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JUNE, 2012
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 56
Edition 104



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DOE: NO EXIT PLAN

Auditor Bump: We Will Audit Lawrence After the Fact

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Massachusetts Commissioner of Education Mitch Chester stood on a stage at the South Lawrence East School last month flanked by Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua, City Councilor Dan Rivera, State Representative Paul Adams, Maura Banta, Chairman of the State Board of Education, receiver Jeff Riley, and others. The purpose was to unveil and explain to the public Receiver Jeff Riley's six-point turn-around plan for the Lawrence school system.

There is no legal definition or policy, however, outlining what specific goals must be met for the schools to be considered "turned around" and then turned over to local Lawrence officials.

Under the receivership plan the Lawrence School Committee has no legal authority for the budget and finances of the Lawrence Schools, hiring or firing



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

of staff, nor do they possess policy making authority.

Receiver Riley, who came from the Boston Public Schools, has been appointed by Education Commissioner Mitchell and holds all the full legal authority to act as the school committee and Superintendent.

Riley was given a three and a half year contract, at \$198,000 per year with benefits and reimbursements to "turn around" the school district.

Here's how Riley explained the "Plan" he produced over the last six months:

"I want to highlight the six key themes of the plan:

#1: Combining the best of Lawrence and the best of the Commonwealth. There are great things happening inside the city already.

I am pleased to announce Michael Qualters will be taking over as Head Master of Lawrence High School. As we

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Jeff Katz
on The Boy Scouts P. 2

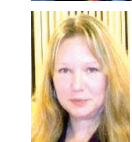
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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

HERO IN OUR MIDST: SSG ROBERT A. FAIRBAIRN, III, U.S. ARMY

Helen Mooradkian
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

November 11, 1967, Veterans Day, on Hill 823 in the remote forested jungles of Vietnam's Central Highlands. During the 33-day "Battle of Dak To." It's a date that Staff Sergeant Bob Fairbairn, Boston, and others from 1st battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, will long remember. "Task Force Black" was trapped in a deadly ambush—199 men from 1-503rd Companies C and D overrun by two battalions of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA). Within the first 15 minutes of battle, nearly every man was either killed or wounded.

"Everyone out front was dead," Fairbairn said. Severely wounded himself, he first destroyed all the radios and machineguns before pulling out, dragging

machine gunner Jerry Kelley's body with him up the slope. Fairbairn was the last paratrooper out.

No sooner had he joined the wounded being treated when he heard the cry "frag" amid the battle's din. A Chicom hand grenade! PFC John Barnes, Dedham, Mass., threw himself on the grenade—saving the lives of Fairbairn and 15 other wounded troopers. Barnes died almost instantly and, for this act of heroism above and beyond the call of duty, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Fifty years earlier, exactly to the day, November 11, 1917, during WWI in France, Fairbairn's grandfather, an officer with the 26th Yankee Division, was wounded in combat and decorated for

FAIRBAIRN PAGE 35



SSG Bob Fairbairn (left), 173rd Airborne Brigade, 503rd Airborne Infantry, received four Purple Hearts for combat in the Vietnam War, 1966-1970, surviving some of the deadliest battles. Now he works to raise funds to help wounded veterans. Shown here at the Wounded Warrior Motorcycle Run are Fairbairn with Andrew Del Ross Biggio (center), who just returned from his second tour in Afghanistan with the 2/25th Marines, and Dennis Moschella (right), who served in Vietnam. They raised \$76,211, which will be used to make needed modifications to homes of two wounded veterans.

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RILEY'S TURNOVER PLAN: MORE MONEY!

Receiver Jeffrey Riley's plan to improve the educational opportunities for the children of Lawrence contains a few ideas that, if fully exploited, may improve performance. That being said, the parents of Lawrence's school children and the taxpayers that fund this educational debacle, were both left out of the process of creating this plan, and have every right to be highly skeptical.

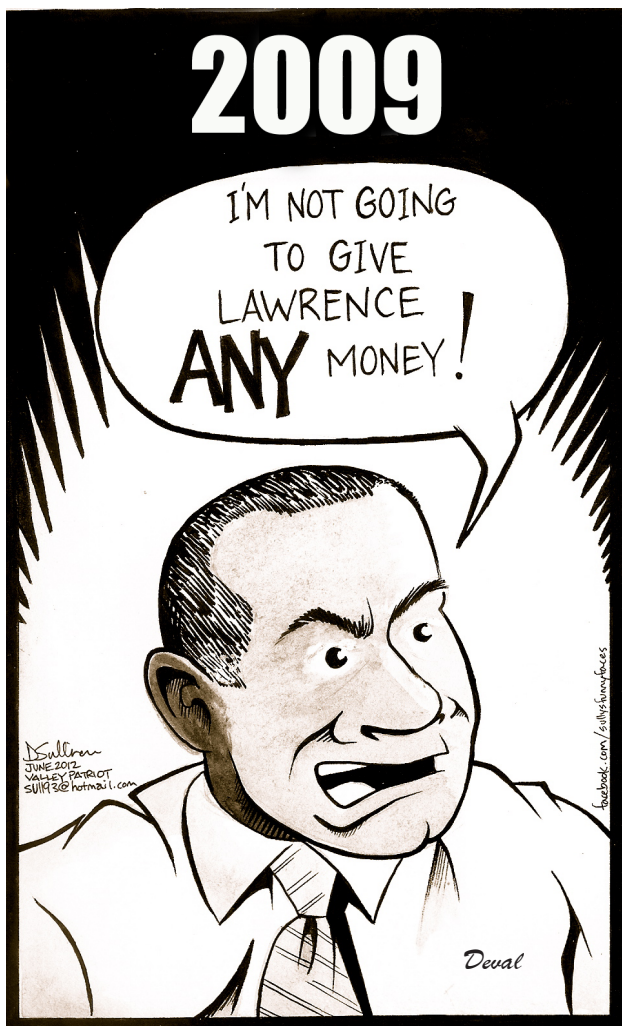
Specifically, we are concerned that the unions will use every mechanism at their disposal to undermine the plan's proposed reforms related to teacher accountability. Lawrence Teachers Union President Frank McLaughlin has already indicated that these changes will be subject to collective bargaining and the union has already grieved the dismissal of the few teachers that Riley's receiver-review process has determined were underperforming.

Riley's plan adds 160 hours of class time to each school year. One can be certain that this will increase costs 10 - 15% (teachers don't work for free) while doing little or nothing to raise academic achievement.

We wonder if this extra funding – about \$15 million – is the payoff to the unions for lack of teacher accountability. Regardless, the academic achievement of students depends more on a solid curriculum combined with high standards, than it does on class hours.

Our Plan: Throw out the education fads like spiral learning, fuzzy math, discovery-based science, and whole-word reading. Avoid the use of calculators and insist that students learn the basic mechanics of arithmetic, fractions, algebra and trigonometry. Eliminate make-work homework which elevates art projects over serious reading, writing, science and mathematics. Stop inflating grades and honestly report student achievement to the students and their parents. And finally, urge parents to become fully aware of and involved in their students academics.

One positive aspect of the plan is the involvement of outside educational organizations. Fresh ideas and perspectives are always of value. Unfortunately, it is not clear that the organizations selected were chosen based on an open process, that quantitative goals were set for their performance, or that they will be held accountable for results.



Even more important, it is not clear if quantitative goals have been set for school administrators or what the consequences will be for missing those goals. Government bureaucracies are known for "protecting their own," not protecting the interests of their customers.

The only way to ensure that the schools are accountable to their customers – its students and their parents -- is to provide the parents vouchers and let them choose between competing education providers. (See Dr. Ormsby's plan published in our April edition and online at Valley Patriot.com).



The Riley plan is timid and unimaginative; especially given that it took six months to concoct. It might yield a mild and temporary boost to the performance of the Lawrence schools, but it definitely will be certain to raise costs substantially and permanently.

The lack of real customer control, exercised through vouchers, is the major missing element. Real and lasting reforms can only come when the power of the purse is transferred from the bureaucrats to the customers. Without this, it is inevitable that the plan will be a costly failure.

Proud of my Boy Scout and Proud of the Boy Scouts

Jeff Katz

RADIO TALK SHOW HOST/TALK 1200AM

There are times as a father where your son can just plain make you proud. I look back on some of those times now, as my oldest son Harry embarks on the next part of his scouting journey which I hope and pray will one day bring him to the rank of Eagle Scout.

The first time that I experienced some pride was when my newborn son arrived. My wife and I had not planned to name our first son Harry, but my Dad passed away just five days before my little guy made his entrance. In keeping with my faith and heritage we decided to name my son in honor of the Grandfather he would never meet, and so Harrison Katz was born. Harrison has always seemed so formal though so Harry is the moniker usually hung on my oldest son.

Harry has advanced through all of the

Cub Scout ranks and recently crossed over and became a Boy Scout. He has sailed his ships in rain gutter regattas, sold popcorn and candles, built and raced Pinewood Derby cars, gone camping and hiking, but it is the service projects and lessons in duty which really touch me.

One of the most important parts of becoming a Boy Scout is the education one receives on all matters patriotic. A true appreciation for the country is instilled, and the proper handling and care of, as well as reverence for, our flag is taught and continually reinforced.

As part of this past Memorial Day, Harry, along with his troop, participated in a number of events. He served as part of the Color Guard for the Memorial Day Mass at the local church which so graciously hosts his troop. My son has earned a number of Jewish scouting awards which he proudly displays on his uniform and I was especially heartened as one of

the priests mentioned how touching it was that a Jewish scout was participating in the special service. Our faiths are different, but we both understand that our first duty is always to God just like the Boy Scout oath makes clear.

On Memorial Day itself, Harry and his fellow Scouts once again acted on their oath as they demonstrated their duty to their country and to others, as they formed the Color Guard for the Memorial Day service at our local cemetery. I beamed with pride as these fine young men sacrificed some of their time to pay tribute to those heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

But in between these two events, our Scouts stood outside a local supermarket and sold poppies to raise money for our town's Veterans of Foreign Wars post. They never asked for anything other than a contribution to help our heroes who have served overseas. Imagine the shock and surprise of my son and his fellow Scouts when a woman yelled and screamed at them, babbling about "their agenda." Well, my son is a pretty bright guy, but his agenda usually involves some extra time on the PS3 or another slice of pie. She proceeded to yell even more, but the Scouts were still courteous, kind and friendly.

I started thinking at that point about the true agenda of the Boy Scouts of America. They do have an agenda. The Boy Scout agenda involves countless Moms and Dads donating their time to help lead dens and packs and troops. The Boy Scout agenda supports the efforts of young boys to become young men by teaching them to be prepared and to do a good turn daily.

The agenda of the Boy Scouts works to remind their members to always be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous,



kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. The Boy Scout agenda involves crafting leaders and visionaries.

My son and his brother Boy Scouts take their oath quite seriously. They have committed it to memory and work hard each day to live it. "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." That is the agenda of each and every Boy Scout. It is why I am so proud of all of the Boy Scouts, especially mine.

The Valley Patriot is published monthly before the tenth of each month by the Valley Patriot, Inc., PO Box 453, North Andover, MA 01845. Copyright (c) 2012, Valley Patriot, Inc. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are \$50 per year and sent via U.S. Mail.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Valley Patriot, Inc., POB 453, North Andover, MA 01845.

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.

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.

The Valley Patriot is printed by Graphic Development in West Hanover, Mass.

Local daily news updates are online at www.valleypatriot.com

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News tips

Phone in anonymous news-tips to (978) 683-3952, or you may email tips to us at valleypatriot@aol.com. We respect the anonymity of our sources if requested.

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What’s a Traditional Democrat to Do When His Party Has Been Hijacked by Leftist Extremists?

Doctor Chuck Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR/COLUMNIST

You’ve probably heard of “Conservative Democrats.” Lately they have been as scarce as hen’s teeth.

Locally, I viewed the late Senator Steve Baddour (still breathing, but no longer a state senator) as a Conservative Democrat. While we had a modest overlap of views, we certainly differed on many issues. That being said, Senator Baddour operated within the realm of common sense. He was someone with whom one could conduct a rational discussion of public policy issues. When discussing education policy, he realized that the interests of students did not always align with the interests of the teachers unions. He understood that increasing taxes and regulations had a dampening effect on the economy and he appreciated that individual freedom was a critical characteristic of the American experience, not just some outdated concept to be sacrificed to a “progressive” (read reactionary) legislative initiative.

With little notice and less real explanation, Baddour recently announced his resignation from the Massachusetts Senate. The Senate will miss him, including the few Republicans who still reside there. Had the Senate been full of Baddours, we would be a substantially freer and more prosperous state. I hope, now that he has left the Senate, that Baddour will speak up for a more liberal, i.e., freedom-oriented, future for Massachusetts and the nation.

Nationally, Democrat Party leaders have done everything in their power to expunge any party members harboring even a tinge of conservative thinking. Of course, they embrace them when the alternative is anyone with even more conservative views -- whether another Democrat or a Republican -- but whenever they are able to replace them with a more progressive leftist, they have done so in a heartbeat.

I’ve been politically conscious since the very late 1950s. In high school I routinely read the U.S. News and World Report and especially enjoyed the editorials printed on the inside back cover. David Lawrence, who kept a portrait of FDR prominently displayed in his office, authored most of

those editorials. Lawrence cut his journalistic teeth as a close friend of our first progressive president, Woodrow Wilson. Here is the U.S. News and World Report description of Lawrence’s early career:

“David Lawrence started his career as a student at Princeton University when he was a campus correspondent for the Associated Press and Woodrow Wilson was the college’s president. When Wilson ran for president of the United States, Lawrence followed him on the campaign trail, then chronicled his presidency as a Washington correspondent for AP and later for the New York Evening Post. So close was Lawrence to the president that he was often derided as Wilson’s ‘spokesman.’ Industrialist Henry Ford, in one of his notorious anti-Semitic screeds, called Jewish journalist David Lawrence, Wilson’s ‘unofficial mouthpiece’ and claimed he had the ‘run of the White House offices.’ ”

Despite his early exposure to the progressive ideology and his respect for FDR, Lawrence became a prominent conservative spokesman. In those days, it was common to disagree with others while respecting their good intentions.

In 1960 I watched the Democrat convention on TV. I decided I really liked John Kennedy and I especially appreciated his support for a strong foreign policy. That convention was followed by the Republican convention, at which point I waived and finally decided Nixon was the better choice. Regardless of the outcome, I respected both candidates and felt no antipathy towards President Kennedy. His inaugural address was worthy of the support of all Americans and I think he deserves credit, along with Martin Luther King, for helping America begin the transition to a largely unsegregated and anti-discriminatory society. His foreign policy, despite the debacle of the Bay of Pigs invasion, was well-intended based on an honest assessment of America’s interests. All in all, most Americans could rally around their president even if they had a different political affiliation.

Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. What has happened?

The Democrat Party has swerved hard left, while the Republican Party has largely

retained its former spectrum of ideological positions, possibly with a more philosophically consistent and committed set of core conservatives (more on this later).

By expunging, whenever possible, its more conservative members, the Democrat Party has moved further and further towards a consistently progressive-socialist-communist-fascist ideology. An ideology that, if made explicit, I believe most Democrats would reject.

As it drifted left, the Democrat Party was often described as Liberal, but of course it was the exactly the opposite. Liberalism describes a political philosophy that champions individual freedom and opposes government interference in the private affairs (including economic affairs) of individuals. The Democrat Party and its current embrace of progressive-socialist-communist-fascist ideology uniformly supports such interference.

If you are a traditional Democrat, you might be put off by the use of the terms “socialist, communist, and fascist” (“progressive” still retains a wholesome image to many) and view use of these terms as name calling. But it isn’t. It merely reflects the true, underlying ideology of those who believe government should rule the economy and dictate the choices that individuals must make.

Are Democrat leaders the equivalent of Stalin, Mao, or Hitler? Of course not. I’m sure they have no desire to commit the horrors of those regimes, but that does not mean there is not an underlying overlap of their political philosophies. The road to Hell is paved with good intentions and I believe most Democrats, including much of their party’s leadership, are operating with good intentions.

But Hell is the destination nevertheless. That is where the current Democrat leadership is dragging us. And, unless the good folks who populate the Democrat party realize the radical shift towards these evil philosophies and help pull their party back from the abyss, our republic and our liberties are in grave danger.

As the Democrat Party shifted left, the political philosophy of the core conservatives in the Republican Party slowly

matured. It was a messy migration that went through many fits and starts. It was influenced by: Barry Goldwater’s Conscience of a Conservative, one of my early influences; Ayn Rand’s Atlas Shrugged, and her philosophical works; the Austrian School of Economics, especially Bastiat, Say, Menger, Boehm-Bawerk, Von Mises, Hayek, Hazlitt, and Rothbard; the Chicago School of Economics, especially Milton Friedman; and the libertarian movement, among many others.

Nothing in politics is pure and simple, nor is it ever free of contradictions. That being said, this core philosophy, based on individual liberty, property rights, free markets, and limited government, now represents an influential segment of the Republican Party and Tea Party movement.


This is the major philosophical change in the Republican Party since 1960. While the spectrum of political opinion in the party has not shifted radically, the core philosophy has matured and become better grounded.

The choice between the Republicans and Democrats is now philosophically clearer than it has been for a long time. Traditional Democrats, the Kennedy and Clinton Democrats, and even old-timers clinging to FDR’s memories, must ask themselves if they and their grandchildren are better off with a hard-left, totalitarian philosophy ruling America or if a more freedom-oriented philosophy isn’t a better choice.

The political polarization we experience today has resulted from the Democrat embrace of a far-left, totalitarian political philosophy and the Republican re-discovery of the philosophic underpinnings of liberty. The American people have not fully recognized or understood this political divergence ... but they are getting there.

I hope the many traditional Democrats will join us in this re-embrace of liberty.

I for one will welcome them with open arms. You should too.

 Dr. Ormsby is a former member of the N.A. School Committee. He is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate degree from MIT. He is currently a Professor of Mathematics at UMASS, Lowell. You can email him at: ccormsby@comcast.net

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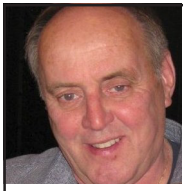
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Independence Day in the Town of Andover

Anne Knowles
VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

Next month we will celebrate the most important American holiday of the year. We’ve all studied the Fourth of July, but what do we remember of that historical day and what does it means to all of us?

Andover, like so many Colonial towns and villages that populated Essex County, was made up of many residents that were proud citizens of their communities. But soon they were caught up with revolutionary fever, when they felt the British Parliament and King across the Atlantic were exploiting them by enforcing unfair and unjust taxes upon them.

The Boston Tea Party in December 1773, under the guidance of Sam Adams and the Sons of Liberty, boarded three ships in Boston Harbor, the Dartmouth, Eleanor and Beaver, belonging to the East India Tea Company. The Sons of Liberty dressed as “Indians”

boarded the ships and tossed overboard the tea, thus depriving the coffers of King George of substantial tax money for Britain.

As the colonists became more and more independent of England, Andover passed a resolution that prohibited the sale of imported tea, due to the high tax imposed upon the tea. Trouble was brewing in the Massachusetts colony and the fate of its citizens was coming to a crisis.

The first serious show of power, from the colonists, came on April 18, 1775,

when the “Redcoats” marched to Lexington and Concord to seize gunpowder and other munitions that were believe to be stored there. On April 19, 1775, Andover had approximately 400 men ready to March to Lexington and make their stand. Although they arrived too late to join in that battle, they fought valiantly against the British at Bunker Hill in Charlestown, and in many other battles. “The town of Andover funded bayonets for all of those men who did not have them”. Quoted from the Essex Gazette.

Four Militia groups from Andover answered the call to arms, among them many prominent citizens, as well as the ordinary men of the town, farmers, teachers and shopkeepers alike.

For most of year in 1775, there was tremendous upheaval in the colonies. There were many battles to fight, opinions and ideas to be settled, a declaration to be written, and a constitution to be studied and approved.

This time in our history was one of the most divisive and touched just about every man, woman and child with the belief that this was a battle that must be fought and won. The British army was the best in Europe and had plenty of funds behind it. How could the poorly equipped army of the colonists survive, let alone win? With grit, determination, and the realization that the new society they were going to form was the most important goal for them and their children.

Here are just a few patriotic facts

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Notices From the North Andover Senior Center

What is Elder Abuse? According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, elder abuse refers to intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that causes (or potentially causes) harm to a vulnerable elder. Elder Abuse can happen to anyone – a loved one, a neighbor, and when you are old enough it can even happen to you. Elder abuse affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures and races.

Elder Abuse can occur anywhere; in a person’s home, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other institutional settings. Based on available information, women and “older” elders are more likely to be victimized and the mistreatment is most often perpetrated by the victim’s own family members. Please join us, on June 15, in wearing purple to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. On Wednesday June 20, at 10:30 a representative from the ESMV, Protective Service Team will join us for a special presentation and discussion. Learn what you can do to protect yourself and the ones you love from Elder Abuse. Refreshments will be served.

Recycle and support the Senior Center. The Senior Center needs donations of gently used jewelry, knick-knacks and other small items for our Unique Boutique. Please leave your gently used treasures at our reception desk anytime. You can also drop off your used cell phones and ink cartridges for recycling.

NEW TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE: Pick up at your home, drop off at local hairdressers, visit a friend at a local hospital, rehab, assisted living. Need a ride to the library, Town Hall etc.? Rides available Thursdays from 1-3:30 pm, call the Center 2 days in advance for schedule.

GOLF PASSES: Buy your passes at the Senior Center, \$6, for North Andover Seniors only. Golf at the North Andover Country Club (Dress Code), Mondays after noon June 4 thru August 27. 9 holes-\$15 and 18 holes-\$20. Must show proof of residency.

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emails.

SUPPER CLUB: Travel to Not Your Average Joe’s in Newburyport on June 21. Transportation \$3, leaves Senior Center at 4:00.

SUMMER FUN: Sign up at Reception. Thursday, June 28, travel by Senior Center van to Hampton Beach and enjoy the Annual Sand Sculpture Competition. Bus \$3. Stop for an ice cream cone, pay on your own.

MYSTERY RIDE: Thursday, June 14, Portsmouth Harbor Cruise, \$16. Lunch on your own at Café Espresso, Bus \$4 leaves Senior Center at 8:30 returns approximately 2:30.

