to the Four Chaplains, 668 other men went to a watery grave with the ship. Had it not been for the Chaplains, the number of dead would certainly been much higher. There is more to this story which can be found on the internet or at a library. The American Legion conducts services at various locations in the Commonwealth. There will be one in Middleton this year as well as Bedford, Fall River and Northampton. These are sacrifices that we as a people, a Nation cannot forget. When we lose our history we will lose our future. I hope you will join me in not forgetting their sacrifice and the fact that 4 Chaplains of different religions were able to share a common bond.

May God Bless our troops and bring them home safe.



John Lenotte is the American Legion, Commander, Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill and Vice Commander, Dept. of Massachusetts. You can Email him at JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

Lawyers praise Gov. proposal to eliminate mandatory minimums for drug offenses

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Bar Association praises Gov. Deval Patrick’s sentencing reform package, which seeks to repeal mandatory minimums for non-violent drug sentences. The MBA has been a long-time advocate for sentencing reform.

“These changes are smart on crime and will save significant costs now associated with the unnecessary incarceration of non-violent individuals,” MBA Chief Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer Martin W. Healy said. “The legislation more appropriately balances public safety while providing necessary treatment and training for individuals transitioning back into society.”

The legislation contains other positive reforms supported by the MBA, including reducing school zones from 1,000 to 100 feet. School zones of 1,000 feet disproportionately affect those in poor urban environments.

The MBA’s Drug Policy Task Force, comprised of nearly three dozen prominent

leaders, including lawyers and law enforcement, in June of 2009, issued a report that called for comprehensive sentencing reform including eliminating mandatory minimums and shrinking the school zone. “The Failure of the War on Drugs: Charting a New Course for the Commonwealth” came after more than one year of research and consideration. To view the full report, visit www.massbar.org/MBADrugReport.

The MBA looks forward to working with the administration and legislature to produce the best legislation possible.

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.

CLUBS: FROM PAGE 7

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Rotary Club - Rotary International is the world’s first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary club members are volunteers who work globally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace, and eradicate polio under the motto Service Above Self.



The most notable project, “PolioPlus”, is contributing to the global eradication of polio. Since the start of the project in 1985, Rotarians have contributed over\$850 million dollars and tens of thousands of volunteer-hours, leading to the inoculation of more than two billion of the world’s children.

The stated purpose of Rotary Club is to bring together business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. It is a secular organization open to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender or political preference. The Lawrence Rotary ClubP.O. Box 845 Lawrence , MA 01842, Andover Rotary meet Fridays at 7:30 AM, Lanam Club, 260 North Main Street, Andover. Contact The Rotary Club of Haverhill

Julian Rich, President - (978) 373-3861 E-mail: president@haverhillrotary.com

Bonnie Michaleas, Secretary (978) 374-9122 E-mail: secretary@haverhillrotary.com

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Knights of Columbus - Charity is the foremost principle of the Knights of Columbus. In the 2009 fraternal year the Knights of Columbus gave more than \$151 million directly to charity and its members performed over 69 million hours in volunteer service. Endowed funds of over \$54 million support a number of Church related and community causes.

The Knights of Columbus was originally formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works. 1 Market Street, Lawrence, MA 01843-1744, (978) 686-5525

The National Exchange Club – a service organization with 700 clubs and 22,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico - will celebrate its 100th anniversary in March 2011. The Exchange Club specializes in helping youth and



service to senior citizens. The National Exchange Club is best known for its efforts in the prevention of child abuse. For almost 100 years, their volunteer efforts have supported the needs of the country and local communities, which is the country’s oldest American service organization operating exclusively in this country. The Exchange Club of Haverhill, P.O. Box 543, Haverhill, MA 01831 Phone: 978.373.1010 Email: email@haverhillexchangeclub.com

Exchange Club Of Lawrence: Serving Lawrence, Andover, & North Andover PO Box 552, Lawrence MA 01842 Tel: 978-662-0522 E-Mail: info@lawrenceexchangeclub.com

Greater Lowell, MA

This club meets at: Brewery Exchange Cabot St, Lowell, MA 01850

Methuen Exchange club contact: Greg Debrocke 978 686-2764

Art Hutton 978-681-8897

Jack MacLeod 978-681-1831

Scratching the Surface

In this article we provided a few highlights of some of more well known clubs in the area. It would be nearly impossible to put pen to paper and tell you everything that these valued organizations provide on a daily basis to the communities they serve. Their mission, mottos and structures may vary but all of these clubs are committed to helping and caring for people and the communities they live in.

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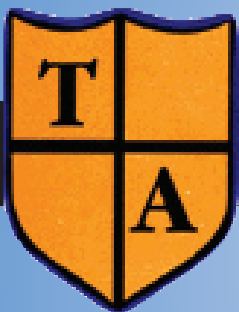
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