LECTURE SERIES: June 4, Dick Vaillancourt, our newly elected Selectman re: Town Issues. June 11, Michelle Ellicks, Registry of Motor Vehicles, June 18, Professor Mary McHugh, Merrimack College, Political Science. June 25, Ted Zalewski, Impersonator of Teddy Roosevelt: Mind, Body and Spirit, sign up is required for this lecture.

FOXWOODS: Next scheduled trip, Tuesday, June 19. \$30 includes lunch buffet, transportation and Keno. Bus leaves from St. Michael’s parking lot at 7 am

MEN’S BREAKFAST: Thursday June 7th @ 9 am, Speaker: Richard Padova, topic is Presidential Primary’s in New Hampshire. Richard is on the faculty at Northern Essex Community College.

FREE ICE CREAM SOCIAL:

SENIORS: PAGE 38

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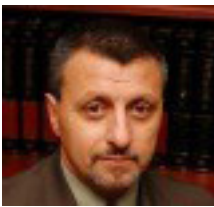
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Groveland Town Forest: A story still unfolding

Joseph D’Amore
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR



Here is a bit of history and developing events related to Groveland’s Town Forest.

The forest was set aside for lumber production in the 19th century and then later became conservation land.

Until the 1990’s the Forest saw little use and huge tall, dense white pines grew unscathed. The Forest hosted a network of informal trails in Groveland extending into Brake Hill, West Newbury. In the late 1990’s Groveland’s Boy Scout Troop 87 marked and improved a trail from Wood Street proceeding around the top of Crow Hill which at an elevation of 252 feet is the highest point in Groveland. These trails were first shown on maps from the old Friends of Our Trails group, chaired by Newburyport’s Tom Horth. When Nichols Village replaced the old Valley Farm additional trails were cleared and easements obtained.

Valley Farm was actually part of the

original tracts of land developed by the earliest settlers in the area dating back to the late 1600s. Two families the Maddocks and Tarlton’s owned some of these tracts that included the farm. The Nichol’s family acquired the farm many years later and through the Nichol’s Trust developed the land into the present-day Nichol’s Village senior community.

Advertisement

In the early 2000’s Groveland voted down a move to develop water facilities on Crow Hill and housing developments. People developed an interest in the forest and Bagnall School students led by teacher Hilary Seager added trail posts and marked most of the current trails. Ms Seager and the Bagnall fourth grade students also



played instrumental roles in developing a trail system on the other side of town in a beautiful area known as Meadow Pond. You’ll find this on Uptack Road. Take the time to enjoy this wonderful network of well marked trails.

West Newbury Open Space Committee marked most of the remaining trails and opened new ones to

Main Street on the Groveland line off of Route 113 across the street from Pentucket’s tennis courts. Maps were published and appear on the West Newbury Open Space web site.

In the latest chapter for the Forest, a water storage tank and service road are being built. You can access the service road and find many of the original trails off of

Wood street. Some of the trails have been cleared away to make room for the service road.

There was a lobbying effort to have the tank located on the Webster property adjacent to the Town Forest on Wood street which did not materialize.

Nonetheless most of the Forest and contiguous Brake Hill area will remain natural and be part of a comprehensive trail network linking Nichols Village and Wood Street with trails in West Newbury and beyond.

This system called the “ Emerald Necklace” ties our Town Forest and future trails being planned into a network with names such as Riverbend, Mill Pond, Brake Hill and Crane Neck Wildlife area.

Perhaps after the Water Tower is situated on Crow Hill and the service road completed, Ms Seager, her students from Bagnall and Troop 87 might re-establish the trails and add new ones too. .

This is a beautiful part of our town that can be enjoyed by many for generations. And the best part is that in a few years it might be possible to hike from Wood street all the way to Newburyport traversing old forests, farms, marshes and meadows!

The New School Project in Georgetown

Theodore F. Smolen
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Recently, I read a well-written and interesting article in the Georgetown Record by Mr. Bruce Amaro entitled “Choices ahead for new school.” It was interesting not only for what it did say, but for what it did not say. During the feasibility study phase of the NEW SCHOOL PROJECT the School Building Committee evaluated 17 separate scenarios ranging from “Full Renovation plus medium Addition” with an estimated project cost of \$32,000,000 of which \$16,000,000 would be borne by the taxpayers of Georgetown and the most expensive alternative, involving new construction on fields with a price tag of \$43,000,000, \$25,000,000 of which would be borne by the taxpayers of Georgetown. After deliberation, the School Building Committee, with the hearty endorsements of both the School Committee and four-fifths of the Board of Selectmen, selected the most expensive alternative.

Now, implementation of the chosen alternative would, in all likelihood raise the real estate tax rate from \$13.09/\$1000 of assessed value to \$15.07/\$1000. If your house is assessed at \$100,000 your taxes would go from \$1309 to \$1501 and if your house were assessed at \$500,000 your taxes would go from \$6545 to \$7505.

But there are other reasons to rethink this \$43,000,000 option. The citizens of Georgetown have to ask themselves if this greatly expanded project is truly necessary. For example, the Massachusetts School Building Authority maintains statistics and projections of enrollments in the town of Georgetown. These figures project a DOWNWARD trend in all grade groups with the exception of K-5 starting in 2010.

The citizens of Georgetown also have to ask themselves if this expensive project is in the best interest if the town. Is it, in fact, the best deal for Georgetown. Real estate professionals see this projected tax rate as being very bad for the town for the

reason that it just might discourage young first time home buyers from buying here. We should keep in mind that Georgetown is not Newbury, nor is it Boxford, or Dover.

Another issue that must be considered is the egregious lack of preventative maintenance to the extant school buildings. Perusal of documents posted online by the school building committee demonstrate without doubt that preventative maintenance has been performed at a minimum. With regard to maintenance the school superintendent, in a most cavalier manner, told Mr. Amaro “When we have to decide which jobs to fund first, teachers or janitors, we have to opt for the teacher . . . It’s not an easy choice , because it’s no choice at all, really.” I don’t think the Superintendent understands the functions of a janitor. In my book the janitors do basic cleaning and perform minor repairs. The reason that the schools are in such poor condition (as claimed in the documents justifying new construction) is that routine

preventative maintenance is basically ignored. So, what we have are “throwaway buildings.” Use them up, throw them out, and build new ones. This is a vicious cycle and it must stop. A middle ground must be reached taking into account both the actual educational needs of the community and basic building maintenance. Not performing basic and life extending preventative maintenance to publically funded structures is a form of egregious and callous negligence. Perhaps it would be a good idea to “earmark” public funds so that they MUST be spent on maintenance or relinquished.

The town has already been subjected to an egregious increase in real estate taxes due to the unfortunate 2011 override.

I don’t think the town is ready for another so soon. So, I urge the citizens of Georgetown to give careful consideration to these issues before blindly approving the funding for this most expensive option at the fall town meeting.

Five Centenarians Celebrate Birthdays at Penacook Place, Haverhill

HAVERHILL – Five residents of Penacook Place Nursing and Rehabilitation Center recently celebrated birthdays of 100 years or more. Residents, staff, family members, elected officials and other guests were on hand for the Seventh Annual Centenarian Celebration.

This yearly event salutes all of the residents at Penacook Place who have or will attain the age of 100 years old or more during the year. This year, five residents

were honored at the gala. They are Flora Batchelder, 102; Mary English, 102; Anne Cantori, 100; Evelyn Kelley, 100; and Virginia Webster, who turns 100 June 12.

“The centenarian celebration is a special event every year, but this year also commemorated the century mark for Nivea Cream and Fenway Park. We were delighted to receive from these organizations special commemoration certificates and gifts for the five honorees. In fact, each

resident now owns a piece of Fenway Park—a small packet of Fenway gravel,” said Penacook’s President and CEO Julian Rich.

Among those attending was Mayor James J. Fiorentini, who presented each centenarian with a special citation from the city of Haverhill. In addition, each centenarian received citations from Senator Scott Brown and former Senator Steven Baddour. Penacook Place also had a special gift for each of the 100 year young ladies—a monogrammed locket and matching jewelry box.

Located at 150 Water St., the 160-bed Penacook Place Nursing and Rehabilitation Center—rated deficiency-free in two consecutive annual surveys by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health—is



the only not-for-profit nursing and rehabilitation facility serving the city of Haverhill. Contributions that support the purchase of new equipment, renovations and resident activities can be made to the Friends of Penacook Fund, c/o Penacook Place, 150 Water St., Haverhill, MA, 01830.



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SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 24

Who is Minding the Store in Methuen?

Kenneth Willette, Jr.
VALLEY PATRIOT METHUEN COLUMNIST

I have observed with great dissatisfaction political decisions being considered or enacted by our local leadership in Methuen. With each questionable decision, I have come to the same conclusions: when are real government reforms going to be implemented and how much will these recent actions to augment the size of local government ultimately cost the taxpayers?

Consider the following poor decisions. The incoming Administration reassigned two individuals out of the Mayor's office, fully staffed the Mayor's office, hired a Community Development Director and hired a Human Resources/Assistant City Solicitor, for a net gain of four full-time positions with no discernible attrition or appreciable cutback to the overall budget.

Because of this significant increase in the local bureaucracy, which I perceive to be the tip of the ice berg, our local leaders decided to pursue a race to the bottom, by increasing ambulance rates that will have a direct bearing on Methuen residents who are Medicare recipients; imposing an untimely meals tax during a sluggish

recovery with the mindset that Methuen residents don't eat at Methuen restaurants and vendors (What lunacy?); and rushing to approve a red light, for-profit camera racket disavowed across the nation. In terms of the red light legislation, which must be approved as a Home Rule Petition at the State House, how can local officials circumvent established state law and deem a red light moving violation as a non-surchageable offense? They can't and it will become a surchargeable offense on an individual's insurance plan in addition to the fine structure when the Home Rule Petition is amended to reflect that point. Uniform state laws will not be amended simply because one community seeks to implement a system of red light cameras. Wouldn't accidents be surcharged?

But watch the floodgate of dollars flow for more positions, more lucrative contracts, more overtime compensation, etc. Again, no managerial studies of the police and fire departments and the department of public works have been proposed, even though the last police department study occurred in the 1990s and I cannot recall any study being done of the fire department or the DPW. Now we are faced with the DPW overtime scandal.



Then a massive failure of political leadership occurred when we declined to join the GIC, which is the health insurance program for state workers that could have saved Methuen residents anywhere from \$1.5 to \$2million. Please note that much of the so-called surplus in the health insurance account derives from two main sources--- imposing millions of dollars over the past few years in municipal charge backs from the Chapter 70 allocation (essentially taking funds away from our classrooms) and charging city and school workers exorbitant amounts for health insurance deductibles (\$2,000 per family and \$1,000 per single individual)

Now that alleged surplus will help lower deductibles, but they will still be much higher than the GIC deductibles(\$750 per family and \$250 per individual). Local workers will still pay higher premiums

(68/32 premium split), experience fewer medical choices with one health insurance plan, and face higher deductibles than their GIC counterparts who benefit from an 80/20 premium split. It is a very sad parlor game in Methuen when leaders deal with health insurance. You run a deficit and take millions from the Methuen Public Schools as a municipal charge back. Then you continue to charge Methuen workers and their families steep deductible amounts. Will the supposedly constructive health insurance changes create a permanent firewall and prevent municipal leaders from raiding Chapter 70 dollars every year to shore up likely health insurance deficits in future years? Very doubtful, which is my prognosis for any tax relief for middle class and working class residents of Methuen in July.



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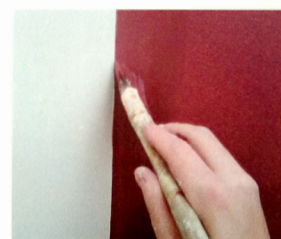
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Senate Candidate Manzi - Waivers on Voter ID

Calls those who support measure “ideological”

Sandra Frechette
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Former Methuen Mayor and Democrat candidate for State Senate in the Massachusetts First Essex District race, Bill Manzi, called into “Paying Attention!” with Tom Duggan and co-host Paul Muranao on WCAP radio 980AM to talk about where he stands on the issues facing Massachusetts Voters.

The First Essex District covers Amesbury, Haverhill, Merrimack, Methuen, Newburyport, North Andover (precincts 1, 4, 6 & 8), and Salisbury, MA.

Manzi talked about a variety of issues including what he called an “ideological belief that there is voter fraud going on” and balked at taking a strong stand on voter identification during elections.

Manzi made several references to the new Florida law which is attracting attention since Governor Rick Scott ordered the Secretary of State to create a process to purge ineligible voters from the rolls. Manzi said he clearly sees the process as an ideological form of “suppressing votes”.

At a time when voters are demanding more accountability in the fairness of their elections, more Democrats in Massachusetts are reluctant to support voter ID. The week before Manzi called into Paying Attention! with Tom Duggan, Diana Dizoglio called into the show to talk about her candidacy for state representative. Dizoglio, also took a pass on saying she would support voter ID. Her Democrat opponent Representative David Torissi has a long record of supporting government services for illegals and also does not support the anti-voter-fraud measure.

On his own political views Manzi told the WCAP listening audience “I think everybody stands in sort of a singular file

right now in terms of stopping voter fraud. But at the same time I would not be in favor of laws like Florida just passed, which seems designed to suppress voter turnout. There is a fine line to walk there. And it’s my view that we ought to be looking at just making sure that the process is honest and fair and those people that are voting are the ones that should be voting.

We’ve seen efforts throughout the country to pass laws that actually discourage people from voting”.

Manzi added “I’m running in a Democratic primary and we do not support efforts that suppress voting. And what we want to do is make sure we share the goal that everyone that votes is eligible to vote and is the person they say they are.”

Manzi said if he is elected he would hit the ground running with what he believes would be the best solution for voter fraud. He would bring in the city clerks along with other stakeholders (some third party stakeholders), some Republicans, and get together and come out with a prescription to solve the problem.

He said he is open minded at this time as to what the solution would look like, but turned down without delay host Tom Duggan’s suggestion to support a bill that came before him which simply states that it be mandatory for poll workers to ask for proof of an ID for someone to vote.

Of the concerns cited, Manzi said that he would require evidence of fraud, city clerks didn’t want more work dumped on them without funding to pay for it, constituents don’t want to pay for the extra efforts, and that voter turnout would be suppressed because of the longer wait times at the poll booths.

Manzi pleaded for more investigation about the process. He said he is concerned that we would be throwing “the baby out with the bath water” and is intent on



Democrats: Former Methuen Mayor and candidate for State Senate, Bill Manzi (center) with (from L to R) unknown supporter, State Rep. Candidate Barbara L’Italian, Lawrence City Councilor and Democrat Activist Dan Rivera and North Andover Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo

performing meaningful legislative work before a permanent solution is put into effect.

“As a former mayor, if I were able to get to Beacon Hill I would tell you that the local folks do not like, and should not like mandates being imposed from above without payment, without any direction on how the problems are going to be solved,” Manzi said.

He then said he would make sure “we do not put restrictions on voting that drives turnout down or makes it harder to register, young voters, new voters, and that should be a goal we share.”

Manzi believes that only legal citizens should be able to vote and that there have been “any number of irregularities in elections held throughout the world over the past 50 years.” That doesn’t mean that “we put in a system that drives down the

ability to register voters. The way to stop duplicitous votes is to have a system that is honest that doesn’t allow double voting that doesn’t allow ineligible voting. I’m in agreement with all of that and I don’t disagree if in the end it’s a voter ID requirement that works and isn’t onerous. I wouldn’t say that I wouldn’t support that.”

Bill Manzi has a website at www.BillManzi.com. His facebook page is Bill Manzi for State Senate. The Twitter account is @billmanzi.

He will be having a fund raiser on June 11th at DiBurro’s in Haverhill, MA at 6 PM. He encourages people to contact him with any questions via e-mail at info@billmanzi.com.

Paying Attention! airs on Saturday’s from 10-noon on AM 980 or 980WCAP.com. You can listen to previous programs on the podcast link at valleypatriot.com.

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RONNIE’S RANTS

Random Thoughts
with Ronnie Ford

Ronnie Ford
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

D. J. Bettencourt, the fledgling Majority Leader of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, had to resign for telling that earth shattering lie about his experience and education.

Some people behave as if the act effected millions. Then let us get a queue up. Because, we would be able to count among the political liars multiple thousands of these so called public servants in the bad guy column. Yup, lying is a favorite pastime of many of our leaders. Political or otherwise. Some of these guys make poor old DJ look like Mother Theresa.

I have never recanted that a sweep should occur wiping out a vast majority of office holders. Then, start anew “as they say”. Can you imagine how wonderful eighty percent of our political and civil leaders would be working for the common good. Paradise on earth! Let us all pray with hope in our hearts, that it will all come to pass.

Looks like Lizzie Tish Warren might have some democratic competition. I could not be happier! Hopefully, Marissa Defranco will get enough

signatures to be on the ballot and force a primary. Then Lizzie and Marissa would have a debate, and then we would see how much Lizzie knows about Massachusetts and the middle class, common people. President Obama used Lizzie’s cerebral talents to launch a new program to help the middle class people. Have you heard about it? Huh? Huh ? Then the prez appointed one of his cronies to head the program! Not Lizzie! Hmmm? Classy!

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for Monday June 25. That is the Neighborhood Reunion at Jackson’s Restaurant in Methuen. If you come from the neighborhood of The Lawlor Drug store, or The Downey Flake or attended schools in the neighborhood, come on down. The fun starts at 6:00 P. M. You will enjoy a wonderful buffet for only \$8.00 and lots of giggles and remember whens!

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



St. Attracta’s Well

Jack Doyle, County Sligo
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

In the town-land of Clogher Lower about half a mile from the village of Monastraden is one of the most famous of the many wells dedicated to St. Attracta. It is enclosed on three sides by walls, in the centre, on a limestone flag, is a sculpted figure of Christ on the Cross with the instruments of the Passion on either side, hammer, nails, pincers, and whip.

The Crown of Thorns is clearly visible on the head. Under the left arm is the most frequently quoted of penal Symbols, the cock and pot. Underneath that is the pillar of the scourging, it consists of a column showing the cords, which bound the Body of Christ to the cross and between the cords is the image of a ladder. Palms, the symble of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem don’t usually appear on crosses, but they are there, three of them can be identified. The image of Christ dominates the stone carving with the required short arms and neckless body of the traditional penal crosses found throughout the rest of Ireland. This Cross is the symbol of Achonry Diocese.

St. Attracta, according to Nicholas Ryan’s book on the saint, was a great-granddaughter of Coelbadius, King of Ireland early 5th Century. It was in Coolavin that she and her friend met St. Patrick. They told him of their desire to consecrate their lives to God so he personally instructed them and professes them as nuns.

Attracta founded a nunnery in Killaraght near the shores of Laugh Gara. She made her way to Monasteraden crossing

the lake at Annagh. She was noted for her generosity and there are many legends associated with her ability to perform miracles.

The feast of St. Attracta on August 11th is a special date in the local calendar. Hay had to be gathered and turf at home for the Pattern (patron) day, so it was a “day off for enjoyment as Mother Rata recalled in her memoirs. (Mother Rita MacDernot of Coolavin was born in 1874. She entered the Order of the Sacred Heart in 1898.) Stalls full of eatables and drinkables were laid out along the Demesne wall. There was little heed paid to the religious side of the Feast Day.

For a number of years now, the Rosary is recited at the well on 11th of August or on the Sunday nearest to it, and Mass was celebrated by Bishop Flynn, retired, and Fr. Duncan a few years ago. There is usually a good crowd for the devotion at the well.

Some years ago, the well was restored under a Fas employment Scheme and now stands as a proud monument to the faith over the centuries. It is also a good source of clean spring water and some people think it has medicinal properties.


Recently, for some unknown reason, the feast of Saint Attracta has been transferred to August 12th, the 12th is reserved for the Grouse! **Monasteraden, it’s past and it’s people pgs: 18/19



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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FROM PAGE 1: Riley’s School Turnaround Plan Short on Details

begin to consolidate our central office.

Again to consolidate our central office I am pleased to announce Anne Marie Stornach will be covering, not only nutrition services but also, our HR department.

Shalimar Quiles a Lawrence High School graduate in 2006, will be our director of student engagement and support. Raymond Nunez will be our new Basketball coach.

These and other appointments will be forthcoming for people that are already inside the system that are doing great things. We want to combine these folks with proven outside partners.

#2: The second key theme of this plan is more great schools for our kids. We are going to work towards great schools in every neighborhood and empower our teachers and principals to get results. We don’t expect or insist that schools meet the goals the same way, just that they meet the goals.

#3: Our third theme centers on empowering our teachers and parents in our community. We know that it takes everyone to move the needle and to get change.

#4: Using our resources wisely. The change that is going to happen in the Lawrence Public Schools must be budget neutral and can not require any extra resources beyond what is expected typically of a school system.

#5: We’ve got to implement with a sense of urgency. The time to move is now.

And finally #6: It’s all about results. We need more great schools right now.”

Kevin Cuff, State Representative candidate for the 17th Essex District who was in attendance for the announcement said Riley’s plan needs to include more parental involvement.

“As presented, the Riley Plan is extremely aggressive on expected results; coupled with a very quick turnaround time, that, sounded really good, but it made me a little hesitant. In addition, the Plan has had limited parental outreach which, will be critical for the Plan’s overall success. And, ultimately there will have to be a transition plan back to the city and the community which was never mentioned, but again this is a critical strategic piece for the Plan to work. We were

privity to hear about the new basketball coach, however!”

ZERO PARENT INVOLVEMENT

During the press conference Riley took questions from the press. The Valley Patriot asked, “How come you haven’t met yet with the parents? I know that the commissioner has met with the parents, but we have had a number of calls in our newsroom by the parents complaining because you have not met with them and talked to them about input on this turnaround plan. Why weren’t they involved, why wouldn’t you meet with them?”

Receiver Riley’s answer: “Well, I think the parents were involved in the local stakeholders group. Additionally, I have met with parents. Just last night, in fact, I met with over 40 parents from the PTO and gave them an early edition of the plan, before it was even released to the press. So, we have been talking to parents all along. We recognize, however, what we are asking for with the plan is greater parental involvement.”

With approximately twelve thousand students in the school system it should be noted that only two parents sat on the stakeholder group and forty (40) PTO parents had been spoken to on the eve of the ‘Plan’ release rather than reaching out to more parents for input over the last six months.

After the event, Lawrence School Committee member, Jen Cooper, said that she has heard similar concerns from parents when she is dropping off and picking up her two children who attend Lawrence Public Schools.

“What it tells me is that parents are feeling disconnected because nobody is talking to them directly at the school or district level about their children’s education. I think every parent would agree that we need to meet the goals in the Plan, but they want to know the steps that will be taken to reach those milestones. One parent told me that she felt the plan sounded great, but too vague.”

Cooper welcomed the role of the Department of Education, but said she is cautious, “We need all the help we can get. I just want to be cautious about who we are letting in and the long term plans. I need to feel confident the deci-



Receiver Jeff Riley unveiled his 6 point plan to turnaround the failed Lawrence Public Schools last month. Riley is being paid more than \$198,000 to fix the school system.

sions the Receiver makes today are going to positively impact our children and our city three to five years from now when the state is gone.”

WHAT AREN’T THEY TELLING US?

Teachers Union President Frank McLaughlin was asked if he could tell us what they wouldn’t tell us during the press conference announcing the turnaround plan.

“I can’t tell you what they won’t tell you yet, but I will be able to tell you, probably in a couple of days. I did have a meeting on this turnaround plan yesterday at 10 o’clock and it was just basically, a conversation for about a half of an hour. I received the plan about 9:00 last night, I read through it, ‘til probably about 11:30 and then I got up again in the middle of the night and read through it again. So, it’s an interesting plan, an ambitious plan.

One thing that I will say is that the children of Lawrence need to be served. They really haven’t received the resources that they should have over the years. So, that is a good beginning. The Lawrence Teacher’s Union and the receivers share the same goal and aspirations for the children of Lawrence and have worked cooperatively as he and the commissioner have developed this plan. As Jeff Riley said in today’s local newspaper this morning that we will not be turned around with a top down plan and we look forward to a true collaboration for the months and years ahead.”

MILLIONS & MILLIONS MORE

The 2012 school year budget was \$143.9 million. More than 99% of that money was paid by state taxpayers.

This year’s “proposed” 2013 school year budget is estimated by Riley to be at \$158 million. But Riley himself says that those numbers are not real and will change [most likely go up] now that he has defined “the turn-around plan”.

Within Riley’s budget he admits that the individual schools have yet to submit their spending plans, required to put a budget together.

His budget also doesn’t include the millions in grants that normally don’t go through the school committee but are designated for specific programs. It also doesn’t include the millions in private foundation money he is planning on bringing in for programs like; free dental services for all Lawrence Public school children, and “multicultural enrichment programs.”

Just One Example of Riley’s Spending Increases - Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron’s office budget (for operating expenses) went from \$78,000 in the 2012 school year to \$1.2 million in the 2013 school year for an increase of \$1.15 million.

Salaries under the authority of the Assistant Superintendent went from \$264,512 in the 2012 school year to \$1.87 million. In just one assistant superintendent’s budget alone, the “proposed” spending increase under receiver Riley tops off at \$2.7 million dollars.

NO PUBLIC INFORMATION - NO OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC DOLLARS

The Valley Patriot sent in a request under the Freedom of Information Act in February of this year. The Law states that public records must be turned over within ten days of the request being received.

To date Commissioner Mitchell has

TURNAROUND: NEXT PAGE

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TURNAROUND PLAN: FROM 13

refused to comply with our request for a copy of receiver Riley's Contract, a copy of emails between the Commissioner, Receiver, Lantigua or his staff, Governor Patrick or anyone on his staff, going back to 2009, a copy of the service contract between the Receiver and the District and other information we requested.

The Valley Patriot caught up to the Commissioner after the press conference on the turnaround plan and asked him why he had yet to comply with our request.

"I'm not up to speed on what the request was I'd have to check on that."

When asked whether or not the Department of Education had an "exit strategy" to leave the city and turn the school system back over to Lawrence officials and restore local control, Chester responded, "We do not have a specific time table to leave, you heard me in my comments, this is not a two or three year proposition, it's at least four, five or six years," Mitchell said.

"This is new for everybody," said School Committeeman Jennifer Cooper when talking about the limited number of school districts' nationally which have been taken over by their home state.

"When a public school system is taken out of the hands of local voters and parents that's where it gets frustrating and it should be frustrating because we didn't get it right for decades. As Americans we were not raised to accept a process by which our say is taken away from us, especially when it comes to our children. We don't feel comfortable and we shouldn't get comfortable. As a community we need to recognize what our powers are and be proactive, some of which may be, to ask questions at school committee meetings,

insist on transparency and accountability, and ask for regular benchmark reports to make sure we are on track to meet the results outlined in the Plan. We all have to be part of the process to have it work for Lawrence."

STATE AUDITOR SUZANNE BUMP ON FISCAL OVERSIGHT

Since the Takeover of the Lawrence Public Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Education, there is no longer an elected body overseeing how education dollars are being spent on Lawrence.

The Receiver and the Commissioner of Education can contract with any private vendor, education foundation, non-profit or 501c3 organization with no oversight.

State Auditor Suzanne Bump was asked about Lawrence Schools and oversight of the millions of additional dollars being spent since the state takeover.

"The state auditor's office doesn't play an ongoing role in oversight. The role of the state auditor's office is to be backward looking," Bump responded. And although we aren't currently auditing the expenditure money, we can have a role in it after the fact, determining how well that money was spent in a given chunk of time and frankly, that may well be already in our audit plan for another year or so out."

"When we do that we'll be looking to make sure that it (the money) was being spent according to standards that were set, the systems that were in place to guard against its abuse and its waste and we may learn from that how to ensure that the state resources do get invested in a community that way, and that there is accountability and transparency and we get what the taxpayers are expecting."

Asked if there was anyone watching



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Comissioner of Education Chester Mitchell announces the Receiver's "Turnaround Plan" for the Lawrence Public Schools last month.

over the state money being poured into Lawrence, Bump responded.

"Well, I know that there are folks in the Governor's Executive Office of Administration and Finance that are charged with the responsibility to see that the money is being put into maintaining city services and trying to get the finances in order. I haven't had any recent updates on that, so I don't know what the current assessment is of that expenditure."

Asked if the Auditor had any oversight as to how private foundations were spending money in the schools she replied.

"The state auditor follows the money that is being spent by state agencies and by those organizations, public or private that spend state money. So, if there is not state money involved in those private education foundations, we would not be able to go there. We would not have the authority to look at that."

Asked about the role of non-profits doing business with public schools and who oversees the injection of non-profits into the classroom, Bump said:

"The office of the Attorney General has a non-profit or charitable bureau that would have to make sure that an organization is meeting its public purpose and that is wasn't compromising it's tax exempt status by virtue of its activities. I would think that the department of education

would have some say as to the injection of private money into classroom activities, but that is something that, as I say, if there is not state money involved, then I can't look at that.

But as I mentioned, using our resources in the auditor's office is to focus on areas of greatest risk to tax payers. The amount of money that gets spent, not directly by state agencies, but by organizations with whom the state contracts for services has greatly expanded over recent decades.

Now, 70% of the money that gets spent in state government is actually spent by contractors, not state agencies directly. That means that I need to be focusing much more of my attention there.

So, we have started a much more comprehensive program of auditing non-profit organizations. We are working with the state agencies who have some insight into non-profits that they think may be problematic and we are also working with non-profit organizations themselves, in order to enhance the controls they have over the money to make sure that it's being spent properly.

I think you are asking the right questions and you are headed in the right direction and I guess you have given me something to think about."

You can email Tom Duggan at valleypatriot@ao.com

Will Free Dental Really be Free?

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

During the May school committee meeting Receiver Riley introduced a company, Polished Teeth, to the Lawrence community which is poised to provide free dental cleanings, sealants and more to public school children during the school day.

On their website Polished Teeth touts itself as a mobile dental company that provides dental work to uninsured children through private funds seeking 501c3 donations on a sliding scale. A donation of \$5 will get a kid a toothbrush and toothpaste all the way up to \$3500 will sponsor a classroom.

During the school committee meeting one of the owners, Ellen Gould, stated she has served on the Mayor Lantigua's Health Task Force. She explained that after the cleanings are complete the company follows up directly with families to obtain insurance information from families with coverage.

The address of Polished LLC is a private home in Brewster, MA located at 103 Lakeshore Drive.

There are three related companies based out of this home, all registered under the same three names: Ellen Gould, Valerie Osborne and the home owner, Linda Couto.

The Secretary of State's website lists the description of each of these companies

as taken from their articles of incorporation as follows: Polished LLC provides preventative mobile dental care services, Rick's Kids is a non-profit providing dental services to "members of the public who cannot afford to self pay" and Vallyn, Inc. which engages in the "business of providing billing services and receiving payments for the same, and all other goods and services incidental thereto."

There is not an IRS form 990 on file that we could find for Rick's Kids which would provide transparency regarding the relationships between the for-profit billing company and the non-profit dental provider. All 501(c)(3) private foundations, regardless of income must file a form 990 annually.

Under the section describing how the process takes place in the schools, The Polished LLC website states that they will contact families directly after paperwork has been filled out "for further information" and all children who take part will be given a toothbrush and toothpaste post cleaning.

Nowhere on the website, that we could find, does it indicate to donors that the family of any child whose teeth is cleaned will be asked for insurance information at any time during this process or that MassHealth or any other government agency will be billed for the work being done for "free".

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Thank you Frank Incropera

Bob Cuomo
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

On May 19, 2012 the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association had its election of Officers and Trustees. This year for the first time in 20 years they had to make changes as Frank Incropera was stepping down as President of the MVNA, a position he has held for some 20 plus years.

For 15 of those years I had the privilege of working with Frank first as a Trustee then being his VP.

I feel I had to write this letter just to remind people of some of the work Frank did as President of the MVNA and to let people know that Frank had stepped down as President of the MVNA. This meeting was not recorded and will not be seen on the local channel.

Frank was very dedicated and took the responsibilities of his position very seriously, although he always found time for humor while having meetings.

Frank always responded to members calls, helping them with their prob-

lems or issues. He attended countless Council meetings, Planning and Zoning Board meetings representing the people of the MVNA.

Frank always wanted to improve the quality of life and beautify the Mt Vernon area and he did so by adding planters in different areas, having the lot at McCarthy Rd. spruced up, adding flags to poles on So. Broadway, South St. and Mt Vernon St.

But in my estimation the best of his many, many good deeds was our Citizenship Award. This is our six \$500.00 awards given

to two eight graders, one from the Frost School and one from Lawrence Catholic Academy. One for a Senior from Lawrence High School, Greater Lawrence Voke, Presentation of Mary and Central Catholic High School.

Frank it was a pleasure and privilege working with you all these years. Thank you for all you did in building the Mount Vernon Association to a 400 family membership and improving our quality of life in the Mt. Vernon area.

Bob Comeau, Lawrence



The current state of activism in Lawrence

Joseph D'Amore
BOSTON EDUCATION REFORM EXAMINER

The community action movements that swept Lawrence "It's Your Right" and "Uniting Lawrence" appear to have initiated derivative actions that speak to a yearning for change in this city. These have manifested themselves in unique ways such as a proliferation of Face Book groups, radio programs, letter writing campaigns and social events. Collectively, these provide a compelling backdrop of activism promoting the rationale for change tempered by the recognition of what is good about the city.

I do believe however, that a reformist movement that is lead by candidates for upcoming elected positions including the Mayor's seat is the only effective opportunity for a transformation of politics in Lawrence. Nothing is more powerful in making changes in any jurisdiction in the Commonwealth than an enlightened, populist electoral process. The current condition of limited engagement or even a barely discernible level of interest in producing competitive candidates does not bode well for Lawrence. Perhaps it is quietly occurring behind the scenes and this criticism is unwarranted. But perhaps there is no such activity.

You may remember from history that it was said that after the Pearl Harbor attack "...a giant was awakened" which was in reference to the industrial and military might of the United States. The words were uttered by the architect of the attack in his recognition that an ominous condition had inadvertently been created that was not favorable to the aggressor.

There is a "giant" in Lawrence. Thousands of voters, many who feel they have been assaulted by numerous injustices by those in elected office. As a group they can deliver an ominous turn of events in Lawrence. But only if they have someone they can vote for to bring a reversal of their fortunes.

Some continue to voice hope for a material change borne by a conclusion to one of many, reported "multi-jurisdictional" investigations. Perhaps, these may produce a piece of legislation or court order to move people out of office. There are many dangers to this including the outright removal of representation altogether with comprehensive receivership. Recent efforts to write letters of appeal to legislators must continue to be encouraged.



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

There is evidence that local legislators are beginning to respond with tentative suggestions of supporting legislation that will improve conditions. But such promises should not be construed as the primary method of change in Lawrence. Hoped for interventions from outside Lawrence may prove to be marginally helpful at best and without any effect at worst.

For those who continue to hold out such hope may not recognize that structural corruption and self-serving patterns in Massachusetts politics do not produce conditions that nurture policy interventions that are favorable to constituents who have legitimate grievances.

A "top-to-bottom" approach by state officials and Merrimack Valley legislators have a long history of producing little change.

This is partly because legislators do not have direct jurisdiction over the City of Lawrence and partly because their political will is suspect. There isn't a better example of this than the Governor himself. His limited, vacillating public statements in response to outrage from Lawrence citizens is an intricate blend of innocuous "political speak" that brandishes elements of both due process and feigned sympathy.

Whether or not he is part of any impropriety is not known, and quite frankly doubtful. But his indifference certainly enables any corruption that may indeed exist to flourish.

There is only one element of hope left in Lawrence. It can be prosecuted without anger, activism or disruption. It is simply the taking of elected seats by those who are inclined to conduct themselves as public servants who are focused on the collective good of the community.

Unelected Bureaucrats

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

I would like to respond to an Editorial entitled, "Bake Sale Band Flap" that was published in the Eagle-Tribune on 5/13/2012. Towards the end of the editorial, the writer makes a conclusion concerning the crux of the matter, "when Legislators hand off their power to control the fine details of people's lives to unelected bureaucrats, where do voters turn to express their displeasure?"

It's ironic that our Legislators who are supposed to represent the citizens of Lawrence in Boston have done exactly this when it comes to the Lawrence Public Schools Takeover by The State Board of Education!

As if by plan each Legislator spoke out loudly and in unison against a potential ban on Bake Sales for School Districts beginning with our State Senator Barry Finegold, Representatives Paul Adams, and David Torissi. Not to be left out, a strong opposition by Governor Deval Patrick! Then ending with the usual response from Representative Marcos Devers which was no response! It is a good thing to know where their priorities are! At all cost, we must by all means save the right to have Bake Sales!

But when it comes to the Takeover of the Lawrence Public Schools by the State Department of Education, (unelected bureaucrats), all we get is crickets! It has been clearly documented by the Valley Patriot and the Eagle-Tribune that the Takeover was never about Underperforming Schools. The Takeover was based on an 81 page review of the School District conducted by the Department of Education. This report made clear that the Takeover was due to the former School Committee under the direction of its Chairman; Mayor Lantigua which failed to provide Leadership for the School District and hire a permanent Superintendent

of Schools over a period of two years! Instead of providing Leadership, they chose to fight among themselves and with the School Administration and Teachers for that period of time. Just because Mayor Lantigua, who still to this day, and as recently as in his State of the City Address, proclaims that it was his bold bright idea to invite the State to come in and take over the Lawrence Public Schools, makes it true!

In the piece of Legislation that permitted this Takeover lies an unknown truth to



most of Lawrence's citizens. The secret about this Takeover which is being led by the State's Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester, (an unelected bureaucrat), is that there is absolutely no language stating that the freely elected School Committee

is stripped of its authority over Lawrence Public Schools! Nor is it to be treated as such or insignificant!

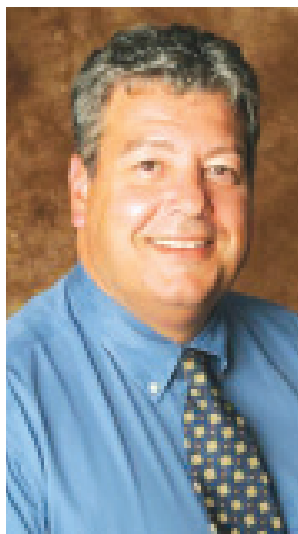
Just because Commissioner Chester and Receiver /Superintendent Jeffrey C. Riley, (another unelected bureaucrat), are acting as if this truly is part of the law, doesn't make it true!

Just because most of all the elected city and state officials representing Lawrence are of the same opinion, make it true! Now, I am no legal expert, but I can read and I refuse to drink from the same cool-aid that they all seemed to have, including The MASC, The Massachusetts Association of School Committees, (more unelected bureaucrats)! Their mission is to train and serve School Committees in the Commonwealth, not to be the spoke persons for the Commissioner of Education or the Receiver/Superintendent! They should all be ashamed of themselves for telling our elected School Committee Members to get in step with the Takeover

BUREAUCRATS: PAGE 22

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Let's Talk About Food Addiction: with Pennie Hale

Pennie Hale

VALLEY PATRIOT FOOD COLUMNIST



PENNIE HALE

I have a Facebook friend named Tony Simonelli who often posts about his weight loss. His posts really make me laugh and I want to share with you a comment he made recently.

A friend of his asked him for weight-loss advice. This is his reply:

“advice? well... to me personally, food is addictive.. prime example, last night instead of two granola bars I had 4... instead of beating myself up about it today, i will go work it off at the gym.. prob the best advice is don't let little failures like that turn or discourage you..say the hell with it and work twice as hard the next day... i got a sugar addiction..gotta stop denying it, face it, and work with it, its easy to put

yourself down once you eat... its a horrible feeling i know...i am as bad as any heroin addict.. but if you just give up, you will look like me when i started school... anyone can do it, you just gotta want it bad enough and for you... the hell with everyone else.”

I agree with everything he wrote. What I have previously stated is that all diets usually work as long as you are burning more calories per day than you are consuming. It's as simple as that. Eat less, exercise more. So, why are so many people overweight? Why am I still overweight? What is keeping me from finally achieving my ultimate weight-loss goal? Why do some fail when others succeed?

If I polled 100 people, I would get 100 different reasons because everyone is different. Some people are overweight because weight gain is a side effect of medications they take. Some are overweight because their lifestyle is sedentary. Some have a carb addiction. Some were fat since childhood from developing bad eating habits. So, do we need to figure

out why we are overweight before we can start losing weight? Does the reason really matter? I think the real key is to find out why we're not losing weight.

What is keeping us from being honest with ourselves, admitting that we have a problem and doing what it takes to become healthy?

When I was in the process of losing 75 pounds, I was doing what it took. I was tracking my caloric intake and I was exercising. I had more good days than bad. My goal was to lose 75 pounds in a year and I did exactly that.

Since I achieved that goal, I've been lazy. I lost track of my goals. I started, stopped and restarted the weight loss process. At present, I am very unhappy with the weight I have gained back. I am in “full-blown addiction”. I have given in to sugar addiction. I haven't cared to even think about my weight.

Why? What changed between now and then? When I was doing well, overeating made me feel sick. Now I can eat mass quantities of chocolate goodies and not

even think twice. I started to read an Overeaters Anonymous book about the 12 steps to recovery. I researched carb addiction. I put a photo of me at my top weight on the fridge to remind me of my previous weight. I threw out junk food only to buy more the next day.

Every Monday is a new start. Every Monday night is a new failure. So what is going to happen to me? Am I going to gain all the weight back? I have prayed and cried about that. Am I going to wake up one day soon (like I did before) and decide to take control and get my life back on track? Am I going to be like Tony and just DO IT?

Do I want it bad enough? Perhaps writing this column and being honest about my weight issues will be the start of something positive and inspiring!

I'm interested in your weight-related story. If you want to share it with me email me at pennielacouture@verizon.net

Sheila's Recipe Corner: Quinoa Salad - Farfalle with Fresh Tomato & Basil

Sheila Mullins

VALLEY PATRIOT COOKING COLUMNIST

Quinoa Salad - I've been thinking about warm weather & lighter fare. I decided to work on a summer recipe with some readily available ingredients that will keep in the fridge well, and is good for either a side or a main course. I decided on a quinoa (kēn'-wā) salad. There's almost no cooking involved which is wonderful when the temps soar along with the humidity.

2 c cooked quinoa (make according to package instructions), cooled
1/3 c carrots, small dice cut
1/3 c red onion, small dice cut
1/2 c toasted sliced almonds
1/3 c celery, small dice cut
1/3 c dried cranberries or dried cherries
1/2 c finely chopped parsley
1/3 c yellow &/or red bell pepper, small

dice cut
2 T curry powder
1 t cumin
1/4 c freshly squeezed lemon or lime juice (no substitutes)
1/4 c extra virgin olive oil
Salt & pepper to taste

Place in a large bowl all ingredients except oil, juice, salt & pepper. Combine. In a separate small bowl, mix the last 4 ingredients & pour over salad. Mix well to distribute. Serve! Serves: 4.

By Sheila A. Mullins for the Valley Patriot.

This is something that I came up with



to keep cooking time short & to really delight in the flavours of garden ripened tomatoes and fresh-from-the-garden basil. What could possibly be more delicious?

Farfalle with Fresh Tomato & Basil

Ingredients:
1/4 c extra virgin olive oil
3 large cloves garlic, minced
7-8 Roma tomatoes, stemmed, seeded, and roughly chopped
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 t freshly ground pepper
1 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced

1/2 lb. dried farfalle (bow tie pasta)
freshly grated Parmesano Reggiano cheese, to taste
a few basil leaves
extra virgin olive oil to taste
In a large saucepan or Dutch oven, fill within 3" of top with water & add 1 T salt. Bring to a rolling boil. Cook farfalle until al dente or according to package instructions. Drain & keep in colander.

Once the pasta is cooking, heat oil in skillet until very hot. Sauté garlic for 30-45 seconds. Carefully place tomatoes into pan & sauté until just warmed through. Add salt & pepper & pasta stir or toss to combine. Remove from heat. Add basil & adjust seasoning if needed.



Place on plates & top with cheese, & add some extra virgin olive oil & a few basil leaves if desired. Serves: 4.

NUTRITION NEWS BY CHARLYN FARGO

Foods to Love

Carolyn Fargo

CYNDICATED COLUMNIST

So many times, we focus on foods to avoid in order to have a healthy lifestyle. Nutrition Action Healthletter offers 10 foods to make sure you include on your plate to boost your nutrition. Plan your menus around these foods, and try to include them more often.

1. Sweet Potatoes. Even Wendy's has now come out with a sweet potato side. Go easy on the condiments, but this nutritional all-star is one of the best vegetables you can eat. They're loaded with carotenoids, vitamin C, potassium and fiber. Bake and mix with unsweetened applesauce or crushed pineapple for extra sweetness and moisture without a lot of extra calories.

2. Mangoes. Just 1 cup of mango supplies 100 percent of a day's vitamin C, 1/3 of a day's vitamin A as well as potassium and fiber.

3. Unsweetened Greek yogurt. Greek yogurt has twice the protein of ordinary yogurt — about 17 grams in 6 ounces of plain Greek yogurt — making it a great way to start the day.

4. Broccoli. It still makes the list because of its vitamin C, carotenoids, vitamin K and folic acid.

5. Wild Salmon. Thanks to the Omega-

3s in fatty fish, a serving or two of this a week can help reduce the risk of heart attacks. It's thought that wild salmon has fewer PCB contaminants than farmed salmon.

6. Whole grains. Whole grains are loaded with fiber. Choose fat-free or low-fat versions.

7. Garbanzo beans. Really, all beans are good — rich in protein, fiber, iron, magnesium, potassium and zinc. Garbanzo beans stand out because they're so versatile. Drain and rinse and toss in a salad, add them to vegetable stews and soups, or use them in hummus.

8. Watermelon. A standard serving has a third of the day's vitamins A and C, potassium and lycopene for only 80 calories.

9. Butternut squash. Steam it, or buy it peeled and diced to bake in the oven or use in stir-fry or soup. It's rich in vitamin A, C and fiber.

10. Leafy greens. Try kale, collards, spinach, Swiss chard and greens such as mustard and turnip. More than iceberg, they are packed with vitamins A, C and K, folate, potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron, lutein and fiber. - Information courtesy of Nutrition Action Letter.

Q: Do the bacteria in our gut really affect health? If so, can probiotics help?

A: Yes, research suggests that gut bacteria may affect your health, includ-

ing chronic inflammation (in the gut and throughout the body), colon cancer risk and even weight control.

People do have different types of bacteria in their digestive tract, but changes in diet can alter the proportions of these bacteria in our gut within days or weeks, so your overall diet is important. Diets with mostly vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans provide compounds called polyphenols that in cell studies support growth of health-promoting bacteria and inhibit less desirable bacteria. Diets high in meat seem to encourage more gut bacteria that promote compounds that damage colon cells, and less of the health-promoting bacteria. Probiotics are live organisms that offer a health benefit for our gut and are part of, or added to, food and supplements. Foods that contain probiotics include fermented dairy products (yogurt, cheese and kefir), sauerkraut, kimchi (a spicy Korean condiment made from fermented cabbage), the fermented soy products miso and tempeh, and certain salt-cured pickles and olives. Studies show that foods with prebiotics that support growth of healthy bacteria may be more effective than probiotics. Prebiotics are certain types of carbohydrate such as inulin (found in onions, garlic, asparagus, Jerusalem artichokes, bananas, chicory and artichokes) and fermentable dietary fiber and resistant starch you get from dried beans and peas and certain whole grains.

—Information courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

RECIPE: Our moms used to make great

salads to go along with dinner. Somehow, we've lost some of those side dishes. Here's a lightened-up version of Carrot-Raisin Salad with Pineapple from Ellie Krieger's "Comfort Food Fix." The typical salad has more than 200 calories per serving. Krieger's version has 140.

Carrot-Raisin Salad with Pineapple
1/2 cup plain Greek-style nonfat yogurt
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon honey
1/4 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1 pound carrots (3 medium) peeled and shredded (about 4 cups)
1/4 cup canned crushed pineapple, drained
1/4 cup golden raisins

In a large bowl, whisk together yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, honey, 1/4 teaspoon salt and black pepper. Add the carrots, pineapple, and raisins and toss to coat. Season with additional salt if desired. Makes 4 servings (serving size, 3/4 cup).

Per serving: 140 calories, 3 grams protein, 27 grams carbohydrate, 3 grams fat, 0 cholesterol, 4 grams fiber, 280 milligrams sodium.

Charlyn Fargo is a registered dietitian from Springfield, Ill. For comments or questions, contact her at charfarg@aol.com. To find out more about Charlyn Fargo and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2012 CREATORS.COM



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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

VALLEY PATRIOT SOFTBALL TEAMS

The Valley Patriot is sponsoring two women's softball teams in two different leagues. The first is True Vision Sports League: Over 30, Girls Softball and Dirt To Skirt Spots League, also Over 30, Girls Softball League.

Come out and root for The Valley Patriot TEAM in each league and if our Valley Patriots in each league win their league championship The Valley Patriot and 980AM WCAP radio in Lowell will sponsor a Valley Patriot Softball World Series!

DTS SPORTS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Locations: Rec Park in Andover & Pines Field in Groveland..

6/9 6pm - Liberty vs Avalanche @ Rec. Park.

6/10 6:30pm - Coyotes vs Valley Patriots.

6/16 6pm - Avalanche vs Patriots, Rec Park.

6/17 6:30pm - Liberty vs Coyotes, Pines

6/23 6pm - Liberty vs Patriots

6/24 6:30pm - Coyotes vs Avalanche, Pines

6/30 6pm - Avalanche vs Liberty, Rec. Park

7/1 11am - Valley Patriots vs Coyotes, Pines

7/7 6pm - Coyotes vs Liberty, Rec Park

7/8 11am - Valley Patriots vs Avalanche, Pines

TRUE VISION SCHEDULE

Locations: Lions Field, Lyons Way in Salisbury & Pines Field in Groveland..

6/9 - 6:30pm Honey Badgers vs Dirty Girls @ Pines Field

6/10 - 4pm Titans vs GNO @ Lions Field

4pm Tornados vs The Valley Patriots @ Pines Field. 5:45pm Cougars vs Devils @ Lions Field. 7:30pm Rebels vs All Americans @ Lions Field.

6/16 - 6:30pm GNO vs Tornados @Pines Field.



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN
Miranda Kocher of Haverhill from the Coyotes (DTS Sports League) heads to first base during a scrimmage game last month.



Boys Club/Boating Program Teaches Crew Thanks To Donation from UMASS: Lowell

Front Row: Ivan Figueria of the Frost School (6th grade), Isail Valencia of the Weatherbee School (6th), Marcos Fernandez of the Guilmette School (6th), and Anthony Miranda of the Frost School (6th). Middle Row: Anthony Javier, Frost School (7th), Maxine Lopez, Frost School (7th) Carolin MunizFrost School (7th), Christopher Riccardi, Frost School (8th). Back Row: Marianna Pieu, LHS (12th grade) , Kyle Kalkschmid of Essex Agricultural (11th grade), Tanairi Valencia, LHS (12th). Full Story in July.

6/17 - Rebels vs Dirty Girls @ Lions Field. 5:45pm Cougars vs All Americans @ Lions Field. 7:30pm Honey Badgers vs Titans @ Lions Field. 6/18 7pm Devils vs Valley Patriots @ Pines Field.

6/24 - 2pm Titans vs Dirty Girls @ Pines Field. 4pm All Americans vs Valley Patriots @Lions Field. 4pm Rebels vs Cougars @ Pines Field. 5:45pm Honey Badgers vs Tornados @ Lions Field. 7:30pm Devils vs G N O @ Lions Field.

7/1 4pm All Americans vs GNO @ Lions Field. 4pm Devils vs Honey Badgers @ Pines Field. 5:45pm Dirty Girls vs Tornados @ Lions Field. 6pm Valley Patriots vs Cougars @ Pines Field. 7:30pm Titans vs Rebels @ Lions Field

7/8 4pm Rebels vs Valley Patriots @ Lions Field. 4pm Tornados vs Titans @ Pines Field. 5:45pm Cougars vs GNO @ Lions Field. 6pm Honey Badgers vs All Americans @ Pines Field. 7:30pm Dirty Girls vs Devils @ Lions Field.

7/11 6:45pm Honey Badgers vs Cougars @ Lions Field

7/15 4pm Devils vs Titans @ Lions Field

4pm Cougars vs Honey Badgers @ Pines Field. 5:45pm All Americans vs Dirty Girls @ Lions Field. 6pm Rebels vs Tornados @ Pines Field. 7:30pm GNO vs Valley Patriots @ Lions Field

7/18 6:45pm Valley Patriots vs

Devils @ Lions Field

7/22 4pm Valley Patriots vs Honey Badgers @ Lions Field. 4pm Tornados vs Devils @ Pines Field. 5:45pm Dirty Girls vs Cougars @ Pines Field. 6pm Titans vs All Americans @ Lions Field. 7:30pm Rebels vs GNO @ Pines Field.

7/24 6:45pm Dirty Girls vs Honey Badgers @ Pines Field.

7/25 6:45pm Tornados vs GNO @ Lions Field.

7/29 4pm Devils vs Rebels @ Lions Field. 4pm Titans vs Cougars @ Pines Field. 5:45pm GNO vs Honey Badgers @ Pines Field. 6pm Tornados vs All Americans @ Lions Field. 7:30pm Valley Patriots vs Dirty

The Samaritans of the Merrimack Valley is a suicide awareness and prevention agency in Lawrence, one of the many programs of Family Service Inc. Recently they completed a Suicide & Older Adults training for the staff at Methuen Village at Riverwalk. This training was Best Practices registered and funded by an annual grant from the Dept of Public Health to specifically address the extremely high suicide rate of older adults in Massachusetts (by training their caregivers about the risk factors, warning signs and then the appropriate steps to take when an older adult presents with suicidal ideation, behavior and attempts). Last month, the training done at Methuen Village was the 100th training done since receiving the grant in 2006. The training is mainly done by Mary Quinn, a licensed social worker on staff at the Samaritans. With Kathleen's help, the rest of the Samaritans staff – two full staff members and 2 year Vista AmeriCorps volunteer – “crashed” Mary's training at lunch time at Methuen Village to surprise her and present her with flowers and a certificate to acknowledge this achievement. In those 100 trainings, Mary has trained over 1,200 people. Left to right: Debbie Helms, Director of the Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, Mary Quinn, LICSW, Training Coordinator, Nina McDowell, Americorps VISTA Volunteer/Volunteer Coordinator, Kim O'Brien, Training Facilitator.



Girls @ Pines Field.

8/3 6:45pm Cougars vs Titans @ Pines Field

8/5 4pm All Americans vs Honey Badgers @ Lions Field. 4pm GNO vs Rebels @ Pines Field. 5:45pm Dirty Girls vs Titans @ Lions Field. 6pm Valley Patriots vs Tornados @ Pines Field

8/7 6:45pm Rebels vs Devils @ Pines Field

GREATER NEWBURYPORT REPUBLICAN PICNIC

The West Newbury Republican Town Committee will host the Greater Newburyport Republican Picnic on Thursday June 14th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Mill Pond Recreation Area, 659 Main Street (Route 113) West Newbury, Massachusetts.

A picnic dinner will be served at the Pavilion next to Mill Pond with complimentary food and beverages provided by the West Newbury Republican Town Committee. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm, Candidates begin speaking at 6:30 pm. Donations to help defray the cost of hosting this event are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

The public is invited. Candidates confirmed to attend and speak: Kerry Healey, Former Lt. Governor and National Committee Woman Bruce Tarr, Senator First Essex and Middlesex District Brad Hill, State Representative 4th Essex District Shaun Toohey, Candidate State Senator 1st Essex District, Sam Meas, Candidate State Senator 1st Essex District, Maura Ciardiello, Candidate 5th District Governor's Council, Lenny Mirra, Candidate for Representative Massachusetts 2nd Essex District, Gary Fowler, Candidate for Representative Massachusetts 2nd Essex District, Robert Cronin, Candidate for Representative Massachusetts 2nd Essex District, Karin Rhoton, Candidate for Representative Massachusetts 14th Essex District. Need more information or would like to donate to help defray event costs? Contact Tom Atwood, West Newbury RTC Treasurer at (857) 654-0182 or by e-mail at

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Angela from Methuen Family Restaurant shows off the grilled marinated chicken salad. See their ad on page 12.

thomas_atwood@comcast.net. Donations by check should be made payable to “West Newbury Republican Town Committee” and include the complete address of the donor.

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY
Suicide Prevention Training for Gatekeepers of Older Adults
The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley

is offering a free, Department of Public Health-funded training for “gatekeepers” to reduce the incidence of suicide among people ages 55 and older in the Merrimack Valley and beyond. Gatekeepers are people who, through their personal, professional or volunteer activities, have regular contact with older adults. After the training, participants will be able to assess an older adult’s suicide risk, intervene with an individual at risk, and connect older adults with ongoing professional help.

6.5 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) are available for nurses, social workers and Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs). EMTs receive 3 contact hours. Certificates for 6.5 hours are available for professionals (nurse’s aides, food service workers, activities staff, transportation staff, administrative assistants, etc.) who are in need of training hours.

THE TREBLE CHORUS OF NEW ENGLAND is now holding auditions for their three choirs; Training, age 7-9, Concert, ages 9-13 and Schola, ages 13-18 for the 2012-2013 season. In addition, TCNE is auditioning for their summer “Hands on Opera” Production of “Hansel and Gretel” that has two components: 1) An Intro to Opera Program which introduces children ages 10 and up to all the components of putting on an opera including performing in the Opera! And 2) an actual role for your singer, ages 10 and up in the production which involves an increased commitment to produce the Opera in the Fall as well. Tuition for the Opera program ranges from \$100 for the Intro to Opera program, dates are August 13-17th, 2:30-5 pm with a performance on Friday, August 17th and the option to continue in the Opera program in the Fall, or \$465 for the full Opera program, dates are August 6-17th, a performance on Friday, August 17th and additional Saturdays rehearsals and performances in November,

2012, dates TBD Please contact Anna S. Choi at tcnemanager@treblechorusne.org or call 978.794.4600 to schedule an audition. For more information, please go to www.treblechorusne.org.

FITCHBURG REPUBLICAN CITY COMMITTEE (FRCC) The next monthly meeting of the FRCC is Thursday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Destare, 320 Main Street, Fitchburg. The FRCC meets the second Thursday of every month and is open to all registered Republican and Un-enrolled voters. There is no cost, dues are fees to attend. If you have ever thought of running for public office on the Republican ticket, come in and discuss your ideas. For more information: www.fitchburggop.org and facebook.

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MERRIMACK OLD HOME DAYS
Clean out your closets....it’s time for the annual town wide yard sale sponsored by the Merrimack Old Home Days Committee. The date has been set, Saturday, June 9th, (rain date: Sunday, June 10th). For a donation of \$10 your name and address will be added to the map to be distributed throughout various town locations. We’ll also be placing ads in the yard sale section of various local newspapers. Donations may be mailed along with name and street address c/o: Merrimack Old Home Days, 2 School St., Merrimack, MA 01860. Please make payment out to: Merrimack Old Home Days.

The Lawrence Chess Club will meet on Wednesday, 20 June 2012 from 6-8pm. at The Lawrence Public Library, corner of Haverhill & Lawrence streets. This is always a FREE event. Please bring a friend and a chess set. ALL ages and abilities welcome. Play, learn and help teach. We can teach anyone to play in about 20 minutes,

but it requires a lifetime to master. English is not required. 3rd Wednesday of each month

IRS ANNOUNCES 43 SMALL OFFICES TO CLOSE, Others to be Consolidated; Agency Sheds More than One Million Square Feet of Office Space
Boston...The IRS has announced a sweeping office space and rent reduction initiative that over the next 2 years will close 43 smaller offices and reduce space in many larger facilities. These measures will save more than 40 million in taxpayer dollars. Coupled with space reductions last year, the initiative will slash total IRS office space by more than one million square feet.

“Given today’s tight budget environment, we have to be willing to make the tough but responsible calls to save taxpayer dollars,” said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. “Cutting and consolidating our real estate is a responsible way we can save money. It’s an important addition to our growing portfolio of cost-saving measures.”To ensure that the agency uses rental space as efficiently and effectively as possible, the IRS will: “Close 43 smaller offices. These are offices without taxpayer assistance centers and currently have fewer than 25 employees.

None of the offices being closed under this initiative are walk-in taxpayer assistance centers. Because of the nature of the work performed in these offices, the IRS anticipates minimal taxpayer impact as a result of these closures. This cost-cutting initiative is projected to save \$17.2 million in annual rental costs in fiscal 2012 and \$23.5 million in fiscal 2013. These are permanent reductions in space and rent so these savings will be realized in future years as well. The initiative will cut space by 715,000 square feet in fiscal 2012 and 230,000 square feet in fiscal 2013. This is on top of a 105,000-square-foot reduction in fiscal 2011. The IRS has more than 650 offices around the country. Today’s initiative supplements space saving projects over the past seven years that are now yielding \$70 million annually in rental savings . This is part of a broader Administration effort which has cut government real estate costs by over \$1.5 billion and is on track to exceed the President’s directive to save \$3 billion by the end of the year.

NORTH SHORE BUSINESS FORUM
EMAIL MARKETING DANVERS, June 15 – Alicia Williams, of Constant Contact, will speak at The North Shore Business Forum on small business email marketing strategies. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 **NOTEBOOK, PAGE 38**



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Ashley, Emily, Victoria, Destiny from the 2012 Spring Chorus Concert at the Marsh Grammar School pose before their big performance last month

Ed Wallace of Methuen wins the coveted first annual Chips for Charity Trophy after winning the final table against Tom Firth, Michael Firth, Tom Duggan, Jamie Atkinson and Bob DeFrancesco.

Chips for Charity raised money for Relay for life.

The next Chips for Charity will benefit One Tail at a Time, the rescue dog shelter of The Valley Patriot's PuppyGirl.



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN



Valley Patriot Editorial Assistant and Salen NH resident Dawn Brantmuller is presented with a proclamation from Lawrence State Representative Marcos Devers for her years of dedication to the community. Here Brantmuller is pictured with her mom.



PHOTO: COURTESY

CHEERING FOR PROJECT BREAD: Members of the All-Star cheerleaders from the JAG Cheer Training Center cheered on Walkers as they completed Project Bread's 44th Walk for Hunger. They joined 43,000 other walkers and volunteers who raised \$3.6 million to fund more than 450 food programs that protect the individual and strengthen our community food security. For info or to donate, visit www.projectbread.org/walk.



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Steve Jones of Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump, Danielle Bergeron, President/CEO Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, Wendi Moline Giuliano, and Karen Bergeron, Vice President of the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce during the Chamber's Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Tewksbury Country Club last month.

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Our Over 30 - Girls Softball Team “Valley Patriots”

SEE TEAM SCHEDULE FOR DTS SPORTS LEAGUE AND STATS ON PAGE 18



ALL PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN

A Lowell Summer is upon us! ComeToLowell.com

George DeLuca
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST
COMETOLOWELL.COM

With summer just around the corner, time is approaching once again for the Summer Music Series at Boarding House Park. This cornucopia of music and entertainment promises another outstanding season with established artists such as reggae king Ziggy Marley, British Blues master John Mayall, Styx founder Dennis DeYoung, esteemed singer/songwriter Kenny Loggins, jazz-meister Pat Metheny, the returning crooner from Texas Lyle Lovett, powerhouse vocalist K. D. Lang, and others.

If you haven't attended in the past, you can peruse the schedule and order your tickets online at LowellSummerMusic.org. This glorious outdoor program sets the tone for summer here in Lowell, and people come from all over the region to experience an "under the stars" event in downtown Lowell where you can take a magic carpet ride, forget your troubles for a few hours and leave refreshed.

Those who plan to come early can visit any of the fine downtown eateries, shops and salons within walking distance. And if you choose from one of the many Saturday shows, you may decide to make a day of it and visit the museums, take a trolley or canal boat ride, or just relax!

As LNHP public relations spokesman Chris Fendt explains, "The Lowell Summer Music Series is a not-for-profit, self-sustaining music series entering our 23rd year, presented by Lowell National Historical Park and the Lowell Festival Foundation. Boarding House Park is a



ZIGGY MARLEY /KENNY LOGGINS

beautiful outdoor venue in the heart of downtown Lowell. Friday and Saturday evening concerts have been crucial to summer weekends in the city and bring over 30,000 visitors each year."

Boarding House Park hints and suggestions: There's a parking garage right across the street on the corner of John St.

Top Secret: Parking tickets are not issued at metered and kiosk areas on Saturdays

If you want to be situated front and center within a popcorn kernel's throw from the stage, you may want to come earlier in the day and plunk your low back chairs down on a blanket. Although you may return to find your set up slightly shifted by your neighbors (a process called "the Big Squeeze"); generally, the honor system seems to be working.

Those who like to be a little further back can choose their own spots on a first

come first served basis. Yes, high back chairs are allowed further back, so you may want to stake out your territory early claiming some extra leg room so you can test the recline function of your chair, read a book, or munch on the surprisingly diverse selection of foods available right at the site (perhaps all at once!).

The Lowell Summer Music Series always seems to delight the crowd; as organizers Lowell National Historical Park Assistant Superintendent Peter Aucella and lead coordinator and program director John Marciano make every effort to make each show an event. John greets all as he opens each show, sometimes wearing his "Smokey the Bear" hat, sometimes not. Always entertaining, John lets his spontaneous light of whimsy shine through.

Now that we're on the subject of summer fun in Lowell, on June 18 the Red

Sox minor league franchise Lowell Spinners will kick things off with their first home game of the season. As the grounds crew continues to manicure the lawn at LeLacheur Park on the Merrimack River at 450 Aiken Street, the ball club is fielding flies and grounders, taking batting practice, and preparing for another run at ... well, generating excitement and entertainment for the family oriented crowds of course!

For schedule and ticket information, go to LowellSpinners.com. If money is an object, as it usually is for columnists, rest assured the prices are affordable. There's plenty to keep the kids involved; and, as they like to say at the ballpark: "There's not a bad seat in the house!" Players are generally Red Sox or major league hopefuls up to 23 years of age. Many of these crowd friendly major league prospects are available before each game to sign programs, baseballs & gloves.

The Canaligator, who lore has it was born in the recesses of the Lowell canal system, will transport you, family & friends to the land of baseball magic, as he struts his stuff throughout the game (under the watchful eye of Mrs. Canaligator).

There's a play area for the kids, and, in between innings tee shirts are shot into the crowd from center field, a karaoke contest is held on the visitor's dugout, and children are invited on the field to dance the "Cotton Eye Joe".

For more information about what's happening in Lowell, visit ComeToLowell.com.

Dracut Happenings

BEAUROCRATS: FROM 15

June 2012

For a more detailed list of all the lists for our vital Dracut Seniors, please check: councilonaging@dracut-ma.us Dracut Council on Aging 951 Mammoth Road Dracut, Ma 01826.

Mon. June 11 – 10AM Affordable Hearing (Free Hearing Screening).

Tue. June 12 – 10AM Grocery Shopping, NOON Movie "We Bought A Zoo".

Thu. June 14 – 10AM Willow Manor, 1:30pm-3:45pm Nurse Nancy.

Fri. June 15 - 9:30am Chunky's Dinner & Movie, 9AM Bowling.

Mon. June 18 11AM Mass Bar Association.

Tue. June 19 – 9AM Veteran's Break-

fast, 10AM Grocery Shopping

Wed. June 20 - 2:30pm Dracut COA Meeting

Thu. June 21 10AM Coffee with the Director, 1:30pm-3:45pm Nurse Nancy

Fri. June 22 – 9AM Bowling, 9:30am Woodmans Seaford & Grill

Mon. June 25 – 10AM - Talk on Elder Abuse Awareness

Tue. June 26 – 10AM Grocery Shopping

Thu. June 28 -10AM Lottery Held for Allards Grove. 1:30pm-3:45pm. Nurse Nancy

Fri. June 29 - 9:30pm Christmas Tree & Bahama Breeze

and support the decisions of the Commissioner and Receiver/Superintendent. But I would like to humbly add, support goes both ways and clearly it is not!

Now I am not advocating that the Receiver /Superintendent Mr. Riley pack up and leave Lawrence. As a matter of fact he may be just what Lawrence Public Schools needs at the helm to make the bold improvements in the School District, only time will tell.

What I am advocating is adhering to the Constitution of the United States of America which the last I checked holds the elections by free citizens of this Country as a sacred Right and doesn't casually dismiss it to carry out an agenda of a one party ruled State! Lest be clear, this Takeover is clearly a part of the Democrat Party Agenda to expand Big Government in Lawrence beginning with the Governor and the Commissioner all the way down to Mayor Lantigua and the City Council!

As things stand now, we the citizens of Lawrence have no representation, which brings us back to the Editorial, "a place for voters to express their displeasure". To put it bluntly, our Checks and Balances have been removed by the Democratic Party of Massachusetts. One Unelected Bureaucrat puts together a \$151 Million Dollar School Budget and is presented in a poorly advertized Public Hearing to the public in a presentation that lasted only 20 minutes and not one Elected Official can do anything about it! I find this very disturbing!

On the contrary, according to the 1st Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, it is our right to petition the Government for a redress (remedy) of grievances. This means if government is exceeding the authority granted to it under the Constitution, the people have a right to formerly complain

and the government must respond, (other than to just comment on potential bake sale bands).

Likewise, this Takeover clearly took place without the "consent of the governed". As Citizens of Lawrence we must remember this when these same individuals come to us to be re-elected this coming September and November!

If they can so easily disregard our sacred documents like the Constitution and Declaration of Independence which speak of the importance of our vote and our voice, we should return the same in the election booth.

In summary, on Wednesday May 30, 2012 Commissioner Chester and Receiver /Superintendent Riley unveiled the Turnaround Plan for the Lawrence Public Schools. Unfortunately, the School Committee only got a mention. As a matter of fact, not one Elected School Committee Member was allowed to be seated up on stage. In my humbled opinion this was absolutely disrespectful to the voters of Lawrence. I really am excited about the plan and eager to see it come to pass, but what baffles me is the continued disrespect by Unelected Bureaucrats towards our Elected School Committee Members!

What I would like to offer as a solution is that both, Commissioner Chester and Receiver/ Superintendent Riley stop disrespecting our Elected School Committee Members and recognize them as more than just empty seats. I would like to see them work together as a team, all having authority in the day to day operations including budgetary decisions. Working together with a common goal, making Lawrence Public Schools the best District of Schools in the State of Massachusetts!

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Candidate Kevin Cuff to Challenge Frank Moran for State Rep.

Kevin M. Cuff has announced his candidacy to seek a seat in the Massachusetts Legislature as State Representative to the Commonwealth's 17th Essex Legislative District representing Andover, Lawrence and Methuen. Kevin is running as an un-enrolled candidate because he has felt it better to be considered unbiased / neutral of any political party affiliation and to appeal directly to the hearts and minds of the people of the district. Kevin considers himself to be fiscally prudent and socially moderate. He was a registered Democrat while working as a committee staffer to the Massachusetts State Legislature's Joint Committee on Banks and Banking in the mid – 1980s and as a political and issues Director for former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn in the early 1990s.

Kevin is the inaugural Executive Director for the Community Mortgage Lenders of America, Inc., a national community banking trade association. Concurrently, Kevin is also the Vice President of Residential Lending Compliance and the Director of Community Investment (Diversity Director) for Leader Bank, NA – a \$500mm nationally chartered bank headquartered in Arlington, MA. Kevin oversees and ensures the continued and complex compliance environment as it pertains both to the residential mortgage transaction and all affordable housing initiatives as it pertains to the Community Re-investment Act.

For nearly ten years, Kevin was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association and its affiliated charitable Foundation. In his tenure, Kevin had a tremendously positive impact on the residential lending, banking and real estate industries even through the course of what has been considered one of the most challenging times for the Massachusetts and national housing markets.

Kevin has served the Commonwealth of

Massachusetts with distinction through the Fair Lending Task Force and Coordinating Committee of which he chaired; and the Massachusetts Division of Banks Foreclosure Prevention Summit of which he chaired the Barriers to Entry to the Massachusetts Mortgage Market sub-committee. Kevin currently serves on the Mortgage Lending Committee of the Massachusetts Community Banking Council.

In addition, Kevin has a vast knowledge of the governmental, legislative, procurement and regulatory processes from nearly 25 years of service in state and federal relations with medical and surgical continuing education and research, the City of Boston, a Massachusetts regional Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Over the course of his career, he has served as a consultant on national projects involving the city of Las Vegas, United States Office on Housing and Urban Development and the National Conference of Mayors.

Kevin is well published and has received numerous awards and citations in recognition of the work that he has done on behalf of affordable housing, financial reform, anti-predatory lending and community development. Kevin has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics from the University of New Hampshire; a Masters of Science in Public Policy from the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies at the University of Massachusetts and a Certificate of Qualifications in organizational management from the Institute of Organization Management at the University of Delaware.

Kevin has lived in Andover for 16 years with his wife and 9 year old daughter. He is a member of the Town of Andover's Housing Partnership Committee and he has coached many of the town's youth teams in Little League Baseball and the Andover Girls Softball League.

The Road To Beacon Hill Is Paved With Mediocre Intentions

Karin Rhoton

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Somehow the rhetoric never changes, even though the calendar does. Another year has gone by and still the taxpayers of Massachusetts continue to fund pet projects of politicians instead of funding services and programs for the communities in which they live. Still the taxpayers have not seen the roll back to 5% income tax. Still the tax payers see local aid cut. Still the legislature is passing unfunded mandates, while at the same time proclaiming that there is no such thing.

Why, this very week the pols of Beacon Hill passed a bill that will allow 16 and 17 year olds to 'pre-register' to vote. This was in complete defiance of the Massachusetts Town and City Clerks Association. Even though there was testimony stating that keeping the 16 and 17 year olds off of the voting list could not be guaranteed – in fact it's pretty much a guarantee that the names will be on the voting list – the bill passed. However, an amendment pushing for voters to present an ID proving they live in the district in which they live – failed.

The Legislature requires every public school system to provide services for special education needs. Special Education costs is an issue which many school districts struggle as expenses can be exorbitant and can come quite unexpectedly. Lawmakers passed a measure to reimburse extraordinary expenses at a certain percentage each year, capped at 75%. However, over the years, that has dwindled. 40% for FY10, 30% for FY11. That is no where near what has been promised. For a community like Methuen, this can mean between \$700,000 to over \$1.2M per year in lost funding. That's a big chunk of cash for Methuen to have to

find somewhere else in the budget.

Chapter 70 Aid – better known as funding for public education – continues to be a target for reduction at the state level. Yet the legislature underfunds their own standard to more than one third of the communities in the state. The flawed formula that has been used for going on thirty years undercuts many communities in the Merrimack Valley. But even knowing this, the legislature would rather continue on the same path instead of fixing the problem. Methuen continues to be told to carry the same level of public education but with less money.

Every year we hear promises from the State House, quickly followed by the warnings of "don't expect too much this year" or "we've had to make some tough budget decisions". And what does the tax payer get? Cuts to local aid which result in lower staffing levels for our police and fire departments, road repairs put off, senior center programs being cut or staffing levels reduced. Somehow the money that gets sent to Beacon Hill never makes it back to Methuen. Don't the people of Methuen know how to spend the money better than the politicians on Beacon Hill do? Put the money back in the hands of those who live in Methuen, as they will make better choices – and it won't go to six figure salaries for MBTA administration.

It is time for the State House to recognize that the local municipalities know their communities better than the politicians at the State House. Keep the dollars local and have local officials vote on the local needs of the community. We all see that the state budget continues to outpace revenues and fixed costs, and that the State has seriously depleted the 'Rainy Day Fund'. All we can hope for now is that it better stop raining.

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PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

Our Golf Tournament for One Tail at a Time

As my regular readers may recall, last month I wrote about the upcoming golf tournament I helped organize to benefit two great causes, One Tail at a Time Rescue and Seacoast Thunder. This month I am excited to tell you all about how the tournament went. It was a HUGE success thanks to all the volunteers, local businesses, the course that hosted us, and of course, the golfers.

The tournament was held on Friday May 18th at Far Corner Golf Course in West Boxford, and boy was it a blast! The weather was absolutely gorgeous, mid-70s and sunny - perfect golf weather! A few of the volunteers and I arrived bright and early to set up the coffee and donuts (graciously donated by HoneyDew Donuts on 114 in Danvers) and hang our sponsor's banners. A lot of time and effort went in to planning this event and we wanted to make sure that our golfers were greeted and treated to a memorable day. Once the golfers pulled in and parked, they were welcomed to the cart area by one of our volunteers and a Far Corner cart attendant. After dropping their clubs on their assigned cart, they proceeded down to the Grille Room to check in. Here, they



were greeted by enthusiastic volunteers and welcomed to indulge in the variety of donuts and coffee. Once they checked in, purchased their muligans and 50/50 raffle tickets, and received their well stocked golfer goodie bag (donated by CHAMP Sports), they headed to the driving range and putting green to get in a little practice before the shotgun start at 8am. John, the head golf professional at the course, did a great job setting up the carts for each foursome and reading the rules and regulations for the tournament. And then they were off! The carts dispersed in an orderly fashion, each following the one in front, disappearing to their assigned hole. All in all, there were 74 players...74!!!! For our first year, that's pretty amazing. THANK YOU to all the golfers who came out on a workday to enjoy some golf and support two great causes!

While the golfers played, the volunteers from One Tail at a Time Rescue frantically set up the 65 gift baskets (thank you to Meg Reynolds and Sue McKiniry for helping wrap and assemble most of them!) ranging from a grilling basket, to a movie basket, to a homemade dog treat basket, and gift cards to sporting goods stores and local restaurants. Two of our great volun-



teers, Lisa Cerroni and Meghan Maloney, sat out all day on the 8th tee (a par 3) selling 50/50 raffle tickets for our "land your drive on the green" contest.

After the round, the golfers turned in their score cards and congregated back in the Grille Room. Jackie and her crew that run the grill and kitchen were fantastic! The golfers were treated to a delicious bbq of hamburgers, chicken, potato and garden salad, and chips. Once finished, we were able to start pulling the raffle tickets and announcing the winners of the awesome gift baskets and prizes. After all the winning tickets were pulled, it was time to close up. As golfers and volunteers said goodbye and left, they asked us when and where the next tournament would be held...people had such a great time and they couldn't wait to find out about the next one! I have to say, planning a charity

golf tournament is tough work and very time consuming, but it is 100% worth it in the end.

I would like to thank my good friend (and One Tail's own professional volunteer photographer) Christen Grungale of Reflections by Christen Photography. She was the official photographer for the event. Christen was on hand all day snapping pictures of the players, sponsors, and volunteers - from check in to tee off to prizes. She not only took pictures that day, but she and her dad rode around offering the golfers a complimentary cold bottled water if they needed to hydrate. A big THANK YOU to other committed sponsors: TDF Metal Finishing Inc., The Grog Restaurant, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, Shea's Restaurant, Grossman Development Group, The Hydrant Regency, TTS

PUPPYGIRL: SEE PAGE 31

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Rep. Hill Says He Supported Ban on Devocalizing Dogs

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

State Representatives Brad Hill (R) says that he took exception to comments made in a Valley Patriot story last month on a set of bills that could put animal shelters and resources out of business and he called The Valley Patriot newsroom to set the record straight.

“I thought The Valley Patriot was very fair in your coverage, but in the story you quoted a woman as saying that I voted against devocalization bill [a piece of legislation that would make it illegal to surgically remove dogs vocal chords].

Hill said that “only one representative voted against the bill and it wasn’t me. I supported banning devocalization so; it’s unfortunate that you were told an out and out lie. They are trying to paint me in a certain color on this issue that I am not. I think you will see with my votes and my previous remarks on shelters and rescues that I am not what they say I am.”

The Ipswich State Representative said that he is still trying to bring both sides together on the bill that could allow the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture to regulate shelters and rescues out of

business.

“I am happy to bring both the breeders and the shelters together and work on coming to a consensus on this issue,” he said.

“I am, and have been trying to learn both sides of the issue and, again people shouldn’t assume I voted a certain way or that I hold a certain position. They should look up the votes, they should talk to me. I had a constituent call me and say ‘this isn’t accurate, I know you voted for the devocalization ban,’ so thankfully they knew that but I do want to set the record straight with your readers.”

Hill said he first got to know people in the dog breeder industry when he sponsored the “dangerous dog bill” in The House. “I don’t think dogs should be punished because of their breed, they should be punished for their actions. So, I opposed the dangerous dog bill and I think people on both sides of this other issue would applaud that.”

“The dangerous dog bill would have put into place a law which said that no community could pass a regulation or ordinance that was breed specific when it came to dogs. For example, say Worcester didn’t want put bulls in their communities

they could pass a regulation that would ban pit bulls. I don’t think that’s right. I think any regulation or local ordinance put into place should have criteria set up that deems a dog dangerous by their actions, not by just being a specific breed.”

“I have seen pit bulls go into nursing homes visit elderly people and they are the kindest gentlest dogs.”

“I have been a very strong supporter of laws that make sure dogs are safe and that people are safe.”

“What people also need to understand about the current bill that is being considered is that, when a constituent asks me to file a bill we have to do that (file it). You can do it by request, but I never do that because I think every bill should have its day in court.”

Hill concluded by saying that the current bill in question (House Bill 360, see story “Will Rogue State Agency Close Animal Shelters”) had many more components to it than he realized.

“As I am finding out, there is a lot more to this issue than I thought, and I am finding out that people on both sides have a lot of misinformation on these issues. I don’t think people are lying to me, I just think the information they have, and are



giving, is something that they believe is happening but it’s not. As a legislator I am trying to figure out the facts. A lot of people are giving opinions based on what they believe and I want to make sure that when I make a decision that I have the right information, that’s why we all need to be in a room and talk about these issues.”

“I am looking forward to working with everyone to get the issue resolved.”

K9 Rehab and Hydrotherapy at *Good Dog Aquatic Fitness*

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

Buddy, Buddy, Buddyeverybody loves Buddy. He is your typical happy go lucky, friendly and cuddly golden retriever. Like most golden’s Buddy loves to play ball, go for walks and sit and beg for treats. Buddy is one of my dog clients and it is very common to see us running around Hickory Hill having play dates with all the other dogs in his neighborhood.

However in late September of 2009, Buddy’s owner JoAnn Cooperstein noticed Buddy was limping on his right front leg. After a series of tests and a second opinion the conclusion was Buddy had premature closure of his distal ulna physis. Basically, what this means is one of the bones of a two-bone segment may grow at a slower or faster rate than the other bone. This will cause a disruption in the growth pattern making one bone to overlap or to not grow long enough to connect properly with the other bone.

Once the diagnoses came in, there was no question Buddy was going to have to have surgery to straighten his leg. This is referred to as distal ulna ostectomy and distal radius ostectomy. To put it simply... the vet shortened the joint in Buddy’s leg to help it grow properly. This required Buddy to rest and relax and to wear a cast for the next six weeks. Once the cast was

removed it was time for therapy.

As a pet owner your nerves are always a little on edge after your dog goes into a surgery. Will the surgery help, was it successful, is there permanent damage, will he recover and most importantly what do I do now for my dog? These are all common questions that swirl through the owners mind. But what does one do next?

HYDROTHERAPY...yes, Canine Rehabilitation Hydrotherapy is the next step in the recovery process. When Joann was telling me about the surgery I immediately said “No worries after his cast is off go to Good Dog Aquatic Fitness. It’s a complete rehabilitation center for canines and it is located right in North Andover.” I gave her their brochure and website and recommended she speak to her vet about a referral. Buddy has now started his treatments at Good Dog.

But what is Hydrotherapy? Hydrotherapy is the use of water to help pain-relief and treating illness. This is mostly used for pre or post surgery recoveries. The mission for Good Dog Aquatic Fitness is to provide skilled rehabilitative services in



a dog-friendly environment. Their goal is to assist in a speedy recovery and to improve the overall quality of life for your dog. They offer hydrotherapy in a heated spa, specialized exercises in a doggy gym and canine massage.

Luis Carrillo, owner and Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner develops individual curriculums for each dog to include conditioning programs to build strength, endurance and increase mobility and function, while reducing pain and inflammation.

But why are treatments done in water? The benefits of swimming and moving in water on the canine body is that the water supports and lessons stress on the joints, and encourages freer movement which helps the Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner work more effectively with the dog.

Who should inquire about treatment? After consulting with your veterinarian, a client will seek canine hydrotherapy for reasons that include geriatrics and arthritis, paralysis and other mobility issues, pre and post surgical rehabilitation, injury prevention and rehabilitation, helping obe-

sity, dysplasia, increasing body awareness, balance and coordination, and to help fitness and muscle development.

How long are the treatments? Well, that depends on the type of treatment needed but on average the sessions are approximately 45 min and the dog may need to 4-6 sessions.

For further information on Good Dog Aquatic Fitness please visit www.good-dogaquatic.com

And most importantly how is Buddy doing?

On Friday January 22, 2010 Buddy went back to his vet to have the plate and seven screws removed. Once his incision heals he will head back to Good Dog Aquatic to finish up his rehabilitation treatments. By spring of 2010, Buddy and I once again will be running through the streets of Hickey Hill and enjoying those play dates with all the neighborhood dogs. It’s been a long winter and everybody misses Buddy !



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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Teacher Beast

D. B. Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

This has been a particularly difficult work year for me. It started off with me being taken away the very first day of the school year by ambulance because of heart arrhythmia. Everything checked out fine and I haven't had another episode since. Two weeks later I missed several days of school because of a kidney infection. Last month I ended up in the hospital for four days with pancreatitis thanks to a microscopic gall stone that decided to vacation in my pancreas. Every time I was in the hospital I called into work because of the sheer guilt I felt for not being there for my students. For those of you who are parents, you may understand what this guilt is like. As a teacher, the emotions for my students are not much different than those for my own children. I want them to be happy, I want them to succeed and I get defensive when people or events prevent this from happening. This is the nature of the teacher beast.

When I am out and about and I strike up conversations with strangers and reveal that I am a teacher the reaction is ALWAYS the same, "God bless you. I don't know how you do it," or, "Really? That's awesome. They don't pay you people enough." I have NEVER been verbally assaulted to my face with the comments I have read in newspaper commentaries, Twitter accounts, blogs or feedback on our wonderfully biased local newspaper the Eagle Tribune that say things like, "Teacher's are money grubbers. They get three vacations a school year and the summers off and still want a raise," "Teachers need to suffer like the rest of us. They are simply glorified babysitters," or "They should get raises based on student performance." Recently I was reading the online reactions to the botched voting for the Union Presidential elections and one respondent was skewering the Methuen public school system and its teachers, but needed to add that her children's teachers have all been 'excellent'. Lucky her. She should play the lottery.

77% of parents give their child's school and teachers a grade of "A" or "B". However, when asked to grade our nation's public school system as a whole only 18%

assign those high grades. This means that most American parents do not believe our nation's public school system is providing our children with a good education. Now how can this be? How can most American parents believe that their own child's school is average to above average, but our nation's schools are below average? It doesn't add up.

Is it possible that parents do not want to believe that their own child's school is not up to its muster? Are they placating themselves into believing that their town's school system is really more than its cracked up to be so that they can feel good each time they put their child on the bus and wave goodbye or drop them off at the school's doorstep? Or is it that their school and its teachers really are doing a great job but it's actually the state tests that are flawed. It's quite a conundrum.

So, once again, I have to ask: Which is it? Are we underpaid heroes or overpaid babysitters? Why the vacillating? And what of the parents role in all of this?

Children spend 30% of their time in school. This means the majority of time is spent out of school with friends and family. Statistics have proven that children perform better in school when parents are directly involved with their education. Do you hear that parents? It's not just the teacher's job to educate your child; you need to be involved, too. Sure, we may have the master's degrees and be highly qualified in our subject matter, but you are supposed to know your child and fill in the holes that we cannot during the 70% of the time they are not in front of us. Decades of research has proven that when parents take an active role in their children's lives they: receive higher test scores, are less likely to get involved with drugs, alcohol or violent behavior, have better attendance, and higher self-esteem just to name a few.

What I would like to see are research results on the impact state testing has had on children in regards to the above factors. Children do not develop equally. There is no test that ALL students of the same age can take at the same time and get the same results. It's ludicrous. I'm five feet tall, in great shape and very athletic. However,

BEAST: PAGE 30




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Morality Matters!

The Real War on Women

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

People feel most offended when they know deep in their heart something is true. Consider this point as you read this column.

In the heat of a political year when Democrats concoct a war on women and Republicans deny it, we ask the question: Is there a war on women? The answer is yes, but it is the opposite of what is being claimed. The real war of women began as soon as a serpent entered paradise.

If you wanted to kill humanity wouldn't you shoot for the heart? Shoot at the heart and the entire body falls. Any gunman knows this. The heart of humanity is woman, and the old serpent knows that if you attack the heart the head would follow - for the interdependence of head and heart is vital for the body to survive. If the heart fails to give the brain its blood and oxygen, death soon occurs.

Whether or not you believe the Garden of Eden story to be divinely Revealed, you can see that this dynamic continues to be present today. Males and females understand their own identity in relation to each other. They are literally made for each other, not only for marriage but for all social interaction, as two complementary sides of humanity. Eve came from the side, or heart, of "Adam" (which means mankind).

As the image of God, this relational dynamic reflects the Son being eternally begotten of the heart of the Father and woman from the heart of man. Unfortunately, the imbalance that occurred in human nature (after the fall) made it difficult to know what it really means to be a man or a woman.

As we have uncomfortably trudged along throughout the centuries, managing to propagate the species to fill the world and subdue it, the scourge in male-female relations in the form of domination and lust continued, but the New Covenant and subsequent unfolding of western civilization were having their healing effect. Another attack by the serpent was needed before it became too late. In the 20th century a second forbidden fruit was devised to cause confusion between the sexes and land a fatal blow to humanity: the birth control pill. The serpent again shot at the heart, woman consumed the new forbidden fruit, and the western world both demographically and spiritually has been dying.

It's consequences are far too numerous to elaborate in one column, but let's look at the obvious fundamental changes

that have occurred in the delicate balance between the sexes. Generally speaking, women have lost a sense of their true identity, and as a result so have men. It has led women to reject real womanhood for two seemingly opposite counterfeit versions: In the past few decades woman have been conditioned to become either more like men or more like harlots. These are the two options promoted continuously by the media and academia, two arms of the serpent, as it continues to attack the heart of humanity. It makes perfect sense that when one's sense of purpose has been denied alternatives are needed to fill the void.

The pill creates a sterilized womanhood, with the exception of her 1.3 children, and leaves a void in her life that must be filled in order to have any semblance of meaning. Infiltrating the masculine realm provides that purpose, although it lack on providing fulfillment.

And if sex is de-linked from babies then what has always been called harlotry can be re-labeled as sexual freedom. We see it at college campuses around the country, the pornography explosion, and in various other forms through society. As a result of women being led into these two counterfeit extremes men have needed to alter their identity to maintain balance by two corresponding counterfeit versions of manhood: become either feminized or predatory.

This corresponds to the two popular laments of women today: "Aren't there any real men anymore?" as well as "All men are pigs."

We have been stuck in a vicious cycle of following the counterfeits while denigrating the real thing because we've been conditioned in the worldview of secular humanism. For forty years this has been deceitfully called progress in the name of equality in an era that equates equality with sameness; and none of this silliness would have unfolded had we not taken the new forbidden fruit in the form of the pill. The real war on women has in turn produced a new war on men. There's much more to say about this last point, but we'll save it for another column.

Paul Murano teaches philosophy at North Shore Community College and theology at the College of Saint Mary Magdalen. He is host of Beneath the Surface television show at Burlington Cable Access TV and is co-host of the Paying Attention Radio program. Paul is also chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help center in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician.





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The Public Needs Watchdogs Not Lapdogs

Christine Morabito
GREATER BOSTON TEA PARTY

Gone are the days when local newspapers did anything resembling in-depth investigative reporting. Whether the issue is lack of funding, under-staffing or in far too many cases, blatant political bias, it is the news-consuming, tax-paying citizens who are left unprotected. In essence, the mainstream media have become lapdogs.

We are fortunate in the Merrimack Valley to have a news outlet with courage, independence and objectivity when it comes reporting on public officials. The Valley Patriot President, Tom Duggan is frequently the first to break stories that are not covered by the traditional media until months or years later -- if at all.

This is clearly evident in the Valley Patriot's 8 year coverage of the ethically challenged

Mayor of Lawrence, Willie Lantigua and recent investigations into Essex County Sheriff, Frank Cousins. Duggan has latched onto these stories of corruption and graft like a pitbull, and refuses to let go until all the facts are known. Yet, time and time again, because of political favoritism, local newspapers refuse to investigate or report such stories until they are forced to, but not without first making themselves

irrelevant. When the media lies down with corrupt politicians, who is looking out for us?

I picked up my local paper the other day to find a front-page story about several rogue cows that had crashed a back yard shindig and drank some beer. For a brief moment, I was transported to my childhood home in rural Missouri, where that sort of thing might actually be news. Admittedly, the story was cute, but much like the paper's constant yapping about which politician's offspring had a brush with the law, it's annoying and it's not news.

Then there is the Dominican election irony, long ignored by the lapdog media. Duggan has been reporting since 2006 that Dominicans living in Massachusetts are required to show a Dominican-issued photo ID to vote in their homeland elections. Why is this ironic? Because,



opponents of Show ID in the U.S. claim it is racist. Using their distorted logic, the Dominican Republic would be perpetrating racism against its own people.

During this year's Dominican election, Duggan again unleashed the story on his WCAP radio show, Paying Attention, and the local media was forced to cover it. Once people began sharing it on social media, the story went viral.

The local print media is paying an enormous price for their journalistic neglect. Readership, subscriptions and advertizing are dwindling, and they are laying off reporters at an alarming rate. You might be tempted to blame the internet, but that does not explain why The Valley Patriot is expanding its distribution and constantly adding advertisers. Surely, they must be doing something right.

So, in an effort to do the job the mainstream media won't do, the Greater Boston Tea Party will be co-sponsoring a Citizen Watchdog Training with the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity. This all day event will be held on Saturday, June 23 at the DCU Center in Worcester and was designed to train and support citizen journalists as they work to sniff out and expose corruption, waste and incompetence at all levels of government.

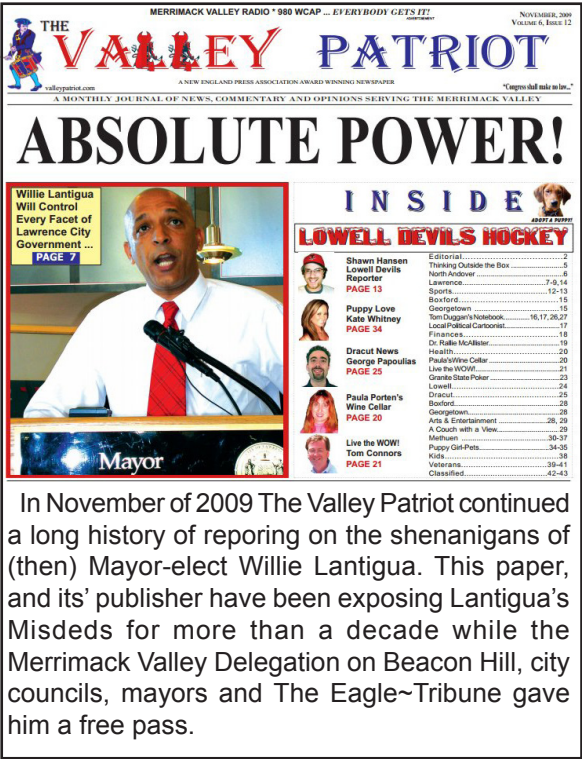
Here are some training topics to sink

your teeth into: Five steps to becoming an information activist, interviewing and cultivating sources, investigative reporting, public meetings and open records laws, expanding your influence on the internet and using social media to hold elected officials accountable and drive mainstream media coverage. Tom Duggan will be presenting a segment on Massachusetts media law.

Interested would-be watchdogs can register by viewing the calendar on our website <http://greaterbostonteaparty.com/> or by visiting the Greater Boston Tea Party Facebook events page. The registration fee is only \$10 for what promises to be an empowering and educational event.

Remember: Lapdogs are cute and snuggly, but they will not keep the scoundrels at bay.

Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and a President of the Greater Boston Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@hotmail.com



report such stories until they are forced to, but not without first making themselves

The Tea Party Candidate Questionnaire

Christen Varley
TEA PARTY ORGANIZER/ACTIVIST

When the Greater Boston Tea Party was founded, those of us designing the organization believed the central mission of the group should be to educate and inform. Political parties existed to elect candidates. The tea party was to stand for principles. While the genesis of the tea party movement was overwhelming opposition to tax payer dollars being spent recklessly in the face of an economic crisis, it quickly matured into a movement directed at restoring limited, constitutional government.

Since then, tea party organizations across the country have formed, each with a unique flavor. Some focus on national policy, others are strictly local. Many, like the Greater Boston Tea Party, try to provide information on policy at state and federal levels that might be of particular interest to tea party activists. It is a daunting task, especially for an all-volunteer organization, and many issues slip by our notice. When elections draw near, though, people look to organizations like ours for information and advice.

The Greater Boston Tea Party does not endorse candidates or donate to campaigns. Of course, avoiding the electoral process entirely is impossible but a great tool exists for organizations like ours – the legislative questionnaire. The questionnaire allows us to create voter guides that inform voters as to the policy positions of candidates without telling them for whom to vote. This is key. If voters just go from

one org to another looking to be told for whom to vote, they will never learn to discern for themselves the candidate that best represents their personal policy agenda.

As we did in 2010 and 2011, the Greater Boston Tea Party will issue to all state and federal legislative candidates a questionnaire asking positions on a variety of principles and policies that concern Tea Party and Liberty activists. (Unfortunately, quite a few of the questions have not changed indicating MA and our country are not headed in a less government, more freedom direction.) We received many of them back and were able to share with our members – and the general public – the responses of dozens of state and federal candidates.

In addition to providing a clear and concise format for voters with our voter guides, the questionnaires also generated a lot of conversation. We were widely scorned by liberals, their media cohorts and even a few candidates for asking “Do you support the dismantling of the Department of Education thereby returning the management of public education to state and local governments?” This question, though, started discussions between voters and candidates about the changes the Governor and state Board of Education made to MA's curriculum in the summer of 2010. We will ask this question again this year as it is obvious to most of us that lowering standards is not the way to better educate the next generation.

Another question on the federal questionnaire caused quite a stir as well.



While “Do you support amnesty for illegal immigrants as part of immigration reform?” seems like a simple enough question, political party lines were clearly reflected in the answers. Democrats favored amnesty, Republicans opposed. However, the follow up conversations had voters and candidates delving into the grey areas of our great American tradition of welcoming immigrants, the economic viability of, foreign aid policy, and the spreading of democracy. There was much exchanging of ideas on how best to accommodate the foreign workers occasionally needed in our country without penalizing citizens and legal immigrants.

The 2010 state legislative questionnaire raised eyebrows as well. When we asked “Would you vote in favor of legislation that requires proof of citizenship from beneficiaries of all state entitlements?”, many candidates were stunned to learn the state of MA does not routinely screen applicants for welfare benefits for residency status

(despite Governor Patrick's insistence that they do). The call for mandatory screening became a campaign position for many candidates and generated conversation statewide on how taxpayer dollars were being distributed to illegal immigrants ahead of citizens in need, including veterans.

As I indicated above, the 2012 questionnaires will feature quite a few repeat questions. This indicates that despite a lot of effort on the part of legislators in MA and at the federal level, there is still a lot of work to be done. We've also come up with some new questions that we hope will generate insightful conversations with the long list of legislative candidates on offer in MA. Ask candidates if they have received, completed and returned the questionnaire. If you are involved in a grassroots organization, create your own. Be ready to ask thoughtful questions and engage in conversations. And if you like what you hear, tell people you've found a good candidate for elected office who believes constitutional principles trump policy whims!

Hampton Beach Summer Activities

June 20, June 23 Saturday Sand Castle, Fireworks, June 27, July 4, a spectacular shoot, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Labor Day Weekend, September 2
Sat., September 8th
- 24th Annual Seafood Festival Special Shoots (at 8:15 pm)

“End of Year Special Fireworks Display On the Beach!”

Sat. Oct. 6th at dusk
New Years Eve December 31 at 8 PM

Monday Night Movies on the Beach!

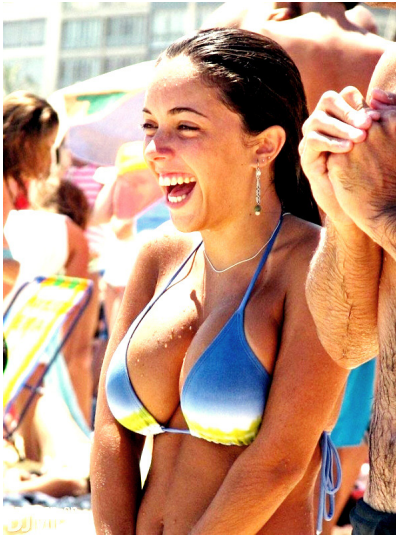
Starting at dusk July 9 - August 27.

Fun Family Entertainment. All for Free! An evening under the stars on our 5 star beach. Weather permitting.

Movies to be on the beach near the Playground.

Dates TBD
Sea Shell Stage Line Up 2012 Events
June 16 - 17, 2012

Hampton Beach Catamaran Regatta has become a highlight of the summer as champions and (relatively) new sailors alike converge on Hampton Beach for a weekend of sailing. The weekend is well organized, with races throughout the day, and held close to the shores so that visitors and non-sailors can admire the



spectacle. If you want to sail you need to get in contact with the organizers through the details provided here. If you're just watching, simply

get yourself a good bit of sand and a camera and relax and enjoy the proceedings.

Scott Malcolm 603-502-7451

12th Annual Sand Sculpting Competition
June 21 - 23, 2012

Come watch 15 Masters of the Sand Sculpture Universe compete for over \$15,000.00 in prize money. Competition June 21 - 23. Awards Saturday night, June 23, 8 p.m. at the Seashell Stage.

Followed by a Fireworks shoot at 9:30
All for FREE!

The fun starts Friday,

June 15th when 300 tons of imported sand is dropped on Hampton Beach and the “Grady Bunch” starts pounding up the demo site. The entire area is illuminated for night viewing through July 8th. Watch Greg Grady and “The Grady Bunch” build a mammoth Sand Demo Site. View all entries on line at this website. The competition is by invitation only. Interested Master Sand Sculptors may contact event co-organizer: www.GregGrady.com The event is funded by the Hampton Beach Village District and Sponsors, in cooperation with The Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce and

The NH Division of Parks. Interested sponsors or volunteers should contact us at hampton-beachinfo@comcast.net

Miss Hampton Beach Pageant

Sun., July 29, 2012

Join us this year for the 64th Miss Hampton Beach Pageant at the Seashell Stage July 29th at 2 p.m. Free Event! Interested Contestants should contact Stephanie Lussier at 603-512-5257 (cell phone). Click here for an Application, Guidelines and more Information. Check out the Miss Hampton Beach website at www.misshamptonbeach.webs.com.

Email: Princess50@yahoo.com

Little Miss Hampton Beach Pageant
Saturday, July 28th, 2012

Little/JR Miss Hampton Beach, at 2PM a sister pageant to Miss Hampton Beach we will be crowning a Little Miss and JR Miss Hampton Beach to help in promoting our seacoast area. Click here for an Application, Guidelines and more information or contact Director Stephanie Rose Lussier 603-512-5257 or Princess50@yahoo.com

Children's Festival

Mon., August 13, 2012 - Fri., August 17, 2012

Annual Children's Festival
Starting at 10 am.

Five days (August 13-17) of free activities for children and their families.

Friday August 17

11 a.m. A Giant Costume Parade when every child wins a prize.

Hampton Beach Talent Competition
Fri, August 24, 2012 - Sun, August 26, 2012
Download the Hampton Beach Talent Competition Application

Come watch talented entertainers compete for cash prizes. 1st \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$200
Limited to Vocalist in one of two categories. (Junior & Senior)

Junior category, up to age 18. Senior category, age 18 and over.

23rd Annual Seafood Festival
Fri., September 7 - Sun., September 9, 2012
Seafood Festival & Sidewalk Sale Days

Visit www.hamptonbeachseafoodfestival.com for details on times, entertainment schedule and participating exhibitors, free parking and shuttle schedules. Ocean Boulevard (Center Beach) is closed to traffic and becomes a pedestrian mall from the Marine Memorial (The Lady) to H Street to accommodate the anticipated 150,000+ visitors each day!

Sample the flavors of the seacoast at New England's largest seaside festival. Over 50



restaurants join together, offering an extensive menu of seafood delicacies, Gala festivities include:

Over 60 Art & Craft dealers, 3 stages of entertainment, children's activities and our new Children's Center, street performers, a 200 foot beer tent, sidewalk bargain sales, and an amazing display of fireworks on Friday and Saturday night. (Ocean Boulevard closed to traffic). Choose from favorites like lobster, shrimp, clams (steamed, broiled, barbecued or fried) to non-seafood items like “Bloomin’ Onion” and fried ice cream.

Continuous entertainment on 3 stages featuring some of the best local bands in the area - from Blues to Country, Rock & Roll and even a little Jazz.

Hospitality and more entertainment in our Beverage Tent serving Budweiser & Red Hook beer!

Spectacular fireworks display - Saturday the 8th at 8:15 PM

Sidewalk Sales (end of season clearance- SAVE \$\$\$\$)

Live Radio Remote Broadcast including Pat Whitley's syndicated “Dining Out Show”, Sunday September 9th.

Craft Fair - Over 60 Crafts Persons displaying their wares!

Children's Center - Ongoing Entertainment - Face Painting, Games and Street Performers

Live Entertainment at SurfSIDE5 Beach Bar & Grill ON SALISBURY BEACH

SALISBURY BEACH - SurfSide5 is the Seacoast's coolest beach hot spot! Seven days a week all summer long, SurfSide5's huge 8,000 sq.-ft. deck located directly over the ocean is the place to catch the region's best live bands, country music night, retro 60s surf parties, dueling pianos, chowder, steamers and lobster rolls, and of course, “Reggae Sunday” and the Island Beach Party with regional reggae favorites, Hot Like Fire! Also new this summer, the deck will be heated when the chilly ocean mist or breeze pick up so the fun never ends! Located on Salisbury Beach at 25 Broadway, SurfSide5 is open weekends now; open daily starting June 18th. For hours and daily entertainment schedule updates, visit www.surfside5.com or call 978.463.9222. (Summer-long weekly schedule at-a-glance is attached.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 9:00 PM – LIVE BANDS ON THE DECK FEATURING MAMA KICKS

Mama Kicks has been called “the cover band that so many cover bands aspire to be.” Local musicians Lisa Guyer (guitar/vocals) and Gardner Berry (keyboards/vocals) have performed together since 1994, and Mama Kicks is the only local band that actually makes performing their full-time job. Come find out why they were voted the #1 party band by NH Magazine!

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 4:00PM – 8:00PM –REGGAE SUNDAY WITH HOT LIKE FIRE

Super popular ‘Reggae Sundays’ at SurfSide5 features Hot Like Fire performing on the oceanfront deck every Sunday from 4:00-8:00 pm, rain or shine. The East Coast's most sought after authentic reggae band, Hot Like

Fire has been wowing audiences from Martha's Vineyard to coastal Maine for over 20 years. The 2011 winner of the NE Urban Music Award for Best Caribbean Band with a new CD coming out this summer, Hot Like Fire draws hundreds of fans to the SurfSide5 deck each week. New England Performer magazine says the band is "energetic, upbeat and highly ad-

dictive" – people are always dancin' when Hot Like Fire is jammin'!

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 7:00 PM– 11:00 PM – DUELING PIANOS WITH HONKY CATS

Honky Cats Dueling Pianos show is a high-energy, interactive and all-request driven rock & roll event featuring Jon Abrahms from the Billy Joel-inspired Broadway play "Movin' Out" and pianist extraordinaire Bill Conner. No two shows are the same because no two audiences are the same. From Bon Jovi or Billy Joel to your favorite “guilty-pleasure,” request a song and sing-a-long. Lots of fun, lots of music and lots of laughs! Appearing every Thursday all summer except June 28.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 9:00 PM – LIVE BANDS ON THE DECK FEATURING TODO BIEN

Emerging from the Seacoast of New Hampshire with a sound that is as original as the band members themselves, Todo Bien's blend of roots, rock, and reggae glide through solid grooves with an uplifting vibe of feel good lyrics. Their first of two records gained the band a People's Choice nomination in the Favorite Band category of the 2011 Seacoast Spotlight Awards.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 4:00PM – 8:00PM –REGGAE SUNDAY WITH HOT LIKE FIRE

Super popular ‘Reggae Sundays’ at SurfSide5 features Hot Like Fire performing on the oceanfront deck every Sunday from 4:00-8:00 pm, rain or shine. The East Coast's most sought after authentic reggae band, Hot Like

Fire has been wowing audiences from Martha's Vineyard to coastal Maine for over 20 years. The 2011 winner of the NE Urban Music Award for Best Caribbean Band with a new CD coming out this summer, Hot Like Fire draws hundreds of fans to the SurfSide5 deck each week. New England Performer magazine says the band is "energetic, upbeat and highly addictive" – people are always dancin' when Hot Like Fire is jammin'!



COME SING WITH US ALL SUMMER LONG AT THE SINGING CHURCH!

The Hampton Beach Community Church is a Non-Denominational Church located at 49 Ashworth Avenue, Hampton Beach, NH, (behind McDonald's & the Water Slide, near the corner of D Street and Ashworth). The Singing Church holds Sunday services at 9:30AM each week in the summer time beginning June 20th and running for twelve weeks through September 5th.

The Mystix with Special Guest Jerry Portnoy to Play at The Firehouse

WHAT: The Mystix with Special Guest Jerry Portnoy

WHEN: Friday, June 29 at 8pm

WHERE: Firehouse Center for the Arts, Market Square, Newburyport, MA

TICKETS: All tickets \$20. For more info please call the Box Office at 978/462-7336 or visit online at www.firehouse.org

NEWBURYPORT - "Some of the best musicians in rock 'n' roll never see the light of day. They toil away in obscurity as studio session players or as under-appreciated touring sidemen. But the time has come for a few of Boston's best

roots players to get out of the shadows and into the spotlight. Meet the Mystix..." Written by Christopher Blagg of The Boston Herald (2009), these words are your personal invitation to hear fine music at the Firehouse Center for the Arts (Market Square, Newburyport) on Friday, June 29 at 8pm when The Mystix bring their signature sound to the stage at the Arakelian Theater. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at the Box Office (Wed-Sun, 12N-5P), by calling 978/462-7336 or online at www.firehouse.org.

The Mystix are back on the road with

their Roots Ramble Tour in support of their fourth and most ambitious album to date, *Mighty Tone*, paying tribute to those influential blues, gospel and country artists that were the "true vine" of American Music, including some original material of their own. As the group's leader Jo Lily says, "This is a music of celebration, innovation and revelation...this Americana ramble has been a project infused with joy which we will share with our audience."

Meet all the members of the band: Jo Lily (Lead Vocals, Guitars) - former front-man for Boston's beloved band Duke &

the Drivers; Bobby B. Keyes (Guitars) - Mary J. Blige, Li'l Wayne, Robin Thicke, Muscle Shoals Studios, Jerry Lee Lewis; Marty Richards (Drums) - Gary Burton, Duke Robillard, J. Geils Band; Marty Ballou (Bass) - John Hammond, Edgar Winter, Duke Robillard; and Tom West (Keyboards) - Susan Tedeschi, Peter Wolf. This performance at the Firehouse will also feature a Special Guest, harmonica legend Jerry Portnoy, the man Eric Clapton had this to say about: "...[Jerry Portnoy is] one of the most stimulating musicians I have ever played with..."

In addition to Jerry The Mystix



are bringing with them a talent-loaded revue with such guest artists as Kevin Barry, lap steel/dobro (Ray LaMontagne), Matt Leavenworth, Fiddle (John Lincoln Wright Band), and Dennis McDermott, percussion (Roseanne Cash, Mark Cohn).

A Mystix "living room" feel will be featured as the heart of this Americana revue celebrating their amazing new CD *Mighty Tone*. Don't miss this righteous tour as The Mystix "bring it on home" with their *Roots Ramble Revue*!

"I didn't understand what Americana meant until I heard The Mystix" says Dave Palmater(WUMB 91.9, Boston). So get an education yourself. Find out what "Americana" and "roots" really mean. Meet the Mystix.



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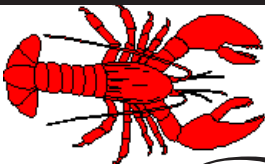
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THE DOCTOR IS IN

What you Should Know Phantom Pain

Rami Rustum, M.D.
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Phantom pain -Phantom pain is pain that feels like it's coming from a body part that's no longer there. Doctors once believed this post-amputation phenomenon was a psychological problem, but experts now recognize that these real sensations originate in the spinal cord and brain.

Although phantom pain occurs most often in people who've had an arm or leg removed, the disorder may also occur after surgeries to remove other body parts, such as the breast, penis, eye or tongue.

Symptoms - Most people who've had a limb removed report that it sometimes feels as if their amputated limb is still there. This painless phenomenon, known as phantom limb sensation, can also occur in people who were born without limbs. Phantom limb sensations may include feelings of coldness, warmth or itchiness or tingling — but should not be confused with phantom pain. Similarly, pain from the remaining stump of an amputated limb is not phantom pain. By definition, phantom pain feels as if it comes from a body part that no longer remains.

Characteristics of phantom pain include:

- Onset within the first few days of amputation
- Tendency to come and go rather than be constant
- Usually affects the part of the limb farthest from the body, such as the foot of an amputated leg
- May be described as shooting, stabbing, boring, squeezing, throbbing or burning
- Sometimes feels as if the phantom part is forced into an uncomfortable position
- May be triggered by weather changes, pressure on the remaining part of the limb or emotional stress

Causes: The exact cause of phantom pain is unclear, but it appears to originate in the spinal cord and brain. During imaging scans — such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or positron emission tomography (PET) — portions



Dr. Rami R. Rustum, M.D. is the Director of Merrimack Pain Associates at 50 Prospect St. in Lawrence. You can contact him at: ramirustum@comcast.net. Tell him you read his column... he likes that!

of the brain that had been neurologically connected to the nerves of the amputated limb show activity when the person feels phantom pain.

Many experts believe phantom pain may be at least partially explained as a response to mixed signals from the brain. After an amputation, areas of the spinal cord and brain lose input from the missing limb and adjust to this detachment in unpredictable ways. The result can trigger the body's most basic message that something is not right: pain.

Studies also show that, after an amputation, the brain may remap that part of the body's sensory circuitry to another part of the body. In other words, because the amputated area is no longer able to receive sensory information, the information is referred elsewhere — from a missing hand to a still-present cheek, for example. So when the cheek is touched, it's as though the missing hand also is being touched. Because this is yet another version of tangled sensory wires, the result can be pain.

A number of other factors are believed to contribute to phantom pain, including damaged nerve endings, scar tissue at the site of the amputation and the physical memory of pre-amputation pain in the affected area.

Risk factors: It's still unknown why some people develop phantom pain after an amputation while others do not. Some factors that may increase your risk of phantom pain include:

Pain before amputation. Some researchers have found that people who had pain in a limb before amputation are likely to have it afterward, especially immediately after amputation. This may be because the brain holds on to the memory of the pain and keeps sending pain signals, even after the limb is removed.

Stump pain. People who have persistent stump pain usually have phantom pain, too. Stump pain can be caused by an abnormal growth on damaged nerve endings (neuroma) that often results in painful nerve activity.

Poor-fitting artificial limb (prosthesis). Talk to your doctor to be sure you're putting your artificial limb on correctly and that it fits properly. If you think your artificial limb may not fit properly, or is causing pain, talk to your doctor.

Treatment: Like most chronic pain conditions, no single treatment approach works for everybody. A number of medications complementary and alternative treatments out there work for phantom pain. Here are some of the most common approaches.

• **Medication** – because it is considered a neuropathic disorder, antidepressants and anticonvulsants are often prescribed for phantom pain. NSAIDs, opioids and muscle relaxants are also on the list of medications. As with other chronic pain conditions, finding the right medication can take time and patience. Sometimes successful phantom pain relief takes a combination of these medications.


• **Mirror therapy** – many therapists use mirrors in their treatments to show the brain into a healthy limb in place of a stump. This usually involves placing both limbs in a mirror box, which makes the amputated limb appear intact. The individual is then asked to perform exercises with “both” limbs. This tricks the brain, and effectively reduces phantom pain for some people.

• **Stump stimulation** – using TENS, applying pain-relief patches or rubbing the stump can relieve phantom pain in some people. Using hot packs and cold packs can work for some people. Providing an alternate sensation from the stump can interrupt pain signals.

• **Cognitive therapies** – some people find relief from their phantom pain through hypnosis, relaxation or guided imagery. These approaches can change the way the brain interprets phantom sensations, including phantom pain.

Usually more than one treatment approach is used to get phantom pain under control. Some people, however, may require more invasive forms of treatment. These include additional surgery to untangle nerve bundles at the amputation site, stimulation of the spinal cord or the brain to change the way pain is interpreted and implantation of pain pumps that deliver medications directly to the spinal cord.

- Ref:
1. Pain: Hope through research. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/chronic_pain/detail_chronic_pain.htm. Accessed Aug. 11, 2011.
 2. Weeks SR, et al. Phantom limb pain: Theories and therapies. *The Neurologist*. 2010;16:277.






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BEAST: FROM PAGE 26

you can have the best coaches in the world train me for years and I will never run 100 meters in 10.49 seconds, the current women's world record.

Our children are not cattle. We cannot line them up, feed them the same information and have them weigh in equally. There are too many variables. What needs to be constant for their success is that highly qualified teachers continue to do their job in educating our children and parents are involved with their education and upbringing, as well. And neither of us should be pointing fingers at one another for the failure of our children. I will continue to care, fight, and claw my way through every school day and year to provide the best education for every one of my students even if it means doing so from a hospital bed.

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 Dani-BLangevin@aol.com



Solving Peripheral Neuropathy

Dr. Jin Sung
VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

Definition: A peripheral neuropathy is a problem with the nerves that carry information to and from the brain and spinal nerves. This can produce pain, loss of sensation and inability to control muscles. “Peripheral” means further out from the center of the body or distant from Brain and Spinal Cord “Neuro” means nerves “Pathy” mean abnormal.

- 7 Signs of Peripheral Neuropathy
1. Numbness
 2. Burning Hands or Feet
 3. Cramping
 4. Sharp Electric Pain
 5. Pain When Walking or Holding Objects
 6. Difficulty Sleeping From Leg Discomfort
 7. Prickling / Tingling Feelings
- Common Causes of Peripheral Neuropathy
- Old Injuries can lead to scar tissue around nerve pathways
 - Arthritis (Generally Auto-Immune)
 - Spinal stenosis encroaches on the nerve
 - Bulging disc compress on the nerve
 - Statin drugs
 - Diabetes Type 1 or Type 2 (Generally Auto-Immune)
 - Poor diet (Leads to Auto-Immune)



- Genetics 80/20 rule applies. Its 80% life style 20% genes (Generally AI also)
- No fuel for healing

A thorough and comprehensive exam ensures an accurate diagnosis. You must determine if there is adequate FUEL and ACTIVATION. This means there must be adequate oxygen and glucose delivered to all the tissues involved.

All neuropathies are not the same and they certainly should not be treated the same. Neuropathies come in a few primary types: Large or small diameter or both as well as motor. If jerking is involved then it can be as much a problem in the brain due to trans-neural degeneration as it is in the peripheral nerve. As such therapy is focused on the region of

the brain involved in the deficit.

Metabolic Management:

There are many causes of PN but one major one is from a metabolic condition. You CANNOT DRUG YOUR WAY OUT OF A METABOLIC CONDITION it requires change in lifestyle.

Life style changes are generally the biggest component to long-term success. This means dietary changes for most people. The 7 worst foods for your body are sodas (including diet sodas), all fast foods, margarine, chips, donuts, and pasteurized dairy products. The body is either breaking down or building up. The majority of the SAD (Standard American Diet) breaks the body down; the body requires consistent fuel and activation.

If the patient is not willing to make the necessary lifestyle changes for at least 6 months we will not proceed with therapy.

Physical Treatment

Once underlying metabolic roadblocks are handled that would prevent proper fuel delivery you can commence the repair aspect of the nerves and associated tissues. Therapies that are often utilized in this process are:

- Spinal decompression
- Exercise with Oxygen Therapy (EWOT)
- Electrical Stimulation with 7.83Hz frequencies
- Sound and vibration therapies in the 7 to 24Hz frequencies
- Brain Balance exercises

Dr. Jin Sung is a chiropractic physician who offers a unique, drug-free, and effective approach to the management of chronic health conditions. He utilizes Brain Based Therapy and Functional Medicine approaches to achieve excellent results with his patients. Call 978 688 6999 or visit www.DrJinSung.com



FROM PAGE 24: PUPPYGIRL KATE WHITNEY

(Truck Tire Service Corp), Goldfarb Band & Company, BitFlow, Spada & Zullo Attorneys at Law, Paul’s Painting, Essex Financial Advisors LLC, Constitution Payroll & Merchant Services, The Godparents Foundation. The local businesses that donated a raffle prize item or gift card were: Rogers Spring Hill, McLay’s Florist, Wally’s Vegetables, Town Line Bowling, Bee by the Sea LTD, SwingRite LLC, Trust in Tricia, Izzy’s Barkery, Texas Roadhouse, Modell’s, Unleashed by Petco, Pet’s Life, Sylvan Street Grille, The Westin Hotel, State Line Pet, Haverhill Beef, Petco, Pick Your Poison Cakes, Chilis, Chipotle, The Canine Barkery, Orzo, Olivia’s, Up Country, Caio Bow Wow, Extra Innings, Goodness Gracious, Bare Naked Dog Bakery, and Swing with Style.

The tournament was a joint effort between two great organizations: Seacoast Thunder AAU Baseball and One Tail at a Time Dog Rescue. Seacoast Thunder, run by a good friend of mine, Kevin Winship, is a program designed to provide a platform for young baseball players to learn and compete in the great game of baseball. Studies have shown that kids who participate in organized team sports are higher achievers in terms of grades and have lower school dropout rates. This is a fantastic program and we hope that it will benefit tremendously from the golf tournament. One Tail at a Time Rescue is a 501c3 non-profit here in MA. If you have read my column before, you know how much I write about and promote this great organization and all of the wonderful work they do. The rescue is 100% volunteer operated and thrives on private

donations from dog lovers like you and the love of the volunteers who selflessly give their time and energy. The rescue receives no state funding or help in any way. Most of the dogs come from kill shelters down South, are transported up to MA, seen by a vet, spayed/neutered, microchipped, given shots, placed into foster homes, and then wait for their new forever homes to come along. This tournament helped raise money so that we can continue this great work and save more dogs and puppies!


Thank you again to all o four volunteers, sponsors, golfers, and Far Corner Golf Course and Grill. We look forward to doing it again in 2013! This was a great way to kick off the upcoming summer, I hope all my readers enjoy the warmer weather that’s in store for us. Get out and take your dog for a hike or an extra long walk. They will thank you for it! And don’t forget, if you are looking to add a four legged friend to your family, please



remember to adopt.

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Shawn Hansen’s Music Corner: Blood, Sweat & Tears

Managing Blood, Sweat & Tears [BS&T] for the past 30-years, getting the calculator out, everyone should now know that Larry Dorr started with this band in 1982.

Prior to Dorr becoming the manager was Fred Heller and Larry Goldblatt.

“Before I became manager for Blood, Sweat & Tears I actually worked for other bands, and I also worked with Broadway shows, Jesus Christ Superstar back in the late 70s. I went from Broadway into rock, and then I met up with Blood, Sweat & Tears, and have been with them ever since.”

Getting into the business, Dorr said he always felt amazed by what goes on behind the scenes that leads up to a band

performing in an actual concert. As a fan of figuring out what goes into planning out the itinerary, coordinating a game plan, making sure travel agents will work with the band as well as hiring a crew, the current skipper of BS&T said he feels like he has the best job in the world.

“People don’t realize when they go to see a band play, they have no idea what it took for that band to get to that show, and how long it was planned ahead of time,” said Dorr. He explained that sometimes they are booked 12-14 months ahead of schedule in some situations.

“I love bringing bands on world tours all around the world,” said Dorr. “All the different languages, currencies, it’s just something I’ve always loved. You have to

have a love for that if you’re going to be a manager.”

Traveling around the world, Dorr shared his top five lists of favorite places that he has traveled to.

(1) Iron Curtain (East & West Germany) – “We used to travel behind the Iron Curtain before the wall came down. When we used to go there to me it was the greatest thing in the world, because not a lot of Americans went behind the Iron Curtain. What would happen is when you would go there, the deal was when you got your Visa to travel in there you had to spend 500 rubles. Traveling with the band everything is paid for, so at that point, it was pretty dismal. At the other side of the wall there was nothing really to spend it on. People would come and see us play. It was mostly government shows that would allow us to play there, so people got in for free, or it was minimal amounts of money. People really had a drab life. There was old machine gun towers, and every country crossed in through. It made you really appreciate the United States. What I would do is at the end of the tour we would be there for about a week or two to all these countries that was pretty dark over there. The day I would leave to come back on the other side of the wall, I would take my 500 rubles, and I would look for a family, and give them the 500 rubles. At that time that was like a years pay for some of these people. Watching the look on their faces when you hand them all this money, they just couldn’t believe it. Sometimes they

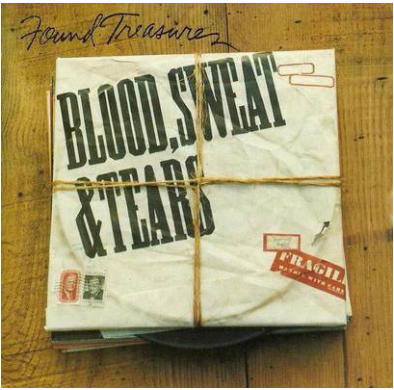
would be frightened to take it from you, because all they’ve heard about Americans was nothing but the worst.”

(2) Japan – “These people are really true Jazz fanatics.”

(3) Australia – “Australia was great. We had a great time in Australia. We’ve been there quite a few times.”

(4) Vienna, Austria – Dorr said he loved the culture in Vienna.

(5) America – “I love touring the United States. You have so many cultures in the United States.



INDEPENDENCE DAY: FROM PAGE 5

relating to the citizens of Andover. The town was selected by Harvard University to keep many of the books from its library safe from being destroyed by the British troops during the Revolutionary War. They produced a hero of Bunker Hill, Salem Poor, a freed slave who joined and fought with the men of Andover. He saw meritorious action and was recognized as a soldier of valor at the Battle of Charleston.

The citizens of both North Andover and Andover went to Holt Hill in Ward Reservation to observe the battle raging in Charlestown, several miles away, as the British burned the town on June 17, 1775.

The British blockade of Boston during the winter of 1775 was finally ended on March 17, 1776 under the leadership of General George Washington. On his orders, guns and cannon had been taken from Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain in New York during the winter of 1775-1776 and brought to Boston by oxen over difficult terrain

and through harsh weather conditions. Colonel Henry Knox and his heroic men accomplished this daring feat and the cannons were secretly placed on Dorchester Heights, clearly overwhelming the British forces in Boston below. Over 11,000 British troops and 1,000 Royalists left Boston Harbor soon after and sailed for Nova Scotia.

The patriot soldiers, however, went on to other battles, across the colonies until the Battle of Yorktown insured their country’s independence.

This note from Archiving Early America states;

THE COLONISTS may have been an army of ragtag farmers, under-equipped, under-clothed and rarely paid, but they defeated the largest, most powerful army in Europe to gain their INDEPENDENCE.

July 4, 1776
HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY.

As Al Kooper saw the album, he told the people at the venue that their bands name was Blood, Sweat & Tears. After putting that name on the marquee, 45-years later the band is still touring around the world.

Coming up on Thursday, June 07 BS&T will be performing at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium at 50 East Merrimack Street at 8 p.m.

For more information about the LMA go to www.lowellauditorium.com, call their box office at 1-978-454-2299, or go directly to the LMA at 50 East Merrimack Street in Lowell, MA 01852. For more information about BS&T go to www.bloodsweatandtears.com.



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Thomas Connors

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For Heaven’s sake use your head! Think for yourself. What is the matter with you? The Good Lord above gave you a brain and all you are doing is taking it for granted and letting yourself mosey along through life letting the winds of change and snake oil salespeople direct your Thinking. Ask yourself. “Are you nuts?”

Your Brain is the most amazing organ that exists in the world. Use it for all its worth.

The intricacies of how your brain functions are so complex and magnificent that they cause even the most intellectual scientists to study it in awe. Its ability to process and deliver information while simultaneously generating your creative process and motor skills makes it absolutely priceless. It makes you who you are and who you can become.

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son to establish their priorities and set their moral compass.

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No matter what physical and even mental limitations appear to exist or might even seem obvious, the ability to Think, even in a limited or very limited way, can be extremely valuable in your quest to Live the **WOW!** Sure, some people may appear to be far more intellectually advanced than



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you or me. But, that doesn’t shortchange us in any way to use what we have to Think our way to a successful and meaningful life.

There is, however, a way you short-change yourself and those you love. When you stop Thinking and allow yourself to be led like sheep.

People Living the **WOW!** are on their toes when it comes to letting others dictate how they need to live their lives. They sift through all the B.S. and Think for themselves; making their own decisions.

Being up on your toes and learning to Think for yourself has never been more important than it is in today’s world.

Think! Look at the way you are governed. Wall Street financial firms hedge bets on your money, lose it and YOU pay the price while THEY are bailed out. It’s not the companies’ fault. It’s the way certain lawmakers have set up.

Think! Bad choices are not good for you no matter how much others try to sugar-coat them. The housing mortgage and credit calamity are two obvious examples if you Think about it.

You and I were sold on the idea that the good times would go on and on. Money to borrow on our children’s’ future was plentiful. You were told and encouraged to callously spend your life away. Then the bubble burst. Big-time. And the average person virtually lost it all. Their houses. Their retirement. Their peace-of-mind. What were you Thinking?

That’s the problem. You weren’t Thinking. You let others do the Thinking for you and you and I got burnt ... while they walked away unscathed. And they are still doing the same old scams all over again.

Start today to Think for yourself. Think your way into Living the WOW! Think what that way of living will mean to you and those you love.

Commit this very moment to use your head. Think long and hard when you build your relationships with your spouse and your children. Think when you set your priorities, establish your goals in life and develop your spiritual beliefs.

Think about the options available to you when you make choices about your education and your career. Use your head to seek out the answers to questions regarding what is best for you and those around you.

Think about the double-speak when listening to salespeople, your political leaders and pundits. Get your facts. Use your head to make decisions rather than be led like sheep with impractical and uncommon-sense reasoning.

Then, when you look into the mirror, you will feel confident, assured and impressed that you made and will continue to make decisions that are in your best interest for today, tomorrow and all the tomorrows thereafter.

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} © 2012. You can also visit Tom at his BLOG ... TomConnors-ThinkPad.blogspot.com



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heroism.

Now his grandson Bob Fairbairn was awarded four Purple Hearts and a number of other awards for valor and service in Vietnam. Fairbairn cherishes the Purple Hearts most of all. They bond him to all his fallen brothers.

November 11. A day of tragedy and triumph. Of death and life. Of destruction and hope. Both are inextricably linked. For out of the ashes of despair rises the gift of new life, as Bob's life today testifies to.

SSG Bob Fairbairn comes from a long line of courageous patriots who have fought valiantly for freedom and America.

His great-great grandfather, Albion Parris Howe, a major general in the Civil War, commanded the 2nd Division, VI Corps, at the battle of Fredericksburg and later was Commander of Artillery, Washington D.C. He served in the Honor Guard at Lincoln's casket and internment, and on the military commission that tried the Lincoln conspirators. His grandfather, a Colonel in WWI, served in France. His father, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marines, served in WWII. His nephew received the Silver Star for service in Fal-lujah, Iraq, and is now fighting in Afghanistan. His godson is a combat-wounded Marine.

"Into the jaws of Death"

Bob served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1970, fighting in the bloodiest, deadliest,

longest-running battles of that war. He literally went "into the jaws of Death, into the mouth of Hell"—then came out fighting. His men consider him a legend.

Among the decisive battles Bob fought in:

- "The Iron Triangle" in "Operation Big Springs" (January 30 to February 16, 1967), in deadly War Zone "D," site of the thickest jungles, where the 173rd discovered and destroyed 26 base camps and more than 1,000 underground bunkers.

- "Junction City I and II" (February 22 to April 13, 1967), where Bob was among the 780 Sky Soldiers who parachuted into War Zone "C" and destroyed the enemy's central headquarters churning out psychological propaganda throughout South Vietnam. This was the first major U.S. airborne assault since the Korean War.

- "The Battle of the Slopes" (June 18 to 22, 1967), in Dak To, which began as a routine search-and-destroy mission and ended up being the deadliest ambush of American lone rifle companies attacked by waves of NVA battalions.

- "The Battle of Dak To" (November 1 to December 14, 1967), a series of battles in "Operation MacArthur" that lasted 33 days and 110 continuous hours. It ended when the Americans captured Hill 875, after suffering horrific losses and the deadliest "friendly fire" incident since WWII. U.S. forces devastated three NVA regiments, preventing them from taking



Jungle warfare in Vietnam's Central Highlands, a "land of perpetual twilight," pitted the 173rd, 503 Airborne Infantry against an elusive enemy. Guerrillas hid in underground networks of heavily fortified bunkers, camouflaged by the jungle, then set ambushes and attacked by night in "human waves".

part in the Communists' Tet Offensive launched in late January 1968.

A part of Bob still remains on Hill 875 at Dak To, where his three closest buddies received the Medal of Honor posthumously: Pfc. John Barnes III, Sp 4 Carlos Lozada, his best friend from jump school, and his Chaplain (Major) Charles Watters.

General Westmoreland called the 173rd Airborne "my fire brigade."

Infamous Battle of Dak To

The Sky Soldiers, as the 173rd Airborne Brigade was known, were one of the first army units sent to Vietnam. They were the first to go into the jungles to search and destroy enemy base camps and the first to use small, long-range patrols. They remained in combat longer than any other American military unit since the Revolutionary War. They earned four Presidential Unit Citations and had 12 Medal of Honor recipients.

Initially headquartered in Bien Hoa, the 173rd operated in provinces around Saigon. When intelligence revealed the NVA was planning a massive attack against the U.S. Special Forces' camps in Dak To, in the Central Highlands, the 173rd was deployed there—to the wildest jungles in South Vietnam, if not in all of Southeast Asia, where the borders of South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos meet. These camps at Ben Het, in Kontum Province, provided surveillance and a major road-block to the enemy at the southern end of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They also supported and trained the isolated Montagnard villagers.

Dak To is surrounded by steep, muddy ridges rising to 4,000 ft, forested with 100-ft tall jungles of double- and triple-canopy rain forests and dense, low foliage—infested with leeches, diverse snakes, and half the world's mosquitoes. It's a land of "perpetual twilight." Guerrillas hid in jungle lairs and fortresses of reinforced underground bunkers, tunnels, and fortified trench lines. By night they set ambushes and attacked in "human waves."

"The Battle of Dak To" included the Battle of Hill 823, Hill 1338, and climaxed in the decisive Battle of Hill 875.

On Hill 875, the NVA had built a massive complex of fortified bunkers and trenches connected by tunnels and had amassed 7,000 soldiers in four regiments.

On November 19, the 503rd Airborne Infantry began climbing Hill 875. After some of the bloodiest fighting of the war, the survivors finally reached the summit and captured Hill 875 on Thanksgiving Day.

When the battle finally ended on December 14, the jungle had turned into a barren landscape, devoid of life.

From ashes, new life springs up

In a forest fire, the intense heat that kills trees also brings forth new life—releasing seeds that sprout. New saplings spring up.

From 1990 to 2001, Bob lived in Saigon with his wife and daughter. He built medical clinics at Dak Pek, Dak Seang-Dak Sut, and Dak To-Ben Het. Bob and his brothers from the 173rd support the Omni Y Deo Orphanage at the Catholic Cathedral in Kontum for the mountain people of the Central Highlands, an ethnic minority regarded as second-class citizens by the Vietnamese government.

Fairbairn, with other Vietnam veterans in "Veterans Assisting Veterans," has also raised tens of thousands of dollars with motorcycle runs to support the widows and children of U.S. veterans who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to aid our brain-injured combat veterans. His gifts continue to give life and hope.

"Every good tree bears good fruit...By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:17, 20).



Helen Mooradkian is our new Valley Patriot Hero columnist and a former business writer. She is also a member of the Merrimack Valley Tea Party. You can

email her at hsmoor@verizon.net



SSG Robert A. Fairbairn, 173rd Airborne Brigade, (bottom right), 503rd Airborne Infantry, during the infamous "Battle of Dak To" in Vietnam's Central Highlands, November 1967. Bob was part of "Task Force Black" that was trapped in a deadly ambush by two North Vietnamese Army battalions.



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News from the American Legion

John Lenotte
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

It is hard to believe a year has gone by since I was elected and installed as the American Legion Department of Massachusetts Commander. It has been a year with many great experiences but now it is time to turn over the job to our next Commander.

I cannot possibly name all the events or the great support all have shown me but I will hit on some of the highlights. This includes parades in East Longmeadow, Marlboro, North Adams, Topsfield and Boston. A big event was the Southwick Post 338 Legion Riders fundraiser last July where they brought in over \$3 thousand dollars. And Past Hampden County Commander Louis Brault and I got to present the check to then National Commander Jimmie Foster at the National Convention in Minneapolis. And the Post 338 Riders in Southwick are doing the event again this July 21st.

The Legion Riders in Massachusetts are growing by leaps and bounds. A Resolution will be presented at this year's Department Convention to formalize the program in Massachusetts. I have seen many emails and there are MANY great events that the Riders are sponsoring and I hope you get to at least one of them to see the great work they do. I have met members from most of the posts and they



are a dedicated group of Legion Family members.

I was fortunate to represent Massachusetts Legionnaires at many events throughout Massachusetts and visits to Connecticut, Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis and the National Commanders Homecoming in Albany. There were also trips to Washington, DC, where we were briefed by the local staff and visited our Congressional delegation. A few went in September and several of us made the trip in February.

Back last November, there was a special trip the NEC Mike Cassidy and PNVC Hank Bradley and I went to visit Senator Kerry's office regarding the supercommittee deliberations. We all know how that committee turned out. But the point is that your American Legion representatives were there promoting the interests of our organization. And YOU are the organization.

Remember that my theme this year has been: Vision Image Programs, VIP. Vision being the 4 Pillars Americanism,

National Security, care for our Veterans and Children/Youth. Image is that we are NOT about being a local bar; we are all about the Programs. Posts are doing the programs but we need to get the word out to the membership, local community and to our elected officials at the local, state and national levels.

Have you seen our new Billboard? It was recently out at 2 locations, one on the Cape, the other on the Southeast Expressway.

Memorial Day weekend was busy. Saturday was the Healing Fields ceremony in Cohasset; Sunday was the ceremony at Bourne National Cemetery and Monday I had the honor of being the guest speaker in Dracut. I want to thank the Dracut Legion Post for inviting me. It was a great event.

In closing, I will continue to work for the American Legion at the post, district and department level. My family and I want to thank all of you for the kindness, friendship and generosity shown to us.

May God Bless America and the troops and their families who protect our way of life.

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

Remembering What Memorial Day Means to America

Tom Weaver
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Growing up in the 50's was exceptional. The emphasis was community activities, church socials and neighborhood parties. Kids were everywhere, people were smiling, and life was grand.

Our assistant Scoutmaster, Mr. Moore, always waked with a limp. The neighborhood carpenter had a weird scar from his shoulder to his back. Uncle Ed had a wife who had the strongest accent we ever heard but could she cook Hungarian stew. When we visited the Valentines, there were two photos on the mantel of young soldiers, brothers that we never met. Uncle Jack never talked about how he

learned to fly. Curtis's dad had a Japanese sword that he found somewhere.

Over time, each of these stories came together. Upon their deaths; the obituaries would mention Normandy, Taiwan, Burma and so many other faraway places. It seems that we were raised in the midst of heroes and they never talked about it. True heroes I've learned never do.

Today, few are left. George was a mule skinner, transporting cannon over the Alps. Edwin had five combat jumps in the Pacific. On his last jump, he hung from a Rock for three days, playing dead. Frank was thrown off his ship after it exploded in a night battle on the Slot. Tom recalls mountains of snow at the Chosen Reser-

voir of Korea. Bob has pieces of iron still in his body from the jungles of Vietnam. There are so few heroes left.

Yet, these heroes do not consider themselves as such. No, they believe the heroes never returned from far away battlefields. And as Memorial Day approaches, these living heroes grow quiet as they remember the friends of their youth, their lost buddies. They take a moment to look at a photo, to touch a name on a long wall, or to recall a night of liberty in a port across the sea.

Memorial Day is about those heroes who never returned, who never got married or kissed their love ones again. It is about those heroes that never held their kids or sang to their grandchildren. It is about those heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their friends, family and Country.

We are blessed that there are those that understand duty, honor and service to this country. We are blessed that Billy, a young Marine from Groton, understood that freedom needed to be protected for his family and Nation. Memorial Day is

about recognizing the sacrifice that over 1 million men and women have given to protect the blessings of liberty from those that wish to destroy it.

And now, we owe them a debt of gratitude which can only be repaid by our action and involvement.

I ask you to please take time to read the words of President Abraham Lincoln; "It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people , and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In the name of all those that were honored this past Memorial Day, we owe it to them to preserve the FREEDOM they gave the ultimate sacrifice to preserve. God Bless America

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For the latest updates, please visit our website at glfhc.org or follow us on Facebook.




Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK: FROM 19

admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

CASH FLOW TO PROFITS - DANVERS, June 22 - Mike Sobius, of Next Level Marketing, will speak on June 22 at the North Shore Business Forum on how to manage cash flow. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR WEBSITE - DANVERS, JUNE 29 - Donato Dandreo, of Compete, will speak on June 29 at the North Shore Business Forum on how to optimize your website. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE - DANVERS, July 13 - Tony Toldeo, professional storyteller, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on July 13. Tony will conduct a workshop to help business people think outside the box. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

FIT AFTER FORTY - DANVERS, July 20 - Mike Stare, of Spectrum Fitness Consulting, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on July 20 on how to get and stay fit after age 40. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN SUCCESS STORY - DANVERS, July 27 - Newscaster and awarding winning author, Hank Phillippi Ryan will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on July 27. Ms. Ryan is the investigative reporter for Boston's NBC

affiliate. A television journalist since 1975, she has won 27 Emmys and ten Edward R. Murrow awards for her work. Her work has resulted in new laws, people sent to prison, homes removed from foreclosure, and millions of dollars in restitution. A best-selling author of four mystery novels, Ryan has won the Agatha, Anthony and Macavity awards for her crime fiction. Her newest thriller, **THE OTHER WOMAN**, is coming in hardcover from Forge in 2012. She's on the national board of directors of Mystery Writers of America (and an instructor at MWA-U) and will be president of national Sisters in Crime in 2013. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

RED LINE TAP COMPANY ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR PRE-PROFESSIONAL TAP COMPANY. Seeking Energetic Tap Dancers Ages 13-18. Redline Tap Company (RLTC) announces open auditions for company members for the 2012-2013 season. RLTC is looking for high energy tap dancers between the ages of 13 and 18 who love to dance. Dancers should arrive with tap shoes, water, and comfortable dance clothing, and be ready

for rhythm and fun. Participation in RLTC provides greater Boston area dancers the chance to develop as percussive movers and musicians through the experience of a pre-professional dance company.



Fomer New England Patriot Max Lane with his copy of The Valley Patriot. Lane was on hand to support Diana DiZoglio for State Representative last month during her fundraiser at the Relief's In in Lawrence.

Parents are welcome to attend part of the audition, and will be invited to take part in an informational session to learn more about participation in RLTC. The audition will be held at the Newburyport City Hall Auditorium, providing a perfect opportunity to enjoy a beautiful summer day in this beach town. June 16, 2012, 10AM-1PM (doors open at 9:30AM). RSVP to nfo@redline-tapcompany.com

Newburyport City Hall Auditorium, 60 Pleasant St, Newburyport, MA. *parking

available across the street*

About RLTC - Red Line Tap Company is a pre-professional tap dance company for dancers ages 13-18. RLTC connects communities throughout the suburbs of Boston and southern New Hampshire by sharing and spreading the love of tap. Company members attend weekly rehearsal in preparation for two annual shows in addition to performances in the community and attendance at tap festivals. Dancers are taught choreography by RLTC's director, Leo Lamontagne, as well as by Tap Masters nation wide.

About Leo Lamontagne - Leo Lamontagne is a graduate of Northwestern University and founder of its TONIK Tap company. Leo has toured and taught nationally with Jump Rhythm Jazz Project and received an Emmy Award for his work in the documentary Jump Rhythm Jazz Project: Getting There, produced by HMS Media. Leo recently performed in Clara's Dream: A Jazz Nutcracker at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH, is a graduate of The Dance Teachers' Club of Boston Teacher Training Course, and is the recipient of The Dance Teachers' Club of Boston Award and the Mary Jane Brown Award for excellence in teaching and tap respectively. He has been on faculty at the Boston Conservatory and teaches Master Classes across the country.

USCIS Launches Online Immigration System - Agency begins transition from

paper-based to online environment WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today launched the first phase of its electronic immigration benefits system, known as USCIS ELIS. The system has been created to modernize the process for filing and adjudicating immigration benefits.

"Today marks a significant milestone in our agency's history," said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. "We have launched the foundation for the web-based future of our agency and our immigration benefits system. USCIS ELIS will transform how we interact with our customers and how we manage the 6-7 million applications we receive each year."

This initial launch brings the agency closer to realizing the future of immigration services. Beginning today, individuals can establish a USCIS ELIS account and apply online to extend or change their nonimmigrant status for certain visa types. Eligible individuals include foreign citizens who travel to the United States temporarily to study, conduct business, receive medical treatment, or visit on vacation. USCIS ELIS will also enable USCIS officers to review and adjudicate online filings from multiple agency locations across the country.

Historically, USCIS customers have had to apply for most benefits by mail and USCIS employees then review paper files and ship documents between offices to complete their adjudication. Today's launch signifies an important step forward and is the first of several releases. Future releases will add form types and functions to the system, gradually expanding to cover filing and adjudication for all USCIS immigration benefits.

This important transition for America's immigration benefits system will take time and continued dedication to fully implement. Following this first release, USCIS anticipates making adjustments and improvements in response to user feedback. This process will enable USCIS to continually enhance the user experience for both customers and USCIS employees. It will also allow the agency to smooth the transition to electronic filing over time, mindful of those individuals without computer access and the agency's commitment to serve our diverse customer base.

Benefits of using USCIS ELIS include filing applications and paying fees online, shorter processing times, and the ability to update user profiles, receive notices, and respond to requests electronically. The system also includes tools to combat fraud and identify national security concerns.

Mayorkas attributed today's successful launch to the steadfast dedication of the USCIS workforce. "USCIS employees believe in the transformation of our agency from a paper-based to an online environment. It is through their vision, unwavering commitment, and hard work that we have reached this important milestone," Mayorkas said.

NEXT PAGE

FROM PAGE 5: NA SENIOR CENTER

Wednesday June 13th 12:15-1:15 @ The Senior Center

FREE ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Sutton Hill Nursing Home June 21st at 2 pm. Bus leaves the Senior Center at 1:45. Sign up with reception. Limited space.

KEEP MOVING SPRING WALKS: The 2nd walk is at Fort Independence, Castle Island, S. Boston on Friday, June 15th. Bus leaves at 9:30. There are 1 mile and 3 mile routes to walk. Bring a picnic lunch with you and meet seniors from all over Massachusetts. Sign up is required.

BREATHING & MEDITATION WORKSHOP: Friday, June 8th at 3 pm, Trial Class sponsored by Dahn Yoga.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC: Held every Wednesday, 9 to noon.

SHINE VOLUNTEERS: Free, confi-

dential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare. Call the North Andover Senior Center and ask for a SHINE appointment, on either the 1st, 3rd or 4th Tuesday of the month from noon to 2 pm (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders).

Mr. FIX IT: Here at the Senior Center. 1st and 3rd Monday every month 12-3 pm.

ROCKINGHAM MALL: \$4 Round Trip, last Monday of every month. Bus leaves Center at 12:30 and returns at 4 pm. Call for reservation.

RED HAT SOCIALITES: June 15th 2012 Friday @1 pm Sunset Tappers entertainment. \$7 Pay at the door.

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Regent Nancy DiLisio, of Swampscott welcomes Lawrence residents Jacqueline Piazza and her daughter Susan Piazza to the Col. Timothy Pickering chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Membership requires direct bloodline lineage with an ancestor who aided in American independence. The Piazza's have traced their lineage to Capt. James Ford who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, amongst others.

Visit www.uscis.gov/uscis-elis to take a tour of the new system, learn about eligibility and the benefits of using USCIS ELIS, and find frequently asked questions. For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit www.uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog The Beacon.

NECC Kids Camp Expands
This summer let your children to improve their science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills while having fun at Northern Essex Community College's summer camp, STEM College for Kids.

There are still openings in this successful summer camp which has a new name and focus. The number of STEM courses has doubled and includes offerings like "The Mystery of DNA" and "Zentangle Doodling." In addition, campers can still sign up for their old camp favorites.

Held on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St., the four-week camp will still offer a junior session for 9 to 11-year-olds and a senior session for 12 to 14-year-olds. It will still provide the engagement, fun, and activity of the original camp with its Art Games, Basketball, Dance Stylistics, and Singer and Songwriters workshop, but it now offers STEM classes like Create a Wind Turbine which uses rare earth magnets to hand make a turbine; Engineering is Elementary which shows how to design a parachute or build a bridge; Field Ecology and Biology which explores a local pond; Geology Rocks which looks at the creation of the New England landscape; and Walk Along Gliders which brings folded pieces of Styrofoam to life as a glider. STEM College for Kids runs daily, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 9 through August 3. The cost is \$70 for one class, \$140 for two classes and \$210 for three classes per week. Campers can select one of three classes for each

of the three daily sessions. The morning session runs from 9 to 11 a.m., midday session is 11:45 a.m. to 1:35 p.m. and the afternoon session is 2 to 4 p.m. Choices are given on a first come first served basis. Participants are responsible for bringing their own lunch. Lunch is from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Mr. Appliance Named 2012 Military Friendly Franchise by G.I. Jobs Magazine

Mr. Appliance® of The Merrimack Valley announces it was ranked in the top 10 percent of all franchises nationwide and named a 2012 Military Friendly Franchise® by G.I. Jobs Magazine. The appliance repair company in Methuen honors military veterans all year round by offering service members a discount of 25% off the franchise fee, allowing veterans to use their training and operational skills in a new civilian career.

"The Military Friendly Franchises® list was created three years ago out of demand from military veterans, many of whom want to start or own their own business but are unclear where to begin," said Sean Collins, director for G.I. Jobs. "Being selected as a Military Friendly Franchise places Mr. Appliance in this elite group, and is testimony to Mr. Appliance's world class programs and policies that support military veterans interested franchise opportunities".

Don Dwyer, founder of The Dwyer Group, started the VetFran program at the end of the first Gulf War in 1991. Through the International Franchise Association (IFA), over 400 franchisors have joined in offering financial incentives to veterans through VetFran. The Dwyer Group has awarded more than \$1.3 million in financial discounts to 254 VetFran franchisees within its brands, including 17 new franchisees in 2012 to date.

Improving Postpartum and Well Child Visit Rates in Latina Community

Neighborhood Health Plan to Partner with Gr. Law. Family Health Center

Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP) announced today that it is joining forces with the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC) to form a community coalition to improve the postpartum and well child visit rates in the Lawrence Latina community. This partnership comes is the result of a training and technical assistance award to NHP from the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation's (HPHCF) Culture InSight Program.

NHP identified a disparity in the rate of Latina women who receive a postpartum follow-up, a crucial doctor's visit about 6 weeks after delivery, and a corresponding disparity of Latino children not receiving the recommended number of well child visits, check-ups with a pediatrician to ensure infants and children are healthy, in their first 15 months of life. NHP and the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center will build a coalition of core community organizations to assess barriers to care for this population and to design, implement, and evaluate an intervention to bridge the gap in care.

The project will last 15 months. As the

coalition identifies the reasons why the targeted population is not receiving care, they will design ways to intervene and address these barriers.

"We are really excited to be working with GLFHC and grateful to Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation for this opportunity to start a coalition to improve the postpartum and well child visit rates-an issue that has a significant impact on our members in the Lawrence area," said NHP President and CEO Deb Enos. "The Culture InSight services and training we will receive will be integral to the success of building a community coalition with the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center."

"At the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, we have been working tirelessly to improve the postpartum and well child visit rates in our community," said Greater Lawrence Family Health Center CEO Robert Ingala. "This partnership with Neighborhood Health Plan and the coalition of community stakeholders will be key to our success."

VALLEY PATRIOT HELPS NEWSIES!

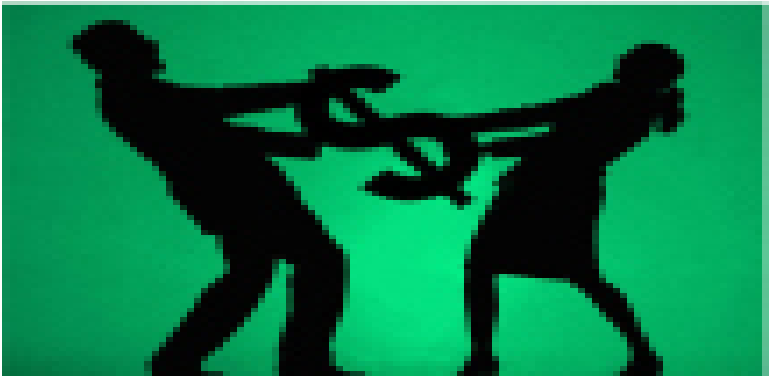
When the Center for Performing Arts in Methuen put on their rendition of "NEWSIES" last month we were honored to learn that they used Valley Patriots in their during their play. Pictured are Jada and Destiny of Methuen holding the March and April edition of the paper during practice



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